

## McQueen, McQueen's Siding, Reed's Mill, Reeman

By Terry E. Wantz

The area around Reeman was first called McQueen after one of the first family which settle there. Later, when the railroad came through the name was change to McQueen's Siding.

Joseph Baillargeon built a steam hoop mill for making a coil hoop on which he had a patent, on section 5, Sheridan. In 1883 he moved it to section 8, near McQueen's Siding. His mill employed 9 men and turned out from 7,000 to 10,000 hoops a day. Later he added a saw mill and feed mill. William A Boyd built a steam saw mill there also with a capacity of 12, 000 feet a day. In 1883 the firm became Boyd & McQueen, In 1884 McQueen sold his interest to Frank Reed and the firm became Boyd & Reed. Boyd soon sold his interest to Reed also. The mill burned in 1898. John Boyd, went into business for himself and at one time he had over a 1,000,000 feet of logs in at Reed's Mill.

After the railroad came through in 1872. John Brinkman along with Frank Reed and others, work to get a railroad station located here. The farmers built the station and the railroad furnished an operator. In 1886 John Brinkman built a general store there. Even before the depot was completed, Brinkman had a ticket office and express office in his store.

Frank Reed, had built a elevator here at his mill and John Brinkman also had shingle mill there. In 1872, the Boyd brothers, Charles and Samuel had a warehouse also located here where they sold general produce and potatoes by the car lots.

In 1894, Frank Reed built a large flour mill on Sec. 8, Sheridan Township, near the railroad tracks. The mill had a custom trade for miles around. A settlement soon sprang up around the mill, and was called Reed's Mill. With the building of the depot, This siding soon became an important shipping point for the farmers of the area. Brinkman was finally successful on April 9, 1897, in getting a post office established there. In order to have a post office there had to be a village name. They took the first three letters of Reed name, and added the last three letters of Brinkman and under the name of "Reeman", the area had become a full fledged community with a post office.

John Brinkman was the first Postmaster. Later Brinkman sold his general store to Peter H. Boven, who became the postmaster on May 12, 1905. Boven sold the store to William C. Drost. Drost became the postmaster on November 3, 1920. He soon went into partnership with Edd B. Nieboer and Nieboer became the postmaster on February 14, 1923.

Joseph G. Meyers had a Hardware Store and Jake Reimink had a General Merchandise Store and a Mill here. The telephone number at the hardware store was 358-3S-1L (the line number was 358 and three short rings and one long ring was for Hardware.) Reimink number was 242-1S-2L or one short ring and two long rings.

In the early 1920 Hamburg & Nieboer had a General Merchandise store. The Reeman Garage with Tanis & Tanis, Proprietors, did all kinds of repairing, cars, tractors, gas engines, generators, starter and batteries, vulcanizing was a specialty and all work was guaranteed.

Garret Tanis was the manager of the Reeman Creamery at that time and creamery telephone number was 358-1L-2S-1L.

On October 30, 1924 the post office was transferred to the hardware store owned by Joseph G. Meyers. On December 31, 1924 Meyers became the postmaster. John Geerling went into partnership with Meyers and became the postmaster on July 29, 1940. In 1952 John Geerling and his son Alfred built a new hardware store and the post office was moved there. John Geerling was the last postmaster when the office changed to a fourth-class rural branch of Fremont on June 30, 1959. Al Geerling was named as clerk until the post office closed in December of 1969.

The Reeman patrons then had rural mail service from Fremont on Route #3 with John Kelly as the mail carrier. The Reeman Post Office had served the small community for nearly eighty years through good times and bad times.