The story of Monroe : its past and its progress toward the present. 1976

Hamilton, Edmund C.
Monroe, Wisconsin: Monroe Public Schools Print Shop, 1976

https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/YGC6RQDCY665R8T

The Story of Monroe

Its Past

And Its Progress

Toward the Present

VIEW SOUTH OVERLOOKING SPRING SQUARE - Taken in the 1870s, this nostalgic photograph offers glimpses of Monroe in another era. In the right foreground is the building erected around 1860 by Anton Miller as his residence and furniture store, later converted into today's City Hotel. Miller's Furniture Factory is in the left foreground. The old high school can be seen faintly on the horizon above the Miller plant, and to the right is the Wells Opera House. The Planing Mill is at the extreme right. Note the white picket fences extending up 16th Avenue at the left. The windmill pumped water for a horse trough. Directly behind it is Thunder River, later covered over for a storm sewer project. (Green County Historical Society Collection)

"THE STORY OF MONROE"

...Its Past and Its Progress Toward the Present

by E. C. HAMILTON

Monroe, Green County, Wisconsin

Printed in Wisconsin, U.S.A.
The Print Shop
Monroe Public Schools, Monroe, Wisconsin

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FOREWORD

When one undertakes to reach back into the distant past to bring his home community's history up to the present, he faces a formidable task, not to mention the chance that his efforts will be considered presumptuous by his contemporaries.

After agreeing to prepare "The Story of Monroe" for the Public School System as a Bicentennial Year project, the author quickly recognized the complexity of the challenge, as well as the danger of criticism from fellow townsmen who might view some of the accounts differently.

It is hoped readers will accept the author's assurance that "The Story of Monroe" was thoroughly researched, that every effort was made to be accurate in all details. Where statements are at variance with the understanding of others, he will welcome proof to the contrary so future historians may not be misled.

Mistakes are unavoidable and "The Story of Monroe" probably has its share, despite valiant attempts by everyone associated in the project to avoid them. It is hoped, however, that noted errors will be few and unimportant to the book's purpose. One comes to mind immediately--in Chapter 14 Dr. Confer's initials are written as "F.S." instead of the correct "F.M." The author hopes others found will be equally minor.

Dr. Helen M. Bingham, in the preface of her 1877 History of Green County, wrote: "It is often said, though whether the saying originated with an unsuccessful historian cannot now be ascertained, that that people is most fortunate whose history is the most wearisome to read. Will those to whom this history is the dullest and most monotonous have the charity to infer that Green is the most fortutunate of counties?"

It is hoped that neither Monroe's story nor this book is dull. Should readers find either to be the case, the blame lies with the author, not the marvelous story that is Monroe's.

It will be observed by the academically disciplined that "The Story of Monroe" runs on uninterrupted by footnotes and with only a few annotations. This narrative style was chosen to allow the story to flow because the author--as well as historians who preceded him--carefully researched the material. Some of that new research was original. Other items came from thoroughly authenticated material. None was dreamed up from the blue, or

presented because that's how the author thought it was supposed to be.

Sources to be acknowledged include Helen Bingham's history; the 1844 History of Green County, complied by the Union Publishing Co., Springfield, Ill.; Memoirs of Green County by Charles A. Booth and C. H. Dietz, published in 1913 at Madison, Wis., by the Central States Historical Association; files of "The Monroe Sentinel" and "The Monroe Evening Times"; records in the Register of Deeds and Register in Probate offices; data from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin; "The Monroe Evening Times" 50th Anniversary Historical Supplement of 1948, which the author helped prepare, and that newspaper's 75th Anniversary Edition of 1973.

Individual acknowledgments are due Mrs. John M. Irvin; Mrs. Benjamin F. Salzer of Denver; Mrs. John A. Becker; Mrs. Ralph J. Kundert; Miss Charlotte Young; the late Emery A. Odell for his valuable notes and history of the cheese industry; Ralph A. Lindsay; Lewis R. Van Wagenen; Josef J. Benkert; Peter S. Solomon; Kenneth L. Mayer, and a host of others. Without their patience and cooperation, this book never could have been written.

E.C. Hamilton
May 21, 1976

Chapter One

THE FIRST ARRIVALS

What causes pioneers seeking a place for putting down roots to select any one particular spot--the simple urge to settle, desire for wealth, advance planning, or just pure chance?

In the case of Monroe, Wisconsin, even with the blurred perspective from the passing of some 140 years, it's not too difficult to understand the tiny wilderness settlement's simple genesis when circumstances of the 1830s are recalled.

Wisconsin had been declared a separate territory by Acts of Congress April 20, 1836, only 60 years, or three generations, after the Declaration of Independence. Prior to that, the sprawling Wisconsin area had been a part, successively, of the Indiana, Illinois and Michigan territories.

The signal starting the migration into this new land of opportunity however, had already been given a year earlier. That was when the United States Government placed on the market the widespread Wisconsin lands acquired by treaty from the Winnebago Indians.

Beginning in 1835, or even before, the rush for land became a steady movement, flowing north from Illinois and other previously settled states. Those were the circumstances prevailing in 1835-36.

Today's student or historian, however, will find it less easy to explain just why many of those land-hungry migrants chose Monroe's precise location for permanent settlement.

Monroe and its vicinity possessed no special geographic or geological

attributes. There was no navigable stream, or even any indication that adequate water supplies existed. Nor, was there any evidence of rich lead deposits such as those which lured many hundreds to counties west of here. In fact, the only lead discoveries were in Exeter, well to the north, and in the Skinner Creek sections of Monroe Township, also several miles north.

> Early miners in the Exter area had achieved indifferent success. In 1829, John B. Skinner and Thomas Neal started lead diggings in Section 10, north of the future village in Monroe Township. They smelted ore along Skinner Creek until driven out in 1832 by the Black Hawk War scares. Hiram Rust visited the site in 1835 and struck rich ore by digging deeper into shafts in Section 10. He was joined by Joab Enos, Nicholas Cornelius and Richard Palmer in working the area. Rust and Cornelius stayed on the project and are reputed to have been the only local miners to reap sizable profits from lead operations.

Later, two figures prominent in pioneer Wisconsin history, Henry F. Janes and Jesse Shull, were early visitors here and found nothing to induce them to settle.

During a bitterly cold, snow journey in January, 1836, Janes had "scouted" the townsite being laid out as "New Mexico" by Jacob Andrick (north of the High School location). After taking a long, shivering look, Janes turned back to the Rock River where he staked his claim at what became "Janesville."

A War of 1812 veteran, Shull was a true territorial pioneer, having operated trading posts at Prairie du Chien and Dubuque. He then set up simiiliar operations near the Gratiot's Grove lead mining activities in 1827. That move resulted in the Lafyette County lead miners' "capital" of "Shullsburg."

In 1836, Shull had considered starting a store in the barren New Mexico townsite. He apparently saw little potential here and instead took up a claim in Section 36, Cadiz Township. Later, Shull relocated north of his claim, dying there in 1861 at the age of 75.

Despite those rebuffs, however, the future village's proximity to the Illinois line inevitably resulted in its early existence and insured future growth.

Another advantage was Monroe's situation on a high ridge 900 to 1,000 feet above sea level, guaranteeing good drainage, with no flooding such as settlers had suffered so often elsewhere.

The townsite's high location also was viewed as promising a healthful environment, free of the fevers and diseases pioneers had experienced in lowlands and swampy terrain. As it turned out, however, this ideal situation did not prevent incursions of Asiatic cholera in the mid and late 1840s which took many lives in the young village.

But, for whatever reason Monroe (which actually did not exist in the mid-1830s) was chosen by early arrivals for permanent settlement, or rejected out of hand by others, the town did survive.

Those first permanent settlers might not have been able to analyze their real cause for confidence at that time. But, because of that faith in the townsite's future nearly a century and a half ago, Monroe exists for today's generations as a city possessed with everything that makes for good living, opportunity and a healthy economy to a degree almost unique for any time.

However, to return to the beginning years: The majority of Green County's pioneer settlers--except for those who came in 1827 and 1828 to work the Indian lead diggings in the Exeter and Sugar River sections north of Monroe, and others who sought mining riches in Skinner Creek bottomlands to the northwest--moved in from Illinois in the 1830s to claim farm tracts not yet opened up for sale by the government.

First of these latter arrivals was Andrew Clarno who toured Green county lands just across the Illinois line in 1827. Two years later, Clarno staked his claim to a tract in Section 30 of the township which naturally took his

name.

The next year, 1830, Clarno started working his land as the first farmer in Green County. He then prevailed in 1831 upon two Illinois friends with whom he had wintered earlier at Skinner Diggings, William Hugh Wallace and the latter's son-in-law, Joseph Payne, to bring their families to settle in the vicinity of his claim.

It is with the last named, Payne, that this narrative of Monroe's beginning will be largely concerned. (Helen Bingham's 1877 "History of Green County" frequently spells his name "Paine" but "Payne" is correct.)

Those first arrivals, as well as others drawn to the area by lead diggings somewhat earlier, had the same motivation: a hope of making their fortunes in the raw Wisconsin territory. The miners had envisioned a quick way to wealth, even though the grim hardships involved made that path anything but easy. The real settlers, however, were the Clarnos and others who believed farming the rich soil would bring the prosperity which may have eluded them in Illinois or other states and territories.

Cheap land, obviously, was the greatest attraction for settlers and speculators alike. There was an abundance of it available when the U.S. Government finished its surveys and put the lands up for sale by claim or, in some cases, by auction of large tracts held at Philadelphia.

The door was wide open to opportunity by that time since Chief Black Hawk and his warriors had been subdued in 1832. No more obstacles, aside from years of certain hard work, existed in 1836 for settlers who sought to take advantage of the bargains available in the territory.

Settlers who followed Clarno across the line into the new territory and the vicinity of Monroe were, for the most part, not very much interested in laying out townsites. They were farmers who simply wanted good, rich farmlands.

One of the exceptions was Jacob Andrick of Ohio and Indiana who arrived in 1835 and entered a claim which he subsquently platted (but failed to record) as the future village of "New Mexico."

Why Andrick, later known as "Judge," selected New Mexico as his townsite's name never was explained in any of the reminiscences of early settlers or historical records. The United States was more than a decade away from war with Mexico and there was no indication that Andrick ever had visited that country. Even though he may have tarried a bit in Illinois en route to Wisconsin, communities in that state which now bear Mexican names did not acquire them, in most cases, until the mid-1840s.

Andrick's "New Mexico" is the area lying south of 21st Street between 14th and 18th Avenues. It eventually extended to the present south boundary of the High School property. His house was built on what now is the northeast corner of the school's campus. Andrick's townsite actually was in Clarno Township until the Legislature voted in 1856 to annex that Clarno area into Monroe's village limits.

Some oldtimers, writing for the 1884 "History of Green County," disputed the 1835 date for Andrick's appearance on the scene, contending it should have been 1836. The chronology of events relating to opening up of the Government land, however, tends to support the 1835 date.

Prior to Andrick's arrival, Joseph Payne, not content with the Clarno area for permanent settlement, entered a claim in 1834 for 160 acres in Section 35, Township 2 North, Range 7 East (Monroe), the immediate east side of our present city. He built his log cabin on the approximate location of the William and Walter Bauman homes.

Payne's cabin at the head of what now is Byers Court was somewhat more sophisticated than the pioneer abode usually visualized today. He is believed to have erected it in 1836 and it is considered to have been the

first structure in the still unborn village. Legend has it that Payne chose the site because it was where he and his family hid from marauding Indians during the Black Hawk War.

Hiram Rust and Leonard Ross had built a house, probably a log structure, in the vicinity of Monroe in 1834 but it was located outside the future village's east limits.

Next to arrive in the wake of Payne and Andrick was Jarvis Rattan who came from Illinois in 1836. He entered an 80-acre claim adjoining Payne's property and built his cabin near the Town Spring (today's Spring Square parking lot). Rattan's cabin was located just west of the spring and encroached on the right-of-way of what later became Jackson Street (16th Avenue).

(A brief pause is in order to explain that "claims" were surveyed and recognized as legal until they could be redeemed by purchase from the Government at $1.25 an acre, or sometimes a little more, at Mineral Point, location of the U.S. Land Office for the Wisconsin Land District.)

The fourth principal cast member in the story of Monroe's beginning was Jacob Lybrand. He came from Pennsylvania, reaching here in 1837. Possessed of some means, Lybrand immediately purchased a one-third interest in Andrick's New Mexico, as well as portions of the Rattan and Payne claims.

Lybrand then located in a combined store and dwelling on the west side of what is now Lincoln Park.

Later, when Monroe was platted as the county seat, Lybrand moved that building to the south side of Public Square. Still later, he shifted his business operations to the north side of the Square.

Thus, these four men--Payne, Rattan, Andrick and Lybrand--owned the nucleus of the land upon which Monroe developed as a village. They were joined as principals in the genesis of Monroe for a time by a fifth pioneer

figure, William S. Russell, agent for New England land speculators residing principally in Rhode Island.

Agent Russell, who lived in Stephenson County, Illinois, at the settlement we now know as "Winslow," entered the Monroe scene by laying claim to land on the near northwest side of town, adjoining Lybrand's property.

During the 1839 controversy over choice of Green County's seat, it was the inspired joint donation of 120 acres to Green County by Payne, Lybrand and Russell that resolved the voting imbroglio. Payne's 40 acres was the eastern third of the donation, Lybrand's, the center portion (or Public Square), and Russell's, the west third.

It should be noted here that two other pioneers, who settled outside the boundaries of Monroe, had much to do with shaping its future. They were William Boyls (incorrectly spelled in some records as "Boyles") and Dr. Daniel Harcourt, physician and Methodist deacon.

Farmer Boyls, who had located two different Clarno Township claims, was named in 1836 to represent this area, which had been detached from Iowa County, in the Territorial Legislature.

At the first legislative session of that body, held in Belmont, our county was officially designated. Boyls was given the honor of naming it but the legislators rejected "Richland," his first proposal. Why Boyls then chose "Green" is still anyone's guess. The reason generally accepted is that he felt the name best described the rolling terrain and rich farming land.

The fact that Boyls had been born in Greene County, Pennsylvania, was suggested by some as the basis for his choice. This, however, was never acknowledged by Rep. Boyls. Nonetheless, for many years, court and other official records mistakenly spelled the county as "Greene." (That probably was a natural error since many states had counties named for Revolutionary

Gen. Nathanael Greene.)

An intriguing sidelight: Helen Bingham's 1877 "History of Green County" mentions the story that Boyls was elected to represent this frontier county, where bachelors were in the majority, because he had eight unmarried daughters.

Dr. Harcourt deserves a more extensive permanent record in our history than exists today--at least, for the years beyond his 1839 role in helping organize Green County's government and having Monroe chosen as the county seat site.

A native of Maryland, born in 1798, Dr. Harcourt came to Jefferson Township from Indiana in 1836 to file his claim in Section 17 and later in Section 19 as well. He and his family were still listed in the 1837 census for Franklin-Union County, Indiana, and probably moved to Green County that same year.

The 1884 "History of Green County" reports Dr. Harcourt preached the first sermon heard in Green County in 1835 at Mathew Wells' house. That same volume, however, states Wells did not settle in Clarno until 1836. It's possible, of course, Dr. Harcourt had been here earlier to seek land before filing his claim in 1836.

Be that as it may, Dr. Harcourt seems to have been active in farming, practicing medicine and serving the Methodist cause after he arrived. But, his best remembered contribution involved his services in organizing the county's government. He was elected in March, 1838, in balloting at Jacob Lybrand's "New Mexico" house, as one of the three first county commissioners.

Soon afterward, when the permanent government was formed, Dr. Harcourt was renamed as a commissioner. In the confused 1839 controversy over designation of a county seat, he was one of a group picked by fellow citizens to lay out the selected site. (That issue will be discussed further in the

next chapter.)

Dr. Harcourt not only had survived that frustrating balloting turmoil which split the county, but to him alone was given the chore of offering an acceptable name for the new county seat. He probably chose "Monroe" because of admiration for former President James Monroe.

It is unfortunate that Harcourt's own name faded so soon after 1839 from the county's historical record and Monroe's future story. In May, 1850, he sold his Jefferson properties and moved with his family to Jasper County, Iowa.

The 1880 Census of Iowa shows he was living, at the age of 82, in Monroe, Jasper County. Since that town first was known as "Tool's Point," and Dr. Harcourt was a justice of peace when it was renamed "Monroe" in 1854, we can be forgiven for surmising he probably had something to do with that decision.

It should be mentioned that Dr. Harcourt's earliest niche in the local historical record was achieved in 1838 when he became the first person to be tried by jury in Green County. The trial, at Jacob Andrick's home, concerned a charge that he and his son-in-law had replaced survey stakes. It involved a road laying project which he opposed. Dr. Harcourt was acquitted by his peers.

As we conclude this first scene of Act One in the dramatic story of Monroe's beginning, one singular fact stands out in startling relief.

Not one of these seven men, for one reason or another, stayed around very long to share in the prosperity of Monroe's emergence as an economically strong community of opportunity in the 1860s.

Judge Andrick, whose New Mexico townsite was the chief victim of 1839's county seat battle, sold his farm lying in the south portion of his townsite, as well as that land itself, in 1856 to James Bintliff and Francis H.

West (both destined to become Civil War generals).

Andrick's land, including the high school location, was due to be taken soon into the village limits by state-approved annexation of a portion of Clarno Township. He decided, however, to seek a second chance elsewhere and moved to Kansas in 1857. He died at Ft. Scott, Kansas, some years later.

Jarvis Rattan, after selling the last of his village holdings, including the town's first sawmill started by C. D. Hulburt and John Bingham in 1849, took up farming in the Monticello vicinity. He died in retirement in California.

Joseph Payne, whose Cadiz Township exploits ended in a tragic killing in 1850 (to be related later), fled before his trial to California where he died in December, 1875.

Jacob Lybrand found his fellow merchants too competitive. He had started operations in a store structure acquired from the defunct firm of Jacob Bininger, O.C. Smith and Payne in 1838. It had been built with lumber brought from Pittsburgh, Pa., via the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to Galena and then hauled overland.

This was the structure he moved later to the south side of Public Square. He then shifted his business, taking in J.W. Rogers as a partner, to the north side of the Square. But (according to Helen Bingham's 1877 History), his gentle ways were "strangely out of place" in this frontier community. So, he closed up shop and moved to Minnesota.

William Russell, after his role in donating land for locating the county seat here and also providing property for future school needs, appears to have gone back to his activities in Stephenson County where he continued to serve as agent for his Eastern landholding clients for several years.

William Boyls farmed in Clarno until 1854 when he moved to Monroe. He built the house at the southeast corner of 16th Street and 17th Avenue where

Dr. Hans Kneubuhler now resides. In 1861, Boyls left Monroe to settle in Black Hawk County, Iowa, where he died in August, 1881, at the age of 86.

Dr. Harcourt's removal to Iowa already has been related.

So, starting in the 1840s, an entire new cast of principal characters took over leading roles on the Monroe scene. The contributions of this second wave of settlers, and a third soon afterward charted the permanent course that Monroe followed to the success and eminence we enjoy today.

Chapter Two

THE "BIRTH" OF MONROE

In the story of mankind, the act of birth, the bringing of a being into life, is both wonderfully miraculous and somewhat traumatic.

In the course of a community's history, however, events which lead to its founding sometimes involve more than a little of both, combined with errors of frustration bordering on comedy.

The latter situation prevailed to a strange degree in the establishment of Green County and the 1839 struggle which saw Monroe emerge from virtually nothing to become its "seat of justice," or county seat.

When the first Territorial Legislative Assembly at Belmont established Green County in December, 1836, it decreed the seat of justice should be in "the town of New Mexico." Because there was no such township, it was presumed the lawmakers meant "village."

During the next session at Burlington, Ia., (then a part of Wisconsin Territory) on Jan. 15, 1838, legislators further ordained that Green County's organizing elections should be conducted at Jacob Lybrand's house in "the town of New Mexico" and its court sessions held at Jacob Andrick's place in the same "town."

Just 231 votes were cast in that first organizing election March 5, 1838, at Lybrand's. Daniel Harcourt, Daniel S. Sutherland and William Bowen were elected commissioners to form the government. A month later, the first U.S. District Court session convened in Andrick's house at his New Mexico townsite.

Thus, from these events, it seemed apparent to all that "New Mexico" was the official county seat as set up by legislative acts.

This situation was recognized but not accepted by Joseph Payne, however, since he had not been able to prevail upon Judge Andrick to sell him any of his putative county seat land.

So, Payne chose his own way of settling the matter. He engaged James Campbell to survey land he acquired from Jarvis Rattan lying immediately north of Andrick's townsite. After one more attempt to persuade Andrick to share his own townsite, Payne finished his plat and labeled the property "New Mexico."

After his second turndown by Andrick, Payne is quoted in Helen Bingham's 1877 History as saying: "New Mexico isn't recorded and if the old fool (Andrick was all of 56 then) won't let anyone else have half the county seat, he shan't have any part of it himself." We can suspect from other data on Payne's tempestuous ways that his language may not have been quite so moderate as that.

Payne then took off by horseback for the land office in Mineral Point to record his plat. The "old fool," alerted to Payne's scheme, set out in persuit a few hours later but lost the race. Even though a few townspeople in the vicinity probably relished the story of Payne's ingenuity, others considered his trick was just too cute.

A petition was presented to Daniel S. Sutherland of Green County, named in 1838 to represent Green, Dane, Dodge and Jefferson Counties, requesting repeal of the act indicating "New Mexico" as county seat. This plea was heeded by the Second Legislative Assembly at Madison in December, 1838. Three impartial special commissioners were named to visit the county to select a "seat of justice" site.

On Feb. 16, 1839, the three reported they had chosen a location they

called "Roscoe." This was in Section 25 of Monroe Township and comprised the east portion of the present Leonard Weiss farm, running along the west side of Highway 59 to the curve east into Sylvester Township. It was two and a half miles northeast of the New Mexico areas.

Once again, the townfolk voiced opposition for several reasons, some of which were quite valid. The lawmakers, receiving word of that rejection, voted March 9, 1939, to leave the county seat question up to its people by referendum. They authorized as many ballots as necessary to decide the issue by majority vote.

Before the balloting, Payne's plat lost much of its expected support when a well drilling test revealed no water at the 40-foot level. This opened the way for Lybrand, Payne and William Russell to offer 120 acres to the county near the town's main spring (at Spring Square parking lot). Russell stipulated his 40 acres should provide for school or seminary needs.

Meanwhile, Andrick had dropped, for a time, the fight for his own New Mexico site. He joined with Charles S. Wilsoxon and Daniel Sutherland in proposing the south half of Section 25, just below the original Roscoe suggestion.

The June 6, 1839, vote held at Andrick's was surprisingly close with Andrick, Sutherland and Wilsoxon polling 68; Payne, Russell and Lybrand 67, and Roscoe one. For lack of a majority, a second election was called for June 18. Payne and his group received 70; Andrick and his associates 71, with one vote going to Anrdick, who received his New Mexico site and added land to the east.

Lybrand had been betrayed by an acquaintance to whom he had paid $2.50 as expenses for coming to town for the election. His "friend" voted for the Section 25 location and again there was no majority.

For the third vote, Lybrand took no chances. A special type of hat for

men, braided by Mrs. Hiram Rust, had become popular. Lybrand offered to give one to a more reliable acquaintance if he would bring miners from the Sugar River diggings to the polls to vote for Lybrand's group.

Mrs. Rust's hat carried the day Aug. 5, 1939, for the Payne, Lybrand and Russell donation which polled 79 votes to 74 for the Andrick-Sutherland proposal.

The issue was settled. Green County had a seat of justice. Commissioner Daniel Harcourt, asked to give the donated area which surrounded today's Public Square a name, selected "Monroe."

With that done, Green County could get down to the business of setting up its official operations.

The "New Mexico" appellation for Andrick's and Payne's townsites disappeared from future history, existing today only as a curious memory.

Streets of the newly laid out Monroe plat did not connect directly with those in the old New Mexico surveys. Hence, 16th and 17th Avenues, defining the west and east limits of Public Square, ran to 13th Street and then jogged left before continuing south. This minor deviation from the usual grid plan often puzzles newcomers until they learn that what eventually became the village of Monroe actually was three different townsites.

Some idea of the challanges confronting organizers of the new county seat can be realized by noting how sparsely populated the combined Monroe and New Mexico complex was in 1840.

For this interesting situation, we refer to Helen Bingham's 1877 History (Pages 92-93).

Starting at the south limits of the first New Mexico, the main structure was Jacob Andrick's house. Just across the road to the east was the home of his brother, Christopher, and a third building used variously as a "courthouse," postoffice and store.

In Payne's New Mexico to the north, Lybrand's frame store and dwelling stood west of Payne's platted public square, now Lincoln Park. East of the square was John Hart's store and home. Next, to the north, was a cabin occupied by Mrs. Almira Churchill who had left her husband in Ridge Prairie, Ill., and brought her five children here that year. One of the children was Norman Churchill whose ubiquitous talents brought him prominence in the Monroe community.

Just north of Mrs. Churchill's on the same side of the road and immediately south of today's 16th Avenue railroad overpass was a log house used for a time as a school.

North over the bridge on the west side of 16th Avenue was the frame building erected by Jacob Bininger, Joseph Payne and O.C. Smith as a tavern and hotel. Their partnership soon dissolved but Payne continued to operate the place for a few years. It was the tiny town's social and community center, visited monthly by Arabut Ludlow, then an itinerant merchant or peddler who displayed his wares there.

That frame hotel building was moved later to the block north of the Junior High and became the "planing mill."

West on today's 17th Street from Payne's tavern was Buckskin Brown's blacksmith shop, located near the old Milwaukee Road depot. (The first grand jury convened at Brown's place.)

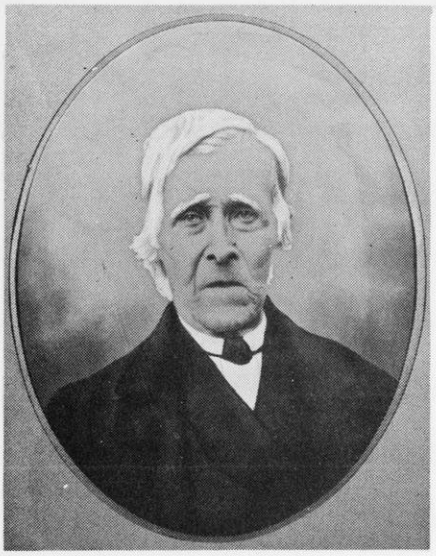
Payne's former log house on Byers Court was now occupied by the Robert Kirkendall family. Nearby was Joseph Smith's home, close to the future George Spangler house (east across the street from Turner Hall). Smith's house once had been occupied by Robert Ream, first postmaster, until he left in 1838 to acquire a tavern property in Madison. The new territorial capital was nearly as scantily settled as Monroe in 1840.

The only structure in the new Monroe townsite was John Porter's dwelling

just west of the town spring and still located in the 16th Avenue right-of-way. It was the cabin built by Jarvis Rattan when he began farming his claim and threshing wheat on a threshing "floor" at the Universalist Church site. Before Porter, the Mordecai Kelly and Kirkendall families had lived in the cabin after Rattan moved out.

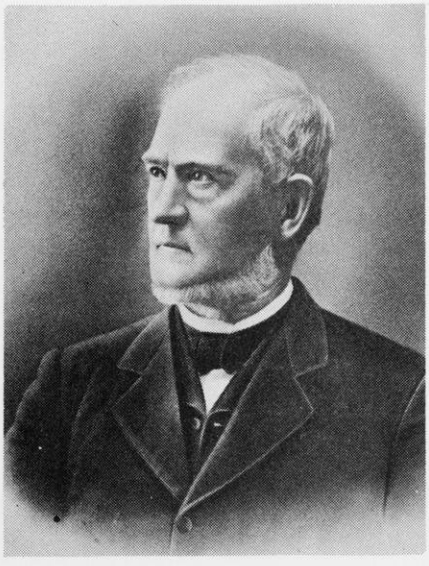
Monroe's first wedding was performed in 1840 at Porter's place by Justice of Peace Joseph Kelley of Clarno, uniting Joseph McConnell of Illinois and Miss Eurana Porter. Kelley, by the way, moved to Iowa in 1856 where he founded and owned the site of Charles City.

Such was the total extent in 1840 of the county seat community. Its people were scattered widely through the group of "towns" destined to attract a fresh wave of pioneers who somehow learned of the wide open opportunities to be found in Monroe.

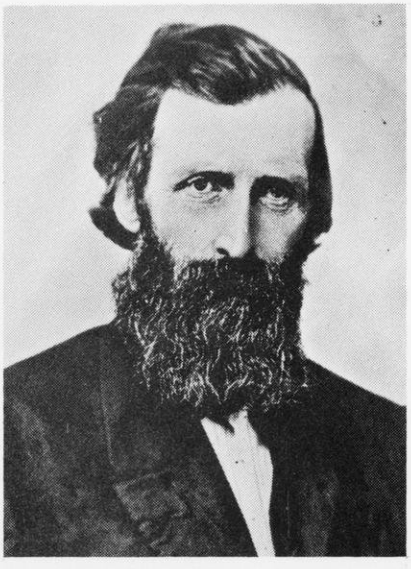


WILLIAM BOYLS
1795-1881

ARABUT LUDLOW
1818-1896



BENJAMIN CHENOWETH
1819-1903



JUDGE JOHN A. BINGHAM
1819-1865

Chapter Three

SECOND WAVE ROLLS IN

In the year of 1840, it was almost as if someone had sounded a tocsin which reverberated through Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and New England, alerting enterprising adventurers of all ages to the limitless possibilities for prospering in Green County's new county seat of Monroe.

The response to that news, largely through word sent back to former hometown communities by Monroe's early settlers, was rewarding to all, and to a surprising degree.

A second wave of migrants began moving into Monroe and Green County. To a new town, whose settlers had lacked almost everything but initiative and fortitude, these newcomers brought in much needed skills, resources, talents and general experiences required to speed the organization and building of a thriving community.

They had rushed in to fill a vacuum, achieving in two dazzling decades the transformation of Monroe from a disjointed group of three somewhat vacant townsites into one successful, vigorous village which began to exert considerable influence on Southwest Wisconsin's economy.

Some of these arrivals were newly-graduated from Eastern colleges and academies. Others were craftsmen and tradesmen who had completed apprenticeships in home communities of restricted opportunity. Many were New England Yankees knowledgeable in the mercantile, general business and manufacturing fields, people who recognized the needs of a frontier town and were

prepared to fill them.

Almost every one of these incoming settlers, moreover, had a background of life on the farm or in some other area of agricultural activity such as the marketing and processing of crops and livestock.

This farming know-how stood some of them in good stead, especially the early preachers, doctors and even the lawyers who could scarcely start immediately on earning their livelihood with their chosen professions in such a tiny, undeveloped settlement.

But, the important thing is that they came. More surprising, perhaps, is the fact that the great majority of them resisted the temptation to continue moving west when they discovered that their opportunities in Monroe existed only through "starting from scratch" just to stay alive and well.

In the late 1840s and 1850s, a few did keep going. Some settled in Iowa. Others were lured to California by gold "fever." Missouri and Kansas also attracted some restless homesteaders who had remained here only briefly before seeking cheaper land. The latter probably soon regretted their decisions since many were caught up in the bloody Kansas border free state conflicts.

> (Later on, after most of the Green County land had been taken up, a constant stream of wagons passed through Monroe headed west. In the May 28, 1856, "Monroe Sentinel," the editor reported counting 18 wagons of settlers and 200 head of cattle, all headed west, passing through Monroe in "a half-hour period.")

Nevertheless, enough of the merchants, blacksmiths, carpenters, brick burners, wagonmakers, teamsters, physicians, lawyers, preachers and all the others it requires to make up a successful village, serving a struggling farmland county, did stay on to make the 1840 to 1860 period an exciting, lively and profitable generation for everyone.

How had these people found out about Monroe? It's likely that families and acquaintances "back home" were urged to come by the early settlers, some

of whom suffered pangs of nostalgia and wanted "company" as they experienced pioneering's grim realities.

It's more than probable that Arabut Ludlow, who had visited this small community once a month while peddling his wares, had shrewdly evaluated its possibilities and wrote about them to relatives and friends back in his native state of Vermont. That state supplied many of the newcomers in the 1840s and 1850s.

> (Ludlow heeded his own advice. He discontinued his peddler wagon trips from Chicago to Madison, through Rockford and Monroe, settling here in 1846.)

Other inducements to settle in Monroe probably came through speculators in the east who bought huge tracts at Government land auctions and sought to stimulate rapid settlement and growth to increase their chances for reaping fortunes.

William M. Tallman, Rome, N.Y., attorney, was one of these speculators. He and his brother acquired thousands of acres in Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin at a Philadelphia government land auction. William Tallman reaped a rich return on his land, especially from his first addition to Monroe in 1849, and moved from New York State to Janesville in 1850 where he later built the famed landmark Tallman House.

Whatever the reasons may have been, it is significant that this second surge brought in people with everything the future village (incorporated in 1858) direly required. In addition to basic skills, education and training, they also seemed peculiarly endowed with the cultural zeal and religious fervor to assist in converting the raw frontier town into a place no longer concerned only with grinding problems of simple survival.

One of the first requirements for the brand-new county seat, of course, was a courthouse. In the summer of 1840, commissioners contracted with A. J. Sutherland and James Campbell to build such a courthouse. It was

situated at the later site of the United States Hotel (or "House," as it was known) on the Square's northeast corner (location of the First National Bank today). Fire destroyed this county building before it could be occupied.

The following spring, the county loaned Demas Beach $400 to erect a frame building at the southwest corner of the Square (location of the Drapery House). Beach was to provide for a courtroom and county offices on the second floor, using the first floor for his store and living quarters. Called the American House, this temporary county building was ready for operations by November, 1841. After the brick, colonnaded courthouse in the Square's park was finished in 1846, the American House was used by Beach for a hotel.

Thus, Green County had a place late in 1841 in which to carry on its business and court functions, the latter having been conducted previously in Jacob Andrick's house in New Mexico.

Under territorial status prior to 1848, Green County was governed by commissioners. County officers either were elected or appointed. William Rittenhouse, member of the famed Philadelphia family, came here from New Jersey and functioned as register of deeds and county clerk from 1839 until statehood in 1848 changed the county government form to the board of supervisors system. Later, in 1851, he served one term as state senator.

> (Although Rittenhouse had entered land in Section 7, Jefferson Township, he seemes to have spent most of his time in the village. He built the first frame dwelling in the new Monroe townsite on the Square at the present Eugene Hotel location. Rittenhouse died Nov. 19,1862, of injuries suffered in a fall from his farm wagon. His wife had been hurt fatally in 1854 in a similar fall, reportedly from the same wagon.)

U.S. district and circut judges presided on the bench in the American House chambers, and later in the brick courthouse, starting in 1846. Until 1848, county court and probate work was handled by a series of appointed

"judges," including Daniel S. Sutherland, Asa Richardson, Simon P. Condee and Daniel Simely of Albany. The latter had been named a justice of peace for his township in 1844 by outgoing Gov. James Doty.

With a courthouse of sorts and judges--as well as county officials and the inevitable taxing apparatus--the next problem was to find lawyers for trial work and the handling of land transactions and other legal business.

John A. Bingham, who arrived here in 1842 from Vermont after a term of teaching near Rochester, Racine County, is generally considered to be Green County's first attorney. He and John W. Stewart, then postmaster at Lancaster who had read law in Nelson Dewey's firm, were admitted to the bar at a district court session here in the spring of 1842. Stewart soon cut his Lancaster ties and came to Monroe to practice.

The "first lawyer" title, however, probably belongs to James Churchman. He was admitted to the bar at the first U.S. district court session in Andrick's home April 2, 1838. He then served briefly by appointment as district attorney. Churchman appears to have disappeared soon afterward since later records fail to memtion him. William C. Fillebrown, who had practiced law in Maine, came here in 1840 by emigrant wagon from Kennebec County, a journey of 1,500 miles. He was more interested in land speculation than in law and had retired by the 1860 census.

In any event, the judicial and legal machinery was ready to function by 1842 with a handful of attorneys, some self-taught, eager to go into action.

It is doubtful, however, whether the county and Monroe were quite prepared for their first major court case. That was the trial in 1843 of James R. Vineyard, Grant County legislative councillor (or senator), charged with manslaughter in the slaying at Madison in Capitol chambers of Charles C.P. Arndt, councillor for Brown County (Green Bay).

The killing stemmed from a controversy in legislative chambers over the question of Gov. Doty's appointment of Enos S. Baker to succeed Vineyard's brother as Grant County sheriff. Even though the council rejected Baker, Vineyard was angered by Arndt's remarks in debate Feb. 5, 1842. Arndt's demands for reconsideration caused Vineyard to charge him with making false statements.

In the ensuing agrument after the session ended, Arndt reportedly struck at Vineyard. The latter pulled his twin-barreled pistol from his pocket and shot his presumed assailant, who died almost immediately. Vineyard surrendered to authorities and was put under $20,000 bond. Council members voted to expel Vineyard Feb. 14.

Subsequently, a U.S. court hearing was held at Mineral Point at which the charge was reduced from murder to manslaughter. The U.S. grand jury, meeting in Madison, then indicted Vineyard. On the motion of his attorneys, the case was ordered moved from Dane to Green County.

Vineyard's trial opened Oct. 13, 1843, in the American House. John W. Stewart, one of the town's new lawyers, was appointed to serve as district attorney, along with A.L. Collins of Madison, U.S. district attorney. Judge David Irvin presided and a local jury was impaneled.

On Oct. 14, after testimony by both sides, the jury returned a verdict of acquittal. The jury, judge and attorneys for both sides--or, so the story goes--then "adjourned" to John Walling's new Monroe House on the Square's north side. There they reportedly celebrated well into the evening hours, with the grateful Vineyard as host.

Vineyard's trial focused widespread attention from throughout the territory on Monroe. Confident that many potential settlers had read or heard about the town for the first time, those already here eagerly anticipated a new influx of migrants.

Whether it was due to the village's new "fame" or because of other factors, there actually was an acceleration of arrivals in 1844 and 1845. Monroe was on its way.

Chapter Four

1840s: A BUSY DECADE

Green County's farming economy base was fairly well established before Monroe was organized as a county seat town and later a village.

It would be foolish, however, to indulge in one of those "chicken or the egg" arguments as to which had the greater influence toward determining the progress of both toward today's favorable conditions.

Most Monroe leaders of today--as well as those of yesterday--concede that the struggling community back in the 1840s could not have attained any real measure of growth without its role in serving the prosperous farming areas which make up most of the county.

Nor, we believe, did the agricultural leaders of the 1800s fail to recognize that without the inspired leadership of Monroe business and financial personalities could Green County's farmers have realized such profitable marketing of their crops and dairy products.

Green County's farmers were good for Monroe from the very beginning days of the tiny town, possibly because most of those townspeople also had farming roots.

At the same time, Monroe was good for the farmers, in those days and down through the years on increasing scale. It gave the central and southern portions of Green County a center for trading and for supplies of all kinds, especially those items which cannot be produced on the land or by the farm family itself. For example, most of Monroe's early manufacturing projects were keyed to farming needs--mills, implement and wagon builders,

foundry and smithing work, and firms to provide lumber and hardware for farm buildings.

It's true that some northern sections of the county began to lean toward Dane County and Madison for some marketing of crops and purchases of supplies with the passing years. This was particularly the case after the 1845 colonization of New Glarus and the spread of many Swiss folk into Dane County, seeking lands to the north and east of that wonderfully unique experiment by Canton Glarus of Old World Switzerland.

Oddly enough, before Dane County's farming hit full stride, Madison had depended for several years on Green County farms, especially those in Clarno, for its farm produce.

The same tendency to look elsewhere might be said of the eastern part of the county--especially after Edward Hallock Brodhead and his Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad Co. laid out Green County's second city in 1856 while bringing the tracks west from Janesville. To some degree, since the Rock County line is the eastern city limit of Brodhead, that community has continued to maintain certain ties with Janesville.

However, because Monroe is the seat of government, all parts of the county and its diverse enterprises still must look to Monroe, even in varying degree, as the natural hub for major trade, marketing and other activities.

This city, nevertheless, at no time seems to have considered itself to have a "captive" base for its well-being. Its progression of fine leaders since the founding days always strove to live up to Monroe's responsibilities to all of Green County for fostering farming and business prosperity.

Nothing has been taken for granted. Monroe has put forth its best efforts in the 135-plus years to justify its favorable opportunities. And, the rural people and others in the county's communities have reciprocated

handsomely.

It would be difficult to select any single group or individuals among those fine leaders as having done the most to spur Monroe's growth and its deserved status as one of Southern Wisconsin's most prosperous and "livable" communities.

It is, however, possible to name some as having made great contributions without attempting a guessing game as to which gave the most. It might be easier to judge their individual roles in building the city by how vividly their names have survived in Monroe's memory.

The earlier settlers who belong in this category have been discussed previously. Theirs are the acknowledged niches that belong in pioneer historic records. It is among the next arrivals, who moved in during the 1840s and afterward, that Monroe probably owes its greatest appreciation and its grateful memories.

These people include Norman Churchill, Elijah Temple Gardner, Asa Richardson, Allen Woodle, John Augustine Bingham, Judge Brooks Dunwiddie, John W. Stewart, J.K. Eilert, Benjamin Chenoweth, Francis Henry West, Arabut Ludlow, George Washington Hoffman, Jesse H. Robertson, James Bintliff, Joseph T. Dodge, Edwin Eustace Bryant, Adam Clarke Dodge, the redoubtable Treat family and Hezakiah W. Whitney from Maine, J. Jacob Tschudy and many others who settled here before the Civil War years.

Norman Churchill, of course, had arrived with his mother, Mrs. Almira Churchill, from Ridge Prairie, Madison County, Ill., in the summer of 1840. He soon went to work with his uncle, E. T. Gardner, brother of Mrs. Churchill and operator of a mill on Skinner Creek. From Gardner, Churchill learned how to build farm structures, dams and mills.

In the mid-1840s, Churchill headed for the lumbering areas of central and northern Wisconsin, called the pineries. There he increased his mechan-

ical and millwright skills. Churchill is credited with designing and building the first dam system in the Wisconsin Dells section for rafting logs to mills or down the Wisconsin into the Mississippi.

By the time Norman Churchill returned to Monroe, he was a mature young man who had acquired solid experience for making the best use of his many talents. His uncle, meanwhile, had found building labors too strenuous and had been persuaded by John A. Bingham to read law. Gardner was admitted to the bar in 1843.

Jesse Holmes Robertson, born in 1820 in Kentucky near Sharpsburg (which seems no longer to appear on maps under that name), arrived here in 1840 soon after the Churchills. The following year, he married Norman's mother who was 13 years older. His stepson, Norman, reportedly upset by the marriage, dropped his first name which also was Jesse.

Later, Robertson and Churchill apparently became reconciled and joined in various enterprises and building projects. Robertson was carpenter contractor for Arabut Ludlow's mansion erected in 1857, built many large homes and downtown Monroe structures and climaxed his career with the Robertson Block (Swiss Colony Inn site) which he finished in 1899. His death in February, 1910, was attributed to over-exertion and exposure suffered while helping shovel snow, at the ripe age of 89, from the roof of that building after the great blizzard several days earlier.

Almira left Robertson several years after the birth of their son, Charles. Jesse divorced her in 1883. At the time of his death, he was building a large brick house on his property at the southwest corner of 15th Avenue and 10th Street.

Asa Richardson, born in New Hampshire in 1812, first came from New York to the Galena lead mining area in 1834. Successful in his land deals, he arrived in Monroe in 1841 and used his capital for various business enter-

prises. He also continued his land speculations and in later years became influential in Monroe's early banking ventures. Richardson moved on to Kansas in 1870 where he died Oct. 31, 1887, at Lawrence.

John A. Bingham, born in Morristown, Vt., in 1819, arrived on the Monroe scene in 1842 after his teaching stint in Racine County. He soon became an outstanding town figure with his law practice, his services for eastern land speculators who owned property in Green County and his uncanny ability to understand vital monetary and credit problems of the fledgling community. Bingham's greatest contribution to Monroe was his launching of the first money exchange and banking operation here in 1854.

Bingham was the first county judge elected after statehood in 1848 stabilized the judicial system. He had served briefly by appointment as district attorney before going on the bench and was county surveyor during his first year here.

He married Caroline Churchill, daughter of his landlady, Almira, Nov. 25, 1843.

When the first formal school operations began in Monroe, Judge Bingham often visited and taught classes. He was a leader in a group of determined citizens who worked hard to develop a constantly improved educational program.

Brooks Dunwiddie, born in Greene County, Ohio, Jan. 22, 1818, first visited Monroe and Green County in 1842 as a drover bringing flocks of sheep through from Ohio and Chicago. He chose this field--at the suggestion of a cousin, Allen Woodle--because his Lebanon, Ohio, law practice had yielded only mediocre returns.

After several drover trips, Dunwiddie finally settled here in 1846. He lost his capital and his health when disease struck his flock on his final trip from Chicago. He then returned to the law profession and was admitted

to the bar in 1848. His fine legal career was climaxed with his service as county judge from 1858 to 1898.

(Dunwiddie's brilliant work in saving scores of county farmers from financial disaster when the railroad was being brought through from Janesville will be related later.)

Dunwiddie, a Whig in politics, also served as village clerk (his duties as judge were not full-time) after Monroe was incorporated in 1858 and as village board president in 1870. He ran for Congress as a Republican in 1870 but was defeated.

Benjamin Chenoweth came here from Perrysville, Ind., in 1845 and for two years operated a thriving wagon freight business between Monroe, Janesville, Milwaukee and Madison. His service helped expedite the transport of goods into town, as well as moving produce and timber to those other communities.

Arabut Ludlow, born in Burlington, Vt., in 1818, arrived to stay in 1846 after marrying Caroline Cotting Sanderson of Winnebago County, Ill. He started his first store business that year on the north side of the Square. In 1848, he razed the frame building (at the Schuetze store site), purchased from Nicholas Cornelius, and replaced it with the first brick structure on the Square.

Ben Chenoweth, who married Ludlow's sister, Rosannah, and George W. Hoffman of Pennsylvania joined Ludlow's mercantile operation in the new building.

The store proved extremely profitable for all three partners since they were highly knowledgeable of mercantile operations and possessed shrewd ability to judge the community's pressing needs for goods. Ludlow, however, sold out in the early 1850s to concentrate on his land speculations and his widespread farm operations.

When Ludlow left the firm, Chenoweth sold his interest to Hoffman (who became a millionaire after moving to Chicago in 1873). Chenoweth started his own store, dealing principally in hardware which the growing community urgently required. He also was one of the builders of a three-story brick structure in 1856 on the Square's north side which now is part of the First National Bank property.

Later, Chenoweth conducted a successful general mercantile enterprise on the northwest (Monroe Clinic) corner of the Square before retiring as a merchant to pursue a busy career as a capitalist and town benefactor.

In 1845-46, Monroe became a stop on Sanger's stage line running between Milwaukee and Galena. The line's service was maintained on a schedule but somewhat haphazardly for Monroeites. Local patrons who wished to travel in either direction often had to wait as much as a week for a seat on the 17-passenger stage. After the railroad arrived in 1858, such stage lines faded into oblivion except for some reduced traffic between here and the Mississippi River.

In addition to 1843's "shot in the arm" for Monroe from the celebrated Vineyard shooting trial, the town was given a special lift when the first brewery was started that year by a Mr. Bissinger (records disagree on the first name). It was located about where today's Joseph Huber Brewing Co. plant is situated.

Bissinger sold his tiny brewery a few years later to Fred (or John) Knipschield (it was "Knipchieldt" in 1854). It then was acquired in 1867 by Edward Ruegger, who sold it later to Jacob Hefty.

The county's first jail, a log structure adjoining the brewery, burned Jan. 2, 1855. The Sentinel reported the brewery was saved when its workers used buckets of beer to wet down the plant's roof. (There was no town fire department at that time and volunteers who showed up reportedly were treated

to the brew.)

Going back to 1841, the infant town's chief topic of conversation that spring was the political removal of Noah Phelps from his postmaster job. General William Henry Harrison, incoming President, chose to follow Andrew Jackson's "to the victors belong the spoils" philosophy, ousting all office-holders of the opposite political faith. It is doubtful that Phelps missed the job very much since the pay, based on postoffice income, was only a few dollars a year.

Phelps, incidentally, was one of the earliest pioneers, having conducted the official government surveys of Green, Dane and Rock Counties in 1833-34. He later entered land in Clarno Township and lived for a time in Monroe.

Since James Campbell and J.V. Richardson were handling most of the later surveying business, Phelps turned to law and practiced for two decades. However, his chief interest was in his Clarno farming operations and in land deals at which he prospered. His fine brick home west of Monroe in Clarno is now occupied by Mrs. Stanley Howe.

Little by little, the town's business community began to take shape. In keeping with the times, Sam Spangler opened a gun shop on the Square in 1846. Other shops and stores also were started, many of them destined to fail quickly due to stiff competition for scarce hard cash.

