



The West Side Store - East of Mapleside Foot Bridge. All photos courtesy of Ardys and David Kratochwill, unless noted otherwise.

Dillard Daughettee - the West Side Store and more.



Dillard & Mildred Daughettee & daughter Ardys.

Before the chain stores replaced them, small groceries were the center of activity in most neighborhoods in Richland Center as well as the outlying communities. People got the news, met their neighbors and did their grocery shopping. The West Side Grocery owned and operated by Dillard and Millie Daughettee was typical of the many neighborhood stores that populated Richland Center. Each neighborhood had one; sometimes more, Wade's Grocery and Hestetune's were directly across the street from each other on North Main Street.

Dillard Daughettee took over the grocery on the east side of the Pine River from his mother in 1928. He and his wife, Millie, operated the store until 1955 when they closed due to Dillard's health. He had purchased the old Parfrey Mill in 1933 and built a new store from the salvaged lumber from the mill. The store was located adjacent to the east end of the Mapleside footbridge that linked the west side to the rest of Richland Center.

When the Daughettees closed the grocery in 1955, they launched a successful aluminum products business with a showroom and workshop where the store had been. The store building was torn down many years ago when the flood abatement dike was built, but the old foot bridge is still intact.

Their only child, Ardys, fondly recalls her childhood growing up in the neighborhood. She spoke of the many youngsters being around

the store throughout the year since Jefferson School was only two blocks away. In the summer, the Pine River acted as a magnet for kids as they fished from the footbridge, in the winter, ice skating on the pond was popular.



Fishing from the footbridge has long been a lucrative pastime for Richland Center residents. The fishermen shown above are, left to right: Thersten Cox and Fred Adams on the bridge; Charles Teach, Bernadine Morris, Keith McDougal, Bernadette Morris, Ardis Daughette, Evelyn Morris, Cecil Dull, Charlotte Groves and Joe Keller on the wall.

