

# North Kankakee-Bradley

## Chronology 1890-1992

1890

15 May: John Herman Hardebeck takes options on farm land north of Kankakee city limits.

1891

In the spring of 1891, John Herman Hardebeck organizes a syndicate known as the North Kankakee Improvement Association.

14 May: *Kankakee Gazette* reports "Hardebeck the hustler has a big scheme in hand — nearly one thousand acres under contract. Hardebeck again comes to the front. This time the scheme is a big one and will open the eyes of the people. It is nothing less than opening of a new town north of the city."

17 May: Hardebeck conducts a tour of his manufacturing sites for Chicago businessmen.

20 May: *Gazette* reporter assigned to gather news in North Kankakee.

1 Jun: Alvah and Ida Perry, warranty deed to John Herman Hardebeck for east half of northwest fractional one-quarter Section 29 (83.99 acres) and an additional 76.39 acres in Section 29, 160.38 acres altogether. Also on this date, Hiram Goodwin releases a warranty deed to J. Herman Hardebeck for 133.37 acres in Section 29 and 191.23 acres in the south half of the Jonveau reserve, "reserving the wheat growing thereon and the right to harvest same. Also reserving a cart way to the railroad until a street is laid over said land to and from the Bourbonnais road to the railroad..."

"In the matter of the plat of North Kankakee, in Kankakee County, Illinois. Being a subdivision of

the land described in the caption [Jonveau reserve and Section 29] of this abstract and consists of

seventy-eight blocks and out lots one and two.

The said subdivision surveyed and the plat certified to Sept. 7, 1891, by John K.

Croswell, surveyor. Plat certified to Sept. 7, 1891, by J. Herman

Hardebeck with the following reservations: Reserving in all the

streets and alleys the exclusive right to construct or maintain

water works, street cars and gas and electric lights thereon, or to

convey to others said rights, and also the right to construct or

maintain or permit the same to be done of a railroad track or tracks

over and along Washington avenue, except ten feet wide on

said avenue on the west side of block 19, which is reserved for the

exclusive use of the owners of said

block 19 for a sidetrack: also the right to construct and maintain or permit the same to be done of railroad side tracks across or along West avenue."

Same day: Warranty deed to Block 380, North Kankakee is sold to Illinois Central for \$1.00 for depot by J. Herman Hardebeck and his wife

Philomena.

22 Jun: The *Gazette* reports that the North Kankakee Building and Loan Association has sent for its charter.

27 Aug: Hardebeck announces the "North Kankakee Boom" in the *Gazette*. Population of 4,000 guaranteed by July 1, 1892. "The factories

are located on the east side, adjoining the railroad and are three in number. The Gibbs Chair factory,

with \$300,000 capital and 600 men, and the Horn Bros., and Turk & Lozier furniture factories,

both of which are established institutions in Chicago and will employ 500 hands each,

making a total of 1600 employees for the three plants.



Sep: Temporary hotel is one of the first structures built in North Kankakee.

3 Sep: Plans are made for ground breaking for Gibbs Chair, and the two furniture factories.

7 Sep: West North Kankakee platted.

20 Sept: Warranty deed sold to Willard T. Orr for Lot 1, Block 41 in North Kankakee (\$375): Lot 2, Block 41 to Emma H. Orr (\$350). These appear to be the first lots sold in North Kankakee.

8 Oct: Foundation of the Gibbs Chair Co. begun and work on the Turk Furniture Co. started.

22 Oct: Telephone line run to Hardebeck's North Kankakee real estate office.

"Teams are grading the streets. Broadway — one mile long and 100 feet wide — is being macadamized, and the stone quarry in the northeast corner of the tract [off North Street, near the I. C. tracks?] is being opened, stone is on the ground for several store buildings."

12 Nov: Excavation ready to begin on the Ideal Folding Bed Company building.

22 Nov: North Kankakee lots are sold for \$200 to \$275 for residence lots, \$350 for business lots, \$25 additional for corner lots.

Dec: Ground is broken for the "Cary House" on the southeast corner of Perry Street and North Michigan Avenue. Name is later changed to "The North Kankakee House."

10 Dec: Illinois Central Railroad freight yards between Kankakee and North Kankakee nearly complete.

## 1892

By early 1892 the Raymond & Wertz Lumber

Company has relocated from Morris, Ill. to North Kankakee.

4 Feb: The newspaper reports that several syndicates are being formed to build houses in North Kankakee for the expected "factory hands."

A form of influenza, "the Grippe," manifests itself in Kankakee County.

Mar: James Crudden opens a hardware store on the south side of West Broadway, in the 100 Block.

3 Mar: Not less than 50 houses and stores are completed or underway in North Kankakee.

Seth Harrop & Co. is building a planning mill in North Kankakee.

12 Mar: City of Kankakee reorganizes under state act of 1872.

7 Apr: Hardebeck announces that the 360 acres that he bought last year, east of the Illinois Central tracks for \$100 per acre, has been transferred to a Chicago based syndicate at a valuation of \$333 per acre. The property is divided in 30 twelve-acre shares to be sold at \$5,000 per share. The land will be platted and subdivided as "a new manufacturing town on the same plan as North Kankakee."

14 Apr: Deal closed to move the Demme & Dierkes — "largest and best in the country" to North Kankakee. Construction is scheduled to begin on May 1. Initially, the factory will employ 200 and 600 by the following January.

28 Apr: The North Kankakee House, which can accommodate 35 people, has been completed by W. T. Cary and is open for business.

May: Bernard Hodopp, the first shoe cobbler in North Kankakee, opens his shop and store at 541 West Broadway.

1 May: Work begins on Demme & Dierkes furniture company buildings.

26 May: Newspaper announces that the construction of the new Illinois Central depot in North Kankakee will begin within the next two weeks.

27 May: Work on North Kankakee street railway begins. Emory Souligne opens general store at 343 West Broadway.

9 Jun: Emery Souligne opens general store at 343 West Broadway. (The store becomes the North Kankakee Post Office in 1894, and Souligne, postmaster.)

North Kankakee Electric Light company is organized.

11 Jun: East North Kankakee platted. Peoples Building and Loan Association founded.

Near the end of June, investors organize a branch of Peoples Building, Loan and Savings Association in North Kankakee. Officers elected: Charles Wertz, president; Emery Souligne, vice president; Ed. C. Schumacher, secretary-treasurer, C. D. Bacon, Anton Munich, W. T. Cary, Joseph Pluth and Benjamin Martin, directors.

Jul: Telephone poles placed in North Kankakee.

14 Jul: Another death from the diphtheria epidemic in Kankakee.

A group of citizens meet at Emery Souligne's store on a Thursday evening and discuss the question of annexation of North Kankakee to Kankakee. "Most of the voters and property owners spoke in favor of annexation. A petition praying for annexation was presented to the meeting for signing." A committee of three are appointed to present the petition to the Kankakee city council at its next meeting.

16 Jul: First baby born in North Kankakee to H. M. Reynolds, named Henry Graves Reynolds, says *Gazette*. Two hours later a son is born to a Mr. Bacon, superintendent of the Laing Machine Co. The following Monday, July 18, Frank Maier's son, J. Herman Maier, is born.

24 Jul: North Kankakee Union Sunday School chartered. Charles Wertz, superintendent; O. Lancaster, assistant superintendent; Miss Laura Cary, secretary and treasurer; Mr. Colviget, librarian, and O. Lancaster, chorist.