In 1847, J.K. Eilert, who came from Pennsylvania, opened his drugstore which seems to have dealt in about everything, as such stores do today. Eilert, who bottled his own medical compounds and palliatives under the Eilert label, was comfortably prosperous.

That same year of 1847 also saw the United States Hotel, a stately frame lodginghouse and livery, built by Charles Hart on the present First National site where the first courthouse structure had burned in 1840 before completion. Hart was proprietor for many years and eventually Louis Schuetze ac-

quired the hotel.

That also was the year when the Methodist Episcopal Society began building its church on the block donated for such use by Jacob Lybrand. The church was located at the southwest corner of the property at 11th Street and 13th Avenue where the present Old Methodist parsonage is situated. It was completed the following year, and remodeled and enlarged considerably in the late 1850s.

Thomas Emerson opened the town's first jewelry store in 1848 on the Square. A "fanning" mill for processing small grains also went into operation that year and plans were under way for the community's first sawmill.

Monroe suffered a tragic episode in 1848 when the first epidemic of Asiatic cholera hit the town. It was a deadly attack, taking several lives. Some of Monroe and Green County's early doctors had little formal medical training or experience before coming here. Their remedies and skills were, for the most part, those of frontier family home remedy ways of coping with disease and fevers.

In any event, there was little medical knowledge about treating cholera victims in those times and survival was dependent to a great extent on the patient's ability to resist the disease.

At the height of the 1848 epidemic, Norman Churchill, his brother-in-law John A. Bingham, John Miller and Fred West volunteered to bury the victims in the town's cemetery, laid out in 1844 at the site of the former Green County Teachers College. The community was in somewhat of a panic and the courage of those men served to help calm the townspeople. John Miller, unfortunately, died from cholera the day after helping with a burial.

Cholera appears to have come back again in 1850 but seems not to have been so sweepingly fatal. However, a scheduled court term was postponed due to the epidemic that year.

Nevertheless, as the 1840s came to a close, the number of stores, businesses and small manufacturing enterprises, including a foundry and a sawmill, offered definite evidence of progress.

Prior to moving into the 1850s with Monroe's story, note should be taken of a strange happening which caused Joseph Payne's hasty exit, forever, from the town he helped to found with his donation of land to end the uproar over the county seat choice.

Restless Joe Payne had sold his properties in Monroe, including the Monroe House built by John Walling, by 1844 and turned his attention to Cadiz Township where he had acquired a quarter section of land by trading a mule for the tax title. He built a cabin on the property and laid out a "village" he called Pecatonica City. The new town attracted no settlers or buyers.

Payne's townsite cabin burned in 1847 and he built the famed Buckhorn Tavern on its foundations. It was situated just west of the old Dodgeville IC branch railroad station site near Dill Bridge, almost in Lafyette County.

Still seeking the fortune that continued to elude him, Payne sold the tavern in the winter of 1849-50 to John Bringold and bought the adjoining farm property.

Payne built a rail fence between the properties which later was found to be on Bringold's land. The latter wanted to take down the fence and rebuild it on the true line. Payne did not see it that way. An argument ensued between the two hot-tempered pioneers.

On April 4, 1850, Bringold began to remove the rails. Payne ordered him to stop but Bringold ignored him. Payne then went to his new cabin and returned with a weapon (stories differ on whether it was a rifle or handgun).

After Bringold again refused to stop, Payne fired. Bringold, hit in the head, died almost immediately. Later, Payne, who was an expert shot, claimed he "only wanted to burn him a little."

Payne surrendered, was indicted later and freed on bail. Just before his March, 1851, trial date he was lodged in an upstairs room at the American House being used as a temporary jail. Payne's wife, Rosa, was locked in the room with him by a deputy sheriff who then retired for the night. When the deputy sheriff checked in the morning, Mrs. Payne was alone in the room. Her husband had escaped.

Payne is reported to have fled through the Square, obtained a horse from a friend, and galloped west out of Monroe. A relative was waiting with a fresh mount somewhere in Cadiz, and later on George Payne (relationship unknown) supplied him with an even faster horse. He crossed the Mississippi at McGregor, Ia., early in the morning and went on to California, where his wife joined him a year later. No effort was ever made to extradite him.

That was the exciting curtain raiser for Monroe's entrance into the colorful and busy 1850s which was its greatest rate of growth.

Chapter Five

"COMING OF AGE" YEARS

Monroe blossomed into a full-fledge village in the 1850s, its population expanding from a few hundred persons in the 1850 Census to a total of 2,207 by the time the 1860 "head count" was taken.

Since the community was not incorporated as a village until 1858, determining just what Monroe's population was in 1850 is almost impossible. The census for this area was taken that year on the basis of townships by Daniel S. Sutherland as assistant U.S. marshal.

Because Monroe at that time was situated in both Monroe and Clarno Townships, segregating the community's residents from figures for both those areas is difficult. However, it can be assumed that in 1850 between 400 and 500 resided in the limits of Monroe itself.

The same problem of separation for Monroe figures had existed in the 1840 Census, taken by John W. Deniston. Actually, the lack of breakdown was even worse since there was no real separation by townships. We can only note that there were 933 residents in Green County that year. (One of them was Robert Bailey, or Baley, veteran of the Revolutionary War, whose grave is in Shook's Prairie Cemetery on County Trunk C in Adams Township, east of Argyle.)

In any event, the sharp climb from a few hundred in 1850 to 2,207 in 1860 offered firm evidence that Monroe had "come of age" on the Civil War's eve.

A progression of remarkable milestones, perhaps the greatest in the

town's 19th Century history, took place in the busy decade of expansion and growth during the 1850s.

These included: establishment of the first financial and banking institution; building of the first flouring mill, first planing mill and steam-powered sawmills; launching of the county's first newspaper in 1850; incorporation of Monroe as a village; a strong surge in construction of business buildings and homes (some of which are venerable, cherished landmarks remaining with us today); organization of a public school system, and first action to provide fire protection for the village.

Those years also brought a new influx of migrants from Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and New England, as well as arrivals from Ireland, England, Scotland, Norway and Germany.

Additional "new blood" also was introduced in the 1850s as the Swiss began to move in, some from the burgeoning New Glarus colony and others directly from Old World Switzerland.

These Swiss provided a special new asset to the community's resources and set up a different roster of family names to go along with those of the Easterners and Yankees who showed up earlier--and still continued to arrive. These new names persist in flourishing degree today in all areas of Monroe activity and the economy--Babler, Stauffacher, Etter, Luchsinger, Tschudy, Wenger, Kubly, Disch, Duerst, Kundert, Elmer, Karlen, Baumgartmer, Regez, Marty, Benkert and scores of others.

Monroe, which started out as pretty much of a town with strong Yankee ties, soon became a Swiss community after the 1860s, especially with growth of the Swiss and foreign type cheese industry in Green County.

The New Englander enterprise and ingenuity had contributed immeasurably in bringing Monroe through the settlement decades, and later the Swiss "invasion" helped enhance that prosperous heritage with new skills, energy and

other desirable characteristics of Old World origin.

In fact, Monroe's claim of national distinction in the 20th Century as the "Swiss Cheese Capital of the U.S.A." stems directly from that happy combination of circumstances in the later decades of the 1800s.

One of the first major happenings in 1850 occurred when townspeople put up a fund of $2,000 for anyone willing to supply a needed and desirable operation, a flouring mill. Isaac R. Moulton and Charles Fish, merchants, accepted the challenge. They built a four-story 35x70 brick mill at the southeast corner of 12th Street and 13th Avenue.

Cost of the mill project was $12,000 and the earnings failed to pay off the outlay. After Moulton and Fish failed, others took over the operation until it was sold in 1858 to John A. Bingham and Norman Churchill. Planing machinery was installed by Churchill to add woodworking to the enterprise. He sold out to Bingham in 1860, however, and moved his machinery to the frame woodworking shop (across from the Junior High main enterance), formerly Payne's hotel building which had been moved there from the southwest corner of 16th Avenue and 17th Street.

Churchill operated the steam-powered planing mill alone until 1867 when he sold a quarter interest to his brother, George, and a half interest to Joseph T. Dodge, T.R. Weirich, George Churchill and William Fish.

Bingham continued the flouring mill business until his death in 1865. His widow leased it to other operators until 1875 when it was closed down. This old brick landmark, used for years by various cheese operations, was razed in 1968.

Another event of 1850 was the appearance of Monroe's first newspaper, "The Green County Union." Editor J. W. Snow located his weekly office in Francis Emerson's small stone building on the Square's south side. Only a

few issues were printed before John W. Stewart, attorney with a background of printing and newspaper work, bought the "Union" in May, 1851.

Stewart, a Whig (pre-Republican), changed the name to "The Monroe Sentinel." Late in 1851, Stewart tired of the project and sold the "Sentinel" to Rev. John A. Walworth and O. D. Moulton, Democrats. Moulton dropped out soon afterward. George W. Tenney and N. L. Stout leased the paper in September, 1854, returning it to the Republican fold and buying out Walworth in May, 1855. Stout later sold his interest to Tenney but remained with the weekly.

Shortly before the Civil War, James Bintliff and Edwin E. Bryant took over the "Sentinel." It eventually became the property of Charles A. Booth, who came here in 1858, as sole owner in 1879. Booth operated the "Sentinel" until its last issue November 2, 1912.

Bintliff, native of Yorkshire, England, arrived in Monroe from New York State in 1851 and acquired a farm in the English Hollow area near Twin Grove. After farming two years, Bintliff moved into Monroe and was employed as bookkeeper-cashier in Bingham's early banking venture. He was elected register of deeds in 1855, serving one term. Bintliff also read law and was admitted to the bar.

Bryant, who served briefly as Bintliff's "Sentinel" partner, was a native of Vermont with some news reporting experience in New York State. He came to Janesville in 1857 where he was admitted to the bar and moved to Monroe in 1858. Both Bintliff and Bryant were associated at various times in law practice with Judge Bingham. Bryant left the "Sentinel" partnership in 1861 to begin his distinguished war service with the 3rd Wisconsin Regiment.

Returning to the early 1850s, one of the community business development lighlights was the arrival from Germany in 1852 of Anton Miller and

his family. Miller, a furniture craftsman, had been persuaded to come here by a friend, Alois Ruf, who preceded him to this country by a few years.

Miller built a furniture factory on 12th Street, across from the town's spring, and began making fine furniture, caskets and the area's first hearses. In 1860, he expanded his adjoining store and residence at the southeast corner of 12th Street and 16th Avenue and later converted it into the City Hotel, which remains as a historic landmark.

What probably was the most important event of the 1850s, for both Monroe and Green County, occurred in 1852 with organization of the Southern Wisconsin Railroad Co. This firm proposed to build a line from Milton Junction, Rock County, into Janesville and west through Monroe and the Lafayette and Grant county seats to the Mississippi River.

This railroad plan was originated, for the most part, by Monroe leaders and Green County farmers who sought a better means than by slow, costly wagon freight for sending farm products to other markets, principally Milwaukee, as well as bringing goods here. Green County not only became the chief advocate for the line but its farmers and townspeople pledged most of the financing.

First surveys were made that year and work began on grading near Monroe in the fall of 1853. Lack of funds halted the project soon afterward and the Southern Wisconsin gave up its charter and all rights to the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad Co. in 1854. The latter was then busy extending its trackage through Madison to Prairie du Chien.

Meanwhile, because of Monroe business problems due to frequent national "money panics" caused by choatic credit and specie situations, Judge Bingham in 1854 started his currency exchange, brokerage office and land agency. It was a timely action, particularly for the railroad project, since Bingham's operations dealt in letters of draft, bank notes and discounted mortgages

with connections in the Eastern money markets.

Bingham's office, located in Arabut Ludlow's building (Schuetze store site), was an instant success. When the Bank of Monroe evolved from Bingham's inspired move, it had a great deal to do with extricating the railroad project from almost constant funding difficulties. Bingham and his associates constantly urged completion of the work and expressed confidence in its future at many meetings of worried county residents.

A new survey of the rail route had been carried out in 1855 by Joseph T. Dodge, experienced civil engineer and railway bridge builder from Vermont, for the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad Co. Grading and construction began in February, 1856, bridges were completed and track laid into Brodhead by September, 1857. However, after the railroad defaulted on its bond interest payments in July of that year, work gradually ground to a halt.

During this financial tangle, iron rails imported from England were impounded at New York City for unpaid duty and storage charges in the amount of about $20,000. At this point, the Bank of Monroe's principal owners, Bingham, Ludlow and Asa Richardson, agreed to pay off the amount so tracklaying could continue. These men, incidentally, never recovered the full amount of that advance for the rails and finally wrote it off as an investment in the future of Monroe.

Another "savior" was needed, however, when it developed that the defunct M. & M. R.R. Co. had previously sold all of the original mortgages, obtained from Green, Lafayette and Iowa County farmers in exchange for stock, on the open Eastern markets. Again, Monroe supplied the "man of the hour," Brooks Dunwiddie, newly-elected county judge held in high esteem for his legal sagacity. Judge Dunwiddie came up with the plan (see Pages 351 and 352 of the 1884 "History of Green County" for details) that saved the farmers from complete ruin, limiting their losses in most cases to about 10 percent of their

investment.

Tracklaying reached Juda by November, 1857, and continued into Monroe by December. First trains began to run over the line that month and brisk business soon confirmed the confidence of its sponsors.

A gala celebration, starting with cannon firing on Public Square from 5 to 7 a.m., was held January 19, 1858. An official party of Green County and Monroe leaders rode the train to Janesville and returned for more cannon blasts, a dinner program with toasts and speeches, punctuated with further cannon booming, and closing evening ceremonies.

It was, obviously, a noisy affair but Monroe had good reason for showing such enthusiasm. Green County's farmers, other investors, the Bank of Monroe and Brooks Dunwiddie had brought railroad service into Monroe. It was not until 1881, however, that the line (which had become a branch of what now is the Milwaukee Road) was completed west of here to Mineral Point.

The Bank of Monroe, of course, was the outgrowth of Judge Bingham's currency exchange plan, which had been expanded in association with Ludlow and Richardson into a private bank January 1, 1855.

The private bank plan had been suggested by a former Ohio congressman, Columbus Delano, during a visit here. On his suggestion, J.B. Galusha of Ohio eventually was employed as cashier for the enterprise. Advertising in the "Sentinel" for firm stated: "Cash paid for drafts, certificates of deposit, notes, mortgages and other securities. Interest allowed on deposits. Collections made and money remitted to any part of the U.S., Canada or Great Britain at current rates."

In 1856, the group obtained a state charter and renamed the operation, "Bank of Monroe." Bingham, for unexplained reasons, sold his interest in the bank in 1860. Four years later, he founded the First National Bank with Benjamin Chenoweth, George W. Hoffman and others as stockholders. The bank's

charter number is 230 and in 1975 there were only 39 national banks with lower charter numbers still in existence.

The new bank rented quarters next door to the Bank of Monroe, at the same location now occupied by the First National. In April, 1865, the First National acquired the Bank of Monroe, with Ludlow and Richardson coming into the firm. Less than a month later, Bingham disagreed with policies advanced by the new major stockholders. Shortly afterward, he resigned as First National president and sold his stock to the Ludlow-Richardson group.

Judge Bingham, who had been in ill health that spring, left several weeks later to visit relatives in his home state of Vermont. He died there at Johnson, Vermont, July 24, 1865, at the age of 46.

In an event, not wholly related to the railroad project, so far as is known, action was initiated in January, 1855, in the Legislature by State Senator Francis H. West of Monroe to change the boundary line between Monroe and Clarno Townships.

Sen. West's proposal had the effect of extending the town's limits south into the Clarno area. A Legislature committee reported favorably on the bill but the session ended before action could be completed. George E. Dexter, also of Monroe, succeeded West in the Senate and the bill finally was enacted, despite strong Clarno protests.

Meanwhile, somewhat prior to arrival of the railroad, Edward H. Brodhead, its chief engineering officer, had platted an addition to Monroe's southwest side similar to his Brodhead townsite. Subsequently, there was a great deal of land speculation activity in the south part of town, especially in the area of Jacob Andrick's original New Mexico townsite.

Joseph T. Dodge, civil engineer who surveyed the rail route, chose to settle in Monroe and made considerable money with deals on property he acquired in the south section of town.

In February, 1856, nearly two years prior to completion of the railroad, James Bintliff and Francis West had bought Andrick's farm, extending to the south and including his New Mexico townsite. Andrick was preparing to move to Kansas, disillusioned and a little bitter over outcome of his townsite venture after 1839.

A pause is in order at this point to present data on Francis West which should have been included in the chapter on Monroe's newcomers in the struggling 1840s.

Francis Henry West was born October 25, 1825, at Charleston (or Charlestown), New Hampshire. His farmer father was the son of a Revolutionary War veteran and his mother's grandmother was a sister of Benjamin Franklin's mother.

Young West arrived in Monroe in 1845. He spent that winter working in the Platteville area lead mines, returning in 1846 to open a small hotel a block southwest of the Square (probably near the present Wisconsin Power & Light service garage on 15th Avenue).

West used the earnings from his hotel in 1847 to buy an outfit for a three-year lumbering venture in Wisconsin, based in Wausau. He then applied his considerable profits form that project to extensive land speculations in and around Monroe, built a steampowered sawmill and started a lumbering supply business and a commission mercantile firm.

Elected to the State Senate in 1853, West was that body's youngest member at 27. He ran in 1854 for bank controller on the first Republican state ticket but lost. He also found time to serve as County Board chairman.

In 1849, West had married Emma Rittenhouse, daughter of William and Sarah Rittenhouse. His health problems in the late 1850s caused him to seek outdoor activity. Hence, in 1859, West organized a wagon party which he led across the country to California where he set up a wagon freight business

and also dabbled in gold mining. He returned by ship, via the Isthmus of Panama and New York, arriving home November 3, 1859.

The next spring, West set off in April with a second wagon party for California, taking along 66 blooded horses for sale there. Although the party had several skirmishes with hostile Indians, West was able to rally his men to fight them off.

West arrived back home in November, 1860. He immediately started building his Octagon House at 1410 17th Avenue and completed it in the summer of 1861. It is a unique brick structure, featuring a cluster of four octagons, and has attracted 19th Century architecture fans over the years.

The imposing Octagon House was a capstone for the many fine residences built during the 1850s by Monroe leaders as tangible evidence of the town's growing prosperity. West's home was designated a Wisconsin Registered Landmark in 1971 and nominated in 1975 for the National Register of Historic Places.

Judge Bingham had touched off this series of substantial residential projects with his outstanding Greek Revival style home built in 1850 at 621 14th Avenue. His brother-in-law, Norman Churchill, supervised the work. Judge Bingham had based his plans for the house on the design of his family's home at Morristown, Vermont. It also is a Wisconsin Registered Landmark and was nominated in 1975 for the National Register.

James Bintliff's residence at 723 18th Avenue is a brick Gothic Revival edifice of simple lines, steep crossed gables, nine-foot windows and deep overhanging roof cornice finished off with crenulated oak bargeboards (or fretwork) instead of the later Victorian style brackets. It is believed to have been started in 1853 or 1854.

Arabut Ludlow, who was farming his land north of town, built his Italianate style two-story residence in 1857. Although altered somewhat over the

years, the massive brick house remains structurally unchanged despite two major additions. It has been better known as the Idle Hour Mansion for many years and is another registered Wisconsin landmark.

Benjamin Chenoweth, Ludlow's brother-in-law, also started work on his large brick home in the 1900-block of 8th Street in 1857, completing it two years later. It was of Italianate style but incorporated some Greek Revival features. Both the Chenoweth and Ludlow houses were built with cupolas adorning the hipped roofs.

The Chenoweth place, unfortunately, was razed about a half century ago after standing unoccupied and neglected for several years following the death of Chenoweth's widow. It lives on, however, in the bricks used from the old place to erect houses on the site.

Joseph T. Dodge also favored a modified Italianate style with cornice soffit modillions instead of brackets. The house, located at the southeast corner of 22nd Street and 13th Avenue was built in 1857, or before the railroad had arrived. It features tall windows and has a sweeping veranda which probably was added later.

O.D. Moulton, merchant and land developer, built his unique Gothic Revival brick home, with its "church" windows and unusual pilasters, in 1858 at the southwest corner of 14th Avenue and 14th Street. Extensively restored by the late Rev. T.F. Matthews, it stands today as a delightful reminder of Monroe's busiest decade of settlement.

John W. Stewart also built his impressive brick house, situated in the center of a two-block plot in the southwest section of town, soon after his purchase in 1856 of a sizable tract south of the railroad property. A portion of this house still can be seen today on 19th Street, west of 11th Avenue. After Stewart left Monroe in 1869 for Chicago, the place became known as the "Duncan House." Upper walls and most of one section of the house

were removed some years ago when the city declared them unsafe.

Except for the Chenoweth and Stewart houses, all of the landmark homes mentioned in the foregoing continue to highlight the Monroe scene. Their succeeding owners have maintained the places in splendid condition and it is likely they will be visible for a long time as monuments to their builders and a colorful 19th Century era.

Two Public Square business landmarks dating from the 1850s are the former Harper & Staver store (now Bauman's Ace Hardware), built in 1852 at the southeast corner, and the three-story east side building (now occupied by the Waffle Shop and Pat's Place) erected in 1859 by Hezekiah W. Whitney and J.K. Eilert. James Bradshaw, draftsman and early photographer, was architect for the latter building.

The Harper & Staver structure has always been the location for a succession of hardware firms with changing partnerships, down through the years, leading to the present Bauman family ownership. When the Monroe City Guard was organized in 1882, under leadership of Capt. Samuel Lewis who was one of the store partners at that time, the troops were drilled on the second floor of the building before locating their armory across the street.

Shortly after the Whitney-Eilert block was built on the east side, Eilert sold out to his associate. Whitney, who came here from Bangor, Maine, in 1857, was a brother-in-law of Capt. Nathaniel Treat Jr., first of that prominent Maine family to settle here in 1858. Whitney, a successful merchant, later organized the Monroe Mfg. Co. plant (now the Lanz sheet metal shop site) which built farm implements and wagons.

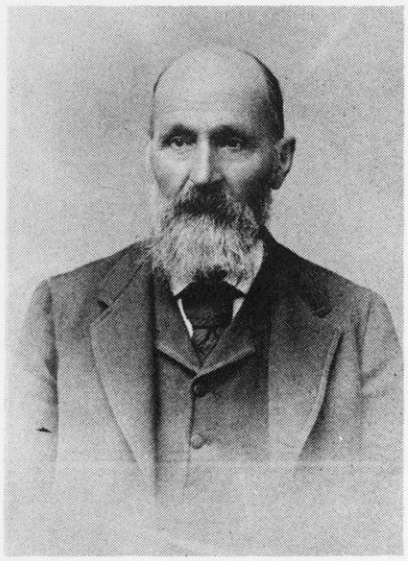
Probably the most significant step toward "maturity" for the growing town came in April, 1858, when Monroe was incorporated as a village, splitting away from township control and establishing its own government.

Monroe's first elected board of trustees included John A. Bingham,

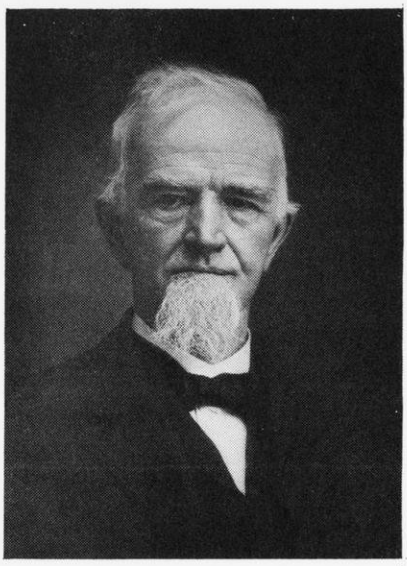
George E. Dexter, Charles Leissing, Elisha Mosher and John W. Stewart. On April 14, 1858, Stewart was named board president and served until he left for Civil War service. At the same meeting, the board authorized organizing the first fire department.

(The fire department story, as well as the history of Monroe's school system, will be related in detail in subsequent chapters.)

Thus, as the curtain was being drawn on the 1850s, Monroe was prepared for the stabilizing years ahead--although the Civil War did inhibit some of its progress in the early 1860s.



NORMAN CHURCHILL
1826-1901



JUDGE BROOKS DUNWIDDIE
1818-1906

JOHN W. STEWART
1822-1899

JOSEPH B. TREAT
1836-1919

Chapter Six

HOW THE EDITORS SAW IT

One of the best ways for gaining a sharper focus on the steady pace of events that make up a town's history comes through reading the reportorial observations of that community's newspaper editor.

In Monroe's story, we obtain such a perspective on the passing parade of happenings through the files of "The Monroe Sentinel." That is, we can by patiently hunting through each week's edition to find the "local" news--often terse, seldom complete and singularly notable for lack of real information, or the desired subsequent followup items.

Although Monroe had "The Green County Union" as early as 1850, Publisher J.W. Snow was more concerned with his store advertising and "business card" ads for professional, legal and other services than he was in carrying much in the way of news beyond the preprinted "boilerplate" national and world stories.

Things didn't improve very much in 1851 when John W. Stewart acquired Snow's paper and equipment, giving him the deed for a small building valued at $200 in the deal. Stewart did rename the paper as "The Monroe Sentinel" and pepped up the local news offerings. The latter, however, were few and far between.

When Stewart sold the "Sentinel" to Rev. John W. Walworth and O. D. Moulton later that same year, there was some attempt at listing more town tidbits, but only in a disorganized, haphazard manner. Parson Walworth did make some additional effort at betterment after Moulton quit the partnership

but most of his progress was in building up the advertising and the political (Democratic Party) editorials.

After George W. Tenney and N. L. Stout leased the "Sentinel" from Walworth in September, 1854, they functioned as co-editors in a way that gave readers a clearer picture of what was going on in busy, booming Monroe. That editorial duality yielded some better reporting, especially after Tenney and Stout bought out Walworth. It continued until 1860, except for the period when Stout, who sold his interest to Tenney, was away from the shop briefly.

Here are a number of items, in chronological order (by edition dates) as noted in the "Sentinel" through those years. The editors' own words are quoted in some items but rewritten interpretatively in others mainly to make them more understandable for us in these times:

Oct. 4, 1854--Stock subscriptions for the Southern Wisconsin Railroad reached $485,000, E. D. Clinton, agent, reports. Green County's financial canvass has been completed.

Nov. 15, 1854--John A. Bingham and Arabut Ludlow file notice of intention to open a private bank January 1. Former Congressman Columbus Delano Ohio plans to join the venture. (He never did.)

Nov. 22, 1854--John Knipchielt of the Monroe Brewery is advertising for his barley supply.

Feb. 21, 1855--Rev. John Walworth and Margaret Barber are married at Rock City, Ill.

March 30, 1855--The floor of Seminary Hall collapses during exercises for Monroe Institute students attended by a large crowd. Nearly 150 exit from windows although the danger was slight. No one is hurt seriously. Students will complete their program April 4 in the Courthouse.

April 17, 1855--A peddler stopping at the United States House has his wagon broken into and $200 to $300 in goods taken. J. B. Kirk and W. T.

Patten, suspects, are taken from the stage en route to Freeport after warrants are obtained. Some of the goods are found in the hotel room rented by the pair. Further search reveals other loot in the room of a third man who is released on bail. The first two are ordered taken to Madison (Monroe's jail had burned January 2). On the way, Kirk slips off his handcuffs and escapes. O. F. Pinney fires twice at the man but misses. Pinney and Constable Bullock give chase while Philo Pinney guards Patten. Kirk cannot be found and the officers take Patten to Madison's jail. Editors report a gang from Mahoning County, Ohio, had been preying on the community for some time and five men who were with the two suspects are hunted in northern Wisconsin. (The outcome of this unusually long news item never was reported by the editors.)

May 9, 1855--N. L. Stout and G. W. Tenney, operators of the Sentinel, report 40 dwellings built in Monroe since they arrived 18 months earlier. T. H. Eaton's spring canvass of the town reports a population of 1,115 but Stout and Tenney estimate a complete count would show 1,500.

--Retail sales of $250,000 are estimated by the editors, who claim one firm's volume for the past year exceeded $80,000.

--Sentinel's business survey lists two wagon shops, four large steam-powered mills and the D. S. Millen & Co. hub and spoke manufacturing operation. The report adds: "The town lies upon beautiful undulations of prairie, adjacent to timber of very superior quality, and the scenery about is altogether lovely."

May 16, 1855--"Elder" John Walworth announces he has sold the Sentinel to Tenney and Stout after three years as owner.

--Civil Engineer Joseph T. Dodge reaches Juda on his survey correction work for the new railroad.

May 23, 1855--Editors report seeing plans for the Christian Society's

new church, to cost $3,500. The Congregationalists also are considering a church project. Editors deplore lack of similar action to build a new school at an estimated cost of $6,000. They contend not a single room suitable for school purposes exists in town. They see a paradox in preoccupation with plans for new churches before real groundwork on meeting educational needs has been laid.

July 11, 1855--Editor Stout takes a tour of Monroe with John W. Stewart and reports: "Almost everybody is building. Little houses and big houses are going up all about the village." Stout says the Emerson & Condee firm is finishing its new 80 x 45 brick store structure for its own needs. J.S. Bloom also is completing a two-story building on the Square's south side for rental purposes.

--Brooks Dunwiddie and Sarah Yarger were married July 10 by Rev. John Walworth.

July 18, 1855--Sheweyville (later to become "Shueyville") is the name given the new "village" in the south part of Clarno Township. The settlement was launched by J.W. Shewey who came from Pennsylvania in 1846 to start his mill on Richland Creek. The new town boasts grain mills, a store, blacksmith shop, and shoe factory, along with 15 dwellings.

Aug. 1, 1855--Joseph G. Gleissner buys the American House on the Square. Starts remodeling project, including a full basement which will require raising the frame structure several feet.

--Emerson & Condee firm is awarded the contract for the new jail across from the brewery. Editors criticize the shingle roof specification.

--George H. King of Monroe (formerly of Youngstown, Ohio) accepts the job of vocal and violin music teacher at Platteville Academy.

Aug. 8, 1855--County Clerk B.F. Hancock reports the Green County census totals as 7,768 males, 6,948 females--total 14,716. The foreign-born of

2,605 includes the Swiss who began arriving at New Glarus in 1845. Monroe Township figures are 1,126 males, 994 females--total 2,120, with 296 foreign-born.

Aug. 29, 1855--Enoch S. Reed, peddler residing in Monroe, is reported missing, along with his horse, wagon and stock. He left Monroe June 26 and was last seen at Portage July 10. (This is one more item that never was followed up with a final story.)

Oct. 17, 1855--E. Temple Gardner and A.J. Brundage form a new law partnership.

Oct. 24, 1855--Editor Stout reports 106 structures built here during the 1855 season, with many more still under way.

Jan. 23, 1856--The Sentinel reports new business arrivals are bringing in ample capital for mercantile and manufacturing enterprises.

--J. K. Eilert and R. H. Dodge dissolve their partnership. The firm's store had been destroyed by fire November 19, 1855.

Feb. 13, 1856--McKey Bros. Co. of Janesville buys the Rittenhouse frame residential property on the Square's west side.

March 19, 1856--Despite the past year's building boom, the Sentinel reports "a great scarcity" of houses. Editors urge advancement of capital to build many new dwellings, for sale or for rent.

April 9, 1856--A disastrous fire sweeps Galena (April 8) and 32 buildings are destroyed, including St. Michael's Church built by Father Samuel Mazzuchelli. "The Courier" office also burns as flames ravage an entire business block near the DeSoto Hotel.

April 30, 1856--Editor Tenney reports the new Bank of Monroe received the first supply of its own issue of paper currency in $1, $2, $3 (yes, there was a $3 bill!) and $5 denominations. He declares the "engraving handsome as a pin and (the bills) make a clever advertisement for our growing village."

--The Shullsburg Herald reports Lafayette County voted 3,389 for moving the county seat to Avon (Darlington). Later, this tally was explained as a total of 3,389 votes cast, with 1,774 in favor and 1,615 against.

--John W. Shewey, proprietor of the Sheweyville townsite in Clarno, starts spelling his name "Shuey" in his advertising.

May 21, 1856--Sentinel item reports work under way on around 50 new buildings and dwellings with the new season just starting.

May 28, 1856--A family passing through the village, headed for the west, loses a little child who fell from the wagon, a wheel passing over its head. The young victim (sex not indicated in the item) is buried in the town cemetery on West Payne (9th) Street.

June 4, 1856--Republicans of Monroe and Green County hold a mass meeting in the Courthouse to denounce President Franklin Pierce's handling of the bloody slave vs free state strife in Kansas.

June 11, 1856--Work starts on a 98 x 75 three-story brick structure on the Square's north side between the United States House and the Monroe House. Ared White joins George W. Hoffman and Ludlow, Bingham & Co. in the project. (Ben Chenoweth seems to have acquired the west portion.) Editor calls it the "cap sheaf" of Monroe. (This building still exists in many times remodeled form west of the main section of the First National Bank, and now owned by the bank.)

July 2, 1856--Thomas Eaton finishes the town plat area's annual census and reports 948 males, 874 females for a total of 1,822.

July 23, 1856--The Sentinel reports Arabut Ludlow "is putting his money to work" in developing a herd of purebred Durham cattle. Ludlow had acquired two fine bulls and several cows of a good blood line, along with quality heifers. He also had purchased a black Morgan strain stallion from his home state of Vermont. Sentinel says Ludlow already was farming 800 acres north

of town.

Aug. 6, 1856--The new Bank of Monroe begins advertising. John A. Bingham is president and J.B. Galusha, cashier. Ludlow, Bingham & Co. (along with Asa Richardson) is operating the bank.

Sept. 30, 1856--Editor George W. Tenney and Mattie E. Love of Brodhead are married.

Nov. 19, 1856--J.K. Eilert & Co. resumes its drugstore operation in the "new block" on the Square's north side. Eilert's partners are J.S. Emmert (later of Freeport) and J. Hubell.

Dec. 2 and 3, 1856--A crippling snowstorm ties up the town's business. Drifts are waist-deep in some places with more snow still coming down. Editor Tenney reports it as the worst storm in his 18 years in this Wisconsin area.

Dec. 17, 1856--A second major blizzard adds 12 inches to the snow accumulation here as bitter cold grips the community. Temperatures range from 10 to 18 below for most of the week.

Jan. 27, 1857--Fire breaks out in the Courthouse office of James Moss, justice of peace. Serious damage prompts the editors to urge the County Board to erect a fireproof repository, probably in a separate building, to protect precious records. (A board committee voted July 13 to seek bids for such a structure.)

March 10, 1857--A new Good Templars Lodge of 40 members is organized by J.E. Vinton to carry on temperance work.

March 11, 1857--A meeting is called for March 17 to organize the First Congregation Society and consider a building project. Pending decision on building a church, services are to be held in the Christian Church.

March 25, 1857--The Monroe & State Line Railroad Co. is organized to plan a line from Monroe to connect with an Illinois Central branch from Freeport. Francis H. West is president, Arabut Ludlow, treasurer, and J.T. Dodge,

chief engineer.

May 13, 1857--Arabut Ludlow sells his brick store building on the Square's northeast corner for $6,000. (The editor fails to say who bought it.)

May 20, 1857--John McIntyre brings two wagonloads of rich lead ore to town from his Skinner Creek operation, five miles northwest of Monroe. Reports his diggings are still highly productive.

--W.M. Saxy extends his stage line from Beloit into Monroe with weekly trips, even though the railroad line from Janesville is near completion.

Aug. 15, 1857--Editor G.W. Tenney is on hand at Brodhead for the celebrating as the new railroad's work train reaches the depot site for the first time. The locomotive whistle shrieks and cannon blasts are fired. Work crews enjoy the fuss but keep right on laying track toward Juda and Monroe.

Sept. 17, 1857--Brodhead holds its official celebration of the railroad's arrival, with rain dampening some events. Music is provided by the Monroe and Brodhead brass bands, as well as a band from the "bypassed" community of Decatur to the east.

Dec. 2, 1857--The Sentinel renews its proposal that Monroe be incorporated as a village as soon as possible. Residents on the east side now can hear the work train whistle as tracklaying nears town. (The railroad's arrival in Monroe and an account of the later official celebration were reported in the preceding chapter.)

April 14, 1858--The newly-incorporated village's board of trustees holds its first meeting after the spring election. John W. Stewart is named president and William W. Wright, clerk.

May, 1859--Various items report walls going up and work being pushed toward completion of Ben Chenoweth's large new house on Liberty Street (north side of 1900-block of 8th Street).

Nov. 3, 1859--Francis H. West returns by way of the Isthmus of Panama after taking a wagon party from Monroe to California, arriving there Aug. 15. Reports he found no areas en route possessing the woodland, water supplies and marketing potential that Green County possesses. Monroe Band members who joined the trek west were well received at their concerts in California. They included M.S., Dick and Sylvester Corson, Jed Wilson, Joe Mabbott (Abbott?), Harry Benham and John Ziegler.

* * * * * * * *

That's the way the Sentinel saw the passing parade of the mid and late 1850s. The only item not included among the preceding are those pertaining to efforts to organize a consolidated school system and the dramatic stories of town fires which led to formation of the German Hook and Ladder Company, the village's first step toward a regular fire department.

The school and fire department histories will be related in detail in following chapters.

If you found some of the foregoing news items woefully inadequate as to detail, the author can only agree after his years of frustrating research into the records.

One must remember, however, that in those days few of the articles or items actually were put in written copy form before being set into type.

The editor also was a typesetter and it would appear that he composed his stories as he picked type from the case and assembled it line by line in his "stick." An economy of words made that time-consuming chore much easier.

Nevertheless, we can be thankful for the record he did put into print for his readers of that day, a chronicle of facts found nowhere else in the town's records which has come down through the years to us. Even in its bafflingly brief contexture, that record, nonetheless, represents an interesting and invaluable account of our heritage.

MIGHTY 'J.S. HARPER' STEAM FIRE ENGINE - Monroe's defenses against the ravages of fire were bolstered considerably in 1883 when the city bought this American LaFrance pumper. It was named for one of the department's longtime chiefs. The team was supplied by Shriner Brothers Undertaking Firm (Frank Shriner was Department Secretary for 25 years.) Seated in center are George Churchill and Charles Lizar (facing to front.) At the left is Henry Foster, and at the right, Charles Howard, Henry Weaver and Steve Wyman. (Photo from Fire Department Collection)

Chapter Seven

FIGHTING A RELENTLESS FOE

"Fire! Fire! Fire!"

That ominous cry ringing in the night--or even during the day--struck a blood-chilling note for Monroe residents throughout the earlier settlement days.

The vulnerable village was without an adequate water supply, except on Spring Square. Buildings in those founding years were wooden structures for the most part, and even the later brick edifices had their inner framing of timbers which became tinder dry in the fall and winter months.

Until the late 1850s, there was no organization of firefighters to rush to the scene to cope with the flames. Nor, was there any pumper apparatus until late in 1860 when the first "engine" appeared.

Clamoring alarms were answered by villagers who worked with might and main, and not much else, to curb the blazes. They used bucket "brigades" to pass along water from whatever source might be available. When there was no water, villagers turned their attention to nearby houses and buildings, beating out smaller blazes set off by fiery sparks in order to prevent the flames from spreading into a general conflagration.

These sturdy volunteers risked injury and possible death for one apprehensive reason. They knew that any fire which got out of hand could bring disaster, possibly to the whole town.

What caused those blazes? Why did they break out with such devastating regularity in Monroe, and also in other pioneer towns, during those early

decades?

The easiest way to resolve those questions is to remember that wood-burning stoves (coal did not appear until later) were stoked to nearly red-hot temperatures with the arrival of colder and colder weather. Even cook stoves and fireplaces were kept burning throughout the night hours so they could be revived from embers in the morning.

When soot-laden chimneys burned out, they usually sent up showers of sparks which fell on nearby wood shingle roofs (later banned by village regulations).

After 20 or so years of use, most wooden structures had dried to the point where almost any spark or ember could set off explosive combustion.

There was no electricity, so there could be no short circuits to explain the fires. Nor, was there any gas. Those excuses did not make their appearance in Monroe until the later 1880s. There were, of course, candles and oil lamps, although the latter did not become widely used until the 1860s when the coal oil (kerosene) supplies began arriving here.

Nevertheless, fires did flare with frightening frequency, some of them blamed on lightning. And, with little water to quench them, once the flames started they usually devoured structures completely. Quite often, they burned their way into adjoining buildings until halted by a shift of wind or the valiant efforts of volunteers.

Here are a few "Monroe Sentinel" reports and editorial comments on serious conflagrations in the mid 1850s before any official fire department began to take shape (dates shown are those of the paper's editions):

March 26, 1855--Fire damages the C. Righter dwelling and the Sentinel calls for action on starting a fire department. A meeting is planned for April 2 to discuss the project. Editors Stout and Tenney volunteer to join "Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1."

Nov. 21, 1855--Fire starting in frigid night weather at D.E. Corson's harness shop destroys three buildings on the Square and damages two others. Burned are the Eilert & Dodge drugstore, Ared White's building, occupied by the Musser & Chambers harness shop, and Corson's place. Damaged: Mordecai Kelly's building, occupied by Ben Chenoweth, and Rood's drugstore.

The editors commented: "Citizens turned out readily...and worked well and hard, with few exceptions. These exceptions will always by found around a fire, and we noticed a few with hands firmly planted in their pockets, looking with stoic indifference upon the efforts made to put it out, as though it were some magnificient tableaux gotten up for their special entertainment."

Dec. 17, 1856--Fire destroys James Pollard's Excelsior saloon. Citizen volunteers keep the blaze from spreading to houses in the vicinity. Flames were battled in bitter cold with more than 12 inches of packed snow on the ground from two storms.

Jan. 27, 1857--Fire in the Courthouse office of Justice of Peace James Moss does serious damage and threatens records stored in other office. (Item already noted in a previous chapter.)

And, so it went, year after year. Some of the fires were of minor significance, destroying a small cabin or shed. Others, especially in the Square vicinity, threatened widespread havoc before being extinguished by energetic volunteers possessed with sufficient luck and plenty of zeal.

Finally, after the village was incorporated in 1858, one of the first acts of the trustees' initial meeting was to authorize formation of the "German Hook and Ladder Company."

Members of this firefighter group, with its Teutonic designation, included John Linder, Conrad Ott, J. A. Gleissner, Henry Schneider, Joseph Felber and 30 others. They probably were chosen for past vigorous services as volunteers, plus the fact that they were disciplined gymnasts in the

original "Turner" society.

Most of the following accounts of Monroe's progress toward a regular, trained and efficient fire department come from the fine historical records kept by today's Fire Chief Josef Benkert and also from comprehensive information published in the 1884 "History of Green County."

No written record exists, however, on activities of that German Hook and Ladder Company after it was authorized in April, 1858. Nor, do the "Sentinel" files offer any further data about that company's functions in fighting fires.

Historian Benkert reports that formal organization of the "official" fire company, as reported in December, 1859, by the "Sentinel," was the outgrowth of a frame house fire in the present Junior High School block. The late veteran Monroe department member, Fred Lanz, told the story this way:

"The men of the village tried to put out the blaze, asking storekeepers who sold pails to give them a sufficient number to form a bucket line between the (town) spring and the blazing house. The storekeepers did so, and the fire was gotten under control."

After that fire, Lanz recalled, a volunteer company was formed and a frame building erected on the northwest corner of Spring Square. Benkert's record adds this report:

"The early equipment consisted of two dozen leather buckets, homemade ladders and poles with hooks fastened on the ends. These all were placed in a light wagon which was hand drawn. When a fire broke out, one man was stationed at the firehouse with a hand bell, which he rang. Four men were sent out, one to each corner of the (Public) Square, each with a horn on which he blew a blast and hollered 'Fire.' The villagers knew from the noise there was a fire."

That hand bell and the horns still are in possession of the Monroe Fire

Department. Meetings are called to order by ringing the bell.

The new fire company either included, or was in addition to, the German hook and ladder outfit authorized in 1858. Its first indicated name was "Cataract Co. No. 1 (Engine)" although it had neither engine nor capacity for producing any "cataract" beyond furious outpouring of physical and noisy energy.

Town trustees ruled that the village bell would be rung to summon firemen who were in command of John Hattery as foreman. Apparently, the hand bell and horn method was substituted later. A ball was scheduled for February 22, 1860, to raise funds for an engine (hand-powered).

Pending acquisition of an engine, the company seems to have changed its name to "Hook and Ladder Company No. 1"--or, that might have meant the German group actually continued to function. In any case, a benefit ball in that new name was held May 1, 1860, at the first Turner Hall (replaced in 1868 by a larger structure).

However or whatever it may have been called, the new fire company accepted delivery in November, 1860, on an engine from L. Button & Son of Philadelphia. At this time, Norman Churchill succeeded John Hattery as foreman. Either for reasons of thrift, penury or the obvious approach of the Civil War era, the village refused to pay for the apparatus.

The village board also may have been miffed because the fire company secretary had placed the order for the engine himself, instead of going through the trustees.

That first rocker rail pumper was used only two or three times. Because village funds were still blocked in 1865, it had to be returned to the Button firm. The disappointed fire company went back to the bucket brigade operation.

Chief Benkert's history quotes the late E. N. Churchill, longtime de-

partment member, as authority for the report that his father, Norman, purchased another engine for the company from the Button firm in 1869. Churchill, foreman of the firefighters, paid his own expenses for the Philadelphia trip and financed the engine cost, plus freight outlay, from his own pocket.

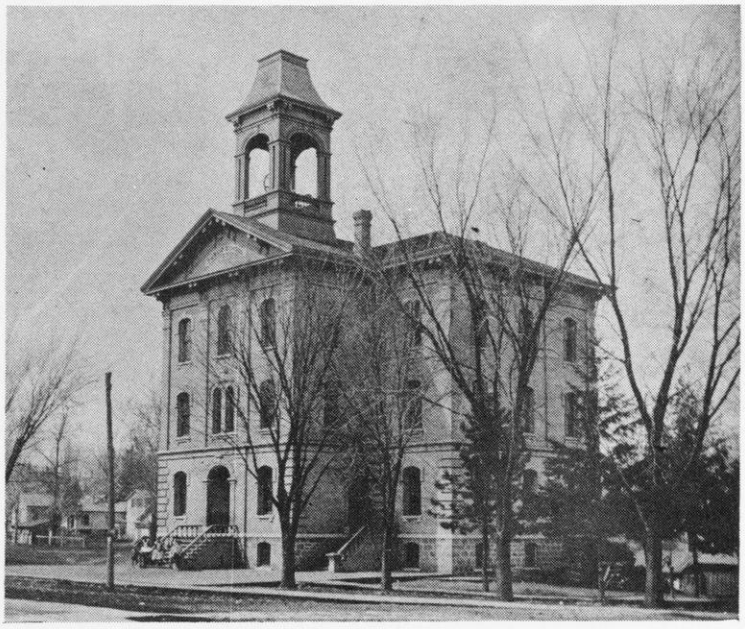
Norman Churchill finally was repaid by the village board when the Monroe Volunteer Fire Department was organized February 23, 1870. He then was officially elected "chief engineer." (Today's Chief Benkert is a great grandson of Churchill.)

Edward Ruegger took over the "chief" duties in 1877 and 1878. He was succeeded in 1879 by J. S. Harper who served many years with distinction. When the first steam engine was purchased in 1883 from the American LaFrance firm of Elmira, N.Y., Harper's name was inscribed on the commemorative plate. The Churchill pumper was retired and now is in a Boston museum.

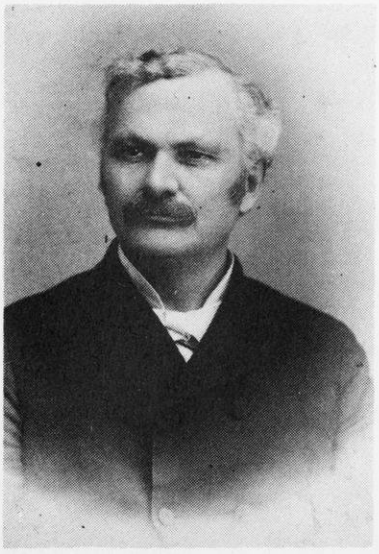
The following year, in March, 1884, Washington Hill was given the contract for a new engine house to cost $3,000. A brick two-story edifice with hose and bell tower, it was located on the northwest corner of Spring Square, site of the original frame fire house. This landmark, which also served many years as Monroe's police station and City Hall, was razed in 1967 after the fire department, police station and city offices were moved to the new City Building on 18th Avenue.

When firemen moved in 1884 into their new brick engine house, the department consisted of two companies: Engine Company No. 1, and the Hook and Ladder Company No. 1. Many years later, a small second fire station, a frame building, was located on 14th Avenue near the 17th Street Smoky Row district along the railroad.

Harking back to 1870, the first fire of record after the department acquired its engine indicated that, even with a pumper unit, the lack of available water supplies remained the principal problem.



