Ice Packing

An interesting aspect of the business that coincided with the early taverns was the annual task of ice packing for summer cooling. For example, in winter when ice on the Branch River at Kuchenbecker's pond on Highway G was the thickest, 14" by 36" cakes were sawed, floated and loaded on trucks for delivery to Morrison. Local people were hired to pack the ice room located in the northeast corner of the tavern above the main floor. They would utilize ropes, pulleys and ramps. This took 3 days and 150 tons of ice. At the first floor level a 17' by 20' by 7' room made with reinforced concrete would then be used for cold storage all summer long. Room temperature stayed at 38 degree's which was excellent for beer, meat and produce.

Ice being packed in Henry Michaelson's Ice House about 1928.

Road Building

Town roads were built by town people. The people were compensated by tax deductions according to the time put in. The rock crushing operation of Jorgenson Construction from Denmark was located at the corner of Hwy 96 and Morrison Road. This was a vital part of the road building process. Men loaded carts by hand and dumped them into the crusher which was run by steam. The crusher screened the rock into different bins. When running, the crusher kept six wagons busy hauling crushed rock to the roads.

Highway G South of Morrison 1918

Rock crushing operation at the time of the building of Highway 96.