28 Jul: Celestin Gravline makes plans to move his old residence on Main Street in Bourbonnais to Block 43 on Broadway in North Kankakee.

Aug: Illinois Central Railroad depot in North Kankakee opens.

11 Aug: Dr. Preston Stebbings of Bonfield rents the Van Doren building and plans to put in a first-class drug store.

15 Aug: The streetcar tracks have been laid from the Kankakee city limits on North Schuyler, through North Kankakee and Bourbonnais to St. Viateui College, "with the exception of curves and the crossing over the Illinois Central."

18 Aug: Hardebeck offers to donate to the city of Kankakee two lots in North Kankakee, one on the east side and one on the west, to be used for police and fire purposes — fire protection to be given at once.

25 "Joesph Turk Furniture Co." in fine gold leaf block letters on a sign board 30 feet long adorns the front of the factory building. The lettering was done by William Tyner.

3 Sep: Demme & Dierkes brings six carloads of employees families for picnic at factory

site in North Kankakee — three scraps resulted.

12 Sep: Annexation of North Kankakee to Kankakee opposed in city council.

14 Sep: North Kankakee committee decides to withdraw annexation petition. Names suggested for North Kankakee are "Hardebeck" and "Columbia." Columbia is chosen, but Hardebeck says name should remain North Kankakee.

15 Sep: Notice in the *Gazette*: "We have a good depot [in North Kankakee] with a fine waiting room for both sexes, and a ticket office, baggage room and freight room, but they are locked. Yes, the trains do stop, but where, oh where, is the agent?"

In mid-September, the "old Worrel homestead on the east side is in the hands of carpenters and plasterers, when thoroughly renovated, Mr. Johnson, the engineer of the Demme & Dierkes factory will remove into it."

6 Oct: Middle Kankakee subdivision announced (platted on the old Ehrich farm, along Schuyler Avenue between Kankakee and North Kankakee).

North Kankakee streetcar line opens.

The boilers of the Demme & Dierkes factory are fired up and the 600-horse power engine runs like a top.

7 Oct: Election to incorporate North Kankakee held in the offices of Haymond & Wertz lumberyard.

8 Oct: The Laing Machine Co. incorporates with a capital stock of \$20,000. Incorporators are John Laing, A. V. Laing and others. The foundry will soon be in working order.

18 Oct: First Baptist Church buys Lot 5, Block 34 for \$1 from Hardebeck.

20 Oct: Hardebeck promises a bridge across the Kankakee River off Broadway will be built within the next 12 months. The Cooley & Provencal livery barn is soon to open for business.

Frank Maier is drilling a well for the Demme & Dierkes factory. On Tuesday he reached a depth of 180 feet and expects to go much deeper. The well is finished on Nov. 3, at a depth of 260 feet.

During the last week of October, the Cooler & Provencal livery barn on the northwest corner of North Michigan Avenue and Perry Street is finished and opens for business.

4 Nov: Preston Stebbings, E Souligne, J. A. Levereau, E. C. Schumacher, M. Magruder, Anton Munich elected North Kankakee trustees.

Nov: In the early part of this month, W. H. Chatterton sells the "Gibbs Hotel," on the southeast corner of South Michigan Avenue and Goodwin Street. to William L. Bennet, "recently of Essex." This hotel or boarding house is referred to as "the pioneer public house of North Kankakee. Chatterton also has a confectionery store at the same address.

5 Nov: Stebbings chosen president of North Kankakee board of trustees and E. C. Schumacher, clerk.

9 Nov: Barney Burns opens first saloon licensed by village of North Kankakee.

15 Dec: Ed and George Schumacher buy the Seth Harrop Planing Mill that is located on the southwest corner of North West Avenue and Lawn Street.

17 Nov: City of Kankakee treasury depleted.

24 Nov: Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay is the song hit of the year.

1 Dec: Levereau Bros. complete the L. Goss brick building on the north side of West Broadway in the 200 block.

8 Dec: Measurements are taken for the I. C. freight house to be built east of the passenger depot.

North Kankakee School District organized; Charles H. Wertz is first member.

North Kankakee Methodist church organized.

22 Dec: *Gazette* reports "The success of North Kankakee has been a marvel." There were \$940,000 of capital improvements, \$302,575 in general improvements. "The success of North Kankakee has been a marvel. From a tract of farm land, barren of a stick of lumber, there has sprung up within fifteen months a manufacturing village, comprising a resident population of 450, 100 residences, four hotels and boarding houses, 22 stores, a railroad station, post office, four furniture factories (one of which is said to be the largest in the world!), a large machine shop, a planning mill, an electric street car and lighting plant. and all the primary elements of a thriving town."

## 1893

Early in 1893 a small group of Christian people from Altorff decide to sell their church there and move to a new location in Bradley.

12 Jan: Wires for North Kankakee electric lights being strung. Hardebeck buys 20 acres of Perry's grove on the west end of Broadway and has it subdivided.

Feb: Hardebeck appeals to citizens of Bourbonnais to support his plan to build a bridge across the Kankakee River off the west end of Broadway.

Mar: Edward LaBounte builds hotel on south side of Broadway in 200 block.

10 Mar: Hardebeck, Hiram Goodwin and Alvah S.

Perry subdivide part of a 20 acre tract on the Perry farm, west of Vasseur Ave. Hadrebeck plans to build his home there.

13 Apr: Ideal Folding Bed Co. goes bankrupt. First north Kankakee casualty of the 1893 financial panic.

18 Apr: First annual election of village trustees. W. F. Kennedy chosen president of board to replace Stebbings. They take office on Apr. 25.

3 May: The United Brethren from Altorff buy Lot I in Block 52, 212 S. Cleveland Ave. and begins work on their new building.

17 May: Committee to build jail reports \$200 is not enough and is instructed to get lowest possible bid.

23 May: Foundation laid for Legris building at 195 North Schuyler Ave.

Jun: The German Evangelical and Episcopalian Society secure lots in North Kankakee.

1 Jun: Schumacher Bros. build calaboose on land north of Laing Machine Co. plant.

4 Jun: First services held in new North Kankakee Methodist Church at 196 N. Center (southeast corner). Public school classes are held in the church until Bradley Elementary School is built in 1894. The early pastors were T. H. Pyron, N. W. Atkins. W. G. Miller, C. A. Wright, I W. Minium. W. S. Reed, A. H. Smith, M. Katherine Riggs, G. R. McClung., H. M. Bloomer.

8 Jun: Gibbs chair Co. is shut down.

14 Jun: North Kankakee newspaper *Advocate* goes to press. Plans drawn up for \$6,000 school house.

13 Jul: Turk Furniture Co. shut down temporarily. Laing Machine Co. only North

Kankakee factory working. North Kankakee Electric Light Co. defaults on contract to light North Kankakee.

Aug: Hardebeck moves his office from the Arcade Building in Kankakee to the newly finished Legris Bank Building in North Kankakee.

3 Aug: Kankakee's First National Bank suspends business. Hardebeck moves into new home on west end of Broadway.

The Demme & Dierkes Furniture Company goes into receivership for the first time.

13 Aug: James Hayes' bakery catches fire. Not much damage done.

20 Aug: The first services are held in the new United Brethren Church, Rev. M. L. Corner is the pastor.

Sep: Rev. M. Predmore becomes new pastor of the United Brethren Church.

## 1894

Business continues to decline.

North Kankakee Elementary School built. Two rooms on the first floor; two rooms on the second floor, accommodates 8 grades. Up until this time classes were held in the Methodist Church building.