OLD HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING - This imposing three-story structure was built after fire, in January, 1871, destroyed old Center School. The building was used for high and grade school purposes until the "new" high school (at the Junior High addition site) was ready in 1905. In 1915, this building was razed to make way for Lincoln School, destroyed by fire in 1973. (Green County Historical Society Photo)



PROF. NATHAN C. TWINING
Headed Schools in
1870s - 1880s

EMMA VAN WAGENEN
Beloved 45 Year Teacher

Jacob Steinman's barn (possibly located at the southwest corner of 14th Street and 21st Avenue) caught fire May 17, 1870. Firemen responded to the alarm but upon bringing the engine to the site, they found "no water to be had." So, all they could do was to use hooks and buckets of sand to keep flames from spreading.

In a much more disturbing disaster, the Center schoolhouse (at the former Lincoln site) burned January 19, 1871. No water in sufficient quantity was found in the neighborhood and the fairly new building was destroyed.

A heavy loss of $22,000 was reported in the fire October 18, 1871, when Treat & Durst's Block burned on the northwest corner of the Square. Firemen labored four hours, after quickly using up the meager water supplies nearby, and managed to protect nearby buildings.

Major reserves of water for fighting fires continued to be limited to a large cistern at the Courthouse and the Spring Square reservoir. This situation was not materially improved until after the privately-owned city waterworks system was completed in 1889.

Following is a list of a few fires of record occurring in the 1870s (a more complete roster appears in the 1884 "History of Green County"):

On September 15, 1871, A.J. High's dwelling just off the south side of the Square caught fire. The engine was located at the Courthouse cistern but the department's hose was too short. The house was destroyed.

Firemen were called to the American House, southwest corner of the Square, at 2 a.m. February 10, 1872. They used two cisterns to pump water on the flames and saved part of the old former courthouse building in a four-hour battle.

On the 25th of the same month, the house owned by Mrs. Magdalene Buehler (north side of 10th Street between 13th and 14th Avenues) caught fire, bringing out the firemen at 1 a.m. Again, there was no water nearby and flames

spread to the adjoining Ferdinand Shriner house on the 13th Avenue corner. Both houses burned to the ground--and were replaced with the dwellings still located on the sites.

The biggest fire of 1872 occurred June 22 at the Monroe Manufacturing Co. buildings, northwest corner of 12th Street and 17th Avenue (present site of the Lanz metal shops). Once more, water was a problem although the plant adjoined Spring Square. Firemen, however, saved valuable machinery and sections of the buildings. They also prevented flames from spreading to the Square's south side. Loss was $35,000.

Anton Miller's furniture factory on 12th Street was saved from destruction March 6, 1873, by the department which turned out in full force.

Lack of water caused firemen to turn back en route to answering an alarm September 12, 1873, to Robert B. Allensworth's residence in the east part of town. The house, presumably, was lost.

A half hour after midnight December 27, 1873, firemen were called to the Jacob Hefty Brewery (now Huber's). Intensely cold weather prevented them from using more than one stream of water. Folklore has it that the firefighters also used "green beer" to control the flames. They won their battle after a seven-hour ordeal. Loss was $12,000.

The Rood & Co. mill near Smoky Row was destroyed by fire June 29, 1877, due to the usual water problem. Firemen did save the mill's lumber and nearby buildings.

On May 22, 1879, firemen had to battle what was the biggest conflagration they had ever faced. Starting at 11 p.m. in the Empire Block on the Square's southeast corner, the blaze swept northward up the east side. Seven buildings were consumed before flames were halted by the south brick wall of the Whitney Block (Waffle Shop site).

A graphic account of the fire battle was carried in the "Sentinel"

edition of May 28. For the first time, the weekly paper did a complete and interesting cleanup account of the disaster, adding to it in the following week's edition.

The editor commented: "Young ladies and older ones distinguished themselves by doing more efficient and perservering work than any of the able-bodied men (spectators) who were too selfish to work.

"A good steam engine with plenty of good hose could have saved enough property on this occasion to have paid for itself. It is a hard thing to get the average man to work on the brakes (pumper rocker rails), and it is a killing business trying to pump water uphill through 600 feet of hose hour after hour."

This 1879 disaster probably helped expedite city action leading to purchase in 1883 of the LaFrance steam engine, as well as more lengths of hose. Water supply worries also prompted city officials to urge the digging of large cisterns at homes beyond reach of the downtown reservoirs. Cisterns, of course, also were used for householders' rainwater needs but their main value was in providing a special insurance against destruction.

Many wells also were being drilled at residential properties but these were costly due to hard rock which had to be penetrated.

Another major fire, January 14, 1899, again threatened the Square's east side when the Fitzgibbons Bros. Carriage Works on 18th Avenue was destroyed by flames. The firm considered moving to Galena but later decided Monroe was a better location and erected a new building on the site.

Some of the later and more recent fires which belong in any historical record include the following:

Firemen battled in subzero temperatures January 3, 1914, but could save only a shell of the four-story former Miller Mfg. Co. wagon and buggy works at the northeast corner of 9th Street and 16th Avenue (Holiday station site).

The Karlen & May auto garage in the building lost 30 vehicles. The Ryan residence, north of the garage, was destroyed and the Kohli Printing Co. to the east seriously damaged. Freeport firemen were called for standby help.

An earlier costly fire September 6, 1912, had leveled the Wm. A. Becker store, as well as its lumber and feed buildings, at the southeast corner of 12th Street and 17th Avenue. The afternoon blaze destroyed the Becker structures in 30 flaming minutes.

A fire November 22, 1928, which swept the Gottlieb Burkhalter home, southeast corner of 15th Street and 22nd Avenue, claimed the life of Miss Lizzie Burkhalter, 44, an invalid, who died of smoke suffocation and burns. Firemen and others tried for 90 minutes to revive the victim after she was carried to the August Prien home.

A most spectacular early morning blaze February 2, 1929, destroyed the Marty & Roderick Chevrolet garage in the 1200-block of 16th Avenue. Firemen were able to keep flames from other buildings, including the former Planing Mill and adjoining lumberyard.

Loss was put at $100,000 December 17, 1930, when a night fire swept the Charles H. Buehler garage in the 1700-block of 12th Street. Thrity autos, including two Shriner Bros. hearses, were destroyed.

The fire which probably "played" to the biggest audience on record up to that time destroyed historic Turner Hall early on September 8, 1936. Flames starting in the attic chased a dance crowd from the first floor and "persuaded" patrons in the downstairs bar to leave. A heavy rain which began falling just before the fire broke out aided firemen and saved nearby structures.

On June 3, 1938, fire in the former Fitzgibbons carriage factory building at 10th Street and 18th Avenue resulted in loss of about $10,000. Fears were held for a time that flames might spread to the Deaconess Hospital

across the street.

Fire October 8, 1942, which caused considerable damage to the White Block (Drapery House site), was blamed on an ice machine short circuit at A.H. Schneider's pool hall.

The Center Market at 1128 17th Avenue was destroyed in an early morning fire November 16, 1942, which swept the century-old structure.

The Fitzgibbons building at 18th Avenue and 10th Street was destroyed August 28, 1948, in the third fire at that old carriage works site in 49 years. The blaze started in the third-floor warehouse of the Swiss Colony and Wisconsin Fritos Co. Scores of volunteers helped firemen save autos from the Dearth Dodge-Plymouth agency and much of the Kane & Stauffacher farm implement firm's parts inventory.

On May 29, 1958, the Bruni-Miller Co. store and offices in the 1900-block of 12th Street were destroyed by flames which started around midnight and continued to burn until 6:30 a.m. Browntown firemen were called to aid the Monroe department when it looked for a time as if the blaze might spread. The adjoining shop area was saved.

When the April 11, 1965, Palm Sunday tornado ravaged the west side of town, the Department responded instantly. Firemen opened up traffic routes through felled trees and downed power lines, and were joined by the Civil Defense units in bringing out the injured. Firemen also stood by that day and the next guarding against potential outbreak of blazes in wrecked structures.

That same year, on November 10, an alarm to the Swiss Colony Inn on the Square's west side was received at 6:30 a.m. Flames from grease in a fryer had spread in minutes throughout the rear of the building. Firemen rescued second-floor occupants and brought the fire under control in four hours with new techniques, saving adjoining buildings. Browntown, Argyle and Brodhead

fire units were called in under the new mutual aid program.

The fire September 5, 1973, which ravaged Lincoln School was first reported to police by Stanley Roen at 3:22 a.m. Forty-four department members responded but were unable to prevent widespread interior damage. Lightning, which had struck the school the previous morning, was reported by Deputy Fire Marshal Frank Roberts to have started a slow burning, smoldering blaze in an area behind false walls.

The foregoing are only the high spots of the brilliant record compiled by Monroe Fire Department's more than a century of meeting all demands and challenges with courage and efficiency in time of disaster, real and potential.

It is a record achieved through dedicated service by its members. It could only have been accomplished with loyalty, splendid and constant training, high discipline and the inspired leadership of its various chiefs and their assistants over the years.

In sharp contrast to the diffident attitude of those early village fathers, who turned a deaf ear to pleas for equipment funds in the 1860s, today's department commands the highest respect and confidence of City Council members and a grateful community.

Because of that wholehearted support, the Monroe Volunteer Fire Department today proudly possesses eight pieces of the best modern equipment, including a 100-foot aerial ladder truck, and has one more high capacity pumper on order. The department also has kept its now retired 1928 Pirsche pumper, the first custom fire engine with cab in the nation, for parades, and even possible emergency use.

Because of this modern equipment, coupled with an unquestioned record of outstanding performance, the department ranks today as one of the finest--if, indeed, not the finest--volunteer (or paid) firefighting organizations in Wisconsin and its neighboring states.

The greatest testimonial to that status is found in the fact that Monroe Fire Department has been host since 1960 for the Southern Wisconsin, Northern Illinois Firemen's Association fire school programs at the county fairgrounds.

Intensive two-day training sessions are carried out at the school under general direction of Monroe fire leaders and department members. Those programs vary from year to year, with continuous upgrading as to new methods and techniques.

We can be certain those hundreds of visiting firemen come here for one principal reason--they know Monroe will guarantee outstanding fire school programs because its volunteer department has spent 118 years striving to be the best.

REBUILT EAST SIDE OF SQUARE AFTER 1879 DISASTER - Fire on the night of May 22, 1879, destroyed seven buildings, from the Square's southeast corner, north to the Whitney Block (three-story structure at left of center, now the Waffle Shop site) which stopped the flames. It was the village's worst fire up to that time. Volunteer firemen had to work their old rocker brake hand pumper for many weary hours, bringing water up to the fire from Spring Square through 600 feet of hose lines. The ravaged buildings, some of flimsy wood construction, were replaced by handsome brick structures with fine ornamental masonry arched windows. The Village Board placed a ban, after the fire, on building frame structures on the Square and in its vicinity.
(Green County Historical Society Collection)

Chapter Eight

GOOD SCHOOLS: THE CONSTANT GOAL

One of the first urgent problems, second only to survival, facing pioneer families moving into Green County from other areas concerned the need for schools in which their children could continue or start their education.

Wisconsin was barely getting under way with its territorial organization steps and the only previous provisional law on schooling during the Territory of Michigan days had been largely inoperative in the new frontier land.

Hence, most of the first actions taken in Green County and Monroe for providing schools were carried out by the pioneer families themselves. Parents paid fees on an agreed basis, makeshift schoolhouses were occupied or built, and teachers hired.

Records agree that the first school in Green County was established in Section 36, Cadiz Township, in January, 1837, with Ralph Hildebrand as teacher. The trustees included Andrew Clarno, William Bowen, Bennett Nowlin and William Boyls. The schoolroom was located in a small log structure designed for a smokehouse.

The first schoolhouse actually built for that purpose was erected that same year on Clarno's land in Section 30, Clarno Township. The second, in 1838, was a log schoolhouse in New Mexico (on the east side of 16th Avenue just south of the railroad bridge). Miss Lucy Goddard of Illinois was hired to teach at the latter school, with New Mexico (Monroe) townspeople and Clarno settlers contributing funds and some 20 pupils.

Gradually, as the county was organizing under territorial law, there

were 10 districts functioning by 1840, including the one in New Mexico, all still largely funded by private family subscriptions. However, in 1841, new territorial laws provided for separate county school commissioners. Elias Jones, William Green and E.T. Gardner were the first to serve in Green County. By 1844, the county had made its first levy for schooling of two and a half mills per dollar on property. That figure is believed to have been higher than the tax in most Wisconsin counties.

That same year of 1844, saw the first one-room schoolhouse built in the area of Monroe, across from the Methodist Church property on 11th Street. How long that schoolhouse functioned is not known today but one of its highlights was acting as the site for the meeting at which the town's new Methodist Church Society was organized.

Referring back to the first school organizing steps under the new county status in 1839, it is worth noting that the number of families remained the basis for district establishment, rather than geographic boundaries. There was a district for each ten families, with settlements such as Monroe setting up their districts on this same ratio.

In 1847, the year before statehood provided a uniform plan for free public education, there were 25 districts in Green County with 1,323 pupils. Unfortunately, there also were 17 districts in which no schooling was available for their 504 children.

Men usually were employed to teach in these pioneer district schools, principally because a firm hand was needed, physically, to enforce discipline among older pupils.

After statehood in 1848, the new constitution called for a department of public instruction, and in the following years, township governments were initiated with town superintendents of schools. The latter plan was devised, it is supposed, to bring order out of educational chaos. By 1861, it was

recognized that better and more uniform schooling could be assured with a county superintendent in charge. The first man to hold that post was William C. Green of York Township, who served as assemblyman for Green County in 1850.

After that wise action to supply over-all county supervision of schools, education was on a better organized and more beneficial basis for the youngsters. Supt. Green insisted on examinations for teachers and conducted regular inspection visits to district schools in rural areas.

There never was any question that settlers, in both the county and Monroe, wanted the best possible schooling for their own children, as well as for all young people in their districts. There were, however, many problems prior to 1861 in trying to realize that objective under somewhat confusing legislation calling for free public schools in Wisconsin.

Even after the county superintendent plan was launched in 1861, many villages and smaller communities functioned under special state charters which exempted them from county control.

Monroe, for example, was issued a special general school charter in 1856 designed to permit it to organize a union school district. Local electors, the "Sentinel" reported, approved such a union school plan November 8, 1856, and voted to buy land and provide $10,000 for a new consolidated schoolhouse.

For reasons not clear today, it appears no steps ever were taken toward implementing the charter with a union district plan until the annual meeting in July, 1866, which the first Union School District No. 1 was formed. Edwin E. Bryant was named school board president and there were 11 teachers on the staff, all women.

Here, in chronological order, are items gleaned from the "Sentinel" relating to Monroe's struggles with getting schools on a sound, functioning basis:

May 23, 1855--Editors of the "Sentinel" deplore the lack of an estimated $6,000 needed for a new common school building. They report that not a single room "suitable" for school purposes "is available in the town." The editors concede the existence of several "select" (probably private subscription or fee) schools but cite the need for a "proper common school." Citizens are urged to seek consolidation of facilities into an improved public system. In the same item, the "Sentinel" points to interest concentrated in building new churches before any real groundwork for education has been laid.

June 6, 1855--"Sentinel" editors continue their appeals for consolidation of schools. They report 377 pupils in town with a public tax budget of only $346. They suggest a $2.25 per pupil tuition fee to cover costs of adequate teaching.

In connection with these discussions stirred by the "Sentinel," it should be explained that the only school for classical or higher education after 1847 was the Seminary, established through the 40-acre land gift made in 1839 by William Russell. Stockholders had contributed $2,000 to build the Seminary on the later North School site at 9th Street and 15th Avenue. H.C. Burchard was principal in its early years. In August, 1852, the Seminary was the site of the county's first teachers institute which lasted several weeks.

When the first moves were made in the early 1850s for a union school setup, the Seminary stock was purchased through taxes and the fledgling school system took it over. That tenuous merger, however, worked to the disadvantage of the Seminary operation and did not improve the common school program. In 1854, electors instructed the superintendent (unnamed) to divide the Monroe system into three districts. John Bloom and J.B. Bachman then bought the Seminary and restored its operation to the original program.

From the above, it can be deduced that moves actually had been under

way toward some plan for a common school system but were derailed by the veto to set up three districts. By the way, the Seminary's owners after 1854 operated it as the "Monroe Institute" with 20-week annual courses, ranging from arithmetic and advanced mathematics through Latin, German, music, painting and embroidery. "Boarding facilities" also were available.

The Institute also furnished the town with a bit of excitement in 1855 when, the "Sentinel" reported on March 30, the floor of the old Seminary Hall collapsed during special exercises for students attended by a large crowd. The editors reported 150 jumped out of the first-floor windows "although danger was slight." No one was hurt seriously and students completed their program April 4 at the Courthouse.

Other school items:

Oct. 17, 1855--The "Sentinel" reports J. B. Bachman had taken over as principal of the Monroe Institute, with Joseph Peters as his assistant. The staff included at least two other instructors.

Jan. 30, 1856--State Senator George E. Dexter of Monroe pushes a bill through the Legislature to permit Monroe District No. 8 (north side of town) to borrow funds to build a new school.

May 7, 1856--The "Sentinel" reports the first term of Monroe High School (no location given) is starting with Prof. V. Scheer as principal. Tuitions are: Primary (?) $3.60, High School $6 and Classical $10.

May 14, 1856--The new Green County Education Association, formed May 9, elects Judge John A. Bingham as president, James Bintliff, secretary, and E.T. Gardner, treasurer. A.C. Barry, state superintendent of public instruction, comes to Monroe to address the group.

May 21, 1856--James Bintliff is selected to serve as Monroe's school superintendent. (Judge Bingham and Bintliff were two of the most active early town leaders in promoting better education. Bingham visited classes

regularly, often wearing his old-fashioned shawl, and frequently took over the teaching himself. Bintliff, born and educated in England, appreciated the unique opportunity afforded all Wisconsin young people with free public schooling. He, too, often taught classes himself and checked into qualification of teachers.)

Nov. 12, 1856--Monroe electors, at a meeting November 8, approved a union school plan (previously noted in the wake of state action granting Monroe a unique special charter earlier in the year). The electors voted $2,000 to buy a site from Wadsworth Foster and $10,000 for a schoolhouse. (No record has been found of such a site purchase, nor of any action toward building a school.)

May 11, 1857--School District No. 6 (mid-town) holds its organization meeting, naming Francis Emerson as chairman and T. K. Lindley, secretary. Electors ask the superintendent (Bintliff?) to set up the district immediately.

Aug. 15, 1857--New School District No. 6 elects Francis Emerson as board president, J. S. Bloom, treasurer, and C. M. Perry, clerk. The three-month term is to begin when a teacher is hired and a classroom acquired. The board studies a plan to seek use of the "brick school" (no location or explanation given in item). Mordecai Kelly, S.P. Condee and T.K. Lindley are named to report on securing a new site and building a large school.

March 1, 1858--District No. 8 electors vote to purchase the Seminary property. (Classes for District No. 8 had been held in a small brick building in the 800-block of 14th Avenue, now a private home.)

May 26, 1858--District No. 8 classes will start Monday (May 31) in the completely renovated old Seminary building which had been "painted inside and out." The "two" Misses Richards and Miss Griswold are the teachers.

In 1859, District No. 13 built a four-room, two-story 32 x 32 schoolhouse on the northeast corner of what is now the South School grounds on 13th

HARRIET CORSON
Her "Children" Were Her Life
(Schmitz Photo)

GRACE BYERS
She Made Kindergarten Sparkle

CITY'S SOCIAL CENTER, TRAVELER'S HAVEN - A massive, fortress styled structure, Ludlow Hotel was Monroe's community life headquarters for many decades. Located at the southeast corner of 9th Street and 16th Avenue (McLellan - J. C. Penney Store sites), the hotel was built in 1884 by Arabut Ludlow, banker and leading business figure, at the behest of his friend, Norman Churchill. It not only served the traveling public, but was the center for many banquet and other social events until it was razed in 1955.

Avenue. It was hailed as a good building with fine facilities for the classes, which were in charge of E.E. Woodman.

Joseph T. Dodge's 1861 street map of Monroe shows three schoolhouses in the village. District No. 8's school, in the old Seminary, was located at the northwest corner of 9th Street and 15th Avenue. Another schoolhouse, shown at the northeast corner of 14th Avenue and 15th Street, probably was for District No. 6, although not indicated as such on the map. District No. 13's school, of course, was at the southwest corner of 21st Street and 13th Avenue.

There also was a German schoolhouse shown at the northwest corner of 13th Avenue and 19th Street, probably in the structure erected for the German Catholic (St. Mary's) Church organized a year earlier.

In July, 1866, the first real action toward a consolidated school system was taken when electors of local districts joined in forming the first actual Union School District No. 1. Three years earlier, what came to be called "Center" School had been built by District No. 6 on the site of the now demolished Lincoln School. It probably was the recognized advantage of this large common school that brought about the 1866 merger steps.

Edwin Eustace Bryant, who became union district board president, did not remain in that post very long. He soon left Monroe to become secretary to Gov. Lucius Fairchild, state adjutant general and, eventually, law school dean of the University of Wisconsin, for which he had served in the 1860s as a regent.

A standard high school curriculum, under state requirements, did not get under way here until the 1870s. Prior to that, the academy or seminary courses apparently prepared students for college.

Among early principals of the Monroe school system was Joseph Dodge, civil engineer who brought the railroad here. Dodge served from July, 1862,

to July, 1863. His contribution, which was outstanding, probably resulted from his Vermont academy and university training.

Other principals (later called superintendents) who made great contributions included: Prof. W.D. Parker, later president of River Falls Normal School; E.E. Woodman, held in high respect as a teacher; Prof. R.W. Burton, rugged disciplinarian, and Prof. B.M. Reynolds, New Englander who was strict with pupils, exacting in his demands on teachers and generally recognized as having unified the Monroe school system.

Prof. Nathan Crook Twining, who came here in 1873 from Waterloo, Wis., to head the schools, credited Prof. Reynolds with having prepared the way for Twining's work in organizing an improved curriculum and more complete academic program. In 1884, two years before Twining left Monroe, he was responsible for 1,200 pupils in the growing system.

Joseph Dodge's half brother, Adam Clarke Dodge, also performed meritorious service for the town's school system. He served 27 years on the Board of Education, 23 of them as president, during the period of the greatest late 19th Century improvement in facilities and academies.

Among the women teachers who deserve special pages in Monroe's school history was Miss Emma Van Wagenen, or "Miss Van" as she was known to generations of pupils. Miss Van Wagenen began her teaching career in 1870 at the age of 19 in a Jordan Township school. She joined the Monroe system in 1871 and was a main figure in building the city's "grammar" grade program.

At her retirement in 1916, after 45 years in the local schools. "Miss Van" was principal of Churchill School, respected as a disciplinarian but beloved by more than two generations of her "alumni."

Born in Wiota January 8, 1851, Miss Van Wagenen was the daughter of the Garrett Van Wagenens who moved to Monroe in 1858. At the time of her death April 26, 1921, she was secretary of Monroe Women's Club and had been president

of that organization. Her brother, Dr. Henry G. Van Wagenen, was an optician and jewelry store operator.

Another veteran of Monroe's school system, remembered with affection by generations of her former pupils, was Miss Grace Byers, daughter of Dr. Fred W. and Olive DeHaven Byers. She began teaching kindergarten in 1896 at South School at the earnest urging of Mrs. Henry Ludlow, School Board member who initiated the kindergarten program. Mrs. Ludlow persuaded Grace Byers to take special college training for this work, in Wisconsin and Michigan, courses which Miss Byers supplemented later with summer sessions at Boulder, Colorado.

It was upon the insistence of Miss Byers that the School Board finally started installing electric lights in schools in 1910. She also was active in promoting other innovations, especially in educational programs. After retirement, Grace Byers remained a keen observer of community affairs, especially in cultural areas. When death came in November, 1964, she was mourned by a host of her "children" and good friends.

After Center School burned in January, 1871, electors decided at their March 16 meeting to build a new three-story structure on the same site. The upper floor was to be for high school purposes. The building was to cost $15,000 but before the brick structure was finished in 1872 that estimate had been exceeded substantially.

Still more room was needed for the growing school population 10 years later. So, electors voted June 12, 1882, to build a new school at the old Seminary site. Again, the cost for this North School was placed at $15,000 but this time the contractor, Jacob Steinman, seems to have stayed within that limit. Finished in 1884, the school was named for Norman Churchill in view of his long service to education and community affairs.

Next to be constructed was East School in 1891, which continues today

(1976) as a center for pupils in the early grade levels.

In 1896, South School was built in the 2100-block of 13th Avenue, site of the early District No. 13 schoolhouse. It, too, remains a busy elementary grade unit of the Monroe district system.

By the turn of the century, it was obvious that expanded facilities were needed for Monroe's high school. Electors voted to acquire land in the block to the north of Center School and a new building was constructed in 1905-06. More and more students were staying on until graduation, some of them going on to colleges. The new building provided improved high school facilities to meet the needs of those students.

Expanding needs, however, were not limited to the high school level. East, South and North Schools were channeling more and more pupils into the upper grades and by 1915 it again was clearly apparent that old Center School could not handle them. Plans were worked out with Claude & Starck, Architects, of Madison for a replacement building after Center School (then called the "old high school") was razed. This building, named "Lincoln" at the behest of Janet Jennings, author, patriot and devoted admirer of the martyred president, was erected in 1916-17.

A handsome example of the Louis Sullivan architectural styling era, the building served the city well until it was ravaged by fire September 5, 1973. It stood afterward for more than two years, in sadly dilapidated condition, until a wrecking crew dealt the final death blow, bringing down the walls and clearing the site this past winter.

In recent years, some critics of Monroe school facilities have zeroed in on the ages of East and South Schools as indicating disinterest by the school board and townspeople in building more modern structures. Anyone familiar with the previous and the following accounts of Monroe's struggles to meet the educational needs of the district's young people cannot accept

that contention as justified to any major degree.

Down through the years, as the reader will note, there have been many building projects, some undertaken during stringent economic times and under difficult circumstances. The legion of school board members, dedicated citizens and the host of teachers, past and present, all have remained loyal to that original objective of providing good schooling for Monroe district's students, and will continue to do so. The timing may not satisfy the more impatient but, as in the past, ever better facilities will continue to be prevalent.

It is true there were no building programs immediately following the First World War, simply because there was no real need. The depression years of the 1930s also inhibited consideration of major borrowings for newer schools. However, with the assistance of federal funds in 1938-39, an attractive modern addition to the Senior High School, complete with auditorium, gymnasium and clock tower, enhanced the Monroe scene, as well as the district's facilities.

Again, turbulent times during World War II years postponed expansion of grade facilities which obviously were overburdened as the 1950s started. The Board of Education in 1950, however, took steps to cope with that situation by careful planning of additions to East and South Schools, as well as a modernization project for North School. Electors voted overwhelmingly to approve the proposed bond issue and the projects were carried out in 1951-52.

Incidentally, in order to obtain legal approval and a favorable rating for that bond issue, it became necessary for Monroe to part company with its 1856 general school charter, unique in the state, and to organize itself into Joint Common School District No. 1.

Monroe's High School became increasingly crowded in the mid-1950s as students came from an ever-widening area and the postwar "baby boom" indicated

further crowding to be faced during the decade ahead. Another factor looming on the horizon was the inevitable expansion of the Monroe district's area under the State's new law requiring every rural area to be in a high school district.

So, another major proposal, this time for an entirely new Senior High School building, was launched in 1957. Electors again gave approval by a wide margin to the district's biggest borrowing in its history. The new high school, built on a large tract at the south edge of the city (in Judge Andrick's old New Mexico), was completed in the winter of 1958-59.

When the additions of more territory to the Monroe district became effective by the July, 1962, the State's deadline, the School Board was ready again. The new High School had been planned in 1957 by the Board and architects to permit a future west wing, running to the south. This wing was completed in 1963, just in time for the combined "bulge" impact.

The bond issue proposal at that time included plans for razing the old high school structure, built in 1905-06, and replacing it with a modern addition to the 1939 building, providing up-to-date expanded facilities for the Junior High School. This section was completed in 1964.

The Board of Education and the electors then turned their attention after 1964 to the rising grade school enrollment due to the district's increased territory. The Board and its Citizens Advisory Committee came forward in 1966 with a proposal for a new grade center on the north side of Monroe. Property along the north side of 8 1/2 Street had been purchased some years previously as the board anticipated the problem faced in 1966. Electors again approved this proposal and the building, located at the east end of 8 1/4 Street, was completed in 1967.

Even before the new Northside School was ready for operation, many parents were urging the Board to transfer all pupils from old North School to

other facilities. Finally, after considerable pressure and study, the Board agreed and its action sealed the fate of Churchill School, as it had been known for decades. The venerable building was razed and today a gasoline station graces the 9th Street front portion of this site used for schooling purposes since 1847.

Meanwhile, across the street from the Churchill site to the east, another monument to an early citizen leader in education--Arabut Ludlow Memorial Library--stands today as a reminder of Monroe's constant striving for improved schooling.

The library building was a gift to the school district, for use by the whole community, from Henry, Edwin and Willis Ludlow in memory of their pioneer father. Their gift offer was made in March, 1904, and the building constructed in 1905 on lots used many years for county offices. The library was finished several months before the first senior high school was ready for students.

Ludlow Memorial Library, designed by Claude & Starck from plans the firm used in the Whitewater library project, has continued to operate over the years for the benefit of all who live in the school district, young and old, under direction of the Board of Education, a situation again unique in Wisconsin.

Although related only indirectly to the Monroe school system, the former Green County Teachers College functioned here many years to supply certificated graduates from its two-year course. Started at Brodhead in 1909, with Charles H. Dietz as principal, the normal school was moved here in 1910 to quarters supplied by the Monroe School Board.

The City of Monroe later donated the block between 9th and 10th Streets and 11th and 12th Avenues as the site for a new normal school building. The structure erected on this former city cemetery location was completed in the

early 1920s and served as the Teachers College until that system was phased out several years ago. Since then, the building has been used for special education classes, as well as for various state and county agency offices.

The local school system's record book, of course, never will be closed so long as there is a Monroe. Past history, however, marked as it has been by a steady progression of bright pages, offers sound assurance that boards and electors will continue to move steadily on the course toward that most important objective of the town's earliest settlers--the best of educational opportunities during every today for its citizens of all the tomorrows.

Chapter Nine

THE WAR YEARS: TRAGIC, EVENTFUL

Monroe emerged as a complete community during the decade of the 1860s with all the many facets of a second generation thriving village beginning to sparkle with the pleasing pattern of prosperity.

It was the decade when the many developments launched in the 1840s and 1850s started to fit together in a way which confirmed highest hopes of the early settlers.

It also was the period when school organizing problems yielded to solution; when six more churches were erected (previously the Methodist and Christian churches had been built); when the First National Bank was founded, and when the village began to realize healthy dividends from dollars flowing back into town as result of Monroe's happy status as the new railroad's main shipping point for eastern markets.

Unfortunately, it also was the decade when the Civil War put a heavy burden on Monroe and Green County resources of manpower and money.

Here are a few happenings reported by the "Sentinel" in the early part of the 1860s:

February, 1860--N. Churchill & Co.'s mill (at the planning mill site) resumes work with its new, more powerful steam engine.

March, 1860--Work on the McKey Block (Eugene Hotel site) gets under way....G.F. Beebe opens his El Dorado Hotel near the Depot with John Gibson as manager....N.B. Usher and G.E. Thrall, both of Ohio, open their new bank on the Square....Universalists break ground for their new church; the Chris-

tian Church already had been built in 1855 (Grace Lutheran site); Catholics (Irish) also start building a stone church (St. Victor's); the German Reformed Church project gets under way (St. John's); German Catholics also plan to buy a site (13th Avenue and 19th Street) for St. Mary's Church.

April, 1860--Francis H. West and W. O. Carpenter leave for California with five wagons, 20 men and 66 head of fine horses (West had made an 1859 trip to the West Coast); Willard Payne and E. N. Sheldon depart on the same day (April 9) with a smaller party and 10 horses.

June, 1860--The "Green County Democrat" folds and Editor Elijah H. Eyer moves to a more sympathetic environment at Sidney, Ohio.

August, 1860--James Bintliff and Edwin E. Bryant take over the "Monroe Sentinel"; George W. Tenney, former publisher, buys a half interest on the Milwaukee "Free Democrat"....Levi Starr begins building his new house (later the Willis Ludlow residence and the White Haven nursing home).

October, 1860--Rev. Ira A. Sweatland arrives to begin his Methodist pastorate....The Trinity Episcopal Chapel project is finished.

November, 1860--Village Fire Company takes delivery on its new hand pumper engine, with Norman Churchill named as foreman.

March, 1861--Simon P. Condee, Kelley (Mordecai or Joseph?) and A. J. Brundage announce intention to leave April 20 for California; Brundage dies from tuberculosis en route; Condee returns here later but leaves again in 1863, dying in December in Nevada.

April, 1861--War clouds roll into the community and stir an eager enlistment response to Abraham Lincoln's call for 90-day volunteers....The first full unit, Co. C, 3rd Regiment, is organized for service with Martin Flood of Exeter as captain; Moses O'Brian, Capt. Flood's first lieutenant, is the first man to enlist in Monroe....Henry W. Peck begins recruiting for the 2nd Regiment, with Co. K as an all-New Glarus unit.

That was the prologue of the 1860s in Monroe as the war gradually began to dominate the scene for the next four years. Green County and Monroe supplied approximately 2,500 men to the Union Army during those years. That was well above 10 per cent of the county's 19,800 population.

Those Green County men served in 37 different infantry and four cavalry regiments, two light artillery brigades and one heavy artillery unit.

One man, Henry Rush, veteran of the 1846-47 Mexican War, enlisted in the early months of the Civil War from Green County. A hardy 66-year-old Cadiz resident, Willian Van Horn, also presented himself for enrollment during the 1862 recruiting drive.

Some of Monroe's men won military glory in the conflict. Two Monroe men, Francis H. West and James Bintliff, and one Exeter resident, Martin Flood, advanced to brevet brigadier general rank. Others had heroic records, sometimes terminated by death from battle wounds, disease or the ordeals of Southern prisoner of war camps.

One local military figure, Henry W. Peck, a West Point graduate, was catapulted into command of a regiment, the 2nd Wisconsin, in the war's first major clash, the First Battle of Bull Run July 21, 1861. His troops acquitted themselves well but the regiment was reduced in strength from nearly 1,000 to only a little more than 600 by casualties while fighting a valiant rear guard action. Col. Peck resigned his commission after the battle and returned home. He was succeeded as colonel by Lucius Fairfield, a Wisconsin governor after the war. Peck re-enlisted in October, 1863, as a captain commanding a First Heavy Artillery battery and served in the Louisiana campaign and occupation.

Another distinguished figure from Monroe, Edwin E. Bryant, enlisted as a private in May, 1861, in the 3rd Wisconsin and fought in many major battles (Gettysburg, Chancellorsville, ect.). He won quick promotion from the ranks as an officer and was named enrollment (draft) commissioner for the 3rd

Wisconsin District July 1, 1864. Bryant later was a lieutenant colonel with the 50th Wisconsin, sent to western Missouri to subdue guerrilla forces.

John W. Stewart attempted to enlist but was picked instead by President Lincoln in 1862 as commissioner of allotments for Wisconsin troops. He visited all Badger units in every field of the war during his duties.

John A. Bingham also tried to obtain a military appointment but, due to his frail health, he was chosen by Lincoln to perform various home front duties of high responsibility in Wisconsin.

Others who served in civilian roles included Garrett Van Wagenen who became sutler, or contracting supplier, for the 16th Pennsylvania Cavalry, and Dr. S.W. Abbott, appointed sutler for Francis West's 31st Regiment.

Van Wagenen, born in Dutchess County, N.Y., in 1817, came to Monroe from the Wiota area in 1858. He operated a lumber and wagon building business until 1862 when he sold out. In 1859, Van Wagenen had built what later was known as the "Copeland House," a boarding house at the southwest corner of 16th Avenue and 9th Street (Evening Times site). After the war, he became a successful coal dealer in Chicago.

Dr. Abbott, who seems never to have practiced medicine in Monroe, came here in 1858 to enter the mercantile business. Born in Webster, Monroe County, N.Y., in 1825, he was graduated from medical college in 1848 and was a physician for 10 years in Janesville. Nor, did Dr. Abbott resume medicine after his years as a sutler for the 31st. The doctor was a justice of peace for 30 years and also engaged in real estate, insurance, collections and notary activities. He was also on the School Board, serving as clerk many years.

It will surprise some to learn that, despite previous enthusiastic local demonstrations of loyalty to the Union and the hearty response to recruiting calls, an undercurrent of sympathy for the Southern cause was evident in

Monroe and Green County in 1862.

This minor outbreak of "copperhead" leanings culminated in July, 1862, in public meetings to counter such anti-Union sentiment. One resident, who reportedly had served six months with a Confederate army unit and also donated funds to the South to purchase rifles, was "advised" to leave Green County. He did.

During one stormy meeting, at which angry citizens assailed various individuals with alleged Southern sympathies, an older resident of Sylvester was "escorted" out of the village and told to stay away.

These tumultuous public rallies in July, 1862, were climaxed by an incident which "backfired" three years later on several of the persons involved. An outspoken visitor from Durand, who had more courage than good sense, aroused a crowd by his comments against the loyalty oath and Union cause. He was ridden out of town on a rail by 12 roistering men. In 1865, his suit for damages was tried in Milwaukee and a jury awarded him $5,000 for his "pain and humiliation." This verdict was doubly bitter for some of the defendants who actually had no part in the rail-riding incident.

In any event, because of fears that foes of "Mr. Lincoln's War" might get out of hand, a Home Guard unit was formed as an outgrowth of the loyalty rallies. It is worth noting that Francis H. West and James Bintliff, who were to leave for military service in August, 1862, were among the leaders presiding at those partiotic meetings.

Throughout the war, however, Monroe continued to pay generous and enthusiastic tribute to the military units which marched through the village to entrain for service. Bands accompanied all of the departing recruits and were especially tuneful when it came time for farewells to those companies headed by Monroe officers.

There is no record of any need for calling upon the Home Guard after

those turbulent July days in 1862.

The year 1862 also was a period of mourning in many Monroe and Green County homes as the realities of war began to close in.

After the Battle of Antietam Creek September 17, 1862, only six men in the 3rd Regiment's Co. C, all from Green County, had come through without some wound. Three were killed: George Gay and Isaac Thurlow of Washington Township, and Seymour Sheffield of Monroe. The entire regiment only had 63 men left fit for duty after that bloody clash near Sharpsburg, Md.

Capt. Moses O'Brian, Irish-born Green County district attorney and civil engineer on the railroad project, who left here with Co. C as a lieutenant and later was promoted to command of Co. I, died August 9, 1862, of wounds received in the Battle of Cedar Mountain, Va. Although he had suffered a serious leg wound early in the battle, Capt. O'Brian insisted on leading his troops in a charge on Confederate positions. He was hit again and died a few hours later.

Lt. Thomas Bintliff, younger brother of Capt. James Bintliff, was killed December 7, 1862, while leading Co. I, 20th Wisconsin, in a charge on entrenched Rebel forces at Prairie Grove, Ark. Lt. Bintliff, 35, had been pastor of the Beetown, Grant County, Methodist Church. He was turned down for chaplain duty and then recruited Beetown area men into what became Co. I.

Capt. Oscar F. Pinney, commander of the Fifth Battery, recruited locally, received severe wounds in the Battle of Stone River, Tenn., in December, 1862. He died February 17, 1863, and his body was brought here for burial in Greenwood. Capt. Pinney's funeral February 20 was the first service held in the still uncompleted First Universalist Church.

The same week of Capt. Pinney's death, the village was shocked to learn that Rev. C.E. Weirich, 52, former Methodist pastor here, had died of pneumonia while serving as 23rd Wisconsin regimental chaplain near Vicksburg, Miss.

Rev. Weirich had delivered the sermon at public services May 1, 1862, in the Methodist Church as Monroe honored the memory of Gov. Louis P. Harvey, who drowned while visiting Wisconsin troops in Tennessee after the Battle of Shiloh.

Not all of the war worries concerned death or injury. Capt. James Bintliff's Co. G and other 22nd Wisconsin troops were overrun by a large Rebel force and captured March 25, 1863, at Brentwood, Tenn. Soldiers of the line were soon exchanged but officers, including Capt. Bintliff, were taken to Libby Prison, Richmond, Va. Several weeks later, an exchange was arranged and the 22nd's officers were released in May at Annapolis, Md. Bintliff returned to Wisconsin and was appointed draft commissioner with headquarters at Prairie du Chien.

In March, 1864, Bintliff was named colonel in command of the new 38th Wisconsin Regiment. The undermanned 38th went on to perform distinguished service in the siege and capture of Petersburg, Va., in the final days of the war. In December, 1864, Bintliff had taken command of the First Brigade when Brig. Gen. Hartrauft was advanced to First Division commander.

Col. Bintliff received his brevet rank as brigadier general after his brigade pierced the Petersburg defenses in March, 1865.

One of the officers in Bintliff's command, Capt. B. M. Frees of Co. H, provided Monroe with the Civil War monument which has stood in the northwest corner of Courthouse Park since 1913. Frees, whose family came to Monroe in 1856, had moved to Whitewater in 1863 and enlisted in the 38th Regiment on his 18th birthday August 3, 1864. The next month, he was promoted to lieutenant and later to command of Co. H.

Frees, who became wealthy after the war as a partner in a Chicago lumber firm and organizer of a chain of yards in Missouri, Minnesota and Nebraska, made the monument gift offer to O.F. Pinney GAR Post in 1912.

The monument, erected by the Luchsinger Works at a cost of $9,800, is topped by a 10-foot statue of a Union soldier. The face is modeled from a photograph of William R. Hawkins, corporal from Clarno in Frees's company, who was killed in the 38th's attack on Fort Mahone at Petersburg.

A Green County soldier, who had lived in Monroe, Cornelius V. Bridge, also rose from the ranks after enlisting as a sergeant in the 31st Wisconsin Regiment in August, 1862. He was promoted to lieutenant and then captain in Battery D, 1st Heavy Artillery, before being assigned to New Orleans as assistant provost marshal, one of the most troublesome jobs in occupation of the South. He was given brevet rank as colonel during his New Orleans duty.

Col. Bridge, who taught in Alton, Ill., after the War, died December 24, 1880, while on his first return visit to New Orleans.

In addition to those previously named, many other Monroe and Green County men serving with Wisconsin regiments performed with courage and distinction on all battlefronts.

For example, the 14th Wisconsin Regiment, credited with turning the tide at Shiloh, had Green County men serving in heroic Co. K. Wisconsin's 2nd Regiment troops, given a tragic, fiery baptism at the First Battle of Bull Run, later had been integrated into what became the famed "Iron Brigade." These men included hardy Sweitzers from New Glarus, first recruited into Co. K and joined later by Swiss comrades in what was known throughout the war as the "German" regiment.

The 31st Wisconsin, delayed in Prairie du Chien and Racine many months after mobilizing in August, 1862, appeared doomed to serve an inactive role of guarding railroads and bridges in Tennessee. However, after Col. Francis H. West took command October 31, 1863, the 31st began to receive more important assignments.

Col. West's regiment went on to participate with Gen. Sherman's army in

the Battle of Peach Tree Creek near Atlanta, Ga., July 21, 1864, and took part in the siege and capture of that industrial and railroad bastion of the South.

Next, the 31st was assigned to an active fighting role in Sherman's March to the Sea. Col. West added the 61st Ohio to his command outside Savannah and led the brigade in decisive action which resulted in capture of that port city.

From Savannah, Col. West's brigade helped spearhead the day-by-day fighting as Sherman's forces pursued the retreating Confederates under Gen. Joseph Johnston's command northward through the Carolinas. Col. West won his brevet brigadier general rank when his brigade turned back five furious assaults by Rebel forces in the Battle of Bentonville March 19, 1865. This last major Civil War battle hastened Johnston's surrender at Bennett's House, N.C., April 18, 1865.

In one of the war's highlights for Monroe, men of Co. C, 3rd Regiment, came home for Christmas furlough in December, 1863. This unit, which had suffered so heavily in several battles, seemed to have acquired a special esprit de corps. It received a rousing, heartfelt homecoming welcome.

Not all of those who marched away with Co. C in 1861 came home for that Christmas. Capt. O'Brian and Pvt. William H. Mason of Monroe had died in the Battle of Cedar Mountain. Joseph Bemis of Cadiz died in Richmond, Va., in December, 1861, presumably as a prisoner. Others had been discharged earlier due to wounds or had died in other actions.

Corp. William Kimberly of Brodhead and Pvt. George W. Williamson of Mt. Pleasant Township had been killed in the terrible carnage of Chancellorsville May 3, 1863.

Despite this record, the rugged survivors of Co. C, who had returned for that 1863 Christmas and end-of-enlistment leave, re-enlisted almost 100 per

cent, going back to perform heroically in the terrible battles ahead before final victory in 1865.

Capt. Martin Flood, who commanded Co. C when it left Monroe, had been promoted to major and then lieutenant colonel after Chancellorsville in May, 1863. He was transferred to the Veterans Reserve Corps when the men came home in December.

Records are unclear but it appears that Flood was shifted from the 3rd Regiment to other active commands, becoming a colonel and then brevet brigadier general in March, 1865. Gen. Flood remained in Army service after the war, apparently for three more years. After his release from the Army, he returned to Green County only briefly before moving from Wisconsin.

Dr. Fred W. Byers of Monroe also received eventual one-star rank, some years after his Civil War service. Born in 1837 in Pennsylvania, Byers taught in Green County schools in 1857-58. He received his medical degree in 1863 during hospital service at Camp Douglas (Chicago).

The new Dr. Byers then joined the 96th Illinois at Franklin, Tenn., and participated in Gen. William Rosecrans's campaign until the army reached Chattanooga. He later served in the campaign battles leading to capture of Atlanta and became chief surgeon of the 4th Army Corps Artillery Brigade. He was mustered out in July, 1865, at Chicago, never having enjoyed a furlough in his entire service.

Dr. Byers began medical practice at Lena, Ill., after his marriage in 1865 to Olive DeHaven of Clarno and Monroe. They moved to Monroe in 1872 and 10 years later, when the Wisconsin National Guard was formed, Dr. Byers received a captain's commission from Gov. Benjamin Rusk. He retired as Brigadier General Byers in 1895.

A month after the Co. C Christmas celebrations here, men of the gallant Fifth Battery, the late Capt. Pinney's old command, returned as well-seasoned

veterans to their Monroe and Green County homes in January, 1864. They received an enthusiastic greeting from townspeople as their train pulled into the Depot here. All of the battery's men had re-enlisted before coming home and new recruits were welcomed during their stay.

And, so it went throughout the war. Monroe citizens on the home front also found ways to serve, especially through women's groups which organized relief for soldier's families and aided the returned disabled veterans. Wisconsin's governors had called upon citizens of every community for special civilian assignments, as did President Lincoln, and the Monroe responses were exemplary.

One of the more dramatic and direct acts of civilian war service was performed by Janet Jennings of Monroe. She went to Washington late in May, 1863, to nurse her brother, Guilford Dudley Jennings, who had been wounded at Chancellorsville while serving in Co. C, 3rd Regiment.

Miss Jennings, too young at 24 to qualify as an Army nurse, performed volunteer duties at the tent hospitals near the White House, caring for her brother and many other wounded men. It was during this time that she saw--and may have met--President Lincoln during his nightly visits to the tent hospital area. Janet Jennings also became acquainted at this time with Clara Barton, who later founded the American Red Cross, and in 1898 joined Miss Barton's hospital unit sent to Cuba in the Spanish-American War. Later, Miss Jennings wrote two books, "Lincoln, the Great Emancipator" and "The Blue and the Gray" from her Civil War experiences.

Joseph T. Dodge also was pressed into war service, handling many engineering assignments to keep the Union Army's supply trains rolling and temporary bridges in repair. His first war duty, in 1861, had been a brief tour at Madison as muster clerk and disbursing officer.

After the war, Engineer Dodge received his most challenging assignment

from the War Department. He was commissioned in 1867 to survey all of the battlefields and encampments in the Atlanta, Ga., campaign for the Government's official record of that momentous series of actions which broke the back of the South's industrial and supply operations.

Even though the Civil War was very much in everyone's mind, there were interludes during 1864 which indicated Monroe had other things to think about at home.

In January of that year, the new Center School for District No. 6 was completed at the later Lincoln School site. The building had rooms for 150 grade school pupils and high school facilities on the upper floor, including classrooms, a laboratory and study hall.

As recorded previously, the First National Bank, founded by Judge Bingham, received its charter February 3, 1864. President Lincoln and Congress had approved the National Banking Act late in 1863 as a means of insuring a solid financial structure for financing the rest of the war.

Bingham had been joined by Benjamin Chenoweth, George W. Hoffman, Joseph Perrine and Mathias Marty in organizing this institution which came to play such an important role in the village's postwar economic progress.

Later in 1864, the Usher & Thrall Bank, recognizing the formidable competition from the First National and the Bank of Monroe, quietly gave up, ceasing operations.

