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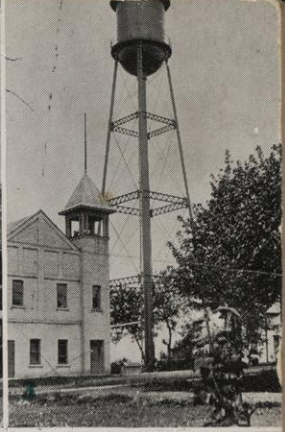
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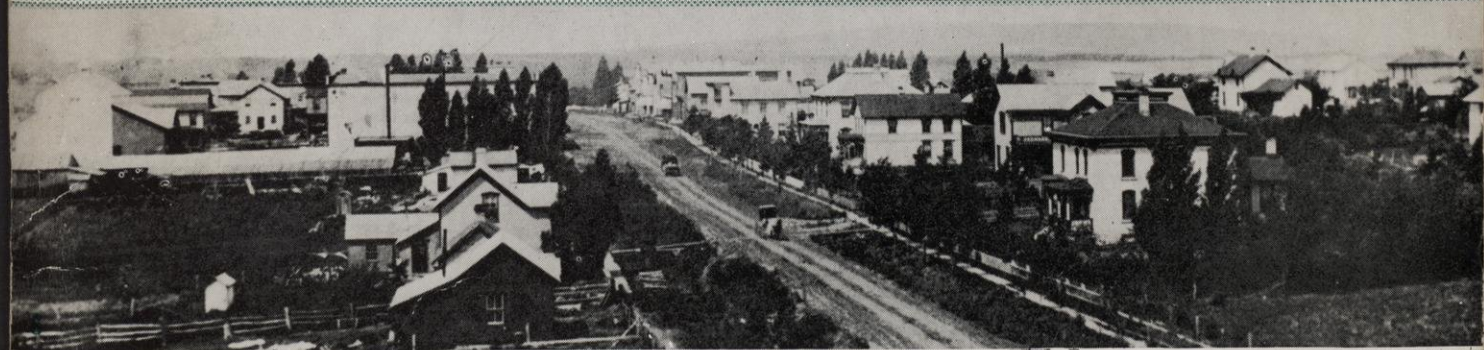
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1861 MT. HOREB 1961

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# THE MOUNT HOREB CENTENNIAL BOOK

1861 - 1961

*Hilene Ryan*

This book is dedicated to



**NORA EVANS**

who has worked long and hard to make it a reality. Most of the material and photographs in the book were accumulated and preserved by Nora in the hope that a history of Mt. Horeb could someday be published. That hope has now been realized, and a grateful community takes this opportunity to say: "Here is your book, Nora. We hope you will like it."

Betty Sebenthall  
Editor

Mrs. M. M. Darrow  
Vera Babcock  
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Ass't Editors

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The History Committee wishes to acknowledge the research work done by the Mt. Horeb High School students, under the direction of Mr. Desmond Bragg. Some of this material was used in compiling the book.

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G. E. Mickelson (1912-1913)  
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Bergh, Mrs. Anna Gesme, Mrs. Marie Lohff, Luella Ruste, Hazel Paul-  
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Halvor Knudson, J. A. Kittleson, Gilbert Gilbertson, Thomas Ayen,  
George Harmon, Chris Field, Olin Ruste, Glen Skuldt



Municipal Building 1953

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1. Main Street looking east.
  2. 1908 - Cadillacs in front of depot.
  3. Fire Station and Water Tower.
  4. 1907 - Crowd waiting on Main Street for a parade.
  5. 1953 - A view of East Main Street showing the Opera Building, Hoff's Store, and part of the State Bank to the left. At the right may be seen the former Mount Horeb Bank Building, now the Municipal Building
  6. View along East Main Street looking west from the Lutheran Church. Note narrow road, young trees, woods. Large white building at left was Dahle's Ice House. Low white building was a chicken-picking shed, and large white 2-story building is the Dahle Store. Square house at right is today the residence of Ray Birrenkott and Orton Kellesvig. Also seen are the former Roy Finke home, homes of Emma Severson and William Birrenkott, Gonstead property, and Blue Mounds in the distance.
  7. A few of the many men who have raised beards to help the Mount Horeb Centennial Celebration.
  8. 1961 - View along Main Street looking east. At extreme right is Hoff's Store.
  9. 1961 Mount Horeb High School Band in new uniforms.
- Back Cover—Aerial view of Mt. Horeb and surrounding area as it appears today.

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# THE HISTORY OF MOUNT HOREB

## PART ONE: THE EARLIEST YEARS

by Mrs. M. M. Darrow

### PIONEER BACKGROUND

The very earliest history of Mt. Horeb is, of course, interwoven with the early days of Blue Mounds Township. It was the lead mining boom of southern Wisconsin that brought Ebenezer Brigham from Galena to Dane County in 1828. Mr. Brigham "struck it rich" in the Blue Mounds area, and so became the first permanent white settler in Dane County. His cabin was soon serving as a tavern or inn for travelers, and a small settlement began to spring up around it.

One of the earlier post offices of the state was established in Brigham's home and was known as Moundville. Even Milwaukee and Madison did not have post offices at that time. In 1836 the first school in Dane County was opened in the Brigham settlement.

It was the need for another post office, one to serve the eastern part of the township, which was to bring Mt. Horeb into existence. But, first, let us look briefly at the exact site in that frontier country on which our village would eventually stand.

### MT. HOREB'S SITE

Indians almost certainly roamed this area, drawn by the clear streams and game-filled woods. But the earliest records tell us only that James Morrison came here in 1849 and purchased from the government a large tract of land which is the present site of most of the village. About 1850 Granville Neale purchased part of this property. Later Mr. Neale sold his land to Ole Peterson (father of Olaus Peterson) and to Carl Boeck (father of Mrs. Andrew Hoff). Mr. Peterson's land extended from Grove Street to our present city limits on the west. Mr. Boeck's land was east of Grove Street to Springdale Street. Both farms extended north and south to our present city limits.

Nathan H. Dryden, another early settler, came during the 1850's, purchasing land that lay east of our present North and South Eighth Streets. The Dryden farm home was a few feet east of the present railroad overhead bridge, on the north side of the road in the old town. Our Union and Lutheran cemetery grounds were once a part of the Dryden farm.

A deed dated January 12, 1851, shows that James Morrison deeded land to Elisha A. and Charles Carver. In 1864 the Carvers sold their land to Richard Lowe (father of Amos Lowe

and grandfather of Moses Lowe). This land was east of Springdale Street to Eighth Street and extended north and south to present city limits.

Most of these early settlers were English; a few were Scotch, Irish, and German. Many came from the eastern part of the United States, some from Tennessee, Alabama, Illinois and Ohio. There were few Norwegians in the area before 1870.

### GEORGE WRIGHT NAMES MT. HOREB

During these early years the Blue Mounds Township post office was in the home of Ebenezer Brigham, one of the first settlers in the area. Somewhat later it was moved to the combination farm home and store of Frank Brackenwagon. This location, known as "Brackenwagon's Corner", was about a mile west of our present Mt. Horeb at the intersection of U. S. Highway 151



George Wright

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and Highway 78, referred to today as "Luhman's Corner".

The Blue Mounds Township was quickly settled, and it became apparent that there was need of another post office, one for the convenience of the settlers in the eastern part of the township. In 1861, therefore, a new post office was established in the farm home of George Wright, a lay minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mr. Wright was born in England in 1824, emigrating to America in 1849. In 1858 he brought his family from Springdale Township to Blue Mounds Township. He was highly regarded in the community and served as town treasurer; he also served a term in the Wisconsin State Legislature and was assistant provost marshal during the Civil War.

His farm, in which the new post office had been established was about a mile and a half northeast of today's Mt. Horeb, on the old "Military Road". (The present owner is Elmer H. Conley, and the old "Military Road" is now called the Pine Bluff or Mineral Point Road).

Mr. Wright, as postmaster, was given the privilege of naming the new post office, and he selected the Biblical name of "Mount Horeb". Very possibly the high elevation of his farm and the surrounding area influenced his choice. To date there is only one post office in the United States so named.

In 1867 the post office was moved a mile and a half away from Mr. Wright's farm to a tiny crossroads settlement near our present Union Cemetery. This settlement had until then been called "The Corners". But it now began to be known as "Horeb's Corners" and later as Mt. Horeb.

Although "Horeb", "Mount of Horeb" and "Horeb the Mount of God" are frequently mentioned in the Old Testament, only a few references will be listed here. The second book in the Bible, Exodus, has the first mention of Horeb (Exodus 3-1; also 17-6; 33-6). Others are: Deuteronomy 1-2; 1-6; 1-19; 4-10; 5-2; 9-8; 18-16; 1 Kings 8-9; 19-8; Psalms 106-19; Malachi 4-4.

### "OLD TOWN" MT. HOREB

Toward the close of the Civil War the small crossroad settlement called "The Corners" had gradually established itself near the present Union Cemetery. Today we refer to it as the "old town". The early settlers called it "The Corners" because it stood at the intersection of the roads from Black Earth (joined a mile back by the old "Military Road"), Verona, Mt. Vernon and Blue Mounds.

Here, during the period from 1848 to 1881, were to appear the homes, churches and business places that formed the nucleus of the future Mt. Horeb.

### Early Churches

In 1848 a Presbyterian church was built just inside the southwest entrance to the present cemetery. It remained there until about 1866 when it was sold, moved to the opposite corner known later as "Gunderson Parsonage" lot, and converted to a store building. By that time the Methodists had built a church, and the few remaining Presbyterians united with the Methodists. They bought a one-half interest in the Methodist Church, and although it was sometimes thereafter referred to as "Union Church", it remained under the jurisdiction of the Methodist conference.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized November 7, 1854, by Rev. J. T. Pryor and was attached to the Black Earth Circuit. The meetings were held in homes and possibly part of the time in the Presbyterian Church.

In 1866 the Methodists built their church in the northwest corner of the present cemetery on land deeded to them by Nathan H. Dryden.



Methodist Church Built in 1866

The church basement served as a community center for the settlement and surrounding area. Here classes met until a new school house had been erected, business and civic groups held their meetings, and a weekly singing school was conducted by Ben F. Rogers, an organ salesman and singing master. After the close of the Civil War a night school for returned veterans was held in the basement, with Prescott Woodbury as teacher. Mr. Woodbury's sister, Hattie Woodbury, was also a teacher in the old town.

### Schools

The first school in the old town stood on the west side of North Eighth Street (near the present Harold Nygard property). Due to the growth of the community, a new school was built in

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Old Town School built in 1875, after it was remodeled

1875 on a lot purchased from Nathan H. Dryden just west of the railroad bridge on the north side of the road.

### Business Establishments

#### 1866—George Barrows

The first business place established at The Corners was a store opened in 1866 by George Barrows. It stood on the "Gunderson Parson-

age" lot at today's Springdale and Eighth Streets. In January, 1867, Mr. Barrows succeeded George Wright as postmaster of the Mt. Horeb post office, and the office was moved to the Barrows' store at The Corners.

Mr. Barrows was born in Canada. He served with the Union Army during the Civil War and was seriously wounded. As a result of that injury he was not able to farm, so went into the mercantile business. Mr. Barrows did not stay here long, as we find he sold out to John Mitchell in 1867.

#### 1867—William Bunnell

In 1867 William Bunnell opened the first blacksmith shop at Horeb's Corners. It was erected on the northeast corner of today's Springdale and North Eighth Streets, directly across the road from the Barrows' store.

#### 1867—John Mitchell

John Mitchell became postmaster on September 24, 1867, after having purchased the Barrows' store. He was born in Scotland in 1815 and came to Blue Mounds Township in 1853. He owned the farm now known as the Aslakson



George Barrows Store, the first business place erected in the Old Town — 1866. Note Post Office sign above the door. Paul Sletto's Shoe Store is at the right.

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farm, and was one of the first school teachers in the old town. In the fall of 1871 Mr. Mitchell sold out to Andrew Levordson, who also succeeded him as postmaster.

### Norwegian Settlers Arrive

The year 1871 marks the beginning of the change in the development of Mt. Horeb. With the coming of Andrew Levordson other Norwegians became interested in the village which they called "Staage" or "Stangjii", a dialect name for Liberty Pole. This name was given to it because of a flag pole which had been erected in the cemetery as an act of patriotism during the Civil War. The Norwegians brought with them such traditions as lutefisk, rosemaling, and Syttende Mai—their day of independence.

#### 1872—Paul Sletto

In 1872 another Norwegian, Paul Sletto, who had been a cobbler in Dodgeville, opened a boot and shoe business in the old town.

#### 1872—Samuel Thompson

Samuel Thompson came to the old town in 1872, purchasing the blacksmith shop and residence of William Bunnell. He was born in Norway, emigrating to this country in 1861.



#### 1873—Torgrim Fjeld

Early in 1873 Torgrim Fjeld (later known as Tom Field) added a wagon shop and residence to the little east-side town. Both buildings were on the north side of the road (Springdale Street), and the home Mr. Fjeld erected is the only building left in the old town today. It is at 522 Springdale Street, and now owned by Walter Messerschmidt.

#### 1874—Andrew Thompson

In 1874 Andrew E. Thompson, a young Norwegian from the Black Earth area, bought some lots from N. H. Dryden on which he built a wagon shop and a residence. A few years later he enlarged the shop and carried a full line of furniture, wallpaper, paint and coffins. He was the first undertaker in Mt. Horeb. His home



Torgrim (Tom) Field Blacksmith Shop and home — Old Town



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Mount Horeb

and store were a few rods north of the intersection on the east side of the road to Black Earth.

#### 1875—Dr. P. C. Flaaten

During 1875 the small settlement welcomed its first doctor, Dr. P. C. Flaaten, who was born on a farm in Vermont Township. He was still a young man when he died, so apparently did not practice there long.

#### 1876—Ole C. Nuubson

In 1876 Ole C. Nuubson bought Andrew Levordson's store and succeeded the temporary postmaster, Ole M. Helland, on September 22 of that year.

#### 1876—Charley Lange

Charley Lange came to Mt. Horeb from Mazomanie about this time and went into the harness business on the south side of the road (Springdale Street).

#### 1877—Curry and Ruste

A Mr. Curry and Allan Ruste formed a partnership and established the first hardware store. This store was located on the south side of the road (Springdale Street).

#### 1878—Lars Dusterud

Lars Dusterud, who came from Norway in 1844, opened a store in the old town, his daughters renting part of it for their dressmaking and millinery store. This place was also located on the south side of Springdale Street.

#### 1878—Christopher Brager

In 1878 Christopher Brager built the first hotel and tavern in the town. It was located at the corner of today's South Eighth Street and U. S. Highway 151. It was on the opposite corner (east) from the old Barrows' store. For many years part of the hotel building was the residence of Mrs. Sarah McKinley, but was finally razed in 1955 during widening of the highway. Mr. Brager was a painter and noted for his skill as a church interior decorator.

#### 1880—Moulton and Elliot

A Mr. Moulton and Howard G. Elliott purchased the Ole Nuubson store in the fall of 1880.

#### Dr. J. E. Downs

Very little is known about Dr. Downs. He came here from Mazomanie after the death of Dr. P. C. Flaaten and remained until about 1883.

#### Mount Horeb Creamery Association

This, the only creamery in the old town, was managed by a joint stock company and organized in February 4, 1879. **Dane County History of 1880** stated "they have a convenient frame building, supplied with engine and improved machinery. A. O. (Anton) Bakken is the superintendent."

#### James Batty Livery Stable

James Batty, who came to the old town from Mazomanie, opened a livery stable at some time during this period.



Andrew Thompson home, furniture store and shop north of the Union Cemetery on Black Earth Road. It was erected in 1876. Mr. Thompson was the first undertaker in Mount Horeb.

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Organizations in the old town included Sons of Temperance Lodge No. 40, Mt. Horeb Grange No. 599, the Blue Mounds Fire Insurance Company, the singing school, and the circulating library, with books being kept in Paul Sletto's store and Mr. Sletto acting as librarian.

The coming of the railroad in 1881 spelled the end of the old town. Most of the business places were moved to sites nearer the railroad depot in

what is now the business section of Mt. Horeb. After some years all that remained of the little settlement at Horeb's Corners were: The Methodist church, creamery building, school house, part of the Brager hotel, and the homes of Richard Lowe, Torgrim Fjeld, Samuel Thompson and Andrew Thompson. And these, with the exception of the Fjeld house, have disappeared in recent years.



Mount Horeb Depot with A. A. Babcock as Agent. Note the windmill which furnished the steam-driven engines with water; also the old railroad signal and the white dray team of Andrew Holum. The large building in the distance to the right was Luder's cheese cellar. Mr. Babcock came to Mount Horeb in 1905.

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## PART TWO: COMING OF THE RAILROAD

by Vera Babcock

Through the first 15 years of its existence Mt. Horeb was an inland town with Black Earth as its nearest railroad point. All supplies needed by the business men and farmers were hauled from Black Earth, and it was there that they disposed of their products. The road was a rough and winding one, and the steep Beatty Hill a short distance north of Mt. Horeb added to the hazards of the trip. Today the trip by car is a matter of minutes, while by horse-drawn lumber wagons, buggies, bobsleds and cutters an hour or more was needed to make the same jaunt. Passenger service was furnished by a stage coach from Madison to Dodgeville.

Early in 1876 rumors were rife of a railroad line to be built west from Madison to Galena, Illinois, which might come near Mt. Horeb. The Chicago and Tomah Railroad officials were the first to look into the possibility of extending a line through this part of Dane County. They proposed to build a narrow-gauge railroad. But when the farmers along the suggested route refused to co-operate with the bonus plan which the company demanded, the project was dropped.

A year later the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Co. became interested in building a line west from Madison to Lancaster. When it became a certainty that train service would be brought to, or near, Mt. Horeb, there was a great deal of excitement, and many were the heated arguments between farmers who objected to the railroad crossing their farms and business men who saw the advantages of closer railroad service. However, agreements and adjustments were finally made, and construction was started. Since the engineers could not find a

suitable location in the old town for the station grounds, they selected the site where the station and switch yard stands today.

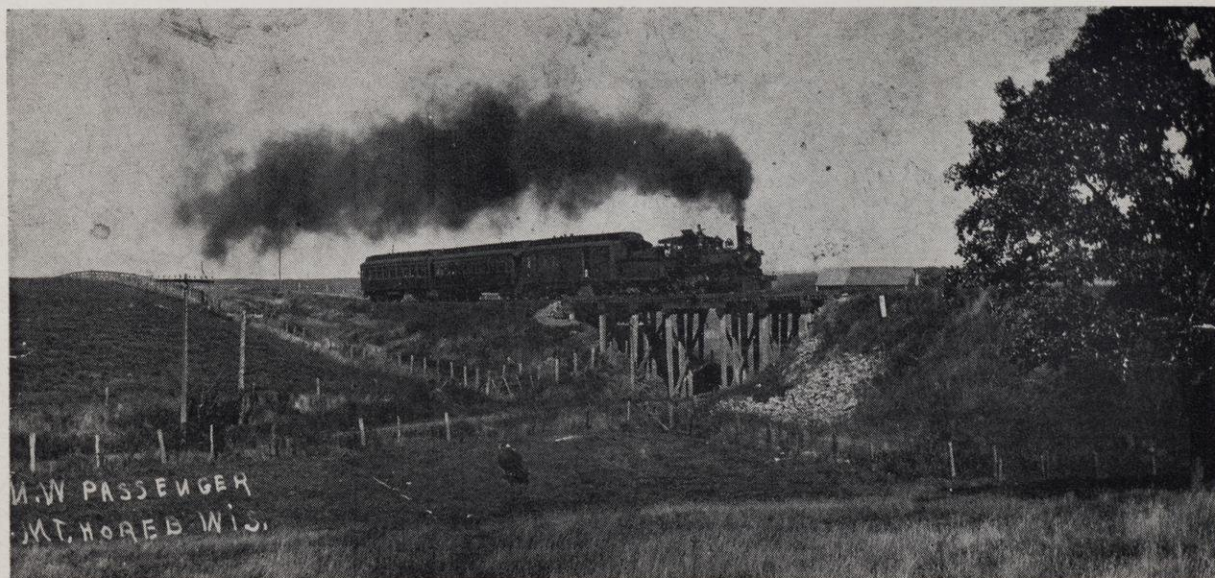
It was a great day in the history of Mt. Horeb when in the fall of 1881 the first railroad train, with its small wood-burning engine and oversized smoke stack emitting puffs of smoke, came through our little village.

The first station agent at Mt. Horeb was A. W. Gordon from 1881 to 1905; followed by A. A. Babcock, from 1905 to 1932; Fred Wagner, from 1932 to 1954; and Arthur Sorenson, from 1954 to 1959. George Lund is the present station agent. The section foremen in order were Ole Nelson, Conrad Wagner, Sr., Conrad Wagner, Jr., Carl Lehmann and Maurice Fell.

In the afternoon of December 31, 1951, the last passenger train passed through Mt. Horeb, buses having taken over most of the passenger traffic. Rail mail service was also discontinued, January 1, 1951, with the motorized Star Routes taking over the carrying of the mail.

### THE CANNON BALL

The older citizens of Mt. Horeb will remember well the familiar chugs each evening as the old "Cannon Ball", a freight train pulling one coach, struggled to climb the steep grade east of the village. The chugs would grow slower and slower, seeming to say, "Think . . . I . . . can! Think . . . I . . . can!" If there was a last agonizing slipping of wheels, then silence, the villagers knew that the train would have to "double the hill" (divide into two sections), leaving the passenger coach with the second half sitting at the bottom of the grade to await the return of



A view of the Chicago & Northwestern train crossing the original railroad overpass in the Old Town.

the engine. But if the "Cannon Ball" managed to make the hill, the listeners would hear accelerated chugs which seemed to brag, "Thought I could, thought I could, thought I could!"

The service of this famous train was always anything but what its name might indicate, but in February, 1924, after some 15 patrons had waited three and a half hours for it to leave the Madison station and had filed a complaint with the superintendent of the railroad and the Railroad Commission, the service was somewhat improved.

### A NEW TOWN SPRINGS UP

When the old town business men learned that the depot would not be located in their neighborhood, they realized the necessity of moving their businesses to lots nearer the station. Most of them moved their buildings, but Ole Nuubson, Andrew Thompson, and Curry and Ruste decided to erect new buildings instead. News of the coming of the railroad through Mt. Horeb spread quickly throughout other localities, especially around Middleton, Black Earth and Mazomanie, the result being that several men from those areas came here to settle. So by the time the old town business men were moving to "new town", fourteen or fifteen new places of business had already been erected there, most of them with living quarters on the second floor.

Let us take a look at "new town" Mt. Horeb about the year 1882. Southwest of and across the tracks from the railroad station was a small stone jail which was used until a "cage" was purchased in 1902 to be used as a lock-up in the fire engine house on North Second Street. The office and north lumber yard of Eggum and Johnson were in use, built in 1881 by Lovejoy and Richards Co., a large lumber firm of Janesville, and across the street stood the grain elevator erected and run by Rowland and Blied, and still standing as a part of the Home Town Feed and Fuel Co. property.

Where Walter Hopkins' barbershop is located today, three Cowie brothers had a store, which was sold in 1886 and remodeled and enlarged into a hotel and tavern, the present site of the National Hotel. Charley Lowe's jewelry store stood next, and beyond that on part of the site of our present post office Lange's harness shop, moved up from old town and later bought and run by his apprentice, Will Britt, who added a one-story building to the south side.

The Anderson grocery store was in 1882 a saloon and dance hall built by Halvor Nelson of Springdale. On the site of the State Bank of Mt. Horeb Ole Nuubson had built his new store. As Nuubson was postmaster at that time, it was in this store that the Mt. Horeb Post Office was first located in the new part of town. Across



Moulton & Elliott Store. This was the George Barrows Store which he erected in the "Old Town" and later sold. It was moved up town in 1881 and placed on a lot where Hoff's Store is today.



These three buildings were moved up from Old Town to lots on the east side of South First Street, and remodeled. Hoff's Store (originally the one-story store of George Barrows — later Moulton & Elliott). Paul Sletto shop. Farmer Store (a small Presbyterian Church erected in 1848 on Springdale St. — later sold and used as a store on Springdale Street.)



These two buildings were moved up from the Old Town in 1881. Here they are seen at the corner of E. Main Street and S. Second St. They were moved to lots in the 200 block on E. Main St. when the Opera House Building was erected in 1895. Bert Hinrichs is the owner today of the shop at the right (the original George Bunnell "Old Town" shop — later Sam Thompson). Men in picture are Gus Schneider & Sam Thompson.



the street on the now A. Hoff Co. corner Mr. Moulton and his partner, Howard Elliott, placed their store, moved from old town. This was remodeled into a two-story building and later became the nucleus of the Andrew Hoff store.

Paul Sletto had also had his old town store moved to a lot on the east side of South First Street, where he continued on in the boot and shoe business for several years. This, too, was remodeled into a two-story building. A few years before Mr. Sletto's death Andrew Hoff purchased the building, after which it was used for a millinery shop until 1954 and stood until 1960, when it was razed to make room for a parking lot for the A. Hoff Co. employees and customers.

If old buildings could talk, what interesting stories many of them would have to tell. For example, part of the old Dusterud store, which was moved up from old town, was originally a Presbyterian church, erected in 1884, but in new town it became a saloon on the corner of Front and First Streets. In 1913 it was replaced by a white brick building which is now the Farmers' Super Market.

