Happy 150th birthday, Fort Atkinson. 1986

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Happy 150th Birthday, Fort Atkinson

Daily Jefferson County Union — JULY 16, 1986

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A lot happened before 1836

By Crawford B. Thayer

Many fascinating things happened in Fort Atkinson before the arrival of Dwight Foster, the first settler, on Nov. 10, 1836.

For example, 10,000 years ago, Fort Atkinson was still covered by a North American sheet of ice one mile high, a slow-moving field of ice called the Wisconsin glacier . . . which has receded back toward the North pole to get another load of rocks and sand.

The first humans arrived in the Fort Atkinson area about 8,000 years ago, when the glacier began to melt. Their ancestors had entered the American continent by crossng the land bridge between Russia and Alaska across the Bering Strait.

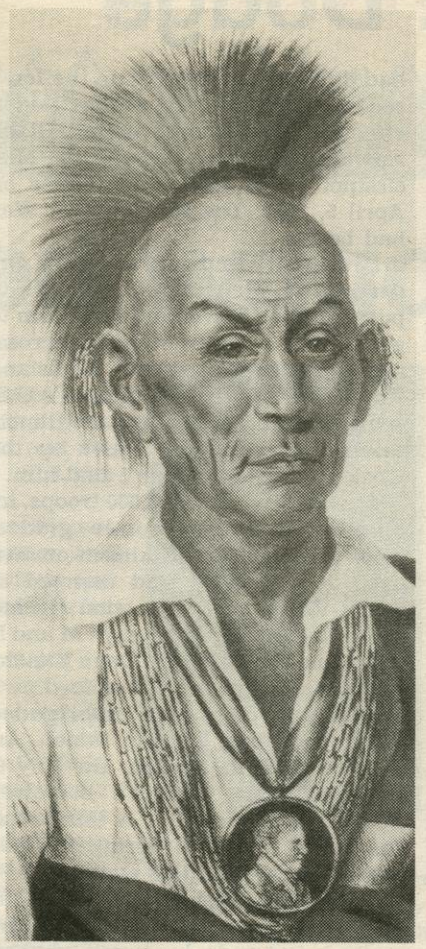
The first passersby were nomadic foragers (10,000-4,000 B.C.) who had to chase their food such as elephant-like mastadons and wooly mamoths.

Later native Americans learned to survive by staying near one place. These sedentary hunters and gatherers (4,000-1,000 B.C.) lived on seasonally available food such as deer, migratory waterfowl (especially around Lake Koshkonong) and a variety of nuts and roots.

Next, these people living in Fort Atkinson settled down to became pioneer gardeners (1,000 B.C.-1,000 A.D.) growing maize, squash, beans and pumpkins.

They are the people we may know best, for between 500 and 1,000 A.D. this effigy mound culture constructed long (linear) mounds, round (conical) mounds, and picture (effigy) mounds shaped like birds, turtles, bears, panthers and deer. The location of the many mounds built here is shown in an exhibit at the Hoard Historical Museum.

A unique exception to the many mounds is the famous panther effigy intaglio located on Riverside Drive between the Robert Street bridge and Rock River Park. The intaglio — a mound of reverse, formed as a depression dug in the earth — is one of the two intaglios which still exist worldwide.



Chief Black Hawk

Gen. Henry Atkinson

Following the mound builders were village farmers (1,000-1,700 A.D.) who were similar to the Woodland Indians we know today — woodland because Fort Atkinson is situated in woodland country, rather than prairie, mountain or arctic.

In Fort Atkinson then, the land west of the Rock River (Sinissippi) was covered with trees — neither thick nor very tall — and there was no underbrush to obstruct the view. The trees seemed like an irregular orchard and continued on the south side of the river. In spring it was literally covered with flowers, including ladyslipper and honeysuckle.

Most of the trees were burr oak; here and there would be a white oak towering high above the rest like a sentinel overlooking them all. It was a beautiful country.

In Fort Atkinson, Indians who lived on the west side of the Rock River were Winnebagoes, while those on the east side were Pottowatomies. Pottowatomie Chief Kewaskum, for instance, had his summer village where the Koshkonong Mounds Country Club is located today, and "Koshkonong" is a Pottowatomie word meaning "the lake we live on".

One exception was Maneater's Village. He was a Winnebagoe, but his village was located on the east side of the river where it enters Lake Koshkonong. White Crow's Winnebagoe Village was located on Carcajou Point, the west bank.

Juliette Kinzie, wife of the sub agent for Indian Affairs at Fort Winnebago in Portage, was the first white woman to see Lake Koshkonong and Maneater's Village, which she described as follows:

"Maneater's Village . . . a collection of neat bark wigwams, with extensive fields on each side of corn, beans, and squashes, recently planted, but already giving promise of a fine crop. In front was a broad blue lake, the shores of which, to the south, were open and marshy, but near the village, and stretching far away to the north, were bordered by fine lofty tress. The village was built but a short distance below the point where the Rock River opens into the lake . . ."

And she spoke of her party, returning to Fort Winnebagoe from Chicago, in the spring of 1831, as it crossed Rock River to today's Black Hawk Island:

(Continued on page 4)

Putting 150 years into 112 pages was quite a patchwork job, but one that was a "must" for the Daily Jefferson County Union in 1986. It isn't often — in fact, it's only every century and a half — that we get a chance to chronicle the important and not-so-important events that have taken place since Fort Atkinson was founded back in 1836.

This magazine celebrating the city's sesquicentennial is the product of a lot of blood, sweat and tears. Countless hours were spent by dozens of people, from the reporters who sorted photos in the Hoard Historical Museum archives and sat through late nights in front of their video display terminals to the persons pasting up the pages and "shooting" the galleys to make plates for the printing press.

What's unique about it, we think, is that it not only features stories penned by present and past Daily Union staffers, but also taps Fort Atkinson's hidden literary resources. Numerous "guest authors" took time to research and write on topics of their interest and/or expertise. We thank them for responding to our call.

The majority of photos were gleaned from the Hoard Historical Museum, and thanks goes out to curator Helmut Knies and assistant Jan Kraus for allowing us to rifle their files. By the way, photos augmenting Crawford Thayer's lead story are from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and Illinois State Historical Library.

And credit for the front cover photo goes to Hoard's Dairyman artist James Baird. Tom and Sue Burgess and daughter Meg posed as Dwight, Almira and Celeste Foster, Fort Atkinson's first white settlers, for Baird and the rest of the city during a recreation of the settling of Fort Atkinson on July 4.

The writers behind the bylines put a lot of work into this issue and deserve a round of applause, too. Perhaps you might mention it when you see them at the supermarket or on the street. The best thanks of all, however, would be for you to simply set this magazine aside and read it from cover to cover. And when you're done, put it in your home library for future reference.

As we said, compiling so many years into so little space is no easy task and, while we've tried to cover most of the bases, we probably struck out on some. We hope we did not omit any person, place or thing that played a critical role in the city's founding; if we did, please accept our apologies.

The content of an issue such as this is, of course, is purely subjective. Everyone has a different idea of what is important or humorous or interesting. We hope our readers find this magazine not only informative, but also entertaining and something that they'll page through again and again.

It is the Daily Union's birthday gift to Fort Atkinson. Enjoy. — editor Christine Blumer.

Frontier guide

'We came to fight Indians, not build stockades': Dodge

(Continued from page 3)

". . . we dismounted, and the men commenced the task of unsaddling and unloading. We were soon placed in the canoes, and paddled across to the opposite bank. Next, the horses were swum across; after them came the carriage. Two long wooden canoes were securely lashed together side by side, and being of sufficient width to admit of the carriage standing within them, the passage was commenced. Again and again the tottering barks would sway from side to side, and a cry or shout would arise from our party on shore, as the whole mass seemed about to plunge sideway into the water, but it would presently recover itself, and at length, after various deviations from the perpendicular, it reached the shore in safety."

In her book Wau-Bun ("Early Times"), Kinzie also tells how they got across Mud Lake by riding piggyback on husbands and Indians.

The Indians lived in harmony with nature (and at war with anyone who moved in on their hunting grounds) for 8,000 years before the real trouble started in 1492, when Columbus sailed the ocean blue and misnamed all of the inhabitants "Indians" because he thought he had landed in India.

The arrival of the boat people from Europe put pressure on the native Americans to get out of their way or die. Black Hawk's ancestors, for example, got pushed from Montreal, Canada, to Saginaw, Mich., to Sauk City and Prarie du Sac, Wis., to Saukenuk (at today's Rock Island, Ill.).

Black Sparrow Hawk, leader of a small "British band" of Sauk and Fox Indians, was forced out of Saukenuk in June 1831. His women had difficulty in digging up the Iowa sod to plant their corn, so they said in effect, "Let's go home again". Black Hawk agreed, and crossed the Mississippi River back into Illinois on April 5, 1832. The Black Hawk War had begun.

President Andrew Jackson ordered Brig. Gen. Henry Atkinson to pursue Black Hawk and force him to get out of the United States (by crossing the Mississippi into Louisiana Purchase Territory). Atkinson's U.S. Army Infantry troops and the Illinois militia chased Black Hawk up the Rock River, but couldn't find him.

Atkinson's army of 3,500 troops, including 95 Pottowatomie guides, went through Fort Atkinson on Friday, July 6, 1832, and camped at Burnt Village at the junction of what today are County Highways M and N near Cold Spring on the Dean Yandry farm. And they ran out of food.

Atkinson dismissed unbrigaded units, including that in which Arbraham Lincoln served. On July 9, someone stole Lincoln's borrowed horse, "Speedwell". A historical marker at the Cold Spring wayside commemmorated this event.

How did he get home? ". . . the generous men of our company walked and rode by turns with us, and we fared about equal with the rest."

The rest of the army was sent for food. Atkinson asked Col. Henry Dodge (in charge of Michigan Territory or Wisconsin militia) to build a stockade to protect the supplies that would soon arrive. Dodge replied, "Sir, we did not come to build fortifications. We came here to fight Indians!" So Atkinson sent Dodge and his squadron along with the other troops to Fort Winnebago to get food.

This left behind only the U.S. Army Infantry (no horses) under the command of Col. Zachary Taylor. These troops built the stockade, starting construction on July 11, 1832, and completing it only days later, by July 16.

Here's a queer quirk of history: While 23-year-old Abe Lincoln (who was to become our 16th president) was on the trek home from Cold Spring, Zachary Taylor (who was to be our 12th president) built Fort Atkinson because Henry Dodge (who was to become the first and last governor of Wisconsin Territory) told Atkinson to build his own fort. When Taylor was elected president in 1848, Dodge failed to become vice president in the same election on the third or "Barn Burners" ticket.

The stockade was made of trunks of trees, the larger of which were split in half, with a trench or ditch dug three or four feet around the entire closure. The tree trunks were then stood up on end, in the ditch, close together, the dirt shoveled back into the ditch and trampled down, leaving the tree trunks, or pickets, sticking up about eight feet above the ground.

The stockade, which probably contained five or six acres, was built along Rock River near the former Eli May house in the 400 block of East Milwaukee Avenue.

On Tuesday, July 17, 1832, Atkinson wrote to his commanding officer: "Whilst lying here we have thrown up a strong stockade work flanked by four block houses, for the security of our supplies and the accommodation of the sick. I shall garrison it with a few regulars (sick) and 150 to 200 volunteer troops under an Army officer."

