

## NEIGHBORHOOD SAWMILL IMPORTANT TO FARMERS

Emma Pangerl, 82, widow of Joseph Pangerl and Rudy Pangerl, 83, who is no relation, were having coffee together at Lakeside Nursing Home where they both live.

The conversation turned to the days when Emma and her husband operated a sawmill powered by a steam engine at their farm on the Brunswick road.

"I was married in 1920 and my husband had worked the sawmill since he was 14 years old", Emma said.

The young bride automatically became cook for the sawmill crew.

"I wasn't a fancy cook but I cooked good plain food I guess," she said. "I always gave them plenty of meat, a vegetable and potatoes and dumplings."

"I can still remember the wonderful rye bread you used to make," Rudy chimed in.

There are 18 different Pangerl families listed in the Pine City area. There were three different Pangerls' in the original phone book. settlers and they weren't related to each other.

"Almost everyone in town is related to a Pangerl either through birth or marriage," Emma laughed.

Rudy Pangerl was one of the neighboring farmers who hauled his logs to Emma and Joseph's mill to be cut into lumber.

"We hauled them with horses and a sled. After the logs were sawed into lumber we sold them to Olson Lumber Yard in Henriette and a lot of it to a lumber yard in Grasston," he said.

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When hard times fell during the 30's the Pangerl sawmill continued to operate.

"We didn't get rich at it but we always made a little. My husband was also a blacksmith and could fix things himself. He even made his own cant hook to roll the logs with and after he got out of the sawmill business he gave that hook to Dr. Stratte," Emma said.

"Our prices for sawing were always a little bit less than other mills so that kept business coming in during the depression," she added.

The Pangerl mill was set to begin about March 1 each year. The severely cold weather was over but there was still enough snow for farmers to haul them in on sleds.

"At first we worked the mill from 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.", Emma said. "We found that farmers who had a lot of chores to do couldn't get here until 9:00 and had to quit by 5:00 so we changed our hours to accommodate them.

The Pangerl sawmill was typical of many others who provided an important neighborhood service in addition to extra income for its owner.

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