Main Street in 1882 could boast of only a few buildings. Where the Municipal Building stands today, stood a small wagon shop owned by Henry Eggers from near Middleton. Andrew Thompson's furniture and undertaking business stood west of this. A few years later Mr. Thompson added an addition to his store with a public hall and lodge rooms on the second floor. This property now houses the Ben Franklin store and Phip's Bar and Bowling Alley. And next was the blacksmith shop which Torgrim Fjeld (Field) had moved up from old town and which later became Hans Hoff's meat market and is now the City Food Market.

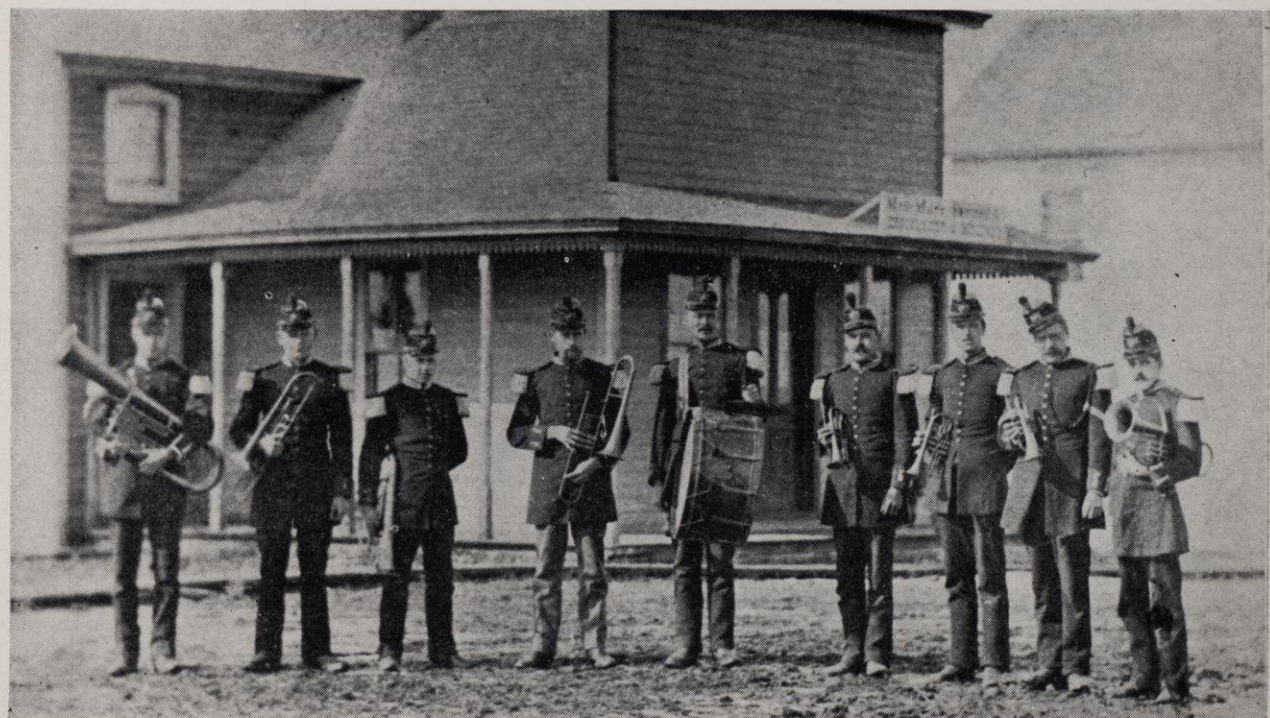
The bar and office of Christopher Brager's old town hotel had also been moved and placed where the Thousand Tavern is today. Its use is not known until about 1889, when Lewis Bergh became its owner and ran a grocery store and barbershop in it. Six years later the building was moved to a lot on North Second Street and remodeled into a dwelling for the Bergh family, (now the home of the Orin Bakers), and Mr. Bergh replaced it on Main Street with a large two-story brick store. West of this was a big gap, partly filled in by 1885 with L. H. Lewis'



July 4, 1895, celebration in Mount Horeb, sponsored by the M. W. A. Lodge. The girls "represented the 44 States in our Union," the boys carried business banners, and J. P. Moe's Band furnished music for the event. Picture was taken in front of Andrew Thompson's Furniture Store (north side of Main Street) now owned by Raphael Vasen.



A Sunday scene on the north side of Main Street about 1893. Note Post Office sign near door to first building on left (Dorothy's Food Store in 1961). Also seen are the Evans Drug Store, L. H. Lewis Tailor Shop, and Part of L. J. Bergh's Grocery Store.



An early Band on Perry Street in front of Mrs. Mary Freeman's Dressmaking and Millinery Shop. First man to left not identified, Tom Field, not identified, Andrew Thompson, Peter Lanning, Oscar Larson, Adolph Elver, J. P. Moe, leader, and H. G. Elliott.

tailor shop (now housing Yapp's tailor shop and Joe's Bar) and Evans' drug store (now Bert's drug store), built by Dr. N. C. Evans and run for many years by Dr. Evans and his son, Milo. Instead of moving their hardware store from old town Mr. Curry and Allan Ruste built a new and larger store where the Mt. Horeb Hardware now stands.

A new business venture in 1881 was a meat market operated by its owner, John Pieh, in a small two-story building erected about where the east part of the Mt. Horeb Motors' display room is located today. About 1888 Mr. Pieh built a large two-story addition to his shop. Several years later he constructed a large two-story brick building on the south side of East Main Street, where he continued in the meat market business. The building was later sold to Andrew Hoff, who had it annexed to his store where it became the store's grocery department, now the shoe department of the A. Hoff Co.

Only two other buildings stood on Main Street in 1882. On the corner where the Opera House

Building would later be erected Sam Thompson set his wagon shop, moved up from the old town. He also had a blacksmith shop on East Main where Zwald's appliance store is located at the present. In 1890 this lot was sold to Herman Dahle, who wanted it for a bank building site, and the wagon shop was then moved to where the Post Cafe stands now. In 1895, when plans were made to erect the Opera House Building, the two Thompson shops were moved a block east on Main Street to where the Mt. Horeb Mail office and Bert Hinrichs' shop are today. The larger building was torn down when the Mail office was erected, but the smaller building, with a brick veneer front added, is Hinrichs' present shop.

There were other marked differences between Main Street as we know it today and Main Street in 1882. One, of course, was the board sidewalks. Woe to the child who dropped a penny on the sidewalk in those days! It would slip through the cracks and disappear. Another difference was the unpaved street, which, when it rained,



McCormick Day in Mount Horeb. This display is on S. Second St. and Front Street. Note the railroad car, also large square building with "McCormick" signs on it. Sever Martinson is the present owner of this building and also the building to the right. Note the variety of farm machinery and vehicles.



Circus day in Mount Horeb about 1906. This gives a good view of the business places on the north side of East Main Street from Grove St. to N. Second St.



Lewis Bergh's brick store and barber shop erected in 1895 replaced an old building brought up from Old Town in 1881. Mr. Bergh and son, Orville, are seen here. Note the barber pole and board walk. Thousand's Bar at 210 East Main Street is located today in this building.

became so deep with mud that wagons bogged down. On one occasion Golmar Bros. Circus had to cancel their parade because of the mud. There were also large holes in the street which filled with water on rainy days. Imagine the surprise of the villagers when one morning after a heavy rain they found a sign posted by the largest hole, reading, "No Fishing!"

Another business place in 1882 was the Larson Brothers' hotel and tavern on the corner of South Second and Front Streets. This later became the Mt. Horeb House and is now an apartment house owned by Sever Martinson. As was the custom at the time, there was a large livery stable behind the hotel. Across the street, where Ryser Bros. creamery is now located, stood Herman Dahle's ice house, used as a cold storage plant for the three rural butter and egg routes which Mr. Dahle operated. There was no business place east of Second Street until 1887 when H. B. Dahle erected his store at the corner of East Main and Second Streets.

Only one more section of the town was settled by 1882; that was Perry Street. On the east corner of Perry and Main Peter Moe built and ran a blacksmith shop, and south of the blacksmith shop, where part of the school bus garage stands today, stood Erick Gesme's two-story building with living rooms on the first floor and A. F. Gramm's first Mt. Horeb photo gallery on the second. On the west corner of Perry and Main was Abbie Gossert's saloon and south of it a small cottage with the following sign above its front porch: "Mary Freeman—Dressmaker and Milliner". In 1898 the Gossert saloon building (by then a dwelling house), the Freeman cottage, and the blacksmith shop across the street were all destroyed by fire. However, the Mennes hotel and tavern next to the cottage and near the corner of Front and Perry was not burned and stands today, having been remodeled into a duplex and presently owned by Nortie Espeseth.

There remains only one more building visible in 1882 to be mentioned—the Milton Faye saloon, no doubt the first building erected in the new part of Mt. Horeb, standing at that time near the present stockyard at the corner of Washington and Front Streets. After the work of building the railroad was completed, it was closed, but was used for school classes during the 1883-84

term while a school building was under construction. And old records show that the teacher holding classes in the old saloon was a minister's daughter.

### Last Years of the Century

Through the remainder of the nineteenth century some of the businesses already established changed hands and new businesses continued to come into existence.

During 1883 P. G. Krogh became owner of the Curry-Ruste hardware business and succeeded Allen Ruste as postmaster, in which capacity he served until 1885 when John Dahlen, a clerk at that time in the H. G. Elliott store, received the postal appointment, and the office was moved to his place of employment. When Mr. Elliott sold his business to Hoff and Elver, the post office and Mr. Dahlen moved to the Dahle store, and in 1889 Herman Dahle became Mr. Dahlen's successor as postmaster.

About 1883 Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Bergh became proprietors of the Larson brothers' hotel and tavern, and in 1890 it was purchased by Thomas Locke, who operated it for some time.

John Vilberg, Isaac Kittleson, and Tom Syvrud formed a partnership in a hardware company whose store was on South Second Street, now the hardware store of Otto Gilbertson.

A boom in Superior in the late '80's took away several of the first business men and their families from Mt. Horeb. Among those who left were the three Cowie brothers, who had disposed of their store to Frank Brackenwagon who had it enlarged into a hotel and tavern building. Its proprietors were his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Frank (Pat) Woodbury. Charley Lange and family left after selling his harness shop to his apprentice, Will Britt. The O. C. Nuubson family also moved to Superior after Sever Swiggum bought the Nuubson store.

Kleven Brothers, Knut and Gilbert, ran a lumber business with office and yard on South Second Street, the property now owned by Ben Mavis and Eric Skinrud. The Kleven brothers, with their large crew of carpenters, were kept busy erecting new business places and homes for the town's growing population. In later years they expanded into the making of silos and became the Wisconsin Silo and Tank Co. with an



Sunday crowd leaving the Depot



Meat Market and Residence of John Pieh

office where the new Henze cheese storage building stands today and lumber yards and a saw mill on the block of railroad property back of the office.

With the coming of Mr. and Mrs. Jul Mithus to our village another cobbler was added to our list of business men. Mr. Mithus erected a two-story home at the corner of East Main and North Second, and his shoe maker's shop was located in its basement. The large boot which hung outside his shop was Mt. Horeb's first business sign and is still preserved at "Little Norway" along with many of his cobbler's tools. The lot where this property stood now belongs to Clarence Gonstead. Many still remember the town pump at this corner, where thirsty villagers stopped for a cold drink of water.

At least three more businesses important to the growth of Mt. Horeb sprang up in the latter part of the eighteen hundreds.

In 1887 Andrew Hoff, a young man from Norway who had clerked in Nuubson's store for several years, and his brother-in-law, Adolph Elver, formed a partnership and bought the H. C. Elliott store and merchandise. So in a small building, 24 by 30 feet, the store which we now know as the A. Hoff Co. had its beginning. Within a short while Mr. Hoff bought out his partner. The present company was incorporated

in 1908, with the original stockholders Andrew Hoff, president and general manager, his brother James Hoff, treasurer, and J. B. Johnson, vice president and secretary. One of the first improvements to be made on the store building was the removal of the small front porch which covered the entrance, at that time on First Street. A few years later Mr. Pieh's meat market was bought and annexed to the building on the east end. The building went through several remodeling and enlarging operations, the new brick building being constructed over the old in 1917 with no cessation of business. And thus the A. Hoff Co. store grew to what is now the largest store in Mt. Horeb.

Also in the year 1887 Herman Dahle, coming to Mt. Horeb from Mt. Vernon where he had operated a store for several years, established the Dahle Brothers' Department Store with his brother J. T. (Ted) Dahle. This was the first business building east of Second Street. It was enlarged in 1904 and grew to include what now houses the Kahl and Nygard Grocery, Mt. Horeb Produce, La Mode Apparel Shop, Nortie's Shoe Service, and the Gamble store. There were three entrances on Main Street to Dahle's store. Soon after the store was started, the first creamery up town was added to the basement. The first electric light plant in Mt. Horeb was located



STREET PARADE, GOLLMAR BROS. SHOWS,  
MT. HOREB, WIS. AUGUST 17, 1909.

Golmar Brothers Circus parade, with its steam caliope music, turning south at Dahle's Store corner, while band wagon at left is headed east. Part of Jul Mithus home is at the left. Second building site is where the Gonstead Building is today.

# Statement of Taxes and Indebtedness.

COUNTY OF Dane  
Village of Mount Stork } SS.

I, O.M. Eidsmore, Clerk of the Village of Mount Stork do hereby certify, pursuant to the provisions of Section 1004, Chapter 46, Wisconsin Statutes of 1898, that the following is a correct statement of all taxes levied in and by said Village during the year ending on the thirty-first day of December, 1900, and the purposes for which the same were levied; and a full and complete statement of all outstanding bonded and other indebtedness of said Village, and the purposes for which the same was incurred:

STATEMENT OF TAXES.		STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS.	
For Current Expenses, <sup>1</sup>	\$ 265.00	For Railroad Aid, (bonded debt),	\$
School Purposes, <sup>1 and 2</sup>	906.45	Bridges, (bonded debt),	
Support of Poor,		Other Purposes, (bonded debt),	
Roads and Bridges, <sup>3</sup>	553.72	Accrued interest unpaid,	
Other Purposes,	935.00	School District and School Purposes,	1500
Total Taxes levied,	2660.17	All other indebtedness,	900
Assessed Valuation of all property,	317533	Total indebtedness,	2400

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, at Mount Stork this 24th day of December, 1900.

O.M. Eidsmore  
Village Clerk.

1. Including principal and interest on loans from the State.
2. Including school district taxes and all moneys appropriated for school purposes.
3. Including highway, street, sidewalk and poll taxes.

there, too, and at one time the basement was used as the grocery store department, with steps descending from Second Street. In 1929 Dahle Bros. sold their entire stock, excepting the grocery, to the A. Hoff Co., and in 1931 sold the grocery to Jacob Lingard, thus terminating one of the largest and finest department stores of Mt. Horeb.

With the growth of business Mt. Horeb needed banking facilities. Accordingly, the Mt. Horeb Bank, the first bank of the village, was founded in 1891 with H. B. Dahle as president, T. G. Lingard as cashier, and O. B. Dahle the third stockholder. The bank building was constructed where Zwald's appliance store stands today. In 1925 the Mt. Horeb Bank moved to its new building, now the Municipal Building.

In 1894 a stock company was formed to build the Opera House Building, a place meant to serve as an entertainment center, and also to house a number of stores on its first floor. This was constructed in 1895. (See special feature on the Opera House Building).

Another milestone in the history of Mt. Horeb was its incorporation from a part of Blue Mounds township into a village in 1899. Andrew Arneson served as the first village president.

For purposes of comparison we append the assessed value of the village in 1899, as against the 1961 figures. Also, see photo of the 1900 tax statement.

**1899**

Assessed Value:	
P. P. -----	\$ 93,051.00
R. E. -----	132,623.00
Total -----	225,674.00
Tax -----	1,940.80
Rate -----	.0086
Indebtedness:	
School -----	1,500.00
Other -----	900.00
Total -----	\$ 2,400.00

**1961**

Assessed Value:	
P. P. -----	\$1,006,272.00
R. E. -----	5,371,517.00
Total -----	6,377,789.00
Tax -----	150,919.88
Rate -----	.0390
Indebtedness:	
Bonded -----	207,000.00
Other loans -----	37,776.66
Total -----	\$ 244,776.66



West Main St. looking east shows us the steeple of the Lutheran Church in the distance, part of Dahle Brothers Store, Opera House Building, Mt. Horeb Bank Building, A. Hoff Store, Sever Swiggum Store, Jewelry Store and home of H. O. Brager.





This view along the south side of East Main Street shows the steeples of the Lutheran and Catholic Churches in the distance, and Dahle Brothers Store. Seen also are the Opera House Building, Mount Horeb Bank Building, John Pieh Meat Market, our first public telephone booth, and the A. Hoff Store. Note the row of hitching posts and variety of horsedrawn vehicles.

## MOUNT HOREB PRODUCE

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- Ruggedly built of tubing 1½" O.D. in 16 and 13 gauges.
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- Sold either complete or ironwork only.
- Runner type legs make tables easy to move.

## BOHN MANUFACTURING CO.

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Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin

## PART THREE: EARLY INDUSTRIES CONTRIBUTING TO VILLAGE GROWTH

by Mrs. Ralph Dahle

During earlier Mt. Horeb days farmers in this area were busy raising tobacco and sheep, instead of milk cows and other livestock. A large tobacco stripping and sorting warehouse was erected in the west section of town (around 1895), and many of the local people were employed there, including some women. A Mr. Carlson was the first tobacco buyer in this locality, and later Sam Martin, whose operation was such that at one time he had to bring in a crew of tobacco workers from Sun Prairie to assist him.

Olaf Hanson was the local wool buyer, but there is no record of his place of business.

As time went on, the industry changed. The trade, aside from the village, became entirely agricultural; the town's two main industries were cheese and livestock, and Mt. Horeb has been ranked as one of the greatest cheese producing centers in the country.

The first livestock buyer here was Robert Martin, a rural buyer even before there was a village or a railroad. He was followed by his son, Samuel, who operated the stock yards close by the railroad tracks in the new town. A news item from the local paper on November 26, 1915, states: "Sam Martin and his associates took in 20 carloads of stock on Monday, 13 of cattle, 7 of hogs", which would indicate that Mt. Horeb had become an important livestock center. At one time, according to the Union Stock Market re-

port, while Sam Martin was a buyer, this village held the record as the largest receiving point for calves in the United States. Later owners of the business were L. Martin and Olaf Smesrud, Russell Martin and Smesrud, and Russell Martin and Son. The stockyards were sold a few years ago to Oscar Mayer and Co., Madison.

The Luder Cheese Co. was established by Fred Luder, Sr., who came to Mt. Horeb in 1893. A few years later he became a cheese buyer and eventually took as his partner his son Fred, Jr. They built a cheese cellar on the west side near the railroad; this building was destroyed by fire around 1910 and replaced with a new warehouse on South Second Street. The J. F. Hoffman Co. of Monroe bought the business upon the death of Fred, Jr., in 1924, and sold it in 1940 to the present owners, Kaestner-Henze Co. They have enlarged and modernized the original warehouse and have also erected another large warehouse directly across the street on the site of the old Kleven Silo and Lumber Co. office.

The Mt. Horeb Creamery Association, which had been located in the old town, moved to the new town, and the business was carried on for a while in the Dahle Bros. store. In 1901 it was incorporated into the Mt. Horeb Cooperative Creamery and Cheese Co. Our well-known baker, Otto Olson, was buttermaker there for some time. In 1916 the company erected a new



Old Town Creamery erected in 1879. Here it is seen after it had been remodeled. Otto Olson, butter maker there from 1903-1955, is seen in the doorway. Henry Mauer and Tosten Thompson are seated in their milk rigs.

"AL"

"NORM"

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GENERAL CONTRACTORS

Plain, Wisconsin

BUILDERS OF

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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OSCAR MAYER wieners provide hearty nourishment for the entire family. Serve OSCAR MAYER wieners with baked beans, sauerkraut and casseroles or just heat-'n-eat for tempting sandwiches. For a taste treat your entire family will enjoy, look for the name "OSCAR MAYER" on the "Yellow Band."



FINE MEATS SINCE 1883

557-2

**FOLKS WHO LOVE GOOD MEAT GO FOR OSCAR MAYER ALL-MEAT WIENERS**

building on what is now South Second Street and in 1933 enlarged with a building for the manufacturing of cheese, enabling them to handle 30,000 pounds of milk daily. The business was sold in 1945 to Ryser Bros. of Chicago, who are conducting a large and modernized plant.

In 1927 Walter Evans constructed a building and started a creamery on Main Street. Most of this butter was sold to the Madison stores. Mrs. Evans conducted the business for some time after his death, but eventually sold, and the creamery was closed.

Because of interest in a Grade A market, Sam Lerner erected a building on Front Street and began operation of a new receiving plant. In September, 1953, the Pure Milk Association bought this plant, operating as a can and bulk intake, and changed its operations to Grade A intake with powdered milk manufacturing facilities, with a capacity of 800,000 pounds of milk handled daily. There are 310 farms shipping milk to this plant.

1 2 3 4 5 8 7 6 9 10 11 12 13 14 15



This view of Mount Horeb was taken in a corn field in the second block on South Fourth Street. The man in the picture is Oscar Larson. To the left can be seen the Depot, Lumber Yard and Mill. William Birrenkott's Home is at the extreme right. Buildings are as follows from left to right: 1-Depot, 2-Mill, 3-Lumber yard, 4-The Cowie Bros. Store, 5-Charlie Lowe Jewelry Store, 6-Nuubson's Store, 7-H. B. Dahle Ice House, 8-Larson Bros. Hotel & Tavern, 9-Currie & Ruste Hardware, 10-Andrew Thompson Furniture Store, 11-Eggers Wagon Shop, 12-Mill under construction—(about where Village Hall is today) 13-J. T. Mithus home, 14-O. B. Oberg home, 15-Sam Thompson home.



Kittleson, Vilberg & Schneider Store when completed about 1890.

**MARV BAKKEN**

Wishes

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Mrs. George Kahl, Mgr.

## PART FOUR: TELEPHONE, LIGHTS, OPERA HOUSE BUILDING

### ADVENT OF THE TELEPHONE

by Banford Dahlen

The first telephones were brought to Mt. Horeb in 1895 by J. N. Dahlen, editor of the **Mt. Horeb Times**, and were furnished by the Standard Telephone and Electric Co. of Madison to stimulate interest in the development of telephone communication in this community. One of these telephones was placed in the **Times** office, the other in the Academy. The two instruments were connected by a wire which was strung along the house tops and on fence posts.

At that time the purpose was to establish communication between neighboring communities and was promoted by the Dane County Telephone Co. in 1897 and by the Southwestern Wisconsin Telephone Co., of which Dr. N. C. Evans was one of the directors.

The first local telephone exchange was started by a promoter, Frank E. Bell of Baraboo, who was granted a franchise by the village in 1902. The first telephone office was installed on the second floor of the **Mt. Horeb Times** building on North Second Street. The original switchboard was found to be too small and was replaced in 1903.

In 1903 Bell sold his interest to five local business men, Dr. N. C. Evans, George Britton, T. G. Lingard, H. L. Dahle and J. N. Dahlen, who took over the exchange and continued to increase their territory as well as their list of subscribers.

In 1917 the telephone company installed a new common battery switchboard and late in the same year sold their interests to the Commonwealth Telephone Co., who operated the exchange until 1920 at which time the present organization was formed by selling common stock to the public.

In 1930 a new building was erected on the present site, and a new switchboard with new features was installed. During 1949 and 1950 the cables and wires were removed from most of the main streets of the village and placed in alleys and private right of ways.

The new addition, which houses the new Stromberg-Carlson Dial equipment, was built in 1958-1959, and all city telephones were converted to dial operation on August 23, with complete rural conversion by May 5, 1960.

The Mt. Horeb Telephone Co. now serves 1442 stations and gives toll free service to five neighboring exchanges.



Electric Light Plant 1905 (man in picture is Andrew Lee)

# GONSTEAD CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC

● PHONE ●

CLINIC ----- GE 7-3555

RESIDENCE ----- GE 7-3575

204 East Main Street

Mount Horeb, Wis.

---

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MODERN — HEATED MOTEL

— OPEN ALL YEAR —

PHONE  
GE 7-8177

Hwy. 18 & 151  
East Entrance  
To Mount Horeb

---

## ELECTRIC LIGHTS COME TO MT. HOREB

by Nora Evans

At 5 P.M. on New Year's Day, 1897, electric lights went on in Mt. Horeb for the first time. Not all homes were wired, so folks without current went over to a "wired" neighbor to see the new and wonderful phenomena. Of course, the supply of current was not unlimited—it was not turned on until 5 each afternoon and shut off promptly at 11 each night. But not before each householder had been warned that the dark hour was fast approaching. This was accomplished in a five minute interval before the hour by dimming the lights (called "winks") three times. After the first wink you either dashed headlong into bed or hurriedly touched a match to the wick of the faithful old kerosene lamp.

The original light plant was owned by Herman Dahle and was located in the basement of Dahle Bros. store. Joe Harmon and a Mr. Scott were the electricians.

Early pictures show that the village had two street lights about this time. One was in the center of the square formed by the Opera House Building, Dahle's store, Mithus and Dahlen corners; the second was a block further west. But these were not the first street lamps in Mt. Horeb. The very first was a kerosene oil lamp erected in March, 1893, at the corner of North Second and East Main Streets. The project was made possible by contributions of seventy-five cents each from a number of business men. Shortly after another group of business men, not

to be outdone, erected a similar oil lamp on the A. Hoff. Co. corner.

Herman Dahle remained at the helm of the light plant for several years, and then it became the property of John Ward and John Bohn. The plant was then moved to the feed mill which they owned and operated.