The first death in Fort Atkinson was that of David W. Dobbs, a private in Capt. R.B. Mason's Grenadier Company of the 1st Regiment, U.S. Army Infantry. He died on July 25, 1832.

Dobbs was 31 years old, had a dark complexion, brown hair and stood six feet tall. He was originally from Patrick County, Va. It was thought by early settlers that he was shot by an Indian from across Rock River while fishing. Buried on a hill

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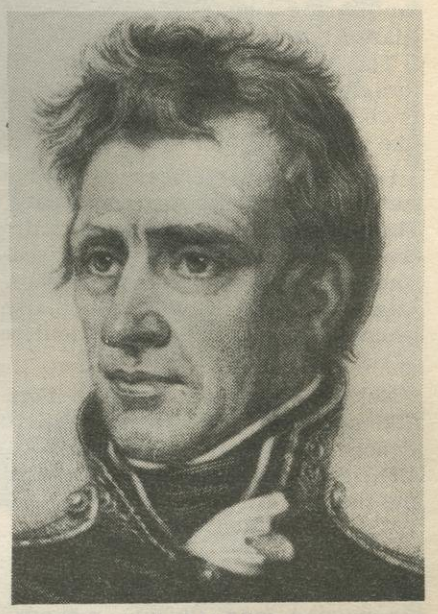
Soldier of pioneer days.

Juliette Kinzie



Andrew Jackson

Capt. Gideon Low

Westward, ho

Foster led wagon train to Fort

By Thomas Beebe

The Indians were the first inhabitants of what was to become Fort Atkinson, as early reports placed villages of both the Winnebago and the Potawatomi tribes on the shores of Lake Koshkonong.

The area which today is Jefferson County was first explored and later claimed by France and then ceded to Great Britain in 1763. British and French interests were much the same, the rich fur bearing animal population.

Following the Revolutionary War, America acquired the land in 1783, although it wasn't until 1796 that all British posts were in the hands of their new owners.

Through the War of 1812 and beyond, the land now occupied by Fort Atkinson was crossed by a few army trails but not much more. The land was so unsettled and so unsurveyed that Jefferson Davis, a young West Point graduate stationed at Fort Winnebago (Portage) in 1829, could claim to be the first American to chart the area. He was also, quite possibly, the first American to see Lake Koshkonong.

The Black Hawk War, although a sad chapter in American military history, upped the interest in the land around Lake Koshkonong. Where the Indians had fought to regain their land, the actual outcome was an influx of white settlers.

In order to keep the influx orderly, the United States government set out in 1832 to survey the land west of Lake Michigan. One of the surveyors, and one of Jefferson County's first settlers was Milo Jones. A Vermont farmer, he came to Wisconsin in 1834 to work as an axman running meridian lines for surveyor Hiram Bingham.

By 1836, the future of the area around Lake Koshkonong was brightening. A group of 16 men — including Jones, Dwight Foster and Solomon Juneau — organized the Rock River Land and Claim Co. for the purpose of claiming the land at the terminus of a proposed canal connecting the Rock River with Lake Michigan.

Although pronounced feasible and funded to the tune of $800,000 in 1838, the canal failed in 1844 after only one mile of digging. However, interest in the new land by the great lake was now unstoppable.

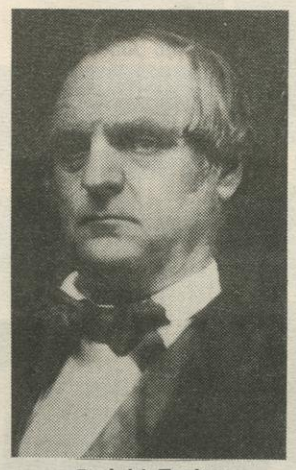
Dwight Foster was born at Union, Conn., on April 18, 1801. After a family move to Oneida, N.Y., Foster relocated his family to Milwaukee in 1836 where he joined the Rock River Land and Claim Co. That fall, he became the first member of the corporation to settle his family along the Rock River.

During their early years in the area, the Fosters' home served as a stopping off place for many, many travelers. In February 1837, Dwight welcomed his brothers Edward and Alvin and their wives, and in 1838 he began the first ferry service across the Rock River and became the first postmaster, a position he held for four years.

Foster, in addition to his obvious claim to fame, was most well known for opening up his home as a gathering place for friends and weary strangers alike. He died in Fort Atkinson on Feb. 8, 1870.

Foster's coming to the Fort Atkinson area opened the floodgate of migration. In 1837, his sister, Rebekah, and her husband, Rufus Dodge, a blacksmith from New York, followed to the area.

Rufus Dodge had moved to the Bark River in 1836 to help Alvin Foster and David Sargent build a sawmill. Once that was accomplished, he returned to New York, packed up his wife and son, and made the journey back to Fort Atkinson.



Dwight Foster

Almira Foster

Rebekah Dodge corresponded with a friend, Caroline Barrie, in New York. One of her letters ended with a paragraph saying that she "would like to have you settle near us, if you thought it best." She did, and moved to Fort Atkinson, with two of her four sons, in 1839.

Caroline Barrie later became the second Mrs. Asa Snell, one of the community's most well known citizens. In 1863, she became the only woman among the original stockholders of the First National Bank of Fort Atkinson.

Asa Snell moved from New York to Milwaukee in 1838. The Snell party walked to Fort Atkinson and stayed with the ever-hospitable Fosters until they found a place they could call home.

Once settled in, the Snells returned the Fosters' hospitality to all who were in need. Their Cedar Lake House served as a convenient stopping off place on the road between Madison and Milwaukee.

The year 1837 also saw the arrival of another famous family, the Rockwells, in Fort Atkinson. Charles Rockwell claimed a section of land on the Bark River and built a one-room cabin. The following year he built an addition to the cabin, stocked it with some merchandise and soon turned it into Fort Atkinson's first commercial enterprise.

In addition, Rockwell and his wife, Caroline, operated Rockwells' Crossing, a ferry that crossed the river south of the Bark River Bridge on Milwaukee Avenue. He was also a carpenter by trade, built, in ensuing years, the first schoolhouse and church in Fort Atkinson.

There is often little difference between the famous and infamous. That fine line applied to one area pioneer clan that became known as the "Fighting Finches."

Originally from Pennsylvania, the Finches moved to Michigan in the 1830s. They served in that state's militia during the Black Hawk War and received bounty land in Jefferson County. By 1838, Moses Finch, four of his 12 sons and their families had settled near Lake Koshkonong which became known as Finchtown.

Alleged troubles with neighbors resulted in part of the clan moving to Lake Mills where they settled west of Rock Lake on London Marsh, and by the start of the Civil War almost all of the family had packed up and moved to such places as Missouri and Iowa and some even further west.

In 1899, a fitting epitaph was written for the "Fighting Finches": "They were of that class of restless spirits who are continually looking beyond for other conquests to make in the subjugation of nature's wild forces."

Without a doubt, one of Fort Atkinson's most successful early citizens was Lucien B. Caswell. The son of a Vermont farmer, he was born in 1827 and migrated, with his family, to a location on the Rock River south of Lake Koshkonong in 1837.

Following legal studies at the Milton Academy and Beloit College, Caswell hung out his shingle in Fort Atkinson in 1852.

During his long life, L.B. Caswell served his community, state and nation through many elective and appointive posts. He was a member of the school board, a district attorney, commissioner of the draft board during the Civil War, a member of the Wisconsin Legislature and a 14-year veteran of Congress. He also played a prominent role in bringing the railroad to Fort Atkinson and organizing the city's first bank.

Fort Atkinson even had its own resident naturalist. Thure Kumlien, born in Sweden in 1819, emigrated to America in 1843. Educated in the study of botany at the University of Upsala, he picked Lake Koshkonong for his home because of

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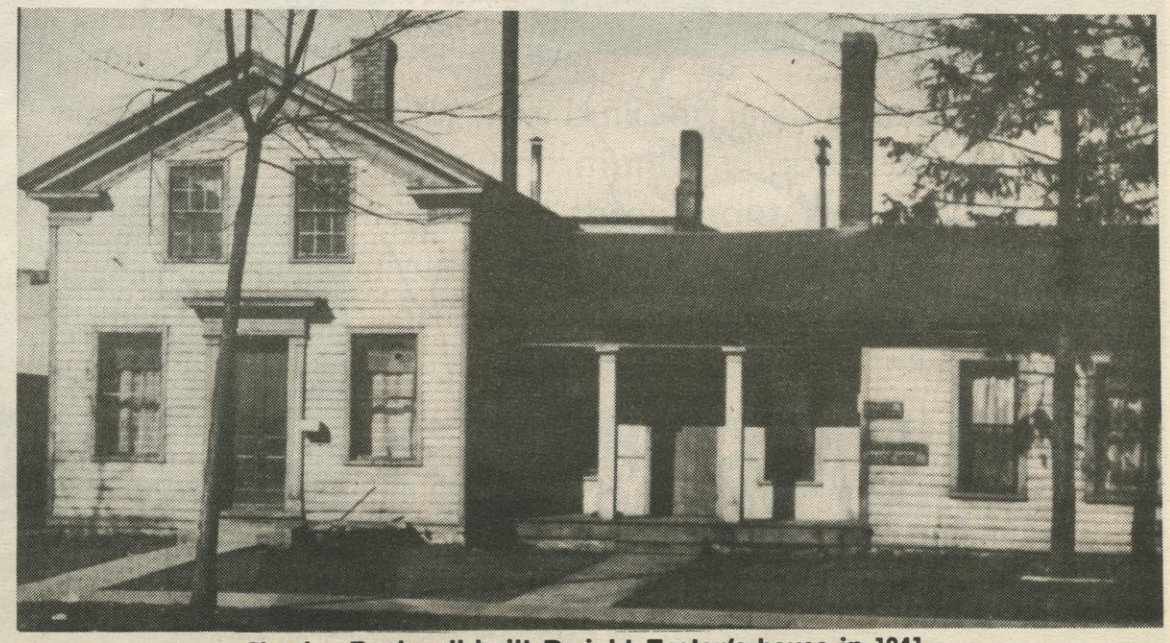


Charles Rockwell built Dwight Foster's house in 1841.

May, Jones among Fort's first settlers

(Continued from page 5)

his desire to study birds.

Kumlien and his wife to be, Christine Wallberg, selected a location on the north side of the lake, later named Busseyville for Thomas Bussey who built a gristmill on Koshkonong Creek. In addition to farming, Kumlien spent a great deal of time mounting wildlife and enjoying the wonders of his new home.

Naturalists, bankers, builders and even inventors, Fort Atkinson had them all. Thomas Crane, the possessor of a creative mind and a mechanical bent, was the earliest of the latter.

