

cided "boom" for the little village. Old Helena's one street assumed a thriving appearance as the teamsters came and went with their loads, bringing from Milwaukee and the other lake ports on each return trip one or more travelers, or a company of immigrants looking for homes; and the bustle that always precedes the coming of a new railroad added intensity to the busy life of this period of her history. River traffic was also active just now, and more and more of the surplus product of the farms was finding its way southward. Much lead and shot went to market the same way, doubtless favored by the business connections of Washburn & Woodman at Galena. But the prosperity of Helena was as short-lived as it was vigorous. The bridge was completed across the Wisconsin river, and the Milwaukee & Mississippi railroad pushed on to Muscoda and Prairie du Chien. Transportation no longer delayed progress, towns sprang up all along the line of the new road, and river towns not in connection with the new highway fell into inevitable decay. It only needed the crisis of 1857 to completely ruin Old Helena; nor did the shot-tower long outlive the little village.

Besides John Evans, the dropper, Bradford had under him Samuel Henderson, Henry Douglas, and George Mack; the last named came from Illinois with Bradford, to work in the tower. Soon after Bradford's arrival, a well was dug in the horizontal drift near the cistern; besides furnishing excellent drinking water, it was used to supply the cistern. At about the same time the stairs were built from the finishing-house up the face of the cliff to a path leading to the shaft and melting-house. They started from a platform near the west door of the finishing-house, and were broken in the middle by a small landing. The path to which they led is yet to be seen ending abruptly on the face of the cliff, and the mortices in the side of the ledge still show where the supports rested.

All who remember the appearance of the old wooden shaft of the shot-tower (60 feet high) will recall the fact that it was white or whitish, making it a striking object