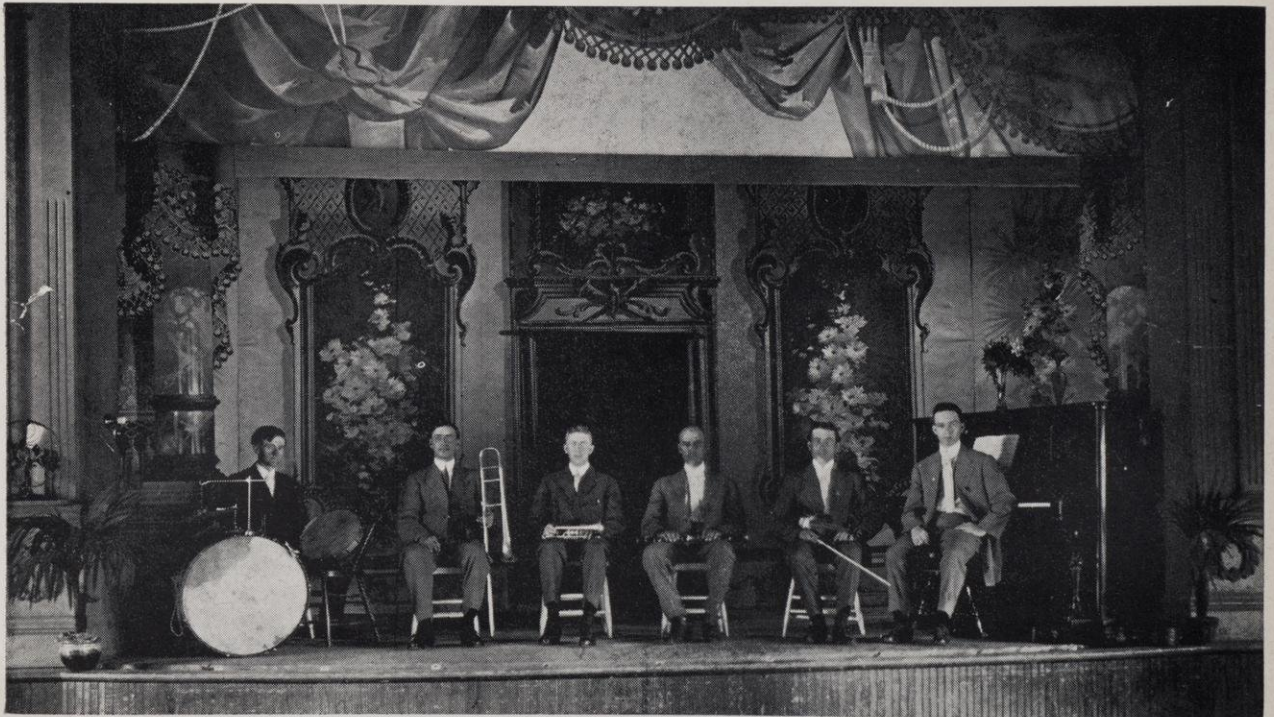
Electric meters were not installed in homes here until 1903. Prior to this all householders paid the same amount each month. In 1911 the electric light plant owners obtained the first electric irons for sale and furnished current for same from 9 to 11 Wednesday mornings. You ironed then or stoked up the old range to heat the flatirons.

The plant changed hands many times through the years. On November 30, 1905, it was sold to Andrew Lee and Joe Harmon and moved to what is now the Farm Utility property. By this time current was furnished until midnight, but still no daytime current. After 1911 Harry Harper of Minneapolis became owner, and he in turn sold to Martin Mathison. In 1915 current was supplied from Prairie du Sac and was now available 24 hours a day. Later the plant was sold to the Wisconsin Power and Light Co., and in 1939 the village purchased the utility.

## OPERA HOUSE BUILDING

by Mrs. Jacob Lingard

In October of 1894 an Opera House Building stock company was formed here, with capital stock of \$12,000 at \$100 per share. The purpose of



Stage and scenery of the Mount Horeb Opera House. Its large public hall, stage and four dressing rooms were remodeled into rooms suitable for a Masonic Hall. Members of the orchestra are: Allert Brager, Dr. Ed Mithus, Clarence Docken, Otto Benson, Mr. Paul (Madison) and Al Austin.



**PLANKINTON PACKING CO.****BLUE MOUNDS BUYING STATION****P. O. Box 23 — Mt. Horeb, Wis.****Telephone Mt. Horeb GE 7-8788****YOUR MARKET FOR —****CATTLE****CALVES****HOGS****LAMBS****RALPH B. DAHLE****GENERAL INSURANCE****Phone GE 7-3688****Mt. Horeb****MAJESTIC SALES COMPANY****FURNITURE — HOME APPLIANCES****Phone Geneva 7-5151****202 West Main Street****Mount Horeb, Wis.****BERT PFISTER & ASSOCIATES****AUCTIONEERS****SELLING FOR 25 YEARS****PFISTER FARM AGENCY  
BROKERS — APPRAISERS****Specializing in all Types of Real Estate****Mrs. William Wittwer, Office Manager****State Bank Building  
Mt. Horeb, Wis.****Phone:****Office — GE 7-8622****Residence — GE 7-3497**

the company was to make plans for erecting a three-story building, brick construction, 50 x 91 ft. The ground floor was to provide space for four stores or business places. There was to be a large community hall on the second floor, with stage and dressing room on the west side of the building and three or four office spaces on the east side. The corner of East Main and South Second Streets was chosen for the site.

At the time this was quite an undertaking for a village with a population of 600. The basement had to be dug with pick axes, hand shovels and horse-drawn graders—slow work indeed. Construction was finished in 1895, and the opening show was staged by the Andrews Opera Co. the evening of March 7, 1896.

During the next decade the Opera House was the scene of many stock company plays, minstrel shows, home talent productions and other entertainment. In 1907 silent movies were shown there.

The last movie shown in the Opera House was in 1922 when Tom Lingard purchased the building. The second floor was then remodeled for a Masonic Lodge hall with lounge and kitchen.

The American Legion and Auxiliary had their club rooms on the third floor of the building until 1960.

Later Nils Hustad bought the building, and when he died in 1938, his will stipulated that the property should remain in his estate until 20 years after his death. Accordingly, Ralph Dahle, as trustee, had charge of the building until 1959, when it was sold to Ed and Harold Post.

## THE "HORSELESS CARRIAGE" COMES TO MT. HOREB

by Vera Babcock

Mt. Horeb claims the distinction of having been the first community in Wisconsin to have an automobile. In 1898 William Kjellman purchased a Haynes-Apperson car for \$2000 plus \$200 delivery costs. Mr. Apperson himself arrived to unload the car and gave Mr. Kjellman driving lessons.

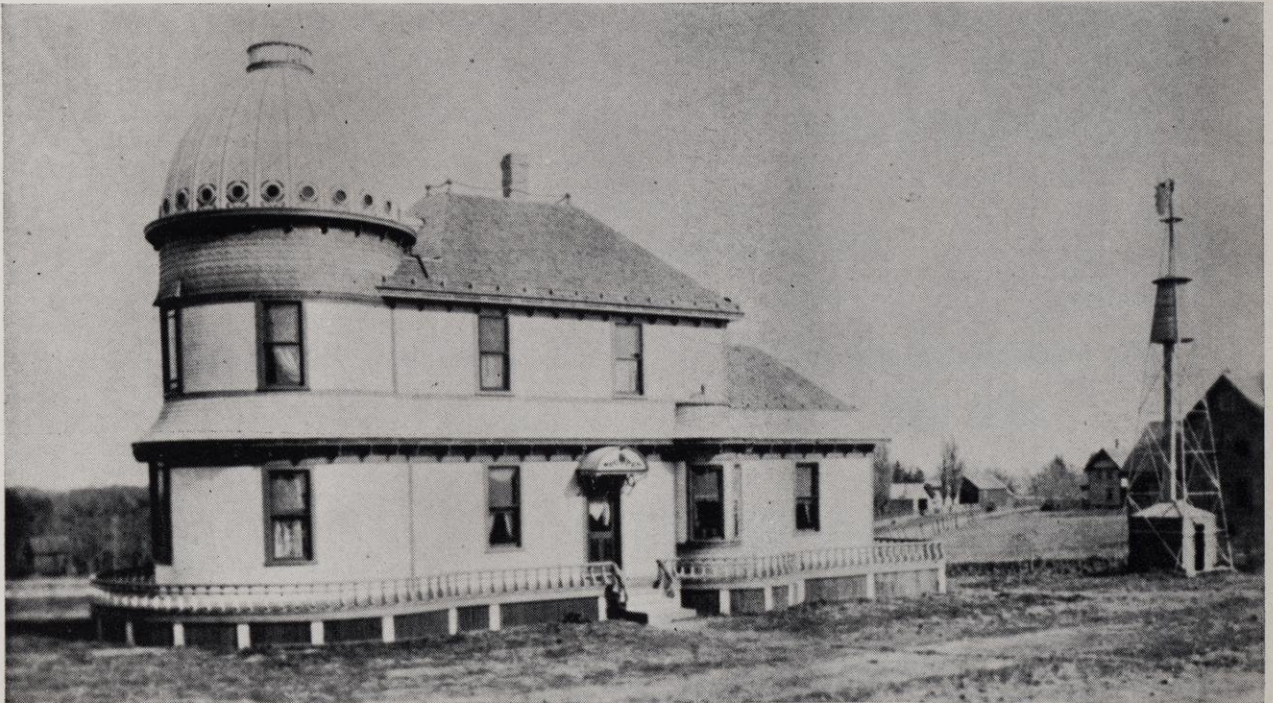
The second car appeared in town in 1905, when Fred Luder bought a Cadillac, and in 1906 Dr. N. C. Evans purchased a bright red Winston Six. Two more cars were added in 1908 and 1909 when Sam Martin bought a Cadillac and T. G. Lingard a White Steamer. By 1911 cars were becoming somewhat more common, for an Autoist Club was formed that year with 28 members. Each member was assigned a section of road to look over for holes, loose rocks, etc.

Since the brakes of the early cars were not very efficient, occasionally a new driver drove through the rear wall of the garage. For that reason some foresighted citizens of Mt. Horeb had their garages built with doors and an approach on both ends.

## "THE BOAT HOUSE"

by Vera Babcock

The most unique residence in Mt. Horeb was erected by G. Mandt in 1894 on the triangular lot at the intersection of Springdale and East Main Streets, and was built by G. G. Mandt in 1894. The windmill at the right furnished water for the home.



This beautiful home became known as "The Boat House" because of its triangular site and unusual architecture. It was on a lot at the intersection of Springdale and East Main Streets, and was built by G. G. Mandt in 1894. The windmill at the right furnished water for the home.

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THE CENTENNIAL

For Food and Refreshments

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## CLUB 18

GREETINGS

from

## OLSONS and ASSOCIATES

FORMER OWNERS AND OPERATORS

OF

OLSON'S RESTAURANT AND BAKERY

From 1911 to 1957

Streets, where the East End grocery and Temby Feed and Seed store are housed today. It was built with a rounded narrow front widening at the back to fit the triangular lot, and with a

continuous narrow roofless porch encircling the building. Because of this unusual architecture and location it soon became known as the "Boat House".



North Second Street 1961

**LOVEJOY & RICHARDS LUMBER CO.**

**WILLIAM CURTISS, Manager**

**1881 - 1897**

**THOMPSON, MICKELSON & HALFERDAHL**

**1897 - 1900**

**THOMPSON & MICKELSON**

**1900 - 1904**

**G. E. MICKELSON LUMBER CO.**

**1904 - 1912**

**EGGUM, HAAG & JOHNSON CO.**

**1912 - 1923**

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- FURNACES
- FREE ESTIMATES

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**BUECHNER CONSTRUCTION  
COMPANY**

Ralph Buechner

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GREETINGS

MOUNT HOREB CENTENNIAL

**MOBIL OIL COMPANY  
AGENTS**

Howard Tvedt

Herbert Hankel

## PART FIVE: THE NEW CENTURY

The first years of the new century found Mt. Horeb a fast-growing little village, but primitive indeed by today's standards. Those were still the days when you had to carry the drinking water from the pump in the back yard or from the "neighborhood" pump on some convenient corner lot, and when the **Mt. Horeb Times** had to exhort the townspeople not to throw ashes in the village streets. Those were the days when, if you were having a party, you called up Andrew Lee or Joe Harmon at the electric light plant and asked them to leave the lights on a little past midnight as a special favor. Those were the days when you could buy a fine home for less than \$2000, and if you were going for a drive in your new horseless carriage, you had to expect to get out and get under at least several times during the trip.

The next few decades, however, were to bring many changes both in village progress and business development. Let us start with a quick look at some of these village improvements.

### Waterworks and Sewage Treatment Plant

Mt. Horeb could first boast of waterworks as far back as 1895. That was the year that Isaac Kittleson, John Vilberg and Tom Syverud took the contract to furnish water needed for the construction of the Opera House Building and Bergh Bros. brick store. They placed an air motor windmill and a force pump at a well in the rear of the store, which supplied the water through pipes underground and along the edge.

A waterworks plan for the village was first proposed in 1902; and in 1906 a water pump station was built at the first well. Water mains were laid in 1908. In 1935 a water pump station was built on the present well.

Mt. Horeb's first sewer system was built in 1915-1916. The original sewage treatment plant was an Imhoff tank. This was remodeled in 1938 to a modern sewage treatment plant that used

a biological type of treatment. In this case aeration of the sewage was employed. Due to an increase in milk plants, the plant was proven inadequate and subsequent additions to and alterations of the present plant were necessary.

The present plant, on which construction was started in the summer of 1956 and completed by the summer of 1957, is a complete sewage treatment plant which embodies the latest and most modern type of treatment that is being used today.

### Police Department

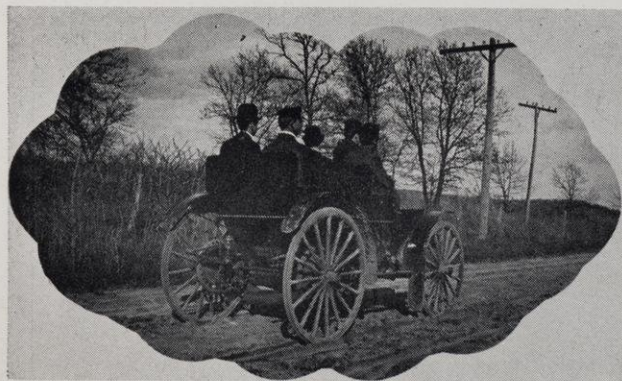
Mt. Horeb's first constable, elected in 1912, was Steve Murphy. Other men who held the position during the next three decades were L. L. Martin, Sam Gesme, G. J. Murphy, Erick Holum, E. A. Holum, P. J. Rue, Ed. H. Anderson, Orrin Baker and Frank Sabanske.

In July, 1940, a village ordinance was adopted to appoint the constable, or rather the marshal, for by 1922 the latter term was being used. Martin Sponem became the marshal in 1922, also the street commissioner and superintendent of waterworks. He was authorized to hire an assistant for one year. K. T. Syverud was his first assistant.

In 1928 Elmer Disrud became nightwatchman. Otto Mitmoen was assistant to Mr. Sponem that year. These men served until 1940, when Oliver Lee was appointed marshal, with Otto Mitmoen as assistant, Sigurd Moe as nightwatchman and Joe Fjelstad as the day policeman. In 1942 Stanley Jacobson replaced Joe Fjelstad.

The police force was reorganized in November 1941. From then on there was a Chief of Police, with two full time assistants. Also our police force now wore uniforms. James Lunde joined the force in December, 1942, George Kahl in November, 1950. Oliver Lee has been Chief of Police since 1941.

A village owned squad car was first used in 1947.



One of the earliest horseless carriages (note wooden wheels)



Walter Evans is seen here driving Dr. Evans' car. Seated with him is Curtis Evans. Rear seat passengers are: Mr. & Mrs. Milo Evans, Mrs. N. C. Evans, and Ruth Marie Evans.



A. Hoff Store and east addition. Seen in this picture are Mr. Hoff and his lady clerks Emma Kramer (Babcock), and Alma Anderson (Bang). Note the kerosene street light similar to one located at the corner of E. Main and North Second Streets.



Carnival 1906. South First Street taken from Main Street looking toward railroad. (Note absence of homes south of tracks.)

### The Business Scene in 1901

In May, 1901, the State Bank of Mt. Horeb was organized with a capital stock of \$32,000 and located in part of S. Swiggum's store (Pfister Farm Agency). Dr. N. C. Evans was president, Andrew Hoff, vice president, and Walter Curtiss, cashier. The new bank building was constructed in 1917. Present directors are S. A. Sylvester, G. C. Osmundson, Bert Pfister, Carl Brechler and John Beat. During the depression the Mt. Horeb bank closed and was absorbed in 1932 by the State Bank of Mt. Horeb.

At this time John Ward, John Bohn and C. A. Finke were owners and proprietors of the mill Rowland and Blied had erected in 1881. They were also owners of the electric lighting system, which furnished current for their mill as well as for business places and homes.

James Kinney sold farm machinery, sewing machines, sleighs, cutters and wagons, and also dealt in real estate.

Joachim Brager and his father, H. O. Brager, had a jewelry store on the south side of East Main Street. Oldsters will remember the Norwegian business sign, "H. O. Brager, Ure Maaker", that hung over the store door.

Dr. W. J. Malone was a veterinarian at this time.

Ed A. Kittleson ran a laundry on West Main Street, though this did not survive for long, perhaps because the price for a family washing and ironing, expertly done, was only 4 cents a pound!

Dr. J. E. Brager came to Mt. Horeb in 1900 and established the dental practice later taken over by his son, Dr. Waldo Brager.

Ole Olson, an apprentice of the town's first tailor, L. H. Lewis, established a tailor shop that was to remain in business for many years.

The 1901 hardware firm of Heisig, Grinde and Evans was the outgrowth of earlier firms (Curry and Ruste; P. G. Krogh; Krogh and Andrew E. Grinde; Heisig and Grinde). Later this would be the Mt. Horeb Hardware Co., owned by Roy and John Beat.

Thompson and Mickleson, lumber dealers, contractors and builders, had taken over the Lovejoy, Richards lumber company by 1901.

Tory Fosshage and John Olson had bought the Andrew Thompson furniture store on the north side of East Main Street. (Phillip Hoff's Bar and Bowling Alley and Vasen's Ben Franklin store).

J. Reckenthaler, the blacksmith and wagon maker, had a large property on West Front Street. This was later owned by Fred Snyder, also D. H. Blakeman, and the building was razed several years ago.

Olaf Hanson, a former local wool buyer, went into the hardware business on South Second Street (Otto Gilbertson's Hardware). Ludwig England was a partner in the firm for a while, later sole owner.

The Peoples' Mercantile Association at the corner of South First and Front Streets was



Alfred Krogh is here seen exercising his pitching arm. This was taken on the north side of East Main Street. Note the barber pole at the left. These two buildings and stairway are where Olson's Restaurant is today.





Alvah Webber, who represented Uncle Sam in a July 4th Celebration, is seen in this serious pose. Note the stone (or slab?) crossing between the Mount Horeb Hardware Store and the Swiggum Store corner (State Bank).



This view from Main Street to the Depot was taken about 1900 and shows five business places on the west side of South First Street — Sever Swiggum Store, Ellef Severson Restaurant, William Britt Harness Shop, Barber Shop (?) and Philip Schneider Hotel. The men in the picture are Leo Sutter, Sr., and Al Goebel.



Mr. and Mrs. T. Brattlie, who purchased the former Tom Locke Hotel and Livery Barn, are seen here as managers of their new property under the name of "Mount Horeb House." July 4, 1905.

managed by Peter Post. (Farmer Store later, now Farmer's Market).

Two millinery shops, both selling some hand-made hats, were established here by 1901. Miss Anne Spaanum and Mrs. Christine Peterson ran one of them in part of Sever Swiggum's store. The other was in part of the Mt. Horeb Bank building and was operated by Miss Emma Halferdahl and her twin sister, Mrs. T. G. Lingard.

G. M. Helland ran a drug store in the corner space of the Opera House Building (later Robertshaw's drug store).

Dr. P. C. Gilbertson was a doctor here in 1901.

Dr. C. A. Sholts, a dentist, had established his business in upstairs rooms of the Opera House Building. Dr. M. M. Darrow took over his practice in 1936.

Jim Brown and Ludwig Weltzin were selling and trading real estate in upstairs rooms of the Opera House Building.

Sam Gesme's barber shop was a popular place for the men of the village.

Will F. Scott, chief of the fire department, also operated a restaurant on East Main Street.

Riphan and Bunn was another blacksmith and wagon shop partnership.

Iver A. Lund had his general merchandise store on the south side of East Main Street. Several years later this building was moved to a lot on Center Avenue, where it is today.

There were two hotels in Mt. Horeb at this time. Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Brattlie operated the Mt. Horeb House; Mr. and Mrs. Britton were proprietors of the one on South Second Street, later known as the National Hotel.

James Gesme and Chris Field were running a furniture store on the north side of East Main Street. Mr. Gesme had also established his undertaking business there.

Henry Steyer and Ben Erbe were selling farm machinery, wagons, carriages, etc., also feed and salt.

Lewis J. Bergh was operating a barber shop on East Main Street (Thousand's tavern).

The post office was now located in the Opera House Building (Post's cafe and tavern), and the postmaster was John Vilberg.

Joe Harmon, Jr. and Ole Mickleson were running a restaurant in what was later known as the Tom Heeran Building.

Louis Martin was running a harness shop.

In November of 1901 the newspaper, the **Mt. Horeb Mail**, was established here. Ole M. Eidsmore was editor and owner, A. C. Krohn his assistant.

Hans and Fred Hoff had opened a meat market on West Main Street in 1897.

### MT. HOREB (1901-1925)

Gleanings from the **MT. HOREB TIMES**, compiled by Mrs. Banford Dahlen. Published in the **MT. HOREB MAIL 1951 Anniversary Edition**

1901

In February the land for Boeck's Park on the north side of town was donated to the village

by Carl Boeck. Throughout the spring and summer "bees" were held to clean up, plant trees and build fence.

In July voters, by a margin of 36, voted against building waterworks.

Mt. Horeb Co-op Creamery & Cheese Co. incorporated with a capital of \$25,000.

1902

Mt. Horeb Independent Telephone Co. incorporated this year.

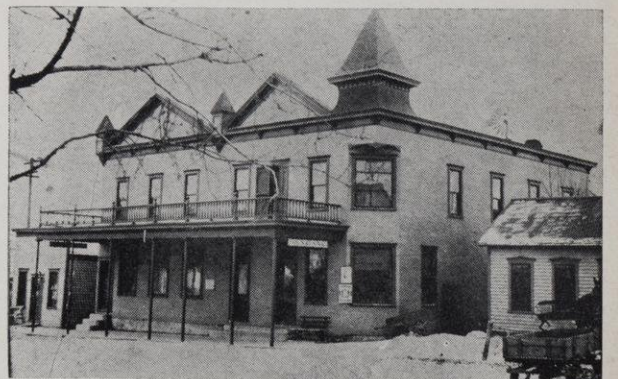
A waterworks election was held in July, and the issue was carried 110 out of 177 voting for \$12,000 bond.



Hoff's Store



Mount Horeb's first Hospital — St. Olaf's



This is a view of the National Hotel before its owner, John Birrenkott, had purchased the corner lot and small office building of Sam Martin in 1904. He had it enlarged by extending the building to Front Street. The one-story building at right was part of Britt's Harness Shop.

Eggs took a tumble from a high of 25 cents to 15 cents per dozen.

Chris Field sold his interest in the furniture business of Gesme and Field to John de Fine. New firm was called the Mt. Horeb Furniture Co.

For the first time since incorporation the village voted on licensing liquor. Though not large, the majority was decisive, 109 against to 93 for.

Louis L. Martin bought half interest in the restaurant business of J. H. Harmon.

Village purchased a "cage" to be used as a lock-up in the fire engine house. Cage cost \$140 and was guaranteed to hold any ordinary crook.

Three loads of emigrants in prairie schooners passed through town on their way to Kansas.

Fred Luder's cheese cellar by railroad was completed.

Potatoes were again within the reach of people of moderate means at a price of 40 cents per bushel.

Martin Holum opened a billiard hall in August.

Mt. Horeb Businessmen's Association was formed in August.

S. L. Swiggum's business property on the southwest corner of Main and First Streets was sold to the State Bank for \$5,000.

The equalized value of all taxable property in village for 1902 as fixed by the county board was \$615,454 as against \$323,335 for 1901.

Thomas Ayen was given contract for construction of water works reservoir, price completed \$1,174; capacity 100,000 gallons.

### 1903

Meters were installed by the electric light company.

A switchboard was installed at the telephone office located in the Paul Sletto building, now the Mt. Horeb Hat Shop.

Dr. A. S. Thompson arrived as an assistant to Dr. N. C. Evans.

In January the first public phone booth was installed on the south side of Main Street, east of Hoff's store.

A waterworks well was drilled. Contract awarded to Thomas Ayen for digging, laying and setting water pipes for price of \$1,596.76.

Contract for construction of village hall and power house was given to Kleven Bros., price \$3,138.

Tom Johnson bought restaurant business of W. F. Scott.

The first cement sidewalks in village were built by A. Benson, K. Kleven and J. L. Weltzin. The cost was high, but it was thought it would undoubtedly prove cheapest in the end. Cement sidewalks were also laid in front of village hall.

O. A. Hanson entered into partnership with Ludwig England in the hardware business.

S. A. Sylvester opened a grocery, notion and specialty store.

A Sunday train made its first appearance on June 28, and many of the villagers, to celebrate, took a ride west and returned.

