

Stalking My Hometown

1924-1947

Ice Harvest Danger

Ice Harvest was a strenuous, dangerous business, but evolved into something else.

It's in 1925 and the ice harvest begins. [Until the 1930s, ice was "harvested" from lakes each winter for use by businesses and homes. The ice was stored in very well-insulated "ice houses" with straw between the ice blocks cut from the lake.]

ICE HARVEST STARTS

Perry F. Jenkins, local ice man, will start the harvest of ice for his big storage house here on Friday of this week. He has cleared the snow over a large space on the river and will fill the ice house if the good weather continues.

A specimen of the river ice was sent by Mr. Jenkins to the Purdue University laboratories to be tested for possible contamination and he received word today that the ice was pure. The ice is now from eight to nine inches thick.

Winamac (IN) Republican 15 Jan 1925: 6. Microfilm.

After a month of cold, cold work, the ice house filled

ICE HOUSE FILLED

Perry Jenkins reports a very good ice harvest for this season, making it possible for him to fill his ice house. While the ice is not quite as good a quality as last year's crop, it is of greater thickness, ranging from a foot to 14 inches.

Winamac (IN) Republican 12 Feb 1925: 1. Microfilm.

For 1927, the ice harvest is on, but future doesn't look good.

ICE HARVEST IS ON; GROSS QUILTS RIVER

The Winamac Ice Company is harvesting ice this week with the work going on in full blast.

A gang of about twenty men on Devils Lake are cutting some of the finest quality 9-inch ice ever taken off of the lake, and several trucks have been engaged since Tuesday hauling the ice to town, where it is stored in the ice house. About 800 tons are stored each year to supply the consumers.

With the continuation of cold weather, Mr. Jenkins reports he hopes to finish the work on Saturday.

The Main Cafe is going to install a Frigidaire plant in a couple of weeks, according to the dope the proprietor, Fred Gross, passed to us.

The plant contains power enough of cooling three compartments. It also freezes 24 pounds of ice a day. However, the plant is not sufficient for taking care of the ice cream and soda fountain.

Heretofore Mr. Gross has harvested ice to supply his own needs, but this year he will not put up any.

Winamac (IN) Republican 27 Jan 1927: 1. Microfilm.

It's Death for ice harvest team (from *The Democrat*).

Team Used in Ice Cutting Drowned In Devil's Lake

A team of horses was drowned in Devil's Lake Saturday morning, and the driver and several men working nearby had a narrow escape from being thrown into the icy waters, when the ice upon which they were working gave way. The bodies of the horses were not recovered until that afternoon, when all work upon the ice was stopped. The ice was between twelve and fourteen inches thick but the thaw had made it rotten.

The lake is a small but deep body of water on the Jonas Werner farm in the northern edge of Harrison township, five or six miles northeast of Winamac. The ice was being cut and hauled to Winamac.

Ed Peters was driving the team, which belonged to his father, Henry Peters. The animals were hitched to the ice plow, and when Ed heard the ice crack he started the horses on and jumped back to safety, thinking that they would get over the dangerous place. But a large section of ice turned, throwing the horses into the water, and the workmen were unable to get them out. The water is about thirty feet deep at that point. The team was valued at \$300.

Frank Gilsinger slipped off the ice into the lake Friday morning and was pulled to safety by Walter Peters.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 3 Feb 1927: 1. Microfilm.

It's Death for ice harvest team (from *The Republican*).

ED PETERS LOSES FINE TEAM IN LAKE

SAFETY ROPES SAVE ANOTHER TEAM FROM ICY DEATH AT LAKE MANITOU, ROCHESTER

A fine black team owned by Ed Peters of Harrison township drowned in Devils Lake Saturday about 11 o'clock, while cutting ice.

Mr. Peters was driving the team and was turning them around to plow another section of ice when he heard the ice crack ahead of them. He made a frantic effort to turn the horses, but they turned in the direction of the huge crack and with the ice plow attached to the tugs, went down into the deep water and mire of the lake, a great ice sheet covering them, instantly, preventing their rescue.

About 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon the horses were taken from the icy waters and the ice plow, an implement weighing about 300 pounds, was also raised.

