

ELGIN STREET -- CHERRY VALLEY, IL

Elgin Street was the original road into Cherry Valley before the interurban line was built. State Street was extended east of Lawrence Street following the curve of the rails to join Elgin Street at the east edge of the town.

As I remember the first house going west was the Hugh Mackey residence which was the long time home of the Nels Nelson family. The George Jamison home, known as Six Oaks was next. George was the Cherry Valley School's principal in the early 1900's. George Jamison later had a large garden and sold the produce.

Down the hill was the Roy Wilson residence and next to it was the George Conklin residence. Before George Conklin built this house he lived in the first house to the west. Farther west is the Killeen house and then a small house that is falsely rumored to be a box car.

Just before Cherry Street was the railroad maintenance section house and a livestock yard. West of Cherry Street, on the north side of the track, was the depot with its' outhouse, well, and the stand where the mail bags were hung to be picked up by the train as it went by on the fly. Farther on the west was the elevator with its' coal sheds. Finally, closer to the river was the creamery with its' smoke stack. It burned down before my time of memory.

Going back east on the south side of the street was the interurban tower which controlled the point where the interurban track crossed the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad after each crossed the river.

The State Street crossing gates were raised and lowered by a man in the tower. Farther east was a hotel which burned down just before the turn of the century. Across Cherry Street, on the corner, was a house and garden owned by William Craig who was the depot agent in the early 1890's

Next was a double house where Bill and Emily Rolf lived. Bill was a veteran of the English army in the Boar War in Africa. The next house was the Robert Wooster family.

Across Van Buren street was a vacant lot upon which the Stenstrom family built a house. Sarah Govern lived across Hogan's alley on the corner. I don't remember who lived from there to the corner, but the Edward Meyers family lived east of the alley.

Across Lawrence Street were the Herbert Fisher family, the Harry Fisher family, the Harold Avery family, and at the top of the hill was the Knox family. This house was a rest home late in 1959. It is now a private home.

In the spring of 1938, when the ice broke up, there occurred an ice jam in Belvidere which they broke up with dynamite. However, the ice continued down the river and jammed again north of Cherry Valley. The results were that the water backed up and went under the railroad at the end of Van Buren Street and west on Elgin Street back to the river.

Written by

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