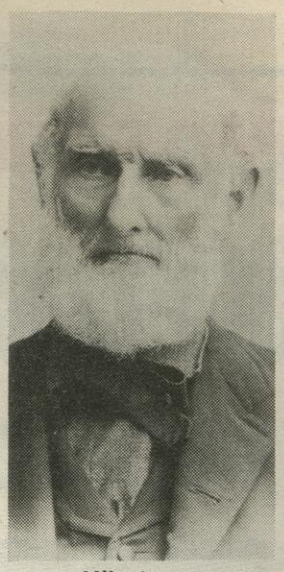
Born in Massachusetts in 1822, Crane moved to Fort Atkinson in 1843 to work on the farm of his brother-in-law, Milo Jones. During his lifetime he invented and was granted patents for 20 products, several of which had considerable industrial value. His inventions included: a rotary pump, a hand-seed planter, a knitting machine, an improved washing machine, a cradle and rake, a can opener, a reversible gate hinge, a stump extractor, a coat hanger, an improved flour milling machine and the ever-popular "better mouse trap."

And on and on they came, an ever-increasing flow of pioneer settlers to Fort Atkinson. There were Martin J. and Amanda Swart, who made the trip along the Erie Canal from New York in 1844 to establish the Swart homestead on old Highway 26 in 1848.

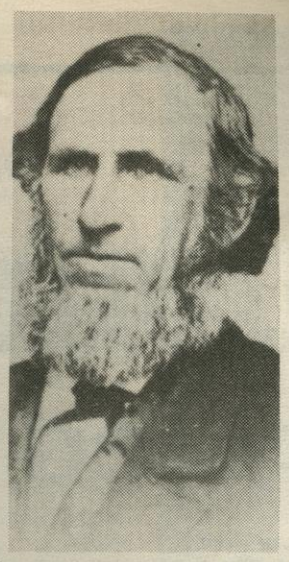
There was Mary Wilcox Turner, a woman "endowed with large talents" who came from New York in 1845, and George Prestidge and his family, who made a 53-day boat trip from England to find Fort Atkinson in 1846 (first across the Atlantic Ocean, the Erie Canal and finally across the Great Lakes). Prestidge went on to establish Fort Atkinson's first photographic studio at the corner of South Main and Third streets.

And there were more. Ezekiel Goodrich, the city's first furniture maker, landed in Milwaukee in 1843 and then walked to Fort Atkinson to make his home. Or how about Chester May? He was born in New York in 1791 and came to Wisconsin to work on the proposed canal between Lake Michigan and the Rock River. When the project collapsed, he settled south of Fort Atkinson, near what is now Lakeview Cemetery. He was best-remembered legacy was three sons — Chester, Jr., Eli and George — all prominent residents of this city.

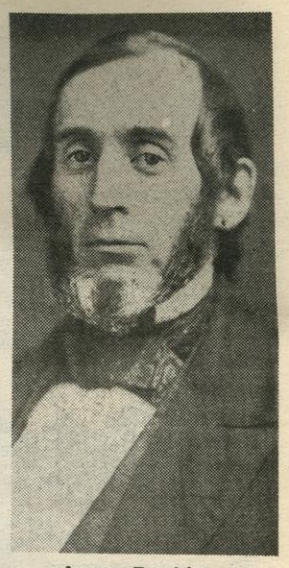
They came and they went: the rich and the famous, the hardworking and the industrious, and even a few scoundrels and scalawags. All, however, were Fort Atkinson pioneers who left an enduring imprint on the lives of those that followed.



Milo Jones



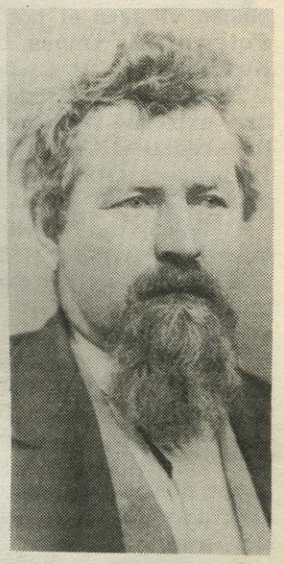
Charles Rockwell



Aaron Rankin

Rufus Dodge

Rebekah Dodge



Eli May

Settlers used stockade for wood to build cabin

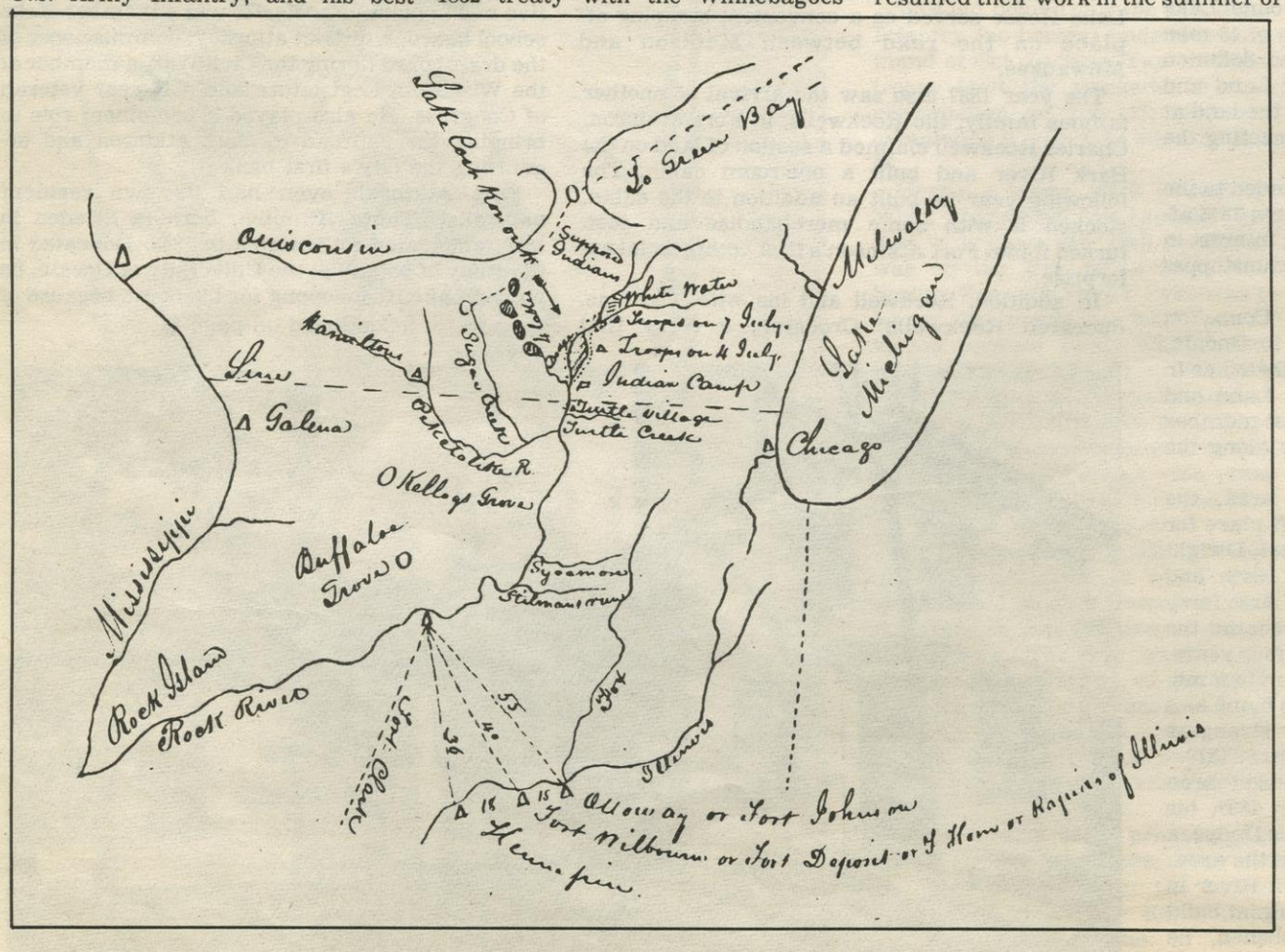
(Continued from page 3)

southwest from the fort, he is remembered on the commemorative war monument in Evergreen Cemetary under the incorrect name of "Daniel" Dobbs.

Capt. Gideon Low, 5th Regiment, U.S. Army Infantry, and his best Company D, some 40 or so troops, remained in the fort when the rest of army left July 20 after finally discovering Black Hawk's trail. Capt. Low's troops remained in Fort Atkinson until September 26, 1832.

After the Black Hawk War, the 1832 treaty with the Winnebagoes (held at Rock Island, Ill.) ceded the stockade to Wabaunsee, a chief of the Pottawatomies who served as guides for Atkinson. He probably never even saw it.

U.S. government surveyers, interupted by the Black Hawk War, resumed their work in the summer of 1833. The field notebook of one surveyor contains a map sketch of the Milton area and a trace headed north is identified as the "trail to Fort Atkinson!" This was the first reference to Fort Atkinson. Until then the stockade was called "Fort Cos-co-nong."



Rendezvous map for Gens. Atkinson and Scott's troops.

In late 1835, some enterprising pioneers, including Solomon Juneau, Milo Jones, William Barrie, Alvin Foster and Dwight Foster, formed the Rock River Land and Claim Company.

What became of the fort?

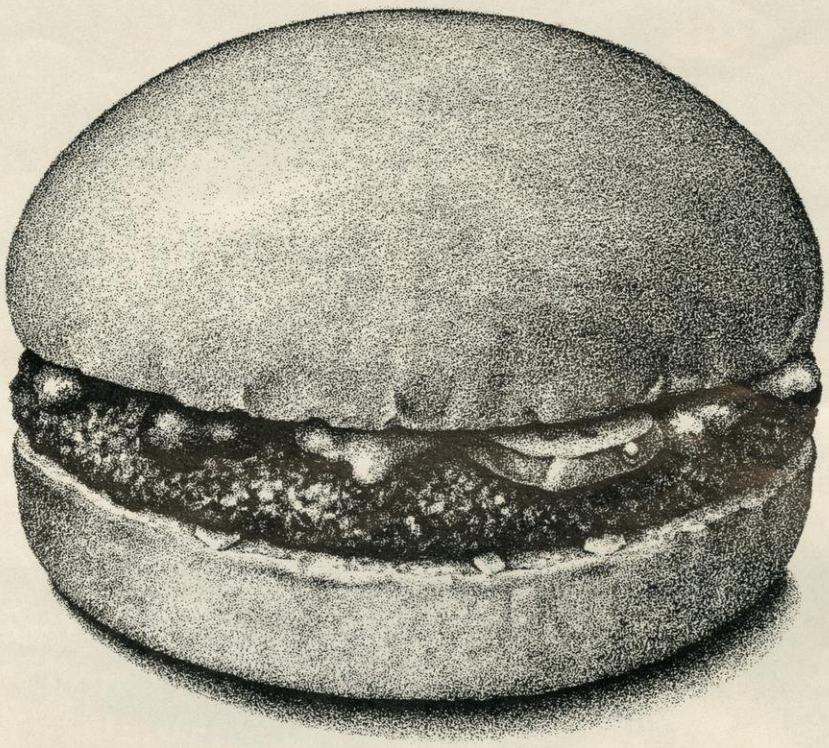
Many of the pickets, along the river side, were removed by travelers passing through the country, headed west. There being no means of ferrying across the river, they would pull up these pickets, convert them into a raft and pole themselves across, leaving the raft to float down the river.

Other pickets were used by William Pritchard and David Bartlett to build a cabin for Dwight Foster and his family.