### 1904

A \$173 bell has been ordered for our new village hall.



Birdseye view of village looking east.

A hospital, accomodating ten beds, was completed in December. It was owned by Miss Annie Swiggum and built under the supervision of Dr. N. C. Evans. The new hospital was named "St. Olaf's" for its first patient, Olaf Hagene, Black Earth.

John Birrenkott purchased the corner hotel property of S. Martin (National Hotel).

### 1905

Our population was 1,002.

The biggest hail and wind storm ever remembered occurred in June, damaging crops and buildings severely.

An addition was built to Hoff's store.

John Bakken started a barber shop in National Hotel.

### 1906

Voters at the fall election numbered 216.

Fifty-three telephones were installed here in a six month period.

Reilly Bros. operate one of the town's leading enterprises, dealing in farm machinery, buggies, wagons, windmills, etc.

### 1907

Weather forecasts were received daily at the telephone office and transmitted to anyone who requested the information.

Dr. J. C. Cutler arrived here to practice medicine.

The first picture show was held in the Opera house.

The German Valley Church was destroyed by fire caused by lightning. A new church was built on the same site and the corner stone laid in October.

### 1908

The water tower was built. Waterworks system was intended purely for fire protection.

Dr. E. J. Mithus opened a dental office in the first floor quarters of the Jul Mithus bootmaking shop. (Corner lot next to Gonstead Building).

The Luder cheese warehouse burned with a heavy loss in cheese.

William Quinn bought the Mt. Horeb House and leased it to B. E. Kelliher.

### 1909

A diptheria epidemic caused churches and schools to close in the early weeks of this year.

Roy Beat purchased Grinde's interest in the Heisig, Grinde and Evans hardware store, and the business was incorporated as the Mt. Horeb Hardware Co.

Rev. Father Theodore Rohner arrived as pastor of St. Ignatius Catholic Church.

### 1910

Our population was 1,048.

A free public library was begun by the Minerva Circle.



James Gesme, seated high on his horse-drawn hearse in front of the Lutheran Church, was a funeral director in Mount Horeb for over 40 years.

**1911**

A. C. Krohn built the **Mail** building.

John Beat bought into the Mt. Horeb Hardware Co., and the two brothers, Roy and John, now own the business.

The village board passed an ordinance limiting the speed of autos to 12 miles per hour through the village.

Dr. G. E. Pitts of Platteville opened a medical practice here.

Otto Olson resigned as butter maker in the old creamery and opened Olson's Restaurant and Bakery.

Eggum, Haag and Johnson purchased the Schneider & De Shamp Lumber Yard.

**1912**

The dam at Lake Park was built.

A cheese warehouse was built by Fred Luder on South Second Street near the railroad tracks.

A fire at Dahle's store completely destroyed the refrigerator building.

John and Ray Bakken opened a barber shop on Main Street.

**1913**

The Vermont Lutheran congregation built a new church.

The Farmer's Mercantile building was erected.

Over 300 tons of ice were harvested from the lake at Lake Park.

A smallpox epidemic was rampant, and many families were quarantined.

Dr. Cutler left Mt. Horeb, and Dr. Ickstadt arrived to replace him.

**1914**

Dr. A. S. Thompson returned from Franksville to re-establish a medical practice here.

The ski-tower at Lake Park was completed, and an interstate ski tournament was held on Feb. 26.

Sewer work was begun on some of the main streets in town.

**1915**

The paving of Main Street was completed in September, and ornamental lights were installed. A celebration of the event was held with a band concert.

Some sewer and water mains were laid in the main streets. The National Hotel was the first building equipped with running water.

A ski tournament was held on January 23 with large attendance. One of the skiers, Axel Hendrickson, world famous for his somersault act, was so badly injured in practicing for the meet that it was necessary to amputate his leg. He later operated a candy and cigar store here on the corner where the Municipal Building now stands.

The Perry Lutheran Church was re-dedicated after remodeling, and the congregation celebrated its 60th anniversary.

The Lake Park dam was washed away in a six-inch deluge of rain in June.

A Booster Club was organized with T. G. Lingard as president.

A public drinking fountain (the first) was installed on the corner of Main and First Streets.

C. C. Robertshaw, druggist and optometrist, opened his store in the Opera House Building.



Mount Horeb Hardware (1911)

**1916**

The Perry Catholic Church was built and dedication services held in November.

The Mt. Horeb creamery building was constructed.

The England hardware store was sold to H. C. Gier.

**1917**

The Mt. Horeb High School building was completely destroyed by fire on February 2.

The State Bank Building was built. The building that had formerly stood on the lot was moved to the back of the Ford garage to be used as an auto repair shop.

The Rev. Otto Mostrom left Mt. Horeb in May, and the Rev. E. R. Anderson of Fargo, N. D., arrived in September.

County Supt. of Schools Matthew Barkley resigned, and T. S. Thomson was appointed to fill the vacancy.

John Hanley and Myron Reilly took possession of the garage which is now the Klusendorf Chevrolet Co.

The Brannan sisters bought the Mt. Horeb House from George Fitton.

Dr. F. W. Sutcliffe opened a veterinary office here.

**1918**

Dr. H. M. Buckner came from Prairie du Sac to begin a medical practice.

Melvin Sale opened a barber shop in basement of the National Hotel Building.

Irvin Hoff took over the Hans Hoff meat market.

This year found the villagers busy with various war drives and faced with meat-less Tuesdays and heat-less Wednesdays.

Armistice Day was celebrated on the 11th with an imposing parade viewed by the largest crowd ever assembled here.

The influenza epidemic claimed many lives in our community.

The Lake Park property was sold at public auction. The property included 29 acres, ice cutting machinery, tools, etc., and went to Dr. J. E. Brager for \$5,500.

**1919**

Public gatherings were forbidden as the result of the severity of the flu epidemic.

A system of road improvements and road marking signs was developing at a fast rate. The speed limit for the village was moved up by a village ordinance from 12 to 15 miles per hour.

The new high school was completed, and a "housewarming" was held. The main attraction was a basketball game, the first held in the new gymnasium.

The Frank E. Malone Post No. 113, American Legion, was organized in the fall.

J. M. Moe purchased the J. H. Brager jewelry store.

**1920**

Mail delivery service twice a day for the village was begun.

All streets in the village were named and some re-named, and house numbers were added.



Mount Horeb Hardware interior view (1911)

**1921**

A robbery occurred at Dahle's store, and as a result the village board contemplated hiring a night watchman.

The first Harvest Festival was held late in September, sponsored by the band. There were more than 1,000 entries listed, of which 700 were in the ladies' department.

**1922**

Dr. H. M. Buckner opened a 22-bed hospital in the former Henry Dahle home in January.

J. N. Dahlen retired after more than 36 years in the newspaper business.

Sever and Olaus Martinson opened the store on South Second Street known as Martinson Bros. (Later Farm Utility).

The building of a new theatre was begun by Fred Luder, Jr. A contest to name the theatre was won by Olympia Grinde with the name "Apollo".

T. G. Lingard bought the Opera House Building.

Mt. Horeb enjoyed its first bus service to Madison. Three round trips a day were scheduled.

Dahle's store was again robbed at night. This prompted the hiring of Stanley Jacobson as a night watchman.

Casper Haag sold out his interest in the lumber yard to Eggum and Johnson.

A referendum in the April elections resulted in village board trustees being paid an annual salary for the first time. The vote was 219 yes, 209 no.

**1923**

The village purchased a chemical fire truck. A building code ordinance was adopted by the village board.

Atty. M. A. Tollund opened his law office.

The Gesme Funeral Home was built on East Main Street.

An organization of businessmen was formed in January as the Mt. Horeb Advancement Association.

**1924**

C. S. Gonstead came to Mt. Horeb to begin a chiropractic practice.

The Mt. Horeb Bank Building was erected.

Alfred Peterson completed building the Parkway theatre.

**1925**

Grinder and Iverson organized the West End Transportation Co., and bus service was established south and west of Mt. Horeb.

The official opening of the Mt. Horeb Bank took place on May 2.

The Universal Store began operations here.



GAR veterans in front of old Methodist Church, Memorial Day, 1913. Front row: Andrew Arneson, Wm. McCardle, Harvey Scott, Peter G. Krogh, W. W. Blakeslee, Hans Evanson, Allan Arneson. Back row: John Smith, Wm. Helmenstine, Wm. Howery, Teaman Knudtson, John Everson, Joseph Harmon.



View of the West Side Grade School buildings



Interior of Dahle Bros. Store the morning of our first Harvest Festival, in Sept., 1921. Otto Dahle, manager, is seen with his clerks as follows: Norbert Reilly, Paul Ruth, John Solso, Laura Kollath, Olympia Lee (Rue), Bertha Anderson (Soper), Bertha Lukken (Lien), Bertha Ulsrud (Ayen), Dora Domholt and Lena Syverud. Seated are Andrew Jacobson, Arne Nape, Chris Field and Ernest Wirth.



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QUALITY MEATS & GROCERIES

SINCE 1941

ALBERT C. KAHL & HAROLD NYGARD

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Residence Phone GE 7-3505

Shop Phone GE 7-8277

1930

1961

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## PART SIX: HEADLINES THROUGH THE YEARS

by Mrs. Jacob Lingard

### The Brophy Case

On March 18, 1909, a particularly interesting item appeared in the weekly issue of the **Mt. Horeb Times**.

"Much gossip has been occasioned by the singular performance and antics purported to have been witnessed at the home of Knut Lunde on Main Street. The supposition is that the house is haunted. The members of the family are alarmed by seeing articles in the house move about in a mysterious way in the evenings."

The brick house on Main Street (now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Birrenkott and Mr. and Mrs. Orton Kellesvig) was then occupied by the Lundes and their 11 year old grandson, Henry Brophy. It was young Henry Brophy who seemed to be at the center of the affair, for the strange happenings occurred only when Henry was at home. They also occasionally occurred at the farm home of Andrew Lunde when Henry was visiting there. They did not, however, occur at school or in any public place while Henry was present.

Two hundred people, including clergy, doctors and business men, are reputed to have visited the house to investigate this strange affair. Knives would fly through the air, dishes slide off the tables, mirrors drop to the floor, pieces of firewood jump from the woodbox, spools of thread unwind. Though so many eyewitnesses swore that these things were actually happening, no one was ever able to account for them.

Dr. George Kingsley, a Madison specialist, to whom the boy was taken, made no definite diagnosis, beyond stating that the boy had some unusual psychical power. Upon the youngster's return home, the disturbances grew less frequent. By this time the affair had attracted such wide notoriety (papers as far away as Los Angeles carrying accounts) that the family closed their doors to the public.

Henry Brophy went on to lead a normal life; last reports were that he was a successful business man in California. The mysterious affair has never been explained, but for a while it had put Mt. Horeb on the front pages of newspapers all over the country.

### High School Fire

February 2, 1917, Ground Hog Day and the coldest day of that winter, a fire was sighted in the Mt. Horeb High School building by a fireman on a freight train as it was passing through the village.

The fire company responded to the alarm, but the building burned to the ground. Books and all fixtures were destroyed, though fortunately no one was injured.

Another big fire occurred in Mt. Horeb in 1898 when a livery barn, a blacksmith shop and two adjacent homes burned. The livery barn stood on the site of the building presently owned by Leonard Peterson on West Main Street. The blacksmith shop, owned by John Wolfe and a Mr. Fredrickson, stood just west of the barn.

The fire occurred during the night, and apparently news did not travel very fast at that time. For the story is that Mr. Fredrickson, on his way to work the following morning, had to be apprised of the fact that he no longer had a place of business.

### Bank Robbery

On Monday, October 20, 1930, the Mt. Horeb Bank was doing business as usual when four armed men drove up to the place in a car. One remained in the car while three entered the bank and forced customers in the lobby and employees behind the windows to lie down on the floor. They scooped money from the tills while Tom Lingard, Jacob Lingard, Marion Brandt Himsel and Ralph Dahle watched them helplessly from the floor. One of the men ordered Jacob Lingard into the vault and forced him to open the safe and hand over bonds and currency amounting to \$6,500 cash and \$17,000 in bonds. (The bonds were later recovered).

Ben Mavis walked in with a handful of currency to be exchanged for silver; he was promptly ordered to the floor and the currency removed from his hand.

Police officers and townspeople followed the car toward Hollandale, but failed to apprehend the robbers. One was later killed in Minneapolis. Another, Stanley Ford, was brought to trial in Madison and sentenced to 25 years in state's prison.

*Hi!!  
Neighbor*

**CONGRATULATIONS MT. HOREB  
ON YOUR 100th BIRTHDAY**

**Your Pathway To Health**



Milk

Ice Cream

Cottage Cheese

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**DAIRY FOODS**



DAIRY FOODS

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FOR Marketing and Consumption

- Receiving
- ★ Bottling
- Manufacturing
- ◆ Distribution



Fresh From Farm To You

## PART SEVEN: VILLAGE AND BUSINESS GROWTH (1926-1951)

Gleanings from the MT. HOREB MAIL  
compiled by Mrs. Harold Fosshage

### 1926

About 400 attended the annual school meeting at the high school and voted that band and music instruction be maintained.

Olaus Peterson, Leonard Peterson and Joe Brannan formed partnership as tanners and sheet iron company and rented the Stoner building.

In October, A. M. Hrubesky of Omro, Wis., bought the fixtures and stock of the Evans drug store from Nora Evans who recently purchased the business from her brother, C. M. Evans.

### 1927

The new Ford garage was opened to the public on January 19 by John and Roy Beat.

Walter Evans commenced the manufacture of butter in his new creamery on February 8.

Dr. J. E. Brager and son, Waldo, formed partnership in March. New dental equipment was installed.

The Mt. Horeb Golf Club was organized on November 21.

### 1928

Joseph Buechner purchased the unfinished Luder theatre building and completed it at a cost of \$50,000.

Veri-Best Hatchery opened for business, operated by W. H. Bilse.

Herman Helland bought the Mt. Horeb Bank Building.

Arthur G. Bloland went into business here as a contractor.

### 1929

The Mt. Horeb Advancement Association voted to change its name to the Mt. Horeb Chamber of Commerce.

The new Strand theatre opened March 8, operated by A. P. Desmormeaux, Madison, and Joseph Buechner. In May, Harold Rupp, Madison, leased Mr. Buechner's interest and formed partnership with Desmormeaux.

Haig & Haig bought the Ted Statz restaurant.

On June 6 the Mt. Horeb Golf Course was officially opened.

Dahle's Store sold out everything, with exception of grocery department, to A. Hoff Co.

### 1930

The Telephone Co. moved to its new fireproof building on Second Street.

L. M. Staub bought the J. M. Moe jewelry store.

Alton O. Lust established a trucking business.

Verne Herman constructed a bowling alley on South Second Street.

On October 20 the Mt. Horeb Bank was robbed of \$6,500 in cash and \$17,000 in negotiable bonds by four armed men.

Our population was 1425.

### 1931

Jacob Lingard purchased the Dahle grocery. P. J. Dunlap took over the Mt. Horeb Feed and Fuel Co., formerly owned by J. C. Fjelstad.

M. C. Rand, Milwaukee, opened a shoe repair shop in the J. S. Grinde building.

Joseph Wienberg opened the Public Fruit Market.

The State Bank installed a bullet-proof wire mesh above the partition between the lobby and other compartments.

Clarence Lunde went into the insurance business as an adjuster and independent agent.

### 1932

Mt. Horeb Auto Service is being operated by Mickelson and Soper who purchased auto repair business from Mt. Horeb Auto Co.

D. H. Blakeman started a blacksmith shop in the Snyder building.

W. O. Bergh opened a bakery and restaurant in the Dahle building.

Thoresen Produce Co., Chicago, established a branch here with Trygve Thoresen as manager.

### 1934

Gamble Store opened in the Dahle building by Mark Saunders.

Charles Hinsel purchased Lake Drive Dairy. Gonstead Radio Shop opened on East Main Street.

Moderne Beauty Shop began operations in Mt. Horeb Bank building.

Ben Mavis and C. A. Link bought the Mt. Horeb Lumber Co. from Collins Bros., Madison.

Ed Wittwer established a trucking business.

Grant Hustad bought the C. J. Lunde Fuel Co. Raphael Vasen opened bowling alleys on South Second.

Dr. R. A. Ogilvie went into veterinary practice here.



South Second Street 1961

**1935**

Village at two special elections voted to purchase local light plant.

A new well, drilled to a depth of 805 ft., was finished. A new electric turbine pump was installed and two booster pumps; a new fireproof pump house was constructed.

Joseph Weinberg opened a furniture store in the Fosshage building; A & P store opened in Grinde store building; Dr. J. E. Gaffney opened a dental office; Olaus Martinson sold his interest in Martinson Bros. to William Thousand and the business now operated as Farm Utility Co.; a new harness shop was opened in the National Hotel Building by H. C. Reinke; John Durtschi purchased the Hickory Hill Dairy; Walter Hopkins opened his barber shop over Olson's restaurant; Ted Spaanem and Rueben Thronson opened the Standard Oil station.

**1936**

Bert Pfister, town of Vermont, began auctioneering in Mt. Horeb area.

Sanitary Market opened in Wittwer building.

Otto and Irene Gilbertson bought the Gier hardware store.

The Toggery opened in the Dahle building under management of Trygve Thoresen.

Holum and Rude Feed Mill became Rude and Robinson when Morris Rude sold out to Lloyd Robinson.

**1937**

The major project of the village was the building of street sewers. A total of 4,800 ft. was laid or under construction.

Bubby's Bowling Alleys, operated by Raphael Vasen, moved to new location on West Main.

H. H. Thousand purchased and remodeled the A. J. Grinde building for use as a tavern.

Orville Aavang built the D-X station.

Owen Sharer established a funeral home in the former Torgerson home on East Main.

**1938**

The village voted to bond itself for an enlargement of its sewage plant. This issue was for

\$18,000. The sewage system was extended by another 6,000 ft.

Leonard Peterson bought the Mt. Horeb Auto Co. garage building.

Dr. C. Roy Strange joined Dr. F. W. Sutcliffe in veterinary practice.

Clarence E. Bultman was managing the Veri-Best Hatchery.

**1939**

Voters on August 29 voted better than three to one to acquire the Mt. Horeb Electric Utility Co., owned by the Wisconsin Power and Light Co. The plant, costing \$70,319.07, became municipally owned on September 30.

Grant Hustad opened a frozen foods locker plant.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Whitson opened Mt. Horeb's first flower shop.

Otto Kahl bought the Gilbert Mickelson grocery store.

The dry cleaning plant operated by Millard Steyer was sold to Raymond Jenkins, Rewey.

The Gonstead Chiropractic Building was built.

**1940**

Our population this year was 1610.

The Hoffman Cheese Co. sold its plant to Kaestner-Henze Co.

Floyd C. Albert became manager of the Strand theatre.

Mt. Horeb Electric Shop was opened by Albert Zwald.

Dr. R. L. Guenveur, optometrist, opened offices in the Gonstead Building.

Ed Wittwer opened the Texaco station.

With 592 voters going to the polls April 2, 320 voted to grant continuance of liquor licenses. The question of a municipally owned liquor store was voted down by 412 votes.

**1941**

S. A. Sylvester was elected cashier of the State Bank of Mt. Horeb on February 1.

Townspople were scouring cellars, attics and forgotten places for old aluminum items in war salvage drives.



Gonstead Chiropractic Building

Village completed new building for its electric utility.

Gay Gesme opened a furniture store in Dahle building.

Kahl-Nygaard purchased the Lingard grocery.

The village bought a pulmotor for use in this community. The purchase was made jointly by the village and the Chamber of Commerce. A new fire truck was also purchased.

Mrs. Mabel Evans bought the Parisey variety store.

The Mt. Horeb championship basketball team, coached by Cletus Piquette, was honored at a banquet attended by 100 men. It was the first Mt. Horeb team to win a state tournament game.

Mr. and Mrs. Trygve Thoresen opened the Norway House, tourist home and cabins.

#### 1942

Rationing, Red Cross drives, civil defense, "scraps for victory" drives were underway here.

C. P. Brechler resigned from the State Bank after 25 years as assistant cashier, and G. C. Osmundson filled the post.

Blanche Losinski received appointment as superintendent of schools of Western Dane County to fill unexpired term of T. S. Thompson.

Wadhams branch office opened with Ike Myrland as manager.

S. C. Syverud opened his chiropractic office on November 2.

Gas rationing started December 1.

In the primary election balloting, 315 voted for and 82 against the purchase of the Mt. Horeb Bank Building for \$12,000.

Ray Bakken went into the real estate business.

Ralph Dahle opened insurance offices in the Municipal Building.

#### 1943

Village offices were installed in the Municipal Building and many improvements made.

Dr. Morrison took over the practice of the late Dr. A. S. Thompson.

Kahl and Nygaard purchased the two story part of the Dahle building.

#### 1944

Dr. A. R. Kjervik opened offices in the former Buckner Hospital building.

Harold Hugo opened the Mt. Horeb Welding Shop.

#### 1945

William Thousand bought the Mt. Horeb House.

Temby Feed and Seed store opened in the old Mithus building (corner Gonstead lot).

Arlen Wilcox (Finke) bought Milady's Beauty Shop from Mrs. Paul Kundert.

Mt. Horeb Creamery & Cheese Co. was sold to Ryser Bros.

Dr. A. R. Kjervik purchased the Buckner Hospital building.

The Mt. Horeb Farmer's Co-op was established here.

#### 1946

Second deep well drilled on south side.

F. H. Hanneman resigned as instructor of music in our schools. Everett Goli was engaged to replace him.

At a special school board meeting it was voted to authorize the school board to proceed with installation of flood lighting equipment for high school field.

Eric Furuheim became partner of John Hanley in Hanley Auto Co.

Walter Durtschi became partner of John Durtschi in Hickory Hill Dairy.

Curtis Witte bought the Bakken barber shop.

Walter Wirth opened Club 18 two miles west of Mt. Horeb.

Lawrence A. Anderson began distributing dairy equipment under firm name, Anderson Supply.

#### 1947

Tax rate reduced \$1.63 per \$1,000 valuation. New rate is \$5.22 compared with \$6.85 for 1946.

Leonard Bruflat leased the D-X station from Laverne Aavang.

Mrs. Milford Thousand bought Milady's Beauty Shop.

Ed and Fred Roth opened Blue Mounds Cheese Co.

#### 1948

The Village Inn motel and restaurant opened.

The village purchased the Sylvan Zwickey (Vilberg) building for \$6,250 for use as garage for school buses.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lienau took over the Gamble Store.

The first Folklore Village Festival was held here.

S. C. Syverud built the Syverud Chiropractic Building.

#### 1949

Alton Knudtson and Bill Thousand purchased the stock and fixtures of the Farmer Store operated by L. M. Kittleson for 27 years.

William McSherry began dealing in real estate.

The Oregon Milk Co. began operations in the new building erected on the west side of town.

At a special election in October residents approved a union free high school for this area.

#### 1950

Our population was 1,709.

Chester and Tenny Midthun purchased the Mt. Horeb Feed and Fuel from George Lukken and changed name to Home Town Feed and Fuel.

Miss Luella Ruste was appointed village clerk.

Miss Hazel Paulson was appointed village treasurer.

Jorgen Greve purchased the Mt. Horeb Produce Co. from Joe Nelson.

Electric and telephone poles and wires along Main Street from Fourth Street west to Washington Street were removed after being there for 40 years. The two utilities constructed lines

WISCONSIN'S NEWEST NATURAL WONDER

# CAVE of the MOUNDS

BLUE MOUNDS, WISCONSIN

*100,000 VISITORS A YEAR*

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More than two million people have visited the Cave of the Mounds in the few years since its discovery, proof that it is one of the outstanding tourist attractions of the midwest.

JUST 25 MILES FROM MADISON

And 4 Miles West of Mt. Horeb

New extensions have been made to the Cavern in 1957, opening four new rooms of unbelievable beauty, Dream River Room, Pendulum Stalactite Room, Big Whisker Room, and Surprise Room.

The temperature of the cave is always 46 degrees.

Cave of the Mounds is electrically lighted and equipped with concrete walks. Cameras encouraged.

Courteous guides will escort you on the 40 minute tour any day from April 15th to October 15th.

---

so that service wires could be run to the rear of the buildings.

LaVerne Johnson went into the insurance business here.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Westberg opened the West Side grocery.

Wayne Yapp opened the Yapp tailor shop in the National Hotel Building. (Moved to East Main in 1951).

Robert Gerber established his trucking business here.

Harold Churchill bought the Farmers' Market. Edward and Harold Post bought the Haig & Haig restaurant and tavern.

Stauffer & Sons began manufacture of pasteurized process Swiss cheese.



S. C. Syverud Chiropractic Building



Hall of Statues — Cave of the Mounds





Blue Mounds State Park  
(courtesy Obma Studio)



Stewart Park (courtesy of  
L. L. Cook Photo Co.)



Brigham Memorial Park  
(courtesy of L. L. Cook Co.)

## PART EIGHT: MT. HOREB AS "PORTAL TO WONDERLAND"

by Mrs. M. M. Darrow

In recent years Mt. Horeb has often been referred to as the "Portal to Wonderland", and few motorists driving west on U. S. Highway 18 & 151 dispute the term.

Three miles west of Mt. Horeb, and just off Highway 18 & 151 to the north, is "Little Norway" or "Nissedahle", which means valley of the elves. Here in its picturesque meadow, the late Isak Dahle preserved a typical pioneer farmstead settled by Norwegian immigrants. The buildings include the log farm house and barns, sod-roofed outbuildings, a hunting lodge and summer cottage, and the famous "stave kirke" or stave church which was handcarved in Norway for the 1893 World's Fair. All buildings are furnished with authentic antiques.

