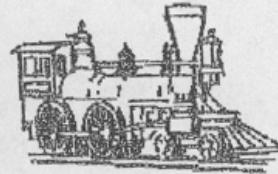


PAST TIMES IN INTERLOCHEN

by Art Stickles



A BACKWARD LOOK AT GRAWN

Grawn, though small in size, was surrounded by a large farming area comprised of choice farm lands which were sold to the early settlers for approximately 50 cents an acre. Around 1891, the village originally was called Blackwood, after one of the large land owners at that time. There were daily stage coach runs from Blackwood to Wexford County. In the early 1900's, population was around 125. The name was changed to Grawn around the time the railroad came through the village. It was named after Dr. Charles T. Grawn who was Supt. of Traverse City public schools. In my collection of past time memorabilia, I have a Record-Eagle newspaper clipping and picture about a street scene in Grawn in 1905. The buildings shown are identified as Pere Marquette Depot, Brackens Grocery, Smith's Blacksmith Shop, Grange Hall, Burt's Hardware and Post Office, Reynolds Co. and Maynard Meat Market sharing the last building with the town saloon. Surprisingly in 1905, Grawn had telephone wires, indicating it wasn't behind the times. There are 11 horse drawn wagons and carriages in the picture. Some of the wagons are hauling potatoes. Potatoes were the main crop for the farmers who had them shipped to Traverse City, downstate Michigan, New York City and Chicago. Grawn was a very bustling town. Although the business section of the town has gone down in recent years, the surrounding business and residential area has grown.



HOW GRAWN LOOKED IN 1905

Original photo courtesy of Mrs. Dulcie Lutman. Reprinted from Traverse City Record-Eagle.