The liveliest bank story of 1864, however, was something different, involving a warlike powder explosion in the dead of night. Here's the way the "Sentinel" edition of October 5, 1864, headlined the story:

"BANK ROBBERY! Twenty-five Thousand Dollars Stolen!"

At 1 a.m. that same day of publication, robbers had broken into the Bank of Monroe on the Square's north side. The "burglar-proof" lock on the safe's outer door was out of order and the robbers simply cut off the temporary

padlock. They then stuffed a powder charge into the inner door's keyhole.

The resulting blast blew the 150-pound door across the banking room and through the opposite wall. Residents in the nearby Mosher Hotel were awakened but failed to investigate the cause due to a noisy rainstorm going on at the time.

The culprits made their getaway with $25,000 in cash but dropped another $5,000 package of currency. They also took along a file of notes and county cash orders which they tossed away in the Courthouse yard. Overlooked, because the blast jammed an inner safe compartment door, was a package of $80,000 in negotiable U.S. bonds.

Posses combed a wide area after the robbery was discovered but no trace of the men or the money ever was found. Arabut Ludlow and Asa Richardson, owners of the bank, announced it was staying open for business and pledged their private funds to replace lost capital. They also announced that a new, stronger safe had been ordered.

In December 14, 1864, edition, the "Sentinel" sadly reported the death of its former editor-publisher, George W. Tenney, in McGregor, Iowa, the week before. Tenney had published a weekly in McGregor for three years (he had given up his Milwaukee "Free Democrat" interest a few months after quitting Monroe). Death resulted from complications of injuries Tenney suffered while fighting a fire in his plant in September, 1863. The immediate cause of death was tuberculosis. His body was brought here for burial.

After the fall of Atlanta, Sherman's March to the Sea and other major Union victories by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, it was obvious before 1865 started that an end of the Rebellion was in sight. This was welcome news to a war-weary village that wanted its men to come home soon so normal activities could be resumed and delayed enterprises launched.

As it turned out, final victory was delayed by the 1864-65 winter

weather and Gen. Robert E. Lee's stubborn but hopeless fight to save Richmond.

When news of Lee's surrender at Appomattox finally came April 9, 1865, it was brought to Monroe by four men who pumped a railroad handcar 35 miles from Janesville. After recovering from their feat of endurance, the hardy quartet joined in the wild rejoicing and celebration.

(The handcar method for bringing the news probably was due to lack of a spare locomotive for the job. For those who wonder why it wasn't telegraphed, it can be explained that Monroe was not linked by telegraph with Janesville and Milwaukee until 1870.)

It appears that something faster than a handcar was used on April 15th in relaying the sad news of President Lincoln's death from John Wilkes Booth's bullet. As it did in every community in the North that morning, the tragic word was received with a feeling of personal loss by Monroe's citizens.

When the final curtain was drawn on the Civil War, Monroe turned quickly to its problems of growth and other needs delayed by the Rebellion's impact on its resources and energies. The village's soldiers were coming home in increasing number with the passing weeks of spring and early summer. Jobs were waiting for many of them immediately as the town's business leaders took steps to start on deferred projects.

The most progressive single action undertaken in 1865 involved organization of the Monroe Manufacturing Co. by H.W. Whitney, J.B. Treat, Thomas Patterson, L.T. Pullin and Edward Billings. Whitney was named president and Patterson, general plant superintendent. Foundry and machine shops were erected east of Spring Square, on the northwest corner of 12th Street and 17th Avenue, and the firm launched into manufacture of wagons and farm implements.

This new enterprise was highly successful from the start. A building for general machinery repairs was added and the firm flourished until June,

1872, when fire destroyed all the structures. A new company was formed immediately with Whitney again at the helm and Treat as treasurer. Larger buildings replaced the ruins (they exist today as the Lanz sheet metal shops) and the firm expanded its farm machinery and wagon lines with Thomas Weirich as superintendent.

Another 1865 landmark was the "new" Monroe House built in the 900-block of 16th Avenue (its present site) by Casper Oswald. He sold later to Peter Zweifel and late in the 19th Century the original portion was shifted to the rear and the present brick front section constructed. In 1866, Rudolph Greenwald built the Green County House, a two-story structure which is still operating at 15th Avenue and 13th Street.

Also in 1866, the Monroe Planing Mill operated by Norman Churchill since 1860, became a partnership with George Churchill buying a quarter interest and Joseph T. Dodge, a half interest. Joseph Dodge's half brother, A. C. Dodge, had joined the Planing Mill enterprise in 1861 but left in 1865 to start his own lumber business. Joseph Dodge also had operated a sawmill adjoining the planing mill enterprise but later leased it to the Planing Mill partners when he left for his 1867-68 War Department assignment at Atlanta and his later western railroad and bridge building work.

The years of 1868 and 1869 also were of high but largely unrecognized significance for Monroe and Green County with the birth of the cheese factory industry in New Glarus and Washington Townships. This little noticed development in the late 1860s was destined to establish Monroe as Wisconsin's foreign-type cheese assembling and shipping center within a few years. That fortuitous happening is related in the following chapter.

So, the eventful, and many times tragic, second generation decade came to a close with Monroe well on its way to the solid economic situation and cultural maturity which continues to prevail today.

Chapter Ten

"SWISS CHEESE CAPITAL OF THE U.S.A."

Twenty-one years ago, while writing an advance press release for 1955's Green County Cheese Day, the author endeavored to explain the cheese industry's importance to Monroe and Green County with these introductory lines:

"Green County's Gold--Swiss cheese--represents a fascinating agricultural development which virtually achieved the alchemic cycle sought in medieval times for transmuting base metals into gold.

"Green County's first settlers were drawn to the area not for the prospect of golden grain but to exploit lead deposits which could be converted into coin of the realm.

"....But, as the years went by, the lead deposits proved less profitable than those in neighboring Lafayette County."

Thus, it was left to the following wave of Yankees and Germans who settled the lands to take the next step by farming intensively. Wheat was the principal crop, the golden grain most easily transformed into cash.

Now, two decades later, the author still can think of no better words for expressing how much the switch to dairy farming and cheese producing had meant to Green County, and especially to Monroe, beginning in the 1870s.

Going back to the 1860s, it should be pointed out that since farmers throughout the newly-settled regions of the Northwest Territory concentrated on wheat growing, there inevitably came a time when marketing problems developed, particularly in depressed years.

Wheat became a drug on markets, except during the artificial demands of

the Crimean and Civil War years. The cinch bug also moved in during the late 1860s and proved disastrous to farmers whose sole cash crop was wheat.

Hardest hit by the bad times were farmers in New Glarus and Washington Townships. These colonists from Canton Glarus and the others arriving yearly from different sections of Switzerland were, for the most part, townspeople. They came with little knowledge of agriculture and meager resources. Hence, their circumstances obliged them to turn immediately after arrival to the easiest crop to plant, grow and harvest.

Year after year, the Swiss newcomers planted wheat in the same fields. Knowing little about good soil practices, they soon had depleted fertility of their lands which also began to suffer from severe erosion.

It became apparent in the 1860s to Swiss leaders, as well as to farmers in other Green County areas, that some alternative to wheat planting must be undertaken very soon.

The intrepid Swiss refused to be licked. They "imported" dairy cattle from their former countrymen in Ohio's Sugarcreek district to supplement the few cows purchased in 1846 and parceled out to families from funds remaining in their Emigration Society treasury. Gradually, they began to turn to dairy farming, selling their cream in the Madison and Monroe markets.

Skim milk from this practice was turned into cheese of a special hard but nutritious variety, made in shallow pans in the kitchens. The Swiss farm housewife actually was the first cheesemaker in our area. But, there was a limit to how much skim milk and hard cheese a family could eat.

The first Adam Blumer, who came to Washington Township in 1849, however, had learned cheesemaking in Switzerland and made some cheese, probably Swiss or limburger, in the years before he died in 1855. His son, Adam, started to make limburger in 1868.

Rudolph Benkert, who arrived in Monroe in 1867, also began his limburger

cheesemaking experiments on Martin ZumBrunnen's farm in Washington Township that same year. Benkert is recognized today as Green County's first "official" cheesemaker.

The industry's start was slow and marketing uncertain. It finally took another Swiss, Nicholas Gerber, native of Canton Bern, to lead the way to a workable cheese factory economy.

Gerber had come to Oneida County, New York, in 1857 and started that state's first limburger factory in the Mohawk Valley town of Boonville. By 1868, after the death of his first wife, Catherine Galli, Gerber had moved with his children to Wheeling, Ill., near Chicago, where he was operating a cheese factory with some difficulty due to inadequate milk supplies.

When he heard that his former counrtymen in Green County were having good success with breeding cows with high milk productivity, Gerber toured Washington and New Glarus Townships. He found the limestone based soil ideal for pastures and for producing the kind of milk needed in making good, rich cheese.

Arranging with farmers to buy their milk, Gerber set up the first Green County limburger factory in 1868 on the Albert Babler farm, four miles southwest of New Glarus. John Pfund, Gerber's protege, was installed as maker. This factory later was moved to a site near the Babler-Hefty schoolhouse.

After closing his Wheeling cheese operation, Gerber returned in 1869 to start the county's first Swiss cheese factory on the Dietrich Freitag farm, a mile and a half north of Monticello on Highway 69, with five farmers delivering milk to the plant. Sam Rubi was the maker.

Another limburger factory was launched by Gerber in 1870 on the Casper Becker farm, three miles west of Monticello. It became known as the Becker-Wittenwyler factory and Christ Wittwer was the maker. Finally, in 1877 Gerber and his second wife, the former Catherine Pfund of Jefferson Township, moved

into the Duerst-Ott farm factory in New Glarus Township.

By this time, Gerber was operating six factories and buying cheese from others. He was patiently proving to reluctant farmers that quality cheese from farmer factories could find a growing market in the east. When cash returns from their milk began to grow, the Swiss and other farmfolk of the county were "converted."

It was Gerber's misfortune that he only prospered for a short time from the system he built up for others. When excessive supplies of cheese started to pile up in the Chicago and eastern markets, the Green County Cheese Mfg. Co., which Gerber helped organize, failed in 1882. He came to Monroe in semi-retirement that year, dealing in imported cheese factory supplies and equipment.

In 1891, Gerber tried again, moving to Luverne, Iowa, to start another cheese pioneering project. His health failed, however, and he went to Omaha to join his son in a retail cheese business. In April, 1903, he returned to Monroe where he died two weeks later on May 9 at the age of 68.

If any one individual deserved to be remembered as "Mr. Green County Cheeseman," it was Nic Gerber. His work, unhappily, had been overshadowed by the success of others who followed him, and his passing was not given the attention it merited.

Monroe, most certainly, also owes Gerber a special chapter in its official history. Had it not been for his vision and his unrelenting efforts to get the cheese factory system organized, this town might have remained a small, pleasant village of shopkeepers, blacksmiths and others serving the needs of a farming community whose economic decline had begun with the cinch bug invasions which wrecked the wheat business.

As it turned out, the trail Gerber blazed for others who followed led to Monroe's emergence as the assembling and marketing center--because of the

railroad--for the tons of cheese which started to roll from Green County factories, returning in the form of more and more dollars for everybody. Year by year, scores of new jobs were developed here as direct result of the growing industry.

Twenty-five years after Nic Gerber's death, the late Emery A. Odell, founder of "The Monroe Evening Times," recognized that Green County's cheese industry story never had been covered adequately. Although many of the industry's pioneers had died, there were still some who could help with compiling a permanent record for future generations.

Odell interviewed those surviving leaders, visited all of the early historical factory sites and obtained valuable firsthand data from J.C. Steinman of Monticello. Steinman's recollections of Gerber's pioneering work, his own years as a cheesemaker and a diary he had kept of those years furnished Odell with accurate material.

A series of articles, written by Odell for his "Monroe Evening Times" in February, 1928, provided the first truly historical cheese record. Later, in 1936, Odell expanded on his history with corrected and updated information for his book, "Swiss Cheese Industry" (he had an aversion for the definite article). He also donated substantial stone and bronze historic markers for the sites of Green County's first limburger and Swiss cheese factories.

The author of this narrative came to the "Monroe Evening Times" in 1947. A year later, he was assisted by Odell in a further updating of the cheese industry record, published in the 1948 50th anniversary edition of the newspaper. In 1949, the writer also prepared, from a series of articles in the "Monroe Evening Times," a booklet entitled "Eighty Years of Swiss Cheese in Green County 1869-1949."

The majority of early Gerber-inspired factories made limburger, probably because that type seemed to have a ready market. There also was the

fact that 10 pounds or more of limburger could be produced from every 100 pounds of milk, a lucrative return.

Monroe's fortunate role as a cheese shipping center was brought into sharp focus one day on 1873 after some townspeople with sensitive noses had complained about the wagonloads of aromatic limburger being hauled through town to the railroad.

Nic Gerber and Jacob Karlen, a fellow Berner, consulted with Arabut Ludlow about the complaints. Ludlow was well aware of the growing flood of healthy bank drafts from eastern buyers being handled at his First National Bank and had little sympathy for the indignant sniffers. So, the three arranged for all farmers to bring their wagonloads on a certain day, gathering first at Ludlow's farm and then parading into town to line up around the Courthouse park.

When all had arrived, after attracting a host of curious spectators, Ludlow made this terse speech:

"Ladies and Gentlemen: This smelling cheese came into Green County to stay and will make our county famous."

There was no more talk about "offensive" aroma and Monroe's first "cheese day" was an eminent success. (Sixty years or so later, another such olfactory protest by mail authorities in Iowa ended in another limburger "war" victory, to be related later.)

However, soon afterward, production of the less fragrant Swiss cheese began to overtake limburger output. Wagons carrying this round or "wheel" product also began to rumble into town, headed for shipment or storage curing places. Citizens became even more understanding of a new prosperity which could exceed their fondest dreams for Monroe's future.

Gerber had accurately detected signs of a ready market for the less perishable Swiss (Emmentaler) type of semi-hard cheese, the kind we know best

today. Farmers in Washington and New Glarus Townships who had been making such Swiss for their own use many years, however, at first had doubts that the special process and curing required could be carried out with the large volumes of milk delivered to factories. Besides, it took 100 pounds of milk to make seven pounds of Swiss, as compared with ten pounds of limburger for the same amount.

Again, Gerber's patient ways eventually convinced them Swiss could be made in factories and command a price of two or three cents more per pound than limburger. By 1876, one-fourth the total output of Green County plants consisted of "drum" or "wheel" Swiss. Loaf Swiss was made from smaller amounts of curd left over from available milk each day.

An able ally of Gerber's efforts to boost Swiss production was John Marty of Mt. Pleasant Township. Marty started experimenting with Swiss style, semi-hard cheese in 1868 and solved the problem of cool curing by moving his storage racks to the cellar of his home. Later, he built a two-story stone "cheese house' and started to produce and market his Swiss cheese in Madison.

By the mid-1890s, Swiss production had outstripped limburger and brick. Green County's factories eventually were producing one-third of the nation's Swiss cheese. Sales of cream, separated from milk to "standardize" it, more than made up for the lower yield of Swiss per hundredweight of milk.

Incidentally, whey resulting from Swiss, brick and limburger production could be picked up by farmers on their daily milk deliveries and fed to hogs. This provided a profitable byproduct of the cheese industry. Whey also was used in making a special type of butter.

Three fellow Berners had heeded Nic Gerber's advice and went on to build up Monroe's cheese curing and wholesaling industry. They were Jacob Karlen, John Boss and Jacob Regez. This trio was joined later by Gottlieb Beller and Jacob Gempeler, major pioneer dealers.

Karlen also had come to this area by way of Boonville, N.Y., opening his first factory in Jefferson Township in 1872. Later, he made cheese in Jordan and in the Wild and Becker-Wittenwyler factories. Karlen moved into Monroe in 1878 when he became a wholesale dealer, building the town's first underground curing cellar on 15th Avenue at the Milwaukee Road tracks. It still exists as a Monroe landmark.

Easily one of the industry's leading figures, Karlen at one time operated 30 fatcories with Monroe as his assembling headquarters. His sons followed him in the buisness and he retired in 1909.

Boss, an early cheesemaker, operated two factories in Watertown before coming to Green County in 1874. Popular with the farmers and a shrewd buyer, Boss was highly successful. He died here in May, 1913.

Regez, who spent his childhood in a French-speaking canton of Switzerland, one year in Paris and three more in Normandy, came to this country to settle in Ohio. He soon returned to France, however, to take charge of his father's cheese factory but left again with his brother, Rudi, when the Franco-Prussian War broke out.

First settling in Iowa City, Iowa, in 1872, Regez moved to New Glarus where he made cheese in 1874. The next year, he came to Monroe to begin organizing a group of factories in an ever-expanding area. His widespread activities soon forced him to turn to Dane County for his extra milk. After a long, successful career, Regez died here in 1914.

His brother, Rudi, or "Rudy" as he came to be better known, had been associated with Jacob Regez for years. Another brother, Ernest, set up his own operations in the Blanchardville district. Jacob's son, Herman, and Rudy's son, Rudy Jr., later branched out into the Regez Cheese Co., now operated by Walter Regez.

Gottlieb Beller, an assoicate of Gerber, was the first dealer located

PAST SWISS CHEESE INDUSTRY FIGURES--- These four men, all of them now gone, were among the Swiss community and cheese industry personalities who helped perpetuate Monroe's status as "Swiss Cheese Capital of the U.S.A." Seated (left) Albert Aeberli, whose likeness appearing on Cheese Days promotional materials was known nationwide, and (right) Carl Marty Sr., patriarch of the Swiss community and early cheese industry leader. Standing (left) Raymond R. Kubly, founder of "The Swiss Colony" operation, and (right) Robert F. Marty, second generation cheese business figure who also was active in Cheese Days and other industry promotional work. (Radke Photo)

in Monroe in 1876. He started his career as a limburger maker in Washington Township in 1874. Along with Gerber and others, he also suffered heavy losses in collapse of the Green County Cheese Mfg. Co. but bounced back fast.

It was Beller who started the practice of winter cheese speculating, buying up surplus cheese in October, 1879, at low prices and storing it in the old G. Leuenberger Brewery cellar on 12th Street. He cashed in when demand exceeded supplies in the spring.

Beller retired at 41 and served 10 years on Monroe's City Council before his death in 1902 at the age of 51.

Gempeler, Albert Trachsel, Ferdinand Grunert and Ed C. Wenger were other leaders among the early dealers who helped develop Monroe into the assembling center for most of Wisconsin's foreign type cheese production.

There were, of course, hills and valleys in the burgeoning cheese business. The inescapable supply vs demand rule prevailed in markets and was enforced relentlessly in years of sharp economic downturns. This was reflected in grim losses when buyers could not pay farmers their contracted milk prices because of tight cheese markets.

This situation was at its worst in the 1879 marketing season. Milk prices fell to 60 cents a hundred. Hog prices also slumped to a low of $2.15, if, indeed, any buying was being done.

It was at this time that farmers began organizing to take over the factories to run them under a co-operative system. As patrons of the factories, they shared in the ups and downs of the cheese market but no longer had to deal individually in selling their milk. The milk buyer was replaced by the cheese buyer who had to deal with both the hired maker and the factory's patron-owners.

Gradually, a more orderly system evolved for both the farmer producers and the cheese dealers. Producers, of course, shared in the general marketing

risks but the system has continued, more or less unchanged, up to the present despite some shifting away from the co-op factory operation.

Although the economic ups and downs continued in the 1880s and 1890s, the signs of a stronger agricultural economy resulting from the oceans of Green County milk being converted into freight carloads of cheese were obvious to everyone.

The number of Green County cheese factories grew to an estimated peak of 225 or more crossroads plants and production figures soared. With each setback, the recovery found things rebounding ever higher. Green County's foreign type cheese producing industry had come of age and was a prominent factor in Chicago and eastern markets.

The rising flood of milk found a new outlet in 1889 when the Wisconsin Milk Condensing Co. was organized in Monroe with Henry Hoehn as president and J.B. Treat, vice president. Other prominent Monroe figures, including Jacob Karlen Sr., Jacob Regez and Arabut Ludlow, were major stockholders.

A two-story brick plant was built on the town's north side (the old south section of the former Borden building) and canned unsweetened condensed milk was produced for about ten years. The firm met with indifferent success, however, due to the intensively competitive market conditions.

In 1899, the Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co., a Switzerland-based firm operating at Dixon, Ill., acquired the condensery. It operated the plant until October 31, 1901, when it shut down and moved back to Dixon. Eventually, the Anglo-Swiss company sold all of its American operations.

The economic downturn after the Spanish-American War in 1898 also was causing difficult financial problems for other local enterprises and for Green County farmers.

Troubles had started here in the wake of an attempt in the fall of 1898 by Charles Baltz of Chicago to corner the cheese market. Baltz used the

credit of the Chicago Cheese Co. and Grunert & Co. of Monroe to support his borrowings. He paid 14 to 15 cents a pound for Swiss and 12 to 13 cents for limburger, piling up holdings of 600,000 pounds of Swiss (20 carloads), 200,000 pounds of limburger and 500,000 pounds of American by December.

Baltz was trying to control 90 per cent of the Chicago market and he almost made it--until a deluge of shipments from eastern dealers broke the corner. Swiss dropped to 8 cents, limburger to 6 and American prices, for export, also plunged at Chicago.

The Chicago Cheese Co. and Grunert & Co. never recovered. Ferdinand Grunert fought bankruptcy in November, 1901, but was put into receivership. He sought to come back by forming F. Grunert Cheese Co. of Chicago but the attempt was doomed.

Meanwhile, after the Anglo-Swiss condensery pulled out of Monroe in 1901, Grunert's Blue Label Cheese plant (a separate entity) and Gasser Creamery both bid for the milk from scores of farmers left "homeless" by the move. This action only compounded their financial troubles.

Grunert's Blue Label firm had difficulty in paying farmers in 1902 and his partner, Charles H. J. Baumert of New York, vanished from the scene. Fred J. Karlen, Jacob Sr.'s son, took over Blue Label and in 1904 moved the plant to Winslow.

In 1929, Karlen sold the Blue Label operation to Kraft, buying back the factory in 1930 and converting it to Swiss cheese production.

Gasser Creamery also had trouble with its milk contracts and sold out in 1902 to Fred Tschudy of Jefferson Township. Tschudy's son, J. Jacob, assumed charge of operations and acquired valuable experience which helped him in his career a few years later in managing large dairy farming enterprises in Mexico and Texas.

Borden purchased the Anglo-Swiss plants in Monroe and Dixon in 1903 and

reopened the condensery here. The arrival of Borden had a saluatory influence in persuading farmers to cease their customary winter hiatus of milking as they let their cows dry up.

New buildings were added as Borden succeeded in promoting more output by farmer suppliers, most of whom delivered their milk in daily wagonloads. The firm also insisted on increasingly higher quality milk standards.

Cheese, however, continued to be the attractive outlet for farmer milk. Successful marketing of factory production by Monroe cheese wholesalers stimulated increasing demand for Swiss and other types of Green County cheese.

Rising cheese prices brought greater returns for farmers and the Borden Condensery here found its milk supplies declining steadily. In 1927, Borden finally gave up, closing down the large plant.

One of the factors in this cutoff of milk for the condensery probably was the organization in 1911 of the Badger Cheese Co. in Monroe, a combination of seven wholesaling firms and 15 individual dealers. It was so successful in the onset that outside firms, such as Kraft of Chicago and Phenix of New York, gradually began to acquire stock.

Phenix had come here in 1926, moving into the Carl Marty & Co. plant space formerly occupied by Shefford which had tried unsuccessfully to obtain milk supplies. A year later, Phenix bought the former Borden Condensery plant, adding machinery for producing Swiss cheese.

Kraft and Phenix merged interests in January, 1928, and the Borden plant again was up for sale. The Kraft-Phenix combine also was revealed as full owner of Badger Cheese Co., whose name was changed to Badger-Brodhead Cheese Co. after acquisition of Brodhead Cheese and Cold Storage Co. The Charles Zuercher Co. of Brodhead next was purchased in 1929 and the "outsiders" were firmly in the picture here.

Badger-Brodhead became a division of Kraft Foods of Wisconsin, operating

in the building on 12th Street and also in facilities on Cheese Row along the Milwaukee Road tracks.

Ralph H. Wenger, son of Ed C. Wenger, pioneer dealer who died in 1906, became manager for Badger-Brodhead. His brother, William E., was production supervisor and succeeded Ralph as Kraft manager when the latter left to operate his own independent cheese business. A sister, Maud, also was associated in the Kraft office here many years, and another, Nell, married George W. Stuart, who operated his own cheese business.

Joseph Acherman, who quit the Badger lineup in 1919, joined up with Fred Emmenegger in 1925 to make loaf cheese, pasteurized Swiss, brick and American at the Illinois Central storage building. Charles A. Eckburg was in charge. However, Kraft patent rights caused problems and the operation was halted.

When machinery from the Acherman-Emmenegger enterprise was moved to the Borden Lakeshire plant in Plymouth, Eckburg went along to become production chief for Borden's Wisconsin cheese operations. He eventually became president of Borden Cheese Co. of Wisconsin. Later, Eckburg was advanced to the presidency of the Borden Cheese Co. division in New York, and also vice president of the parent Borden Co. He retired in 1959. At one time, Eckburg made his residence in Monroe at 2229 15th Street, commuting from his New York office to this city each weekend. He died in 1967 at Rochester, Minn., while residing in Sheboygan.

Meanwhile, the Acherman-Emmenegger firm had continued to operate its storage and wholesaling business in the Industrial Co-operative Union building at 14th Avenue and 18th Street. This structure was built in 1917 as a modern storage facility for a stockholding combine of producers of cheese and other farmer produce. The project never flourished and Acherman-Emmenegger leased its main floors.

After Emmenegger's death in 1926, Acherman continued until 1928 when he

turned over his Union Co-op building space to the National Cheese Producers Federation, of which he became manager. That co-operative idea also languished and in 1932 Acherman joined in partnership with Adolph Abplanalp. Their firm occupied two floors of the Union building, while Armour Creameries and E. A. Janke Co. leased the remainder. The former firm now occupies the structure for its expanded needs.

Armour operations were managed for 16 years by Otto A. Zwygart, former cheesemaker in the Brodhead area, who came to Monroe in 1922. Zwygart died in July, 1944. His son, Doran, became Armour manager on his return from World War II service and continues in that position with increased responsibilities.

Beginning in 1915, the Carl Marty name loomed with increasing prominence in Monroe cheese activities. Carl Marty Sr., native of Canton Thurgau, Switzerland, came to Green County in 1887 to assist his father in a cheese factory. He soon returned to the Old Country, studying art and trying a brief career in banking at Bucharest before coming back in 1895. Marty was employed in 1901 as bookkeeper by Charles Zuercher in Brodhead and left for Chicago in 1907 to join the Glauser-Ladrick cheese firm.

Marty became a partner in Glauser-Ladrick in 1908 and took over the business in 1915 after the other two partners had died. Jacob Gempeler Jr. had joined Marty's firm at Chicago in 1914 and returned here in 1915 to manage the new Monroe branch, called Marty-Gempeler Co. A new office and storage building, connected by a tunnel with Jacob Karlen's pioneer underground cellar across the street, was built on 15th Avenue by the new enterprise.

Gempeler left the firm after Carl Marty Sr. retired in 1922 and turned over his enterprise to his son, Carl O. Marty, as president. Another son, Robert F. Marty, later became vice president. Gempeler was named president in 1923 of Triangle Cheese Co., located in a fine, three-level structure

built on Cheese Row by Galle & Co. of Rochester, N.Y. He died in 1934 and the firm is operated today in association with J.S. Hoffman Co. of Chicago, now a division of Anderson, Clayton Foods Co. of Dallas.

Raymond R. Kubly Sr. began to emerge as a leading figure in the cheese business during his years as junior partner with Acherman-Abplanalp. Earlier, in 1926, his senior year at the University of Wisconsin, Kubly had started his own retail mail order cheese business, later calling it "The Swiss Colony," now a nationally prominent enterprise.

After Carl O. Marty had moved into the vacant former Borden plant in 1932 and acquired the Acherman-Abplanalp firm six years later, Kubly went along with the new combined Swiss cheese shipping operation as sales manager. Meanwhile, he continued to develop his own Swiss Colony business, taking over vacant facilities on Cheese Row.

Another operation in the former Borden plant for a brief time was Edward A. Ninneman's Wisconsin Cheese Corp. which processed "descented" limburger in jars. Ninneman, formerly with Brodhead Cheese and Cold Storage, had brought his Parrot Cheese Co. here from Freeport in February, 1928, locating it first on the top floor of the original Carl Marty building on 15th Avenue at 18th Street. Processing patent difficulties caused his firm to cease operation after he had moved it to the old Borden plant.

Ninneman then started a coal and ice company, and also the Monroe Distributing Co. after repeal, but sold both firms and returned to the cheese business for a time with Lakeshire-Marty. He had been retired many years before his death in July, 1972.

Carl O. Marty & Co. in 1939 sold its highly successful cheese and butter-making business, along with the building, to Borden which had decided to return here. Kubly was named Borden manager and became vice president of its Lakeshire-Marty Division. He retired in 1959 from his Borden connections

to devote full time to his rapidly growing Swiss Colony business, then located in a new building on 13th Avenue at 18th Street. His Borden post here was taken over by a brother, Glen H., until the latter's own retirement.

The Marty name remained associated with cheese operations after Carl O. Marty bought the Blumer Brewery property, using its large cold storage space. He later sold part of his interest in the beer operation to a group of stockholders headed by Joseph Huber. Marty then organized the Swiss Cheese Corporation of America with offices, storage and shipping facilities in the brewery main building which the Marty interests continued to own. Later, the firm's Capital Cheese Co., supplying many outlets in the east and midwest with cut select wheel Swiss cheese, moved to that site and was operated several more years until the death of Robert F. Marty in 1970.

Shefford came back to Monroe in 1945, leasing facilities in the George W. Stuart Co., located in the original Marty plant on 15th Avenue. Stuart, formerly with Marty, had bought the building for his own wholesaling business in 1934. He was fatally injured in an accident in 1944 and his son, Kenneth, went into business for himself in the location in 1947.

Pauly & Pauly Cheese Co. of Manitowoc acquired the Shefford operation and lease in 1948, later moving into a new plant on the north side of the Illinois Central tracks at the end of 17th Avenue.

One more co-operative effort by producers of cheese, seeking to bypass the buyer middleman, was undertaken in 1946 when the Cheese Producers Marketing Association erected a large storage and shipping facility on the Illinois Central line east of 17th Avenue. E. A. Janke, organizer and manager, died in 1948 and later the project suffered some unfortunate reversals during the postwar cheese market slump.

The Cheese Producers Co-op was overcoming these problems when it was confronted with a large judgment against the firm as result of a loading dock

accident fatal to an IC railroad worker. The co-op was put into receivership and the building acquired in 1957 by Jeffrey Cheese Co., a subsidiary of N. Dorman & Co. of New York City.

Harvey H. Trumpy, who managed the producers' co-op, now has his own firm, the H.H. Trumpy Cheese Co., with operations here and in Blanchardville. He also produces and markets special cheese under his private "Honey Creek" label.

Edwin Rufenacht, who formerly managed the Pauly & Pauly plant, now a Swift (Esmark) division, also went into business for himself, later acquiring the Frank Kantro cheese operations. His Monroe Cheese Corp. has grown into a major assembling, wholesaling and sales operation, along with procurement of cheese manufactured under special contracts for various large firms.

His Cheese Row operations were expanded by acquisition of the former Kraft Foods building on 12th Street when that firm ceased its Monroe activities in 1975. Monroe Cheese Corp. also owns a large new facility at Monticello for cutting and packaging operations.

Green County Pre-Pak, started by Don and Louis Janke, was purchased several years ago by J. S. Hoffman Co. which moved Pre-Pak into the former Swiss Colony building on Cheese Row. Don Janke, who became president of Triangle Cheese Co. before that firm was phased out by Anderson Clayton Foods, now is in charge of cheese procurement for that parent company, with his office in Monroe. Louis Janke joined the Wisconsin Cheeseman operation at Sun Prairie several years ago.

With the advent of pizza popularity, the late Roy Robichaux, who started his Roy's Sanitary Dairy butter plant here in 1954, took over the Lugano Cheese Co., maker of Italian type cheese. Robichaux, who died in 1973 while on a business trip to Australia, had previously managed Goldenrod's operations and Italian cheese production in Brodhead since 1950. Goldenrod's Italian

cheese output was cured here in a large storage facility east of the Pauly plant.

Edward Bregenzer, veteran figure in local cheese activities, was one of the partners when Lugano Cheese started in Orangeville, selling out later. The Robichaux firm now produces Lugano cheese in the expanded former North Side Swiss factory near the railroad overpass north of town. It also markets a line of pizzas under the Lugano label.

The Swiss Colony started building its present complex of large buildings on both sides of the Highway 69 South bypass several years ago. The firm continues to spread to the east and south to meet its growing space needs for the mail order cheese and bakery confection operations, and its expanding franchise store system warehousing and shipping activities.

Swiss Colony also has built up a major data processing business at its computer center, serving a wide area of Wisconsin and Illinois and also setting up data center operations at times in other communities.

Wholesale cheese activities of Swiss Colony are conducted in the former Lakeshire-Marty plant and represent a sizable business, procuring, storing, cutting and packaging cheese for its own needs and also under contract for Borden and other firms. Forrest Kubly, brother of Raymond Sr., manages this operation.

Raymond R. Kubly Sr. died while on a business visit to Chicago in 1968. His death brought tributes to his leadership and enterprise from throughout Wisconsin and the nation. His Swiss Colony firm, now headed by his son, Raymond Jr., has continued to expand greatly in the eight years since his death and the franchise store operation now ranks near the top of such retail groups in the country.

Across from the former Lakeshire-Marty plant to the north, N. Dorman & Co., active here since 1919, and represented for many years by Casper Portman,

procures, cuts and packages cheese under the various Dorman labels for an ever-growing market. The firm's principal outlets are in New York, headquarters for the company, and in Chicago. J. Walter Donovan, who first came here for Cudahy in 1934-36, has managed Dorman operations here since 1947 in the former Illinois Central buildings.

Although he never headed any operations in Monroe, the best known figure today in local and national cheese circles is William O. Beers, currently board chairman and chief executive officer of the giant Kraftco Corp., formerly National Dairy Products. Beers, born to Swiss parents in Lena, Ill., lived for a time in Monroe and Monticello as a child before the family located in Platteville.

Beers started his cheese career as a helper at 13 in a factory at Mt. Horeb and became the youngest licensed cheesemaker in Wisconsin. He saw that he would need more education to achieve his goals and returned to high school in Platteville, continuing to work in cheese plants in that vicinity. He went on to the University of Wisconsin, working at a variety of jobs to support himself, and was graduated with majors in dairy science and economics.

After several years in Kraft Foods Co.'s research and quality control division, Beers became head of that operation during the time when Kraft developed its rindless Swiss cheese techniques.

In 1953, Beers was named vice president in charge of Kraft overseas operations which became known as the international division. He built up this enterprise to a point where it was a major operation of Kraft and National Dairy Products, the parent corporation. Beers became president of Kraft Foods in 1965 and then president of National Dairy Products in 1968. He was instrumental in changing the combined firm's name to Kraftco Corp. in 1969 and in moving the headquarters from New York to Glenview, Ill. Beers was elected chairman of Kraftco in April, 1972.

Over the years, Beers has maintained close ties with cheese industry friends in the Monroe area and enjoys relaxing weekends at his Adams County farm retreat.

In the little more than a century since Nic Gerber started the cheese factory industry in Green County, this area has continued to produce a sizable portion of the nation's foreign type cheese. Although Green County factory totals were reduced from 152 in 1928 to 125 in 1938, 85 in 1948, and the present 25, production figures remain consistently high.

Part of this decline in factory totals resulted from consolidation of plants, the closing of older, inefficient crossroads operations and the building of many larger, modern factories over the years. Notable among the latter are: the Chalet limburger plant on County Trunk N; the Washington Town Hall factory at the County Trunks N and C intersection; the Jefferson Center operation at Twin Grove; the modernized Klondike factory on Highway 81; the former Monroe Center (now Milwaukee Cheese) plant on 12th Street, and the North Side Swiss (now Lugano). Additional plants in Monroe are the Green County Co-op on 12th Street near the Brewery and the new Chalet Swiss on the Highway 69 North bypass.

Many other facilities have been enlarged and modernized during the last quarter century, which increased production capacity and other improvements resulting from the trend toward tighter and tighter state and federal regulations.

This has been a lengthy account of the colorful cheese industry's history, and an earnest attempt was made to mention as many of the various personalities and enterprises as possible. However, the record is so complex, and the prominent figures so numerous, it's more than likely some have been left out or overlooked. Nevertheless, to a broad, general extent, along with specific attention to some episodes, the author feels the foregoing represents

a fair and accurate running narration, up to the present, of a very complicated and important story.

If some of the words and phrases sound familiar, the reader is assured there was no plagiarism. The writer merely has recounted much of what he had prepared previously while condensing and updating Emery A. Odell's history for the "Monroe Evening Times" edition of October 13, 1948, as well as many additions of subsequent developments.

MRS. AMELIA CHURCHILL
1857-1944

MRS. EMILY S. ABBOTT
1832-1921

MRS. CAROLINE BINGHAM
1824-1917

MRS. CAROLINE LUDLOW
1824-1913

Chapter Eleven

THE WOMEN

Nostalgic indulgence in looking back to other times--50, 75 and 100 years ago--can provide valuable dividends for today's generations if they will try to put the present into sharp, candid perspective with that past.

Lessons of other years and other times must be remembered, of course, but they should be appreciated without yearning to turn the clock back to them. Temptation to refer to the past as the "good old days" can be dulled somewhat when one considers conditions and circumstances prevailing in those times. Researchers of today, and the oldsters who lived through them, can testify that those days were harsh and grim for most early settlers, and even those who came later.

If it had not been for the exceptional qualities shown by our hardy pioneers and their families, particularly the dedicated, hard-working wives and mothers, Monroe never could have been much of a town. Without those attributes displayed by its early men and women, our community today would lack the charm, the favorable and colorful cultural climate and the evident pride in a better life which surprises almost everyone visiting here for the first time.

This chapter will be devoted to looking behind the obvious contributions made by Monroe's leaders who strove to build a town from nothing. It will present glimpses into the lives of women who shared in and supported husbands, fathers and brothers in early generation battles for survival--women who went on after those rough times to develop an almost unique educational and cul-

tural environment.

It was the unrelenting insistence of those women on better schooling more gracious ways of life and constant improvement of village and city facilities which kept Monroe from becoming just another place of limited opportunity, without much reason for pride or fond nostalgic memories. Those women inspired the extra effort which made Monroe considerably more than just "livable."

It would be manifestly impossible, of course, to present in a single chapter the names and accomplishments of all the women who contributed outstandingly during the 19th Century, and after, to the expanding of Monroe's horizons.

The best way to try to explain the great debt due the 19th Century women, and those who continued to enhance the scene after the turn of the century, is to present sketches of their lives and leadership roles which made the Victorian Age in Monroe something for all of us to remember and cherish.

First, however, let us consider some of the hardships faced by those who sought to make living comfortable for their families in the mid-1800s. The handicaps and problems, mostly unknown or unrealized today, were difficult.

Here are a few of those problems for homemakers of yesterday:

No electricity for lighting and to ease the burdens with power for non-existent appliances.

No running water until after 1889, except in those few houses which pumped supplies from wells and cisterns into attic tanks to provide pressure.

No central heating systems until late in the century.

No detergents or other "magic" laundry aids to replace the harsh soaps which only soft cistern water could make work.

No refrigeration until later years when locally "harvested" or manufactured ice became available.

No bath tubs with plumbing prior to late in the 1870s.

No flush toilets until plumbing and water pressure systems appeared. Even after privies or outhouses were moved inside to what were called "water closets," sanitary facilities remained primitive and bothersome.

No kitchen sinks with fancy faucets; vigrous hand-pumping required to bring up water from well or cistern.

Those were only a few of the deficiencies that caused homemaking to be different in the 19th Century. Some might even have been missing today if our enlightened Victorian era womenfolk had not pushed constantly for easier solutions to their worrisome chores.

Largely unremembered today is the fact that the family home also was the "hospital" for the ailing and infirm. The wife and mother had to know something about medicine, or about the herbs that helped past generations overcome illnesses common to early America. She was the "doctor" most of the time but, fortunately, when her skills proved inadequate, physicians of those times made house calls.

Babies, of course, were born at home--occasionally with a doctor in attendance but more often with the aid of older women relatives or neighbors. Infant mortality was high, as was the grim fate of many a pioneer mother. Politicians of the future, who envied a log cabin birthplace, only knew vaguely what they had missed.

Many homes, after the first pioneer generation, also had horses that required care and a cow or two that needed milking. The menfolk, happily, usually took over those chores, as well as the removal of the inevitable by-product. A chickenhouse was not exactly a "must" since farmers brought eggs to the town's few stores but some households had henhouses until village fathers later discouraged the practice.

The home also was the place for funeral services until such obsequies

were shifted to churches or early undertaking parlors. The body of the departed, however, usually remained in the home's parlor until the hour of services in church or elsewhere.

There was one other burden shouldered resignedly during the Civil War period by women in scores of Monroe families. When husbands volunteered or were drafted into service, often for years, the running of the household--and sometimes the store or other enterprise--fell to the wife, mother or daughter.

Government aid allotments for families were not especially generous but homefront groups helped alleviate dire need for many. Nevertheless, the women left behind learned how to handle many of the tasks formerly carried out by husbands or fathers. And, handle them they did, with courage and ingenuity that insured in future years they could become full "partners" in the family responsibilities.

In the tragic, inevitable wartime cases involving death or disability of the family head, widows and wives were obliged to live within meager pensions and whatever other income sources became available.

To their everlasting credit, 19th Century women in Monroe coped with all these situations and hardships. They most certainly voiced complaints with frequency but it is doubtful they would have comprehended today's passion for "liberation" in some areas of the feminine world. It also is unlikely those women, who understood and practiced the social amenities, would have mangled our language with such contrived expressions as "chairperson" or "Ms."--whatever the latter is supposed to mean.

As the years, rolled by, women of early Monroe soon began to find time between their homemaking duties, or away from them, to engage in projects for improved education, church activities and all other facets of cultural endeavor. To them and to others of later days whose talents and vision fur-

nished ever-widening lifetime service to the community, we of today owe much that is not often realized and never quite completely understood.

That record of heroic gifts to the present can best be told, perhaps, through the following biographical accounts of some of those women:

ALMIRA CHURCHILL ROBERTSON

First on the scene to write her name indelibly on the pages of Monroe's history was Almira Humes Churchill Robertson. Born in 1806 at Portsmouth, N.H., Almira Humes' early years were marked by tragedy, when her father died, and then incredible adversity, despite valiant efforts of her stepfather, Silas Gardner, as he took the family west. The trip, by flatboat down the Allegheny River from Olean, N. Y., to Pittsburgh and then on the Ohio River to Shawneetown, Ill., took three and a half years. Gardner died en route at Lawrenceburg, Ind.

Married in 1823 at Ridge Prairie, Ill., to William Boardman Churchill, Almira had five children and a life of straitened circumstances. In 1840, she left her husband (reputedly a poor manager or hard luck provider) and came to Monroe with her children and mother, Hulda Humes Gardner. Her brother, E.T. Humes of Galena, and half brother, E. Temple Gardner, a lead miner and builder in this vicinity, apparently drew her to this area.

Almira Churchill immediately opened a small boardinghouse on 16th Avenue south of the present railroad bridge. As she prospered, Almira took over the Joseph Payne hotel-tavern, just north of the overpass. Meanwhile, her son, Norman, went to work for his half uncle, Gardner, learning the building and millwright trades.

In September, 1843, Almira, having convinced William Churchill there could be no reconciliation, was married to Jesse Robertson, 13 years her junior. One child, Charles, was born of that union. Her son, Norman, opposed the marriage but in later years became fond of Jesse Robertson, working with

him on major building projects. Almira and Robertson were separated in 1878 and he later obtained a divorce.

Throughout her Monroe years, Almira approached each problem with unswerving dedication to goals she set for herself and her family. This characteristic was noted in her eulogy printed in the "Monroe Sentinel" after her death in May, 1893. Written by a granddaughter, Helen Bingham, the eulogy cited the many bitter experiences that caused Almira to "shun the pursuit of happiness and strive continually to carry out the more serious obligations."

Some of this severe mien, Dr. Bingham wrote, could be traced to an ordeal of early childhood when her mother, Huldah, fearing that death was near, gave her daughter to a couple recommended as pious. The little girl, then about 8, had been gone a year when her stepfather traced her down upon hearing that she was being treated cruelly and worked like a slave. He returned her to the family fold but the scars of her experience remained in mind for life. Dire circumstances of her years in Illinois also exacted their toll.

Almira's only sober concession to humor was in naming her pet dog, "Samuel Tilden," for the defeated 1876 Democratic presidential candidate. She was a Republican but enjoyed this little joke. Almira also insisted that "Samuel Tilden" be allowed to accompany her into the Universalist Church for Sunday services.

The story of Almira Humes Churchill Robertson is recounted at length because she was the progenitor of a special era in Monroe's life, involving two families--the Churchills and the Binghams--who had much to do with the town's development in the 1800s.

CAROLINE CHURCHILL BINGHAM

Almira's daughter, Caroline, born in 1824 in Illinois, met John A. Bingham, teacher and young attorney, when he boarded at the family's small hotel. They were married in November, 1843, and Caroline's long life (she died at

92 in March, 1917) was marked by outstanding success as a homemaker and community leader.

Caroline's husband became a successful lawyer, judge and banker. His intellect and talents received wide recognition and he might have become governor, U.S. senator or congressman had it not been for his health, which began to decline in 1864. That was the year he founded the First National Bank. During a visit to his family home in Vermont in 1865, Judge Bingham suffered a stroke July 24 and died at 46.

Caroline, thus, was widowed at 41 with five children but Bingham had left her well provided for. With the advice of the judge's former law partners and friends, she was able to fulfill his determination that all their children should have college educations. She managed very well, indeed, and also was active over the years in work of the Universalist Church and other Monroe affairs, giving generously to schools and colleges.

Above all, Caroline took her problems in stride, even the tragic deaths of her youngest son, Herbert, in 1881 and of her three daughters. When her busy life came to an end, she had outlived all but one of her six children, Homer Bingham of Denver. (Another son, Horace, had died in 1849.)

DR. HELEN BINGHAM

Helen Maria Bingham, eldest child of John Augustine and Caroline Churchill Bingham, born October 10, 1845, possibly was the most gifted woman of her times in Monroe, and in the other communities where her career took her.

Educated in local schools and by her father, Helen Bingham enrolled in 1864, with Louise Rittenhouse and another friend, in the first coed class at the University of Wisconsin. The school had been obliged to undertake this drastic experiment due to inroads on the male student enrollment by the Union Army's need for troops in the great Civil War. These courageous trail-blazers were given quarters in North Hall and virtually segregated into obsecurity

in classrooms and lecture halls.

Helen was called home at the end of the year because of Judge Bingham's ill health. After his death, she transferred to Lombard (now Knox) College in Galesburg, Ill., a Universalist Society school. Completing the two-year course in one year, she then taught at Little Rock, Ark., for a year before returning to Lombard as an instructor. There, she became engaged to Dr. Lorenzo Dow but broke off the romance when he insisted that his mother should live with them after marriage.

The next four years were spent teaching at the high school level in Monroe, with time out for a stint as an editor of the "Janesville Gazette," in which her father's friend, Gen. James Bintliff, had acquired half interest. While teaching in Monroe, Helen Bingham organized the Girls High School Literary Society, limited to 25 members demonstrating true interest in gaining more knowledge.

That Literary Society's programs resulted in bringing about a "lecture course" for the community, with speakers drawn from many fields of activity. Among them were Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, co-founders of the national women's suffragist movement; Prof. J.D. Butler, Rev. David Swing and a Gen. Kilpatrick. When the speakers list, or the money, ran dry, Helen Bingham presented one of the programs herself, a paper on Monroe's early history.

That historical composition was so well received, Helen was urged to expand it into a complete history of Green County. She interviewed scores of early residents and exchanged letters with more than 100 others in gathering her facts, which were published in 1877. That small book ranks today as one of the most authentic records ever complied for any Wisconsin community.

In 1878, following the example of her younger sister, Ada, Helen enrolled in Boston University Medical School from which she was graduated in 1881 as

a homeopathic physician. Her specialized medical field, no longer practiced, took her to Milwaukee in 1882.

Dr. Bingham gave lectures on hygiene at Milwaukee College, Milwaukee State Normal and Whitewater State Normal. She also conducted small classes on good health practices in her medical offices. Somehow, Dr. Helen also found time to become secretary of the Woman's Club of Wisconsin, to serve as attending physician for the Protestant Orphans Asylum and the Home for Aged Women, to act as treasurer for the Wisconsin State Homeopathic Society, and to give 50 to 100 public lectures a year.

During a visit in 1884 with her mother, Dr. Helen called a meeting of the 1874-75 Girls Literary Society members, prevailing upon them to organize as the Woman's Club of Monroe, dedicated to cultural and educational projects.

