

Iowa can you see more examples of advanced soil conservation practices than on farms in all directions immediately when you leave Garrison.



This picture identifies Garrison because no other town in Iowa has anything quite like the Old Creamery Theater or the Stage Door Restaurant which adjoins it.

## Line fence lingo

By CHARLIE EGBHARD

Would you believe there's a grocer in Benton County who has been on the job in the same store building for 60 years? Not only that but he seems to be in good enough physical condition to be around for quite a few years more.

I've been in Garrison many times. I've often noted the grocery store at the corner of Main Street but never had any idea of what a story was connected with it because it is indeed quite unusual for any man to stay at the same job 60 years. That's the record of Garrison Grocer James Crossley.



Main Street in Garrison has seen few changes over the years after it was rebuilt following the disastrous fire in 1909. Building in right foreground has been the only grocery in Garrison for a long time.

He went into the store as an employee when he graduated from old Garrison high school and has been there ever since. When he first arrived the job the store was owned by a group of farmers and was called the Farmers Mercantile. That name has stuck all these years although Crossley is now the owner having purchased the store in 1943. Married, Crossley lives in Garrison with his wife and daughter Emma.

In 1909 Garrison had a disastrous fire which destroyed most of the buildings on Main Street and Crossley remembers it as a boy. Later the store which stood on the present site was moved into the street to the east long enough to allow construction of the present store building.

After I had learned about this old-time grocer in Garrison and went into the store to interview him I found he has a delightful sense of humor. I started the conversation by saying: "I understand you've been in this store for quite some time." "Yes," he replied, "I've been here at least two weeks." He has indeed!

This is still Garrison's only grocery store but at that the community is fortunate. Quite a few towns the size of Garrison and even larger no longer have grocery stores forcing residents to travel a considerable distance to do their shopping.

As far as Crossley is concerned he doesn't feel the business has changed that much through the years except that the need to

provide a lot of credit to customers as was the case particularly in the depression years, doesn't exist now. Profit margins in the grocery business are still small and a store owner cannot afford to have delinquent accounts on the books.

I forgot to ask Crossley about shoplifters but I wouldn't think that would be much of a problem in a community like Garrison where most people are too friendly and neighborly for that sort of thing.

There is more stability to Garrison than to many other small communities as evidenced by the fact that in the same town with Crossley is Merle Kruger who is now in his 51st year running the welding shop which he has owned all that time. His son is in business with him. I like to drop in and visit with him whenever I'm in town and have the time because he certainly knows his way around Benton County and has a lot of interesting facts at his command.

Garrison of course took on a new dimension a few years ago when the "Old Creamery Players" moved in to bring this art to this section of Iowa. A terrific remodeling job on the old creamery has been done and as most of you readers know there is also a delightful restaurant known as the Stage Door along with a beer garden as part of the layout. Only recently Bill Newman who hales from Indiana arrived to be the new manager of the restaurant and beer garden.

On the occasion of my latest visit when I interviewed Crossley I dropped around to try to locate a new-found friend, Steve Koch, the beekeeper but didn't find him around. I noticed the fire station is neat as ever and Wallace Neve is the Fire Chief. Even though the big Garrison fire happened so many years ago, I imagine Garrison residents are more aware of fire danger than most.

While I was downtown visiting my wife Lois, who always accompanies me because she says its too much fun roaming around



This year marks 60 years that James Crossley has worked in the Grocery Store at Garrison. He started working in the store in 1917 and bought the place still known as the Farmers Mercantile in 1948.



Drive Safely!!

## Farm lease termination deadline is Sept. 1

The deadline for notice of termination of farm leases in Iowa is September 1, unless the lease specifies an earlier date. If no notice is given by this date or is improperly given, the former agreement continues under the same terms and conditions as the original lease. For legal termination, the written notice may be delivered to the other party in person with signed or witnessed acknowledgment of receipt, or it may be delivered by an official process server; or it may be sent by certified mail in time for delivery before September 1st to the last known address of the party involved.