On Saturday, June 20, 1840, Frederick J. Starin, pioneer settler of Whitewater, wrote in his diary: "Having the offer of Mr. A.B. Weed's horse to ride, I accepted and rode to Fort Atkinson this afternoon, which is eight or nine miles distant. At the fort (which is now demolished and never was anything more than a few pickets occupied by Gen. Atkinson during the Black Hawk War) there is but one house owned by a Mr. Foster who keeps the ferry."

If all those events occurred before Dwight Foster, imagine all the events which took place after he settled here!

An American Classic



And A Fort Atkinson Favorite.

Happy Birthday Fort Atkinson!

McDonald's

From all the friendly folks at your Fort Atkinson McDonald's!

Hush . . . Finches are riding by

By Sandra Bernhardt

"Honest folks would shiver and honest dogs would howl when the Finches were on the prowl," according to Fort Atkinson folklore about a troublesome clan headed by patriarch Moses Finch.

Known for their wild and woolly antics, Finch's 12 sons and five daughters were a burr under the saddle for residents from Lake Koshkonong to Watertown and beyond. The elusive tribe lived south of Fort Atkinson in a settlement called Finchtown.

From the 1830s to 1850s, the family lived up to its nickname of the "Fighting Finches," stealing horses, cattle and anything else unfettered and unguarded. Although they were never known to commit murder, Finches were reported to be expert shots with both pistol and rifle.

For example, legend has it that a newly arrived settler from Indiana took to boasting that he would take good care of any and all Finches who got within sights of his rifle. Naturally, word got to the Finches, who promptly ordered the boasting to stop. When the Hoosier ignored them, two Finch brothers caught him unarmed, placed him against a large tree and proceeded to trace the outline of the fellow's body with rifle bullets. The bragging stopped.

Old Moses taught his sons some very clever tricks when it came to horse stealing. According to the late Hannah Swart, who as curator of the Hoard Historical Museum studied the history of the Finches, "No one will ever know just how many horses the Finches and their henchmen stole during the years of their raiding, but the number must of been considerable. The Finches knew how to change the appearance of the horses by staining or bleaching them and by grooming their manes and tails."

Swart said marshy areas were used not only as hideouts for stolen horses, but as breeding grounds. A favorite hideout was a nearly impenetrable swamp near Rock Lake known as the London Marsh, an area still known as Finches' Ford. After the Finches encountered the law in the Fort Atkinson area, this was the spot from which they continued their horse thieving and other assorted mischief. The Finches rode only the best specimens of frontier horseflesh, and there was a ready market for them.

Swart also maintained that the use of the lasso in the history of Jefferson County can be credited to the Finch gang, for members of that bunch used that art in capturing horses and cattle.

Although the story was never substantiated, it was said that one unlucky farmer had his horse stolen, went to the market to buy another and ended up buying his own horse back again, thanks to the clever alteration and coloring talents of the notorious Finches.

Not wishing to confine their treacherous deeds to horse thievery, the Finches also held up wagon trains delivering goods to settlements between Milwaukee and Madison. A.R. Earle, a leading citizen in the Town of Aztalan, was said to have ordered a bolt of expensive red velvet to be used in the decorating of a new mansion he was building. Unfortunately, he bragged about the precious shipment soon to be delivered, and consequently, the long-awaited cargo never arrived. Shortly thereafter, however, the Finch women appeared in stunning new velvet riding habits of a most brazen red.

According to a 1937 Works Progress Administration Federal Writers Project, "More frequently than not, the Finch women did the farming, planting, and harvesting . . . Their crops were mainly corn, pumpkins and some small grains." It is thought that they stole most of their needed supplies.

Not much more is known about the five Finch daughters, except that they were regarded as skillfull and fearless horsewomen. Patsy (Patricia) Finch, often described as a black-haired beauty with flashing black eyes, was better liked than her brothers. She was said to perform small deeds of kindness for her neighbors. In later years, she reportedly left Jefferson County to marry a reputable Milwaukee merchant and settle down to raise a family.

Sketch of how Finches are believed to have looked.

When Jefferson County separated from Milwaukee County in 1839, the Finches held considerable political clout. At that time, what is now the Town of Koshkonong was known as Finch township, and Walter Finch was the first town constable. Records list Daniel Finch as commissioner of highways and his brothers, Abraham, Marcellus, Charles and I.B. Finch, as pathmasters.

In a September 1978 article, "The Fearsome Fighting Finches," written by Anne B. Short in Madison Magazine, Hannah Swart was quoted as saying, "How convenient for a lawless family to have one of their own as chief law enforcement officer . . . They were in a strategic position to keep an eye on new families as they moved in."

At the same time, Charles Finch also doubled as justice of the peace and Moses Finch was sealer of weights and measures. Short said, "The Finches, literally and figuratively, were in the saddle."

The Finches announced loud and clear that their township was for Finches and Finches alone. There was no room for others. If strangers tried to invade their private domain, they would often disgise themselves as Indians and carry out raids to frighten the intruders away. Before long, local citizens grew wise to their escapades, and they were forced to give up the masquerade.

While living on the east side of Lake Koshkonong, the Finches spent time making "lime water," now known as plaster. Benoni Finch, one of the more reputable Finch brothers, was a bricklayer, credited with erecting the first two-story brick dwelling in Milwaukee in 1834. The bricks he used are frequently referred to as Milwaukee Cream City Brick.

Unfortunately, he was also credited with structures that collapsed, as reported in the Milwaukee Sentinel in 1878. Benoni also served as the first sheriff of Milwaukee County during the territorial era. Today, there are still a few structures standing in Jefferson County, attesting to Benoni's more successful brickwork.

While Benoni invested his energy into bricklaying, his rowdier brothers continued to get in trouble with their neighbors. One incident that has been verified in county records was a disagreement between the Finches and Sheriff Ira Bird of Dane County in 1845 or 1846.

According to Swart in Koshkonong Country Revisited, "Apparently a Walter Finch had a dispute with another man, unnamed, whom Finch accused of killing his cow. The man went to Dane County and Finch followed him there and assaulted him. A warrant was sworn for his arrest. While attempting to arrest him at his home, a fight took place between Bird and his posse and the Finch family. Eventually Walter was arrested and served a sentence in Dane County.

"As a result of this incident, part of the family left Koshkonong Township and moved to Lake Mills, settling west of Rock Lake. By the start of the Civil War, almost the whole family had left Jefferson County. Some went to Missouri, some to Iowa, and some further west."

Another factor contributing to the demise of the Finch strangle hold on Jefferson County was the formation of the Anti-Horse Thief Society in 1853. Its objective was to recover stolen horses and return them to their lawful owners, "but more especially to arrest horse thieves with their aiders and abettors." The authorities drove many of the Finches from the area, assisted by similar organizations from neighboring townships.

In Koshkonong Country, Swart told of an incident that took place several years later during the Civil War. According to the late E.B. Heimstreet, a Civil War veteran, he ran into a Finch in Washington while his regiment came to rest alongside the troops from Michigan: "One of the Michigan men made it his business to find out from what state the adjacent regiments had come. When he found a Wisconsin troop, the soldier guffawed loudly and said, 'When you get back home, tell them they haven't hung all the Finches yet.' "

Over the years, stories have been told of lost Finch treasure hidden deep in the swamps that the clan knew so well. But so far, the only "treasure" linked to the notorious Finches was a jar of money found by a Lake Mills farmer in 1882.

Today, little remains to give testimony to the existence of the hardfisted Fighting Finches and their terrorizing escapades. Except for a small family cemetery, the Amos Finch home south of Fort Atkinson, and The Earle (of the red velvet story) "mansion" near Aztalan State Park, we have only their stories to tell. But perhaps that is the best legacy of all.

It is said that after the unruly Finches had departed, their color and mystery remained, causing parents to quiet their crying youngsters with words, "You'd better hush . . . the Finches are riding by!"

Who's on first?

Earl settler Thomas Crane always claimed that the first white man who came to Fort Atkinson was named Brown and arrived in 1835. He stayed in the stockade blockhouse but left for fear of Indians. Dwight Foster, who arrived in 1836, is considered to be the first real settler.

Fort observed 100th with style

By Carolyn Weh

It began slowly and quietly enough. Mrs. Ella Klement, then president of the American Legion Auxiliary, and Mrs. H.W. Degner, Auxiliary community service Chairman, had written other community groups asking that they meet Feb. 7, 1936, to determine if, and or how the Fort Atkinson should celebrate its centennial. That nucleus of some 40 persons nominated Elmore Klement to be their chairman, and plans for the festivities began.

The group decided that the main event would be a homecoming banquet to be held on Thursday evening, August 6, with a parade the following night. A historical pageant would be presented in Jones Park Friday through Sunday evenings.

Friday was to be Business and Industry Day: several of the businesses would hold open house, there would be special sales in all the stores and there were to be wonderful antique displays in all the Main Street windows.

Saturday was designated Agriculture Day. It became the "Official Jefferson County 4-H Roundup," with animal and poultry judging and a noon picnic and speaker in Jones Park. Sunday, "Religious Day," featured special church services and then a special program "dedicated to Fort Atkinson pioneers" in Jones Park.

In order to pay for all these festivities, the committee held a centennial emblem design contest, with the winning emblem to be used to sell memberships in the celebration. Andrew Mueller of the W.D. Hoard Co. won $5 for his winning entry.

The committee also held a contest to choose a "Centennial Song." The winning tune was "Our Pioneers" by Mrs. C.L. Goodrich.

Plans for all the events continued throughout the spring and summer and kept a lot of people very busy.

The week before the centennial got under way, Miss Aileen Powell was named "Queen of Fort Atkinson." She and her court, which included Adeline Hartel, Lois Francisco and Dorothy Krull, were to preside over all the activities, ride in the parade and participate in other area parades throughout the summer.

Also, the queen was to represent Fort Atkinson in the Miss Wisconsin competiton held at the State Fair. Miss Powell won the title because she sold the most tickets for the celebration.

Finally the big weekend arrived. About 300 persons attended the homecoming banquet Thursday night. Chairman Charles B. Rogers presided over a program that recognized many longtime residents and far-flung returnees, and which also allowed for plenty of visiting by all attending.

The cost of the meal, served by the Congregational Church Gleaners, was 60 cents. It was held in the Municipal Building, which was well decorated for the event. People came from as far away as Illinois, Michigan and California.

Friday evening, the parade assembled along North Main and North Fourth streets. It moved down Main Street to South Sixth and then over to Jones Park. It was held in the evening to allow more people to attend as both participants and spectators.

150 candles on the cake float.

The parade stepped off at 7 p.m., led by Police Chief Harry Mueller on his motorcycle. The Jefferson County Union reported that between 12,000 to 15,000 people watched the "bands, drum corps, floats, organizations and policemen from many nearby cities that contributed to the three-mile parade which swelled the hearts of everyone with satisfaction and pride."

The parade was divided into seven sections: official, historical, pageant, industrial, municipal, transportation and courtesy. Near the beginning was a birthday cake float with 100 lighted candles; its beauty increased as darkness fell. There was an ox-team depicting early travel, several Indian-related floats, lots of floats depicting early Fort Atkinson history and a display of many old pieces of farming equipment.

Notable among the bands in attendance were the Blatz Band from Milwaukee and the Zor Temple Band of Madison. Some people who remember the parade marvelled that "it seemed like it lasted for at least two days."