## 1895

Jan: The Demme & Dierkes Furniture Company goes into receivership for a second time. J. Herman Hardebeck is appointed receiver.

3 Apr: Village Attorney Alex L. Granger files name change of North Kankakee to Bradley City with Illinois Secretary of State.

11 Apr: Amid crowd of jubilant citizens and serenaded by the Nickel Plate Band, Hardebeck brings J. Harley Bradley to Kankakee on the Illinois Central train to

announce that the David Bradley Manufacturing Co. is moving to North Kankakee.

27 Apr: First standing committee for fire protection in North Kankakee appointed by Village Board president.

15 Jun: Village buys Lot 16 in Blk. 47 and Board asks police commission to move jail there.

13 Jul: North Kankakee board passes resolution to change village name to Bradley City.

5 Aug: Name of Bradley City becomes official.

Nov: Village Board petitions Secretary of State to change name from Bradley City to Bradley.

1896

2 Mar: Village named changed from Bradley City to Bradley.

1898

During this year, the old Seth Harrop Planing Mill is operating under the name of "Schumaker, Knickerbocker & Co."

A wing is added to the east side of the school building in Bradley. The second floor becomes a 2nd and 3rd year high school.

In 1898, Turk Manufacturing Company switches from making wooden dinette and bedroom furniture to making metal bedsteads.

A bowling alley is established in conjunction with Bruno Mathews tavern on the corner of West Ave. and Broadway. It remains until 1915.

2 Apr: National Guard Company L leaves Kankakee for Spanish American War.

Eugene Magruder buys the Cooley & Provencal livery business. (He operates it for a year and then sells it to William Benjamin.)

1899

19 Feb: David Bradley dies.

The "Bowery," an open air pavilion on the west side of Vasseur Ave., sponsors dance contests. Dancing and baseball are the main forms of family entertainment.

1900

Between 1910 and 1920 a small business boom takes place; 20 homes are built, the first in many years.

Jan: Standard (Archer) Starch opens on old Gibbs Chair Co. site.

Village citizens petition Board to give them better protection from tramps. Bradley lacks adequate jail.

Bradley Law and Order Society organized, Charles Wertz is president. Saloons are closed on Sundays.

Father William Hackett. St. Patrick Church pastor (Kankakee) founds a mission church in Bradley dedicated to St. Joseph, the patron saint of workers.

1901

15 Mar: Archer Starch Company burns to ground.

24 May: First automobile, steam driven, appears in the Bradley area. It is owned and driven by W. S. Vanderwater of Kankakee.

North Kankakee House burns.

First known attempt to swim over the Kankakee River dam made by Charles McCarthy of Bradley. He succeeds but dislocates an arm and is arrested and fined.

1902

Bradley school enrollment is 411 grade school students, 29 high school. Overflow classes are conducted in the Woodman Bldg. and Gonderman Bldg. on Wabash Ave.

The John Laing Foundry & Machine Company

shop, located on the northwest corner of North West Avenue and Grove Street, changes hands several times between 1896 and 1902. The plant is finally taken over by the Burrell Manufacturing Company, who abandoned the foundry and machine business and entered into manufacturing grain elevator supplies, paint milling machines, machines for mixing concrete and machines for masking hollow, concrete blocks.

**1903**

The Standard Oil Company buys the oil refinery that stands south of Liberty Street and west of Kinzie (Rt. 50). The refinery is closed soon afterward.

Peter E. Kroehler and Sears Roebuck & Company buy out the other stock holders in the Naperville Lounge Company. Kroehler and Sears become equal partners with Kroehler in control of the lounge construction and marketing business.

1904

Fire destroys North Kankakee House, built in 1891.

Several parishioners are instrumental in obtaining Father Joseph Avila Milot as first resident pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church. Parish census, 136 families. The first Catholic services are held in the Umstead Hall (later, Beland's grocery store) on Broadway.

Services are moved to the vacant Baptist Church at 148 North Center Ave. Seven nationalities attend St. Joseph Church at this time: French, Irish, Slovenian, Polish, German, Italians and Bohemians.

1905

The Bradley water system is built, the water tower is 114 feet high with a capacity of 60,000 gallons. Five miles of cement walks are laid.

1906

7 Jul: Bradley Village Board accepts ordinance changing name of North Schuyler to Bradley Boulevard. The name is never used.

1907

27 Jan: St. Joseph Church dedicated. It is 50 feet wide and 80 feet long and serves as church and rectory.

The James H. Watson Co., a metal fabricator of water tanks, eaves troughs, metal ceilings...takes over the Rattan Furniture Co. building, recently occupied by the Bradley Buggy Co., originally the Ideal Folding Bed Co. It is now Rudy's Park.

Village population is 1,970.

The first silent motion pictures are being shown at the Scenic Theater, 457 W. Broadway.

1909

Nov: First regularly scheduled passenger car of the Chicago and Southern Traction Co. comes to Kankakee (via Bradley) from 79th Street (later 63rd Street) and Halstead Ave.

1910

David Bradley Co. purchased by Sears Roebuck & Co.

A four room brick building is added to the east side of the old school.

Naperville Lounge Company buys old Archer Starch site.

1911

30 Apr: John Herman Hardebeck dies at his home in Switzer City, a suburb of Indianapolis, and is buried in Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Kankakee.

Jun: P. E. Kroehler Mfg. Co. opened in Bradley. on site of old Archer Starch and Gibbs Chair companies.

Financial stability comes to village.

The Illinois Central places a guard at the Perry Street crossing. From 1911 to 1927, Pat Dolan manned this post and became the friend of all children and grown-ups.

1912

First graduates from Bradley High School are

Helen Beckwith, Mirana Gosnel, and George Mann.

Another addition is added to the Bradley high school to accommodate 2 more class rooms.

Bradley State and Savings Bank organized with Fred Marcotte, president, and E. C. Vandagriff, treasurer.

The Orpheum Theater, 401 West Broadway, becomes the second silent movie house. Art Baldwin operated the projector.

1914

Burrell Mfg. Co. acquired by Howard Mann and the name is changed to Manco. Manco makes custom machine parts. Located on the northeast corner of Grove and West Ave., Manco occupies the original site of the John Laing Foundry and Machine shop.

1915

Herman Worman is publishing the *Bradley Advocate*.

Chicago Interurban Traction Co. in operation between Kankakee, Bradley, Manteno, Peotone, Monee, Crete, Steger, Chicago Heights, Harvey, Blue Island and Chicago.

Peter Kroehler buys Sears Roebuck & Company's half interest in the Naperville Lounge Company and changes the name to Kroehler Manufacturing Company.

**1916**

The United Brethren Church decides to move their church building farther down town.

1917

Jun: The United Brethren Church buys property at 147 S. Center Ave. and the church building is put on rollers and moved to the new



location.

1 Jul: Dedication services of the new United Brethren church are conducted by Rev. John Codd. The trustees at this time are, Obidiah Lancaster, Frank Erickson, John Schroeder, Elmer Taylor and John Gay.

13 Sep: National Guard Company L leaves Kankakee by train for World War I service.

1918

11 Nov: At the time of the Armistice, Company L is in the Troyon sector fighting at Ranzieres, Marcheville, Riaville, Hannonville and Chateau d'Auibois.

At home news of the Armistice comes at three a.m. Flags are hung out at business houses and residences before daylight. Bells are rung, tin pans beaten and firearms shot off to add to the din of the noise. Huge bonfire are built. A parade begins at 9 a.m. in downtown Kankakee.