Mr. Peters feels that he had a miraculous escape from death as he had been driving the team with the lines fastened about his waist and a few moments before the accident, had released them, or he might have gone to an icy death along with his horses. Mr. Peters received \$190 compensation from Perry Jenkins for the loss of his fine team.

A team of horses took an icy plunge into the waters of Lake Manitou last week, when a large section of ice broke and sunk underneath the weight of the team and marking machinery. Having experienced like accidents in previous years, the horses this year have long ropes tied about their necks and it is due to this precautionary measure that the animals were soon hoisted to safety, through the assistance of the ice packing crew.

Winamac (IN) Republican 3 Feb 1927: 1. Microfilm.

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Cork insulation saves ice.

[While a few businesses, e.g., some cafés, could afford mechanical refrigeration, it was an "ice box", insulated with cork to reduce ice melting, at home.]

Alaska
Saves
ICE

We never have to sell Alaska. Everybody knows cork insulation is the best insulation known in refrigerators. They know it keeps in the cold, out the heat and down the ice bills. Buy an Alaska now and start saving.

In Golden Oak **\$29.00**
Side Icer . . . **\$36.25**

Fry & Lange
Home Furnishers and Funeral Directors

Winamac (IN) Republican 30 May 1929: 3. Microfilm.

By the mid-1930s, ice cubes were available at home!

[But it's not as simple as it is presented. (see below)].

SEE THE Frigidaire '35
WITH THE FAMOUS SUPER FREEZER

NOW ON DISPLAY AT OUR FRIGIDAIRE SPRING PARADE

We extend a cordial invitation to you and your friends to attend the Frigidaire Spring Parade and see the beautiful new Frigidaires. Each of the 16 snow-white models has the new Super Freezer, affording greater convenience and economy and setting new standards for efficient household refrigeration.

The Super Freezer makes possible a Complete Refrigeration Service. It provides the right kinds of cold for every purpose—all in the same cabinet. There's *fast freezing* for making ice cubes and desserts; *frozen storage* for meats and ice cream; *extra cold storage* for keeping a reserve supply of ice cubes; *moist storage* for vegetables and fruits; and *normal storage* below 30° for foods requiring dry, frosty cold.

Besides the Super Freezer, the new Frigidaire '35 has the Cold Control, automatic reset defrosting switch that turns the current on when defrosting is completed, automatic ice tray release, and the interior of each is finished in porcelain-on-steel.

Come into our showroom at your first opportunity. See the Frigidaire Spring Parade! Then learn how easily you can have a Frigidaire of your own.

Standard Series Frigidaire '35 **Super Series Frigidaire '35** **Master Series Frigidaire '35**

John H. Kelly Hardware
WINAMAC, INDIANA

Winamac (IN) Republican 25 Apr 1935: 3. Microfilm.

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Ice cubes was without "fuss or muss". [Unlike the automatic ice dispensers today, trays had to be filled with water, the levered form (seen at left) was inserted in the tray, and the assembly inserted into the freezer compartment. After freezing, the tray was removed, the lever was lifted, breaking the ice into cubes. At least that was the theory. In practice, the lever was a challenge to lift and the cubes usually fractured into slivers. It was rare to get a "complete cube", unless one washed warm water over the tray (and melting the ice) before attempting to life the lever.]

Instant Cube Release Feature of New Refrigerator



Gone are the days when tugging, chopping, twisting gymnastics are necessary to obtain ice cubes from an automatic refrigerator. Shown above is the sensationally new and efficient instant cube release featured exclusively in the 1937 Frigidaire. Developed in the research laboratories of the Frigidaire division of General Motors, the new type ice

tray makes available instantly and with no effort on the part of the user from two to a dozen or more cubes, doing away with the necessity for holding trays under water for hours before it is time to use them. The new Frigidaire is built to two-thirds of the ice content in molten. One grasps the tray firmly with one hand, lifts the lever with a finger of the other and there are the cubes ready for use without fuss or muss. *

The New 1937 Frigidaires Are for Sale by

John H. Kelly Hardware

Winamac (IN) Republican 15 Apr 1937: 4. Microfilm.