When the parade was over, the curtain went up on an 11-episode Historical Pageant. It was a John B. Rogers production directed by Miss Lucille Elwood. The John B. Rogers Producing Co. was the acknowledged leader in the pageant field.

The Fort Atkinson pageant depicted the founding of Fort Atkinson and everything that had come before. The first episode was entitled, "The Dawn of Creation," and featured a ballet with 45 ballerinas as nymphs announcing creation and eventually the birth of man.

One respondent to the question, "What do you remember about the centennial," said she remembered a rather stout nymph who was a friend of her mother. As the said nymph got older, she also got stouter — but our "informant" always thought of her as a nymph floating on the stage, which made propriety a bit of a problem as the years went on.

The pageant went on to tell of Indians, soldiers, early settlers, schools, town meetings, the railroad, Gov. W.D. Hoard, industrial and agricultural development and, in episode 11, the Masque of Nations and Grand Finale.

(Continued on page 12)

Barrie and Caswell schools' centennial float.

Wisconsin Territory charted 150 years ago

By the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

In the early 1900s, Wisconsin's first Capitol was being used as a barn and the territorial Supreme Court building served as a farmhouse and later a barn.

Both were located in what is now Leslie, then known as Belmont, in Lafayette County, and both had been built in 1836 to serve as the first meeting places for the new Wisconsin territorial government.

The Wisconsin Territory had been signed into existence by President Andrew Jackson on April 20, 1836, and included what today are Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and portions of North and South Dakota. The population was 22,218, of which 11,683 lived in Wisconsin, most of them in the far southwestern corner of the state.

Henry Dodge, appointed the first territorial governor, chose Belmont — the beautiful mound — as the location of the territory's Capitol. A quiet spot in Lafeyette County in the populous lead mining region, Belmont had only recently been platted as a village.

One of the leading promoters of the village was James Atchinson, a surveyor and land speculator from Galena, Ill., who had purchased 80 acres in Belmont. He quickly erected several buildings to accomodate the legislators — all to be rented from him for a fee — including a council house or Capitol, and a lodging house for the members of the Legislature.

The lumber for the buildings was purchased in Pittsburgh and brought down the Ohio River and up the Mississippi by steamboat to Galena and then hauled by wagon 30 miles to Belmont.

The Capitol building was a two-story structure with a battlement front and clapboard exterior, measuring 25-by-42 feet. The interior of the frame building was lathed with split oak and plastered — a substantial building in the popular style of the Western frontier.

The four buildings lining Belmont's new, stump-studded main street were soon joined by a tavern, grocery, blacksmith shop, variety shop and a few other residences.

The first Legislature met at Belmont on Oct. 25, 1836. The council had 13 members, and the assembly, 26 men. Salaries were paid by the federal government: the governor received $1,500 a year and legislators earned $3 for each day of the session.

Territorial lawmakers spent much time talking about a location for the permanent Capitol. Fifteen cities or locations in Wisconsin were suggested. Charles Dunn promoted the village of Belmont, with plans calling for "large hotels, boarding houses, princely mansions and a Capitol building."

However, James Duane Doty owned land at Madison and gave it to members of the Legislature. When a vote was taken, lawmakers selected Madison as the Capitol city. It was laid out like Washington, D.C.: streets were given the names of the men who signed the U. S. Constitution.

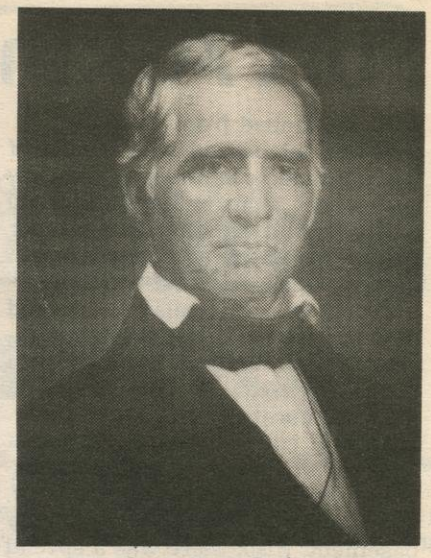
In 1837, Augustus A. Bird was hired to build the Capitol. He left Milwaukee for Madison with a crew of men, but there was no road, so they had to cut their way through the underbrush in some places. A wagon carried a small sawmill.

The crew arrived in Madison on the Fourth of July, and the cornerstone of the Capitol was dedicated that day. Workers opened a quarry to supply the stone used in the foundation. Other workers began to cut trees and saw boards and beams.

The building was not complete when lawmakers arrived in Madison in November 1838, so the first meetings were held in the American Hotel. In January 1839, the legislators decided to use the still uncompleted building.

Colonel Ebenezer Childs later wrote:

"At length we took possession of the new Assembly Hall. The floors were laid with green oak boards, full of ice; the walls of the room were iced over; green oak seats and desks were made of rough boards; one fireplace and one stove heated the room.



Gov. Henry Dodge

In a few days the flooring near the stove and fireplace shrank on account of the heat, so that a person could run his hands between the boards. The basement story was all open and James Morrison's hogs had moved in. They were awfully poor, and it would have taken two of them standing side by side, to have made a decent shadow on a bright day . . .

"The weather was cold; the halls were cold, our ink would freeze, and everything froze — so when we could stand it no longer, we passed a joint resolution to adjourn for 20 days . . . I bought all the carpeting I could find in the territory and brought it to Madison and put it down, after first covering the floor with a thick coating of hay."

Despite these inconveniences, the Legislature continued to meet in the uncompleted building (it was not entirely finished until 1844, and was quickly outgrown). A scandal was

'Sesquicentennial'

Jefferson County spreads the word

By Christine Blumer

Although it's hard to spell and even more difficult to pronouce, "sesquicentennial" is a pretty well-known word around Jefferson County these days.

For 1986 is the 150th birthday of the founding of several area communities — Fort Atkinson, Watertown, Rockdale, Lake Mills, to name a few. Last year it was Hebron and Janesville's and next year it will be Whitewater's.

It also is the sesquicentennial of Jefferson County.

The land on which Jefferson County lies was ceded to the government by the Indians following the Black Hawk War of 1832. The government divided the Northwest Territory into 640-acre townships, and sold them for $1.25 per acre.

In December 1835, a group of men, including Solomon Juneau, E. W. Edgerton, Henry Hosmer, T.A. Holmes, Milo Jones and a guide, LaTonde, left Milwaukee in search of mill sites to claim in the name of the Rock River Land and Claim Co. They registered the first three claims in what was to become Jefferson County.

The first included the water power site of Bark River and the second, at Fort Koshkonong. The third was discovered at the fork of the Rock and Crawfish Rivers at Jefferson.

In September 1834, Milwaukee County had been set off from Brown County by an act of the Michigan Legislature. The new county included what today is Jefferson County. However, it was not until 1839 that the legislators set off Jefferson County and officially provided for county government.

At the petition of Patrick, Peter and James Rogan, Judge Hyer and others originally from Watertown in Jefferson County, N.Y., the Legislature passed the division act giving the names "Jefferson" to the county and "Watertown" to the Johnson Rapids settlement.

It created five townships: Aztalan, Bark River, Finch, Jefferson and Watertown. The county seat at Jefferson was approved in 1837.

According to "The History of Jefferson County," "In the fall of 1837, a petition was presented to the Legislature, praying for the location of the county seat on a point between the two rivers. Instead, it was located at its present site . . . the prayer of the petitioners was granted by an act adopted Jan. 12, 1838, but it was a time after this that the commissioners obtained a certified copy of the same, which when received was found to contain a blank for the name, which Capt. Robert Masters filled up with 'Jefferson', the remaining commissioners consenting."

By the 1850s, Watertown had become the second-largest city in the state and Mayor William Chappell, a member of the legislature, decided his city should be the county seat. He introduced a bill and, to assure his view would win, started litigation to authorize annexation of five southern townships of Dodge County by Jefferson County on the pretext that Dodge County's land area exceeded its legal rights.

However, a suit brought by the county clerk charged that Chappell's attempt was unconstitutional. Meanwhile, a vote was scheduled for Dodge and Jefferson counties in December 1856.

"Whether you shall transact your business at the geographical center of the county or at the northern extreme the latter at a much greater expense of time and money," the Weekly Jeffersonian newspaper stated in a rather biased article in its Dec. 11, 1856, issue.

"Full two-thirds of Jefferson County would be nearer, and one-third of the balance quite as near the county seat at Jefferson as at Watertown, while the hotel charges are at least 50 percent less; hence, it will plainly be seen by every voter who has the least respect for his pocket that it is to his interest to have it remain where it now is.

"All we have to say is, be true to your own interest, do not suffer yourself to be blinded by the deceitful reasonings of interested (pecuniary) men, but above all, vote on Tuesday next pro or con without fail."

Election Day came and both sides were guilty of voting irregularities. The pro-Jefferson side made considerable use of the "Krumenauer Polling Place," a farm east of Jefferson. Popular legend says that voters cast ballots with their real names and then returned and voted with names lifted from the Cincinnati City Directory.

Even so, Watertown won 4,518 to 2,545; Jefferson then proposed a new county, but that was nixed. In January 1857, the county board met in Watertown. However, later that year the State Supreme Court decided against Chappell's annexation scheme and invalidated the election results.

The rest is history.

Fort Atkinson marked century in 1936

(Continued from page 10)

It was advertised with a cast of 400, authentic costumes, bands, 100-voice choir, monster stage with 3,500 seats, special lighting, loudspeaker system — all at a cost of only 25 cents per person. What a bargain!

Probably two displays arranged for the centennial had a lasting impact on Fort Atkinson. Both were arranged by Zida C. Ivey, the first museum curator.

First, a call went out for items of interest for a special centennial exhibit to be displayed at the museum, which was located in the library basement. Also, there was a special appeal for glass and china to be loaned for a special exhibit.

There is a list of more than 350 persons who stopped in at the museum to view those two exhibits during the centennial festivities.

The biggest historical exhibit of all was up and down Main Street in the business windows. Each store, tavern, bank and business, displayed artifacts of similar businesses of the good old days. Some displays were more elaborate than others, but walking up and down Main Street and gazing at the more than 50 exhibits was like strolling through a huge outdoor museum.

Ivey had given advice to help many of the exhibitors, and in this way helped to locate many of the items that are still a part of the museum collection today.

So, in the words of the Fort Atkinson News, "In a style peculiarly its own, Fort Atkinson becomes interested in a project at the proper time and, once interested, succeeds in maintaining its enthusiasm at a warm glow until the project has been completed."

Living up to its reputation of being the little city that does things in a big way, Fort Atkinson observed the 100th anniversary of its founding in style.

—o—

Our Pioneers
By Mrs. C.L. Goodrich

From the banks of old Rock River
To the shores of Koshkonong,
Reverently we lend our voices
In a dedication song.
Humbly do we offer tribute
To each honored pioneer,
Who through hardships and privation
Helped to found a city here.

Fort Atkinson! Fort Atkinson!
Pride of the Rock River valley,
To her fair women and brave men
For heroic deeds we rally!