1919

The Stoudabar Building at 165 West Broadway is used as a school gym. Superintendent is J. A. Wieland.

1920

16 Jan: Newspaper headline declares Kankakee County "Dry Forever." Prohibition became law.

Sanitary Sewer is completed at a cost of \$350,000, marking the first major improvement in Bradley since 1905.

Methodist Church services are conducted in the Odd Fellows Hall while the church building is lifted to add a basement and install a furnace.

During the 1920s, it becomes quite a rage to

raise chickens. The Bradley Plant (David Bradley Mfg. Co.) develops and improves on existing incubators, and goes into major production. To this line, a Brooder Stove is added, and another high volume item becomes a reality, When this business tapers off Bradley inaugurates the Garden Tractor. This unit, the Bradley Walking Tractor, along with all its various attachments, becomes world famous for its versatility and dependability. Hundreds of thousands of these fine machines are produced.

1923

15 Jan: World War I hero, Father Harris A. Darche becomes sixth pastor of St. Joseph parish.

20 Aug: Bradley ordinance passed to regulate and license ice cream and soft drink parlors.

1924

Bradley's first motorized fire truck purchased.

23 Aug: Three Dominican Sisters arrive at St. Joseph to open school. Classrooms are in various parts of the church building. There are 186 children in the first six grades.

St. Joseph Rectory built.

1925

Father Darche is given the old Bear Brand Hosiery Co. building and has it moved from its original site to the north side of church. The building is converted into four classrooms and meeting rooms on the first floor.

4 May: Villages passes an ordinance to restrict manufacture, possession, sale, transportation and use of intoxicating liquor.

1926

The opening of the Broadway subway under

the Illinois Central tracks and the laying of concrete strips on either side of the streetcar tracks on West Broadway is a major event. A celebration with dancing, a parade and other festivities is held.

May: First graduating class from St. Joseph School.

1927

A prefabricated school gym is built on Michigan Ave. Coach O. W. Young names his team "Boilermakers."

Gas mains installed by the Public Service Co. and the Joseph Turk Furniture Co. completes an expansion program.

The extension of the village water works, another major improvement, is completed at the cost of \$69,000.

Apr: Chicago and Interurban Traction Company shut down electric railway service between Kankakee and Chicago.

1929

7 Oct: Privies and privy-vaults are outlawed in Bradley by village.

1930

During the decade of the 1930s most of the work force is unemployed or working part-time. Government run WPA and PWA projects employ 200 Bradley workers to lay sidewalks, curbs and gutters. These cost the property owners \$19 per 50 feet. For the first time in 25 years streets are macadamized at no cost to the taxpayers.

The Kroehler Mfg. Co. completes the addition of Plant No. 4 on Michigan Ave. It is used to manufacture upholstered furniture. Plant No. 3 is making dining room and bedroom furniture.

The Bradley Methodist Church is part of

circuit that includes Aroma Park. Early church records are lost when the Aroma Park Church parsonage is destroyed by fire.

1931

Rev. Harris A. Darche is honored by the National American Legion as their National Chaplain. He is known as the "Fighting Padre." Rev. Robert F. Chapler was also a National Chaplain of the American Legion and was one of the founders of the Bradley Legion Post.

1932

Six large rooms are added to the United Brethren Church by Pastor H. I. Newell.

A new lumber yard is organized by J. E. DeSelm as the J. E. DeSelm Lumber Company. Mr. DeSelm dies in 1932 and business is continued by Mrs. Bessie DeSelm who manages it for 18 years.

Municipal consultants and auditors make a survey of all outstanding village bonds. In one year refunding bonds are issued and all old outstanding bonds are retired at .50 cents on the dollar.

A site for a new sewage disposal plant is purchased.

30 Nov: Streetcar line discontinued.

Employees were Clarence Windal, General Manager; Chas. Moorehouse and Fred Porter. Some conductors and motormen were Herman Koontz, Joe Nichols, Henry Barrie, Paul Bench and Claude Gillispie.

5 Dec: Kankakee Motor Coach Company petitions Bradley to permit operating of buses in village.

1933

3 May: Village approves license for 3.2 beer and vinous beverages and soft drinks.

Jun: Delinquent "water rents" amount to \$4,100.

Anyone who cannot pay-up can work the debt off doing village labor.

1934

24 Sep: Veterans of World War I hold organizational meeting with Walter Heinze, Rev. R. F. Chapler and Rev. H. A. Darche to open American Legion Post 766. The first Commander is Walter Heinze. Meetings are to be held at the old Odd Fellows Hall on West Broadway.

During summer, Village Board allows private gardens to be planted on lots owned by the Village.

Nov: American Legion Auxiliary chartered with 16 members. Ruth Bleau is the first president.

Dec: The United Brethren Church burns. Estimated loss is nearly \$4,500. Services are held in the Bradley school gym until a new church can be built.

1935

12 Feb: The auxiliary of the American Legion is organized.

The United Brethren Church buys lots 20, 21 and 22 in Block 44 (corner of Center Ave, and Broadway).

Mar: Excavation for the new United Brethren Church begins.

American Legion sponsors a junior baseball team. The ball field is located on the northeast corner of East Broadway and Schuyler Ave.

17 Nov: The new brick United Brethren Church is dedicated by the Rev. H. I. Newell. Trustees are Frank Erickson, William Larkins, Ralph Carpenter, John Briscoe, Nick Gillen, August Webb and O. B. Larkins. The oldest living member of the church at that time is Frank Erickson

who had been a member for more than 35 years.

1936

Bradley, through the efforts of Jesse A. McCue, Bourbonnais Township Supervisor, is able to organize a public library as a WPA project. Mrs. Irene McCue is the librarian and the library is located in a store building at 416 West Broadway.

1937

16 Apr: St. Joseph Pastor Father Darche dies. Father Raymond Bernau becomes pastor. Bernau has the church proper moved from the second floor to the first floor. The second floor is converted into classrooms. The church building is enlarged and a convent built for the Dominican Sisters.

A new Bradley post office is built. It is the first federal building in Bradley.

Sep: Harold and Lois Ott open Ott's Grocery and Meats on the corner of Center and Broadway.

Bradley Mfg. Co adds coal stokers to its product line, and again the Bradley Plant "hits the jackpot" with another finely engineered, fast selling item.

1938

Spring: Ott's Grocery moves to 457 W. Broadway.

1938-1939

This is the first year that the Bradley High School basketball team represents Kankakee County in the State Finals Basketball Tournament.

1940

The Kroehler Manufacturing Company now operates 10 manufacturing plants in the United States and two in Canada. It is advertised as the "World's Largest Furniture Manufacturer."

During the 1940s school children march to the Methodist Church for lunches prepared by

church women.

Calvary Baptist Church established. Rev. Warren V. Fouis, pastor.

The present American Legion Post building is built during the early '40s, the post members doing most of the work.

War supplies and materials produced during World War II by David Bradley, receives the Army-Navy "E" for quality production. Turk Manufacturing Company builds metal furniture and fixtures for navy submarines. Kroehler makes fabric wings for the Air Force.

Manco and Gerritson train men for machine operating.

1941

Through the efforts of Ruel Hall and other citizens, the Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School District 307 is formed. School District No. 61 becomes exclusively elementary school.

May: First graduating class from the newly formed Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School.

1942

The WPA withdraws support for the Bradley library. Several citizens volunteer to maintain library services. The library is moved to the Bradley State and Savings Bank building.

