

ty, to Lincoln's Mills in Montcalm county, and three times a week to Battle Creek. New Postal routes were established in September, 1850, to Lyons, to Ionia, to Muskegon and to Mackinac. From this time mail service was established on new routes nearly every year, in various directions from the city, until the advent of railroads. There were daily mails during the summer season both up and down the river, and throughout the year several from the southward. The railroads as fast as they came furnished new and increased facilities, each of them bringing mails at least twice a day.

From the pocket office of Postmaster Winsor to the present postoffice in this city, the growth of our postal accommodations is worthy of study. It was said that his vest pocket generally held the entire letter contents of any incoming mail, and it is not recorded that there was a single lock-box or drawer, or even a case of pigeon-holes in the postoffice of the early days. Now, these appliances fill the largest apartment in the Government Building, at one door of which comes and goes a steady file of mail bags, and at the other an equally constant procession of citizen customers, while the business gives employment to a small army of clerks and carriers. In the first quarter of 1868 the delivery of letters averaged about 1,200 daily, and in the office, which was then in the Eagle Building, were 2,134 boxes and 530 drawers, of which about two-thirds were in use. At the end of 1872 the proportions were changed. There were then 1,896 pigeon holes and 2,880 drawers. The introduction of the carrier system greatly decreased the demand for office boxes.

### **The City Delivery.**

The free delivery system by carriers was established September 1, 1873, with the following force: John Sonke, Raymond McGowan, C. W. Bignell, C. L. Shattuck and J. F. Lamoreaux. The salary of the letter carriers at that time was \$600, to be increased \$100 at the end of the first year and \$150 more at the end of the second year.

### **The Present City Carriers are**

Frank H. Barber, Palmer S. Barker, Herbert L. Barrett, Wm. H. Bement, Louis L. Beneker, Dennis T. Berry, Willard S. Berry, John Bogert, Bernard Brouwer, Daniel F. Clark, Horace B.