Men tramped all way from Milwaukee
To this virgin wilderness
Blazed unknowingly a trail,
For a Century of Progress
They fought pestilence and Indians,
Lived on scanty, meager fare
But newcomers were made welcome
Their log cabin homes to share.

CHORUS

So this history-making epoch
Legendary though it be,
Gives us many treasured landmarks
Romance of a century!
Gen. Atkinson and Black Hawk
Furnish local color here,
But this day belongs entirely
To the hardy pioneer.

CHORUS

Civil War recalled in parade.

Wisconsin Territory also 150

(Continued from page 11)

raised when it was discovered that the Capitol cost twice as much to build as had been estimated — and that the roof leaked even at that price.

By 1846, the hogs had been evicted and legislative offices were constructed in the basement, an $800 gothic brick outhouse added and $150 worth of trees planted by the Capitol superintendent.

During the 1840s and 1850s, the population skyrocketed and so did the size of government. The second Capitol was soon filled, and in 1857 work began on a third Capitol building. When this was destroyed by fire in 1904, the current Capitol was erected on the site.

In Belmont, the first Capitol building survived and was used as a residence by several families until about 1878, when it was moved 300 feet south and used as a barn. The Supreme Court building was adapted by Supreme Court Judge Charles Dunn into a residence, where he lived for many years. Later it became a farmhouse, and then, like the Capitol, a barn.

In 1906, citizens of Wisconsin became concerned about the fate of the old territorial Capitol building, and the secretary of State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Reuben G. Thwaites, visited the site and strongly recommended its restoration. In 1910, the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs purchased the original site of the first Capitol, which was later transferred to the state.

Seven years later, the Wisconsin Legislature appropriated $3,000 to purchase two acres of land and the first Capitol and to restore the building to its original condition.

In 1919, the first Capitol building was purchased, moved and restoration was begun. The framework of the building was found to be surprisingly solid: one portion of one of the sills had to be replaced, the lower floor had to be substantially restored, and the missing battlement facade had to be reconstructed.

In 1921, the Legislature appropriated an additional $5,250 for the completion of the restoration and for the improvement of the park that surrounded the building. The restored first Capitol was dedicated before a crowd of 15,000 on June 1, 1924, as a state park.

Retrieved, perhaps appropriately, from the fate of a barn on a Wisconsin dairy farm, this simple, white clapboard building once again stands at the site of old Belmont, the first Capitol of the Territory of Wisconsin, the most vivid reminder on the landscape of the earliest legislative activities in Wisconsin 150 years ago.

1888 wedding 'brilliant affair'

The marriage of Miss Eva Levy, daughter of M. Levy, Fort Atkinson, to Mr. Phil Hammel, a brother of Hon. Leo Hammel, Milwaukee, took place at the city hall Wednesday evening, at 5 o'clock. The affair was on a scale of magnificence never before attempted in Fort Atkinson.

The guests numbering about 120 were nearly all from abroad, and the Higbee House was necessarily brought into requisition. The German orchestra was engaged to play at the reception and led Jewish feet through the mazes of waltzes and quadrilles, till old Sol proclaimed another day.

A splendid supper was served in the hall, at which a score or more of roasted geese and half as many turkeys were made to figure.

A member of the family estimated the expense of the wedding, including the furnishing of the house for the happy pair at Kaukauna, as between $2,500 and $3,000. The Israelites take great pride in their children, and a brilliant wedding is always arranged if the finances will so allow.

The bride is a charming Jewess, and was quite popular among her acquaintances. The groom is a promising young merchant at Kaukauna, and receives a start in life in the form of a $2,000 check from his father. — Oct. 5, 1888.

Key to the city

Milo Jones named first mayor

By Robert Angus

Fort Atkinson received its name before it was time to be christened — before it had even organized its first government. The community's fathers had no say in the naming of their settlement.

It was on May 31, 1841, on recommendation of Secretary of War Joel R. Poinsett, that Congress acted to name this area that had been the site of a stockade during the Black Hawk Indian War of 1832 (along with another in Iowa) after Gen. Henry Atkinson, who had commanded the Ninth Military District of the U.S. Army from 1819.

But it was not until April 5, 1842, that the first meeting of local electors was called — the initial governmental meeting of the Town of Koshkonong, of which Fort Atkinson (a settlement just the year before of just seven houses and one stable) was then a part.

For six years after its founding, Fort Atkinson had no local government as such, although Jefferson County had been separated from the original Milwaukee County by the Territorial Council Dec. 7, 1836. From 1842 to 1860, this settlement continued to be a part of the township; then, from 1860 to 1878, it held the status of village, and, from 1878 on, it has been a city.

And, like most chauvinistic democracies of that era, until just five years ago local government — be it town, village or city — was totally dominated by the male species.

In the full spirit of true democracy, 55 citizens gathered for that first town meeting that day 144 years ago at the home of Chester May and selected as moderator Charles Rockwell, who was later to make quite a name for himself as a pioneer carpenter.

According to Clerk George P. Marsden, electors at that first meeting resolved to collect $100 "for the benefit and expense of the town" and to raise money needed for school purposes. Then, before setting the next town meeting at the Edward N. Foster home, those early settlers tackled a leading issue of the community by adopting the first law of the town: "No male swine (shall) be allowed to run at large."

To preserve good order and suppress vice and corruption (that is, engaging in a brawl or riot, producing unusual noise or disturbance, being drunk and disorderly, operating a disorderly or gambling house, bathing in any pond, engaging in horse racing); to forbid damaging trees; to ban the use of sling shots and ball playing on certain streets, and to regulate shows and theatrical troups.

—City council ordinance in 1885.

From that 1842 date until the present, local government has functioned with legally-elected citizens meeting according to determined schedules to conduct community business. Sometimes regular meetings haven't been sufficient for carrying out those operations, with special sessions called . . . the first of which was a special town meeting at the Green Mountain House (now the site of Black Hawk Restaurant and Lounge) Dec. 6, 1849, at which it was voted to raise $350 to build or repair the Main Street bridge (built of timbers in 1842-43) and $200 "for the support of town paupers."

Fort Atkinson had a population of 753 when it became a village in 1860, a year after the arrival of the Chicago & North Western Railroad; that census had boomed to nearly 2,000 when it chose city status in 1878.

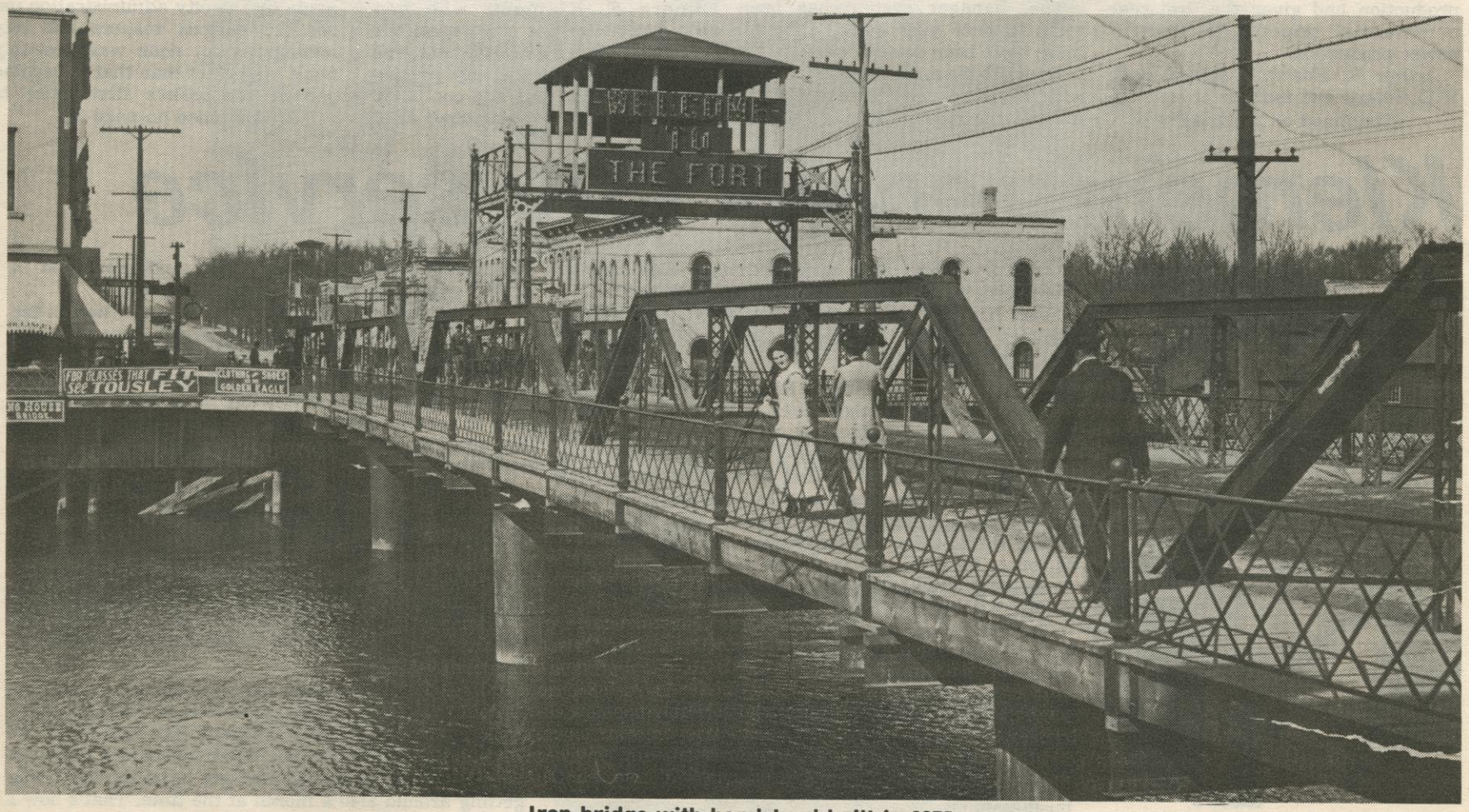
As a village, Fort Atkinson never really made a total political or fiscal break from the Town of Koshkonong.

As a new city, Fort Atkinson chose a pioneer leader to be its first mayor. He was Milo Jones, who earlier had served as village president, justice of the peace and postmaster. Jones, settling here in 1838 after working as a surveyor in old Milwaukee County, was operating what is now Jones Dairy Farm after building the city's first hotel, the Green Mountain House, and running it until 1855. Elected as the first common council president in 1878 was Druggist Reuben S. White, whose home is now the Fort Atkinson Historical Museum.

Jones served as mayor for just one year, then gave way to S.S. Curtis, 1879; O.S. Cornish, 1880-81; H.B. Hibbard, 1882; O.S. Cornish, 1883; S.A. Bridges, 1884; Asa Foote, 1885; Jerry Mason, 1886; W.S. Green, 1887; N.F. Hopkins, 1888; D.W. Curtis, 1889; O.S. Cornish, 1890; William S. Rogers, 1891; Abraham Mack, 1892; A.R. Hoard, 1893; Asa Foote, 1894; N.F. Hopkins, 1895; A.R. Hoard, 1896; N.D. Brandt, 1897; F.W. Hoard, 1898; Harry H. Curtis, 1899; Daniel Bullock, 1900; L.B. Royce, 1901; C.A. Snover, 1902-03; George P. Klein, 1904-05; A.R. Hoard, 1906-08; Giles Hibbard, 1909-10; F.C. Edwards, 1911-12; George A. Eales, 1913-16; John Hager, 1917-18; George P. Klein, 1918-20; William W. Weld, 1921-24; E.H. Miles, 1924-26; William W. Weld, 1927-28; F.C. Holstein, 1928-30, and D.Q. Grabill, 1930-31.