1944

Bradley begins operating a tax supported library in 1944. Mrs. Edna DeLonais is hired as librarian.

1945

Manco Mfg. Co. is sold to the Evans Jasper family. Hydraulic tools and steel cutting equipment are

manufactured.

The village fire department buys a pumper tank truck to replaces a 1922 Reo fire truck.

1946

Bradley Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 650 is organized with 72 charter members. Charles De Long is the first commander.

7 Mar: Vol. 1, No. 1 of *The Bradley Bee*, a weekly newspaper, is published. It's office is at 211 West Broadway; Dan Sanborn of Manteno is the publisher. Jim McNulty is editor; Betty Kassman, assistant editor; Robert Martin, business manager; Leo Willette, advertising director. Reporters are Mary Ann Christianson, Diane Duchene, Jeanne Reilly, Clarice Martin, Edgar Scammahorn (Olivet), Sister Marianna (St. George) and Rachel Timm (Flickerville).

The first issue of the newspaper announces that "38 Join Bradley Commerce Group, Bradley Division of the Chamber of Commerce." Paul Toliuszis is chairman. The membership committee consists of Earl Johnson, D. Martin, William Cromwell, L. Sadie, George Kaveney and Rudy Jagersma.

16 Nov: During a General Conference at Johnstown, Penn., the former "Church of the United Brethren in Christ" and the former "Evangelical Church" unite and become the "Evangelical United Brethren Church."

1946

Bradley is ranked third highest in country as a municipality having the greater proportion of men in the service as a percentage of the village population. There were 520 servicemen in World War II from Bradley, 19 died.

A new industry, the L. and S. Bait Company begin operations on a large scale. The business started as a basement hobby, and is soon producing more than a million lures annually. Phil Schriener and Harold LeMaster are the company's founders, LeMaster designs the lures — a hobby he took up before World War II — in wood and plastic.

Bradley has postwar building boom of houses for veterans. One hundred and thirty-three lots sold to veterans on west side. Wertz sells lumber yard to Security Lumber. First pumper truck bought by Fire Dept.

Other vacant lots find eager buyers. Between 1947 and 1949, 200 new dwellings are built.

Bradley Mfg. Co. adds 218,000 square feet to its plant bringing the total under-roof area to more than 700,000 square feet.

### **1947**

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 650 Auxiliary is organized. There are 17 charter members. Mrs. Edward Stelter is first president.

12 Jun: Open Bible Church founded. Rev. John Smith, pastor.

### **1948**

The Rev. Bernau, pastor of St. Joseph, enlarges the church building, builds a convent for the teaching nuns, and increases the number of classrooms.

11 Jan: Our Savior Lutheran Church established. Rev. L. G. Egloff, pastor.

World War II memorial is erected on a donated lot with the support of citizens and the aid of veterans' parents. It is maintained by the service organizations and the community.

### **1949**

The first new high school building and gymnasium is completed at a cost of

\$698,000. It opens with an enrollment of 263 students and faculty of a superintendent and 11 teachers.

In the summer the Evangelical United Brethren Church builds their first parsonage. The pastor is the Rev. J. Dale Doolen. Trustees are Curtis Dennison, Olin Hahs, Joe Umphrey Jr., Earl Greenstreet, Lannes Garrett, John Gussman and Frank Erickson.

Nov: Dedication of the new United Brethren Church parsonage.

From 1950 to 1960 there are many improvements in the village of Bradley.

### **1950**

Forty students represent the first graduating class of Bradley-Bourbonnais High School.

The Bradley-Bourbonnais football team completes an undefeated season and score 308 points to their opponent's 27. They lead all State teams in scoring. The 308 points is also a record for points scored in one season.

The basketball team, known as the "Giant Killers" had one of its most successful seasons in history.

Three basketball tournaments, District, Sectional and Regional, are held in the new Bradley-Bourbonnais gymnasium. The Bradley team wins all three and becomes the second team to go to the State Finals. They win the quarter-final game in the State Tournament, becoming the first Kankakee County team to do so.

At a speech contest held at Milford High School, Bradley students enter six speech events and accumulate 26 points. Bradley is rated first over all the schools entered.

The high school has its first full-time music director. Choral groups are organized and

the band grows from seven members to forty-five.

John Wieland, a former Bradley Superintendent of Schools, becomes State Superintendent of Instruction and Ruel Hall, also a Bradley School Superintendent, becomes County Superintendent of Schools.

The VFW club room is started at 234 West Broadway. It seats 10 people. Melvin Vickers heads the project and Lionel (Pat) LeBran is the first club manager. The post and auxiliary hold their meetings in the Woodman Ball

11 Aug: Bradley First Church of the Nazarene founded. Rev. Johns and Mrs. Jarnagin, pastors.

Nov: St. Joseph Pastor Father Bernau dies; Father Martin A. Henehan becomes eighth pastor.

## 1951

On June 11 the VFW Post buys the building at 457 W. Broadway and open a bar and kitchen. There are 81 members. Theodore Gulczynski is Commander and Mrs. Mary LeBran is President of the Woman's Auxiliary. There are 40 members of the Auxiliary.

## 1952

A line of new Dinette Furniture is added to the production line of Bradley Mfg. Co. Soon Bradley becomes one of the country's largest manufacturers.

During the Korean War, Bradley Mfg. Co. gears up for war production and installs a shell line.

Guiss opens the first complete furniture store in Bradley.

Blatt subdivision annexed to village of Bradley. Armour Pharmaceutical Corp. opens 5-million dollar plant.

## 1953

A modern village hall and fire station are built in Bradley at a cost of \$150,000.

Lionel LeBran is elected 7th District commander of the VFW in April.

Bradley Foursquare Gospel church holds first services. Rev. Delmer Walker, pastor. Church building put up the following year.

Jun: VFW Commander Alfred Papineau and Auxiliary President Mrs. Theodore Gulczynski burn the Post building mortgage.

Because of a growing congregation, the Methodist Church buys seven lots on North Cleveland Ave. at North Street for \$13,500.

East Bradley Elementary School is built.

## 1954

In 1954 the Methodist Church women served lunches to the high school students until its cafeteria was opened.

The Manco Mfg. burns and is rebuilt and back in operation by 1955.

Armour Pharmaceutical Corporation builds a 5-million dollar plant north of Bradley. Though not in the village limits, it is nevertheless a major economic stimulus to the community.

Security Lumber and Fuel Company is now one of the largest and most modern in the state.

Apr: Mrs. Richard Owen is elected VFW 7th District President.

## 1955

Bradley Mfg. Co. develops a fine line of chain saws to be sold through Sears Roebuck.

2 Mar: Rudy's Market, owned by Rudy Jagersma, first home-grown super market opened in Bradley, in the 700 block of West Broadway, on the south

side of the street. Leonard "Bud" LeGesse is store manager; J. R. Jensen, grocery manager; Virgil Harms, assistant grocery manager; Benny Sarf, meat manager; Bob White, produce manager; Mable Owen, head cashier. Some employees were: Ray Beach, Tony Bertrand, Terry Hebert, Bill Herron, Luther Jordan, Mary Bierman, Leona LeDuke.

Bradley-Bourbonnais High School makes a first edition to the original building at a cost of \$350,000.

Oct: The United Brethren Church builds new Sunday School rooms and sidewalks are built on lots 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22.

1956

31 Aug: St. Joseph Church buys the old Methodist Church building on the southeast corner of Perry and Center for \$12,500.

23 Sep: Ground is broken for the new Methodist Church at 500 North Cleveland.

The United Brethren Church buys Lots 18 and 19 west of the church building from Lena Coash.