Just beyond "Little Norway", and also just off Highway 18 & 151, is the Cave of the Mounds, discovered during quarry operations on the Brigham farm in 1939. Here, in a Walt Disney mood,

nature has produced some fantastic sights for the traveler. Last year 100,000 persons toured the cave, which has been enlarged in recent years. It is operated by Fred Hanneman and Carl Brechler, both of Mt. Horeb.

A short distance beyond the Cave of the Mounds is Brigham Park, located on the Brigham farm. From this high point visitors see a magnificent panorama extending from Blue Mounds northwest toward Spring Green and the Wisconsin river bluffs and north to the Baraboo bluffs.

A turn to the right just west of the village of Blue Mounds, which is on Highway 18 & 151, leads the motorist to the top of Blue Mounds, "Land of the Sky", or as the Indians called it, "Hee-Hauh-aja" (a high place with a wonderful view). 1716 ft. above sea level, "Land of the Sky" is the highest point in southern Wisconsin; to the east the dome of Wisconsin's State Capitol glistens in the sunlight twenty-two air miles

away. In 1959 the Blue Mounds park was made a state park. Dense woods threaded with trails, two look-out towers, picnic and game facilities and a swimming pool make this an unusual scenic recreation spot.

Just north of Mt. Horeb's village limits lies our own Stewart Lake, which became a county park in 1933. Good fishing, excellent picnic facilities and the winding scenic drive through the park attract many visitors.



Little Norway

COMPLIMENTS OF

# LITTLE NORWAY

AN OUTDOOR MUSEUM

of a Pioneer Homestead

BLUE MOUNDS, WIS.

PHONE GE 7-8211

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In Dane County  
Since 1922

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for the welfare of milk producers  
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## CEDAR CABINS MOTEL

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Single and Double Modern Heated Cabins  
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Mt. Horeb

## PART NINE: DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

### President McKinley

It was raining in Mt. Horeb on October 6, 1899; nevertheless a crowd of from two to three thousand people gathered at the railroad depot to see President McKinley. School had been let out for the occasion. The streets were lined with people, and the town marshal had appointed twenty associates to help keep order.

The President's train was an hour late, but a mighty cheer went up when the two monster locomotives and five coaches finally pulled in. When the train came to a halt, our Congressman, H. B. Dahle, who had gone to meet the presidential party at Galena, appeared on the rear platform of the last car, followed by the President. Congressman Dahle introduced the President who spoke for several minutes, after which he presented the members of his cabinet who were traveling with him.

As the train pulled away the President was the last to leave the platform, and, standing in the doorway of the car, he bowed and waved his handkerchief to the cheering crowd.

### Crown Prince Olav

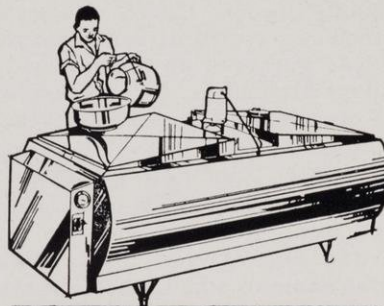
Mt. Horeb was honored by its one and only visit from royalty when Crown Prince Olav of Norway stopped here on June 19, 1939, on his way from Madison to "Little Norway". The Prince spoke to a throng of enthusiastic townspeople from a platform erected on Main Street, and delivered a message from his father, King Haakon of Norway.

American and Norwegian flags lined the travel route as the Prince went on to "Little Norway", where he was greeted by members of the Dahle family and shown about the famous museum and showplace.

Other distinguished visitors here over the years have been Vice-President Henry Wallace, Governor Philip LaFollette, and Alexander Bull, brother of the famous Norwegian violinist, Ole Bull, who gave a violin concert at the Opera House sometime around 1898.



President McKinley's Special Train at Mt. Horeb.

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INSURANCE COVERAGE****Clarence J. Lunde 309 West Main Street****Vernon D. Lunde GENEVA 7-5465****Mount Horeb, Wisconsin****profitable****BULK MILK handling****MUELLER**

● A Mueller tank in your milk house can mean added milk profits . . . whether you "pipeline" or "pour in" we have varied features and models that will allow you to choose the exact bulk tank that suits you best.

Let us show you.

Ask about our economy model "R" series

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of the

**S. C. SYVERUD  
CHIROPRACTIC OFFICES****Mt. Horeb, Wis.****Phone GE 7-3600**

## PART TEN: THE LAST DECADE

### VILLAGE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (1951-1961)

Gleanings from the MT. HOREB MAIL,  
compiled by Mrs. Ansel Kittleson

#### 1951

Sigvart Nygard and Walter Schiedegger opened the Pure Oil station.

Leo Sutter and Gunnar Larson purchased the Parkway Theatre Building and remodeled it as headquarters for the Majestic Sales Co.

The State Bank of Mt. Horeb celebrated its fiftieth anniversary.

Dr. C. Roy Strange, veterinarian, and Dr. Donald Ege formed partnership.

Roy Sarbacker bought the Jenkins Market.

Dr. Max E. Barth opened veterinary offices on Springdale Street.

Thomas Heeran sold the billiard hall and tavern he had operated for 35 years to Gordon Wieneke.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Intravia bought Clara's Cafe, which had been operated by Mrs. Reuben Thronson.

Harry Cook and Wallace Kalbacken opened law offices in the National Hotel Building.

Nortie Espeseth bought the Gilbert Mickelson shoe repair shop.

Orrin Bergey bought Lloyd Staub's Jewelry and Gift Shop.



Majestic Sales



New Mount Horeb Post Office 1955

**1952**

The village board agreed to purchase the Schlingen lot on South First, and plans call for the construction of a skating rink and tennis court on this property.

Clara Olson was appointed general chairman of "A Citizen's Swimming Pool Committee", composed of all organizations in the community. Committee hopes to raise money for a swimming pool in Mt. Horeb.

Mr. and Mrs. Matt Hoffmaster bought the National Hotel tavern from Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Schlosser, who had operated it for 24 years.

Laverne Aavang has been named agent by the Mid-Continent Petroleum Corp. for its new bulk storage plant on the south edge of town.

Highway post office services began here in October.

Mrs. Matie Hoff paved the way toward opening the swimming pool fund drive by contributing \$2,000.

Murl Cliff established his electric service business.

**1953**

Otto Kahl bought and remodeled the Heeran Building into a grocery store.

J. J. Pakes bought the Farmers' Super Market from Harold Churchill.

The Evans Creamery sold its butter and cream business to the Lodi Creamery.

The Pure Milk Association bought the Mt. Horeb Grade A Milk Plant.

Dr. John Albert, dentist, opened offices in the State Bank Building.

**1954**

Wallace Bohle opened the Bohle Heating Service.

Arthur Bartz bought the former Eloid Gonstead Music and Games business on East Main.

The Mt. Horeb swimming pool was built, and dedicated on August 22.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Friedli and son bought the Mt. Horeb Cafe, which had been operated by Mr. and Mrs. Phil Intravia.

Fred Klusendorf bought the Hanley Auto Co. His son, Fred, Jr., will manage the business.

The Mt. Horeb Hat Shop, operated by Mrs. Delia Peterson for the past 24 years, went out of business this year. The event marks the passing of one of the oldest businesses in Mt. Horeb.

Robert Stare bought the Mt. Horeb Motor Co. from Irving Sorenson.

Mr. and Mrs. Raphael Vasen opened the Ben Franklin store.

Joe Buechner established the Buechner Construction Co., after buying out the Dunlap and Swenson Cement Block Plant.

**1955**

Clarence Labansky, La Valle, bought the City Food Market from Floyd Nelson.

The Mt. Horeb library was moved from the Municipal Building, where it has been housed

for the past 30 years, to new street floor quarters in the Evans Building.

Edward J. Smith was elected chairman of the Dane County Board on April 19. The only other citizen of Mt. Horeb who has ever served in this position was the late Thomas G. Lingard.

Festivities for the celebration marking the official reopening of Main Street, after widening and repaving, attracted 6,000 persons here on Saturday, September 7. The work, which began in the fall of 1954, was part of a highway improvement project.

James Stone bought the former Al Austin Photography Studio.

The Mt. Horeb Post Office opened for "business as usual" on August 1 in its new building on South First Street.

Glen Zimmerman bought Kahl's Food Store.

Mr. and Mrs. Rex Emery bought the Mt. Horeb Cleaners and Dyers, operated by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Jenkins for the past 17 years.

Robert Oimoen bought the D-X station.

Mrs. George Kahl bought the Charm Beauty Shop from Mrs. Harold Pick.

Home Town Feed and Fuel Co. bought the Hustad Locker and Fuel Co.

Joseph Prochaska bought the Carl Erickson tavern business. It will be known as Joe's Bar.

**1956**

Francis Post opened the Highway Feed Mill on the west edge of town.

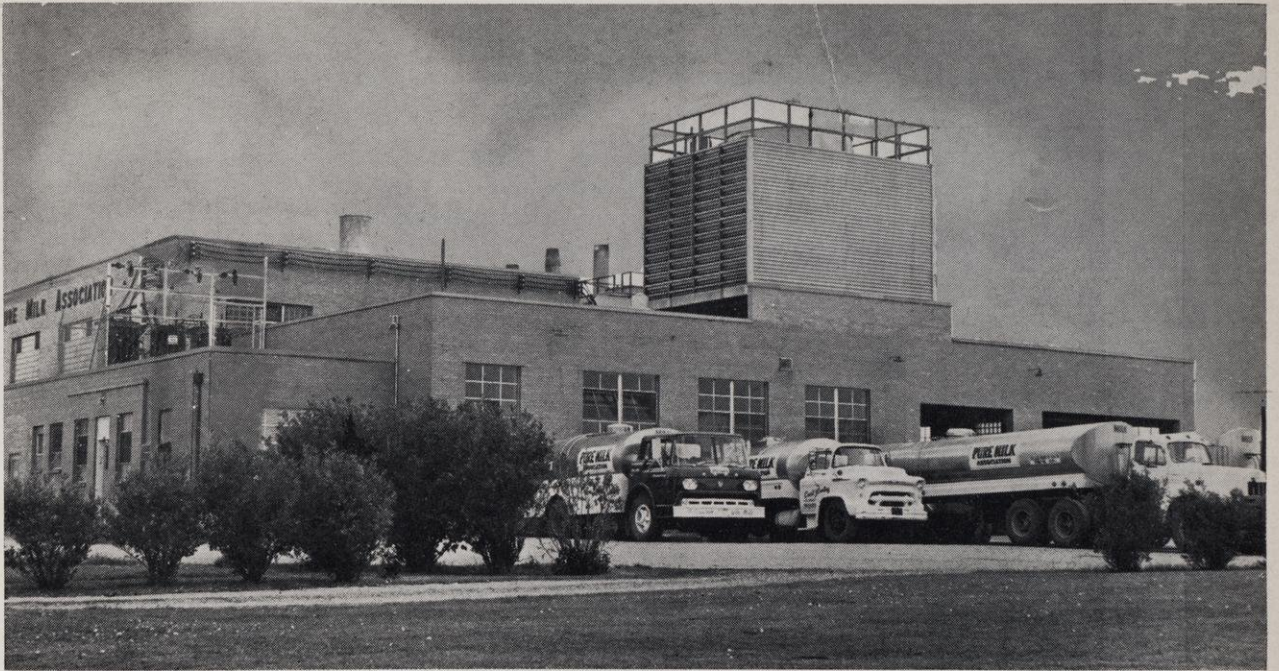
Bert Pfister, well known area auctioneer, opened the Pfister Farm Agency in the State Bank Building.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence A. Anderson and John Anderson bought the Glen Zimmerman grocery store.

The Mt. Horeb Chamber of Commerce and the recently organized Historical Committee sponsored a Centennial Preview Night in the high school gymnasium.



Post's Hi-Way Feed Mill 1961



Pure Milk Plant

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CURTIS WITTE MIKE SCHWENN

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Mt. Horeb, Wis.

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**L A M O D E S**

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**GREETINGS**

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**GREETINGS**

Mount Horeb Centennial

**BLUE MOUNDS CHEESE MART**

FRED ROTH ED ROTH

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Mr. and Mrs. Royal H. Mason bought the Mt. Horeb Cleaners and Dyers.

Mrs. Dorothy Williams opened a grocery store.

Sun-Ray Gas Co., Inc., owned by Leo and Herman Sutter since 1947, was sold to Kenneth Ridpath and Delmar Christianson.

Milford Thousand and Donald Wild bought the Leonard Peterson plumbing and heating business.

Mt. Horeb Locker Plant was destroyed by fire of unknown origin.

### 1957

Clarence G. Gonstead, chiropractor, has built an air strip south of town and opened it to the people of Mt. Horeb. Built directly behind the Gonstead home, it was originally planned to be of modest size and cost, but has turned out to be 2,200 ft. long and 100 ft. wide. With blacktop surfacing, it is now an all weather strip that is of great value and convenience to the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Frederickson, Oregon, bought the Olson Restaurant and Bakery.

John A. Dahler established an insurance business here.

Mrs. Reuben Thousand bought the Style Shop located in the Farmer's Super Market.

The new Transport Oil station on the west edge of Mt. Horeb was completed and leased to Bert Rolstad.

S. R. Martin & Son sold their livestock buying operations to Oscar Mayer & Co. The transaction marks the end of an era four generations long during which a Martin has been a stock buyer in this community.

Walter Wirth bought the Mt. Horeb golf course from Ken Yost.

Andrew Rude sold his interest in Rude & Robinson Feed Mill to his partner, Lloyd Robinson.

Mike Schwenn became a partner in the Curtis Witte barber shop.

Alfred Schurch became agent here for Mutual Trust Life Insurance Co. and a number of casualty companies.

### 1958

Albert J. Nesheim, Jr., has sold his residence and Cedar Motel business to James E. Sovde.

Mrs. Alice Flom bought the East End Grocery from Thorwald Odegard.

Mrs. Thorwald Odegard and Mrs. Jerrold Moen opened the La Mode Apparel Shop.

S. Russell Martin established the Martin Realty Service.

Cyril Burns opened the Burns Photography Studio in the Strand Theatre Building.

Vernon Lunde became Clarence Lunde's partner in the insurance business.

### 1959

Laverne and Joseph Sutter bought the International Harvester farm and implement business from the Birrenkott Sales Co.

At a recent village board meeting it was decided that the front office in the Municipal Building be remodeled for use as a dispatcher's office to receive fire and police calls.

Lowell Moehlman purchased Roy Tvedt's interest in the Mobilgas station.

Grant Hustad opened a laundromat with round-the-clock service.

Ralph Buechner became his father's partner in the Buechner Construction Co.

After many months of work, the Mt. Horeb Telephone Co. converted all telephones in the village to the new dial system on August 23.

Dean Hefty became the State Farm Insurance agent here.

Russell W. Martin established the Martin Electric Service.

Ervin Sonnenburg became the Surge dealer here.

Sutter's Ridge Ski Club opened. (See Recreation)

### 1960

Our population reached a new high of 1,981.

Construction of the new Mt. Horeb High School Building was begun.

Ed and John Wittwer began operating the Sinclair Oil station.

Mrs. Clinton Johnston opened the Johnston Home Decorating Shop.

Bowling lanes were added to the Mt. Horeb Golf Club building, owned by Walt Wirth. The business, operated by Ron Wirth, to be known as the Mt. Horeb Golf Bowl.

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Henningsen bought the Gamble Store from Mrs. Roy Lienau.

The Lamplighter Gift Shop was opened by Marlyn Hiser.

George Hall began operating the Texaco station.

### 1961

Dr. R. L. Guenveur, optometrist here for 21 years, moved his office from the Gonstead Building to the quarters formerly occupied by Robertshaw's drug store.

Milady's Beauty Shop moved to new quarters in the Strand Theatre Building, after 24 years in the State Bank Building.

Drs. Max Barth and Don Ege opened the new Mt. Horeb Animal Hospital.

Robert Gerber opened a shop on Highway 78 as headquarters for his trucking business. He also sells bulk tanks there.

Richard Gudgeon took over the Pure Oil station.

The Burns Photography Studio moved to new location on Springdale Street.

Leon Jenkins, who has been operating the Allied T-V Service here since 1955, opened a store and display room in the National Hotel Building.



South First Street 1961



Main Street 1960 showing people waiting for parade



Barth and Ege Animal Hospital—1961

## PART ELEVEN: ORGANIZATIONS

Prepared Under the Direction of Mrs. Banford Dahlen

### EARLY ORGANIZATIONS

by Mrs. Banford Dahlen

In the days of the old town Mt. Horeb the basement of the Methodist Church was used as a meeting place for organizations, and it was probably there in 1875 that Mt. Horeb Grange was organized with 31 members. Its purpose was to advance social needs and combat the economic backwardness of farm life. Its program also favored legislation to correct grievances of farmers and obtain better farm prices.

There were also many temperance societies in those days, Sons of Temperance, Society of Law and Order, and Independent Order of Good Templars, I.O.G.T.—the latter sometimes jok-

ingly paraphrased as "I Often Get Tippy". There were 21 charter members of Sons of Temperance when it was organized in 1874, and it grew to about 60 members.

There were two later organizations here that did not survive. One was the Camp Fire Girls, organized at the high school during the years 1915 and 1916 by two teachers, Miss Ethel Coy and Miss Margaret Piper. During the summer vacations Mrs. Fred Hanneman helped with their activities. Among other things they worked on Red Cross kits for soldiers in the first World War.

About 1926 the Euterpea Club was organized for the study of music, art and poetry. It had a membership of 20 and met once a month.

### MT. HOREB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

by Fred H. Hanneman

Business and professional people in Mt. Horeb realized, as all communities do, that some kind of an organization was necessary to promote and build community spirit. The idea which was fostered by the Mt. Horeb Band became a reality in 1923 when a group of business and professional men organized the Mt. Horeb Advancement Association. The Mt. Horeb Band promoted the first Harvest Festival, which was a huge success and brought the need of a business organization into focus. Eighty business and professional men were charter members of the organization with the purpose of "promoting the general welfare of Mt. Horeb and community". C. O. Ruste was president, Andrew Hoff, vice-president, C. P. Brechler, treasurer, and Fred H. Hanneman, secretary.

The change to a Chamber of Commerce was made January 10, 1929, with A. A. Babcock as president. It has fostered all things good for Mt. Horeb and deserves a great deal of credit for the growth and development of the village. The outstanding achievements might be listed as the Harvest Festivals and Fall Frolics, clearing house for industry, village approval of land purchase for industrial development, youth programs, county park, C.C.C. Camp, Mt. Horeb as "Portal to Wonderland", farmers' days, assistance in war efforts and the annual Christmas party for children. The organization is a member of the State Chamber of Commerce, and formerly was a member of the National Chamber of Commerce and Southern Lakelands Association.

The following have been president of the Mt. Horeb Chamber of Commerce from 1923 to 1961: C. O. Ruste, Edward Goli, M. A. Tollund, A. A.



Jorgen M. Moe

This page is dedicated to Jorgen M. Moe, who, as secretary of the Mt. Horeb Chamber of Commerce from 1931-1958, was sometimes referred to as "Mr. Mt. Horeb". Jorgen worked unstintingly to publicize his town and received many citations for his public services. Among these were citations from both the state and federal governments for his work on Selective Service, and a citation from the Wisconsin Council of Defense for his work in connection with the sale of U. S. war bonds.

Babcock, T. S. Thompson, O. B. Dahle, J. B. Johnson, F. H. Hanneman, Isaac Myrland, Albert Austin, John Beat, H. B. Rue, Edward Smith, Dr. R. L. Guenveur, Lyle Johnson, Kenneth Erickson, Lawrence Anderson, Forest Johnson, Harry Cook, Edward Post. Five men have been secretary: Fred H. Hanneman, Jorgen M. Moe, Lyle Johnson, Roland Stromen, Merlin Jacobson.

### FRANK E. MALONE AMERICAN LEGION POST

by D. A. Kobs and Ray Cunneen

In September, 1919, a small group of returned veterans assembled at the Mt. Horeb Village Hall to discuss the forming of a local post to affiliate with the newly organized American Legion, which was begun the same year in St. Louis and being promoted throughout the country. The charter for the Frank E. Malone Post was issued in October, and by the end of the year 49 paid members belonged to the new post, headed by Commander Otto G. Gesme. Other officers were O. E. Ishmael, vice-commander, J. E. Roberts, adjutant, C. P. Brechler, finance officer, Gil Ayen, historian, and Earnest Stolen, chaplain.

Beginning with the sponsorship of the 4th of July celebrations, plus the contributions of business men to the community to raise money for helping disabled comrades and their families, many worthwhile projects have been undertaken over the past 40 years. In 1925 a Chevrolet was raffled off; another time the play "When Men Marry" netted \$900 for two nights performance. The high spot of this play was Bill Olson, 6'2", as the bride of 5'5" Roy Sommers, with 240 pound Dr. Sholts serving as ring-bearer.

In 1927-28 the post enjoyed its largest membership of 84 members. In 1930 the 3rd District

Conference was held in Mt. Horeb, and that same year a Memorial Monument with a flagpole was dedicated by the Legion in the Mt. Horeb Union Cemetery.

Working with the C.C.C.'s in the early '30's, the Legion and the Chamber of Commerce restored Lake Park (Stewart Park now); and the Legion has done much to help beautify our highways.

During World War II the Legion worked with the village in setting up and keeping up-to-date the Honor Roll containing the names of all servicemen. This beautiful service memorial still graces the corridor of the Municipal Building. Chris Gesme, former village clerk, deserves much credit for making the Honor Roll meaningful to the community and the families of the service men.

In later years the Legion has sponsored one or more high school juniors to Badger Boys State at Ripon each year. Junior baseball has been sponsored periodically over the past 20 years.

The Frank E. Malone Post has assisted in more than 110 military funerals of deceased comrades in the past 40 years.

The Legion and the Auxiliary now meet on the third floor of the Municipal Building. The Legion owns two buildings in town, and it is hoped that rentals from these buildings will someday enable the post to have a home of its own.

Most of the officers since 1946 have been veterans of World War II. The 1961 membership is 112, with the following officers: Roman Lamberty, commander; Robert Murray, adjutant; Adolph Schlub, finance officer; Forest Johnson, service officer; D. A. Kobs, historian.



Legion pioneers at Mount Horeb. These nine men, members of the Mt. Horeb American Legion Post, were honored in April, 1960, after marking 40 years continuous service in the Legion. They are, from left, Henry Smith, Oliver Lee, Joe Buechner, L. E. Martin, M. A. Birrenkott, William Birrenkott, Edward Redel, Banford Dahlen and Carl Brechler. They represent a total of 360 years of Legion membership.

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

by Mrs. Banford Dahlen

In July, 1921, the American Legion invited the mothers, sisters and wives of its members to a dinner at Olson's Grill. The purpose of this meeting was to consider forming an Auxiliary to the Legion. Committee appointed to solicit eligible members: Bertha Lund, Edna Nygard, Mrs. O. G. Gesme.

On August 16, 1921, the first meeting was held in the Legion rooms. The following officers were elected: president, Mrs. P. C. Paulson; vice-president, Lillian Krohn; secretary, Laura Kollath; treasurer, Amelia Bakken. There were 47 charter members.

The charter of this Auxiliary was received in 1925. American flags and Legion Auxiliary emblem flags were purchased for the use of the unit.

The local Auxiliary unit has entertained the Third District Conference in Mt. Horeb 5 times. The unit has been honored in many ways by its members serving on county, district, and state levels. Miss Hazel Paulson, Mrs. M. A. Tollund, Mrs. Joe Brink and Mrs. Carroll Robertshaw have all served as county council presidents; Mrs. C. R. Strange and Luella Ruste have served as district presidents; Mrs. Carroll Robertshaw is at present district vice-president; Mrs. B. E. Dahlen has served as district secretary. Mrs. Joe Murphy has served as state tray-favor president and is at present on the State Board of Directors of Badger Girls' State, serving as vice-president. Mrs. L. E. Martin is serving her second year as director of Girls' State.

Besides the many projects in which the Auxiliary cooperates with the Legion, the Auxiliary sponsors an essay contest in the schools each year and sends a girl to Girls' State each year. Some of the members assist regularly at veterans' hospital. They have given memorial books to the library and provided wheel chairs and hospital beds free of charge to the community. Poppy Day is one of their big annual projects.

Present officers are: Mrs. Frank Keller, president; Mrs. Henry Bastheimer, 1st vice-president; Mrs. Walter Post, 2nd vice-president; Mrs. Robert Becker, secretary; Mrs. Alice Collins, treasurer; Mrs. Russell Martin, Jr., sergeant-at-arms; Mrs. Adolph Schlub, color-bearer; Mrs. Banford Dahlen, historian; Mrs. Helen Lunde, chaplain; Miss Luella Ruste, parliamentarian; Mrs. Wesley Bakken, junior past president; Mrs. Elmer Conley, Mrs. Martin Tollund, Miss Hazel Paulson, members at large.

## THE MASONIC LODGE

by Dr. C. Roy Strange

Mt. Horeb had its first Masonic Communication in the Hall of Howarth on May 22, 1884. Howard G. Elliot was the Worshipful Master. Howard G. Elliot, I. G. Brader and A. H. Elver

were the chief movers in securing a dispensation for a Masonic Lodge in Mt. Horeb. The Lodge was named Howarth Lodge after a prominent Masonic Brother by that name from Mazomanie. (The Hall of Howarth was in a building on Main Street owned by Andrew E. Thompson, now owned by Raphael Vasen).