In 1888, on the advice of a friend, Dr. Nicholas Senn of Milwaukee and Chicago, she took her sister, Dr. Ada, to Denver where their brother, Homer, resided, in hope of benefitting Ada's health and her own. Both women appear to have inherited their father's circulatory problem. Dr. Ada, who also had been graduated from Boston Medical School, had been practicing homeopathic medicine here since 1879 and was only 34.

Neither sister found any health improvement from the Denver climate and they returned here in 1900. While in Denver, Dr. Helen helped found the Woman's Club of Colorado and also organized an Indian rights group. Her energies began to diminish, however, and the retrogressive condition continued for both sisters after they came home to spend their declining years with their mother.

Dr. Ada Bingham finally went to Lawrence, Mass., in 1904 to put herself under the care of a classmate, a Dr. Rutter, and died there two years later. Dr. Helen, whose mental faculties deteriorated after a stroke in 1902, died at the Bingham home in 1910.

ALICE BINGHAM COPELAND

Alice Bingham, third child of John and Caroline Bingham, born in 1851, suffered tragedy early in married life. Her husband, Prof. Herbert E. Copeland, died in 1876 at Indianapolis from an infection suffered during his natural history research for Indiana University. Alice was left with two sons, Edwin and Herbert, and moved back with her mother in 1877 and a two-story addition was built on the house.

Widowed Alice Copeland shared the interest of her mother and sisters in Monroe's educational system, serving 10 years on the School Board. She also was an active member of the Public Library Committee, secretary of the Humane Society and joined in her family's work for the Universalist Church, its Sunday School and women's activities. Alice Copeland also was a charter member of the Women's Club and its second president in 1886-88.

She suffered a paralyzing stroke while walking on Public Square in 1902 and died at 53 in the family home May 30, 1904.

Alice's sons went on to distinguished careers, Edwin Copeland in high research posts for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Herbert as a successful lumber operator in Denver where his uncle, Homer Bingham, was engaged in that same business.

So ends the story of the three remarkable Bingham girls and their mother, Caroline, who not only survived them but had contributed so much to Monroe in her 77 years here.

CAROLINE SANDERSON LUDLOW

Another Caroline, the wife of Arabut Ludlow, pioneer merchant, banker and agriculturalist, also is deserving of special mention. Mrs. Ludlow, the former Caroline Cotting Sanderson, was born in Cambridge, Mass., in 1824. She was brought up in the vicinity of Harvard (College) Yard and learned French and fine needlework at a Catholic convent near Boston although the

family was Unitarian.

The Sandersons settled near Rockford, Ill., in 1839 and Caroline taught in Winnebago County schools until her marriage to Arabut Ludlow in 1846. It is presumed Ludlow became acquainted with the family during his monthly trips out of Chicago with his peddler's wagon of merchandise.

Ludlow opened his first store in Monroe that same year and the family home for several years was located at the northeast corner of 18th Avenue and 10th Street. In 1857, the Ludlow family moved into its new Italianate mansion at the north edge of town, a house which stands today as the Idle Hour Mansion, a Wisconsin landmark.

Caroline Ludlow was proud of her three sons, Henry, Edwin and Willis, and approved her husband's insistence that the boys should have college educations. Although she also was proud of her two daughters, Addie and Nellie, the girls apparently were obliged to find their own paths to expanded cultural horizons--which they did with great success.

A strict disciplinarian, Caroline Ludlow ran her household with a tight rein. When she found the boys had been sampling Arabut's private stock, she put salt in the wine decanters. That lesson lasted throughout the lives of all three sons who were non-drinkers.

Mrs. Ludlow enjoyed participating in various Monroe women's activities and passed along to school authorities many ideas gleaned from her early education in the Boston area. She also delighted in travels with Arabut to Milwaukee, Chicago, Colorado and other western places. She was en route to Boston by train with her children that fateful Monday morning, October 9, 1871, while the great fire still was devastating Chicago. When the train was halted at the outskirts of that city, she made her way to Evanston to the home of the John W. Stewarts, who had left Monroe two years earlier. She stayed with the Stewarts until she could resume her trip to Boston a few days later.

After Arabut's death in 1896, Caroline lived on in the mansion with her son, Edwin, until her own death in 1913. Her daughter, Addie, whose fiance, Jehu Chadwick, died in Wyoming in 1888 on the eve of their planned wedding, was married in 1897 to Homer Bingham, uniting two of Monroe's prominent families. The other daughter, Nellie, was married in 1891 to John S. Flower of Denver.

DR. ANN SHERMAN CHURCHILL

The Churchill family story, already well launched by Almira's busy years and those of her daughter, Caroline, and sons, Norman and George Churchill, also was highlighted by another feminine figure in Monroe's medical life, Ann Ervilla Sherman Churchill, wife of Norman.

Ann Churchill was born in Erie County, Pa., in either 1829 or 1831, depending on which family record one accepts. She was the daughter of Dr. W.O. and Amy Sherman and came here with her parents in 1848. Ann Sherman, married to Norman Churchill in February, 1854, was the mother of six children, four of whom were living at the time of her death in 1896--Charles B., Will W., Ernest (better known in later life as "Erni") and Mrs. George (Minnie) Cole.

While her family still was growing up, Ann Churchill managed to read medical books and study with her father. Once the children were pretty much on their own and her family cares lessened, Ann went to Chicago to finish her medical education at Hahnemann College, receiving her diploma in homeopathic medicine in 1886. Dr. Ann proceeded to build up a successful practice with offices on the Square's west side.

In February, 1896, Dr. Ann was called to California where her daughter, Minnie, wife of Dr. George Cole, had been taken seriously ill. California's climate, according to her "Monroe Sentinel" obituary, "complicated an affliction of long standing (unspecified)" and after a four-month illness, Dr. Ann died there on July 26.

At memorial services conducted later in the Churchill home, Rev. C. F. Niles, who had returned here from Menominee, Mich., for the rites, described Dr. Ann as a "generous, cheerful, helpful, devoted mother and wife. As a physician, she was successful, untiring and self-sacrificing; her presence an inspiration to all suffering."

Dr. Ann's beloved husband, Norman, followed her in death May 9, 1901.

JANET JENNINGS

Monroe's history also boasts another bright page concerning a woman of great talent, dedication, determination and outstanding patriotism recognized nationally--Janet Jennings. She was an Army nurse in two wars, author of two books, reporter for newspapers and magazines, and close friend and supporter of Clara Barton, the "Florence Nightingale" of this country and founder of the American Red Cross.

Janet Jennings was a fiery battler for the things she believed to be right. Impeccable in speech and written word, she was compassionate with the lonely and suffering, and eager to learn everything about everything. Miss Jennings also was impatient with all who chose to do things in the "small way" (as Washington military "brass" and Monroe's aldermen learned to their discomfort on ocasion).

Miss Jennings, christened plain "Jane," was born in Canada in 1839, the third of 12 children of John E. and Ann MacIntyre Jennings. The family moved to a farm near Monroe when Janet was a young girl, but not too young to take care of her smaller brothers and sisters when her mother's health failed.

In 1863, her brother, Guilford Dudley Jennings, officer in the 3rd Wisconsin, was wounded in the Battle of Chancellorsville, Va., and taken to Washington for treatment. Janet hurried there to care for him. Because she was only 24, she was denied official Army nurse status for a time while assisting in taking care of others in the tent hospitals. Eventually, however,

she was put in charge of several tents of wounded in the Armory Square Hospital area, not far from the White House.

During this period, Janet became acquainted with Clara Barton who was trying to achieve improvement in medical services. There is also reason to believe that Janet met President Lincoln during his frequent evening visits to comfort his troops.

Janet's own health suffered from this experience and after Dudley's release she gave up nursing. She returned to Washington later and following the war worked in the Treasury Department several years, along with her sisters, Mary, Harriet and Nettie. Janet then took up her newspaper career and for 25 years was a special writer for the New York Tribune and also did articles for other papers and national magazines, traveling abroad frequently to research her features.

Despite her busy travels, Janet Jennings made regular visits back home to family and friends, maintaining keen interest in Monroe happenings, especially those relating to schools. She also kept in close touch with Clara Barton and her work in developing Red Cross aims.

With the advent of the Spanish-American War in 1898, Miss Jennings hastened to join Clara Barton's medical contingent which sailed for Cuba on the relief ship, "State of New York," attached to Admiral Sampson's fleet at Siboney, off Santiago. This Red Cross group set up a field hospital as the battle for Santiago ground on. When Army medics declared ice was needed to control fever among the wounded, Janet took over that project, finding a few tons in Jamaica and getting it shipped to Cuba, a nearly miraculous feat in the subtropics.

On July 14, 1898, Miss Jennings sailed on the "Seneca" with a group of convalescent soldiers headed for New York City and further care. During the voyage, Janet insisted on personally seeing that every man had the best in-

dividual attention. She ignored warnings about working in close proximity to those suffering from fevers and infection, giving up her own quarters to the men requiring constant care.

Upon arrival in New York, the wounded and the ship's crew told the story to the press and Janet Jennings became the "Angel of the Seneca." That sobriquet was remembered when major newspapers announced her death on New Year's Eve 1917.

After the war, Janet resumed her writings and in 1909, on the centennial of his birth, paid tribute to the man she regarded as the greatest American with her book, "Lincoln, the Great Emancipator." The book was used for a time in some Wisconsin schools as a supplementary text on Lincoln and the Civil War. The following year, she published another Civil War book, "The Blue and the Gray."

Miss Jennings had returned here by that time to live in the family home, then located just west of the Dr. Nathan Bear residence. She became active in community and public affairs, serving on the School Board and entering into lively disputes with City Council over ordinances with which she disagreed.

Janet suffered a stroke in October, 1915, at her home. She was taken back to Washington by her sister, Nettie, dying December 31, 1917, too old at 78 and too ill to have served her country in a third war, under way at that time. Her grave in Greenwood Cemetery bears an official U.S. military marker recognizing her service as a war nurse. The Jennings home, moved many years ago to 612 22nd Avenue, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

LOUISE RITTENHOUSE BARBER

Among the women whose busy lives started in the town's pioneer days and continued well into the 20th Century was Louise Rittenhouse, who married Joseph C. Barber, livestock and grain dealer, in 1866. As mentioned previ-

ously in this narrative, Louise Rittenhouse was born in 1845 in the first frame house erected within the Payne-Lybrand-Russell property gift for Green County's seat. It was located at the Eugene Hotel site.

Louise was the youngest of nine children born to William and Sarah Coryell-Moore Rittenhouse who had come here in 1836 with the opening of government lands. Louise was a sister of Emma Rittenhouse who married Gen. Francis H. West of Civil War fame.

Educated in Monroe schools, Louise accompanied Helen Bingham in 1864 to the first coed class admitted to the University of Wisconsin. She stayed for nearly three years and was the first of her sex to complete studies at the University.

After her marriage to Joseph Barber, he built a fine home at the northeast corner of 15th Avenue and 15th Street. Barber died in 1880 and Louise remained in that home until the growing family of her daughter, Mazie, who had married C.W. Twining, caused her to give up the house to the Twinings and move into another next door.

Louise Barber's son-in-law, who became a banking leader and organizer of Monroe's early telephone company, was the son of Prof. Nathan C. Twining, head of Monroe schools in the 1870s and 1880s. He also was a brother of Admiral Nathan Twining, World War I naval figure. Although a minor physical disability kept C.W. Twining from following a military career, he and Mazie provided their country with two generals, Air Force Gen. Nathan F. Twining, former Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, and Gen. Merrill Twining, who also retired with four-star rank after serving on the JCS as deputy Marine Corps commandant. Another son, Robert, was a Navy captain when given medical retirement on the eve of possible promotion to rear admiral.

Mrs. Barber, in addition to her avid interest in her daughter's family, was active in social and cultural circles. She was an ardent supporter of

Woman's Club projects and an early member of the Woman's Relief Corps, assisting during the Civil War in programs for aiding soldier families which predated the WRC.

Death again invaded her happy life when her daughter, Mazie, was stricken in 1905. Eight years later, Mr. Twining, who had remarried, moved his family to Portland, Ore. Mrs. Barber, however, was not left alone very long. One of the Twining girls, Phoebe, disliked Portland and returned here to marry Howard Chadwick, following the example of her grandmother in church, social and club activities.

Mrs. Barber died March 15, 1936, three months before her 92nd birthday.

EMMA VAN WAGENEN

Teachers for Monroe's early schools were the first professional career women, so long as they stayed single. It would be many decades before the married woman teacher, except for a few widows, was welcome on the town's school staff.

One of the best remembered of these dedicated women was Miss Emma Van Wagenen, born January 8, 1851, at Wiota, the daughter of the Garrett Van Wagenens. The family came to Monroe in 1858 and "Miss Van," as her legion of former pupils best remembers her, began teaching at Banner School in Jordan in 1869. Her second year was at another Jordan school.

Joining the Monroe faculty in 1871 at old Center School, Miss Van Wagenen taught 7th and 8th grades. She was credited with helping Prof. Twining, the principal, in perfecting an improved graded system for Monroe, even at her early age.

When the new North, or "Churchill," School was ready in 1884, "Miss Van" was named principal and 8th grade teacher. A firm disciplinarian, she tempered her strict and successful methods with a compassion that made her one of the most beloved teachers of her times.

Retired after 45 years of service, Miss Van Wagenen looked forward to a leisurely life, hoping to spend more time on projects such as her Woman's Club work (she had been president in 1895-96). That same retirement year, 1916, "Miss Van" was the surprise honored guest at the Monroe High School Alumni banquet at the Armory in June. Everyone who had attended her classes had been notified secretly by letter and hundreds sent replies.

"Miss Van" remained totally unaware of this activity, which probably had been the best kept secret in Monroe history. At the close of the dinner, Ray Young, alumni president, called on anyone who wanted to say a word or two about Miss Van Wagenen. Many responded, to applause and cheers. F.B. Luchsinger then presented her with a diamond ring as a gift from her "children" and saluted her as the "best teacher in Wisconsin." Emma Van Wagenen was overwhelmed and later called it the highlight of her life.

It was unfortunate that Miss Van Wagenen only had five more years to enjoy retirement. Death claimed her at 70 on April 26, 1921, in Deaconess Hospital after a long illness.

ALIDA CONDE LUDLOW

Another outstanding woman of 19th and 20th Century Monroe, who excelled in educational interest, was Mrs. Alida Conde (Condee) Ludlow, born here November 30, 1854, the daughter of Simon Van Patten and Minerva Reynolds Conde. The family was of Dutch background, the name originally having been "Condesche."

Her father, who served briefly as probate judge, was an active pioneer business leader who took off for the California goldfields in the 1860s but returned later. However, in 1863, Simon Conde left again for the West, possibly due to ill health, and died at 45 soon afterward in Nevada.

Alida, or "Lida" as she was known throughout her long life, was married August 18, 1874, to Henry Ludlow, eldest son of Arabut and Caroline Ludlow. Her interest in seeking an earlier start for educating the young began that

same year as a Sunday School teacher at First Universalist Church. Her experiences aroused her interest in the German-inspired kindergartens, just getting their start in Wisconsin. Mrs. Ludlow joined the School Board, serving 14 years, one of them as president, and was able to have the kindergarten program added to Monroe's curriculum in 1889.

Lida Ludlow was a charter member and first president of the Woman's Club in 1884-86. An early advocate of a public library for Monroe, she organized a library in her church and Sunday School. She also was one of the founders of the Wednesday Reading Club, forerunner of today's Lida Ludlow Reading Club. After the public library had its modest beginnings in upstairs rooms of a Public Square building, Mrs. Ludlow worked diligently for its expansion. Later, when the new Courthouse was finished, she was instrumental in having the library moved to the former county office building. It began to reach full stride by late 1896 but Lida still was not satisfied.

When the Carnegie Library gift proposal resulted in heated controversy here in 1904, Lida Ludlow urged her husband, Henry, and his two brothers, Edwin and Willis, to resolve the situation by offering to build a new library on the two lots occupied by the former county office structure. The Ludlow gift was conditioned on agreement by the School District to operate the library. (Upon the death of Edwin Ludlow in 1935, it was revealed that he personally financed the entire project since he was unmarried with no family responsibilities.)

This unique gift was accepted as a memorial to Arabut Ludlow and Lida maintained close interest in the Ludlow Memorial Library for the rest of her days.

Also active in the Daughters of the American Revolution and Woman's Relief Corps, Lida Ludlow extended her interest to the Girl Scouts in early years of that movement. Her principal enjoyment, however, was in teaching

at the Universalist Sunday School. When she sought to retire from that responsibility in late years, her friends and pupils demanded that she stay on.

Widowed upon the death of Henry in 1923, Mrs. Ludlow continued to live in the imposing Ludlow home at 2003 11th Street. Her house was always open to young people and all others who had sincere interest in literature, education and various cultural pursuits. Her death at 81 occurred November 12, 1936.

AMELIA WOOD CHURCHILL

The Churchill name appeared again on the roster of feminine leaders when Amelia Wood was married in 1883 to Charles B. Churchill, son of Norman. Born August 5, 1857, in Mt. Pleasant Township, Amelia was 5 when Joseph and Elizabeth Garlick Wood, natives of England, decided to move into Monroe.

Amelia Wood was graduated from Monroe High School in the 1876 Centennial Year class, along with A.F. Rote, Lorain Hulburt, and Viola Troy Hutchinson. She taught two years at Center School as assistant to Emma Van Wagenen and enrolled in 1879 at the University of Wisconsin, receiving her diploma in 1881. She then returned to teaching here until her marriage.

The Charles Churchills resided for one year in 1886 at Janesville where he had an interest in a building supply business. They returned here when Churchill and his father-in-law, Joseph Wood, took over a brickyard operation. The Churchill residence, built originally by Joseph Perrine on Galena Road (now 911 8th Street), is one of Monroe's landmarks.

An original member of Helen Bingham's Girls Literary Society, Amelia was a charter member and first secretary of the Woman's Club in 1884. After the Churchills returned from Janesville, she served as Woman's Club president in 1889-90 and 1904-05. After Churchill died January 16, 1905, Amelia remained in the home and served many years as Universalist Church organist, having inherited her father's musical talents.

One of her daughters, Mrs. Arthur P. (Lottie) Benkert, followed Amelia's

example in church and cultural interests, becoming Woman's Club president in 1930-32. Although Amelia Wood Churchill had been away from Monroe several years before her death at 87 in an Appleton hospital August 23, 1944, she was mourned and well remembered here with affection and respect.

MRS. EMILY S. ABBOTT

That Woman's Club charter group also included Mrs. Emily S. Clapp Abbott, wife of Dr. Simon W. Abbott. She was elected as that club's first vice president in 1884 and served as president in 1891-92.

Born May 25, 1832, probably in Monroe County, N.Y., Emily Clapp was married in 1850 at Janesville to Dr. Abbott, then a practicing physician. In 1858, the couple moved to Monroe where Dr. Abbott forsook medicine to enter the mercantile business. That experience cuased him to be named sutler of Col. Francis H. West's 31st Wisconsin Regiment for the war's duration.

On his return, Dr. Abbott became a justice of peace and also engaged in real estate and insurance activities. He was elected to several terms on the School Board, serving as clerk.

The Abbotts, who had no children of their own, shunned public attention for their philanthropic activities, carried on quietly, in helping the needy and orphaned. They were early members of the Universalist Church and Emily was president of the Aid Society, inspiring members to her philosophy of taking "great pleasure in doing for others." Mrs. Abbott was mourned by the many young and older local residents when she died November 9, 1921, at 89 in Rutledge Home for the Aged at Chippewa Falls. Dr. Abbott had died at 70 January 2, 1896.

MRS. EZRA PARKER TREAT

Mrs. E.P. Treat, member of that outstanding Maine family, first came to Monroe with her husband in 1858 when his brother, Nathaniel Jr., entered the mercantile business here. The E.P. Treats, however, soon returned to Maine,

MRS. ALIDA CONDE LUDLOW
1854-1936

DR. ANN E. CHURCHILL
1829-1896

DR. ADA BINGHAM
1854-1906

DR. HELEN BINGHAM
1845-1910

ERRATUM

The blank spaces where the pages numbered 148 and 149 are supposed to be do not influence the content of this book. It is merely an error in numbering.

staying for two years. They came back to Monroe in 1860, joining the other Treats in active lives of community leadership.

Mrs. Treat, the former Anna M. Gilman, daughter of the B.L. Gilmans, was born January 2, 1835, in Sebec, Maine. She was married to Erza Parker Treat at Bangor in January, 1855. The couple had four children, Ben G. and Fred P., Alice and Frances. Their fine Italianate home, built in 1868 at the northwest corner of 14th Avenue and 15th Street, now is the Dr. and Mrs. David C. Riese residence.

Always an avid reader of all types of literature, including light verse, Mrs. Treat urged her sons and unmarried daughters to take continuing interest in Monroe schools and all community activities. Her daughter, Alice, served on the School Board where she firmly advocated New England educational methods.

Mrs. Treat was an active, attending member of First Universalist Church until a broken hip in 1914 obliged her to use crutches thereafter. Her life was temperate and serene, however, and her general health remained good until her last years. She died at 94 in her beloved home February 1, 1929.

MISS GRACE BYERS

A retired kindergarten teacher whose life and physical presence in the community was legend, Miss Grace Byers was born in Lena, Ill., January 21, 1877. The parents were Dr. Frederick W. and Olive DeHaven Byers.

Before graduation from Monroe High School in 1895, Grace Byers was urged by Mrs. Lida Ludlow, founder of the local kindergarten program, to plan for specialized training in that field. She attended Milwaukee Normal, took special courses at Grand Rapids, Mich., and summer courses later at the University of Colorado in Boulder and the University of Wisconsin.

Grace Byers had started her kindergarten teaching at South School even before going on with her special training. She was teaching at East in the early 1900s when she noticed dangerous, smoking oil lamps beneath the stair

wells. She and Teresa Gettings, principal, immediately approached Fred Bolender and prevailed upon him to have the School Board install complete electric lighting in all schools.

The large Byers residence was located at the head of what now is Byers Court. Grace and her sister, Morna, were devoted to their father, Dr. and Gen. Byers, particularly in his late years. After he was stricken, the two women, inseparable until the latter's death, were seen daily on their visits to the downtown section and to the library.

Grace Byers, a life member of Union Presbyterian Church, spent her active retirement years with young people of her church (she taught Sunday School 60 years) and with her various club and cultural interests. Her death at 87 came November 5, 1964.

MISS HARRIET CORSON

Another legendary figure among Monroe teachers was Miss Harriet Corson. Her background of pioneer stock began in 1842 when her father, Alanson Corson, came here from Somerset County, Me., and started the town's first harness shop on the Square. Corson's first wife, Harriet Benson, mother of six, died in 1847 and he later married Harriet Drane.

Hattie Corson was born April 15, 1862, youngest of four children from her father's second marriage. She was born in the Corson shop and residence building on the Square's east side. That structure, destroyed by the great fire in May, 1879, was rebuilt and still owned by the Corson family when Hattie died at 94 September 16, 1956.

Her first six years of education were at the German Catholic (St. Mary's) School, although the family was Protestant. Town schools were overcrowded when Hattie was ready to enroll and she began classes at St. Mary's, liking them so well she stayed on for the first six grades. Graduated from Monroe High School in 1881, she gave up plans for higher education and began teaching

at Ridott, Ill., returning to Monroe schools the next year.

When Churchill School was ready in 1884, Harriet Corson joined its faculty as 7th grade teacher. She was transferred to Lincoln after that school was completed and retired from teaching soon afterward. For a time after retirement, she worked as an assistant at Ludlow Library.

An early member of the Woman's Club, Hattie Corson served as president in 1890-91 and 1897-98. She helped organize the First District Federation of Woman's Clubs in 1902, and was its first secretary and later second vice president. She was a lifelong Universalist and vice president in 1924 to the Universalist Church in Wisconsin. She also was a member of the DAR and Eastern Star, as well as a charter member of the Woman's Relief Corps.

Harriet Corson was a genuine booster of Cheese Day celebrations and won the contest in 1922 for her slogan: "Green County's Gold--Swiss Cheese." It's still used for today's programs.

MISS TABITHA RITZMANN

Although she did not join the Monroe school system until her arrival here from New Glarus, Miss Tabitha Ritzmann quickly won her way into the hearts of young and old alike as a teacher, an inveterate writer of poetry and a skilled collector of buttons and musical bells. Her versatility appeared boundless and her busy years helped to enrich the lives of everyone with whom she became associated.

Born May 31, 1877, in Bretzville, Indiana, where her father, Rev. Karl Ritzmann, was a Lutheran pastor, Tabitha was educated at Whitewater and Milwaukee State Colleges. She attended courses for kindergarten work in Dresden, Germany, in 1907-08 and also took summer training at Colorado Teachers College.

Miss Ritzmann was a Lutheran Deaconess in her early years, associated with the Motherhouse in Milwaukee. She later taught at New Glarus, coming to Monroe some time after the death in 1913 of her mother. For more than 20

years, she taught kindergarten at North and East Schools, retiring in 1937. A member of St. John's United Church of Christ, she taught Sunday School and also assisted as organist.

Tabitha Ritzmann loved bell music and had made a study of toned bells during her years of collecting various types. She also became a recognized authority among button collectors. However, her greatest love throughout a long, active life was in writing delightful verse. Some of her work was published in national poetry magazines and anthologies.

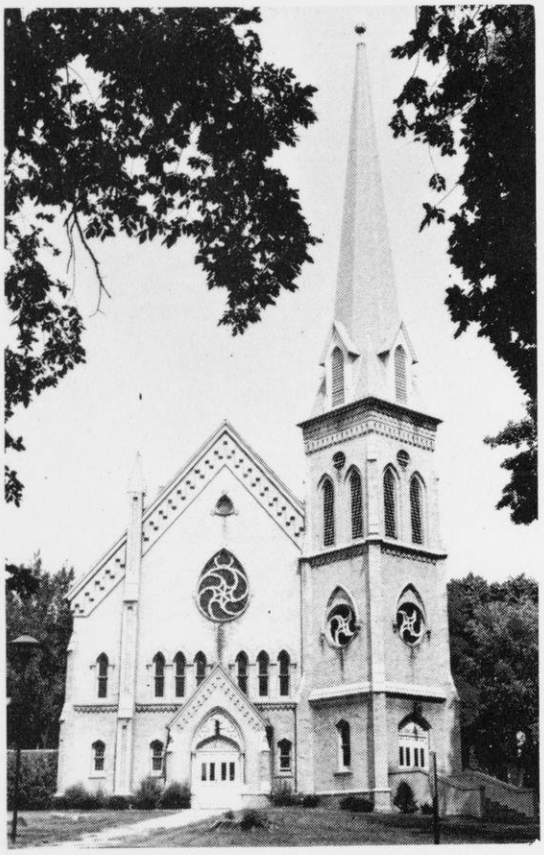
Death came to Tabitha Ritzmann at the age of 86 on April 20, 1964, a few months before her kindergarten colleague, Grace Byers, was stricken.

* * * * * * * *

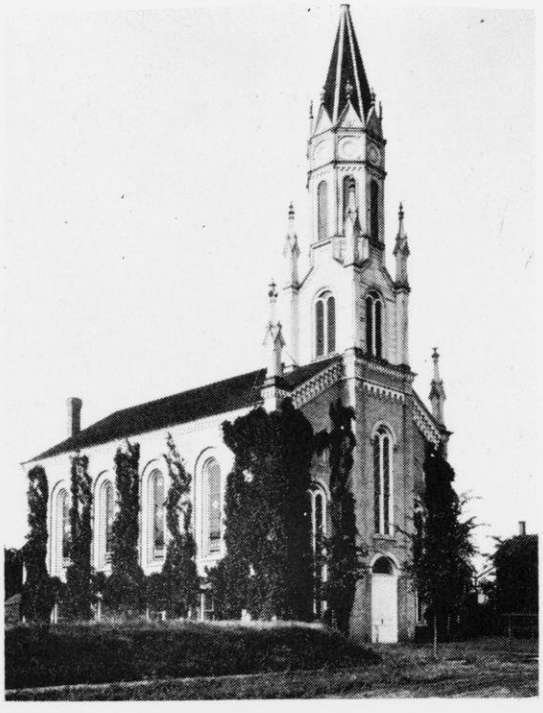
The foregoing, obviously, were only a few of the notable women whose lives and careers meant so much to Monroe's history and its environment. A complete list of all who merited special attention, of course, would run into the hundreds.

From these few examples, however, we can look back from today's times to those of the 19th and early 20th Century feminine leaders, honoring their accomplishments and giving poignant recognition to their sacrifices as they did their best to insure that Monroe would be a finer place for our generations.

Today's leaders, men and women alike, as they cast about in seeking new community goals, can find inspiration by remembering the lives of those mentioned in this chapter.



A MAJESTIC LANDMARK - Towering First Methodist Church, built between 1869 and 1887, was placed on the National Register of Historic places in 1975. Designed by famed Edward Townsend Mix, the structure loomed more than a century over the downtown area, surviving lightning, the elements and threats of extinction due to a demominational merger. The Monroe Arts and Activities Center established headquarters there in 1974.



CONTINUES AS HISTORIC CENTER - This is how the First Universalist Church looked with its imposing steeple and spire, which were removed in 1910. Built between 1861 and 1863, this fine example of architecture was the center of religious and cultural activities of New England "Yankee" families for more than a century. It now is owned by the city and leased to the Green County Historical Society for its museum operation.

Chapter Twelve

THE 1870s--TIME FOR NEW LEADERS

During the 19th Century's last three decades, Monroe was marching in steady stride almost matching the nation's accelerating industrial pace. For a landlocked community, well off the main routes of commerce and served by a single railroad link only to the east, the village did very well, indeed, through those years.

The town rapidly became a carriage, wagon and farm implement manufacturing center, a development equalled only by its emergence after the early 1870s into Wisconsin's assembling and shipping "capital" for the foreign type cheese industry, described in an earlier chapter.

Livestock, wheat and other agricultural products also passed through the village in growing volume, en route to ready markets in Milwaukee and Chicago.

There was another factor, however, the appearance of new leaders who began to take over for the pioneer settlers in all fields of endeavor. New names appeared on the business roster to fill the void left by death or departure of those active in the 1860s.

Gone forever, of course, were Judge John A. Bingham, Simon S.P. Condee, Andrew Brundage and others who had died. One of the latter was Julius Austin, pioneer settler at the town's west edge, who died in June, 1870.

Attorney John W. Stewart had moved to Chicago. Gen. James Bintliff left for Janesville in 1870 when he bought half interest in the "Gazette." George W. Hoffman sold his hardware store interest to D. R. Davenport and followed Stewart to Chicago--where both became influential and wealthy. Asa Richard-

son also disposed of his banking and other holdings, departing for new adventures in Lawrence, Kansas.

Gen. Francis H. West went to Milwaukee for a stormy career fighting the monopolies of Alexander Mitchell and associates in the railroad and grain elevator rate situation.

Among those acquiring prominent roles during this period were Daniel S. Young and Joseph Wood, both of whom had come to the village in 1862.

Wood, native of Yorkshire, England, first settled in Mt. Pleasant Township before moving here to become a bookkeeper and book store operator. He possessed fine musical talents and one of his first projects was to obtain and install the new First Universalist Church's organ. He composed music, directed choirs and founded the Monroe Choral Union. Wood also wrote delightful poetry in the Victorian literary style.

The Wood family moved into the house at the southwest corner of 16th Street and 17th Avenue, built by William Boyls, pioneer figure who left for Iowa in 1861. In later years, Wood became associated with his son-in-law, Charles Churchill, in the brick business.

Daniel Young, native of Oneco Township, Illinois, started in the grocery business on the Square's east side with his brother-in-law, Levi Kleckner. Later, Felix Bennett was his partner and the firm prospered until it was burned out in 1879. Young then was in partnership briefly with Benjamin Lamont before he built the Young Block in 1882 on the Square's northwest corner. This building also burned and Young replaced it with the brick structure which still stands on the site.

Norman Churchill and Arabut Ludlow also were becoming more influential in town affairs, as were the Treat brothers, their brother-in-law, Hezekiah W. Whitney, and the two intrepid half brothers, Joseph T. and Adam Clarke Dodge.

The Swiss influence in Monroe rapidly became more pervasive in the years

following the Civil War. In addition to those who moved here from the New Glarus Colony, there also was a steady flood of immigrants from Switzerland, arriving by train carload on some busy days in the 1870s.

Monroe's official census total climbed to 3,470 in 1870, while Green County's figure reached 23,675, with most of the gains due to the Swiss arrivals. By the mid-1870s, the county's population rose to around 27,000, a peak never matched again until the mid-1940s.

(Monroe also seems to have hit a plateau for the rest of the century. Its population held almost level into the 1880s, reached 3,768 in 1890 and only 3,927 in 1900 before beginning to move over the 4,000-mark.)

The Swiss, of course, introduced new names, as well as a new flavor to Monroe's environment. Following J. Jacob Tschudy and other 1850 decade Swiss newcomers to Monroe were John Luchsinger, Henry Hoehn, Henry Durst, Fred E. Legler, Henry Schindler, J. H. Durst, Edward Ruegger and scores of others. Many had become citizens as result of Civil War service, some having enlisted immediately upon arrival in this country. These, of course, were in addition to the Swiss listed in the cheese industry chapter.

Aside from the Old World influx, new village leaders included A.W. Goddard, Capt. Samuel Lewis, J.H. Bridge, John Bolender, W.W. Chadwick, William J. and Gilbert T. Hodges, A.S. Douglas, Phineas Clawson, W.W. Wright, Peter Wells, Charles Pike, Walter S. Wescott, Lucius Wolcott, H. C. Witmer (from Juda), William P. Bragg and son, Thomas J., and David Wakeman Ball, three-time postmaster and also sheriff.

Sorely missed, of course, was Edwin Eustace Bryant, heroic Civil War figure, but his new political, military and publishing careers in Madison served to aid his former townsmen here in many ways, particularly during his two tenures as State Adjutant General.

A review of the 1870 calendar of progress in Monroe, however, quickly

reveals that whatever the town had lost through the war years, and by death and removal of pioneer "Yankee" figures, it more than gained in balance through new, vigorous leadership.

In February, 1870, the village got down to business finally and organized the Monroe Volunteer Fire Department. Previously, for 12 years, fire-fighting had been carried on--with semi-official blessing of the village fathers--by engine company (actually engineless most of the time) and a variety of hook and ladder units.

Temperance groups, always in strong evidence from the earliest days, gained influence and membership year by year. The Good Templars probably headed the roster but various church and women's groups, including the St. Victor's Total Abstinence Society, also made their presence felt. There were, however, no Carry Nation types of feminine hatchet-swingers raiding saloons but blacklisting of tipsy townspeople proved effective.

Charles A. Booth, "Sentinel" editor, was in full sympathy with the cause, and Joseph Gleissner operated a "temperance" hotel west of the Square, unique in those times when hostelries depended on bar business to survive.

In contrast to the foregoing, Monroe's brewery had become a growing factor in the town's economy under ownership of Jacob Hefty who had bought out Capt. Ruegger, another Swiss, in 1868. Distributed under the Monroe label, Hefty's beer was gaining wide acceptance in all of Green County and a few places elsewhere.

Another brewery, operated by Gottlieb Leuenberger and family from the early days until 1888, had started in a building at the corner of 12th Street and 15th Avenue, moving later to the site of the former Kraft Foods building, 1600-block of 12th Street. It was fairly successful but the Jacob Hefty brewery, later to become the Blumer firm, forged ahead of it in the 1870s and 1880s.

Turner Hall, built in 1868 and enlarged at least twice, was proudly made available by the Turnverein for all public concerts, dances, shows and other programs. It was alone in this service, except for the auditoriums of the Methodist and Universalist churches, until Peter Wells remodeled the defunct Baptist Church into an "opera house" at the present Junior High site.

Local musical groups reached full flower in 1870, with Joseph Wood patiently and successfully building the Universalist Chorus and its accompanying instrumentalists into a fine aggregation.

Formed in 1853, the Monroe Brass Band probably was the veteran of tuneful groups. It had lost several members in 1859, however, to the California gold fields when wagon parties left here for the West. During and after the war, the Brass Band underwent a strong revival and eventually, in the 1870s, became the Monroe Cornet Band which won increasing statewide fame.

The major development of the 1870s, in addition to the cheese industry's rise, was the growth of the local wagon, carriage and farm implement manufacturing activity. The trail blazer had been the Monroe Mfg. Co., formed in 1865, which was expanded rapidly into a first-class enterprise, employing more than 20 skilled craftsmen by 1870 and shipping its wagons and machinery by freight carload to Milwaukee and other markets. Fire destroyed much of the plant's complex of buildings June 22, 1872, but the reorganized firm quickly rebuilt facilities.

In a little heralded event at that time, John South, formerly a major Pittsburgh builder of wagons for the Southern markets and the Union Army, opened a new shop near the Depot. South's shop soon grew into a busy operation and he moved into a new factory on Russell (10th) Street just east of the Square.

Others followed later, among them John Scannell whose wagon works was bought later by Maurice and James Fitzgibbons. The Fitzgibbons brothers,

whose family came here from Stoughton, took over Scannell's works in 1881 and two years later bought out South's operation.

Among other wagon and carriage builders here were the Lanz and Phares Miller families but their enterprises never reached the eminence the Fitzgibbons Bros. Co. achieved in that field.

Monroe's Public Square also was changing in appearance during 1870. More of the small, one-floor frame store buildings, which had escaped the frequent fires, already were yielding to new two and three-story structures of brick. New fronts also were appearing on several of the early brick buildings as owners spruced up their appeal to tenants and customers of the shops. Squire Bridge also was starting his extensive real estate investments in town with his new white brick Bridge Block on the southwest corner of the Square, across from the American House.

In June, 1870, work in the new Methodist Church, which had lagged since the 1869 cornerstone laying, was resumed. The towering spire was raised into place even though the steeple itself had not been completed. Nearly a year passed, however, before a drive raised sufficient funds to finish the steeple and close in the main portion of the building. Services still continued in the basement, or ground-floor level, for some time afterward.

On July 4, 1870, Monroe citizens, even those of non-Swiss origin, wholeheartedly joined in the 25th anniversary celebration at New Glarus of that town's founding as an Old World colony project. Local musical groups were on hand to participate in the gala event, as were several hundred Monroeites.

Early in 1870, local business people had started a campaign to bring telegraph service to Monroe. The project had been planned at the time the railroad arrived late in 1857 but negotiations were delayed for one reason or another, especially during the war years.

George W. Hoffman, soon to leave Monroe, finally completed the deal with

the telegraph firm's offices in Chicago. The first exchange of messages occurred August 4, 1870, between the "Milwaukee Press" and the "Monroe Sentinel." George H. Stearns served briefly as the first operator.

Inauguration of telegraph service was hailed by the entire community, particularly by the business firms and cheese industry. For the first time, the latter had instant access to market quotations from Milwaukee, Chicago and eastern cities. The telegraph became Monroe's economic lifeline for a quarter century before telephone service supplemented wire messages.

On the lighter side, baseball started to excite the sports-minded in 1870. In a typical game, reported tersely in the "Sentinel," the Lightfoot Seniors beat the Eagle Juniors 38 to 23, scarcely a pitching classic.

A long overdue building project was launched in August, 1870, involving a new fireproof (and escapeproof) brick jail with "modern" steel-barred cells. The County Board gave the contract to an Indianapolis firm, which promptly sublet the building portion to Norris & Hinckley of Monroe. That building remains on the scene as the "Jailhouse Tap" adjoining the Huber Brewery bottling plant.

Local Baptists, then meeting in A. F. Galscott's hall on the Square's northside, were busy completing their new church and had started a fund drive for adding a clock tower. (Dedication of the Baptist Church was held January 5, 1871.) Adventists also were finishing their new building, sharing the uncompleted structure with the Episcopal Society. The latter acquired a site in September, 1870, on West Street (15th Avenue) for its new church. (First services were held in the new Episcopal Church December 18, with Rev. L. D. Brainerd as resident rector.)

Editor Booth of the "Sentinel," taking note of the increasing enrollment of Monroe and Green County students at the University of Wisconsin, suggested August 24, 1870, that the village was getting big enough to have its own

college. That, of course, did not come about until 1910 when the County Normal School was moved here after a brief stay in Brodhead.

Monroe's public school enrollment had climbed to 615 in September, 1870, and classes also were being conducted by the sisters at the German Catholic (St. Mary's) Church, open to pupils of all faiths. The public graded school system, which was taking shape slowly, finally was formalized with the arrival in 1873 of Prof. Nathan C. Twining as "principal."

War memories and scars, except for those endured by widows and families of the maimed, were largely disappearing by 1870. Everyone, however, was not ready to forgive and forget. This was obvious when Editor Booth, a Union Army veteran, dismissed the news of Gen. Robert Lee's death October 12, in Virginia with a brief notice. It said, among other things, "No tears will be shed by the loyal people over demise of that arch traitor."

The busy year closed with no startling developments of disasters to interrupt the town's step-by-step progress toward a measure of prominence in Wisconsin business and manufacturing circles.

As they turned their calendar pages to the new year, many Monroe leaders, including women of the community, were calling attention to the crowded situation at Center School and the overflow classes being held in the Universalist Church basement. These conditions, they warned, were highly dangerous. Their demands led to a call for electors to meet January 20 to consider a building project.

These protests appear to have been highly prophetic. On January 19, the day before the scheduled meeting, Center School caught fire while pupils were in classes. All of them were evacuated safely by the firemen, who were virtually helpless for lack of water, but the seven-year-old school was destroyed. The only near catastrophe occurred after the fire when a woman and her child were nearly hit by the toppling chimney.

WEST SIDE OF SQUARE IN 1875 - This historic view of the square's west side is anchored at both ends by structures which remain in 1976, the former McKey Block at the left (now the Eugene Hotel) and the Caradine and Treat buildings at the far end. The McKey Block was remodeled extensively and faced with brick in 1924 by Leland White, with plans and work by the A. F. Rote Company. The Caradine Building was erected in 1868-69 and shows little change today. The Treat Block, which has suffered removal of much of its ornamental cornices and pediment, was built in 1872 to replace structures razed by fire in October, 1871, including the Treat & Durst Block. (Dr. H. B. Caradine Photo Collection)

At the district meeting the next day, electors argued over whether there should be another combined grade and high school building or two separate structures.

Decision was postponed until January 27 when a $30,000 building project was proposed, despite arguments by Arabut Ludlow and others that two structures would be more feasible for the future.

That sum of $30,000 was a bit more than the district could handle, however, in view of the $10,000 borrowing limit set by the State for communities as small as Monroe. So, a turbulent meeting of more than 300 electors was held in the Courthouse. It was a noisy, jammed session which frequently threatened to get out of control. The meeting ended without any result, except for ruffled feelings on both sides.

After further appeals to the State proved fruitless, electors backed down March 16, trimming the levy to $15,000 for a new school on the Center site. Actually, the project ran well over the $15,000 figure but it did result in a fine brick structure which served well for decades.

The Monroe (Swiss) Rifle Club was getting in full swing about this time, operating a six-acre "schuetzen" park a mile and a half east of town. This group, consisting of more than 40 marksmen, swept most of the Wisconsin competitions and participated in many national events. During the 1876 Centennial Rifle events at Philadelphia, local sharpshooters won many cash prizes and medals.

Another activity, this one of countywide significance, came into full flower in the 1870s. It was the annual County Fair, conducted in Monroe by the Green County Agricultural Society and Mechanics Institute. The Fair started in July, 1853, with an exhibit of farm products, livestock and manufactured goods on the Courthouse grounds.

The following year, the Society acquired seven acres just north of town

in Ludlow's south pasture (recently taken over by a housing development) at a cost of $400. The 1854 show, in October, was a success, insuring perpetuation of the event in Monroe.

Annual County Fairs continued at the Ludlow pasture site through 1864. Desire for a race track caused the Society in 1865 to sell the fairgrounds and purchase 18 acres just east of Ludlow's Addition to Monroe, 12 of them from Ludlow and six from William J. Hodges. The track, running to the north and south, was developed by a separate group, the Jockey Club. In 1867, the Society took over the track, paying off the $131 the Jockey Club had expended in excess of contributions.

Later, another 14 acres were acquired from Hodges and Ludlow, giving the Argicultural Society a total of 32 acres. Some years afterward, the track was relocated at its present site, running east and west, and a grandstand was added to the County Fair's group of buildings.

Returning to the eventful 1871 chronology, on February 15 local officers of the Madison, Monroe & State Line Railroad Co. employed F. J. Starin to organize a survey from Monroe to Madison. The route from Freeport into Monroe already had been mapped by promoters.

Completed at the end of March, the survey indicated a practical route to Madison was available with only a few major grading problems. However, due to arguments over track gauges and other disputes with promoters of the line from Freeport, this project remained in limbo until the mid-1880s. And, it was not until 1881 that the future Milwaukee, St. Paul line was extended west from Monroe to Shullsburg where it hooked up with a railway running from Mineral Point to the Illinois stateline.

A tragedy which shook the community was reported in the February 21, 1871, "Sentinel" edition, writing an unfortunate page into Monroe's history. Marshall A. Garton, 12, was killed during a "charivari" for Joseph Morton

and his bride, Garton's sister, at the Mordecai Kelly place, four miles west of Monroe.

Several young men and boys, including Garton, had driven up in a sleigh and awakened Kelly with their racket. Their conduct angered Kelly who stepped outside to warn them away. When he snapped his shotgun, which he said later he thought was not loaded, the blast wounded Garton who died soon afterward.

Kelly was indicted for murder and released on $3,000 bond. No conviction resulted, mainly because those who felt the old pioneer was being persecuted for an accident protested mightily until the case was disposed of.

That same month, the Methodist Society managed to raise $5,000 in a drive for funds to finish the new church. It was 16 years, however, before that goal was achieved.

A gala event, scheduled by Monroe Turners for March 16, 1871, indicated that the village still was a long way from being dominated by Germanic influence despite the changing scene. A Grand Ball, set for that night to celebrate France's capitulation at Versailles to peace terms dictated by Prussia, drew only a small crowd. The "Sentinel" reported this in a quiet, brief item.

And, so it went--for the rest of 1871 and the years leading up to Monroe's participation in the Nation's Centennial observance. The record of those years is replete with interesting activities but a complete listing of them would be impossible for a single chapter.

Readers, however, are assured that the foregoing represents a sincere attempt to narrate, accurately but selectively, the events of the early 1870s which had the greatest influence on Monroe's development and its course for the future.

Chapter Thirteen

THE CENTENNIAL ERA AND THE PRESS

America's Centennial period, beginning in 1875, was a time when Monroe was experiencing the momentum of business, industrial and cultural activities set in motion by all the years which had gone before. That momentum was to continue through the turn of the century, receiving new impetus, from time to time, through changing circumstances and new enterprises.

Among the bright happenings in 1875 was the appearance January 23 of the Monroe "Sun," a modest biweekly. It was published by George R. South and a younger brother (whose name seems to have evaporated from written history). The "Sun" was printed on a small press owned by South's brother and its sprightly style and prose quickly became popular.

"The Sun" offered welcome relief from the constant sniping between the "Sentinel" and the "Green County Reformer," a Democratic sheet of sorts put out briefly by I.T. Carr. South's editorial opinions were subtle but often sharp essays which relegated petty politics to obscurity.

South's brother soon tired of the project and dropped out. George South had refused to carry advertising and his paper finally folded. He revived it in 1881 as a weekly, which continued until 1897 when it was merged with a group of other local papers.

The "Sun" publisher was a son of John South, wagon works owner. Civil War problems had caused the father to move here in 1864 from Allegheny, Pa., across the river from Pittsburgh. George stayed behind to operate the profitable family carriage storage business, finally coming to Monroe in 1870.

Another town highlight of the times was the opening of Adolph Sery's barbershop on the Square's south side. Sery's place soon became a morning gathering spot where men of the village exchanged news and gossip of the day, before or after their daily shaves or beard trims.

P. (Phares) Miller & Sons shop was gaining attention for its new line of fine, stylish carriages. Across the street, the Patterson & Billings firm was adding new wagonmaking machinery.

A "Sentinel" item on May 8, 1875, told of the wreck of the steamship "Shiller" off the Scilly Islands on England's south coast. The editor never got around to report that among the 300 or so victims was Joseph Schlitz, Milwaukee brewer whose firm was becoming one of Wisconsin's most prosperous industries. Schlitz was on his way home to Germany to bring relatives up to date on his achievements.

Green County Agricultural Society officers that month were reporting the 1875 County Fair should be the "best ever" and that $1,300 had been subscribed for a new exhibition building on the grounds.

Arabut Ludlow had started in mid-May to remodel the Green County House. He later was to rename it as the "Tremont House" and put his half brother, Calvin, in charge.

Bach's Band, a national touring group, gave a concert in May at Turner Hall, reported as the "grandest" ever heard here. It was such a sellout that more than 100, who could not get tickets, had to stand outside to hear the program. Unfortunately, the Turnverein lost $125 on the event.

