

Rich Truman Reminisces 1916

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PIONEER TELLS OF CHANGES IN PAST 60 YEARS

Sixty years ago when Truman Rich who lives on Mill street in this city, came to Waupaca, people thought nothing of walking from here to Oshkosh when on business or pleasure trips. The only means of travel in those days was by foot as there were very few horses at that time. The mail was carried from station to station by men on foot and Mr. Rich recalls the time when he walked from Plover to Green Bay, a distance of one hundred miles, with the mail, making the journey in about a week.

In contrast with conditions in these days, picture the conditions of today. Now when we wish to go to Neenah or Oshkosh, we go either by rail or by automobile and reach there in less than two hour's time. Instead of walking with the mail from town to town, we now have carriers with automobiles, who travel their routes in from three to five hours' time. When Mr. Rich came to Waupaca in 1852, there was only one store here while today Main street is crowded with them.

Mr. Rich is one of the oldest settlers in Waupaca county and perhaps the oldest in the city. He was one of a party of Government surveyors who subdivided Waupaca county into sections. He has grown up with the city and has seen Main street burned down and rebuilt three times. Practically all his life has been spent in this city. He lived on the farm now occupied by Charles Anderson until the war broke out when he enlisted with Co. A., Eighth Wisconsin Infantry. He was wounded in the battle of Nashville in 1861, lay in the hospital for four months and then received his honorable discharge. He then returned to Waupaca and after conducting a photograph gallery here for fifteen years, bought the home where he now lives and retired. Mr. Rich is still in good health and will celebrate his eighty-fourth birthday next January.