Under each of those mayors, the city's book of ordinances grew and grew as aldermen adopted new laws to meet new needs of the day. During the

(Continued on page 14)



Iron bridge with bandstand built in 1875.

You want running water? Try river

By Robert Angus

For Fort Atkinson residents of today, light goes on with the flick of a switch, the furnance flares under thermostatic controls, water flows at the turn of a faucet and conversation with neighbors a block away or with children residing in distant corners of the world begins with a simple dialtone.

But that was not always so. In fact, most of those conveniences became possible only near the turn of the century.

Early Fort Atkinson residents knew nothing of electricity, natural gas, running water (except the Rock River) or the telephone.

Illumination for them was by candles or kerosene lamps, water came from rivers or shallow wells, heat was generated by burning wood or soft coal, and conversation was face-to-face.

Refrigeration and air conditioning were unknown, until blocks of ice were harvested in winter from area rivers and then stored under hay for summer's use.

Public use of electricity came to Fort Atkinson in 1890; natural gas began to flow to local homes in 1910; the first city well was dug in 1901, and the ring of the telephone didn't interrupt an afternoon nap until 1883.

Electricity first lighted a globe in Fort Atkinson in 1889, only 10 years after Thomas A. Edison had perfected the incandescent electric lamp and just seven years after the Edison system of central station power production had given the first real commercial impetus to electric power production.

Arthur R. Hoard, a son of Gov. W.D. Hoard and founder of Hoard's

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Chicago & North Western depot.

Municipal Building built in 1929

(Continued from page 13)

first term of Mayor Foote in 1885, for instance, the council approved regulations:

To preserve good order and suppress vice and corruption (that is, engaging in a brawl or riot, producing unusual noise of disturbance, being drunk and disorderly, operating a disorderly or gambling house, bathing in any pond, engaging in horse racing); to forbid damaging trees; to ban the use of sling shots and ball playing on certain streets, and to regulate shows and theatrical troups.

After 52 years under the mayor-aldermen form of government, Fort Atkinson voted 1,484 to 678 in April 1930 to shift to a fairly new type of municipal rule that only a relatively few communities in the nation had adopted — the city manager-council plan. With the city manager installed a year later, in 1931, came a five-member council, each elected at-large.

The manager system has been retained here ever since, although there have been several movements to return to the mayor-aldermen plan with its ward rule. Three of those movements resulted in city referendums, with all defeated by comfortable margins in 1938, 1951 and 1962.

There was considerable strife between some of the early city managers and councils; consequently, some managers remained here only briefly.

However, during the community's 55 years under the city manager system, only four men have held that position.

The first to serve in that capacity was A.J. Koenig, who arrived in June 1931 from Plymouth, Mich., to take the $3,400 position. After a fairly stormy reign, Koenig resigned in 1938, forestalling a formal demand from the council for his resignation.

Richard Biehl came from Hammond, Ind., to become the second city manager in September 1938 but remained less than three years before assuming similar duties in Portsmouth, Ohio.

Then came the 28-year tenure of a "home-grown" city manager, Elmore F. Klement, who had already been on the city payroll for 17 years as engineer. Klement was appointed to guide the city government in October 1941 and continued in that role until stepping down as of Jan. 1, 1969.

Klement, born in the Town of Sumner May 14, 1899, carried out duties that no other city manager attempted before or since. During his term, he wore many hats, including that of city engineer. He remained as engineer from his appointment to that position by Mayor Miles in 1924 until resigning that part of his job in 1968 after being architect of most of the city's expanding facilities during a major growth period.

Klement guided the city from horse-wagon days into the jet age.

Following a brief time during which City Engineer Chuck Strand also served as acting city manager, Robert C. Martin was summoned from St. Louis Park, Minn., where he had been assistant city manager, to become the fourth local manager May 1, 1969. He continues to serve in that capacity during this sesquicentennial year.

Many important decisions were made by the city administration under the various mayors and city managers, but none was probably more important than that to become one of Wisconsin's first cities to

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Klement recalls city service

Elmore Klement

(Editor's Note: This was written by Elmore Klement, longtime city manager and engineer in Fort Atkinson. Klement reminisced for the book, "Koshkonong Country Revisited," and his memories of city service are reprinted here.)

By Elmore Klement

I went to country school at Lake View school, which was located a short distance from Lake Koshkonong. After graduating from there — there were two of us in the class that year — I went to Fort Atkinson High School. At that time there was only one graduate from Lake View that had attended high school. I was fairly young at that time, and the teacher thought I should go to school for one more year and take a little graduate work, so I entered the Fort Atkinson High School in 1913.

The 1913 class was the first to enter the new high school building, so we were the first class to have the full four years in the new high school. While attending school, we didn't have bus service to pick us up and bring us in every morning, so I had to stay with the Hausens and as part of my room and board I had to help do the chores. There weren't many automobiles to speak of in those days, except those that were owned by businessmen.

I graduated in 1917 and started at the University of Wisconsin College of Engineering and graduated in 1922. I was not successful in getting a job.

At that time, the Northwestern Mfg. Co. was in the furniture business and Dean Becker, who was supervising the plant, wanted to know if I wanted a job in the drafting department. He wanted to convert the type of manufacturing from a drawing on a piece of lumber that showed the size of a piece that was used to build up the furniture, and he wanted the blueprints from which to work.

I was offered a job at $80 a month, and I of course grabbed it. That was quite a good salary in those days. I worked in the drafting department, and I worked my way to being a designer of furniture, but it was difficult to compete with the Michigan furniture companies and the southern furniture companies, so our company here closed down and went out of the furniture business and the factory was purchased by the James Manufacturing Co.

After the factory closed down, I obtained a position as draftsman for an architectural firm in Oshkosh and I commuted by rail every weekend. My wife hired me out as city engineer for Mr. Miles, who at one time was superintendent of schools and got to be mayor. I was getting around $140 a month at the time. That's how I

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Seventy Years Ago . . .

The Vos Family began serving their customers grocery needs . . .

and the Vos family is still serving you today . . .

through seventy years of change, one thing remains the same — our dedication to providing the very best for you.

VOS SENTRY

Fort Atkinson saw the light in 1890

(Continued from page 14)

Creameries Inc., introduced electricity to his big milk and butter plant on the banks of the Rock River on South Water Street East, 97 years ago. In a short time, he extended the power line to his home and to other areas on Main Street.

Then, in 1890, through the efforts of Hoard and L.B. Caswell Jr., the Fort Atkinson Electric Light and Power Co. was formed. At first, its power was generated only from sunrise to midnight.

In 1904, in order to provide a more complete service to local residents, the power utility was acquired by the city. The first motor to use the energy was a half-horsepower unit that powered a cigar-making machine above a downtown drugstore. By 1905, according to the first report of the Water & Light Commission, there were 254 customers for light meters; by 1916, that number had grown to 1,100.

The city-owned utility was offering fair rates and it also was making a profit, but in 1926, after a sometimes bitter citywide debate, local electors voted via referendum to sell the electric utility to Wisconsin Gas & Electric Co. Proceeds of that sale were used to pay off all city debts and to finance the construction of the Municipal Building, dedicated in 1929.

Since then, the source of electricity has been a large outside concern.

The 1926 sale to Wisconsin Gas & Light Co. also included the Fort Atkinson Gas Co., which had been acquired by the city in 1920. The delivery of piped natural gas to local patrons had been started by a private concern in 1910.

Since the city is located at the juncture of the Rock and Bark rivers, the lack of water has never been a problem; on the contrary, too much water has frequently brought flooding difficulties, especially in spring months.

Fort Atkinson Telephone Co. in Wigdale Building.

The rivers provided water for early settlers; then came private shallow wells and pumps.

That all began to change in 1901, when the community had a population of just over 2,000, with the formation of the Fort Atkinson Waterworks Committee under Mayor L.B. Royce. John N. Hager became the committee's first president, while also serving were C.S. Wandschneider, W.O. Hoffman and J.G. Morris.

The first city well was dug, a year after the century's turn, at North Water Street West, site of the present water department offices. It was a 750-foot artesian well that had a 30,000-gallon receiving basin. Also that first year, that familiar 100,000-gallon elevated tank was erected on South High Street for $7,240. An electric motor was soon installed at the pump and, by 1916, some 10,000 feet of water main had been installed in the city.

Water service proved adequate until 1924, when Well No. 2 was dug and a 300,000-gallon ground reservoir was located at Jones Park. Well No. 3 and a 556-gallon ground reservoir on North Water Street, West, came in 1931.

Other new wells were placed in operation in 1946, 1952, 1956 and 1967, while No. 2 was abandoned in the 1950s and No. 1 ended its long service in 1985 — leaving five wells operational with a total capacity of 5,800 gallons per minute. Depths of those wells range from 935 to 1,067 feet.

The city's second elevated storage facility, a 585,000-gallon standpipe located on Zafke Street, was erected in 1969 at a cost of $49,300. A 300,000-gallon ground reservoir was built at Jones Park in 1977, replacing the same-sized reservoir at the same site. Also abandoned in 1975 was the North Water Street, West, receiving basin.

At present, the utility has 263,795 feet (49 miles) of water main,

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Installing sewer, water and gas lines in Fort Atkinson.

Klement proud of Rock's wall

(Continued from page 14)

got started in the municipal business. The reason I was hired was that the city felt it was paying exorbitant amounts for engineering services.

When I was originally hired, the city owned the water, light and gas utility. I was employed part time for the utility and part time for the city. In 1927, Mayor Wells decided it would be a good proposition to sell the utilities. They had an offer from a private utility to purchase it and the money would be used to pay off the city debts and build an appropriate city hall.

This was accomplished, but it wasn't ratified because of legal procedures against the sale that carried on for about a year but was finally approved. There was quite a fight between the county, state and state supreme court. The judges were almost evenly divided over whether the sale should be declared legal or not. There's a question still in the minds of some people whether or not this was a good deal but, nevertheless, Mayor Wells got his city hall and it's still used for that purpose.

The city's debts were paid off and there was some money left besides. The gas and electric utilities were sold but the city retained the water utility. The electric company operated the water utility for several years until the city voted the city manager plan in 1931. After several years, the city voted to take back the operation and they've been operating it ever since.

There was private rivalry between Mayor Miles and Mayor Wells. I can remember Mayor Wells stating, "Damnit, Klement, every time I get to be mayor all the public improvements you want to make are sewers sitting underground where nobody can see them."

He, like a good politician, wanted to have something he could show the people instead of something you couldn't see but still the public could benefit from. For a couple of terms, Mayor Wells and Mayor Miles would alternate.

At that time there were eight city wards and we had a councilman for each ward, in addition to the mayor. Those council meetings were very time consuming and were my reason for objecting to having a large council. After listening to nine people arguing about something over the table that five could accomplish much faster and better, it was time to change.