In late May, Ludlow received a letter from J.W. Shuey, founder of Shueyville (Clarno), who wrote from Missouri that grasshoppers had destroyed all early plantings and farmers were in dire need of grain and bean seeds. Ludlow headed up a drive to prepare a shipment of supplies donated by Shuey's wide circle of oldtime friends.

Although the happening was not local, a stormy incident in July, 1875, at Janesville evoked considerable interest here since it involved Gen. James Bintliff, former "Sentinel" owner. A mob of angry supporters of an alderman, who had been chastized editorially by Bintliff's "Gazette" for his part in repeal of a saloon control law, invaded the newspaper plant, causing great damage. Bintliff confronted the hoodlums with a promise to trade shot for shot with anyone interested. His defiance cowed the crowd which left quickly.

It was a time of invention, S.E. Miner of the Planing Mill had developed a new type of window and door screen which was sold far and wide. Miner later invented several other popular building items for contractors. Monroe Mfg. Co.'s patented method for overcoming side draft of wagons made heavier loads possible on all types of road surfaces--boomed sales.

In September, three Monroe Mfg. Co. wagons exhibited at the State Fair won top honors, while other prizes went to P. Miller & Sons, Patterson & Billings and John Scannell for wagons and carriages. Other local State Fair winners included Arabut Ludlow for Shorthorn cattle and William Lysaght for Cotswold sheep.

Earlier, on August 2, 1875, Monroe Mfg. Co. stockholders had named H.W. Whitney, Arabut Ludlow, John Bolender, J.B. Treat and A.C. Dodge as directors. Ludlow became president, with Whitney as business manager. The firm reported 500 wagons on hand or in the process of finishing, most of them already on order from dealers and customers.

Ben Chenoweth announced plans for a new business block on the Square's northwest corner (Monroe Clinic site). Plans called for a brick structure with a unique rounded corner and a third floor if a tenant for a hotel operation appeared. That building was erected but the hotel idea was never realized.

An iron mine, north of Monroe on the former Levi Starr farm owned by Arabut Ludlow, had been sunk to the 35-foot level by Gideon Gillett and his

crew in mid-August. The ore lode still was running strong and Ludlow planned further prospecting. Apparently, the mine later failed to yield the indicated profits.

On November 5, 1875, J. B. Treat was elected state senator and John Luchsinger of New Glarus, Assembly representative. Republicans swept all local races.

The Young Ladies High School Literary Society presented Elizabeth Cady Stanton, national suffragist movement co-founder, in a lecture at Turner Hall November 9. The crowd was fair but the society lost money on the program.

Monroe's merchants on the Square announced plans to close stores at 7 p.m. daily (except Saturdays) during the winter months. The idea, it seems, didn't work and the 9 or 10 p.m. closings were resumed.

On December 27, 1875, fire destroyed portions of the Jacob Hefty brewery's main building with a loss of $8,000. Firemen, battling flames in the frigid weather, saved 400 barrels of beer. Hefty started work the next day on rebuilding.

In an omen of things to come, a spectacular chimney blaze at the Empire Block brought out firemen on a January night in 1876. It was in that same structure that fire started May 22, 1879, spreading north up the Square's east side and destroying seven buildings.

Various cheese producers were complaining in January, 1876, that they suspected dealers in New York, handling their cheese exports to Europe, were falsely claiming shipping damage or spoilage to drive down agreed prices. From lack of further items, it would seem nothing came of that.

Evidence of Monroe and Green County influence in state Republican ranks, after election of J. B. Treat as state senator and John Luchsinger to the Assembly, was obvious when E.T. Gardner was named State Senate sergeant-at-arms and Edmund M. Bartlett, another Monroe attorney, Assembly clerk.

At a January 31 meeting in A.S. Douglas's law office, Joseph T. Dodge, Douglas, H. W. Whitney, Helen Bingham and Mrs. Charles A. Booth were named to a committee on forming a new public library association. Dodge was named chairman and Miss Emma Van Wagenen, secretary. Articles of association were filed in March with the register of deeds. This Centennial Year project, however, languished somewhat until its revival in October.

Gen. Judson Kilpatrick, nationally-prominent military speaker, appeared at a fairly well-attended Turner Hall lecture on "Sherman's March to the Sea" February 1, 1876. Again, however, the Young Ladies High School Literary Society, the sponsor, found proceeds barely covering the costs.

After that second disappointment for the girls group, 42 village leaders published an appeal in the "Sentinel" for Helen Bingham, founder of the society, to prepare a lecture on any subject she wished as a benefit program. Miss Bingham chose early history of Monroe as her topic and the March 21 lecture in the Universalist Church drew a fine crowd, replenishing the society's treasury.

Miss Bingham then was urged to publish her talk in a booklet but decided to expand on the subject with her "History of Green County" printed in 1877. That book furnishes researchers with invaluable leads today in their studies of Monroe and Green County pioneer happenings. Its prose is delightful and its facts highly accurate. This narration's author leaned heavily upon Helen Bingham's book.

A crippling ice storm ravaged the Monroe area in mid-March, 1876, damaging shade and fruit trees. Its impact was almost as severe as that suffered here March 4-5, 1976, but, of course, there were no power and phone wires to be downed in that Centennial Year disaster.

In April, 1875, the Harper & Staver hardware firm announced it was the dealer and distributor for a new corn cultivator invented by George Staver

and built at the Monroe Mfg. Co. works.

Henry Hoehn and P.H. Weber were enjoying a fine spring business with their growing men's clothing store and tailoring shop on the Square's northeast corner (former Ludlow and Hoffman store site).

On June 6, 1876, Zadok H. Howe, postmaster and prominent citizen, died at 57 in his home. Two weeks later, Janet Jennings, during a visit here, declared she was cheerfully yielding any claim to the Postoffice appointment to Howe's widow. Some time later, David W. Ball, who had been postmaster twice before, was named to the post.

Monroe's first announced architect, W.M. Wright, was offering his services in June, 1876, to owners and contractors. Previously, the only local building plans had been sketched by James Bradshaw, artist and stationer, and Norman Churchill, builder and engineer. A Chicago firm also was advertising architectural drawings for homes and public buildings in the "Sentinel" each week.

On July 4, 1876, between 6,000 and 10,000 joined in Monroe's Centennial celebration, touched off with a two-mile parade to the Fairgrounds. Rev. T.P. Sawin, popular Janesville orator, spoke on the Republic's birth and its destiny. Local events were climaxed at night with a Grand Ball at Turner Hall, featured by supper and other refreshments. A late evening storm spoiled the event for many visitors caught in a drenching downpour of rain and thunderstorm on their way home. Farm families along roads leading out of Monroe gave shelter for the night to scores of soaked travelers.

First news of the June 25, 1876, massacre of Gen. George Custer and his cavalry troops at Little Big Horn, Mont., was carried in the July 12 "Sentinel" edition. It consisted of a series of telegraph bulletins relayed by military correspondents on the Indian War frontier. Another brief item that day reported that Theodore Golden, a young Brodhead man, was believed to be among the victims, as was a young Decatur man, identified only by the name "Hansen."

Those casualties never were confirmed in later "Sentinel" editions--unless the items were so well hidden they couldn't be found.

Many Monroe people were traveling to Philadelphia for the Centennial Exhibition on excursions arranged by the Chicago, St. Paul railroad agent here. Others were combining business trips to eastern cities with side jaunts to the Centennial site. Among the Philadelphia visitors was photographer H. G. White who came home with many pictures he took or purchased. White told the "Sentinel" he would display the pictures at the County Fair.

Not one of the Centennial visitors seems to have mentioned Alexender Graham Bell's telephone, which had been invented only a few months earlier.

C.D. Hulburt, whose sawmill was buzzing away at a prosperous pitch, was finishing his new house at the southwest corner of Clinton and Racine Streets (13th Avenue and 12th Street) in mid-November. The tidy brick Second Empire French style residence, with mansard roof and "handsome" bay window, was being praised as charming and unique by fellow Monroeites, as it still is today.

As the Centennial year ended, the community was the scene of other residential and business building activity. Job opportunities were increasing, particularly in the cheese industry as dealers built storage and curing structures, many of them along the railroad across from "Smoky Row." One of these projects was Jacob Karlen's cheese cellar, the town's first, at 15th Avenue and the railroad where it still exists as a landmark.

On March 3, 1877, Monroe Republicans greeted news of Rutherford B. Hayes's narrow victory over Samuel Tilden for president with a public celebration at Turner Hall. The Courthouse bell clanged mightily when the telegraph bulletin came through and a large bonfire, which had been made ready days earlier, was lighted. The 185 to 184 final electoral vote ratified by Congress was assailed angrily by local Democrats who charged the decision was a "steal."

A milestone of sorts for the Swiss community was marked September 15,

1877, when Rudolph Loewenbach, formerly of Freeport, published the first edition of his "Green County Herold." This German language paper flourished in varying degree, under Loewenbach's operation and subsequent changing editorships, until the Monroe Turners prevailed upon Robert Kohli to take over the paper. The Kohli family successfully continued the "Herold" well into the 1900s until declining readership made it less and less profitable. On August 22, 1939, the "Herold" was absorbed by a German-American publishing firm at Winona, Minn.

Civil War years, with their battlefield coverage, and the development of telegraphed news services had built high interest in newspapers of every community in the nation. A few years after the appearance of the "Herold" and South's "Sun," the "Sentinel" began to experience some competition for readers.

The arrival of John W. Odell in 1881, founder of the "Weekly Gazette," however, confronted Charles A. Booth with solid evidence that his "Sentinel" had a battle on its hands. In years pervious, Booth had been able to shake off an annoying progression of small papers, most of them lasting only long enough to have their names and expirations noted briefly in official history.

As it turned out, Booth was able to continue, even during the years when there were seven Monroe papers struggling at the same time for readers, until November 2, 1912, when his ill health and declining revenues caused suspension of the "Sentinel."

Odell, however, had come to Monroe to stay and South's "Sun" was proving popular, later being acquired by Miles T. Gettings. In 1886, Odell was joined by George E. Tanberg in publishing the "Daily Gazette," the city's first daily in 1889 and Odell took it over as the first "Monroe Evening Times." Giles continued the "Weekly Gazette."

Odell split with Giles in 1895 and moved his daily, using a press owned

by the "Monroe Journal," which seems to have died aborning. Soon afterward, Gettings of the "Sun" and Alfred C. Clarke, who had purchased the "Weekly Gazette" from Giles, merged their operations into the "Sun-Gazette," printed upstairs in the present Bauman Ace Hardware building.

Clarke and Gettings in 1897 then joined Odell of the "Monroe Evening Times" and Edward S. Hanson in a new enterprise, the Union Printing Co., located in the Syndicate Block, 1500-block on 11th Street. This firm was broken up less than a year later. L.A. Woodle, son of pioneer Allen Woodle and owner of the "Green County Journal," which served mostly as a paper for county legal and real estate news, bought the Gettings and Clarke interests. Odell and Hanson withdrew from the Union plant setup, the former establishing the "Monroe Weekly Times."

Woodle shifted his operations to the Union plant in the Syndicate Block and began publishing the "Journal-Gazette" as a weekly. At the same time, he started the "Monroe Daily Journal" with his son, Roy.

Dissolution of the Union firm and Woodle's takeover had ended the "Monroe Evening Times" but John Odell retained rights to that name. Emery A. Odell, his son, who had edited the "Evening Times" since 1893, had shifted to Woodle's "Monroe Daily Journal" but quit over the $5 weekly salary. He then founded the present "Monroe Evening Times" October 13, 1898, with meager capital borrowed from town leaders.

The "Daily Journal" and "Evening Times" embarked on a rugged fight for readers and advertising. Emery A. Odell took over his father's "Monroe Weekly Times" in 1903 and began to build a commanding lead over the Woodle daily and weekly. This "war" continued unabated until July, 1927, when Odell purchased the "Daily Journal" and the "Journal-Gazette," dropping the latter weekly and absorbing the daily into his "Evening Times."

Since that time, the "Monroe Evening Times" has been alone in the local

newspaper field. Emery A. Odell died in January, 1953, and Edmund C. Hamilton and Miss Lena Conrad purchased the paper under a prior contract. Hamilton and Miss Conrad sold the "Evening Times" September 1, 1964, to the newly-formed Monroe Publishing Co., headed by Arnold Lund of Dixon, Ill. Lund died in 1975 and his family now operates the paper with his son, Larry Lund of McHenry, Ill., as publisher.

In May, 1951, a new figure emerged in the communications picture here with launching of radio station WEKZ, owned and operated by the Green County Broadcasting Co. Founding partners were the late W.R. Schuetze, Doran R. Zwygart and Kenneth W. Stuart. Later, Joseph Urban, Stanley Neuberger and Kenneth R. Schneider became stockholders.

Returning to the period following the Centennial era, the record shows Monroe was moving into the 1880s as a full-fledged business and industrial community which had enjoyed strong surges through new leadership and enterprises indicating high promise for a fine future.

The town's position as a center for banking, retail and wholesale merchandising, wagon building, construction supply and other businesses was firmly established. And, the village's happy situation as the storage, curing and shipping point for most of Wisconsin's foreign type cheese production also was beginning to auger well for even greater prosperity.

Chapter Fourteen

TOWARD THE NEW CENTURY

A new dimension opened up for Monroe's economy in 1881 when the Chicago, St. Paul railroad finally extended its tracks west to Shullsburg, linking up there with the Mineral Point & State Line branch. It was not until May 9, 1888, however, that direct service between Milwaukee and Mineral Point, through Monroe, began with one train a day each way.

That same year of 1881 saw the beginning of the profitable carriage and wagon building business of Maurice and James Fitzgibbons, who bought out John Scannell's small but busy shop.

On March 25, 1882, the Legislature approved Monroe's incorporation as a city, granting it the last of such special charters before the classification law took effect. W.W. Wright, long active in village government, was named as first mayor.

Three days later, March 28, 1882, the "Monroe City Guards" unit was formed, eventually becoming Co. H, First Wisconsin Regiment, with Capt. Samuel Lewis commanding.

Later in 1882, Arabut Ludlow gave up trying to make a go of his "Tremont House" hotel, managed by his half brother, Calvin Ludlow, and sold it to Fred Thomm. The new owner promptly restored its name to the "Green County House."

Monroe became a two-bank city in April, 1883, when the new Citizens Bank opened it doors on the Square's south side, near the southwest corner. John Bolender was elected president and Henry Clayton Witmer, vice president.

Capt. Samuel Lewis was cashier briefly before being succeeded by J.H. Durst. The latter was to remain as cashier of the Citizens until January, 1931, when the bank was obliged to undergo reorganization. Other major stockholders in 1883 were G.T. Hodges and Henry Durst.

One of the early employes was Joseph Witmer of Juda, brother of H.C. Witmer, who joined the bank after graduation from Harvard College as assistant cashier. The Witmers had operated a semi-banking business in Juda earlier and a few years later they left for California where both became successful. Joseph Witmer, in addition to his varied interests in Los Angles, became cashier of the Bank of California. His successful career was cut short in 1897 by a fatal heart attack at his Lordsburg ranch.

In another step toward a dominant role in Monroe's carriage and wagon making business was taken in 1883 when Fitzgibbons Bros. Co. bought out John South's large works on Russell (10th) Street in the block east of the Square. Fitzgibbons Bros. previously had built a three-story 85 x 80 structure adjoining South's and now planned to expand on its force of 20 skilled craftsmen.

Meanwhile, Monroe Mfg. Co.'s wagon building business was feeling effects of tough competition in Midwest markets from larger firms in other cities, notably the Studebaker enterprise in South Bend, Ind. Its farm machinery market acceptance also was hit by growth of major Chicago and Illinois manufacturers, among them McCormick, Deering and John Deere.

The Monroe firm also had to share its Wisconsin and domestic wagon and carriage sales with various other local firms, in addition to Fitzgibbons Bros. These included Lanz & Son (Andrew and Edward), Knipschield Bros. (John W. and Adam), Andrew Buehler and Thomas Patterson & Co.

Another problem for Monroe Mfg. Co. was the ill health of H.W. Witney, who had become the last remaining major stockholder. The firm never had regained the momentum of its early years and finally was leased by Whitney to

the Legler & McCaffery partnership.

Among other 1883 business milestones was announcement that Frank L. Chenoweth, son of pioneer Ben Chenoweth, had entered into partnership with J.T. Etter for a store operation on the Square's north side.

Monroe's Volunteer Fire Department "came of age" in 1883 with delivery of a new steam-powered American LaFrance pumper, an acquisition hailed by everyone, including muscle-weary firefighters who had been obliged to pump water with a hand-operated "engine" ever since the department was formed.

In 1884, the biggest news story appearing in the "Sun" and "Sentinel" columns concerned completion of Arabut Ludlow's imposing four-story (including attic) brick hotel structure on the southeast corner of 16th Avenue and 9th Street. This massive Victorian Gothic style hotel, with its lavish interior furnishings (and one bathroom, at first, to each floor), was praised by townspeople and guests as one of the finest to be found west of Chicago. Ludlow's friendship with Potter Palmer, famed Chicago hotel builder, probably led him to spare no expense in trying to match the best to be found in that city.

Ludlow and his family leased the hotel to various operators until it was sold to John Aeschliman of Monroe in 1913, after Mrs. Caroline Ludlow's death. The Ludlow Hotel continued as a center for Monroe social and civic events for many years, eventually being razed in 1955 for the McLellan and J.C. Penney store buildings.

In July, 1884, memories of the Young Ladies High School Literary Society were revived when Dr. Helen Bingham came home from Milwaukee to visit her mother, Mrs. Caroline Bingham. She called a meeting July 10 of her former society members to explain her work with the Woman's Club of Milwaukee.

At Dr. Bingham's suggestion, the Literary Society's alumnae immediately voted to organize the Woman's Club of Monroe. Mrs. Alida Ludlow, wife of Henry Ludlow, was elected first Woman's Club president, Mrs. Emily A. Abbott,

wife of Dr. Simon W. Abbott, became vice president, and Mrs. Amelia Churchill, wife of Charles B. Churchill, took over as first secretary.

That club rapidly became the most active and successful single contributor to Monroe's cultural development, and has continued so throughout the years to the present.

Work on North (Churchill) School was completed in 1884 in time for classes to start that year. Miss Emma Van Wagenen was named principal, serving in that post until her retirement in 1916.

In 1886, Monroe's National Guard Co. H experienced its first active service when it was called to Milwaukee, along with other Wisconsin First Regiment units, to help curb steel mill and railroad strike violence. This duty lasted several days with little troop activity.

With revival of the nation's economic situation in 1886, building activity picked up again in Monroe. Fred Frzee's brickyard, a block west of Recen Craven's works, was enjoying booming times. Craven had suspended his operations briefly but resumed work in late summer to fulfill new contracts. Walter E. Higley, masonry contractor, also was operating yards on the east and west sides of town. (That November, Higley finished his own new home near his east yards, now the residence of Mrs. Cromer Houser at 1620 20th Avenue.)

In August, 1886, surveyors set out from Monroe to map a new Illinois Central branch to Madison. A similar survey, from Freeport to Monroe, had been completed several years earlier, with H.W. Whitney largely responsible for underwriting the project costs through Green County.

A month after that IC survey began, work was started on laying tracks south out of Monroe to the stateline. The Illinois Central also was busy extending tracks north from Freeport to link up with the Green County work.

Although the summer of 1886 marked the 50th anniversary of the settlement undertaken here by Jacob Andirck and Joseph Payne, Monroe appears to

have taken little if any special notice of this milestone. No special mention was evident in the "Sentinel" columns, possibly because there always had been some dispute as to the exact year it all started.

A medical item in the "Sentinel" in October, 1886, reported Drs. N. A. Loofbourow and F. S. Confer had performed the first successful eye cataract surgery here on S. T. Clayton. Another such operation was undertaken soon afterward, proving equally successful.

A.C. Dodge, prominent lumber dealer and builder, helped raise the curtain on busy 1887 with an open house social affair in January at his huge "elegant new home," as Editor Booth described it, at the southwest corner of 15th Avenue and 15th Street. That large frame dwelling still stands at the site.

Charles B. Churchill, after a year's absence, returned to Monroe in February, 1887, after selling his interest in a Janesville plumbing supply firm. The Churchills took up residence in the former Joseph Perrine house (now the Jerry Coplien home at 911 8th Street). In November, Churchill, his father-in-law, Joseph Wood, and Recen Craven entered into a partnership for operating a new brickyard.

On May 22, 1887, dedication services for the First Methodist Church were conducted, almost 18 years after the building project was launched. Completion was made possible through response to several fund appeals, a $5,000 gift from Benjamin Chenoweth (not a congregation member) and other assistance from the the general public. Mrs. Charles Pike, whose late husband had been a generous contributor provided funds for the first organ.

The pastor, Rev. C. R. Kellerman, who had taken over the pulpit only a short time before, was credited with expediting the church's completion. On October 22, however, Rev. Kellerman left to become pastor of a Fergus Falls, Minn., church.

Gen. James Bintliff, former "Monroe Sentinel" owner, had sold his interest

in the "Janesville Gazette" during the summer and purchased the Darlington "Republican," a weekly. Editor Booth reported Bintliff already was building a new home there, this time a large frame structure (now the residence of that paper's present owner).

Fire Chief John Harper on August 3, 1887, finally gave up his struggle to obtain a regular team of horses for the 1883 fire engine, named for him. Harper resigned, hoping his protest action would prod the city fathers into arranging for at least one pair of "standby" horses to haul the steamer. City Council eventually did but "pickup" teams still were used for several years more.

Also during August, Arabut Ludlow visited in Decorah, Iowa, with Col. J.W. Taylor, former Monroe resident who planted the first trees in the Courthouse park in 1849. (Those trees were ordered cut down when the 1891-92 Courthouse was built in order to "improve the view" of the structure.) Col. Taylor had left here in 1850 to act as agent in locating western properties for clients with the pioneering itch.

Early in November, 1887, the National Gas Co. of Chicago, which had applied for a franchise here, asked the city to extend the January 1, 1888, deadline for starting its new plant, claiming delayed delivery of materials made that date impossible to meet. The plea was granted and the plant finished late in the spring.

The new Monroe Illinois Central passenger and freight depots were completed in November, 1887, and telegraph service started in preparation for the line's operation between here and Freeport. On December 1, at 6:50 a.m., E.A. Wilder, engineer, reported the IC's tunnel near Monticello had been completed, indicating trains soon would be running north to Madison.

An another 1887 note of a railroad interest, Joseph T. Dodge, formerly of Monroe, announced he had finished his tunnel project and track laying for

the Montana Central Railroad and was rejoining his family in Duluth. J. J. Tschudy Jr. bought the Dodge house here (cater-cornered from South School) the following May.

The "Sentinel" January 25, 1888, edition reported Frank Chenoweth planned to build a Queen Anne style residence on lots purchased from the estate of Dr. J.S. Reynolds, dentist who had died in September. The high location at East Russell (10th) and Green (20th Avenue) Streets was viewed as ideal for the project.

Chenoweth's father, Benjamin, also was continuing his speculative investments by acquiring the McKey lots on the Square's west side (north of the Eugene Hotel). He announced plans to replace the old frame buildings with a new brick business block (now occupied by Baumgartner's, the Sherwin-Williams store and Strickler's).

In April, the Schlitz brewery bought a lot on Jefferson Street (17th Avenue) south of the Square for a new brick building. That structure, owned in recent years by Fred Kohli, was leased by Schlitz to Gottlieb Leuenberger, former brewery operator, for his saloon and beer distributorship.

A brief article in the May 23, 1888, "Sentinel" reported that B.L. Wood, E. C. Green and W. P. Bragg had organized the Monroe Electric Light Co. and obtained a city franchise for a generating plant to provide service to Monroe business places and homes. The new firm also won the street lighting contract in bidding competition with the gas company. It started to build its plant June 6 with C. D. Hulburt, who had sold his sawmill operation to J.B. Treat a year earlier, as supervising contractor.

Electric lights, mostly on street corners, were turned on September 1 on a limited basis in certain night hours. Plant generating capacity was a problem from the start and a new steam generator was installed in 1901 in the plant at the northeast corner of 15th Avenue and 12th Street. By 1908,

electricity was being supplied on a 24-hour basis for the first time.

However, lack of capacity for generating adequate power continued to confront Monroe Electric Light Co. owners with need for new capital. When local investors and business firms were slow in helping to raise the money, Wood, Green and Bragg sold the utility to outside interests in 1910. During subsequent years, it became necessary to purchase power from various outside sources, tapping into transmission lines. Monroe Electric Light Co. eventually became the property of Wisconsin Power & Light Co. in 1924.

In that earlier busy year of 1888, which had seen gas and power become available, another belated service made its debut here when Wisconsin Telephone Co., a Bell subsidiary, completed its lines into Monroe, connecting the community with Madison, Milwaukee and Chicago. It was not until 1895, however, that limited local exchange service grew to feasible proportions.

Monroe Telephone Co. was organized in 1899, providing service only within the city limits. Exchange offices were located upstairs in the Dan Young grocery block, northwest corner of the Square. W.P. Bragg, Dr. W.B. Monroe, C.W. Twining, Edward M. Carroll and J. Henry Durst were the major stockholders.

At first, the firm had only 145 subscribers and grew little until after Wisconsin Telephone ceased local service in 1903. In 1902, some of Monroe Telephone's stockholders broke away to organize the United Telephone. Exchanges were built at Blanchardville, Monticello, New Glarus, Albany, Juda and South Wayne, with toll line hookups with other area communities. The Monroe and United companies were consolidated in 1911 with C. W. Twining as president. Paul J. Weirich became general manager, returning here after gaining experience in several other cities.

Returning to 1888 happenings, Monroe had a "syndicate" that year, long before Chicago came to use that noun. The local syndicate, however, was strictly legal, comprising a group of businessmen who pooled resources early

in the summer to build the Syndicate Block on the west half of the 1500-block of 11th Street. The group erected a two-story structure with quarters for five stores and businesses. The Roger Gettings & Son meat market was located in the central, or keystone, portion of the building (across from today's city parking ramp).

In July, 1888, his patients welcomed the return of Dr. Nathan A. Loofbourow from his year of graduate study in various European medical centers.

In a sad item on September 26, 1888, the "Sentinel" reported the death September 23 near Cheyenne, Wyo., of Jehu Chadwick, son of J. M. Chadwick, from what probably was Rocky Mountain fever. He was to have come here to marry Addie Ludlow in a ceremony scheduled at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arabut Ludlow. Addie left for the Chadwick ranch shortly before her fiance's death. Funeral services were held for Chadwick at the Ludlow home on the same day as the "Sentinel" story. (Addie married Homer Bingham nine years later at Denver.)

Two other deaths, a few weeks later also featured the "Sentinel" columns. The first item, a very brief note October 13, 1888, told of the fatal stroke suffered by Rev. William Haw at the Methodist parsonage while helping pack family household goods for moving to his new pastorate at Chippewa Falls.

The second, carried in much greater detail, told of the death October 20 of James (Uncle Jimmy) Hawthorn. This redoubtable pioneer, who had fought in the War of 1812, settled in Clarno Township in October, 1833, two miles south of Monroe. His rugged mining career, his brushes with marauding Blackhawk War Indians and other adventures after coming to Green County were legend. Hawthorn married Massy Boyls, daughter of William Boyls who gave the county its name. Uncle Jimmy was buried on his 91st birthday October 22. His descendants still are farming in the Monroe area.

On a final note for 1888, Mrs. S. W. (Emily) Abbott, serving as town

librarian in the quarters over the Citizens Bank, reported 1,500 books were available for circulation.

The new year of 1889 got off to a fiery start January 1 when Daniel S. Young's frame grocery building and the adjoining Carl Saur bakery, at the Square's northwest corner, were destroyed by flames. It was Young's second fire disaster. He had been burned out of business in the May 22, 1879, catastrophe on the Square's east side. This time, Young moved his grocery temporarily to the Treat Block, across the street, buying out N.B. Treat's store inventory. He started at once on a new brick business block at the fire site, acquiring the adjoining Jesse Robertson property (Saur bakery location) for an expanded project. (This structure still stands as the Schultz Pharmacy site.)

H.W. Whitney's announcement later in January, 1889, that the Monroe Mfg. Co.'s buildings were for sale seemed to strike a final death blow for that once prosperous wagon and farm machinery operation. In October, 1889, after no buyers appeared, George Spangler, J. J. Tschudy Jr. and George P. Wilson leased the plant to manufacture a steam heater invented by Wilson. Out of this project, the Excelsior Mfg. Co. was organized the next year to build and market a steam water heater and purifier developed by Charles Ferreira. This enterprise also met with indifferent success and later the Lanz family took over the foundry and shop property, and still owns it today.

The old German (Immanuel) Evangelical frame church, which was up for sale to clear the way for a new structure, was purchased in February, 1889, by the United Brethren congregation for removal to a lot on Clinton (13th Avenue) Street. That old building remains in use today as the New Apostolic Church.

In May, 1889, Walter E. Higley purchased a large brick works in Sheldon, Iowa. Less than a year later, he sold his west side yard, formerly Recen

Craven's, to A.C. Dodge. He also dismantled his east side yard (near Lakeside Heights), announcing he would devote his full attention to his Sheldon works.

Purchase of the struggling "Green County Herold" by a group of Turners from Herman W. Frick was announced May 22, 1889. Soon afterward, the Turners persuaded Robert Kohli to take over the newspaper.

In the biggest new development of the year, the Wisconsin Milk Condensing Co. was formed in June with Arabut Ludlow as president, Jacob Karlen, vice president, and John Luchsinger, secretary. A large brick plant was built (south section of the old Borden structure on 17th Avenue near the IC depot) and farmers solicited for milk supply contracts. (The subsequent story of that venture was outlined in the cheese industry chapter.)

Frank L. Chenoweth installed electric wiring in his home in July, 1889, the first new house in town to have that service. (Later, he seems to have added gas since his lighting fixtures were designed for using both electricity and gas.)

Earlier, Editor Charles Booth had described Chenoweth's place as "one of the most elegant in this part of the State." Booth added this final note: "It knocks'em all out."

Contractor Washington Hill completed the new 92-foot tower at St. Victor's Catholic Church October 16 and the two-ton bell was lifted into place.

On October 20, 1889, the new (Immanuel) Evangelical Church, a white brick 57 x 37 structure with 26 x 16 school wing, was dedicated by Bishop Thomas Bowman of Chicago.

The "Sentinel" reported on November 6, 1889, the new waterworks standpipe was nearing completion at the old New Mexico town Square (Lincoln Park). Mains were already being laid in many parts of the city in preparation for the city's first water pressure system. It also was announced a plentiful

new water supply had been discovered with a test well on the Robert Crow property at the west edge of town and work already was under way on the new pumphouse. Water service was started in January, 1890, by the privately-owned utility. It was sold to the city in 1906 by W. H. Wheeler, Beloit.

In late November, D. S. Young completed his new brick store block and the "Sentinel" promptly moved its offices into upstairs rooms.

News developments in 1890 were mostly concerned with extension of electric, gas and water utility services to more and more buildings and homes here. Wisconsin Telephone also was modestly expanding its hookups to more business places and households.

It was a busy time for craftsmen learning new trades in the electrical and gas service fields, as well as for the plumbing firms which had only appeared on the scene a decade or so earlier. As it turned out, these utilities and innovations had not only opened up many new jobs but also offered opportunity for expanding on many enterprises, such as the cheese and milk processing operations.

Probably the most important local political happening of the post Civil War years was the nomination in 1890 of J.B. Treat of Monroe for lieutenant governor on the Republican ticket with Gov. William D. Hoard.

Treat's fine opportunity for statewide eminence, unfortunately, was aborted when George W. Peck, erstwhile newspaper and magazine editor best known for his "Peck's Bad Boy" writings, upset Gov. Hoard's bid for a second term in the November balloting. Peck's victory came on a negative vote resulting from rancorous controversy over a parochial school law embroiling the Legislature in its worst tangle since the abolition issue of the 1850s. Gov. Hoard and his Republican associates were innocent victims since they played no role in stirring up the row.

One of the highlights of 1891 was the appearance of Monroe's first com-

prehensive "Illustrated Review and City Director," complied by Miles T. Gettings and W. D. Schoenfield and printed at the Woodle & Turner plant. This volume represented an unquestioned improvement over previous directories. Amply illustrated with line engravings and the first half-tone reproductions ever seen in a local publication, the book was replete with information on industries, businesses, lodges, churches, schools, the fire department and other facets of Monroe's community life.

This 1891 directory, prized by collectors and local history enthusiasts, has been of inestimable value to researchers. It is not likely that Gettings and Schoenfield actually realized any real profit from the project. They did, however, make a fine contribution to future generations through their courageous undertaking.

Two of the Monroe area's very early pioneers departed from the scene, forever, in October, 1891. Their deaths, occurring just a week apart, reminded busy citizens, at least momentarily, of the debt owed those hardy first settlers.

The first, on October 11, was Daniel S. Sutherland, 89, one of the group which organized Green County and arranged for the county seat to be located in what became Monroe in 1839. Born in Onondago County, N.Y., June 13, 1802, Sutherland settled in Illinois in 1822 and then came to Wisconsin in May, 1836, building his log cabin in Section 25, Town of Monroe.

While serving in the Territorial Legislature, Sutherland helped win approval for splitting off what became Green County from the original Iowa County. He also had been one of the founders of the Republican Party in 1854 at Ripon, Wisconsin.

Mordecai Kelly, 83, was the other stalwart and his death October 18, stirred memories of lively early times. Kelly, born April 21, 1808, in Pike County, Ohio, came to Green County in May, 1837, locating his claim four

miles west of Monroe. His log cabin, later enlarged, remained standing on the farm until it finally collapsed several years ago.

After trying his hand at lead mining, Kelly settled down to farming and was fairly successful. In February, 1871, he was involved in a tragic shooting on his place which took the life of Marshall D. Garton, 12. As related in a previous chapter, telling of the "charivari" incident, Kelly was indicted for the slaying but the case eventually was disposed of quietly.

Another October, 1891, item reported that Gottlieb Leuenberger, Civil War veteran and longtime former brewery operator on 12th Street, had announced he would move to the Washington and Oregon area. His son, Henry, who later was to join the Blumer Brewery, took over the family's saloon and beer distributing business on Jefferson Street (17th Avenue) in the building erected a few years earlier by the Jos. Schlitz brewing firm of Milwaukee.

A disaster which shocked the community occurred at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, November 1, 1891, when St. Victor's Church caught fire two hours after masses. Beginning in the south end of the church near the chimney, flames spread rapidly through the dry timbers despite efforts of firemen who had arrived in record time. The roof was destroyed and walls so badly damaged that Father H.S. O'Brien and parish leaders told the "Sentinel" repairs would be impossible.

The old church, completed in 1861, had been expanded in 1870 to three times its original capacity. The "Sentinel" story said the resulting 40 x 90 frame structure had been "cheaply built." The two-ton bell, installed only two years earlier in the tall tower, was saved from the flames and parishioners began immediate plans for a new structure of stone or brick.

Work on the new Courthouse was being rushed in hope of completion early in 1892. By December, the bell had been placed in the building's tower and there was talk of installing a clock.

Alderman Henry Durst came close to becoming the Courthouse project's

first fatal casualty when a plank, tossed carelessly by a workman from an upper level scaffold, fell close enough to tear the brim of Durst's hat as he stood watching construction progress.

Jacob Karlen's three-story stone and brick Richardson Romanesque style building on the Square's northeast corner (site of the old United States House) was also being finished late in 1891. It was pointed to proudly as an imposing example of the cheese industry's soaring prosperity.

On a final 1891 note, the city's Free Library, still operating from quarters over the Citizens Bank, reported it had 3,000 books for general circulation, plus several hundred reference volumes for students.

As soon as the Courthouse was ready for use in 1892, the building at the northeast corner of 9th Street and 15th Avenue, which had been occupied by "overflow" county offices, was vacated. In 1896, that structure was turned over to the Free Library Association. This move provided for increased hours of service and more reading room space.

Monroe's Jewish population, which had been increasing since the late 1880s with the steady arrival of store operators, tailors and other merchandisers, was reaching its peak in 1894-95. Most of these families, who contributed greatly to the city's business and community life, settled along 12th Street between 20th and 18th Avenues.

The 1895 City Directory shows the Jewish community had a resident rabbi, Charles Belter, who lived with his large family in a house on 14th Avenue, immediately north of the present Ralph Lindsay home. (That rabbi's house was razed many years ago.)

Many of these Jewish families moved on to Madison or other cities in the years marking the beginning of the new century. A few others remained but Monroe never saw another influx to match the 1890s period.

In 1895, Alvin F. Rote, son of Squire Lewis Rote, veteran justice of

peace, returned to Monroe from Beloit to become school superintendent. His tenure in that office until 1901 was featured by many innovations in educational programs, marking the start of "modern" schooling operations.

Editor Booth, in February, 1896, taking note of Chicago's use of taller public buildings for locating fire, suggested the Courthouse tower would be ideal for that purpose. Booth claimed the prevailing alarm system often led to confusion over exact whereabouts of fires and that police "spotters" could solve the problem. Nothing, apparently, ever came of that idea, probably because police cringed at the thought of climbing the stairs and ladder to the tower's top level.

On February 20, 1896, the Good Templars Order was revived here by George I. Stratton of Janesville. (The charter, uncovered recently in the First National Bank's expansion project, reveals most of the leaders were women.) Editor Booth, a lifetime foe of Demon Rum, commented: "Somebody ought surely to do some temperance work in Monroe." It is assumed the Good Templars did their best to oblige.

Gen. Francis H. West, builder of the Octagon House, died March 6, 1896, at Bessemer, Ala., where he had gone to recoup his fortunes with an iron ore processing business. Gen. West had left Monroe after the Civil War for a stormy career in Milwaukee, battling the railroad grain elevator and freight rate monopoly headed by Alexander Mitchell. He moved to Alabama after his health and resources had been drained by that fight.

Another prominent personality was lost to Monroe with the death of Hezekiah W. Whitney October 6, 1896, in Chicago's Baptist Hospital. Whitney had been in failing health for years and his death at 75 was believed to have been hastened by his troubles with his Monroe Mfg. Co.

In 1898, Monroe took time out for another war experience, this time the departure of Co, H members in May for the Spanish-American conflict in Cuba.

The local troops never got to that island, sweating out the war in camp at Jacksonville, Fla. Three Co. H members died of typhoid as result of that stay and the company finally was sent home on 30-day furlough, arriving September 11. The war ended before that leave was completed.

Once again, on January 14, 1899, fire featured the city's business news when the Fitzgibbons Bros. carriage and wagon works at 10th Street and 18th Avenue was destroyed. The disaster was so complete that Maurice and James Fitzgibbons jolted the community by revealing they were thinking of moving the enterprise to Galena which had made an attractive offer. They were convinced by fellow townspeople, however, that Monroe was a most desirable center for their business, and launched work immediately to rebuild the plant.

Francis F. White, prominent lumber firm operator, died here May 19, 1900, shortly after construction had started on his White Block at the Square's southwest corner (Drapery House building). His family decided to continue the project with Dr. H. W. Caradine, who divided his time between dentistry and building projects, as contractor.

Supt. A.F. Rote, brother-in-law of White, then left his school post to take over the lumber business. He was joined later by his son, Robert L. Rote, who provided architectural planning, and the A.F. Rote Co. soon became the major lumber and construction firm in the community.

Monroe moved smoothly into the 20th Century with progress in every area of activity. The city's new utilities--electricity, gas, water and telephone--were beginning to attain some of their hoped for potential. Economic conditions, in Wisconsin and over the country, however, were not matching the dreams envisioned for the new century.

The Monroe Businessmen's Association, first organized in 1887, was revived to seek improved retail and industrial activity here through creation of more job opportunities. It was a restless time but also a period when

leaders were coming forward with ideas, many of them gleaned from visits to other cities.

During this time of renewed discussion of ways to improve things, veterans of the Spanish-American War decided Monroe should have a better Armory to house its Company H Guard unit and the First Wisconsin regimental headquarters. A special association was formed to raise building funds in a public drive. The money was forthcoming and the new Armory, a brick structure at the southwest corner of 9th Street and 18th Avenue, was started in 1901. It was dedicated April 3, 1902.

On Saturday, November 29, 1902, John Bolender's store on the Square's south side was discovered burning at 10:30 p.m., a half hour after closing. Firemen hurried to the scene to fight the stubborn blaze which originated in the basement from a clogged chimney flue. Flames and smoke spread through the basement and first floor and the large display windows were blown out. Much of the stock was saved by firemen, however, and moved by Bolender to the vacant Wells building on the Square's west side. The firm was to occupy that site (now Spurgeon's) for many years.

Bolender estimated his loss at $18,000, including Christmas business stock which he couldn't replace.

The Businessman's association started negotiations in the autumn of 1902 with a Chicago firm, offering to provide a site and building on 12th Street, west of the County Jail, for a glove manufacturing operation. A 10-day drive in November for $15,000 in public contributions ran some $3,000 short of the goal but the Chicago promoters agreed to accept the lesser amount for a smaller building.

That glove factory project lasted until 1904 and title to the property then reverted to the Businessman's group. Next occupant was a Beloit firm which had patented an "Irish Mail" type of children's handpowered go-cart.

This enterprise also found severe competition from other, better known makers of go-carts. It folded after a brief valiant fight.

So, once again search for an enterprise was launched. About that time, association officers were approached by a group organizing what it called the "Invincible Electric Bank Protection Co." The product was an alarm system for banks. A fair market for the device was found available in the Midwest and production was started in the former glove factory building. The promoters lacked sufficient capital, however, and stock was sold to more local business operators.

After some years of indifferent success, Invincible was taken over by local stockholders. Leland C. White, owner of the Vaughan Publishing Co. and entrepreneur of circus and County Fair acts and stage shows, was named manager.

White's most widely known County Fair artist was Dorothy Davonda, balloon ascension aerialist who thrilled crowds throughout the Midwest. However, the combined efforts of White, and balloonist and loyal local backers were insufficient to keep Invincible afloat here and it collapsed in 1910.

Invinvible's patent rights and machinery were purchased by a new group which moved the operation to Manitowoc. Today, a line of metal furniture and filing cases is manufactured by Invincible, as well as electric vote casting and tabulating machines, such as the one used today by Wisconsin's Legislature.

Harvey Paper Products came here in the wake of Invincible's demise and occupied the 12th Street building for a short time. It then accepted an attractive offer of capital support from a Michigan community. Harvey's success in Michigan caused reluctant Monroe investors to smart over a missed opportunity.

After standing vacant for some time, the building was sold by the

Businessmen's Association for $5,000. Over the years since, the building has been the location of Monroe's remaining Swiss cheese factory, the Green County Cheese Co-op, and also was used for a time by the Donny Cheese Factory Equipment.Co.

That $5,000 left from the glove factory adventure was "inherited" in 1923 by the newly-organized Monroe Chamber of Commerce. In 1947, during the St. Clare Hospital expansion drive, the Chamber contributed $2,000 from the fund toward that project.

During the summer of 1903, rumors were rife in Monroe about plans for a new bank. It was not until October 7, however, that the project was confirmed when stockholders closed a deal for the Linder property at the Square's northeast corner. C.W. Twining, cashier of the First National, had been persuaded by a group of businessmen to organize the institution, under the name of "Commercial & Savings Bank."

Twining was named president and headed that bank until he left Monroe in 1913 for Portland, Ore. The initial list of Commercial stockholders reads like a roster of leading town figures at that time:

George W. Thorpe, R.D. Gorham, Evan South, Dr. W.B. Monroe, B.H. Bridge, Dr. C.W. Bennett, Alvin F. Rote, George E. Thorp, B.L. Wood, John Gettings, Ed T. Kundert, Jacob Benkert, W.T. Saucerman, D.W. Vance, L.H. Gapen, Simon Saucerman, E.F. Bauman and W.F. Kiester.

The new bank opened for business immediately in temporary quarters on the Square's east side. Work on its impressive new building was delayed only slightly by refusal of Paul Ruf, the town's youngest businessman, to give up his cigar store and shoe shine stand at the corner site. B.H. Bridge finally arranged for him to move to the Bridge Block location where the Ruf Confectionary continues today.

Thus, the highly successful First National, controlled by the Ludlow

family, and the Citizens Bank, which had moved into spacious White Block corner quarters, had new and sprightly competition. This three-way rivalry continued until the First National and Citizens merged in October, 1940.

The last two events concerning the beginnings of Monroe's 20th Century story--Dr. Nathan A. Loofbourow's hospital and the new Ludlow Memorial Library--were related in a way.

In May, 1931, at a meeting of Monroe Businessmen's Association, Dr. Loofbourow brought up the city's need for a hospital (all major surgery had to be done at Freeport or Janesville). He showed the group an architect's sketch for a proposed 42 x 60 hospital building with three or four main stories, plus a ground level floor.

Estimated cost of the project was $15,000. Dr. Loofbourow offered to put up the first $5,000 if the Association could arrange, through banks or private investors, for a 10-year loan of $10,000. No immediate action was taken, mainly because the Businessmen's group was involved in the glove factory project.

Soon afterward, local citizens started efforts to gain a Carnegie Foundation grant for a public library. They enlisted the aid of W.W. Churchill, son of Charles B. Churchill, who was engineering chief for Westinghouse, Church, Kerr & Co. in New York. He was acquainted with directors of the Carnegie Foundation.

In March, 1904, City Council selected the Striger property at the northwest corner of 10th Street and 18th Avenue (present Commercial bank site) for the new library's location. The Council then was offered a compromise $12,500 Carnegie grant and passed an ordinance accepting it.

A storm promptly swept the community, fanned by blasts from two directions. One group of opponents claimed the site across from the Fitzgibbons carriage factory would be too noisy. The other faction felt the community

should build its own library without help from the unpopular Andrew Carnegie, steel industry king. The uproar went on for two weeks with no end in sight.

Suddenly, and quietly, the ruckus was terminated. Henry, Edwin and Willis Ludlow announced they would give the School District $12,000 for a library building if the Carnegie gift was rejected. They specified that the library should be a memorial to their father, Arabut Ludlow, and located on lots at the former county office site, used since 1896 for the town's "free library."

Mrs. Lida Ludlow, wife of Henry, actually prompted the gift offer. She reminded the brothers that Arabut Ludlow had publicly discussed building such a library and museum on that location in October, 1891, on condition that two or three donors share in the project. (And, in another interesting aspect of the gift, it was revealed upon the death in 1935 of Edwin Ludlow that he had funded the entire gift himself.)

Board of Education acceptance was prompt and work started on the Greek Revival Temple style structure from plans by Claude & Starck, Madison architects. The same plan had been used by the firm for libraries at Whitewater and Delavan. Arabut Ludlow Memorial Library was opened May 22, 1905.

It might have been assumed the City Fathers would be delighted over this solution to the controversy. Unfortunately, they had accepted the Carnegie gift offer and also promised to buy the Steiger property. Churchill's help was enlisted in getting the Foundation to yield to the Ludlow proposal but the city still was committed on the property deal.

Another "angel" appeared, this time in the form of Dr. Loofbourow who offered to buy the Steiger lots for his new hospital at the agreed price of $3,800. Apparently, he did not consider that location "too busy" for hosppital patients.

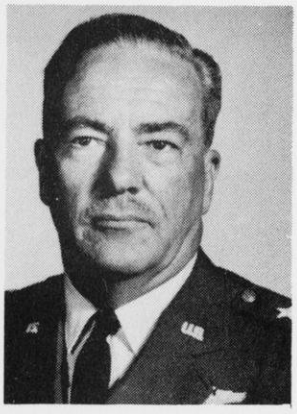
Dr. Loofbourow built his hospital--as related later in the chapter on Monroe's medical history--and opened it March 5, 1905, two months before the

new library was finished. He seems to have found the money, with or without the help of Monroe Businessmen's Association.

Such was the fitting climax to Monroe's first steps into a new era with all of its 20th Century promise of eventful years to come--and, they were precisely that, eventful.

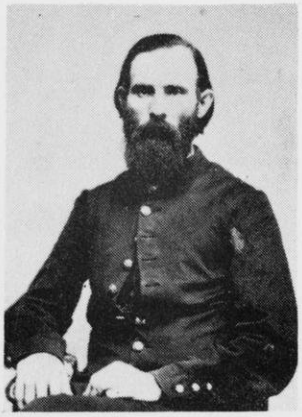
GENERAL NATHAN F. TWINING
USAF, Retired Chairman of the JCS

GENERAL MERRILL B. TWINING
Retired USMC Deputy Commandant

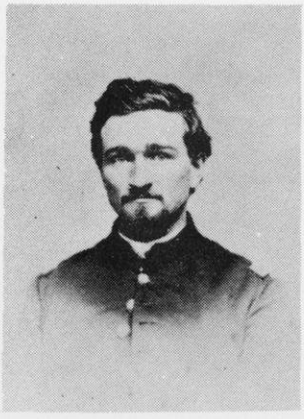


MAJ. GEN. DON S. WENGER
USAF Medical Services, Retired

BRIG. GEN. FRANCIS H. WEST
Spearheaded Sherman's Drive North



BRIG. GEN. JAMES BINTLIFF
Troops Broke Petersburg Defenses



ADJT. GEN. EDWIN E. BRYANT
Survived Major Civil War Battles

Chapter Fifteen

CARRYING THE FLAG: 1882-1972

Monroe's military record has been especially bright throughout the Nation's wars and times of trouble requiring the best, and often ultimate, service and sacrifice, as well as inspired leadership.