On June 9, 1885, the Grand Lodge in Milwaukee granted a charter which was issued to Howarth Lodge No. 228. On June 27, 1885, Howarth Lodge No. 228 was consecrated by Deputy Grand Master E. A. Brown of Crescent Lodge No. 97.

On June 3, 1893, it was voted to lease the hall of John F. Pieh, which was upstairs over his meat market, now the shoe department of the A. Hoff Co. It was during the occupation of these quarters that Summit Chapter No. 72 O.E.S. was chartered.

After Howard G. Elliot and other charter members had moved from town or passed away, the name Howarth was discarded and on March 4, 1893, changed to Mt. Horeb Lodge No. 228. In 1917 it became necessary to find new quarters, and the second floor of the Mt. Horeb creamery was leased for two years. Then the smaller of the West Side school buildings was purchased and used for three years; after which the second floor hall in the Opera House Building was leased, and this has been the Temple since that time.

The Lodge, which has a membership of 156, is now staffed by a corps of officers headed by Werner Zwald, worshipful master; Steve Holum, senior warden; Carl Danhauser, junior warden; Andrew Rude, treasurer; Richard Grinde, secretary; Clifford Emerson, senior deacon; Ronald Wirth, junior deacon.

## ORDER OF EASTERN STAR

by Mrs. M. J. Schwenn

On August 9, 1895, in the presence of members from Orient Chapter No. 3, OES, Mazomanie, and Masonic Lodge No. 5, Madison, as well as Masons of Mt. Horeb Lodge No. 228, twenty charter members were obligated as Summit Chapter No. 72, OES. The worthy grand patron of OES in Wisconsin, Mr. J. H. Evans, presided.

During its sixty-six years, Summit Chapter has held its meetings in various locations in Mt. Horeb. At the time the chapter was instituted, the Masons had their lodge rooms over the John Pieh meat market, where kerosene lamps furnished the light. In 1907 the Mt. Horeb Lodge rented the second floor of the old State Bank Building. The rooms over the Mt. Horeb creamery were the next chapter home. In 1919 the location was changed to the old West End School building, present site of Immanuel Lutheran Church. In 1922 the chapter moved to the second floor hall in the Opera House Building.

Summit Chapter was honored in 1905 by the appointment of Mrs. Ellen Donald Jones to the

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A HALF CENTURY!

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WELCOMES  
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"THE BEST FOR LESS"

**THE DRESSERS**

**NATIONAL HOTEL  
and  
BAR**

**THE HOFFMASTERS**

110 South First Street

Mount Horeb, Wis.

office of grand chaplain of the Grand Chapter, OES, State of Wisconsin. In 1925 Miss Christine Peterson was appointed to serve in the Grand Chapter as Grand Martha. Grand representative appointees have been Mrs. Marie Lohff, Mrs. Leonard Peterson, and Mrs. M. J. Schwenn. Mrs. Leonard Peterson, Mrs. M. M. Darrow, Mrs. Ed Roth and Mrs. Norman Duesler have served Grand Chapter as pages.

The first worthy matron and patron of Summit Chapter were Mrs. Jennie Curtis and Dr. H. V. Bancroft. This year, Centennial Year in Mt. Horeb, the worthy matron and patron are Mrs. Henry Eckel, Jr., and Dr. C. Roy Strange.

In April, 1946, Summit Chapter celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. A banquet, program and reception were given in the high school gymnasium. Among the guests were charter members, grand officers, and members of neighboring chapters. Through the efforts of Mrs. Otto Gilbertson, the fiftieth year of the chapter also marked the instituting of the Mt. Horeb Assembly No. 13, Order of Rainbow for Girls.

Projects to which the Summit Chapter contributes includes the Masonic Hospital at Dousman, Wis., and Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children. Until Communism took over, Chinese Children Relief Organization claimed a part of the OES charitable contributions. ESTRLE, the most recently developed project of the Wisconsin Grand Chapter, is a fund established to create scholarships for young people studying in various fields of religious leadership—future ministers, choir directors, missionaries, etc. These young people are not chosen on the basis of Masonic affiliation.

Members of the OES believe that they, as an order, make valuable contributions to society in the degree that they, as individuals, accept the responsibilities and the challenge offered in the Biblical teachings of the Order of the Eastern Star.

### ORDER OF RAINBOW FOR GIRLS

by Mrs. Otto Gilbertson

During the later part of her term as associate matron of Summit Chapter No. 72, OES, Mrs. Otto Gilbertson became interested in the possibility of an alliance of some of the girls in the Mt. Horeb area with the OES sponsored Order of Rainbow for Girls. The Summit Chapter voted to sponsor such an organization here, and in 1946 thirty-four girls became members of the Order.

At open installation, with Mrs. Gilbertson as presiding officer, the first officers of Mt. Horeb Assembly No. 13 were installed. Jean Hendrickson was the first worthy advisor, and Mrs. Leonard Peterson was installed as mother advisor.

Rainbow is a nonsectarian organization for girls between the ages of twelve and twenty. Their activities include such things as fund rais-

ing for polio and cancer, and various charities. Girls from surrounding towns attend the meetings held in the Mt. Horeb Masonic Lodge rooms.

In 1953, under the co-chairmanship of Jo Ann Peterson and Mrs. Alton Lust, mother advisor, the Order sponsored a concert by pianist Gunnar Johansen for the purpose of raising money for the Mt. Horeb swimming pool.

In 1950 the Assembly had the honor of having Mary Ellen Bakken serve as grand worthy advisor of the State of Wisconsin.

Present worthy advisor is Mary Jo Freitag, New Glarus, and present mother advisor is Mrs. M. M. Darrow.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

by Banford Dahlen

The Mt. Horeb Fire Department was organized on December 17, 1890, and consisted of 40 members. The equipment at that time was a six man, hand operated, two cylinder suction pumper, a hose cart and a hook and ladder cart, all hand-drawn vehicles, which were stored in the old fire house located on the site now occupied by the water tower. The water supply was stored in fire cisterns located in various places and kept filled by the Fire Department.

The first fire alarm was a steel triangle erected near the fire house in 1891. This was replaced by a fire bell, erected above the old fire house in 1904 at a cost of \$143. The bell was later moved to the tower of the City Hall where it still remains. The fire siren on the water tower has been in operation since 1924.

After the water mains and fire hydrants were installed, water was forced through the mains by a four cylinder pump, driven by a large gas engine, and located in the city hall and used only for fire protection. Constant pressure in the water mains was not maintained until the water tower was erected in 1908.

The first piece of motorized equipment was a 500 GPM pumper with two fifty-gallon chemical tanks, a hose body, ladders, etc., mounted on an Oldsmobile truck purchased in 1923 from the Hanley-Reilly Auto Co.

In June, 1927, the Blue Mounds Fire and Lightning Insurance Co. purchased a 500 GPM pumper with hose body, ladders and small equipment mounted on a Stoughton truck which was said to be the first fire truck in the state to combat fires in the rural area.

Besides serving the village of Mt. Horeb, the Fire Department answers fire calls to rural areas in the townships of Blue Mounds, Springdale, Cross Plains, Primrose, Perry, Vermont, and the village of Blue Mounds. The equipment used outside the village of Mt. Horeb is owned by the Mt. Horeb Fire Protective Association and consists of a new Seagrave 750 GPM pumper, fully equipped, together with a F.W.D. tank truck which carries 1400 gallons of water to each



rural alarm. The village also has a new Seagrave 750 GPM pumper, fully equipped, and has the privilege of using the Association's equipment when deemed necessary.

The Department now consists of 30 active members. By August 1, 1961, the equipment will be housed in a new and modern fire station to be erected on Front Street. This building, expected to cost about \$28,000, has been designed by Charles Brechler, Mt. Horeb.

### ROTARY CLUB

by R. L. Guenveur, O.D.

Early in December, 1938, a group of Stoughton Rotarians brought the idea of Rotary to Mt. Horeb. The local businessmen assembled in the Mt. Horeb Bank, at which time John Bjoin, president of the Stoughton Rotary Club, assisted by Frank Chapin and J. MacCulver, briefly presented the idea of Rotary International. In April, 1939, these same Rotarians made personal calls on businessmen and received an unusually friendly response, so that a sufficient number of signatures was obtained for a charter. In this manner Rotary Clubs are organized throughout the world. There are no paid organizers in Rotary.

Organization was held May 3, 1939, with the Stoughton and Edgerton Clubs in attendance. Charter members were: Werner Wuethrich, Ralph Fosshage, Sever Martinson, Owen Sharer,

Jesse Lauderdale, Andrew Rude, Ben Mavis, Raphael Vasen, Irvin Hoff, Truman Dunlap, Isaac Myrland, Melvin Wendt, L. J. Kranzfelder, Grant Hustad, and Fr. J. M. Hausler. Werner Wuethrich was elected president.

Rotary is a world fellowship of business and professional men who accept the ideal of service as the basis for success and happiness in business and community life. Only one representative from each business or profession is eligible to become a member.

The Mt. Horeb Club, which is composed of 15 members, is striving to be of service to the community. Among numerous other projects, it sponsors the athletic banquet and the annual pancake supper to further youth activity. It presents a plaque to the outstanding F.F.A. boy and an annual award to the outstanding boy and girl member of the graduation class of Mt. Horeb High School.

Rotary District 625, of which Mt. Horeb is a part, contributes toward a scholarship fund for international students (Paul Harris Foundation), also sponsors a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin each year, and sends a local scholar to another country for a year of post-graduate study. These students are expected to visit all the clubs in the district and tell of their experiences.

Officers of Mt. Horeb Rotary for 1960-61 are: Albert Zwald, president; George Johnson, vice-president; DeLos Kobs, secretary; Al Person, treasurer.



Mount Horeb's new International Seagrave Fire Truck 1958

## ROYAL NEIGHBORS

by Mrs. Marie Lohff

Summit Height Camp No. 6188 Royal Neighbors of America was constituted February 4, 1910. The meeting was held upstairs of the Foss-hage furniture store, and presided over by the installing officer, Minnie Ellis.

Nineteen persons were made charter members. There is only one surviving active member, Mrs. Annie Moe.

The name Summit Height Camp was proposed by Carolyn Bohn. The Blue Mounds Camp were guests at the first meeting. Louise Smesrud was first oracle.

A juvenile department was organized in October, 1940, with Mrs. Louise Koch as juvenile director.

Meetings have been held in various places: the Heeran Building, the Opera House Building, Hanley Garage Hall, over Bergh's restaurant and over Olson's restaurant. At present meetings are held in the Gonstead Building.

Summit Height Camp celebrated its fiftieth anniversary on Wednesday, August 31, 1960, in the shelter house at Stewart Park. Guests that evening were from Verona, Blue Mounds, Mt. Vernon and Riley, with some state officers also present.

The present membership is 158, with Beatrice Riese as oracle.

## LIONS CLUB

by Cyril Burns

Organization of the Mt. Horeb Lions Club was held at the Municipal Building on August 28, 1957. The state secretary and district governor of State Lions were present to discuss the history of Lions and some of its accomplishments on state, national and international levels.

With 7 members present, the following officers were elected: Kenneth Ridpath, president; Otto Gilbertson, 1st vice-president; Delmar Christian-son, 2nd vice-president; Clarence Labansky, 3rd vice-president; Roland Strommen, secretary; Robert Gerber, treasurer; Wallace Bohle, lion tamer; Gunnar Larson, tail twister; Carl Dan-houser, 2 year director; Gunnuf G. Tollefson, 1 year director.

Many money-making projects have been undertaken by the club, with proceeds from same going to worthy causes approved by the entire membership. As much as possible these dis-bursements are made in support of local causes. The club now has 27 members.

## MOUND-VUE GARDEN CLUB

by Mrs. A. S. Thompson

The Mound-Vue Garden Club was organized August 18, 1954, with 25 charter members. Its purpose was to study gardening and its related

subjects, with the view of fostering beauty and community service and to promote interest in conservation. It decided to affiliate with the Federation of Wisconsin Garden Clubs and the National Council of State Garden Clubs.

Charter members were: Mesdames Melvin Schwenn, M. M. Darrow, Otto Gilbertson, H. B. Rue, Leonard Peterson, Thorwald Odegaard, M. A. Tollund, C. Roy Strange, Glen Thompson, L. J. Sutter, Trygve Thoresen, Art Soper, Ed Smith, Albert Schaller, Lloyd Robinson, Fred Kahl, Palmer Hendrickson, F. H. Hanneman, Matt Eggum, Stacy Collins, Waldo Brager, Emily Hurlbut, Bertha Heeran, Marie Becker, and Ethel Hrubesky.

A club library was organized and is now at the Mt. Horeb Public Library. There are books, pamphlets, magazines and other material on gar-dening and flower care all available to any resi-dent of the community.

A sunshine committee has been very active each Christmas bringing plants, fruit and Christ-mas goodies to the shut-ins of the community, the Verona Home and the Skaalen Home at Stoughton.

A special project has been the beautification of the triangle at Main and Springdale Streets. A committee has planted and supervised the care of several pines and junipers, and each year plants flowers to make the spot colorful and attractive.

Three flower shows, featuring beautiful floral arrangements and horticultural and educational exhibits, have been given by the club.

The club hopes that its efforts in sponsoring such exhibits will stimulate greater interest in local gardens and civic beautification.

## LIBRARY

by Vera Babcock

The first library of Mt. Horeb was organized about 1876 or '77. The **History of Dane County, 1880**, makes mention of the fact that "The Nor-wegians had a circulating library association at Mt. Horeb containing 150 books." The books were kept in Paul Sletto's boot and shoe store in the old town, with Mr. Sletto as librarian. The first officers were: Ole Christianson, president; Allen Ruste, secretary; Samuel Thompson, treas-urer; and T. J. Field, J. Eggum and P. Harold-son, directors.

In 1900 a club known as the Minerva Literary Circle was formed by 12 women of Mt. Horeb: Mesdames A. C. Larson, S. Sigerson, A. W. Gor-don, G. Helland, E. Gleason, G. Mandt, J. Holden, H. B. Dahle, O. Eidsmore, and Gunhus, and the Misses Emma Kramer (Babcock) and Elise Kittleson. Shortly after the club was organized, it started a traveling library, which became the Mt. Horeb Library, formally opened January 14, 1910, in the building which was recently torn down east of the Mt. Horeb Mail office.

For five years the library remained there, the rent being \$3.00 per month. The Wisconsin Library Association loaned 200 books per year for the sum of \$12.00, and about 200 periodicals were donated by O. M. Eidsmore. The next location of the library was on the second floor of the now Klusendorf Chevrolet Co., where it remained for ten years.

In 1924 the Minerva Literary Circle gave up its sponsorship of the library to the village, which had made some financial contributions through the years. In 1925 the library was moved to the third floor of the Mt. Horeb Bank (now Municipal Building) and in 1955 to its present location in the Josie Evans building on Main Street.

Miss Anna Helland was the first librarian, a position which she held for 20 years. At the beginning Miss Helland served without pay because of the limited funds of the Circle, gathered through food sales, lecture courses and chautauquas. Miss Helland was succeeded by her sister, Mrs. Marie Eidsmore. Mrs. Lennie Holum served as librarian from 1933 to 1961, when she retired and Mrs. R. W. Martin took the position.

### GIRL SCOUTS

by Mrs. M. M. Darrow

A Girl Scouts troop was first organized here in 1931 by Mrs. Harley J. Powell. For a time Mrs. Powell worked alone with the girls; later was joined by Mrs. Isaac Gesme. Committee women were Mrs. F. H. Hanneman, Mrs. Harley Rue, Mrs. Owen Paulson, and Mrs. Leonard Peterson.

In June, 1942, Girl Scouts were reorganized, with a junior and senior troop. Junior leaders

were Mrs. Carl Danhouser, Mrs. R. L. Guenveur, Mrs. Banford Dahlen. Senior leaders were Mrs. L. E. Martin and Mrs. H. B. Rue. Anita Hanneman Gurda also assisted. These troops broke up about 1946.

Mt. Horeb Girl Scouts were reorganized once more in 1953 through the efforts of Mrs. M. M. Darrow. Mrs. Darrow and Mrs. Oscar Narveson have worked the entire eight years since 1953; Mrs. Walter Post and Mrs. Stanley Ayers, seven years; Mrs. Ed Lindroth, six years; Mrs. Howard Tvedt, eight years.

In April, 1954, a new troop of Brownies was registered. Leaders were Mrs. Woodrow Finke and Mrs. Fred Roth. Troop committee members were Mrs. Gunnar Larson, Mrs. Elwin Bendickson, Mrs. Martin Hansen and Mrs. Howard Himsel.

Mrs. Clinton Johnston became assistant neighborhood chairman March 13, 1961, when Mrs. Darrow's term expired.

### BOY SCOUTS

by Gunnar Larson

A Boy Scout troop was organized in Mt. Horeb on March 3, 1931. Twenty-two boys were enrolled, but work continued only one year.

Again in 1942 a troop was organized, with twenty boys, and this continued for seven years. In 1950 twenty-five boys were registered. Activity continued until 1960, with the highest enrollment of forty-seven boys in 1955 and 1956.

Scout masters through the years have been Harley Powell, Howard Himsel, Walter Hopkins, Truman Dunlap, Lowell Russell, Milford Thompson, Gunnar Larson, Rubeen Prunuske and Adolph Schlub.



Mt. Horeb Boy Scout Drum and Bugle Corps (1957)

The Drum and Bugle Corps was organized by Gunnar Larson and Ron Thompson, musical director, in 1953. The original group of twelve boys grew into an organization of thirty-seven boys over the next seven years, during which time the corps won awards at La Crosse, Eau Claire, Chicago, Minneapolis and other cities.

## HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUBS

### Horeb-ettes

by Mrs. George L. Johnson

The first Homemakers Club in Mt. Horeb was the Horeb-ettes, formally organized on January 17, 1955, at the home of Mrs. Henry Grundahl, Jr., under the supervision of Miss Jacqueline Morris, Dane County home agent, and Mrs. Lloyd Julson, center chairman of the Mt. Horeb area.

The new club began with 11 members: Mrs. Wallace Bondhus, president; Mrs. George L. Johnson, vice-president and health chairman; Mrs. Frank Freeman, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. D. A. Kobs, Mrs. Henry Grundahl, Jr., Mrs. Ray Javenkoski, Mrs. George Kahl, Mrs. Albert Nesheim, Jr., Mrs. Glen Slocum, Mrs. W. H. Schlinsog and Mrs. Jennings Thompson.

The group meets the first Monday evening of each month, has two members present the monthly topic, two members provide the refreshments, and one member volunteer her home as a meeting place. Officers are elected for a one-year term, but other procedures follow the constitution of the Dane County Home Demonstration Council.

At present the Horeb-ettes have 21 members, with Mrs. R. L. Guenveur, president; Mrs. L. E. Martin, vice-president; Mrs. F. H. Hanneman, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Roger Valstad, historian.

The ninety clubs of Dane County are affiliated with the Wisconsin Home Demonstration Council and the National Home Demonstration Council. Yearly highlights which county members

enjoy attending are an Upham Woods tour to Wisconsin Dells in September, the Christmas Tea in December, the Spring Tour (a daylong educational trip) in April, and Achievement Day in May.

### Scatterette Homemaker Club

by Mrs. Leo E. Hutchinson

The second group of Mt. Horeb Homemakers met at the home of Mrs. Harold Pick in October, 1957. Miss Jacqueline Morris, Dane County home agent, Mrs. George Johnson, Horeb-ette president, and Mrs. Wallace Bondhus, center chairman, were present to help organize the club.

At the second meeting there was a membership of 13, and it was decided to limit the club membership to 18. First officers were Mrs. Ed Schultz, president; Mrs. Harold Pick, vice-president; Mrs. Jack Prochaska, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Donald Cork, publicity chairman; Mrs. Wayne Yapp, librarian and historian; Mrs. Milford Thousand, health chairman; Mrs. Roland Trevethan, citizenship chairman. The club meets the first Wednesday of each month with a hostess and one co-hostess.

Demonstrations on flower arrangements, cake decorating, gift wrapping and highway safety, as well as a number of films, have been presented by the club. The past two years the club has given a free will Christmas offering to the Children's Hospitals at Sparta and Union Grove.

At the National Homemaker's Convention held at Madison, Wis., in 1960 Mrs. Ted Moll took part in the pageant depicting the progress of Homemakers. Mrs. Jerome Skindrud and Mrs. Robert Kirch helped with registration at the national convention.

Present officers are Mrs. Leo E. Hutchinson, president; Mrs. Ted Moll, vice-president; Mrs. Wayne Yapp, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Wayne Yapp, publicity chairman; Mrs. Russell Haag, librarian and historian; Mrs. Casper Swiggum, citizenship chairman; Mrs. Lyle Shutvet, health chairman.

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## PART TWELVE: CHURCHES

Prepared Under the Direction of Mrs. Agnes Green

### EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

by Rev. Ruben Mostrom

On September 30, 1887, the original constitution and by-laws of the church were adopted, H. B. Dahle being the chairman, and O. P. Syftestad secretary of the first meeting. The constitution was signed by H. B. Dahle, S. Thompson, J. T. Mithus, L. H. Lewis, Tideman Gaarden, J. Barsness, J. N. Dahlen, Elef Severson, Olaf Quisler and A. E. Thompson. The first officers elected were H. B. Dahle, L. H. Lewis, J. T. Mithus, as trustees; J. N. Dahlen, secretary; S. Thompson, deacon and school superintendent. The trustees were instructed to call Rev. Syftestad on condition that he preach at least 12 times a year in both English and Norwegian.

The second annual meeting was held in H. B. Dahle's store, and the fourth annual meeting at the home of J. T. Mithus, at which time a committee consisting of H. B. Dahle, L. H. Lewis and Elef Severson was selected to circulate a subscription list for a church. At an adjourned meeting held January 25, 1890, the committee reported that the people preferred to wait until the East Blue Mounds Church had taken some action in the matter. But all present were in favor of building a church.

On February 7, 1890, the committee reported that \$860 had been subscribed. This and the preceding meeting were held in Syverson & Syverud's store. A committee consisting of H. B. Dahle, S. Thompson and L. H. Lewis was appointed to look up a church site, and a committee consisting of S. Thompson, A. E. Thompson and L. H. Lewis was appointed to ascertain the cost of a church 36 x 50, 20 ft. high, brick veneered. At the next meeting, March 7, 1890, at the same place, the committee appointed at the last meeting reported \$1008 had been subscribed.

Rev. Syftestad died February 27, 1890, and the congregation called Rev. Voldahl. The next meeting was held March 14, 1890, and it was reported that the material for the proposed church would cost \$1300. Rev. Voldahl was present and declined the call, but agreed to serve temporarily. A committee consisting of S. Thompson, J. T. Mithus and M. Breum was appointed to prepare plans and specifications for a new church, and it was recommended that the dimensions be changed from 36 x 50 to 36 x 60. Thomas Aven was selected to supervise the work of furnishing the foundation for the church.

An attempt was made to purchase the Union Church lot for a church site, but, this failing, it was decided April 18, 1890, to purchase the present lot. Work commenced and progressed so rapidly that the next meeting, November 28, 1890, was held in the new church. At this meeting the election of a permanent minister was held, resulting in the selection of Rev. S. Gunderson, who accepted the call. The same meeting decided to incorporate the congregation, and the following were selected to sign the articles of incorporation: J. T. Mithus, L. H. Lewis, H. B. Dahle. On October 5, 1891, it was reported that the church was indebted \$1005, with \$16.20 in the treasury. It was decided to purchase a church bell, and the Kvindeforening was requested to assist in raising the necessary funds.

At the annual meeting October 3, 1892, a committee was appointed to look up a site for a cemetery. At this meeting it was first suggested that an academy be started at Mt. Horeb, and exactly one year from then the school started in Thompson's Hall with P. O. Stromme and A. G. Bjerneby as instructors.

July 5, 1894, a meeting was held to consider the resignation of Rev. Gunderson, which was later accepted, with Prof. Bjorn elected to serve temporarily. On August 12, 1895, Rev. G. T. Rygh was elected to succeed Prof. Bjorn, who had resigned. In 1897 the church was repaired and improved, the chapel in the academy being used for services in the meantime. Rev. Rygh having resigned, Rev. Eggen, Madison, was chosen to serve temporarily. At the meeting held January 11, 1899, the congregation became a



Lutheran Church after remodeling in 1907

member of the United Lutheran Church of America. This meeting also decided to call Rev. Stearns, who declined. Rev. Otto Schmidt was called July 7, 1899, but also declined. On August 9, 1899, Rev. Holte accepted the call of the congregation. In 1901 the congregation built the parsonage at a cost of about \$1600.

A committee consisting of T. G. Lingard, Otto Dahle, and K. Gramm, with S. Thompson and A. E. Arneson to superintend construction, was selected for the purpose of preparing plans for remodeling the church. As per an article appearing in the **Mt. Horeb Times** on February 21, 1907, the cost of this project exceeded \$6100. At that time the congregation consisted of "85 voting members and 447 souls, and is constantly growing".

The cornerstone was laid Saturday, February 23, 1907, by the Rev. Theodore Eggen, Minneapolis. On the following day, Sunday, February 24, 1907, the church was dedicated by Rev. T. H. Dahl, president of the United Church.

