

812 Bigelow,  
Peoria, Ill.  
Feb. 18, 1944.

Winifred Gray Leith,  
Big Rapids, Mich.

Dear Mrs. Leith--

Thank you very much for your tip about the article in the  
Newaygo Republican. I have written for a copy if they happen to  
have any left.

I wonder if you could do something for me there. Will you  
look in your city directory and see if there is a Frank Priest  
living there, or if not Frank, any other member of the Priest  
family and give me the address.

Mrs. Frank Priest is a sister to the Dudgeon brothers and  
I need some information about the Dudgeon family which I might be  
able to get from her. I wrote her about two weeks ago, with just  
Big Rapids as the address, but have not heard from her.

Thanking you for both favors, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Harry L. Spooner

Battle Creek, I am told  
Don't know address.

Mrs. Priest lives at  
by good authority.

(over)

You might say to know McCleary  
Hatch & Newman was Feb. 20, Had been  
60 years with bank which first started  
as Webber and Hatch (1<sup>st</sup> supplying capital)  
Later became First State Bank of Newaygo  
(Apr. 1907)

Mr Hatch began work in a bank at Meira  
near his home town (Lyons). S.W. Webber  
came from down that way. Mr Hatch cashier  
till he became president. Bank been  
in same block but eventually moved to  
next (store) space. Wonderfully well  
preserved Mr Hatch. Luller was in

N. Republican Feb. 24. Mr. Webber  
must have died years ago. Mr. Hatch  
showed by cards on that day. (I recall how  
bank started, myself, mean names etc.)  
Pardon pencil and paste don't  
feel extra well, and have delayed long  
enough already.

Morris Gray Smith