A sanitary sewer is completed on the east side of Bradley at a cost of \$400,000. The sewage disposal plant is put into operation.

Ornamental street lights are installed on West Broadway at a cost of \$65,000. Turning on the lights is commemorated by parades, speeches and all night dancing on Broadway.

Alleys are graveled and free weekly garbage pickup established.

1957

1 May: First Bradley Loyalty Day Parade. There are 58 participants.

The Methodist Church changes its name to Wesley

Methodist Church. Cornerstone for new church building is laid.

12-13 Jul: Heavy rains, 8-1/2", routs 350 people and devastate one square mile on the north side of Kankakee and the south side of Bradley. "Water up to 10 feet deep covered the entire area east of the Illinois Central Railroad and north of the Big Four tracks. The Big Four tracks are four blocks north of Court Street," reports the *Kankakee Daily Journal*.

"Swirling waters of Soldier Creek spilled west through the Washington Park-Fifth Avenue section, flooding scores of homes there.

"The area was a solid lake as far north as Liberty Street and the East Grade School in Bradley. South Euclid and Fulton avenues were worst hit in Bradley.

"Some victims of the flood were caught unaware. Orvill Fox, 409 S. Euclid Ave., leaped out of bed into eight inches of water after someone pounded on the door to awaken him.

"John Andrews, 457 S. Fulton Ave., watched the waters rise until 3 a.m.. then decided to turn in. He and his children, Andrew and Tekla, placed everything on chairs, but when they woke up it was all flooded."

13 Oct: First services held in the new Wesley Methodist church. The parishioners march from the old church to the new church. Rev. O. J. Hensley Jr. is the minister.

1958

The famous Walking Tractor meet its successor in 1958 when the Riding Garden Tractor becomes a reality. Through the vision and foresight of Bradley and Sears. this product becomes a leader in the field of garden tractors.

St. Joseph pastor Father Henehan converts the recently purchased Methodist church building into school classrooms.

Bradley West Elementary School is built to accommodate the students from Blatt Subdivision.

The old Bradley Elementary school buildings are found to be unsafe. These buildings are razed and a large two-story Central School building erected and opened this year.

The Bradley Corporation becomes George D. Roper Corporation.

1959

The Bradley Library moves to a newly built building at 422 West Broadway. It issues 5,430 library cards.

Feb: St. Joseph launches a fund drive for a new church building.

Bus service to Bradley is discontinued.

**1960**

An extension is added to East Elementary School.

To find a place in the out-of-doors living market, Bradley tools up and goes into production of Barbecue Grills for Sears and produces these units in various styles in huge quantities.

Victor Maxedon elected VFW 7th District Commander.

**1961**

May: Kroehler Plant No. 3 closes; Plant No. 4 remains open.

Jul: Father McDermott of St. Joseph Church lays the cornerstone for a new church building. He remodels the old church building adding four more classrooms to the school.

9 Sep: St. Joseph dedication services are held.

15 Sep: The altar of the new St. Joseph Church is consecrated.

**1962**

The barbecue line is dropped in 1962 when Sears merges the David Bradley Mfg. Co. and the Newark, Ohio, Company into a single unit. The Bradley plant then becomes known as the Newark, Ohio, Co., Bradley Division.

Under the new banner, the plant briefly manufactures school furniture, but sales do not reach expectations and line is discontinued.

Schuyler Avenue and West Broadway are paved and the old streetcar tracks removed.

Bradley-Bourbonnais High School completes a second addition at the cost of \$850,000.

4 Mar: First Social Brethren Church established. Rev. Virgil (Gene) Wright, pastor.

**1963**

Mrs. Delmar Gagnon elected VFW 7th District President.

17 Apr: In the middle of the afternoon a tornado passes through Bourbonnais, on an east-west path. There is no damage in Bradley, but parts of Bourbonnais are heavily damaged and there is one death.

**1964**

The United Brethren Church buys Lot 17 in Block 44 from Earl Betourne. The church now owns a half-block on Broadway. Plans are made by Pastor E. C. Kunce for an educational unit.

Railroad crossing gates are placed on the Illinois Central tracks at North Street.



Annexation of East Meadowview adds approximately 225 houses to the village.

The Newark, Ohio, Company is merged with the Geo. D. Roper Corporation. which becomes the only nationally known company to headquarter in Kankakee. Sears remains the major company for Roper products.

A new addition to St. Joseph school is completed. There are four new classrooms and a music room on the second floor; the first floor is an assembly hall.

## 1965

Improvements made during this period are concentrated in East Bradley where alleys are graded and graveled, 22 side streets are repaired, Soldier Creek widened and a playground established.

Storm sewer installation on East Broadway is completed and East Broadway and North Schuyler are paved. This completed a modernization program of all the main streets in the village.

## 1966

Annexation of Evergreen Acres adds approximately 200 more homes to the village of Bradley.

Gas fired Rotisseries are added to the Roper line and later in the year, the production of Pocket Billiard Tables is undertaken. In the fall of 1966 a new warehouse is built, adding 72,000 more square feet to the plant. The new warehouse cost nearly a half-million dollars.

A \$163,000 addition is made to the Bradley-Bourbonnais High School. Total investment in the school now totals nearly 3-million dollars. There is an enrollment of 1179 students, faculty of 58 teachers and 20 administrators. Graduating class is 234 students.

Apr: The VFW moves into a new Post building at 370 West Broadway. Mrs. Victor Maxedon is elected 7th district President. Marvin Johnson Post commander and Mrs. Delmar Gagnon is Auxiliary President.

24 Oct: President of the Bradley Village Board, Glenn Mulligan, schedules a Nov. 1 meeting to determine if the village should promote a Diamond Jubilee Celebration of its 75th anniversary in 1967.

28 Nov: Mulligan announces that Roper Company and Swift Company will donate 5 or 6 acres on the north side of North Street for a little league park. He also reported that a corporation has been formed to sponsor a 75th anniversary celebration. This celebration will be put on by the Roper 's Company at a cost of \$5,850, which is to be paid out of proceeds from various projects. This corporation is a non-profit organization and is not a village project.

20 Nov: The Wesley Methodist Church holds a dedication service and the mortgage is burned. Plans are made to complete the second phase of the building program,

## 1967

The population of Bradley is now 10,091.

Grade school enrollment is 1,600 pupils and there is a faculty of 60.

From 1964 to 1967 the number of Roper employees, Bradley plant, rises from 550 to 1500.

During the past few years the following new construction comes to Bradley: Holiday Inn (108 units), Hallmark House (modern nursing home), Granger's building on Rt. 50 (self service grocery, package liquor,

laundromat and apartments on second floor),  
Moose headquarters, Shoppers Fair, O. L.  
Martin building, Arthur Motor Works,  
Rudy's home office, National Cash Register  
office on Broadway. Broadway Beauty  
School, Top Value stamps, Outsen building,  
Burger King, drive-in, five apartment buildings  
of 8 units or more.

Neil Purkey is VFW Commander, Mrs.  
Delmar Gagnon is President of the Auxiliary.  
Don LeBran is club manager.

The Evangelical United Brethren Church  
installs new pews in their sanctuary.

10 Apr: There is an agreement to buy Block 58  
the one time site of the Ideal Folding Bed  
Co. It will become Rudy's Memorial Park.

30 Aug: Bradley's 75th birthday. a  
Diamond Jubilee, begins. It runs through Sept.  
4.

1968

The Evangelical United Brethren Church name  
is changed to Evangelical United Methodist  
Church.