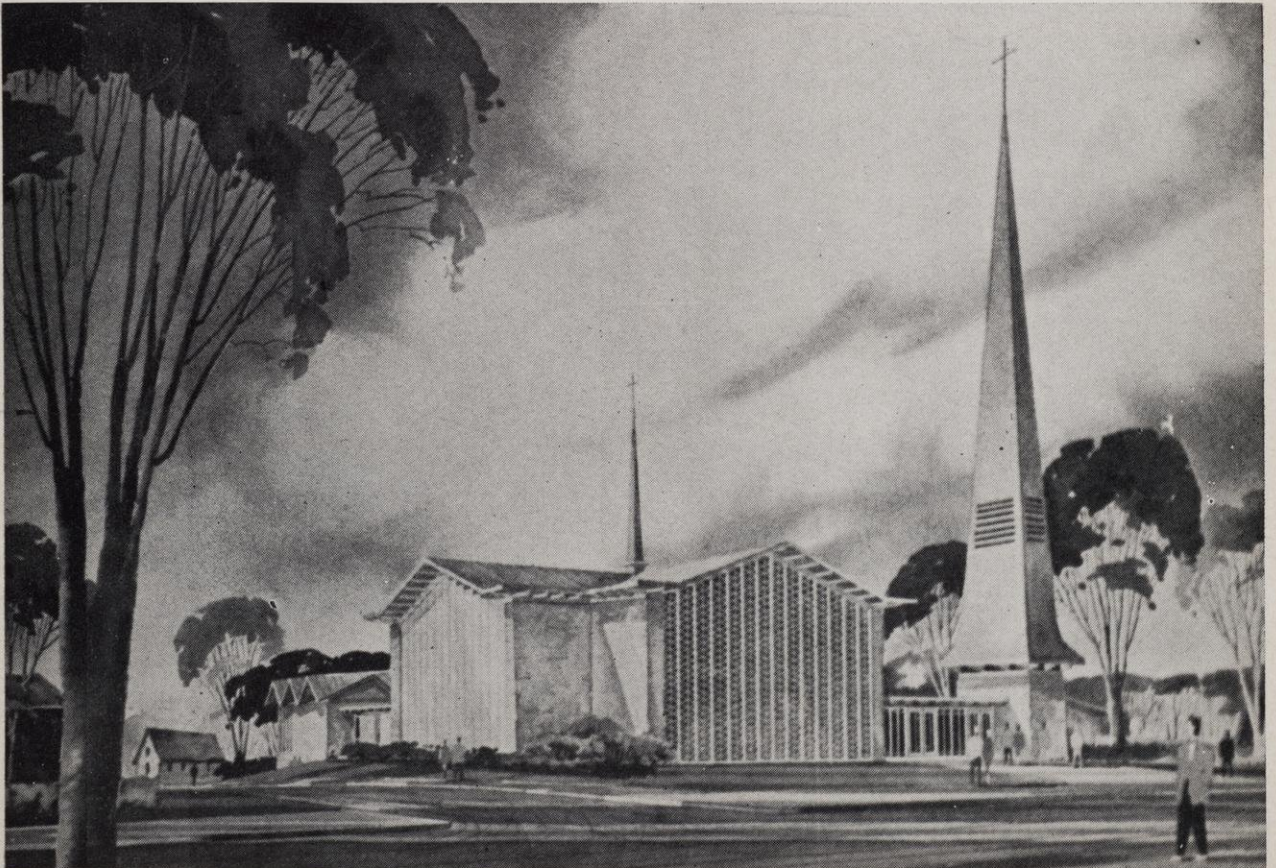
Rev. Holte resigned October 1, 1907, and Rev. Hooverstad and Rev. S. Gunderson served as interim pastors until the congregation was able to secure a fulltime pastor. Rev. Aasgard suggested this arrangement so as not to unduly burden either of the two men. During this in-

terim, in January, 1908, Blue Mounds and Mt. Horeb united as one parish and extended a call to Rev. Otto Mostrom, who accepted and was installed November 29, 1908.

Following the resignation of Rev. Mostrom, Rev. E. R. Anderson came in response to the call of the congregation in 1917, and served until his resignation, submitted in 1956 and effective in January, 1957. Rev. Ruben Mostrom was installed in January, 1957, by Dr. M. C. Austinson.

In September, 1957, the congregation approved plans for a fund raising drive to erect a new church, educational unit, and chapel. The total pledges and special gifts amounted to \$309,000. After enlisting the services of the architectural firm of Sovik, Mathre, and Madsen, Northfield, Minnesota, in July, 1958, the congregation approved their preliminary plans in April, 1959. Contracts were let in June, 1960, with the total cost of the church, educational unit, and chapel, including furnishing and architect fees, set at \$535,230. Ground breaking ceremonies were held June 19, 1960, and demolition of the church and parsonage proceeded immediately afterwards. December, 1961, is the anticipated completion date for the entire project.

The total membership of the congregation now is 1030 members.



Evangelical Lutheran Church being built in 1961

## ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

by Rev. Andrew R. Breines, Ph.D., Pastor

### German Immigrant Beginnings

St. Ignatius Congregation, Mt. Horeb, has its roots in Holy Redeemer Mission, Perry Township. The latter was settled by German Catholic immigrants during the period beginning in 1846 — fifteen years before the village of Mt. Horeb was established in 1861, a hundred years ago.

The first chronicler of these events was Lawrence Post, an early settler and founding member of the Perry Church; later a Civil War veteran and township officer. He recorded the names of the first German Catholic settlers and the years in which they arrived in Perry. "These settled mostly in the north-east section of the town of Perry," he wrote, "and in a few years formed the nucleus of what is now Holy Redeemer (St. Salvator) congregation." The rest of the township was predominantly Norwegian and Lutheran.

### Area Catholics Face A Crisis

During this initial period, 1846-61, these pioneers worshipped in the nearest Catholic

churches at Pine Bluff and Cross Plains, 15 and 20 miles away respectively, going through the wilderness on foot or by ox-cart. St. Mary's at Pine Bluff was then a mission of St. Francis Xavier at Cross Plains. Father Lawrence Conrad was the first resident pastor.

In March, 1859, a crisis struck the tiny Catholic community in Perry which was to have long-range consequences for the settlers and their descendants: Mrs. Simon Keller (a sister of Post) became critically ill; her life was despaired of. She wanted the ministrations of a priest. Vincent Holtz, a neighbor, walked the 26 miles to Madison, calling at Holy Redeemer Church. Father Michael Haider, organizer and first pastor of the congregation, answered the call. Winding his way over hills and through valleys, in many places fording little streams, the priest reached the bedside of Mrs. Keller in time to administer the last sacraments.

She died shortly after the priest left and later was buried from Holy Redeemer Church in Madison.

### Perry Church Is Planned

This experience led to the building of the Perry Catholic Church. Dreading similar long and tedious journeys, the people sought the counsel of Fr. Haider. He urged them to remain united and advised them to build a church as soon as they felt able to do so.

At the Madison priest's suggestion they called at the nearest Catholic church, St. Francis Xavier at Cross Plains. Fr. Conrad received them warmly and promised to come occasionally on weekdays in order to celebrate Mass in private homes, to baptize and, in general, to minister to the spiritual needs of the Perry Catholics. At this time, our chronicler reminds us, Mt. Horeb did not exist, and Perry was a wilderness.

Under the direction of Fr. Conrad and his successor, the Reverend Father M. Gernbauer, the Perry Catholics began the building of the first Catholic church in the township.

The above-mentioned temporary arrangements continued throughout 1859 and the beginning of 1860. When several more Catholic families arrived, it was felt that the time had come to build the church. Eleven acres of land were donated by Michael Goebel and Frank Fix. Three hundred and fifty dollars were subscribed by willing members; others volunteered to quarry and haul stones. Masons were hired for 75 cents a day, and the new edifice was started. Later an additional \$268 were raised for various improvements.

Such was the enthusiasm of the members that a simple frame building was completed before the end of the year. The following year, 1861, this structure was probably dedicated by Bishop Martin Henni, who came from Milwaukee for the ceremony. Fr. Haider donated a tabernacle. A tract of land was set aside as a burial ground.



St. Ignatius Catholic Church as it looked when dedicated in 1895.



Perry Catholics gathered in their new church each Sunday to pray the Rosary and recite the litany of the Blessed Virgin, after which one of the elders read the epistle and gospel for the Sunday with the accompanying instructions as found in the well-known commentary "Goffine". About once a month, either on Sunday or on a week day, the members took turns to get the priest from Cross Plains, and later on from Pine Bluff, to say Mass and administer the sacraments.

This situation continued for 35 years until a Catholic church was built in Mt. Horeb, and Perry became a mission to the former.

#### **Founding of St. Ignatius Congregation**

Mt. Horeb had been established as a postal station for some 33 years when the first meeting of St. Ignatius Congregation was held on February 24, 1894. The congregation at this time consisted of but 10 families. Present at the meeting were: Messrs. M. Rephan, F. Rephan, J. Reilly, B. Murphy, M. Cunneen, Eugene Allen and Father Ignatius Klein, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Pine Bluff, and of Holy Redeemer, Perry.

At a meeting it was agreed that a church should be built in Mt. Horeb, the latter showing signs of becoming a thriving community. Land was bought and construction on the new church began on October 5, 1894. Some three months later the cornerstone of the new building was laid by Fr. Klein. On January 9, 1895, the new St. Ignatius Church of Mt. Horeb was

dedicated by Archbishop F. X. Katzer of Milwaukee.

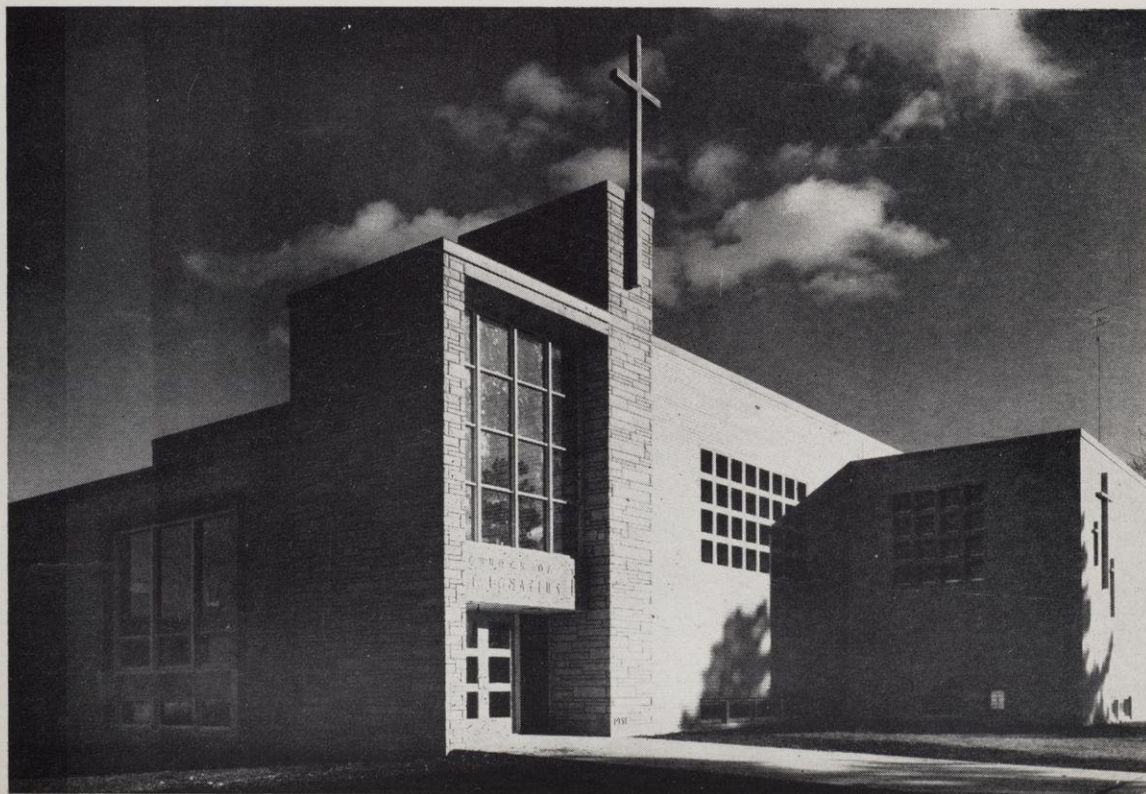
This church was to serve Catholics in the Mt. Horeb area for the next 57 years. During this time the congregation grew from the original 10 to 110 families and was served by 9 pastors. The first resident pastor of the Mt. Horeb church, with Perry as a mission, was the Reverend J. J. Salentin (1895-98). The second pastor was the Reverend John Herriges, who served from 1898-1901. Other pastors serving the two churches were: the Reverends Joseph Schlitz (1901-02); Albert Mueller (1902-05); Adam July (1905-09); Theodore Rohner (1909-28); Michael Jacobs (1928-36), now pastor at Milton Junction; Joachim Haeusler (1936-41); and Theo. F. Thome (1941-53), now a monsignor and pastor of St. Bernard Church, Madison.

#### **New Ignatius Church Is Built**

In 1950, with their membership approaching 500, St. Ignatius parishioners voted to build a new and larger church in order to meet the growing needs of the congregation. A modern structure of simple functional design made of glazed buff brick at a cost of \$165,000 was dedicated on December 14, 1952, by the Most Reverend William P. O'Connor, the first Bishop of the Madison Diocese.

#### **Reorganization of the Parish**

In September, 1953, Father Thome was replaced by the present pastor, the Reverend Andrew R. Breines. During the past 7 years marked



New St. Ignatius Catholic Church dedicated in 1952

progress has been made in the catechetical instruction of grade and high school students under the supervision of the Dominican Sisters from Edgewood High School, Madison. At the present there are 250 youngsters in the catechetical program from the Mt. Horeb parish and from the Perry mission; another 250 are expected to enter the program during the next 5 years.

The St. Ignatius Altar Society was reorganized in 1953; its present constitution was adopted at that time. The organization was affiliated with the newly-formed Diocesan Council of Catholic Women in 1954. Shortly after, the Holy Name Society for the men of the parish was also reorganized. Both societies actively participate in the parish adult education program; nine study groups are in operation in the parish each year.

In 1958, the Parish Adoration Program was established in St. Ignatius parish. To date parishioners, young and old, have made more than 5,000 private Holy Hours. Since its inception at St. Ignatius, the adoration program has spread to more than 50 other parishes in the Madison Diocese.

## THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

by Mrs. R. L. Guenveur

The earliest information we have pertaining to the Methodist Church in Mt. Horeb is to be found in a **History of Dane County**, published in 1880, in which is recorded the following statement: "The first Methodist Episcopal class was organized November 7, 1854, with Benjamin and Mary Blackwell, William T. and Rose Boardman, Elisha, Charles and Elizabeth Carver. The class was organized by Rev. J. F. Pryor and was at-

tached to the Black Earth Circuit, to which circuit the present church belongs, Rev. H. Dockham being the minister."

For about forty years the pastors serving the Mt. Horeb Methodist Church resided in Black Earth. The class met in homes and possibly part of the time in a small church which the Presbyterians had erected as early as 1848. This church stood in the present cemetery lot a short distance east of its present stone pillar entrance.

By 1866 the growing Methodist class bought two and one-half acres of land from Nathan H. Dryden and wife Emma "for the consideration of \$50" and erected a church and provided for a burial ground as well. It was a well-planned, well-built church in which any pioneer community could have taken pride. One of our townsmen, the late Thomas S. Thompson, once wrote of this old church: "The building erected was rather a pretentious one for its day, which means that the pioneers of that time were willing to give bountifully from their meager funds when it was given to further their spiritual welfare."

The Presbyterians sold their little church, united with the Methodists and later were deeded a one-half interest in the new church property. Because of the merging of these two denominations it was referred to as "The Union Church", although it remained under the jurisdiction of the Methodist conference.

For about 25 years this was the only church in the Mt. Horeb community. For a nominal fee the Lutherans were granted use of the church for their services and Sunday school until they erected a church of their own about 1890.

The spacious, well-arranged and pleasant church basement served as a community center,



Methodist Church 1954

and many were the social functions held there, including lectures, the weekly singing school and several terms of public school. Temperance societies and various business groups also held their meetings there. So it is easy to see how the community life of that early day centered around the church, and what the church really meant to the pioneers.

In 1885 a Ladies Aid Society was organized at the home of Mrs. A. W. Gordon. Charter members, besides Mrs. Gordon, were Mrs. W. M. Curtiss, Mrs. Andrew Hoff, Mrs. Henry Lohff and Mrs. Harvey Scott. Mrs. Curtiss was elected the first president with Mrs. Scott as secretary.

In the fall of 1893 the church circuit arrangement with Black Earth was terminated by action of the annual conference, and thereafter Mt. Horeb had a resident pastor. Rev. J. W. Irish was the first minister to serve in the new parish.

For 23 years after the coming of the railroad the Methodists continued their worship in the church in the old town, after which they built in the new town. On Sunday, November 27, 1904, Bishop Hamilton dedicated a new house of worship at its present location on the corner of North Third and Oak Streets. In 1913 the present parsonage was built; prior to that the congregation had rented homes for parsonage use.

On Sunday, November 25, 1929, the 25th anniversary of the new town church was observed. Several former pastors took part in the day's services, and Mrs. Henry Lohff read a church history.

At various times since its erection in 1904 the church has undergone alteration and improvement. Through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hoff, the church was presented with a substantial sum of money which was used for the brick veneering of the church and the purchase of a Hammond organ, dedicated Sunday evening, November 20, 1947.

On December 18, 1949, the church was re-dedicated, for it was 95 years since the Methodist class was organized in 1854 and 45 years since the new church had been built. Special services were held, and Bishop Northcott delivered the re-dedication address.

Centennial Services were observed on Sunday, September 19, 1954, with Bishop H. Clifford Northcott, and Rev. Deane Irish, Superintendent of the Southern District, as speakers. An excellent Centennial book of the Methodist Church in Mt. Horeb was published at that time.

Resident pastors over the years have been as follows: the Reverends J. W. Irish, G. W. Jones, J. E. Holden, John Denniston, Gilbert Denniston, George Carver, R. Pingilly, Mayson Sewell, C. C. Christenson, Ambrose Jett, William Rowe, Walter Marshfield, J. W. Barnett, Thomas Kell, Walter Snow, Robert Pow, W. I. Walker, David LaVinn, Earl Hibbard, Herbert Thompson, Gay Smith, Ralph Shackelford, John Grenfell, Norman Stephenson.

## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

by Rev. Alvin O. Pinke

The history of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Mt. Horeb can best be expressed with the meaning of the name the congregation chose many years ago: Immanuel — God with us! For 105 years God certainly has been with them.

In the year 1856 Pastor J. Deindoerfer, then serving St. John's Lutheran Church of Madison, began making regular trips to "German Valley" just outside of Mt. Horeb to serve the families of that area. Worship services were held in various homes, and before long formal organization of the congregation took place. After Pastor Deindoerfer, came the Rev. Theodore Koeberle, then the Rev. J. List.

Soon it became evident that homes of members were no longer adequate to serve the needs of the congregation, so in 1867, under the spiritual leadership of Pastor H. Vogel, the congregation purchased land for a church site and cemetery. Records during this time are meager, but it is known that a small frame church was erected, and not long after a school for religious instruction was built. Further construction followed sometime later when a parsonage was erected in the valley for the pastor.

Pastor Vogel was succeeded by Pastor Christian Wilke. In 1885, for the first time, the congregation called its first resident pastor, the Rev. Henry Kumpf. Following Rev. Kumpf was Pastor Carl Schaffnit. It was during his leadership that it became evident that something had to be done to provide more adequate facilities for the growing congregation. In 1893 the original church was taken down to make room for a new and larger House of God. The new church was dedicated in 1894.

In 1898 the Rev. G. Nitardy was called to the parish and thus began a ministry which was to extend over 42 years. During his ministry, in the year 1906, tragedy befell the congregation when lightning struck their church building, and it was completely destroyed by fire. The congregation immediately set about planning for the erection of another church. It was on the same site, only facing west instead of north



First Immanuel Lutheran Church, formerly one of the West Side School buildings.

as the old church had. Dedication of the new building was in 1908.

The first "Frauen Verein", or Ladies Aid, was organized in 1910.

In 1913, when more and more of the membership was residing in Mt. Horeb, the congregation began holding preaching services in a Methodist Church right near the village. The congregation purchased the old Public School on West Main Street in Mt. Horeb in 1919. In 1925 the school house was remodeled. Dedication of the renovated building was held on December 20, 1925.

Upon Pastor Nitardy's retirement in 1940 Pastor B. F. Matter accepted a call to serve the congregation. Pastor Matter was followed by Pastor James Hughes, who was installed on November 1, 1950. It was during his leadership that the German Valley Church was dismantled. In 1954 the congregation voted to build a new church in the village. Their former place of worship, the old school house, was torn down to make room for the new church building and parsonage. In 1955 the congregation was privileged to dedicate its new house of worship and its new parsonage.

This was also the year the congregation became independent, calling Pastor Hughes as full-time pastor. Previously Immanuel had always been a part of a multiple parish. In 1956 they celebrated their Centennial.

Pastor Hughes served the congregation until 1957, at which time Pastor Alvin O. Pinke was called. Pastor Pinke was installed on November 24, 1957, and still serves the congregation.

Immanuel means God with us. Verily, God has been with His people at Immanuel. As they go into their 106th year, the congregation prays that God will continue to be with them

and bless them as they strive to serve the Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

## CONGREGATION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

by Chester Nesheim, Jr.

The Mt. Horeb Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses had its start as missionaries preached at the homes of the people throughout this community. In conjunction with these preaching campaigns over the years, these missionaries at times conducted public Bible lectures in various parks, in the basement of the Municipal Building and in the old Parkway Theatre.

As a result of their preaching, a few persons from this community joined them in the ministry. In the late 1930's these few began to affiliate with the nearest congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, which was located in Madison. Gradually others united with them in this work, and by 1954 there were 19 active ministers in the Mt. Horeb community. On November 26 of that year the Mt. Horeb Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses was formed under the direction of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, governing body for Jehovah's Witnesses.

Chester Nesheim, Jr., was appointed by the Society to be presiding minister, and his first task was to find a suitable place to meet regularly in Bible study. In December the congregation held its first meeting in the private home of one of Jehovah's Witnesses. The congregation conducted 5 meetings each week in this home for 23 months. After meeting in this home for a few months, the attendance began to exceed 50 persons, and the congregation felt the need for larger meeting quarters. On February



Immanuel Lutheran Church

20, 1956, the congregation decided to build their own Kingdom Hall, which is the name of the meeting place of Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide. The congregation resolved that the new Kingdom Hall would be used as a center for free Bible education in the community with no collections taken up at any time.

Construction of the one-story stone and red-wood building at 428 West Main Street began in October, 1955. On November 18, 1956, the congregation began holding meetings in the new Kingdom Hall, even though it was not yet completely finished. The new building now represents more than 9,000 volunteer man hours of labor, and has a debt of less than \$8,500, although its replacement cost is estimated at \$40,000.

Today the congregation consists of 61 non-salaried ministers, 45 of whom are ordained. This represents an increase of 311% since its formation six and a half years ago. Services performed by the congregation during this period include 35,633 hours spent delivering doorstep sermons and conducting some 200 weekly home Bible studies.

## BETHEL CHAPEL

by Rev. Ernest B. Rockstad

Bethel Chapel is the meeting place for a group of Christians seeking to follow the Bible in simplicity and truth. The work had its beginnings in a series of tent meetings in the summer of 1955. The founder and present pastor is Ernest B. Rockstad, a native of the town of Springdale and a graduate of Mt. Horeb High School.

Following the tent meetings, services were first held in a downtown store building. The former Gunderson parsonage was purchased, and since January 1, 1956, this has served as the meeting place.

Although the Christians who gather at Bethel Chapel have no particular denominational affiliation, Mr. Rockstad is an ordained Baptist minister and the teachings and practice followed are Baptist in nature.

The group believes in the Bible as the Word of God and as the only rule for faith and conduct. It believes that all men outside of Jesus Christ are alienated from God, but that those who truly trust in Christ can be assured of eternal salvation in Him. It is dedicated to bearing witness to the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ.



Kingdom Hall — Jehovah's Witnesses

## PART THIRTEEN: SCHOOLS

by Mrs. Ralph Fosshage and  
Mrs. Harold Nygard

A history of Mt. Horeb would not be complete without some background information pertaining to our present school system. Before Wisconsin was organized as a territory in 1836, there was no provision for public education in the region. The first schools were established by the Jesuits for the purpose of converting and civilizing the Indians. In the period from 1836 to 1860 the schools were small log structures, poorly equipped, with rough plank seats. The teachers were chosen from the settlements at hand, whether qualified or not. As early as 1836 the pioneers in what is now Blue Mounds township realized the need of education and built the first school in this section. It was erected in Brigham's Woods, near the present site of the Cave of the Mounds.

By 1837 the federal government set aside every sixteenth section in Wisconsin townships for school lands. Most of the townships in Dane County were settled in the 1840's, so school houses in that decade sprang up on every hand.

Although the exact date is not available, District No. 1, or the Haney School, was erected a few years prior to 1866 on a lot a short distance from "Brackenwagon's Corner", now known as "Luhman's Corner", about a mile west of the village. When the railroad came through in 1881, the school building had to be moved for the right-of-way, but continued on until the close of the 1882-1883 term.

The 1883 fall term opened with most of the Haney pupils and Mt. Horeb children attending classes in a building near the stockyards, which had been operated as a saloon during the building of the railroad. A Miss M. Maynard has the honor of being the first teacher in the village of Mt. Horeb. The 1884 fall term opened in the new one-room brick school house on West Main Street, known as District No. 1, but by 1887 the

building was enlarged to provide three class rooms.

