

ZEARING, IOWA
May 6, 1968

The Town of Zearing was founded in October of 1881. It was incorporated in February of 1883. The town was located on land owned by Edward Richardson. The Richardson home became the first house in the new town and in 1968 it is the home of Dr. Charles Hall.

The town was named for Judge William M. Zearing of Chivago who owned land just north of town. He promised that if the town was named for him, he would make a gift to the first Church erected in the town. The Evangelical Church was dedicated in January of 1884 and Judge Zearing made good on his promise and presented the new church with a bell.

Ernest Bean, son of Cyrus P. Bean was born on January 30, 1882 and became the first child born in the new town. Guy E. Golly, son of John M. Golly was born on March 26, 1882 and carried second honors.

The first election held in town resulted in Asa M. Williams being elected mayor, F. S. Newton assessor, Joseph Ingram recorder, and Joseph Johnson treasurer.

The councilmen elected were W. H. Brooks, C. A. Burgess, Geo. Patten, William F. Lewis, N. R. Clift and G. M. Tuttle.

In 1968 the town officials are J. A. Lund, Mayor; Councilmen Aaron Buffington, Kenneth L. Cerka, Virgil Hill, Maurice Butler, John Hill, Clerk Russell Golly, Street and Water commissioner Albert Kreuger.

In 1968 Zearing has three Churches. The Evangelical Church was dedicated on January 6, 1884 with Rev. J. M. Johnston as the first minister. Some years later the Evangelical church merged with the United Bretheran Church. Rev. Richard Miller is the minister in 1968.

The Zearing Christian Church was founded in 1908. J. W. Sibbett was the first pastor and Rev. Phillip Sharp is the pastor in 1968.

The St. Gabriels Catholic Church was founded in 1908. L. D. Tobin was the first Pastor and Rev. Cecil McSweeney is serving in the church in 1968.

The first post office was opened for business on December 20, 1881, Albert Squires was the first post master. Loren E. Noeman is post master in 1968.

The Zearing Register was the first Newspaper published in Zearing. It came into being in January of 1882. Wm. F. Lewis was the publisher. In 1968 Maurice Butler is the publisher of the New Tri-County News.

The first bank in Zearing was organized in 1887 by B. A. Armstrong. This was the Farmers Bank.

The State Savings Bank was organized in 1901. Bothe of these banks closed in January of 1931, during the depression.

The Union-Whitten Bank of Union, Iowa opened a branch office in Zearing in Sept. 1931. In Dec 1931 this branch office was taken over by the Story County State Bank of Story City.

The Tri-County State Bank was organized in Jan. of 1943 with W. H. Brandt as Pres. and W.H. Brown a cashier. In 1968 the officers are Jack Edge, Pres. and W. E. Brown cashier.

The first school house was completed in Dec. of 1883. It was a one room building located on the North East corner of the intersection of Pearl and Gardfield streets. It housed grades 1 thru 8.

In 1887 and upper story was put on the building and the 9th grade was added. In 1893 another room was built on and the 10th, 11th and 12th grades were added.

The first High School graduation was held June 6, 1895.

Mayor J. A. Lund
 Councilmen John Hill
Aaron E. Buffington
Maurice D. Butler
A. L. Brown
Virgil Hill