12 Feb: The village clerk reads an  
ordinance annexing Guisto Subdivision and  
Jonette Street to the village of Bradley.

13 May: The village passes an ordinance  
establishing the office of Village Marshal  
and Deputy Marshal.

27 May: Mulligan swears in an unnamed  
group of men to serve as Marshal and  
Deputy Marshal to be on call 24 hours a day.

28 Oct: Village adopts county building

code. 1969

14 Jul: A delegation of residents from  
Evergreen Acres and North Bradley are present  
at the village meeting to object to the strong

odor emanating from Swifts' Company plant.

13 Oct: Joe Lanoue, president of the  
Diamond Jubilee Corporation, and George  
Rambo, treasurer, present a check to the  
village board for \$7,362.63 as profit from the  
Diamond Jubilee Celebration. The money is  
earmarked for the swimming pool fund.

1970

In the early 1970s, the employees of the  
Kroehler Mfg. Co. number about 850.

9 Feb: Delong Construction Co. awarded  
contract to remove old water tower and  
two-car garage from behind municipal  
building.

6 May: The Methodist church buys  
parsonage at 525 Jonette Ave.

25 May: The village board passes a resolution  
commending Miss Evelyn Weekly for  
having served 45 years in the village of  
Bradley as teacher in the public school system.

24 Sep: Resolution passed, 3 to 2, to change  
name of Vasseur Ave. to Kennedy Drive.

1971

21 Mar: Ground is broken for the Wesley  
Methodist Church sanctuary, chapel, choir  
room, parlor with kitchenette, classrooms, and  
pastor's study.

26 Jul: Because of the fast development of the area  
to the north of the Village of Bourbonnais and the  
storm water draining off this area, a motion is  
made by Trustee Lovell that a meeting be held on  
Tue., Aug. 3, to discuss the feasibility of  
establishing a storm drainage district.

28 Aug: A resolution commending the Bradley-  
Bourbonnais Little League Baseball Team for  
their success in advancing to the finals of the  
state Championship is presented to the village

board.

24 Dec: On Christmas Eve the first services are held in the completed building of the then Wesley United Methodist Church.

1973

12 Mar: An architect's agreement with the village for construction of the village municipal center building is approved.

26 Mar: President Mulligan presented and read a letter from the Illinois Dept. of Conservation concerning his request for use of the state owned former Perry farm for development as a village park. The letter says Bourbonnais had already asked for this property, but the state will look into a cooperative venture between local communities.

9 Sep: Unity Free Will Baptist Church founded. Rev. John Hollis, first pastor.

28 Sep: Methodist parsonage addition completed and dedication service held.

Oct: The Baptist Temple Church is Jim Kenison, first pastor.

8 Oct: Mr. Felesena and Mr. Giroux the proposed shopping center at Rt 50 and North Street present their plans to the village board and ask for building permits.

1974

9 Mar: A referendum for a Bourbonnais Township Park District is defeated.

12 Aug: The village board commends the Bradley-Bourbonnais All-Star baseball team for their outstanding performance in winning second place in the state tournament.

1975

The Evangelical United Methodist Church buys the property at 147 S. Center, adds two rooms to the house and it becomes the new parsonage. Rev.

Ronald Bula and family become its first occupants in April 1977.

24 Nov: A committee of ten requests that Bradley and Bourbonnais be in two separate school districts. It is opposed by the village of Bradley.

1976

26 Jan: Carl Erickson, Chairman of the Bicentennial Celebration reported a carnival has been contracted and is available for the weekend of June 10, 12 and 13th, to be set up at the midget football field, Rudy's Park.

8 Mar: Village President Mulligan reads proclamation proclaiming the weekend of June 11, 12 and 13, 1976 as Bicentennial Weekend in the village of Bradley.

29 Sept: Aldi Store to be built on Rt. 50 North.

25 Oct: Board receives notice that Bradley-Bourbonnais High School is planning to build a swimming pool, auditorium and community center.

21 Nov: Ribbon cutting and grand opening of the new addition to the Municipal Center building. Open house is held from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

1977

19 Jun: The Evangelical United Methodist Church has ground breaking ceremonies on Lot 17 on Broadway for new building.

24 Oct: Bradley Emergency Service and Disaster Agency established.

1978

The combined work force of Roper plants in Kankakee and Bradley reaches 2,800.

30 Apr: Evangelical United Methodist Church dedicates new Fellowship Hall.

1979

This year is a bad year for Kroehler's sales, and the company loses more than 18 million. Kenneth Kroehler and his son Peter turn the operation of the company over to a New York consultant, who is given the job of turning the company's financial crisis around.

24 Sep: Board passes a resolution authorizing the village president and clerk to execute the Metro Sewer Agreement.

29 Oct: Board president Glenn Mulligan resigns his position to accept the job of village administrator. Howard Duchene is appointed mayor pro-tem of Bradley.

1980

26 Feb: Village is complemented by the Broadway Council on new lights on West Broadway.

10 Mar: Village notified that State of Illinois plans to widen North Street.

12 May: President Duchene reads a resolution praising the Brodie/ chess team for its excellent performance in the State and National championships.

11 Aug: Attorney Boyd asked to check possible legal action taken by Bourbonnais opposing the Kankakee annexation of the Perry Farm and to look into a request to annex by the village of Bradley.

25 Aug: Gordon Wright, Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission presents petition for board approval of the annexation of 74 acres of vacant land that lies south of the Robert Hall Road and east of Illinois Rt. 50. Approved.

24 Nov: Preliminary census, 11,018; housing count, 4,097.

1981

14 Apr: Kenneth Hayes is elected new village president.

27 May: Glenn Mulligan is given a suspension from his job as village administrator.

Aug: The hired consultant fails to rescue the Kroehler Mfg. Co. from its financial problems. A Chicago investment company buys controlling interest in the company. Employment is down to 200 workers.

6 Oct: Mr. Johanson reports to the Village Board that the Library Board is planning to establish a new library on Fulton Ave. and North Street. The estimated cost is about \$450,000.

Dec: Kroehler work force down to 145. They are laid off during the holidays because of continuing company losses.

1982

Jan: Of the 22 plants originally owned by the Kroehler family all but Bradley and three other plants have been sold. The Bradley plants, 3 and 4, were once part of a nationwide network of manufacturing facilities operated by a company that proclaimed itself "the world's largest furniture manufacturer."

22 Mar: Trustee Novak informs the Village Board that Bradley is having its 90th birthday and suggests work begin on the 100th anniversary.

26 Mar: Roper Bradley announces it will phase out 600 jobs.

12 Apr: A small Chicago-based manufacturer, the Luxor Spring Co., buys the Kroehler plant and is licensed to sell furniture under the Kroehler label Sixty Kroehler employees

are called back.

10 May: Plans are made to make Rt. 50 a five lane highway north to Armour Road.

12 Jul: West Meadowview annexed to Bradley.

15 Jul: One hundred former Kroehler employees back on the job. The Luxor Spring Co. is given \$800,000 in tax free industrial revenue bonds, issued by the Village of Bradley, and approximately \$20,000 in federal job-training grants.

9 Aug; Mayor Hayes has plans drawn up to beautify Broadway.

10 Oct: More than 175 persons re-enact the original march made 25 years ago from the old Methodist church site to the present church.