In order not to break the sequence of the Haney school history, we have moved ahead of our story, for the first public school was built in our village in 1875 in the old town, in the extreme southern section of what is now Union Cemetery, facing Ninth Street. It was originally a one-room frame building, but later a basement and second room were added. This building was in use until 1918, when it was removed to create additional space for the expansion of the cemetery.

As the village grew and prospered, the brick school house on West Main Street, in what was then known as the new town, became greatly inadequate, and in 1889 a two-story brick structure was erected to the east of the first building. In the course of time, facilities were again inadequate, and this time the roof of the first building was raised and a second story added. These two buildings were in use until the completion of the original part of the present school building in January, 1919.

A significant development in Mt. Horeb's educational system occurred in 1893 with the completion of the Lutheran Academy. Mr. H. B. Dahle, a pioneer businessman, had purchased five acres of land from Carl Boeck, with the intention of plotting the area for homes. The Rev. S. Gunderson persuaded Mr. Dahle to donate the acreage to be used as the site for the Lutheran Academy the church was planning to erect. A large brick structure was completed in 1893 at a cost of about \$12,000. The entire sum was raised by free-will offerings from the people of Mt. Horeb and vicinity. Classes opened in 1893, but for several weeks the student body met in the local furniture store. On October 3 the building was ready for use, and 116 students were enrolled.



The Mount Horeb Academy



Mount Horeb Grade and High School 1960

During the course of its ten-year existence, the Academy housed many students from other communities as boarding students. A fifty cents weekly rental per room was charged; food per person averaged \$1.25 per week, and tuition was \$1.00 per week. Students who registered for an entire school term paid \$25 in advance; otherwise the tuition ran as follows: fall term, \$8.00, winter term, \$12, spring term, \$7.00. First in importance in the curriculum was religious training, but three courses of study were offered—classical, normal, and commercial.

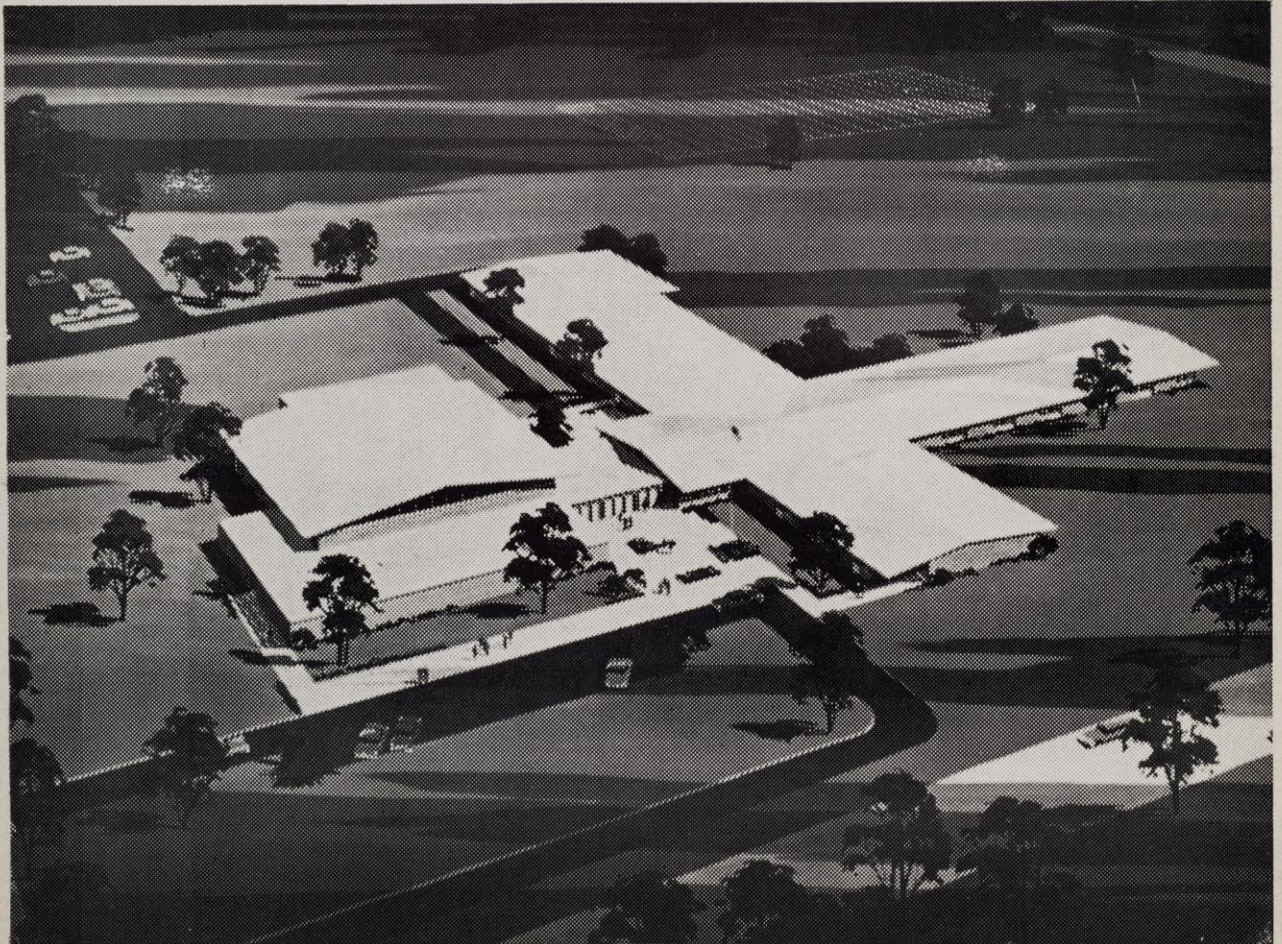
In April, 1901, the village voted to have a free high school. Two hundred dollars was needed, plus tuition and state aid to maintain the school. However, the idea was temporarily dropped when few students passed the initial entrance examinations, and it was not until May, 1903, that the high school became a reality when a referendum was finally passed in favor of free high school education.

In September of that year 65 students were enrolled, with 3 teachers employed. In addition to the required curriculum, a concert and lecture course was added, and the first football team was organized. The high school continued on in the Academy Building, which the village had pur-

chased for \$5,000, until February 2, 1917, when the structure burned to its foundations. Classes were then held in the West Side School, the village library, the Opera House Building, the Village Hall, and the Lutheran Church basement, until the completion of the new high school building in January, 1919, at a cost of \$115,000. The new building housed 8 grades and 4 years of high school. On February 4, 1932, the bonded indebtedness of \$60,000, plus interest, was paid in full.

Over 500 students were enrolled by 1940, necessitating an addition, which was completed in 1941 at a cost of \$100,000. This included a larger gymnasium, music room, rooms for agricultural course and additional room for overcrowded departments in the old building.

Transportation for our rural students began in 1941 with the purchase of 2 school buses. By 1956 the school bus fleet had been increased to 6 and was housed in a new \$35,000 school bus garage. The school property was enlarged in 1948 by the purchase of two and one-half acres of land adjoining the school at a cost of \$2,150, and in 1949 a contract was awarded to a Madison firm for the erection of an agricultural shop and class room building at a cost of \$26,500.



New High School to be completed in 1961

Plans for a unified school district were first discussed in 1947. This was a unit of local school government for administering and financing both elementary and high school education within the entire territory of the district. A single school district treasurer and one uniform school tax rate throughout the district were supposed advantages. Another object of this plan was to qualify for additional state and federal aid. The plan was not adopted, however, but in 1948 plans for considering a Union Free High School were discussed, and by October, 1949, were adopted. This district consisted of the village of Mt. Horeb and 43 surrounding farms, affording additional means of rural representation in school affairs.

Further improvements in the school building were made in 1952 and 1953 with a \$4,000 remodeling program of the home economics kitchen; the conversion of the old gymnasium into a lunch room, kitchen, two class rooms and a multiple-purpose room; and the remodeling of the heating and ventilating system, at a total cost of \$85,000. A special education room, operated by the county, was instituted in 1955.

By 1959 the population of the Mt. Horeb High School District had risen to 5,100, and included the village of Mt. Horeb, the village of Blue Mounds, parts of the towns of Springdale, Blue Mounds, Vermont, Primrose, Cross Plains, and Perry, all in Dane County, and part of the town of Moscow in Iowa County, with a total enrollment of 700 students, from kindergarten through

high school. Seventeen classroom teachers were employed in the high school and fourteen in the elementary grades.

Information meetings were held during this year to explain the need of additional school facilities. During 1959 all of the areas sending their students to Mt. Horeb High School on a tuition basis saw fit to join the school district, with the exception of an area in the town of Primrose. This changed the valuation of the area from nine million to about twenty-two million, providing enough tax base to permit the building of a new school.

The Thompson farm, on the east edge of Mt. Horeb, was selected as a site for the new school, and in April, 1960, a district referendum authorized a \$1,050,000 bond issue for purchase of the 30 acre site and erection and equipping of a new high school.

John Flad and Associates, a Madison architectural firm, drew up plans for the new school; bids were let in September, and construction began in October, 1960. The new building will contain twenty-six teacher stations, and will accommodate enrollment of five-hundred students. It is expected that high school enrollment will exceed four hundred by 1965.

The high school will move to its new location in December, 1961. A study is now being made by a committee of board members and laymen to determine the best use of the present school building for future educational needs.

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## PART FOURTEEN: RECREATION AND AMUSEMENT

by Mrs. Harley B. Rue

In 1866 when Mt. Horeb, or "Horeb's Corners", was located on the east side of town near the cemetery, indoor recreation was held largely in the basement of the Methodist Church. This basement was the scene of church suppers, oyster stews, sociables and lectures, and a weekly singing school was conducted there by Ben T. Rogers. It was the only public place available at that time for large group gatherings, and classes were conducted there while the school was under construction. Thus the old Methodist Church served a need in the history of Mt. Horeb as its first community center.

Other forms of recreation not appropriate for the church, such as card parties, dances, candy pulls, and games, were held in the homes of the residents. After the school building was completed, recreational activities were held there, including dialogues, lectures, charades, spelling bees and essay contests.

Baseball playing (using a board and a rag or cord ball), croquet, and horseshoe pitching games were among the outdoor sports in which early residents participated. The 17th of May (Norwegian Independence Day) and the Fourth of July were occasions for these activities which were attended by people of Mt. Horeb and the surrounding area. Bowery dances were also held on special celebration days.

After the coming of the railroad in 1881, a definite change occurred in the social life of the town. Several of the old town businesses were moved to the present village site, and many new places of business were erected in the new town. A large hall above the Halvor Nelson saloon was the scene of public dances and shows of various kinds, including wrestling matches and masquerades. On March 14, 1885, Ringling Bros. Shows performed at the roller rink in the Nelson Building to a capacity crowd. Roller skating was then becoming a popular indoor sport.

By the late '80's Thompson Hall (over the Andrew Thompson furniture store on East Main) had become the center of much recreational activity. The hall had a large stage with stage scenery and two dressing rooms. Before long Mt. Horeb had regular "theatrical troupes" playing six evening runs with a different play every night. Medicine shows selling Cactus Oil "pain killer", hypnotism shows, amateur shows, lectures and dances were also held in Thompson Hall.

Baseball was formally organized here on May 2, 1885, when a meeting took place at Elver's store for those interested in the sport. The team, known as the Mt. Horeb Stars, was captained by Frank Gilbert, and Adolph Elver was secretary-treasurer. Another baseball team, the Gray Eagles, was formed in 1890. The Boston Bloomers played the Gray Eagles here in May, 1904.

Some of the team members were: Vernon Bes-tor, Isaac Fosshage, George Harmon, Joe Harmon, Martin Holum, Alfred Krogh, and H. C. Wagner.

A half-mile track was situated in the area now known as South Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Streets. The track was used for both bicycle and horse racing, with some of the horses being owned by Fred and Martin Riphon and Dennis Murphy. Bicycle racing was a popular sport in Mt. Horeb around 1894. The racers, known as the Mt. Horeb Wheelmen, participated in several kinds of games, such as the two-mile handicap, six-mile relay races, and inter-club championships. Some of the Wheelers were: Gabe Anderson, B. H. Grinder, D. E. Murphy, Olaus Peterson, A. G. Paulson, George Rockstad, and E. E. Sater. Olaus Peterson was one of the cyclists who earned \$800 as a racer and participated in events at Black Earth, Dodgeville, and Mineral Point.

The Red Path Lyceum tent show and the Chautauqua shows held summer programs in Boeck Park, the site of our present swimming pool. These tent shows furnished superior entertainment for the townspeople; season tickets were sold in advance sales, and most performances were "sellouts".

In 1895 the Opera House Building was erected by a stock company. Performances by theatrical troupes, dances, political rallies, and home talent contests were held at the Opera House Hall. Continuing moving picture serials, such as "The Million Dollar Mystery", were shown every weekend; regular movies were shown during the week. Dan F. Kelliher was the manager. Movies, first held in the Opera House Hall, continued to be held in the Parkway and Strand theatres. The Strand theatre, now managed by Floyd Albert, is at present Mt. Horeb's only theatre.

In July, 1885, six balloons were released by H. G. Elliott on the corner where Hoff's store is now located. Attached to each balloon was a note informing the finder that he would receive a free one-pound bag of tea if the slip were returned to Mr. Elliott. In September of that year, an item appearing in the **Mt. Horeb Weekly News** stated that a Winnebago Indian from Lake Superior had found a balloon and started out on foot to collect his bag of tea.

In September, 1885, two trained bears were brought to town and performed on the street. Another enjoyable form of entertainment for young and old alike was the occasional visit of an organ grinder and his trained monkey.

Torch light parades were held during political campaigns. Marching participants carried lamps on poles and sang campaign songs.

North of town a swimming pool was formed by damming up a small creek that now feeds

Stewart Lake. This was a favorite spot for the boys of the town—with the last one in dubbed “a sissy”.

The men of the town enjoyed turkey shoots at Thanksgiving time. The marksmen would stand at the end of the railroad depot platform and shoot at turkey heads protruding through a hole in a box. Jule Bok (yulabok) was a favorite Christmas and New Year's season stunt. Young and old would dress up in strange costumes to conceal their identity and call on their friends. Fun and treats would follow.

Ice cream socials, usually sponsored by the Ladies Aid of the Methodist Church, were held on the corner of North Third Street (now American Legion property, formerly owned by Andrew W. Gordon). Home-made ice cream was furnished by Mrs. Andrew Hoff, Mrs. A. Gordon, and Mrs. Will Britt.

A favorite Sunday afternoon pastime for the young people was meeting the 4:30 p.m. passenger train and seeing their friends off to school or back to work at Madison.

Fourth of July celebrations were usually ushered in by the anvils from the Sam Thompson blacksmith shop. The handle hole was filled with powder and placed between the two anvils, and the touch of a streak of powder with a hot rod would produce a noise that could be heard at great distances. Bowery dances, with lemonade for refreshments, were important parts of the festival. The program always began with the reading of the Declaration of Independence, often read by Albert O. Barton, former Dane County Register of Deeds. In the early 1900's one of the outstanding acts on the entertainment program held at Boeck's Park was the release of a large gas-filled balloon. A woman was carried aloft in the balloon to descend later by parachute in the woods north of town, where she was picked up by members of her group. Fire crackers, torpedoes, and sparklers were enjoyed by the children. The Fourth of July celebration of 1914 was attended by twenty-five hundred people.

Mt. Horeb's first band was an organization called the Blue Mounds Brass Band. J. P. Moe, father of Jorgen Moe, and a painter and paper hanger by trade, helped organize this band in the latter part of the 19th century and directed it for many years.

Gypsies were frequent visitors to Mt. Horeb around 1912, and there would generally be three or four wagon-loads filled with women and children. The gypsies were never allowed to make camp inside the village limits and were under constant surveillance by the townspeople while they were in the area.

The first Harvest Festival was held in Mt. Horeb in September, 1921. Fred H. Hanneman, director of the Civic Band, who had recently moved to this community, initiated the idea; and the Civic Band, which was composed of local businessmen, became the sponsors of the festival, which was designed to create good will be-

tween the town and country folks. During these miniature county fairs the farmers and their wives, as well as the townspeople, would display their work and produce. Vegetables of all kinds, flowers, livestock, crocheting, tatting, embroidery, quilts, home-baked foods, and canned foods were displayed and prizes awarded. Nora Evans was the first chairman of the Women's Culinary Display.

This Harvest Festival, or Fall Frolic, was eagerly anticipated by both town and rural people. Festival Queen contests, grandstand performances and pageants, school displays, business displays and 4-H contests were highlights of these festivals, as were the concession stands and rides and the Bingo games. After 1954 the Harvest Festivals were discontinued.

In the year 1912 Golmar Brothers, Barnum and Bailey's Circus came to Mt. Horeb with their own circus trains around three o'clock one morning. Many of the townspeople met the train and watched the unloading of the parade wagons and the trained animals, which were then removed to the circus field, land presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Murphy. Other circus sites in Mt. Horeb were the area now known as Center Avenue, the farm land of Henry T. Thompson, now South Eighth Street, and the present Roy Tvedt land near the Stewart Park entrance.



The Ski Slide and a small part of the crowd present at the ski tournament Feb. 24, 1914, at Lake Park.

In 1914 a ski jump was built on top of Stewart Park hill, the entrance to the Park. This jump was considered one of the best in the country with large crowds attending the meets, including spectators from Madison brought by special train. Some of the world's finest skiers participated, including Ragnar Omtvedt, world's champion skier, from Norway. Others were Anders Haugen, Anders Olson, C. Landvich, E. Landvich, Lars Haugen, Sigurd Hanson of Chicago, Alex Hendrickson of Blair, Wisconsin, and David Lind, Barney Reilly, Einar Lund, and Ole Gunderson, all of Mt. Horeb. In 1920 the ski tower was removed and taken to Madison to be erected on university property.

In June, 1952, a membership charter was granted to the Mt. Horeb chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America. Sever Martinson was the organizer of this group, which numbered about thirty, with Arnold (Bud) Byrne as the director. The ladies counterpart of the SPEBSQSA, known as the Sweet Adelines, was organized about the same time and had a membership of about twenty-five.

School activities are an important part of the recreation in Mt. Horeb, and sports events have continued to increase in importance. As a member of the Southwest Wisconsin League, Mt. Horeb High School has participated in football, basketball, baseball, and track events. Indicative of the desire to promote school and community athletic programs, was the organization in 1956 of the Mt. Horeb Booster Club. Class plays, homecoming, forensic contests, band and chorus concerts, Christmas programs, spring music festivals, and commencement activities are highlights of the school year. The playground provides swings, slides, tennis courts, and athletic fields for the children. In recent years floodlights were installed on the football field to provide illumination for night football and baseball games.

The Norsemen Chorus, consisting of twelve men, was organized in 1934 by Trygve E. Thoresen. Fred H. Hanneman was the director, and the group was accompanied by Albert A. Austin.



Ski Jumpers in front of depot awaiting their train. Second man in bottom row is Ragnar Omtvedt, Norway's champion jumper. At his left are Barney Reilly and his one-armed ski pal, David Lind.

Arthur Bloland, Philip Fosshage, Wallace Fosshage, Gay Gesme, Isaac Gesme, Sever Martinson, Dr. E. J. Mithus, G. C. Osmundson, Owen Paulson, Edwin Offerdahl, Dr. A. S. Thompson, and Trygve Thoresen were the members of the chorus. In 1936 they presented a minstrel show; five performances were given, some in neighboring towns. Sid Thoresen, Chicago, brother of Trygve Thoresen, was a guest soloist with the chorus on several occasions. The group sang over radio station WIBA, at the Martin Luther Home in Stoughton, Old Folks Home in Verona, and Lake View Sanitarium in Madison, and at church programs and services in Mt. Horeb, Daleyville, Madison and Stoughton. They also introduced the song "Solitude" composed by Fred H. Hanneman, with Wallace Fosshage as soloist.

The nine-hole Mt. Horeb golf course is enjoyed by golf enthusiasts from surrounding communities as well as by the townspeople. Ladies Day events and annual championship tournaments are held each year. In the summer of 1960 a new eight lane bowling alley was added to the clubhouse. It is now known as the Mt. Horeb Golf Bowl, and operated by Ron Wirth. There are two other bowling alleys in Mt. Horeb; Phip's Alleys, operated by Philip Hoff, and Corella's Alleys, operated by Corella Comiskey.

Mt. Horeb's swimming pool, located in Boeck's Park, was completed in 1954. This modern pool with excellent bath house facilities, trained lifeguards and safety regulations had long been a dream of Mt. Horeb citizens.

The Folklore Village Festival, the first of its kind in the region, has been held in the high school every year since 1948. The event takes place from December 28 to January 1. More than sixty participants come from Colorado, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Illinois, Virginia, West Virginia, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The main theme of these festivals is built around the colorful customs and traditions surrounding the holiday season that are brought to this country by different nationality groups. The former Jane Farwell originated the festivals, but they are now supervised by a board of six directors from various states who are elected each year from the attending membership.

A Mt. Horeb Flying Club was organized January 6, 1958, after Clarence Gonstead built the Mt. Horeb air strip. The original members were Ralph Buechner, president; Gay Sutter, vice president; Windy Hoffmaster, secretary; Buster Finke, treasurer; Bob Gerber; Bud Post; Ed Post; John Wittwer; Donald Evenson; Jack Wirth; Joe Schmitz.

Club members have flown about 1,050 hours and approximately 84,000 miles. Five members have received private pilot licenses; eight have received student pilot licenses. There are 17 members at present.

The Sutter's Ridge Ski Club, about 3 miles north of Highway 18, on the Little Norway Road, was opened in January, 1959, by Sandy Steven-

son, who came from Chicago. With snow-making equipment, a 300 ft. vertical drop, four open runs from 1000 to 1700 ft. and a 1200 ft. T bar, the club offers excellent facilities for area skiers.

Other attractive features are a spacious lodge, ski shop and rental shop, and skiing instructions by Roy Asherlund. The club's season runs from December 1 to March 15.



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## PART FIFTEEN: MT. HOREB NEWSPAPERS

by Mrs. Harold Fosshage

### BLUE MOUNDS WEEKLY NEWS

The first Mt. Horeb newspaper was the **Blue Mounds Weekly News** founded in 1880 by Ed Breen. It was conducted by H. G. Elliott from 1881 to 1887 (except February to July, 1884, by P. Kenney) and in partnership with J. N. Dahlen from July 1884 to April 1887. After July, 1885, it was styled the **Mt. Horeb Weekly News** and was merged in the **Black Earth Advertiser** in June, 1887. The publication was printed at Black Earth, and after the merger subscribers were serviced by the **Black Earth Advertiser**.

### DANE COUNTY SUN

In March, 1887, the **Dane County Sun** made its appearance. Its editor was G. G. Mandt, son-in-law of our first village president, A. E. Arneson. This was a four-page publication, like the **Blue Mounds Weekly News**, and very much the same in character.

### MOUNT HOREB PROGRESS

On May 3, 1892, J. N. Dahlen and T. G. Lingard started the **Mount Horeb Progress** in opposition to the **Sun**. This was also a four-page weekly paper. On March 23, 1893, Mr. Lingard sold his interest in the paper to J. N. Risjord, and the new firm of Dahlen and Risjord purchased the **Sun** from Mandt on June 1 that year. The two papers were merged and became the **Mount Horeb Times**.

### MOUNT HOREB TIMES

In September, 1895, the **Mount Horeb Times** was owned and edited by J. N. Dahlen, independent. This was also a six-column, four-page paper which sold for \$1.00 per year.

The **Times'** make-up was different from the earlier papers in that it contained many more items of local interest, ignoring the long accounts of foreign affairs. The front and back page were hand set and contained ads, local notes and stories. The inside pages were readyprint stories and articles.

At the turn of the century the **Times** came out with an eight-page edition with four pages home print.

Mr. Dahlen sold the paper to F. S. Zintz on March 1, 1922. He conducted the paper for sev-

eral years; then it was sold to Claude V. Sullivan and R. H. Foss of Milwaukee. Later William Ihland was also the publisher. In 1932 the **Times** was absorbed by the **Mount Horeb Mail**.

### MOUNT HOREB MAIL

On November 13, 1901, the **Mount Horeb Mail** made its appearance under the editorship of O. M. Eidsmore. This, too, was a six-column, four-page paper, but all hand set.

Preparatory to publishing the **Mail**, Mr. Eidsmore imported equipment from Chicago which was installed in a building one door east of Dahle Bros. Store, and engaged A. C. Krohn, of Chicago, to take charge of the mechanical and job department.

In 1904 Mr. Krohn purchased the **Mail** from Mr. Eidsmore. The passing years brought many improvements and changes not only in the physical appearance of the paper, but in the mechanical plant as well. In 1911 the present building was built on the site now occupied by the west side of the Klusendorf Chevrolet Co., and in 1915 the building was moved to its present site and later an addition constructed on the south end.

The eight-page paper replaced the four-page edition. The addition of a linotype (the **Mail** now boasts two), modern press with attached folder and trimmer (making it possible to print four pages at a time instead of the customary two, and to do the folding and trimming at the time the last four pages are being printed), and other equipment saw the end of an era of hand setting and folding.

In 1924 the **Mail** did away with the "patent inside" and came out with an eight-page all home print edition. In 1932 it absorbed the **Mount Horeb Times**, and since then the community has been served by the one paper.

Mr. Krohn remained at the helm until 1950, when ill health forced him to retire. In 1951 the paper was purchased by his son, Elmer Krohn, and his daughter, Alice Krohn Fosshage.

Since Mr. Elmer Krohn's death on June 15, 1960, his wife, Julia, and Mrs. Fosshage have been co-editors and publishers of the paper, with Robert Krohn as assistant and manager.

CONGRATULATIONS MT. HOREB

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