Such termination would give them adequate time



Garrison has a fine park where teenagers enjoy ball games in the summer twilight hours. There are many young people in the community and two of them are shown here. Krista Weiditz, daughter of Linda Weiditz, is shown on the larger bike performing a "baby-sitter's" role for Mike Geiger, son of the Bob Geigers, who seems well able to handle his smaller bike.

the county with me and meeting so many fine farm folks to stay at home was making herself useful. She intercepted Vicky Lint, a nice-looking girl to whom I got an introduction later. I found that Vicky is due to graduate from high school in Vinton next spring. She is a daughter of the Dean Lints. Dean works for Merle Kruger.

Many young people are inclined to poke fun at their home towns especially if they come from a small community like Garrison, but Vicky seemed completely satisfied with living where she does and it was nice to hear her say good things about her home town.

She said most of the young people like to gather at the town park in the north part of Garrison after supper hours to play baseball and other games. She said, however, she does have many friends in Vinton and enjoys visiting with them there too.

About the time we left Vicky, along came a small girl with a smaller boy, each riding a bicycle. The girl turned out to be Krista Weiditz who was doing a moving "baby-sitting" job for little Mike Geiger. Mike was riding a very small bike as befitting his size but he was handling it like an old-timer. I got them to pose for a picture. Linda says she'll be entering sixth grade this fall.

I couldn't help but think how fortunate they are to live in a place like Garrison where they can ride around the streets on their bikes without fear of getting run down. They have some privileges in this respect that youngsters in larger communities never have.

I was struck by the fact that when I drove into Garrison from the north I saw a fine group of Hereford whiteface beef cattle in a pasture that I believe was actually just inside the city limits. Later I found another herd of beef cattle, in fact a goodly number of them, in a pasture just south of town along the same highway. This suggests what a center for livestock industry Garrison is.

But there is another reason why Garrison has become known all over Iowa, and I'm not referring to that championship girls basketball team which won it all back in 1957. That was glory indeed and the most famous event in Garrison's athletic history.

What Garrison is known for is the fact that nowhere in the state of



Vicky Lint pictured out walking in Garrison will be a senior at high school in Vinton this fall. She spoke enthusiastically about her home town.

I'd like to start listing some of the farmers who have done so much in the way of soil conservation but if I attempt to do so I'm certain to be guilty of omissions so I'll just not try. But if you have never taken a drive through this part of Benton County it is certainly worth doing so especially at this time of year.

Now if there's anything more you want to know about Garrison, especially the bygone years, I strongly suggest you contact two of my friends of many years standing, George and Dorothy Carlson who lived in Garrison when I first made their acquaintance a long time ago but have lived in Vinton now for some years. Can't pay my respects to Garrison without passing along regards to them.



Garrison is famous all over Iowa for the soil conservation practices farmers employ in the surrounding area. There are many fine livestock farms and this picture was taken right at the south entry to the town.

Of course changes or terminations of a lease may occur at any time by mutual consent of both participants, but if such alterations are desirable to one party only and the other backs down on the changes, the law stands behind the September 1 deadline.

So if either the tenant or the landlord wishes to alter any part of the lease agreement, they should get together and either negotiate the changes into a new lease now or give notice of termination for renegotiations sometime before March

1st. When the new lease year begins.

If the lease is not written (a few are still made orally) it may be altered or terminated in the same manner that it was originally made. There are several reasons for having a written lease and using an official lease form. The assistance of a lawyer could also be very beneficial. A properly written lease provides a basis for a point by point evaluation of the agreement. Such an evaluation should take place at least annually and should promote meaningful

discussion and agreement on any items where problems might arise.

Considerable interest has been shown this year in ways of varying cash rent to adjust for wide variations in prices or yields. Several lease meetings have been held in the area for discussion of these topics. For further information, materials or consultations on the subject, contact your local county extension director.

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