11 Oct: The Bradley Roper plant site is given to the village of Bradley. At its peak, the Bradley plant was producing 40,000 to 50,000 garden tractors annually and employed as many as 1,300 workers. Even before the Roper final layoff announcement, the Kankakee County unemployment rate was up to 16.4 percent. By February of the following year, it would peak at 21.4 percent, the highest in Illinois.

8 Nov: Trustee LeGesse complained about the National Guard having artillery practice on the Perry Farm. Chief Martin explained they had permission and it probably won't be used for that purpose again.

22 Nov: A committee of Mayor Hayes, Bob Nichols, Joe Azzarelli, Mayor Mooney of

Bourbonnais and Mayor Ryan of Kankakee is formed to handle rental of Roper building.

1983

1 Jan: The Village of Bradley and the Area Jobs

Development Association take possession of the Bradley Roper site. Plans are made to convert the old industrial plant into a model of economic recovery.

14 Feb: Mayor Hayes invites businesses to come to Bradley.

1 May: Bradley Village Hall open house. During summer, Bradley Roper is closed.

11 Jul: Kathy Dell reports Broadway beautification program is under way. Twelve planters are in use along Broadway.

22 Aug: Out of work Bradley citizens hired to fix city sidewalks.

12 Dec: Kankakee River Valley Enterprise Zone Ordinance adopted.

22 Dec: Kankakee Mayor Tom Ryan, Bourbonnais Village President Ernest Mooney II, Bradley Village President Kenneth Hayes, and Kankakee County Board chairman Roy West sign the inter-governmental agreements finalizing the area's Enterprise Zone application at the Area Jobs Development Association office in Bradley. When approved by the state Dept. of Commerce and Community Affairs it will help create new jobs with tax breaks and other incentives for business.

1984

11 Jun: Engineer Meece reports that the Metro Sewer System project would begin approximately Sep. 1 and the East side Project approximately Aug. 1.

1985

11 Feb: Tom Travis resigns as fire chief after 39 years of service.

15 May: Alco discount store opens.

10 Jun: The Goodyear Rubber and Tire Co. request that the Bradley demolish the L & S

Bait building on Kennedy Drive so they can build their new store.

24 Jun: Trustee Ponikvar reports he represented Mayor Hayes at the opening of the new library.

22 Jul: Mayor Hayes announces Federal Revenue Sharing "may be a thing of the past."

23 Dec: President Hayes announces Mr. Dellaportas of First National Realty and Development Co. is planning to build a 264,000 square foot building to house three large stores on Rt. 50 near Egan Buick.

1986

Jan: Luxor Spring Co. declares bankruptcy. Plant in Bradley is closed.

24 Mar: President Hayes reports that he had attended a meeting concerning the Perry Farm and that he had agreed to back a referendum concerning what the people want with the Perry Farm.

25 May: Bradley participates in the Hands Across America project.

14 Jul: Fire destroys six buildings in the Bradley Industrial Park. The site was formerly occupied by the Bradley-Roper plant. The major part of the area's economic development program is lost. About 200 fire fighters and 35 pieces of equipment are used to put out the fire.

The Bradley fire Department is notified of the blaze at 3:28 p.m., although there had been unconfirmed reports that the fire started earlier than that. The fire is believed to have started at a tar pot being heated with propane gas, by roofers. The fire is finally brought under control at 2 a.m. the next morning.

Businesses located in the old Roper-Bradley complex, not all destroyed by fire, Skit-Scooper,

River Valley Credit Union, C. E. R. Electronics, Azzarelli Builders, Area Jobs Development Association, Ramco ribbons, Bradley Association of Commerce and Industry, Travelite Transfer, American Foam Fabricating Co., Dresher, Inc., Federal Express and Van Leer Container.

28 Jul: Chief Wingo thanks everyone who assisted with the Area Jobs Building fire at the old Roper plant.

11 Aug: Bradley-Bourbonnais Little League congratulated for coming in second in Illinois State Tournament.

8 Sep: President Hayes announces a Tax Increment Finance District for parts of Bradley.

10 Nov: Bourbonnais Park District referendum passes. LaVern Learned and James E. Travis are congratulated for their election to the park district board by Bradley Village Board.

1987

Feb: Old Kroehler plant bought by the View Fan Inc.

Mar: View Fan sets up shop in the east building, Plant No. 3, of the Kroehler complex. The west building is rented to Quality Pallet Co. Paradise Creations, in the same building with View Fan, imports artificial flowers from China and assembles them into decorative arrangements. View Fan imports and distributes ceiling fans manufactured in the Peoples Republic of China. Both companies are owned by the same people, Paul and Jenny Fan.

24 Aug: Work begins on widening North Street.

4 Sep: Special meeting of the Bradley Village Board to announce support off the third airport.

Oct: The Edward J. Debartolo Corp. and Antonio Investment Ltd. announces they plan to build a shopping center in Bradley.

1988

Evangelical United Methodist Church celebrates 95th anniversary.

4 Mar: Kankakee aldermen consider filing a lawsuit against Bradley to block a shopping center that could drain tax dollars from Kankakee.

26 Aug: Wreckers begin to demolish the two-story, 16-room John Herman Hardebeck house that has stood on the northwest corner of Herman Place and North Kennedy Drive (Vasseur Ave.) since 1893. The site is to be the future home of Festival Foods store.

1989

1 Jan: Bradley-Bourbonnais Chamber of Commerce is created.

9 Jun: Plant No. 3 building of old Kroehler Manufacturing Co. burns. At this time it is occupied by the View Fan Inc. and Paradise Creations. At least 150 firemen from at least 17 departments as far north as University Park, Beecher and Manhattan assisted Bradley firefighters, who struggled to save the surrounding homes and an adjacent plant that houses a pallet making firm.

The fire broke out about noon and smoke was soon pouring out of the roof and into the sky. By 12:50 it was uncontrollable. The first call received by Bradley's dispatcher is at 12:10 p.m.

Dec: The Rev. Curt Rush becomes pastor of the Evangelical United Methodist Church.

1990

The Wesley United Methodist Church celebrates "A Century of Christian Caring and Sharing"

Monthly programs represented.

5 Jul: Second Annual Bradley Family Fest is held at Lil's Park. It lasts through 9 July.

22 Jul: The Wesley United Methodist Church dedicates new Allen organ.

31 Jul: 3,000 attend the Northfield Square Mall Preview Nite.

1 Aug: The new Northfield Square Mall opens. "Toting Billfolds, credit cards and money bags," said *The Daily Journal*, "thousands of shoppers converged on Kankakee County's newest attraction this morning and were delighted at what they saw — making the 770,000-square-foot enclosed mall certainly worth the wait. A spokesman for Northfield Square said the management expected 25,000 people to visits the mall today."

9 Sep: The Wesley United Methodist Church has its centennial banquet.

1991

1 Apr: Work begins on the new St. Joseph parish hall and gymnasium.

3 Jul: Third Annual Family Fest is held at Lil's Park. It lasts through July 7.

5 Oct: The St. Joseph parish hall and gymnasium is dedicated. It contains offices for the Youth Ministry, Religious Education and Athletic Director. The bleachers will accommodate 200 people for basketball games. Three hundred people can be seated for dinners. A fully equipped kitchen and a storable, portable stage make the building readily adaptable to many uses.

1992

20 Mar: The Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School varsity basketball team participates

in the quarterfinal game of the Illinois State Basketball Tournament at Champaign. They lose to Rockford Boylan 49-47. In 1950, the Bradley-Bourbonnais team won the quarterfinal game but lost the second game of the state tournament to Danville.