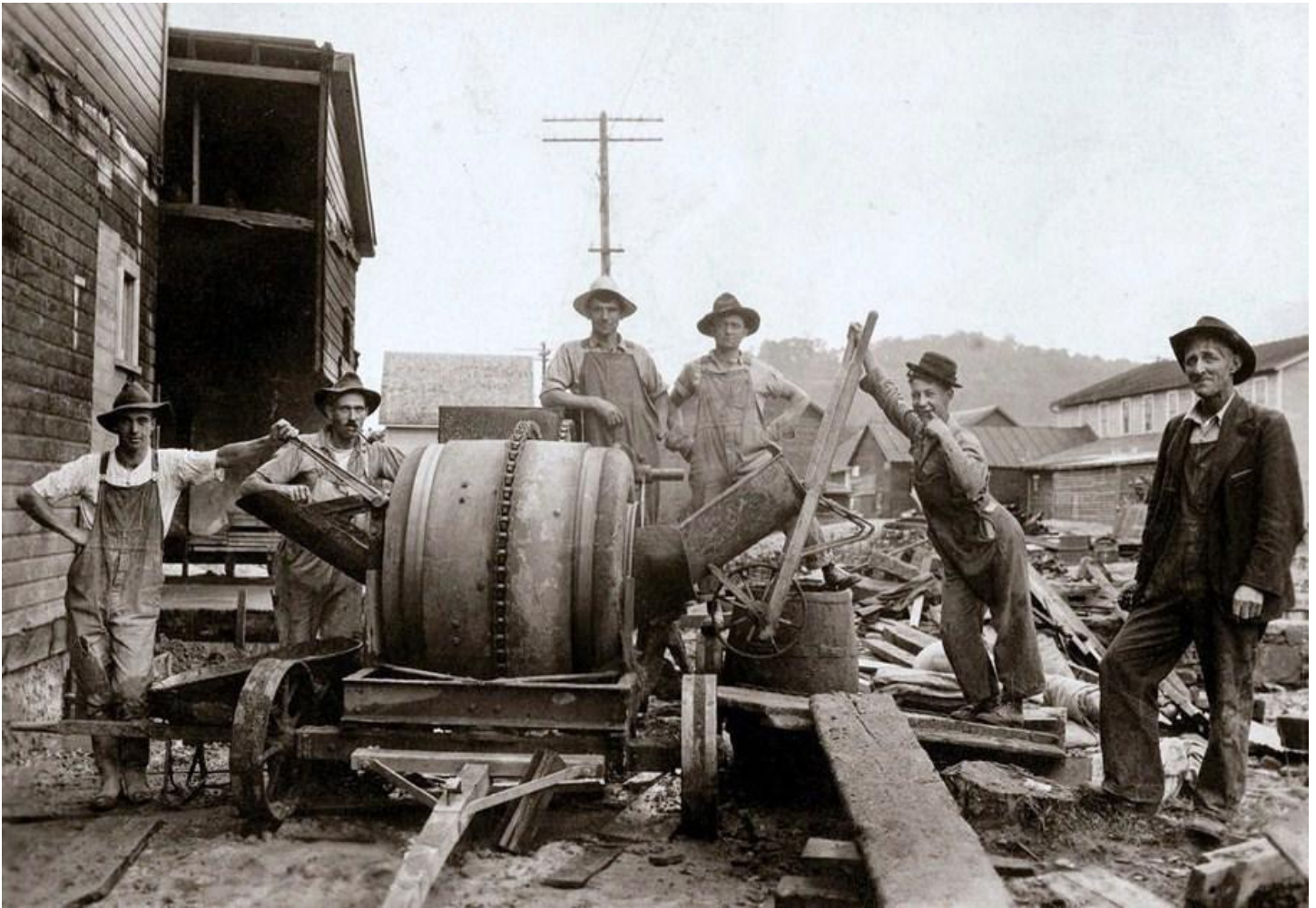


Ardys, second from the left, next to her father, Dillard Daughette, in front of the West Side Store.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Daughhette came to Wisconsin from Virginia and homesteaded between the Wisconsin River and Eagle Corners and are buried in the Eagle Corners cemetery. Their son, John W. Daughhette, was born at Eagle Corners and came to Richland Center to work as a cement finisher for Grant Miner. He married Myra Armstrong, a local Richland Center girl and Dillard was their son.

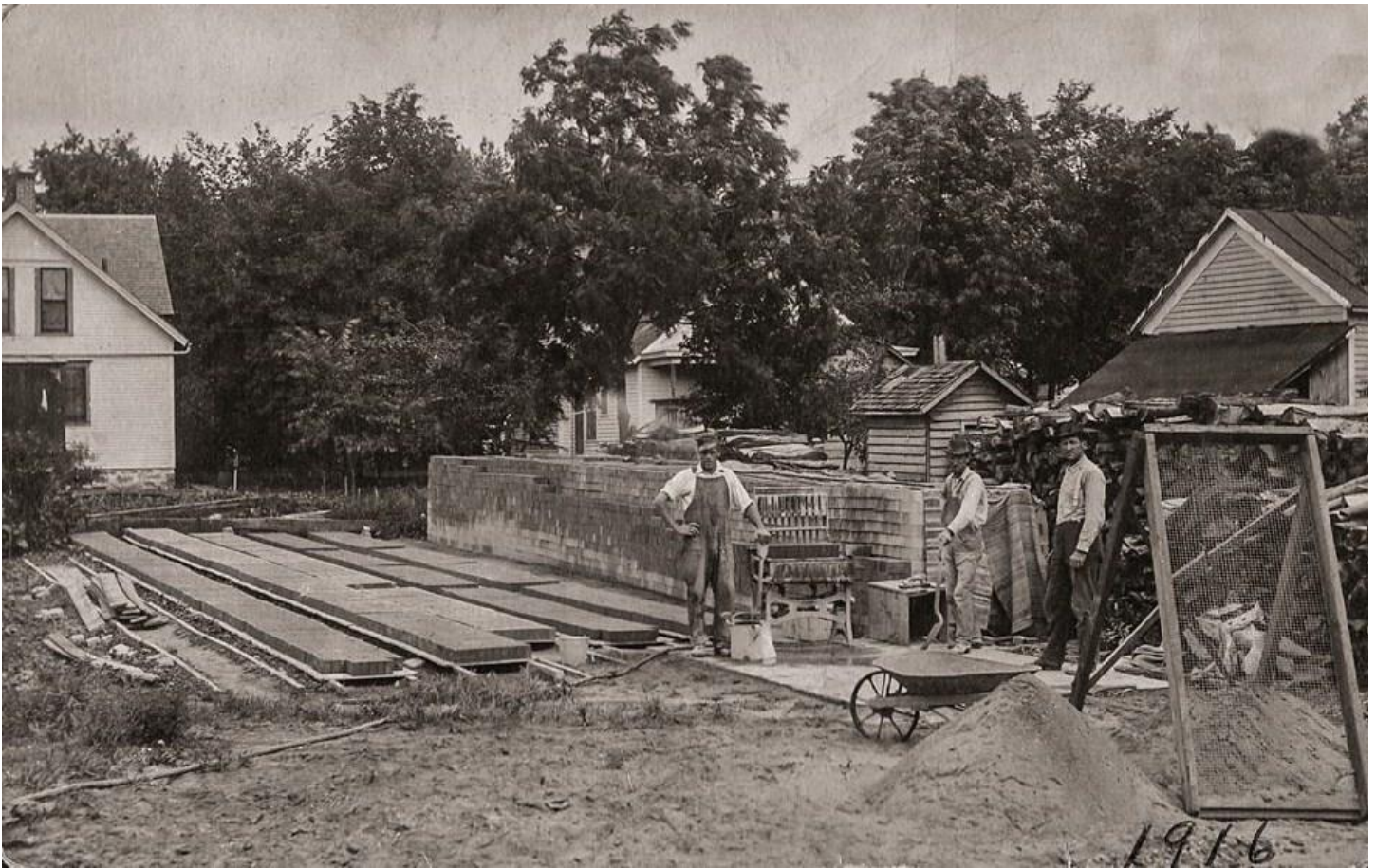
Later, John Daughhette was in business for himself for 25 years and evidence of his work is stamped in many of the old sidewalks around Richland Center. He was a tall, large man; when Frank Lloyd Wright needed someone to build the A.D. German Warehouse on Haseltine and Church Streets, John Daughhette was the only one around who could handle such a project.