The Black Hawk War in 1832 came too soon for any local participation beyond apprehensive flight from marauding Indians by early settlers in the Clarno, Cadiz and Exeter areas. One later prominent Monroe citizen, however, Dr. W.B. Monroe Sr., did manage to follow the Flag in that strange campaign, at the ripe age of 14, as a Mineral Point resident.

Later, the Mexican War, fought mainly by Regular Army troops, only touched this community lightly, as was the case for most frontier communities in 1846-48.

But, then the Civil War came along, it found Monroe and Green County more than ready. It also eventually revealed Monroe to be a town emulating Galena in its contributions of generals and other fine leaders in that fight to preserve the Union. (Details of the Civil War story already have been outlined in a previous chapter, "The War Years.")

It might be well, however, to list again the names of those generals who reflected credit on Green County for their roles in that War. Monroe contributed two: Gen. Francis H. West, fighting commander of the 31st Wisconsin whose brigade helped Gen. Sherman drive north to final victory in the War's last big battle; and Gen. James Bintliff, commander of the 38th Wisconsin and attached units which broke Petersburg's defenses in 1865, leading to the fall

of Richmond and surrender at Appomattox.

The other brevet brigadier general was Martin Flood of the Brooklyn and Exeter area who stayed on for postwar service.

Although he did not achieve star rank during the War, Edwin E. Bryant of Monroe was a field grade officer in many of the greatest Civil War battles and went on to become Wisconsin adjutant general in 1868-71 and 1878-81. Dr. F.W. Byers, who came to Monroe after the War, also rose to brigadier-general rank as Wisconsin surgeon-general after the National Guard was organized in the 1880s.

For purposes of this chapter, however, the military story begins March 28, 1882, when the Monroe City Guards unit was organized. It became Company H of the First Wisconsin Regiment a month later, on April 26.

Capt. Samuel Lewis was commanding officer and later became colonel in command of the First Wisconsin. S. P. Schadel was first lieutenant; Andrew (or Charles) Arnott, second lieutenant; J.D. Dunwiddie, first sergeant; D.A. Stearns, second sergeant, and C.S. Young, fifth sergeant. The latter is included because he went on to become First Wisconsin lieutenant colonel in the 1890s.

For a time, Co. H drilled in Armory quarters on the second floor of the present Bauman Hardware store. Later, it moved across the corner to upstairs quarters at the Goetz building site.

Monroe's Co. H quickly became a leading unit in the First Regiment and played host to its troops at an impressive Memorial Day service and parade here in 1884. Pleased regimental staff officers expressed their admiration by electing Capt. Lewis as major that afternoon, advancing Lt. Schadel to Co. H command.

Two years later, Gov. Jeremiah Rusk called Co. H and several other units to duty in Milwaukee to quell the 1886 riot violence stemming from strikes

by rolling mill and railroad workers. That tour was marked by minor activity and the troops returned home with no "war stories" to tell the townspeople.

Again, in 1898, after the battleship "Main" was blown up in Havana harbor, Co. H men were ready for what they hoped would be "real action." The first Regiment headquarters was located in Monroe at that time, with Col. Schadel in command. C. S. Young had advanced to second in command and D.A. Stearns was a major. Rev. Charles E. Varney of the First Universalist Church was chaplain and Dr. F.W. Byers, surgeon-general.

Company H, commanded by Capt. F.F. West, left for Camp Harvey, Milwaukee, April 28 and volunteered for Spanish-American War duty. It was released the same day from state service and mustered into the Army. The company arrived in Camp Cuba Libre, Jacksonville, Fla., May 23 to begin a long, frustrating wait for shipment to Cuba.

It appeared, however, that the Navy, the "regulars" and a few volunteer units such as the Roosevelt Rough Riders were handling the Spanish very well, without need for further help. Company H's only battle was with boredom and typhoid fever resulting from poor sanitation in camp.

Many of the troops became deathly ill, two of them--Appleton Taft of Monticello and Andrew Nelson of Browntown--dying at camp. A third Co. H man, Alfred D. Murry of Brodhead, died of typhoid after being brought home when the unit returned to Monroe September 11 on a 30-day leave. Two other men, George Walker and John D. Germann of Monroe, took ill with typhoid after they came home. Frank Shriner and Ames Durgin had been "smuggled" home on stretchers by Co. H members.

Fortunately, the war ended before the furlough did. Company H's adventure had been disappointing as well as deadly.

Congressman Henry Allen Cooper of Racine tried to assuage some of that letdown by obtaining a rapid-fire Spanish gun from Admiral Cervera's fleet at

Santiago to be used as a monument here. It stands today at the entrance of Recreation Park, largely unnoticed by today's pool users.

Company H was restored to state service in 1899 with M.C. Durst as captain, and in 1904-05 Capt. F.F. West returned to command.

One immediate result of Co. H's Spanish-American War service was an appeal on the part of the veterans, with the blessing of O.F. Pinney GAR Post members, for a "proper" Armory to demonstrate Monroe and Green County leadership in the First Wisconsin Regiment.

The sponsors formed a Monroe Armory Association and launched a public fund drive since state finances were not available. The money was subscribed without trouble, although it was necessary to organize the Green County Soldiers League, for legal purposes, to handle the pledges and notes.

Work began in 1901 at the southwest corner of 9th Street and 18th Avenue on a large brick structure, designed on standard U.S. military "fortress" lines. The new Armory was dedicated April 3, 1902, with a gala public program, Grand Ball and colorful military ceremonies.

That Armory provided Monroe with a new location for civic and social affairs, supplementing Turner Hall's traditional role. Stage shows and concerts, however, continued at the latter hall. The Armory also served as the town's athletic center, with a roller skating rink on the main floor and a bowling alley in the lower level. When the basketball rage reached Monroe and Green County, all major games, high school and semi-pro contests, were played at the Armory.

Armory notes eventually were paid down to a modest balance which the State picked up when it took over the building some years later. Over a period of 72 years, this structure served the Green County community well and for a time was a regimental headquarters after Col. Oscar A. Molderhauer took command of the 128th Infantry in 1947. The building, replaced with a modern

facility at the south edge of Monroe in 1974, was purchased and razed by the Commercial Bank that same year.

Meanwhile, in 1911, Capt. B.M. Frees, onetime commander of Co. H, 38th Wisconsin, had written Capt. N.B. Treat offering $10,000 for a Soldiers Monument on Monroe's Courthouse Square. Frees and Treat were friends and fellow natives of Orono, Maine. Capt. Frees specified the gift should by handled, anonymously, through O.F. Pinney GAR Post and that the likeness of Sgt. William R. Hawkins of Clarno, Co. H member killed in the storming of Fort Mahone at Petersburg, Va., in 1865, should be used in modeling the statue's face.

A former Monroe resident, Capt. Frees had become a wealthy operator of lumber yards in Missouri, Minnesota and Nebraska after the Civil War. He was on hand May 30, 1913, for Memorial Day services when the monument was unveiled by Grace Thorpe and his contribution was made public. Fred T. Odell was captain of local Co. H participating in that ceremony.

When Pancho Villa's rebel-bandit raiders struck across the Mexican Border at Columbus, N.M., in 1916, killing many American nationals, President Woodrow Wilson on March 10 ordered the Army to capture or kill Villa, even if it meant invading Mexican territory.

Five days later, Company H members were warned to expect a call to Mexican Border duty. That news was welcomed by the troops, still vexed over the unit's non-active role in the Spanish-American War. On March 24, 1916, Capt. A.E. Mitchell, commander since December, 1915, was ordered to recruit Co. H to full strength.

Entraining June 30, 1916, the troops headed for Camp Douglas, Wis. Weeks of drilling followed before the Wisconsin units left for San Antonio. Co. H men had departed, from here and from Camp Douglas, in a happy mood, hopeful of service in the field this time. However, upon arrival at San Antonio, the

local troops were confronted with another situation of waiting and more waiting. Drilling was monotonous, hot and sticky as it stretched into the winter.

Gen. John J. Pershing's expeditionary force pursuing Villa had aroused reaction by Gen. Venustiano Carranza, president of Mexico, who demanded that the Americans leave. Gen. Pershing finally obliged, on orders from President Wilson, but not before he had scattered Villa's forces and the Navy had captured Vera Cruz in a combined sea and land operation.

So, once more Co. H men folded their tents and boarded the train for home, arriving at Fort Sheridan, Ill., January 19, 1917, for dismissal and the trip back to Monroe. It had been another disappointment, but only briefly. In April, the company was to find itself back in federal service for World War I, destined for more than enough action and opportunity to prove itself.

Capt. Mitchell and his men were billeted at the Armory from July 15, 1917, until Camp Douglas was ready for Wisconsin troops. One of the biggest send-offs in Monroe military history marked the departure of 162 Company H men by train August 5. Charles R. Kohli had been promoted to first lieutenant when Fred Heer was obliged to resign his commission at the last moment.

In September, 1917, Co. H left Camp Douglas for Fort MacArthur at Waco, Texas, where the Wisconsin troops were organized into the new 32nd Infantry Division. Intensive training started and additional men from other areas brought into Co. H's ranks, via the draft and recruiting, before the 32nd was shipped overseas soon after the first of the year.

Arriving in France in February, 1918, Co. H, now attached to the 127th Infantry, and other 32nd units underwent further battle training. The 32nd then moved to the Alsace sector which was fairly quiet except for sporadic exchange of fire with the Germans. Early in July, 1918, the 32nd Division, anxious for action, was shifted west to the Aisne-Marne area, joining the furious offensive launched by combined Allied forces.

Going into the front line July 30 at Ourcq, Co. H participated in capture of Cierges, Bellevue Farm and the Bois de la Planchette, relieving the embattled 3rd U.S. (Regular) Division. The 32nd resumed attack August 1 in the Chateau Thierry sector, capturing Fismes and crossing the Vesle as the Germans began falling back in face of the Allied thrusts.

After a brief rest in the Soissons area, as Gen. Pershing's March, 1919, commendation to the 32nd Division relates: "On August 28, it again entered the line and launched attacks which resulted in the capture of Juvigny at the cost of severe casualties. During the Meuse-Argonne offensive, the 32nd Division entered the line September 30 and by its persistence in that sector it penetrated the Kreimhilde Stellung, taking Romagne and following the enemy to the northeastern edge of the Bois de Bantheville. On November 8, the Division took up the pursuit of the enemy east of the Meuse until the time when hostilities were suspended (November 11)."

All of this remarkable record, of course, was achieved only at great sacrifice. In the July 31-August 1 action, Sgt. Glen R. Zilmer, 22, was the first Monroe man to die of his wounds. When the local American Legion Post No. 84 was organized in September, 1919, it was named for Sgt. Zilmer.

In all, 56 members of Co. H were killed in action or died of wounds. Eighteen of these were from the Monroe area while a total of 30 Green County men, out of the 842 who served in World War I, lost their lives. Twenty-seven were Army, two Navy and one Marine Corps. Cecil Jones Veterans of Foreigns Wars Post No. 2312 was named for that lone Marine from Monroe when it was organized April, 1939.

Scores were seriously wounded as Co. H helped the 32nd Division win its name of "Les Terribles," as the troops were called by their admiring French allies. Among the wounded were former Postmaster John J. Burkhard, Capt. Charles R. Kohli (who had succeeded Maj. Mitchell, detached for Paris duty)

and Ralph A. Lindsay, all in the Meuse-Argonne drive.

Lindsay's vivid memories of Company H's World War record were published in a graphic article by the "Monroe Evening Times" March 24, 1976. He had seen Sgt. Zilmer hit by German fire and also recalled that Burkhard was wounded on the same day that Lindsay was struck. Fifteen Co. H men were wounded at that time and six men killed by the same shell.

During its six months under fire on five fronts, the 32nd Division lost 14,000 killed, wounded and missing. Its men were the first Americans on German soil (in the Alsace sector) and the only American forces fighting in Gen. Mangin's famed 10th French Army in the Oisne-Aisne offensive. After the Armistice, the 32nd marched with the Third Army to the Rhine and occupied a sector in the Coblenz bridgehead for several months before returning home in 1919.

While Company H was winning its bittersweet laurels, a Monroe officer, Maj. Gen. Charles G. Treat, was commanding American troops in Italy in what proved to be a swift, highly successful campaign to knock Austrian forces out of the War.

Gen. Treat, born in Orono, Maine, December 30, 1859, was only a few months old when his parents, the J.B. Treats, moved to Monroe. He was graduated from Monroe High School in 1878 and from West point in 1882, as an artillery officer. During the Spanish-American War, he served in the Santiago campaign and became provost marshal in Havana as acting major.

Treat was appointed West Point commandant of the corps in 1901 after a brief tour as artillery instructor, and also was named later as acting chief of the Army War College. Gen. Treat was seventh ranking Army officer when World War I broke out. He lost out to Gen. Pershing, hero of the Mexican Expedition, for command of the American Expeditionary Force in France, being chosen instead to head U.S. forces in Italy. He retired in 1925 after holding

various high peacetime commands.

Another distinguished Monroe figure in World War I was Rear Admiral Nathan C. Twining, Annapolis graduate and son of Prof. Nathan Crook Twining. A Navy ordnance expert and designer of special purpose guns, Twining served with Admiral Sampson's fleet at Santiago in 1898 and also joined Maj. Treat on special duty in Havana after victory.

When World War I started, Admiral Twining was named chief of staff for the American fleet commanded by Admiral W.S. Sims in European waters, later serving as naval attache in London. Admiral Twining, who invented the Navy's first anti-aircraft gun, prototype for all such U.S. weapons perfected before World War II, died July 4, 1924, soon after retirement.

Referring to Co.H's First World War record, a special note on Capt. A. E. Mitchell (later temporary major) belongs in this account. Mitchell's military career began as a boy in South Dakota with K Troop, 8th Cavalry, in 1897. He went to Cuba with the 8th Cavalry in 1898 and remained there 16 months.

A good part of Co. H's fine battle service occurred under Capt. Mitchell's command. He then was called to Paris for duty which was terminated abruptly when Germany surrendered November 11, 1918.

Capt. Mitchell was en route to the U.S. in 1919 when he received a ship-board wireless message from Monroe offering him the post of sheriff if he could obtain early release from service. Sheriff Matt E. Solbraa, father of the present (1976) sheriff, had been killed, along with two others, in a gun battle with a mentally deranged veteran near Monticello.

Mitchell, known as "Cap" for the rest of his life, hurried home to accept appointment and then was elected to a full two-year term. In December, 1921, Mitchell took part, along with federal agents, in the biggest local Prohibition era raid on bootleggers which rounded up a Chicago group north of Monroe.

Later, he served as assistant Monroe police chief until he retired in

July, 1945.

After World War I, the local Guard unit was reorganized as Co. K, 128th Infantry Regiment, with Capt. Charles A. Schindler commanding. Delbert Cook, LaVerne Deal and Oscar A. Moldenhauer also served as captains of Co. K through the years until its entrance into federal service in 1940. Capt. Roy Zinser and Capt. Rodney Block then headed the unit until it moved into World War II action in New Guinea.

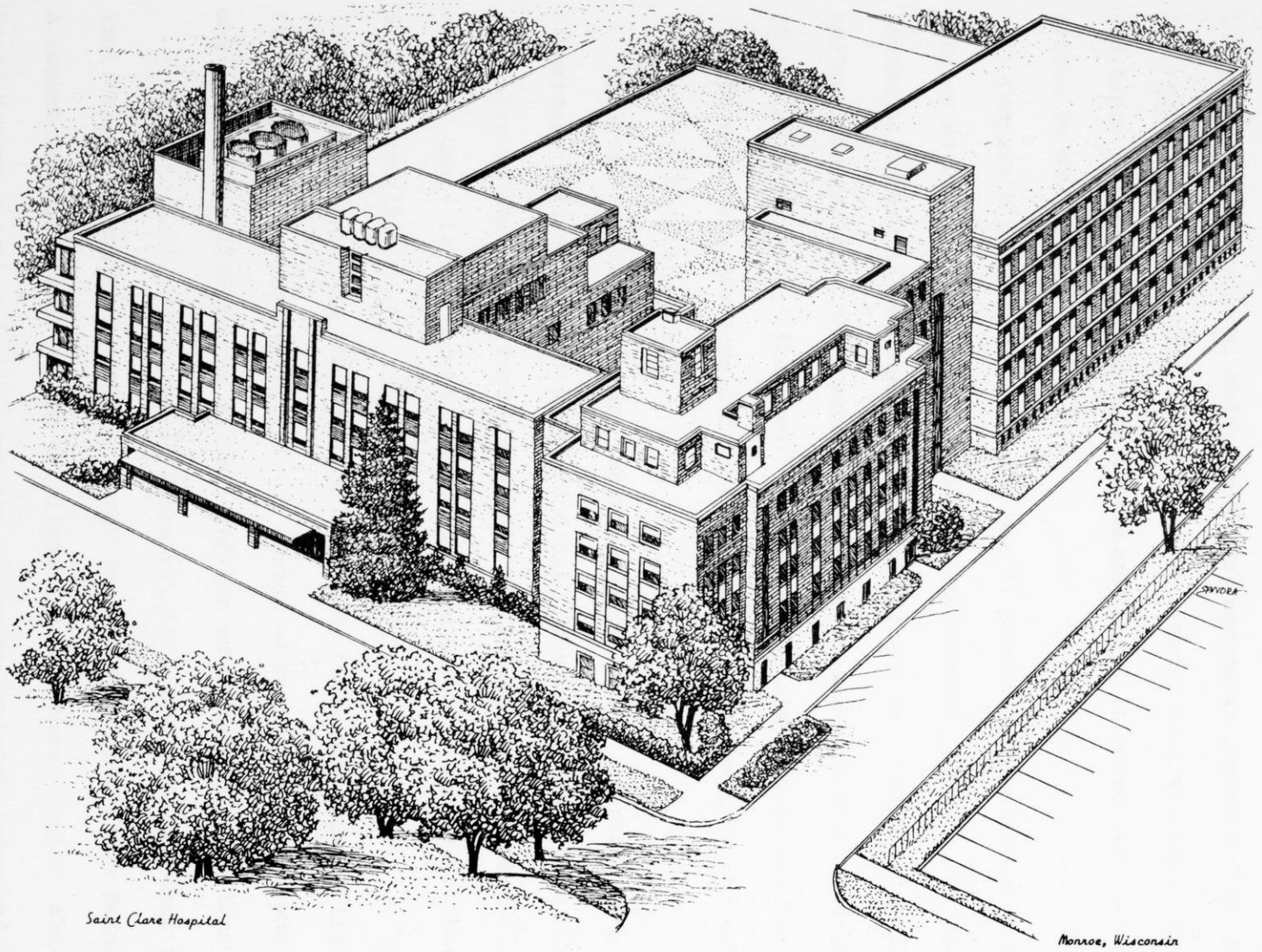
Company K's five years of World War II service, three of them under fire, were as outstanding as the record of its predecessor, Co. H. The latter, of course, achieved its remarkable fighting success in a brief, six-month span but both emerged from their wars as among the top and most decorated companies of the 32nd Division. That Red Arrow Division also was to win recognition for the most commendations and medals for bravery and meritorious service in the Pacific Theater.

Four of Co. K's original members, Sgt. Jacob P. Gerber, Sgt. Walter Zimmerman, Pfc. Raymond E. Matzke and Sgt. Donald S. Beach, died in the Buna offensive in New Guinea during November and December, 1942. One of its commanders, Capt. Lester Mooney from Kansas, also was killed in the Saidor battle in February, 1944.

Mustered into the Army October 21, 1940, Co. K had started its year of training at Camp Beauregard, La. A throng of more than 2,000 was on hand when the three officers and 95 enlisted men entrained for Louisiana.

Moved to Camp Livingston in February, 1941, the 32nd underwent reorganization and intensive training. Late, in the fall, Co. K was detached for a combat team and sent to the Carolinas for maneuvers. After the raid on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941, put the Nation at war with Japan and Germany, many Co. K men came home for their final furlough at Christmas.

(Monroe's first casualty of World War II, Seaman 2/C David J. Riley,



DEDICATED TO CARE OF THE AILING AND INJURED - This drawing shows the greatly expanded St. Clare Hospital, operated by the Congregation of St. Agnes, with its modern facilities and equipment planned to meet every challenge of today for care of the ill and treatment of accident and disaster victims. The first four-story section (left) was ready in May, 1939, and the addition to the north completed by May, 1951. Ground was broken in 1969 for the largest project, which included the six-floor wing (right rear) and complete remodeling and modernizing of the 1939 and 1951 sections.

23, was killed in that Pearl Harbor attack when Japanese bombs struck the battleship "Oklahoma." The American Legion honored his memory by renaming Post No. 48 "Zilmer-Riley" for the first two men to die in the two world wars. Seaman Riley, an orphan from the Juda area, was working in Monroe when he enlisted in the Navy.)

Company K was among the 32nd units sent to Fort Devens, Mass., in February, 1942, for possible shipment to Europe. Instead, the men were ordered west by train to Fort Ord, Calif. From there, the 32nd troops were shipped overseas in April to Australia.

More rugged combat training followed until September, 1942, when Capt. Block and his men were flown to New Guinea. They and other 32nd units joined the battle there to push the Japanese back from the coast. With victory at Buna, the 32nd helped turn the tide in the Pacific war and Co. K won acclaim as a first-class fighting unit.

After rest camp back in Australia and another drastic reorganization, Co. K returned to action in September, 1943, for the Saidor battle against the Japanese 18th Army, sharing in the credit for blocking the Japanese breakout from the Wewak trap at Aitape.

When the Leyte campaign opened in the Philippines, Co. K moved in with the 32nd Division and later participated in liberation of Manila with the Luzon drive. From Manila, the 32nd units were sent to Japan following the August, 1945, surrender. When rotation leaves started, Co. K was down to 17 original members.

In October, 1945, the 32nd Division was brought back to the U.S. and disbanded. Company K returned home just five years almost to the day after beginning its "year of training."

More than 2,000 Green County men and women served in World War II on all fronts. Forty men from the county and immediate adjoining communities lost

their lives in action or in war related incidents, such as training mishaps and deaths in Japanese prison camps. Illnesses and other accidents took another eight lives. Of the 40 action deaths, 21 of the victims were from Monroe.

Another generation of the fighting Twinings compiled fine records in World War II, one of them Maj. Gen. Nathan F. Twining, son of C.W. Twining, commanding the 13th, 15th and 20th Air Forces in both the European and Pacific Theaters.

Gen. Twining, who left Monroe in 1913 when the family moved to Portland, Ore., had served briefly in the Oregon National Guard before being appointed to West Point. His accelerated class was sent overseas in 1918, too late to get into action before the Armistice. Twining's class then returned to West Point for another six months before graduation. Choosing the Army Air Corps, Twining advanced rapidly and was aide to Gen. H.H. Arnold, Air Corps chief, when World War II started.

While commanding the 13th Air Force in the Pacific, Gen. Twining, his chief of staff and 12 crewmen were reported missing in February, 1943, after their Flying Fortress crashed in the Coral Sea. His brother, Maj. Edward Twining, attached to the 13th, directed the search and insisted that it be continued after headquarters had given up. Gen. Twining and his men were rescued after five days and six nights afloat in a raft.

After recuperation, Twining was given command of the 15th Air Force in Italy, taking over for Lt. Gen. James Doolittle. He was commanding the 15th when it made the Ploesti oil field bombing raids which cut off vital supplies for the German forces. That successful raid was one of the most costly of the European War in the number of men and planes lost.

Following the victory in Europe, Gen. Twining was flown back to the Pacific, taking command of the 20th Air Force for the final fire bomb raids on Japan and the atomic bomb drops on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In October, 1947,

Lt. Gen. Twining became head of the Alaskan Defense Command. He returned to the Pentagon three years later as Air Force vice chief of staff with four-star rank.

After serving as Air Force chief of staff, Gen. Twining was named in 1956 as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Nation's top military leader. He retired October 1, 1960, three months after his visit here July 4, 1960, to dedicate Twining Park named in his honor.

His brother, Merrill B. Twining was a fighting Marine Corps officer in World War II, credited with being the first Marine to "draw blood" in the Guadalcanal Campaign when he shot down a Japanese plane. After the War, Col. Twining was Marine Corps chief of staff on Hawaii and then served in command posts at the camp Pendleton, Calif., and Quantico, Va., training schools.

During the Korean conflict, Maj. Gen. Merrill Twining commanded a Marine division for several months before illness and surgery caused his return to the U.S. He again served at Pendleton and commanded the Quantico training center before becoming deputy Marine Corps commandant at the Pentagon. Passed over for promotion to the top Marine Corps post, Lt. Gen. Twining, along with several other high Marine officers, retired in August, 1959, with four-star rank.

A third brother, Navy Capt. Robert Twining, also had a distinguished career but retired after being refused promotion at the end of the War for medical reasons. He then taught engineering at Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, for many years.

Another Monroe man who won star rank after war service, was Maj. Gen. Don S. Wenger, son of Samuel J. and Effie Wenger. He was graduated in 1928 from Monroe High School and then the University of Wisconsin and Marquette Medical School.

In February, 1940, Dr. Wenger entered the Army, serving in various

assignments before going to Europe as commander of the 124th Evacuation Hospital. In the final, furious battles, including the Bulge counterattack and Ruhr pocket offensive, Wenger's 124th unit cared for men of the 86th Infantry and 82nd Airborne Divisions.

After the War, Dr. Wenger headed the 90th General Hospital at Munich before transferring to the Air Force in 1947. He held high consultant posts with the USAF surgeon-general's department before becoming attending surgeon for the Nation's Astronauts at Cape Canaveral and later chief surgical consultant for the space programs.

Gen. Wenger came home to Monroe in 1965 to be Grand Marshal of the Cheese Days parade and to renew old friendships with former classmates and others.

When he retired in 1966, Gen. Wenger was chief consultant for professional services to the USAF surgeon-general. He then practiced surgery for a time on an Annapolis hospital staff before "retiring" again. Gen. Wenger and his family reside in the Washington area.

With reorganization of the 32nd Division as a state unit in May, 1947, Capt. W.E. Deininger took command of Co. K. Col. Oscar Moldenhauer, who had transferred to the 28th Division at Camp Livingston in 1942 and then to the Army Service Forces in charge of equipping units going overseas, was named to command the 128th Infantry Regiment. Once more, the Monroe Armory became regimental headquarters.

(During Co. K's absence for War service, a State Guard unit had been organized here to stand by for possible home front needs. Fortunately, no such problems arose, but its men were deserving of special tribute for their faithful training and readiness to serve.)

Company K was not called for service in the unexpected United Nations "police action" to stop the Communist invasion of South Korea in June, 1950. Instead, the Pentagon used the draft, recall of World War II Reservists and

recruiting to beef up American forces under command of Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Many in all three categories from this area served in that grim conflict.

Thirty-nine from the four-county region around Monroe lost their lives in the Korean fighting which continued into 1953. Five of those who died were from Monroe, one each from Juda and Brodhead and 17 from the immediate area. Six died in accidents while in uniformed forces during the Korean War, in the country and in Germany.

Two Monroe men were repatriated from Red prison camps after the 1953 ceasefire and one from Blanchardville. The latter, unfortunately, was killed in an automobile accident only 19 days after returning home.

No more military demands for possible war service were made on local residents until the unique callup of Co. B (which had succeeded Co. K in another 32nd Division reorganization) during the 1961-62 "Berlin Wall" crisis. Capt. Dwight Coplien, late Monroe police chief, was in command of the 112 Co. B men who left here Sunday, October 15, 1961, for Fort Lewis, Wash.

The 32nd Division callup was part of a selective mobilization of National Guard units taken into federal service on orders of President John F. Kennedy. The nation's regular standing forces also went on full alert against the threat of possible Soviet action to take over Berlin, a cold war of nerves which lasted for nearly a year.

Partly through local sponsorship during the 1961 Christmas holiday period, many Monroe and Green County Co. B men were able to return here on special leave. They were welcomed at the Armory late on a snowy night by a large crowd of relatives and other interested citizens for their short stay.

In January, 1962, the 32nd Division began intensive training at Fort Lewis. With the easing of the crisis, however, a farewell review of 32nd units was held July 18, 1962, and the troops left Fort Lewis for home August 3.

Although some Guard units were alerted again in October, 1962, during

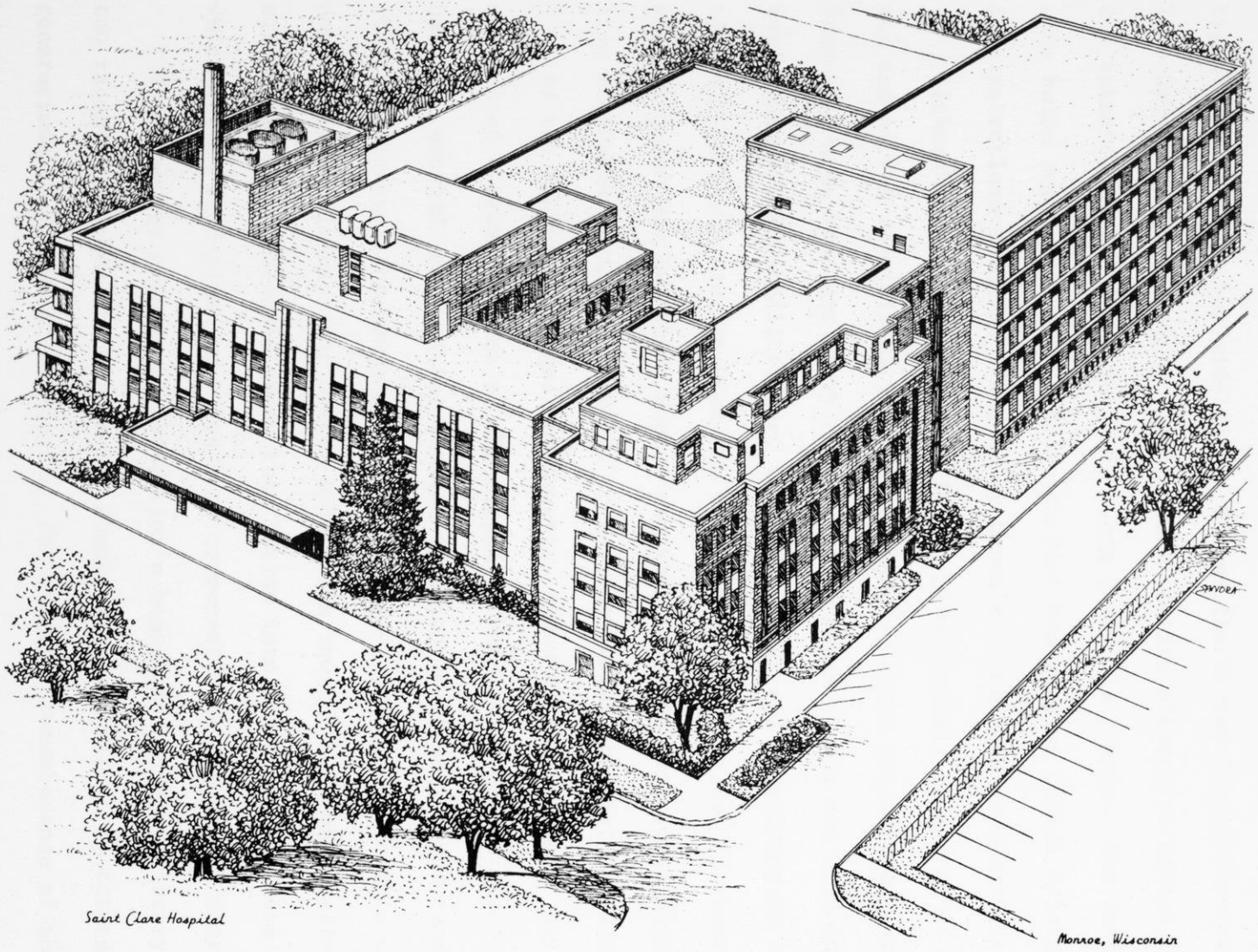
the Soviet missile showdown in Cuba, the issue was settled before another callup, except for some Air Guard squadrons and Navy Reservists.

Another foreign conflict, this one initially of little interest locally, began developing in the mid-1960s. It was the United States involvement in Indochina, seeking to support South Viet in its efforts to combat invasion and takeover by the Communist Viet Cong guerrilla forces. The latter soon were being supported openly by North Viet Nam regular forces driving south in a relentless campaign directed by Hanoi's Ho Chi Minh government.

Although American "advisory" forces grew rapidly to a peak of 550,000 men and 46,000 were killed in the long war few could understand, casualties from this area were not heavy. Only eight Green County men died in action during this savage conflict, even though the draft and recruiting put a steady stream into the forces in Viet Nam until mid-1972. Only two of those killed were from Monroe. Two other Monroe men and four more from Green County died from accidents or illnesses while in service during the Viet Nam War.

As the fighting dragged on, however, it had a serious impact on the attitudes of a broad segment of the people at home. Monroe and Green County, happily, escaped most of the violent reaction manifest on campuses and in other sections of the country. Nevertheless, a great many in this area expressed open criticism and bitter opposition toward those they believed had mistakenly and needlessly drawn the Nation into a deadly adventure in Asia which could accomplish no purpose to compensate for the heavy sacrifices.

This unhappy episode in the Nation's honorable military history, still too recent to be evaluated properly, should not be permitted by future Monroe generations to lessen in any degree the grateful rememberance of the great patriotism and sacrifice performed by this community's men and women in the uniformed services since 1861-65. Theirs is a wonderful roll of honor deserving of the highest memorial tribute their townspeople are capable of bestowing.



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Chapter Sixteen

MEDICINE IN MONROE

Most chroniclers of the early Wisconsin story have tended to write with faint praise when discussing pioneer physicians, putting them in a category somewhat below professionalism.

Much has been said about those early doctors as men--and women--who had little exposure to bona fide medical schooling. Even Dr. Helen Bingham (before she became a physician) dismissed early practitioners as possessed of no real knowledge or skills. In her 1877 "History of Green County," Dr. Bingham said, among other things, "...he (the early doctor) is said to have bled, blistered, and salivated his patients successively or simultaneously with an energy that made this a very easy place to die in."

That stark observation probably was based to some extent on a true state of affairs in the very earliest days. But, it probably is not fair to dismiss all those pioneer doctors as ignorant and bumbling. They did the best they could with the skills they had. There were few medical schools anywhere except in the eastern centers of learning. In fact, the same critical attitude might have been applied to early attorneys who "read" law in offices of those already practicing to qualify for admission to the bar.

Formal education for the professions--medicine, law and teaching--was as primitive as the frontierland itself. The real miracle is that so many of those people went on to gain great knowledge throughout their careers. Of the three, the men and women of medicine seemed to strive the hardest for improvement through attendance at post graduate schools and special training

at medical centers, in this country and abroad.

This eagerness to learn more so they could serve their patients better, to save lives in cases where previously they had to stand by helplessly, places those doctors in a special class of pioneers. Those who never gave up in their search for greater knowledge then would have no cause for apologizing to today's generations for their early lack of sophisticated skills.

It is true that men such as Dr. Daniel Harcourt were only "sometimes" physicians as they divided their time between doctoring, farming or preaching. But those who followed them, in the 1840s, 1850s and later, generally were well equipped through medical schooling and experience to serve the Monroe community. Even in those later times, they were seldom brought in by families unless the ailment was an emergency, or involved fractures. Most of the routine illnesses were handled within the family itself by wives and grandmothers, who had early learned the use of herbs and other standard remedies as a part of pioneer life. Most of the births were supervised by midwives, if available, and only the very complicated deliveries were referred to regular physicians. Usually the latter call for aid came too late, accounting for the high mortality of infants and mothers in those times.

Nearly every community in Green County, once the early settlement days were over, soon had its capable and trained physicians. Monroe was particularly blessed in this direction, as it is today with its status as a major Wisconsin medical and hospitalization center.

Complete lists of these early physicians are published in the 1884 "History of Green County" and in Volume I of "Memoirs of Green County" by Charles H. Dietz. There are so many of them that it would serve little purpose to repeat those lists completely. The record also is extensive in those two books for the medical story of other Green County communities.

It would be well in Monroe's case, however, to mention some of the more

outstanding early doctors, those who came after Dr. Harcourt and others in his ilk.

There was Dr. Christopher Tochterman, born in Canton Bern in 1826, who practiced medicine briefly in Switzerland before coming to Monroe in 1852. He possessed versatile talents for doctoring, wagon making and farming. Dr. Tochterman served in the 22nd Wisconsin in the Civil War before being named assistant surgeon for the 38th Wisconsin, organized by Gen. James Bintliff.

Dr. William Monroe Sr., born near Cincinnati in 1818, enlisted in the Black Hawk War at 14 while living in Mineral Point. His father had been a physician in Ohio and his widowed mother married Dr. John Loofbourow shortly before the family moved to Mineral Point. After trying lead mining, he began his medical studies, probably in Dr. John Loofbourow's office.

Following college studies at Washburn Institute, Blendon, Ohio, Monroe returned to Mineral Point to read medicine at Dr. O.E. Strong's office. Dr. Monroe started practice in 1840 at Fayette (Lafayette County). He joined the California Gold Rush in 1850 and also practiced medicine among the miners.

Upon return, he continued to practice under the license granted by the Lafayette County Medical Society. Although he was an examining surgeon during the Civil War, he did not receive his degree from Rush Medical College in Chicago until 1869, the year after he came to Monroe. At his death in 1908, Dr. Monroe at 89 was the oldest practicing physician in Wisconsin, although he had "semi-retired" in 1902.

Dr. Nathan A. Loofbourow, born in Iowa County in 1849, was the son of Dr. John Loofbourow, stepfather of Dr. Monroe. He came here in 1870 to read medicine in Dr. Monroe's office and then was graduated from Rush Medical College in 1873. In 1876-77, after practicing here, he attended special courses at Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York. Again, in 1881, he took post graduate work at Rush College and spent eight months in 1884 attending special

courses at Paris, London, Vienna and Edinburgh.

Dr. Horace E. Boardmann, born in Vermont in 1835, began as a college level mathematics and literature instructor before turning to medicine in 1859 in New England. After studies at Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago, he became a homeopathic physician in 1867, settling in Monroe later. Dr. Boardman, however, found competition too lively in his particular field and moved to Larned, Kansas, where he died February 26, 1888.

Among the local homeopathic physicians were Dr. Ada Bingham, Dr. Ann Churchill and Dr. Helen Bingham, although the latter practiced mostly in Milwaukee. Homeopathic medicine, no longer followed to any degree in this country, cannot be explained simply, except to say that it treats diseases by seeking to build up the body's natural resistance, in much the same way that vaccination does as a preventative.

Other early physicians--all of them practicing in Monroe at various periods from the 1840s through to and into the 20th Century--included Dr. F.B. Righter, Dr. W.O. Sherman (father of Dr. Ann Churchill) who came here in 1848; Dr. W.D. Carver (father of famed Dr. W.F. Carver, partner of Bulfalo Bill Cody and later operator of his own Wild West shows); Dr. H.D. Fuller, also from New York State, settling here in 1882; Dr. Edmund S. Fessenden, born in Ohio in 1835, who practiced in Albany and Monroe; and Dr. J.K. Eilert, better known for his medicines and drugstore enterprises.

Dr. Horatio N. Bradshaw, native of Canada, came to Monroe in 1870, practicing for two years with Dr. Monroe Sr. before shifting to a drugstore business until 1880 when he left for Kansas. Dr. S.W. Abbott never practiced medicine after coming here from Janesville in 1858 and switching to law following the Civil War.

Dr. F.W. Byers, whose military record has been mentioned elsewhere, was born in Pennsylvania February 10, 1837, and settled in Stephenson County,

Ill., in 1857. He taught in Green County schools before entering Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio. In 1860, he migrated to Missouri as a salesman but left when Civil War conditions turned that state into a divided battleground.

Moving to Orangeville, Ill., he studied medicine with Dr. W.P. Naramore and then entered Rush College for further work in 1861-62. While serving at Camp Douglas, Chicago, he was graduated from Rush in 1863 and finished out the War in military medical service.

Settling in Lena, Ill., he practiced there successfully before bringing his family here in 1877. He became surgeon-general of the Wisconsin National Guard in the 1880s, retiring with the rank of brigadier general. He gave up his practice in the 1890s and died here in 1915.

Dr. John C. Hall, born at Langdon, N.H., in 1821, first came to Albany after graduating from Harvard Medical School in 1852 and then to Monroe following the Civil War. He moved to the West in the late 1880s.

Dr. L.B. Johnson, born in New York State in 1822, received his medical degree in 1844 and came to Monroe in 1857 where he practiced successfully for many years.

Dr. Samuel R. Moyer, born at Afolkey, Ill., in 1854, began practice here in 1883, gave diagnostic lectures at Marquette Medical School and made a post graduate study European tour in 1909.

Others who came here in the 1880s included Dr. Emil Bindschedler, Dr. Carl Steiger, Dr. Charles A. Rood, a Monroe native, and Dr. Hannah C. Bennett. An M.D., Hannah Bennett was born in Kent, England, in 1842 to John and Hussah Rolfe Russell, who came to America in 1850 to Sussex, Wis., read medicine in the office of her brother, Dr. Richard Russell, in Minnesota. She was graduated from Chicago Medical College in 1875 and came to Monroe to practice in 1881 and married Felix Bennett the following year.

Among prominent medical figures of the turn of the century period were three others whose names are well remembered today in Monroe. They, along with those previously mentioned--plus some probably overlooked in compiling Monroe's medical roster--helped set the pattern for this community's remarkable medical development in the 20th Century.

The three were Dr. R.B. Clark, Dr. Frank L. Hodges and Dr. J.F. Mauermann, each of whom provided splendid examples for those who followed after them.

Dr. Clark practiced here 37 years after prior years in Clarksville, Ia., Brodhead and Juda. Born February 18, 1861, in Orfordville, a son of Alfred S. and Sarah Baker Clark, he attended Brodhead schools and received his M.D. from Rush College in Chicago in 1881. After marriage in Iowa to Anna Husted in 1884, he returned to Rush for post graduate work and then located in Brodhead for one year.

Dr. Clark then practiced in Juda for eight years before coming to Monroe in 1894. He started a drugstore in 1906 which was operated by his son, Herbert H. Clark. Dr. Clark died here May 4, 1931, at the age of 70.

Dr. F.L. Hodges was born at Martintown June 16, 1871, the son of Dr. Will and Ellen Martin Hodges. He was graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1894 and from Rush College in 1898, when he became associated with his father. Dr. Will Hodges died November 17, 1900, and his son practiced alone for many years in the White Block before his death at 59 September 4, 1930, from pneumonia. He had married Nellie Leyden of Chicago February 27, 1898.

Aside from his medical prominence, Dr. Julius F. Mauermann boasted a distinction he had to share with only a few others. While at the University of Wisconsin, he played on the football team with that all-time "great," Pat O'Dea, whose memory still is venerated by UW alumi.

Born in Prussia, January 24, 1872, he was brought to this country in 1876 when his father, Frederick Mauermann, decided to follow his brother,

Herman, to the Juda area. The son grew up in a life of hard farm work and moved into Brodhead to put himself through grade and high school while holding down various jobs. He was graduated from Brodhead High School at 24, the only young man in the 1896 class.

Julius Mauermann then entered the University of Wisconsin, working in the bacteriology laboratory and also acting as an instructor to finance his education. He transferred to Northwestern University, receiving his M.D. in June, 1903.

Dr. Mauermann came to Monroe immediately out of medical school. He enjoyed a successful practice, even after suffering a stroke in 1931 from which he recovered. He died after a two-year illness in an Orangeville convalescent home October 23, 1942, at the age of 70.

There were, of course, many more who located here as physicians but later went on to other communities. The 1895 City Directory lists a Mrs. L. M. Witcomb, 70, as a physician but her name appears to have faded soon afterward from the medical picture.

It should be mentioned at this point that Dr. William Monroe Sr. was joined in 1895 by his son, Dr. W. B. Monroe, born at Fayette in 1861. Dr. W.B. Monroe was graduated from Monroe High School in 1878, from the University of Wisconsin in 1884 and then from Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York, in 1887. His brother, Z.W., was at Bellevue at the same time. Dr. W.B. Monroe practiced at Brooklyn, Wis., before becoming associated with his father and brother in practice here. Dr. Z.W. Monroe died in November, 1903, from tuberculosis and Dr. W.B. in August, 1929 from a heart attack.

Dr. L.A. Moore, native of Kewanee, Ill., was graduated from Rush College in 1900, practiced in Minnesota and came here in 1907 to share medical practice with Dr. W. B. Monroe. The two doctors had married sisters, both of them nurses from Monroe. Dr. Monroe married Maud Walter in April, 1903, and Dr.

Moore, Catherine Walter in April, 1906. After Dr. Monroe's death, Dr. Moore continued to practice alone in the White Block offices until his death in September, 1965. He was the only local physician not associated in later years with either the Monroe Clinic or the Medical Center.

Dr. F.M. Confer, born in Washington Township, December 18, 1854, began teaching school at 17 before entering Monroe High School from which he was graduated in that 1878 class that included Dr. W.B. Monroe and Maj. Gen. Charles G. Treat. He studied medicine with Dr. John C. Hall and then entered Rush College from which he received his degree in February, 1882. After a year at Dayton, Wis., Dr. Confer came here to become associated with Dr. Loofbourow, a partnership which lasted until 1898.

Dr. Confer constantly attended his son, Francis M., when the boy was stricken with typhoid. He nursed the son back to health but contracted the disease himself and died in 1900. He was engaged in converting rooms in his large home for hospital purposes when he died.

Dr. Confer's practice was taken over in 1900 by his brother-in-law, Dr. W. B. Gnagi Sr., who had been practicing at Pullman, Ill. Dr. Confer had married Carrie Isley in February, 1882, while Dr. Gnagi and Louise Isley were married in June, 1891.

Dr. Gnagi was born in Clarno Township February, 1870, the son of Joseph Le Van and Maria Hawthorn Bender. His mother died a short time after his birth and his father left the infant son with Mr. and Mrs. Peter Gnagi when he returned East to John Hopkins Medical School to complete his training.

The Gnagis adopted the child and he used their name throughout his life. An 1881, graduate of Monroe High School, Dr. Gnagi taught school in Clarno and then took a business course at Valparaiso College in Ind. After studying medicine in the Loofbourow-Confer offices for two years, he entered Rush Medical College and received his degree in 1893. His father, Dr. Joseph

Bender, was present at his graduation, their first reunion since he had been left with the Gnagis.

Dr. Gnagi practiced at Gano and Pullman, Ill., becoming an authority on smallpox treatment. His practice here was highly successful and his son, Dr. W.B. Gnagi Jr., joined him in 1926. Eight years later, in association with Dr. John Schindler, native of New Glarus, they set up the Gnagi-Schindler Clinic in the former Insurance building (older section of the Monroe Clinic).

Dr. W.B. Gnagi Jr. was born in West Pullman, Ill., August 9, 1898, and was graduated from Monroe High School in 1917. He received his medical degree at Washington Medical School, St. Louis, in 1924 and joined his father after completing internship and residency training.

Dr. Schindler was born March 23, 1903, in New Glarus, the son of Albert and Anna Wohlwend Schindler. After graduation from New Glarus High School, he received his M.A. degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1926 and his M.D. degree from Washington University at St. Louis in 1931. He was married to Dorothea Rockaby of Taylorville, Ill., in 1928.

Dr. Loofbourow had been joined in practice by Dr. Wilson G. Bear in March, 1903, in upstairs offices over the West Side Drugstore, which Dr. Loofbourow owned. Dr. Bear was born June 5, 1873, in Eldorado Township, Stephenson County, Ill., a son of Willoughby and Rebecca Hartman Bear. After schooling in Illinois, he entered Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Ia., for academy (high school) and college work before entering Iowa State University. He was graduated from Rush Medical College in Chicago in 1902 and was married the same year to Maude Ebersole of Toledo, Iowa.

Following Dr. Loofbourow's death July 6, 1916, Dr. Bear practiced alone until he was joined by his son, Dr. Nathan E. Bear, in 1932. The son, born in Monroe October 15, 1903, was graduated from Ripon College and Northwestern University Medical School. He was married October 15, 1932, to Ellen Topel

Trautman of Sheboygan.

As related in Chapter 14, Dr. Loofbourow had initiated efforts to gain community backing for a local hospital in May, 1903. When he received no ardent support for the idea, he bided his time until the Steiger property, originally chosen for a Carnegie grant library site, became available. Dr. Loofbourow bought the lots at the northwest corner of 10th Street and 18th Avenue in 1904 and started construction of his four-story hospital with a ground level floor.

Dr. Loofbourow's hospital was opened March 5, 1905, giving the local medical profession a place to send patients and also providing facilities for surgeons who came here from Janesville and Freeport to perform major operations. Upon his death in 1916, it was discovered Dr. Loofbourow had willed his hospital to his head nurse, Miss Hattie Newman. Feeling that the hospital should be operated by an organization, Miss Newman on October 8, 1916, turned it over to the Evangelical Deaconess Society.

