

Chautauqua And Fair

Some of the entertainment during the period when the mode of transportation was slow and roads were poor was the annual chautauqua, The North Henderson Fair, and the medicine shows. The chautauqua was held for several days and brought in a variety of talent, including musicians, actors and speakers. A large tent was put up for these performances.

The medicine shows provided entertainment and sold patent medicine of one kind or another. A most popular lady contest was sometimes held at these shows with votes costing 10c with the winner receiving an attractive prize.

The North Henderson fairs were looked to with anticipation by old and young alike as there were activities for all. Some of the events are said to have been a parade, a husking bee, contests and races for the children, shows which sometimes included wrestling, a display of fine horses and livestock and the usual exhibitions expected at a fair of that time.

The Fourth of July celebration in North Henderson was a big event for many years with fireworks and fun for all. The late Harold Tornquist who had been interested for years in the preservation of the township and village history recorded this comment about an incident that had to do with the Fourth of July celebration and the blacksmith shop operated by his father. He said, "My father would rise very early before anyone was up in the town and take out of the shop the two anvils he had. He would set one in the middle of the street, place gun powder on it, place the other anvil on top, heat a 12 foot rod for safety and ignite the powder. This loud noise would bring out all the kids to start the day-long celebration."

Another memory of Mr. Tornquist was of the first electric light in North Henderson which was in the hardware store of L. J. Smith. It was produced by a one cylinder, upright engine with dynamo. Starting the engine produced immediate light and stopping the engine put the store in darkness.

The combination sales, held annually for some years on the village streets, gave the farmers and townspeople a chance to get together and buy and sell quite a variety of items.

Country Doctors

Although North Henderson no longer has a doctor, many of those who served will long be remembered. One of the first doctors was Edwin Evans Kendall, M.D. from Massachusetts who lived on a farm until moving into the village in July, 1872. His wife was the niece of David Bruner, one of the pioneers whom we have mentioned. The house now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Larry Higbee was originally built by Dr. Cox and he had his office there. The small house north of that dwelling was constructed later and was used for many years as the doctor's office. The last North Henderson physician, Dr. Spickerman, resided there during the 1930's.

The local ball park is named the W. A. Allgeyer Memorial Park for Mr. William Allgeyer who owned this property and provided a free ball park for the town for many years. In recent years the park was purchased through the efforts of the generous people of North Henderson and surrounding areas. A successful campaign to raise \$3500 enabled the citizens to buy the property, and the deed was turned over to the village. As a historical note, we might say here that Mr.