As an example, before World War I he built the Pier Garage (now Bindl's Tire) where his men poured over 300 barrels of cement and reinforced the floor with 19,500 pounds of steel. (The Pier Garage handled the Mitchell, built in Milwaukee, the most popular car in Richland Center at that time). Dillard worked on construction with his father as a young man, especially during World War I, and fed the cement mixer after someone bigger had put the bags up on a platform.

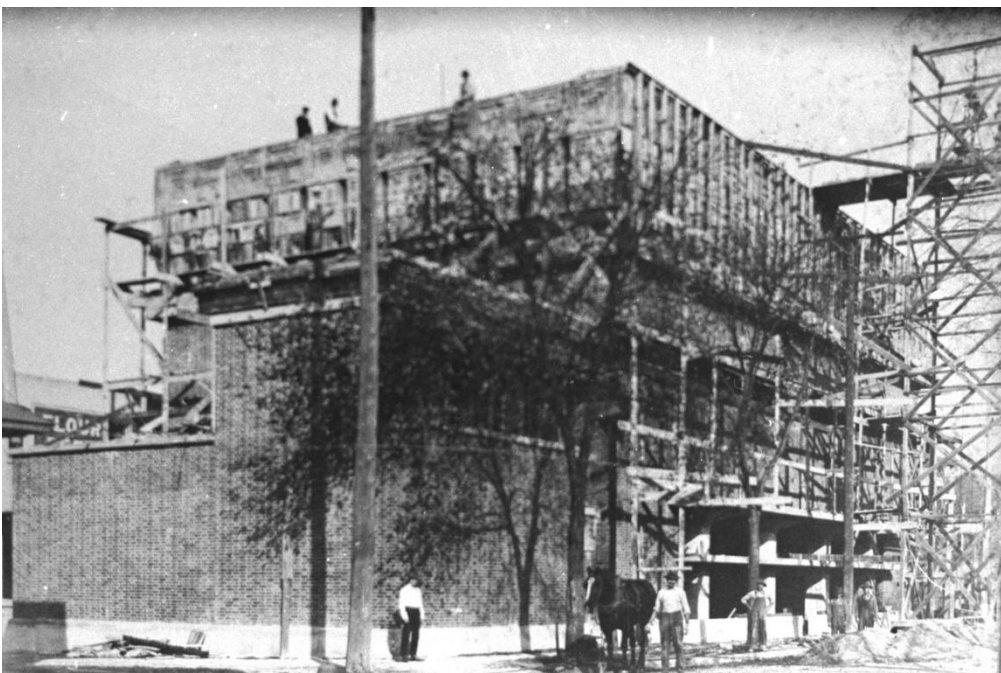


Left to right: Ansel Heath, Jim Draves, Jay Ely, Lee Foreman, Dillard Daughhettee and John Daughhettee.

David Kratochwill, Ardys' son, says of his grandfather, "Of all the family images I recall from years ago, there is one that has always stood out. It is a photo of my grandfather Dillard Daughhettee, and his father John, along with several employees of my great grandfather's concrete contracting business. The group is standing around a concrete mixer, Dillard is clowning it up for the camera. For those of you that don't know, my great-grandfather John Wayne Daughhettee, operated a concrete contracting business in Richland Center. His company helped build the A.D. German Warehouse. My grandfather Dillard had several of the forms used to construct the concrete frieze that decorates the building, and remembered hauling all that mix, by rope and pulley, to the top of the scaffolding."



Above is an image from 1916 recording the men, at least partially responsible, for the construction of the Wright designed A.D. German Warehouse building. It shows the men making bricks. It's thought the brickyard was behind the John Daughhettee house located on the northwest corner of 8th and Main which is now part of Krouskop Park. Photo below: A.D. German Warehouse under construction. Richland County History Room photo.



The German Warehouse features plain brick surfaces broken by vertical slits extending from the base to the frieze. The building is dominated by a broad corbeled poured-in-place concrete frieze ornamented by cast concrete ornament and narrow window slits. The building has four floors, approximately 4,000 sq. ft. each and has an open floor plan on each level. It is a significant example of early poured concrete

construction, the building rests on a pad of cork for stability and shock absorption. Wright used concrete slabs for the floors supported by concrete columns that grow smaller in size and height proceeding upward to the fourth floor.



Above: Daughette home at 1108 North Main Street. Dillard and Mildred Daughette are second and third seated on the right.
Below: Ardys (Daughette) Kratochwill in front of the West Side Store.