Renamed "Deaconess Hospital," the facility was operated more than 25 years by the Society until it was closed after St. Clare Hospital, built in 1938-39, superseded the older insitution.

In 1939, five years after the Drs. Gnagi and Schindler opened their Clinic in the Insurance building, Drs. W. G. and Nathan Bear, along with Dr. L. E. Creasy, who had come to Monroe from South Wayne in 1920, joined with the Gnagi-Schindler Clinic, which also had taken in Dr. Jack Bristow, in what became the Monroe Clinic. Since the General Casualty Insurance Co. had moved to Madison, the new Monroe Clinic bought the building and extensively remodeled it.

Meanwhile, Dr. David D. Ruehlman had come to Monroe in 1930, after graduation from Marquette University Medical School and surgical residency at Madison General Hospital to take over the practice of Dr. F.L. Hodges.

Dr. C. Earl Baumle, graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago, arrived

here December 1, 1931, to acquire the practice of Dr. R. B. Clark. He also served as city health officer until January, 1944.

A native of Ashland, Wis., Dr. Baumle had attended Marquette and the University of Chicago before receiving his degree at Rush Medical College. He served his internship and residency at St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago. While at St. Luke's, he met Henrietta R. Field, a nurse, and they were married here April 30, 1932. She assisted in his office for several of the early years. Dr. Baumle retired in 1971 after 40 years of practice in Monroe.

Drs. Baumle and Ruehlman became associated in practice October 1, 1939, with offices in the Karlen Block adjoining the First National Bank. Thus, another medical partnership was being launched the same year as the Monroe Clinic. Out of that association, "The Medical Center of Monroe" became reality in July, 1955.

For several years, Monroe physicians and surgeons had been increasingly aware of Deaconess Hospital's inadequacies. They had discussed the situation at length and in 1937 decided to purchase ten lots in the 22nd Avenue and 5th Street area in hope of inducing some organization to build a modern hospital.

At the suggestion of Rev. Eugene McCollow of St. Victor's, Dr. Baumle and Dr. Nathan Bear went to Fond du Lac to confer with the Congregation of St. Agnes, a teaching order which also operated several hospitals. Mother Aloysia of the order took the proposal for starting a hospital in Monroe to Archbishop (later Cardinal) Samuel A. Stritch at Milwaukee. After study of the possibilities, the archbishop gave his consent.

The project, named for St. Clare, was launched in July, 1938, and officially opened August 1, 1939. Capacity was 60 beds and 18 bassinets. Four Sisters of the St. Agnes order headed the hospital staff of 23 registered nurses and 33 aids and auxiliary employes.

For the first six years, 1939-45, Sister Mary Agnes Dickoff was St. Clare

administrator. She had arrived here with Sisters Blandine, Bertilla and Laura in May, 1939, later being joined by Sister Geraldine Didier (still on the staff), and Sisters Lucia, Kilian and Anita. All quickly won the affections and respect of the community, a factor in helping to make St. Clare a definite part of Monroe's life.

All too soon, especially after Deaconess Hospital closed, it was obvious St. Clare Hospital would require early expansion. A public drive in 1947 raised a sizable "token" fund to help finance an addition.

This unit, attached to the north end of the original building, was started in September, 1949, and completed at a cost of $1 million in May, 1951, increasing bed capacity to 131 and bassinets to 24. Seventeen Sisters, 34 nurses, 40 nurse aides and 36 departmental employes staffed the enlarged facility, along with 28 physicians.

Through the Emery A. and Amerlia Odell Trust Gift in 1953, various other projects were carried out, improving services and efficiency in handling the growing patient load.

Following another public fund appeal, ground was broken August 5, 1969, for an $8 1/2 million addition which was completed in 1971 and 1972. Additional remodeling projects and relocation of facilities, to increase the bed capacity to an eventual 350, ran the total outlay for St. Clare's expansion to around $12 million, the greater portion of it funded through bonds.

With completion of this major program, Sister Wilfreda Wagner relinquished her duties as administrator to J. Douglas Richie in 1973, devoting her "retirement" to further planning for St. Clare Hospital.

More than 600 full and part time staff members, including Sisters, nurses, aides, technicians and others engaged to operate St. Clare's sophisticated equipment and facilities, see to it that the hospital is one of the finest such institutions in the four-state area from which the bulk of its patients come.

The 100,000th new patient, a Dixon, Ill., man, was admitted February 16, 1976, marking a new milestone. The confidence that Monroe's physicians, the Congregation of St. Agnes and all others who had a part in developing this remarkable hospital has been more than confirmed by St. Clare's established place in the field of Wisconsin hospitalization. And, with Sr. Wilfreda and her associates busy planning ahead, an even greater future for St. Clare Hospital seems assured.

St. Clare Hospital and the Monroe Clinic enjoyed parallel records of success from their initial beginnings in 1939. The later Medical Center also shared in and contributed greatly to this growth of Monroe's unique position in the field of medical and hospital care.

Of the original seven physicians on the Clinic staff, Dr. W.G. Gnagi Sr. died in 1943, Dr. W.G. Bear and Dr. Creasy retired and Dr. Jack Bristow left for military service. Dr. Fred Kundert, native of New Glarus, then came from Madison in 1941 to head Dr. Bristow's department. Dr. Leslie G. Kindschi, Madison native, arrived in 1941 from Mayo Clinic where he had been since 1937. Dr. Kindschi was a graduate of Harvard Medical School in 1935.

Dr. Bristow never returned to the Clinic. Dr. Kindschi and Dr. N. E. Bear left for Navy service but returned later to take active roles as principal partners. A progression of other physicians, surgeons and specialists arrived in the postwar years, or before.

Among the latter were Dr. Ben Brunkow, from Philadelphia; Dr. Dwain E. Mings from an eye clinic in Madison; Dr. James Weir, from the Winona Clinic; Dr. Wayne J. Fencil, from Milwaukee, and Dr. George R. Barry. Of this group, only Dr. Brunkow has retired.

Each year has seen additions or changes in the various medical departments, with several physicians from other parts of the world joining the growing staff.

The Clinic's postwar success and national prestige over the years was enhanced in no small degree by Dr. Schindler's success in emphasizing psychosomatic medicine. A lecture he had given at the UW Farm and Home Week program was expanded into a best-seller book, "How To Live 365 Days A Year," in the 1950s. He was a regular panel member for years on the Chicago University Round Table network radio program.

Dr. Schindler's second book, "Woman's Guide To Better Living," was published only a short time before he was killed November 11, 1957, in a one-car crash on County Trunk K after answering a farm call.

Dr. W.B. Gnagi Jr. also received national attention for his gastroectomy techniques, which later became standard surgical treatment for stomach and ulcer problems. He was elected to the International College of Surgeons and traveled in Europe and South America to deliver papers on his innovations. Dr. Gnagi died January 15, 1955, from a heart attack at the age of 56 while driving near his home.

Today, the Clinic staff includes 45 doctors representing such specialities as neurosurgery, urology, vascular, orthopedic, thoracic, general, colon and rectal surgery, obstetrics, gynecology, pediatrics, internal medicine, gastroenterology, otolarynogology, neurology, ophthalmology, dermatology and psychiatry.

Ancillary departments include radiology, laboratory, physical therapy, electrocardiography, optical, cytology, bacteriology, ect.

Operated by a sepatate partnership, the Clinic Pharmacy has been a major part of the services.

In 1948, the Clinic expanded its ground floor space and five years later added a three-floor addition to the north. By 1960, the 100,000th patient had been treated while 120,000 patient calls were recorded in 1975, 10,000 of them new patients. This flow of patients came from a 100-mile radius,

with new patients registering from 42 states and 11 foreign countries in 1975. All patients requiring surgery or extensive medical care are sent to St. Clare Hospital.

In 1968, a $2 million addition was built to the west of the original building and this unit is due for additional floors in the near future. The Monroe Clinic today is the third largest in Wisconsin and still looking ahead to future growth.

The Baumle-Ruehlman associated medical practice, starting in 1939, was delayed in its progress toward today's operation as the Medical Center when Dr. David Ruehlman entered the Navy in 1940 and became a lieutenant commander with a Marine Corps amphibious unit. This left Dr. C.E. Baumle alone in the practice. Upon Dr. Ruehlman's return, the joint operation began to gain momentum.

Dr. Alfred E. Leiser of Monroe joined the associated practice in 1949 but two years later was called to active Air Force medical service during the Korean conflict. Dr. John M. Irvin, a classmate, succeeded Dr. Leiser who did not return to the group.

Dr. Irvin, native of Pittsburgh, was graduated from the UW Medical School in 1945 and served on the Army from 1946 to 1948. He was on the Hines VA Hospital staff at Chicago when he came here in 1951 and now is senior doctor at the Medical Center.

Dr. Irvin is a past president of the Wisconsin Society of Internal Medicine and also served as chairman of the Wisconsin Board of Medical Examiners. He was married to Virginia Vande Sand of Clinton, Ia., who has her own career, as a genealogist.

Dr. Donald W. Springer, native of Chicago, joined the group in 1953, coming here from Hines Hospital. He received his medical degree at Loyola University in 1945, serving two years in the Army and Air Force before starting

his residency at Ohio Valley Hospital in Stubenville, Ohio.

When the First National Bank started plans for remodeling its quarters, the group of four doctors decided to build on a site at the northeast corner of 6th Street and 21st Avenue, near St. Clare Hospital. When the doctors moved in, they named their new quarters "The Medical Center."

Dr. Charles O. Miller was added to the practice when the new center was opened in July, 1955. A graduate of Marquette, Dr. Miller interned at the Bethesda, Md., Navy Center and had a year's residency at Great Lakes Naval Hospital. He practiced at Monticello before coming here.

Dr. Ruehlman, co-founder of the Center with Dr. Baumle, left Monroe in January, 1956, after 25 years of practice here, to open an office in Kenosha.

Dr. Dean Miller, who joined the Medical Center in 1958, left two years later for Wood Veterans Hospital in Milwaukee. He was succeeded by Dr. Jack F. Murray who had practiced four years at Hazel Green.

Dr. Murray, native of Milwaukee, was graduated from the University of Virginia Medical School in 1948, interned at Milwaukee County General Hospital and served his four-year residency in surgery there. He is a veteran of World War II and Korea.

The Medical Center managed to outgrow its new building within 11 years and on January, 1966, purchased a site six blocks to the east, erecting its present attractive structure. The former Medical Center building was sold to the Congregation of St. Agnes, and now is used as quarters for the Sisters.

Last to join the Medical Center was Dr. Fernando Santiago who came here in December, 1967, from Chicago. He was graduated from a university in Manila, The Philippines. An obstetrics and gynecology specialist, he was with the Evanston Hospital and Northwestern University.

The Pharmacy at the Medical Center, a separate firm, is owned by David J. Brinkmeier and Thomas Holyoke. Also in separate practices are Dr. Donald

Moen, orthodontist, and Drs. Dennis Frehner and Robert Jeglum, dentists. An addition to the north is planned in the near future to provide other specialized services.

In view of the established Wisconsin leadership positions of St. Clare Hospital, the Monroe Clinic and the Medical Center, Monroe's future growth in the medical and hospitalization fields appeared inevitable in mid-1976.

Chapter Seventeen

EPILOGUE: EVENTS AND EPISODES

Preceding chapters have brought "The Story of Monroe" through to contemporary times in a number of major aspects of this city's historic progress toward the present.

There are, of course, many other events in that chronological march which should be touched upon. This chapter will endeavor to list some of them for those who were not around during earlier vigorous, momentous years leading up to the 20th Century's three-quarter mark.

Lest those who have read thus far gain the idea that every happening in Monroe has been governed by serious, solemn purpose, devoid of lighthearted moments, few reassuring glimpses are offered into this community's indulgences in humor and entertainment.

One of the "fun" items concerns a publication purposely not listed in previous accounts of Monroe's newspapering days--"Cap" T.D. Remington's penny paper called "The Swamp Angel."

Just how many issues of "The Swamp Angel" reached its bemused readership is uncertain. A typical edition was "No. 6 of Vol. 1," a delightful memento dated July 1, 1899--which could mean almost any thing since "Cap" Remington never bothered to be precise, especially in spelling and grammar.

His truncated articles were outrageously caustic about doings of unidentified "bosses." With only two advertisers, Cap's paper didn't last long into the 1900s.

"The Swamp Angel" and other such affairs about town were topics of morning

gab sessions at barbershops, drugstore fountains and everywhere else around Public Square. Most of the chatter was good-natured and there was mirth aplenty, even though some of the panic years before World War I were rough. Elaborate practical jokes, many of them difficult for victims to "enjoy," also helped ease worries and tensions.

Sports activities--for spectator and participant--also brightened the times. Bowling, basketball and roller skating at the Armory did much to take the town's mind off everyday problems.

Dances, concerts, traveling shows playing at the Wells Opera House (until it was razed for the new high school) and in Turner Hall, as well as colorful social affairs, were popular. Admission to shows was cheap, particularly after the "movies" came here to the "Star," the "Crystal" and the "Monroe," all converted from store quarters.

Those movies were silent flickers--one, two and, occasionally, three reelers. Monroe even boasted its own film impressarios in the Goetz brothers, Leon E. and Chester J. As the older, Leon started his career early as a "projectionist" at the Crystal before leaving for the Dakotas to enlighten fans there with "nickelodeons." Chester joined him later as a teen-ager.

The Goetzes returned here when the Crystal was sold and set up the town's first real motion picture theater, the "New Monroe," in 1918 at the Recreation Club building. They also expanded their show business later to Janesville and Beloit, very successfully.

In 1928, Leon patented the first sound movie projector and audio system for small theaters. The ornate Goetz building off the southeast corner of the Square was opened September 2, 1931, Monroe's first "modern" structure in many years.

Leon Goetz retired from the firm in 1939 and Chester went on to operate the enterprises, at one time running three theaters here--the Goetz, the

Goetz Junior and the Chalet. His sons joined him later and now operate the Goetz and Skyvu theaters, radio stations and other enterprises.

Even before the movies, however, a greater wonder of the age was given an early reception here in 1901--the automobile. Both of Monroe's first cars were Toledo Steamers. Charles R. Schepley acquired his in a Lake Kegonsa property deal and brought it to the 1901 County Fair, driving it around and around the track to the cheers of spectators.

Fred J. Karlen's Toledo Steamer arrived by rail freight in July. He later created a sensation by traveling with his mechanic, Reddy Edleman, to Freeport where crowds hailed the first auto they had ever seen.

Roy Jaberg, an early enthusiast, sold his laundry and went to Gary to learn how to run a car dealership. He was successful and returned to operate auto agencies here, along with Dr. W.G. Bear for several years.

Schepley traded his steamer for land in South Dakota in 1902 and did not get back to motoring until 1904 when he, C. S. Dodge and Evan South bought gasoline cars built in Belvidere. That same year, Reddy Edleman was convinced he could build his own better auto. He, Rudy Schiesser and Fred W. Buehler put the machine together in Buehler's shop. It was "unveiled" May 18, 1904, chugged along for ten miles with its one-cylinder engine and then was put away for a posterity that never came.

In 1911, Monroe's famed political cartoonist, Art Young, founded his "Masses" magazine in New York which gained national attention for its socialistic stands. "Everybody's friend" but an avowed enemy of capitalism, Art Young used his stinging pen to puncture pomposity and power barons with his cartoons. His anti-war drawings got him into trouble with the government in 1918 but he managed to snooze his way through a trial which ended in acquittal.

A son of Dan S. and Amanda Wagner Young and born near Oneco in 1866, Art left Monroe to study art in Chicago and New York, winding up in Paris at 23.

He became an artist for Chicago dailies and then went to New York where he persistently snubbed Arthur Brisbane's efforts to snare him for the Hearst papers. A supporter of the Russian revolution, Art Young hailed the Soviet role in World War II before his death December 29, 1943. He was eulogized in this country and abroad for his wit and satiric drawings.

Art's brother, Will W. Young, born in Monroe October 1, 1868, also was highly talented but preferred the capitalistic ways. A graduate of Monroe High School in 1887, Will entered the University of Wisconsin and persuaded his professors to organize a journalism course. He and W.T. Saucerman started the "Daily Cardinal," along with M.C. Douglas, also of Monroe, as associate editor.

After experience in Madison and Chicago, Will Young was named Sunday editor of the august "New York World" in 1894. When William Randolph Hearst started the "Chicago American" in 1900, Will became Sunday editor. He soon added Ray Walters of Monroe to that paper's cartoon staff. Later, he was editor of "Hampton's" and "Good Housekeeping" magazines and McClure's newspaper syndicate. He also edited the "New York Press," "Golf" magazine and British military films in World War I, and was national publicity director for the Boy Scouts.

Entering the film-making business, Will Young wrote scripts and directed several silent movies, the most successful being "Alice in Wonderland." He died at 84 in New York City on October 21, 1952.

A nephew, Ray (Spot) Young, inherited Uncle Art's cartoon flair and Uncle Will's showmanship but chose to remain in Monroe. Ray's brother, Harry, also was with the family grocery business until it folded and then managed the Eugene Hotel 11 years before taking up insurance. Their sister, Charlotte, retired from the Woman's Army Corps as a master sergeant in March, 1963. She had enlisted in January, 1943, less than two months before her 45th birthday.

Monroe has been recognized for its stellar basketball teams almost from the time that game first swept the Midwest. In addition to great high school teams, which consistently won early invitational tournaments, Monroe also was able to satiate its appetite for the game with the Fire Department-sponsored "amateur" teams and the squads from the Badger and Cardinal Clubs. Those latter were almost 95 per cent "social" in activity but also put on some rousing games at the Armory with Janesville, Freeport and Beloit teams.

Typical of the town's basketball madness was the year of 1916, just prior to the war, when the Fire Department team won--and lost--some thrillers. In a January game at the Armory, the Firemen (there were none on the squad) dropped a 27-26 squeaker to the Exmoors, semi-pro Chicago area champs. In contrast, that same month the Firemen beat the Janesville YMCA 41 to 4. The visitors simply couldn't find the local baskets.

Freeport's YMCA did better here, losing by only 25 to 21 but the UW Reserves came down for a 54-26 drubbing the next week. Howls were long and loud about "ringers," however, when the Firemen lost to the Janesville Lokotas 30-24 in March.

That eventful 1916 also saw Monroe High School win the tough Platteville tournament, beating Richland Center 36 to 6 in the final and then going on to its first of nine valiant bids for the state crown.

(Monroe won that coveted State Championship with its 1964-65 basketball team which went through the season undefeated. It also achieved another state title in 1966, winning the Class B track championship as Mark Winzenried set the 440-yard record. A third MHS crown came when the 1972-73 wrestling squad took the team championship, as well as individual honors.)

High school football also always enjoyed a strong, loyal following from the very first years. Many fine teams have been fielded, especially in the years when such stars of both gridiron and basketball court as Frank (Muzz)

Haren, Ralph (Monk) Stauffacher and Roy Collentine were performing. George Geiger recalls that trio fondly today.

(Probably the mightiest MHS football team in later years was the 1946 squad coached by Don Huddletson which won the Southern 10 title and went undefeated and untied for the season.)

As for baseball, the incredible Monroe Pirates, a pro aggregation locally sponsored, played a brand of ball equal to that of most organized minor league teams. The Pirates were consistent winners and some of the stars went on to big league tryouts.

Monroe baseball reached its zenith here September 4, 1912, when Charles A. Comiskey sent a "split" Chicago White Sox team to play a promised game with the Pirates. Comiskey, approached by Monroe friends, had agreed to the game in view of the Pirates' domination of its Illinois-Wisconsin circuit.

However, on the scheduled game day, the American League ordered the White Sox to play off a tie game with Detroit. Chicago papers reported the game had been canceled. Comiskey was quick to deny this, announcing he would split his team and fulfill the Monroe date. The confusion, nevertheless, cut the fairgrounds turnout to 1,500, from the anticipated 3,000.

Despite a five-hit, errorless performance, the Pirates lost to the Sox 3 to 1. Harry McConnell was umpire and Dr. W. B. Gnagi Sr. called the base plays. The White Sox used two pitchers but the Pirates' Fucik went the route. It was a defeat for the locals but Comiskey emerged as a longtime hero of Monroe fans.

Most Monroe and Green County residents had their first closeup glimpses of an airplane--on the ground--at the 1913 County Fair. The biplane was shipped here with the idea of making flights from the fairgrounds track but, due to some problem, no real attempt was made to get it airborne.

The first plane to land and take off from Green County did not arrive

until July 25, 1919. It was an "air express" plane, piloted by Bert Hassel, who brought it down on Alfred Hawthorne's farm southwest of the city.

Hassel, flying the Society Brand firm's aircraft, was delivering a shipment of suits to Arthur C. Benkert and Arthur Stauffacher for their store. He had flown from Chicago via Freeport. On return, Hassel took Sam Cousley, "Monroe Evening Times" editor, along to Rockford so he could write up the thrills for local citizens, of whom there had been thousands on hand at the Hawthorne pasture, including Mayor J.T. Etter.

Pastures around Monroe remained the first landing fields for "barnstorming" pilots flying in later to provide rides for eager and nervous "customers." The earliest regularly used landing field was on the Klassy farm north of town, just off Highway 69. That was where the first Monroe plane, owned by Clarence Wheeler, landed and took off in 1927.

Among the first licensed pilots was George Stauffacher who was trained at St. Louis in 1927-28 and piloted Wheeler's plane before buying his own in 1931. Stauffacher's craft, kept at Janesville, was destroyed by fire in 1932.

Gilbert T. Baltzer, another early local flier, started with a seaplane at Madison in 1938. He gave primary flight training to naval air cadets at Madison in World War II and later established Badger Field, west of Monroe, continuing his flight training work.

It was not until 1963, after considerable City Council debates and clashes with an opposing mayor, as well as a tangle of State and FAA red tape, that Badger Field finally was superseded by the present Monroe Municipal Airport, three miles northeast of the city. This state-federal aid project first had been suggested back in the 1930s, with no action beyond talk.

In 1957, during Mayor Brooks Dunwiddie's regime, a petition for an $88,000 facility was initiated through the State Aeronautics Commission. A site was selected off Highway 59 on land owned by John Rufi, Fred Weiss,

Stanley Whitehead and Ralph Shaffer. It was two years, however, before the City's funding portion was approved.

The project then became bogged down with bureaucratic hearings and disputes until work finally began in 1962. Today, the Monroe Airport is kept busy by locally-operated private planes, as well as scores of outside fliers who come here each month.

Getting back to the cultural activities of the early 20th Century, Monroe was even more musically-inclined than it had been back in 1854 when the Cornet Band gave forth with its first tunes. That group was revived after the Civil War and lasted, with many ups and downs, until it disbanded in 1903.

William Goldberger arrived from Chicago in 1898, starting an orchestra and then the new Military Band. Three of his sons were in the orchestra and Goldberger tried to supplement his income with a fruit stand, but eventually yielded the Military Band baton to John M. Barrett.

Leon J. Wilmett came from Green Bay in 1913 to organize the Monroe Concert Orchestra and was soon followed by D'Arvel Maxwell whose showmanship resulted in the uniformed Hussar Band.

Monroe's World War I Home Guard members supplied the regimental band that played at Camp Douglas sessions under Ray T. Bast's direction. Bast and Rex Booth also had a popular dance orchestra in those years. Albert R. Neushwander and Bast alternated after 1920 in directing the Monroe Municipal Band, the old "Hussars" so renamed when the City began providing money for 16 concerts each season on Public Square--with a total annual outlay of $1,600.

Miss Maud E. Wenger and Philip N. Snodgrass were popular vocal soloists for those summer concerts but the biggest crowds came out for the annual Swiss programs with their Old World tunes. City funds stopped flowing in 1936 and downtown merchants tried in depression times to keep the concerts going.

Neushwander had organized the Monroe High School Band in 1925 and,

subsequently, the School Board employed Allan F. Barnard as bandmaster. Mrs. Edwin (Helen) Schuetze, chemistry teacher, also launched the High School Orchestra. Both groups were successful and eventually filled the vacuum left as the tuneful notes and drumbeats of earlier musical organizations faded into silence. Today's City Band now carries on the tradition of the former Military and Municipal groups.

Mention should be made of two other organizations which previously helped delight local music lovers--the Badger Girls Orchestra (which gradually admitted men players), formed by Mrs. Nettie Booth Wegg, and the flashy Knights of Pythias Dokke Band.

Although the Dokkes were associated with the Freeport KP, virtually all players were from Monroe and Brodhead. Their uniforms were even more spectacular than their music--yellow vests with purple sashes, red velvet knickers, white leggings and purple fezzes. Louis H. Kohli and Ray Young were the crowd-pleasing drum majors.

Unheralded and organized on the spur of the moment, Monroe's Cheese Day tradition was born in 1914 after H.G. Leuenberger took a local booster group to Forreston's annual Sauerkraut Day October 2. Leuenberger's delegation returned home to convince the Monroe Businessmen's Association that this was the kind of promotion the town needed. Cheese, they were sure, would have a much greater appeal than sauerkraut. The business group, at a hastily called meeting, set October 28 for the first Cheese Day, just 19 days away.

The Volunteer Fire Department eagerly accepted the challenge, donating funds, heading up the finance drive and offering to help make sandwiches. On the big day, around 4,000 attended the parade-less program which closed with a dance at Turner Hall. All in all, it was successful enough so that plans were started immediately for the 1915 event.

With a parade this time, more cheese sandwiches and an expanded program

of Old World dancing, music and plain fun, the October, 1915, Cheese Day drew 20,000. This time, it had been made an all-Green County affair, increasing chances of perpetuation.

An elaborate "Circus" theme, first started the previous year by Ray Young, was expanded with wagons, "animals" and clowns delighting the 1916 Cheese Day throngs.

That year of 1916, coming as it did just before the First World War changed the lives of most Monroe people, was unusually eventful. Company H had gone away to Mexican Border duty; a former Monroe man, Frederick T. Price, was sentenced to life in Minneapolis on a charge of murdering his wife for her $40,000 inheritance, and J.T. Etter took over as mayor when Capt. F.F. West resigned to become water superintendent.

It was the year when construction began on Lincoln and St. Victor's schools, the Odd Fellows Temple, Roub building, 50 new residences and Immanuel Evangelical's fourth church structure. The latter was dedicated July 22, 1917, with Rev. A.A. Krug as pastor.

Another 1916 event of note was George E. Wilkinson's launching of Monroe into a new leadership role with organization of the Wisconsin Automobile Insurance Co., succeeding a former mutual group started here.

Company H came home early in 1917 from Texas, just soon enough to start getting ready for new duty which its members all suspected might be coming soon. President Woodrow Wilson and Congress declared war with Germany and its allies April 6, 1917, and Co. H left Camp Douglas August 2 to become part of the new 32nd Division at Fort MacArthur, Waco, Texas.

Cheese Day No. 4, beset by uncertain schedules due to war demands in 1917, almost wound up being the last such celebration. Snow and rain added to the problems this time, spoiling the parade and most program events. Loyal Swiss cheese lovers and yodel fans, however, still showed up by the thousands

to shiver and sing through the Old World outdoor features.

Monroe's other big stories of the First World War period were told in the military history chapter. Suffice to say, those were trying times with the flu epidemic and rationing problems. Influenza was almost as deadly on the home front as battle actions were for Monroe and Green County servicemen in Europe and at sea.

With 1919, things began to resume a happier, if no longer normal, pace. The troops and sailors came home to resume jobs or find new ones. Wartime inflation, however, was causing economic imbalances, hitting hardest at agriculture and the dairy industry.

Prohibition started January 16, 1920, and the first to feel the real effects here were the Blumer Brewery and the town's oversupply of drink spots (they were called saloons then). However, Blumer's found a ready market for its Golden Glow "near" beer, the saloons coped somehow and thirsty citizens managed to survive, in ingenious ways, during the so-called arid era.

One of the recent war's special casualties was five-term County Judge John M. Becker. An ardent pacifist, Becker induced Monroe's aldermen to authorize a referendum in 1917 on whether America should enter into war against Germany. Held only three days before the actual war declaration, the balloting, unique in the nation, resulted in 954 "No" and 95 "Yes" votes.

Although Becker immediately published a letter supporting the war effort after April 6, his later criticisms of the draft and other remarks irritated the patriotic. He ran for governor in 1918 on a platform including full support for Robert LaFollette's anti-war stands. He lost in the primary but continued his critical comments.

In May, 1918, Judge Becker was indicted on sedition charges. He was found guilty in Federal Court at Eau Claire August 16, 1918, and Gov. Emanuel Philipp removed him from the bench September 19. However, on October 2, 1920,

the U.S. Court of Appeals reversed his conviction on error.

Meanwhile, Gov. Philipp had named John Luchsinger as judge and J.L. Sherron later was elected to the regular term. Judge Sherron died December 29, 1922, and Gov. John Blaine appointed Becker to the January-April interim court term. Becker lost in the April election and died October 29, 1926, still bitter over his treatment.

The early 1920s were times calling for Monroe banking leaders, businessmen, cheese industry figures and those in all related agricultural segments of the town's economy to show enterprise in seeking a return to prosperity. Stimulated by a new "booster" spirit, the moribund Monroe Businessmen's Association was succeeded in 1923 by the livelier Monroe Chamber of Commerce. The latter development probably had been inspired by the community vigor displayed by the Kiwanis Club, organized in May, 1921.

Monroe, it seems, has been especially blessed with civic and service groups throughout its history, particularly in the years following the two World Wars. Kiwanis, "dean" of the organizations, has initiated and supported many fine projects throughout its 55 years.

The roster also includes the energetic Lions Club, with its work for the visually handicapped and its fine Minstrel Shows; the Jaycees and Jaycettes, who never seem to run out of projects, and the newer Rotary and Optimist Clubs.

Much the same contributions, in the way of community service, also have been made by the town's fraternal organizations, of which it has a full complement dating clear back to Monroe's beginnings.

Throughout the years, various organizations, such as the Chamber, have succeeded remarkably well in making Monroe a place in which its people probably enjoy living and working to a greater extent than is found in most other towns.

That situation helped overcome the economic difficulties of the 1920s fairly successfully and also served to make the lasting impact of the 1929 runaway Stock Market's crash less severe here than in many larger cities.

Cheese Day No. 5, delayed for six years, finally was organized in 1923. This time the traditional one-day event had the full cooperation of all Green County communities and the entire cheese industry, including countryside factory patrons and makers, cheese dealers and assemblers, all working along with the Fire Department, the new Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis and a host of other Monroe groups. It was the best ever.

And, when 1928 rolled around, the same leaders put on Cheese Day No. 6, breaking all records for parade participation, program variety and festive atmosphere. Even President Calvin Coolidge was drafted into helping promote the show. A local delegation, headed by State Sen. William Olson, visited the President at his Brule fishing camp and presented him with a special wheel of Swiss, which he dutifully sampled for the press cameramen who distributed the pictures nationally.

What those jubilant 1928 leaders didn't realize, however, was that Cheese Day was fated to go into another hiatus. Optimistically, they had gone ahead with plans for Cheese Day No. 7 in 1933. That year, of course, marked the low point of the depression. So, 1933 went by without a program, and even 1934 brought no enthusiasm, although Repeal had ended the drink drouth December 5, 1933.

Another sad note of the depressed times occurred February 1, 1930, with the death of Rev. Thomas A. Dempsey, beloved 37-year pastor of St. Victor's Catholic Church. He had come here in July, 1892, to find St. Victor's still in ruins from the fire. After the new church was completed, Rev. Dempsey concentrated on a new project, the building of a parish school, completed in 1916. Another fine achievement came in 1918 when Rev. Dempsey invited St.

Mary's parish members to join St. Victor's upon the death of their priest, Father Sebastian Rohr, bringing the German and Swiss Catholics into his Irish congregation.

Eight years later, another minister affectionately respected throughout the community, Rev. P.A. Schuh of St. John's Church, the city's largest, died February 7, 1938. He had served St. John's 42 years, preaching in both German and English. For nearly 30 years, Rev. Schuh also had preached at Darlington's Evangelical Church.

During its troubled times, Monroe found frequent respite from gloom by following the fortunes of Frank B. Luchsinger's record-breaking horses, trained and driven by Arlie Frost.

Actually, the town's claim to a bright place in the horse racing world dated from 1909 when George Bleiler's Knight of Strathmore set a half-mile track pace record of 2:06 1/4 as a four-year-old at the Fairgrounds. Knight went on to a mile record at Phoenix of 2:03 1/4 and continued his winning ways until his untimely death.

Luchsinger's two finest horses were Peter McKinney and Calumet Delco, the latter a stallion trotter foaled on the famed Calumet Farms at Lexington, Ky.

Peter McKinney was the world champion 4-year-old with 2:01 3/4 time at Lexington, Ky., in 1929. He chalked up 66 firsts, 17 seconds and 7 thirds in other competition that season. Peter McKinney died in 1930 and is buried on Luchsinger's former Cold Springs Farm.

Calumet Delco, bought by Luchsinger in 1932, set three world marks as a 2-year-old. In 1933, Calumet never lost during the busy New England circuit season and took the Horse Review Futurity at Springfield, Ill., with a record 2:05 3/4. Luchsinger sold Calumet to a French stable owner and the stallion went overseas to continue its victories, siring many fast horses of later years.

Another sport also claimed community attention beginning in 1922--the

gentle art of golf. The game actually had been introduced here in 1899 by Gilbert T. Hodges, an advertising man who had played it in Chicago and New York. Hodges came home for a vacation visit and set up a few holes in a pasture on his father's farm in order to practice with his clubs. He showed his friends how to swing and putt. Apparently, they weren't too impressed and after Hodges departed the "pasture pool" flurry was forgotten.

In 1922, however, H. Merton Place, gas company manager, laid out a five-hole course at the Fairgrounds infield. This time, the idea caught on and in May, 1923, Place organized the Monroe Golf Club. He then urged building of a regular course and the later organized Monroe Country Club corporation purchased the Fred E. Blumer farm of 43 acres and then acquired additional land from Otto Blumer. A course was laid out by a Chicago golf architect and was ready for play in August, 1924.

James Hunter came as pro in 1925, followed by Forrest Stauffer, Eddie Huebner and then Scotland's Jimmy Forbes from 1929 until 1973.

Sixty more acres were purchased in 1963 from Thomas Keegan and by 1969 Monroe Country Club had a full-sized 18-hole tournament course.

A strange and fortuitous happening in 1935 "rescued" Cheese Day from oblivion. An Iowa doctor had perscribed limburger cheese for a patient's diet. Only source of that aromatic delicacy at the time was Green County. The patient ordered his cheese by mail and his rural carrier, out of the Independence, Iowa, postoffice, refused to handle it, claiming warm limburger gave off "poisonous gas."

Monroe Postmaster John Burkhard, who could smell a good cheese promotional idea for Green County as well as the next Sweitzer, dreamed up a "cheese sniffing contest." Dubuque was selected as neutral ground for this duel of postmasters and the press services gleefully took up the cause. The contest was declared a draw but the rural carrier was ordered to deliver the limburger.

Postmaster Burkhard promptly was named general chairman for Cheese Day No. 7 in October, 1935. That celebration was resoundingly successful as an "escape" for depression-weary Midwesterners who welcomed the chance for a festive time in Monroe.

Happy local Cheese Day leaders voted at once to hold the next celebration in 1940, confident that the momentum of nationwide attention gained by the 1935 program would carry safely through for five years. Everyone looking ahead to the 1940 Cheese Day was optimistic but, again, unexpected factors cast a pall as the day neared. The cheese industry locally was undergoing many changes. World War II had started, Hitler's blitzkrieg had conquered France, Britain was tottering and everyone feared America soon would be drawn in. National Guard units were being called up for a year of training and other signs were ominous.

But, the 1940 Cheese Day committee, headed by Archie Myers Sr., plunged ahead and gave thousands attending from all parts of the country a wonderful prewar reason for relaxing.

Pause must be taken at this point to look back at some earlier happenings which had important effects on Monroe's community life and its future development.

After his success here with the Wisconsin Automobile Insurance Co., headed by C.L. Stillman as president, George Wilkinson next organized the Wisconsin Standard Life Insurance Co. in 1928. This new firm's general offices also were established in Monroe. In 1929, Wilkinson's companies acquired the Chenoweth-Schindler building, then owned by Edward N. Burgi, at the Square's northwest corner, and renamed it the Insurance Building.

General Casualty Co. Madison, formed in 1925, bought the Wisconsin Automobile Insurance Co. in 1933 but continued general offices here until June, 1942. Meanwhile, two years earlier, after Wilkinson had sold his local

interests, Wisconsin Standard Life Insurance Co. had been acquired by Wisconsin Life Insurance Co. of Madison and moved to that city.

Philip N. Snodgrass became the prime figure in the local General Casualty operation, serving as secretary and general counsel. In later years, he succeeded William B. Roys as General Casualty president after the removal to Madison and sale of the Insurance Building to the new Monroe Clinic. Fire Association of Philadelphia bought General Casualty in January, 1956, but it continues to operate in Madison.

Two other developments were not so happy for many community residents--the closing on January 7, 1931, of the Citizens Bank, and the same fate for the Commercial & Savings Bank on May 20, 1932. Both banks, however, enjoyed sufficient confidence and support to reorganize rapidly and reopen--the Citizens with new capital and leadership July 22, 1931, and the Commercial, with similar refunding on October 2, 1932.

There were many in Monroe who felt the two banks never should have been closed in the first place, but state banking authorities had ruled otherwise. Both became stronger than ever and the Citizens later merged with the First National in October, 1940.

Monroe jumped into the nation's headlines in 1931 with the kidnaping of Fred J. Blumer, 51, president of the Blumer Brewery, at 8 p.m. April 9 from in front of his home at 2110 11th Street. His abductors, directed to his house innocently enough by a Monroe motorcycle policeman, were traveling in two cars. Two of the men climbed into Blumer's car with him and the caravan headed south out of town.

Blumer's car was left in a Freeport garage and his kidnapers called Archie Wells, secretary-treasurer of the brewery, to report where it was and to say that the family would hear from them later. When the ransom call came, it demanded $150,000, later negotiated down to $100,000 which the Blumer family

had ready for the payoff.

Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak, friend of Sheriff Myron West, dispatched Detective Lt. William J. Cusack to help. Jacob Blumer, brother of the victim, completed arrangements to pay the $100,000 somewhere along Highway 51, between Rockford and Streator, and Lt. Cusack trailed Jacob's car, warning off Rockford, Chicago and Illinois State Police, but no contact was made. There was one report of a gun battle between Minonk and El Paso, Ill., but this incident never was fully explained.

In any event, the gang became suspicious and released Fred Blumer at Decatur, Ill., giving him back his watch and wallet, along with a $20 bill. No ramson was paid but several weeks later Blumer received a telephoned demand for $15,000. He later did pay (as he told the author 25 years later) $3,000 to an intermediary for his captors' expenses and his safe release. From that time on, Blumer never talked very much about the case and refused to go to Chicago to identify suspects Cusack turned up, claiming his blindfold kept him from seeing any of the men.

Blumer believed he had been held at Collinsville, Ill., during his week of captivity and said he was treated well, except for the blindfold which he blamed in later years for his serious eye troubles. He died May 21, 1956, seven weeks after talking with the author about the case.

The Blumer kidnaping was recalled by the press when William A. Hamm Jr., scion of the Minneapolis brewing family was abducted June 15, 1933. A ransom of $100,000 was paid but Alvin Karpis, notorious gang leader, was arrested and sentenced to a life term. He was paroled in 1969.

A handsome new Postoffice was built here in 1932, the fourth such building for that purpose in the city's history. It stands today as a fine architectural monument to Monroe's growth into a mail order gift cheese center.

Another event of moment occurred in 1933 when a Civil Works Administration

swimming pool project was approved, with City and public contributions. A citizens drive raised $5,200 toward the pool costs estimated at $12,000 to $15,000 (actually they were nearer $25,000). Then, the CWA dropped out and the City was stuck for $4,000 in extra material costs, with the ERA (a short-lived New Deal agency) supplying the labor. C.L. Stillman of Kiwanis had headed the Citizens Project Committee and presided at the dedication ceremony June 15, 1934.

Monroe was back in the headlines again November 17, 1936, when two men held up Citizens Bank employes, customers and the chief of Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. examiners who happened to be visiting the place that afternoon.

Evening Times Editor Harry B. Lyford's classic lead paragraph tells the story succinctly:

"Two calm, cool, polite unmasked young bandits stalked into the Citizens Bank at about 2:20 this afternoon, herded five employes and about 20 customers into vaults or forced them to lie on the floor, and made a quiet escape about 20 minutes later with a sum estimated by bank officials to be about $8,000."

The gunmen had waited 15 minutes until an automatic time lock on a safe opened, seized the contents, scooped up all money from teller cash drawers and left leisurely. Another safe lock was due to open at 3:30 but the pair decided not to wait, departing in a green car headed south.

O.N. Johnson, cashier, called police and G.E. Zuercher, assistant cashier, sounded the vault alarm in Tommy Hinds' barbershop so he could alert the First National and Commercial banks. The car was found later west of Freeport and witnesses said the pair had boarded an eastbound bus.

J. Edgar Hoover, FBI chief, identified the robbers as Merle Vandenbush and Harry Brunette, both formerly of Green Bay and escapees in July from Ohio State Prison Farm. The FBI wanted them for kidnaping a New Jersey State Trooper and robbery of banks at Ripon and Seymour, Wis.

Brunette and his wife were caught in a gun battle December 15, 1936, when Hoover led a raid on their New York apartment. The wife, implicated by Brunette in the trooper kidnaping, was slightly wounded. Brunette was given a life term and she also was incarcerated.

Vandenbush was captured February 25, 1937, at North Castle, N.Y., by that town's three-man police force after he and two pals had held up the Latonah, N.Y., bank. He received a term of 45 to 70 years.

Not all of Monroe's Swiss atmosphere, of course, has been centered in Cheese Day programs. The local Turners, dating back to their old Turnverein, first hosted a regional Turnfest here for gymnasts in 1888.

Since then, the local Turners, through their Turn and Schwing Club formed in 1928, have brought three national Turnfests here--in 1937, 1942 and 1957, each of them attracting participants and guests from cities throughout the country. Reinhard Mueller, veteran Turn and Schwing instructor, was chairman for the 1937 and 1942 events, while Fred Glauser, cheesemaker and longtime leader of Swiss groups, headed the 1957 arrangements.

In addition to the National Turnfests, Monroe hosted the Midwest Turn Days here in 1953 and again in 1971. In all the programs during the years, the special flavor of Swiss "gemutlichkeit" had caused thousands of visitors to go back home with warm memories of Monroe.

Other Turner Hall groups which have spread the Old World charm that Monroe's guests relish are the Swiss Club and the Swiss Singers of Monroe. The latter group was chosen to host the 28th National Swiss Singing Festival (or Saengerfest) here June 11-13 as the first of Monroe's outstanding Bicentennial Year programs. This was the first time the Swiss American Singing Alliance had selected a city as small as Monroe for the Festival.

Soon after World War II ended, some talk was heard here of plans for Cheese Day No. 9. The originally scheduled date, of course, had been 1945

but it was impossible even to think about a program that year of the war's end. And, interest obviously waned with each passing year after 1945.

When 1950 arrived, however, talk was converted into action with D.A. Crandall as chairman. Once more, an unanticipated "gimmick" presented Cheese Day leaders with another national opportunity.

A Minneapolis newspaper columnist, after a trip back home to Ohio, had written that he relished the chance to eat "real" Swiss cheese there instead of "that rubbery stuff" made in Wisconsin. The "Monroe Evening Times," alerted by a Twin Cities friend, seized upon that challenge. (The fact that the author, then associate publisher and editor of the Evening Times, came from that Ohio Swiss cheese area and knew the congressman from that district, as well as Wisconsin's Rep. Lawrence H. Smith, didn't hurt the Cheese Day group's chances for exploiting the "insult.")

With the two congressmen cooperating, and good-natured help from the Minneapolis columnist, a Wisconsin vs Ohio Swiss cheese "tasting" contest was arranged in May at the U.S. Capitol in Washington. The local contingent flew to Washington with two wheels of aged Swiss and accompanied by Accordionists Betty Kneubuehl and Rudy Burkhalter. Ohio sent a Swiss couple from Wilmont with one wheel.

The cheese and displays were set up in the House Speaker's private dining-room and the "duelists" stood around, looking at each other. Nothing much happened until Burkhalter poked his alphorn out into the marble corridor and blew a few blasts (which had been strictly forbidden by stern Speaker Sam Rayburn). Within minutes, House business had recessed, the room was jammed and everyone, including Rayburn, was happily munching Swiss. There was no cheese left to carry away when the "contest" was over.

Diplomacy required that the match should be called a draw but Cheese Day 1950 was off and running with the nationwide publicity given by reporters and

cameramen. It was the most successful promotion ever held for Cheese Day and more than 80,000 jammed Monroe for the big day September 9.

After the 1950 triumph, the same team, headed again by Crandall, set September 10, 1955, for Cheese Day No. 10 with every confidence that it would be another record program. That's what it turned out to be, with Gov. Walter Kohler Jr. and other prominent guests helping to focus attention again on Monroe. The crowd certainly exceeded that of 1950 and everyone was wearily happy.

For some reason, however, when the five-year scheduled date of 1960 came up on the calendar, there was a surprising lack of interest in planning for Cheese Day No. 11. The cheese industry itself was not enthusiastic, veteran Cheese Day workers begged off the job of going through another one and no eager volunteers came forward that year to replace them. So, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, and 1964 went by without action.

In 1965, however, new and younger leadership persuaded various groups and the Swiss community that Cheese Day was too long overdue. These leaders also decided to stretch the program into a two-day weekend for the first time, shifting the parade to Sunday. That celebration was a "bellringer" and the two-day format has been followed ever since--in 1967, 1970, 1972 and 1974.

Cheese Day No. 16 on September 18 and 19 was arranged to cap the Bicentennial Year events for Monroe--with the others being the 28th National Swiss Singing Festival in June, and the gala two-day county-wide July 3 and 4 celebration here, sponsored by Cecil Jones Veterans of Foreign Wars Post.

All such programs have provided enjoyable highlights for Monroe's 20th Century story, of course, but recent decades also have been featured with something more than marching, song and festivity. In fact, those busy years have brought business gains and industrial growth that promise even greater things in store for the community's future.

This progress began--or resumed--soon after World War II. Ray Kubly's Swiss Colony enterprise took off again at full stride, setting a pace that hasn't stopped since 1945. Kubly also joined in 1946 with Oscar Moldenhauer and Howard P. Olsen in obtaining a franchise to manufacture Frito corn confections in a small downtown location on 18th Avenue. That franchise later was bought back by the Dallas firm but a large Frito plant on 19th Street has continued to provide local jobs.

D.A. Crandall, who started recapping tires during the war at his Texaco distributorship, expanded this activity in postwar years until he became a major Midwest recap supplier, as well as distributor of new tires under the "Monroe" name. Eventually, all the widespread operations were concentrated in a new building on Highway 11 West, where the business continues to grow under the direction of the son, Robert D. Crandall.

Next major manufacturing development was Oaktron Industries, started here in 1954 by William L. Rollins and Frank Wesley of Chicago. The firm makes radio and television speaker units, developed and engineered in the local plant. Wesley left the firm later but Rollins continues to operate it. Competition by Japanese firms gave Oaktron a rough time for several years but its recent share of the speaker industry's market has surged to new records.

Another newcomer was Industrial Combustion, Inc., which manufactures industrial type gas and oil burners, along with boiler units. J. Verne Resek of Milwaukee came here in 1957 to seek a plant site and capital for his new firm. A drive was organized by local leaders to sell stock and notes, raising $170,000 in a few weeks.

The plant was built on 21st Street and in full production by 1958. Resek's enterprise was so successful that he paid off all notes and retired the stock issued by Monroe Industrial Development Corp. 13 years ahead of time. Industrial Combustion now operates on a worldwide basis, with distributors

in Europe and Japan.

Soon after the debris from the 1965 Palm Sunday tornado had been cleared away, two new industries appeared on the scene--Moore Business Forms, manufacturer of business forms of all types, and Advance Transformer of Chicago, maker of ballasts for heavy duty industrial fluorescent lighting fixtures. Both firms came in 1966 and began to supply new jobs immediately.

Advance began in a Crandall warehouse at the west end of 19th Street, operating there until its new plant was finished on 21st Street. Moore's sizable new plant was built in record time on the west extension of 17th Street and has been enlarged twice since it went into operation.

Several other newer, growing industries have added to job opportunities here, among them Richard L. Feller's Monroe Machine & Welding Co., builder of truck bodies and hoists, along with other related items in the trucking industry.

The steady, sure growth that has featured the community's economic and cultural progress offers ample assurance today that "The Story of Monroe" should be as rewarding in the future as it has been since the founding days.

That happy situation, due in no small part to the character of its people, should prevail if today's generations will look ahead from the 140 years which have passed with an appreciative perspective, determined to preserve and enhance their wonderful heritage.