Looking back at the operation, I can remember that Ed Hedberg, who was in one of the local banks, became city clerk. When it came time for the budget, he presented an annual report on what was spent on each phase of the city operation. Preceding the council meeting, at which time the budget had to be established, he would read off what they had spent last year and then they would decide what they would spend this year.

The entire budget was accomplished in the one session of the city council. I can't remember any discussion coming up on what the city employees were going to be paid. Part of the city vehicles were horse-drawn except one truck and that truck, a Packard, was obtained after World War I in a government surplus deal. The man that furnished the team got so much, the workers so much and the street sweepers got so much less.

We started a program of curb and gutter in order to maintain the city streets and built many miles during those few years. A local contractor, by the name of Tony Wirig, had a cement mixer and a Ford truck that were used in the operation. All of the digging was done by hand with a pick and shovel. The cement mixer operated himself.

Paving Main Street Fort Atkinson.

At this time there was quite a discussion about what kind of pavement we should have. They finally decided on wood block. It made a beautiful pavement. One of the reasons was that it would make less noise. But it wasn't very long after that that we had a very heavy rainstorm. The wood blocks all floated down from Madison Avenue to Sherman Avenue. They were replaced and the new blocks lasted for a couple of years. After resurfacing with asphalt began, they were finally taken up.

One of the more interesting projects that we carried on occurred during the Depression. At that time the city was ordered by the state to put in a sewage disposal plant. Prior to then all of the raw sewage was dumped directly into the Rock River. The main outlet for the northside was on Riverside Drive at Rankin Street. On the south side, the sewage emptied into the river at the Robert Street bridge.

The only treatment plant the city had was at the east end of South Fourth Street, where a septic tank intercepted the sewer before it emptied into Haumerson's Pond. That system had not worked too well, so when I became city engineer we built a bed adjacent to the tank into which the sludge was pumped and dried. This helped to eliminate part of the pollution that was going into the river.

In addition to building the sewage disposal plant, it was also necessary to get all of the sewage out to the plant. A pumping station was put in at the south side interceptor sewer at the Robert Street bridge, which pumped the sewage across the river, and the sewer that had emptied into the river at Rankin Street was extended out to the disposal site located on the Shampnor farm, which the city later acquired for park purposes. The sewage from the south side area located behind the high school hill was diverted over Milwaukee Avenue, where another pumping station was installed to pump it into the rest of the south side system.

In this way all of the sewage was gathered at one location where it could be treated. In order to pick up the several private sewers that had been put in prior to the installation of the public sewer system, it was necessary to run another interceptor along the river from the Main Street bridge east.

When the city manager form of government came into effect in 1931, the first city manager, Adolph Koenig, in an attempt to show a savings in finances, which was rather critical at the time because of the Depression, laid me off as a full-time engineer. I was still retained on an hourly basis, so I talked him into letting me make a survey of the Rock River through the city in order to establish a dock line.

At about the same time, the Depression-era government assistance plans, in which unemployed workers were put, came into being. We took our approved dock wall plan over to Madison and had it approved as a public works project. The federal bureaucrat in charge of this program said he would have 300 men

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Building Main Street bridge on north side of Rock River.

Neither rain nor sleet . . .

Letters were gold to pioneers

By Robert Angus

Neither rain, nor sleet nor snow prevent U.S. postal carriers from completing their appointed rounds . . . but the presidents' birthday, Martin Luther King Day and numerous other federal holidays do.

The same weather problems existed, but federally-declared work-free days did not, back in 1837 when Solomon Juneau, postmaster at Milwaukee, appointed George Hyer of Aztalan to carry mail to Fort Atkinson — the first to be dispatched west of Milwaukee.

Hyer, traveling on horseback, was on the road for four days on his first trip from Milwaukee, having lost time when he missed the Bark River crossing. He spent the first night at present-day Waukesha, the second near Whitewater and the third at an Indian camp in the woods before arriving at the cabin of Dwight Foster, built on the site of the Black Hawk War stockade.

With Aztalan designated as the central postal station, and with mail dispatched from there throughout south-central Wisconsin, couriers arrived at this settlement on a weekly basis until 1844, when the Milwaukee-Madison stage line began to deliver mail twice a week. Daily mail service didn't start until 1853, and the mail-by-stage continued until surrendering to the arrival of the Chicago & North Western Railroad in 1859.

The cabin of the city's first settler, Dwight Foster, became the first post office here in 1837, with the mail deposited in a sealed box situated on a four-legged stand (still preserved at the Hoard Historical Museum). At about the same time, Solomon Hudson became mail carrier and made the Janesville-to-Watertown route and return via horseback once per week.

Billy Plummer's dog-pulled mail wagon.

Mail was quite a luxury in those days, not only being quite rare but also expensive, with a fee of 25 cents (a pretty hefty sum back then) for a single letter sheet.

Foster didn't become the settlement's first official postmaster until 1839, the year the community became an official post office location.

The Foster cabin was the first of several privately-owned postal sites, both south and north of the Rock River, that served the community during the first 81 years before a government-owned complex was erected.

Milestones in mail service here during the years have included the following:

—1864, the start of railway postal service, with train clerks sorting the mail en route so that it was ready for delivery when the train reached a given designation.

—1867, the beginning of money order service.

—1897, mail delivery within the city began with two carriers, ending the need for local patrons to gather at the post office to receive their mail.

—1899, rural free delivery established with a route to the Ripley and Oakland area, extended in 1902 to Hebron and Cold Spring and in 1904 to Busseyville.

—1911, postal savings system started.

—1913, Parcel Post delivery began.

The U.S. Postal Service at Fort Atkinson has always been a pretty busy place. In fiscal 1909, for example, Fort Atkinson was 47th in population among all cities in Wisconsin, but it was first in per capita in both postal receipts and mail dispatched.

Even today, the local post office volume of business remains unusually high, mainly because of the operations of such industries as W.D. Hoard & Sons Co. and Johnson Hill Press, both publishers of several publications; Nasco and Highsmith Co., both mail order firms, and Jones Dairy Farm,

After distributing mail at various locations within the city, the Fort Atkinson Post Office finally moved into its first permanent home on East Milwaukee Avenue in 1917. The $41,000 structure, built during the reign of Postmaster Frank Roger, was remodeled in 1966.

Longest serving local postmaster has been Paul W. Cornish, who started his tenure in 1936 and continued until 1962, a period of 26 years. Formerly a teller at First National Bank (now First American Bank & Trust Co.), he was appointed postmaster by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

It was under Postmaster Cornish that the transportation of mail into the city began by motor vehicle (trucks), thus completing the shift from railroad, from stage line, from horseback.

In 1962, Sam Kuykendall became the last presidentially-appointed postmaster here when he was selected for that role by President John F. Kennedy and confirmed in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Kuykendall, who began as a substitute clerk in the local office in 1947, was promoted "from within."

The present postmaster is Richard E. Roloff, who was also promoted "from within" in May 1981. He heads an operation that serves 4,031 city clients, including 3,749 residential and 282 business. In addition, there are 2,012 rural delivery patrons.

Under Postmaster Roloff, the 1986 Fort Atkinson Post Office staff includes: Supervisor William J. Carmichael; clerks Robert Wilde, Mike Majewski, Monte Smith, Del Viney and Richard Riebe; city carriers Robert Erdman, Dan O'Brien, Clyde Werner, Frank Zechel, James Gottschalk, Steve Hotter, Norm Lueder, Greg Vorlob, Ron Reynolds and Jennifer Reel.

Also rural carriers Cornelius Hulstein, Daniel Arndt, Rex Young and Lloyd Mack; substitute rural carriers William Eakers, Kathleen Schwab, Robert Lodl and Shirley Baker, and maintenance employee Randy Brom.

Throughout its history, the Fort Atkinson Post Office has had 19 persons appointed as postmaster, all males. Postmasters, and their appointment dates, have included:

Dwight Foster, July 5, 1939; John T. Haight, Dec. 17, 1845; William H. Johnson, Aug. 28, 1846; Aaron Rankin, Nov. 30, 1848; Erastus Willard, May 9, 1849; David L. Morrison, May 7, 1853; Milo Jones, March 14, 1855; Adna I. Rankin, July 16, 1857; Alanson M. Hurd, April 12, 1861; Monmouth H. Ganong, Dec. 1, 1865; Drummond G. Craig, May 27, 1885; Matthew H. Taylor, April 19, 1890; Drummond G. Craig, April 11, 1894; George W. Burchard, May 28, 1898; Frank Rogers, Aug. 3, 1916; George A. Potter, Aug. 12, 1922; the Rev. Dell Grabill, June 12, 1931; Paul W. Cornish, July 1, 1936; Sam Kuykendall, Dec. 8, 1962; Richard Roloff, May 1981.

In recognition of the city's sesquicentennial, the Fort Atkinson Post Office had a special die cast for its cancelling machine, reading: "150th Anniversary, Fort Atkinson, 1836-1986."

Mail carriers in 1905 are William Abbott, Henry Jaycox and Glen Vosburg.

Trash dilemma wasn't rubbish

By Robert Angus

Privatization may be a new word in government these days, but Fort Atkinson has been taking that route to supply some services to its citizens for about a quarter of a century.

Privatization, or turning once-normal governmental functions over to private operators, is presently spreading at the state and local levels. Its primary form is contracting for goods and services, including hospitals, jails and prisons, garbage collection, security and even fire protection.

In most cases, it is the lack of money from the federal government that is privatization's driving force. Cutbacks in revenue sharing and grant programs have placed a greater burden on states and localities . . . so they are seeking more economical ways of getting certain things done.

For instance, about 35 percent of local governments in the United States now contract with private firms for residential garbage collection, according to the National Center for Policy Analysis, Dallas, Texas.

Fort Atkinson is far out in front in that game for it has been contracting for both trash collection and disposal services since the 1960s.

The city ventured into garbage service from outside sources way back then primarily because of two things: the city dump was on the Bark River floodplain and the state Department of Natural Resources was starting to issue orders to cease and desist, and city workmen who were picking up garbage were asking for three-men crews for each truck, one person to drive the truck and two to collect trash from both sides of the street. That would have made city garbage collection an expensive exercise.

After several complaint-filled years under other private collectors, Valley Sanitation Co., with Joe Tate as president, was awarded the collection contract in 1967 and has held it ever since.

Trivia question: What was the major issue confronting the Fort Atkinson City Council in the late 1960s? Answer: Trying to find some place to dump the city's garbage and trash. It was a difficult question that offered no easy answer. But it was a solution that had to be found because of heavy pressure from the state Department of Natural Resources.

For generations, the city had been disposing of the community's wastes at local dumps. But, by the late 1960s, the state had developed tough legislation concerning environmental standards. And dumps like Fort Atkinson's had suddenly become obsolete.

So, what to do? The city looked toward a possible area-wide solution, and for some time considered joining in a potential landfill area near Lake Mills. Other landfills in rural areas also were discussed, but each potential dumping site attracted a flood of complaints from neighboring households.

The city also cast hopeful eyes at the city-owned gravel pit off Whitewater Avenue, but that didn't pan out. Then, in 1969, came a solution. The city already had a garbage collection contract with Valley Sanitation Co., and that was expanded that year to both collection and disposal. It also was agreed that collections of trash were to be from curbside rather than the back door.

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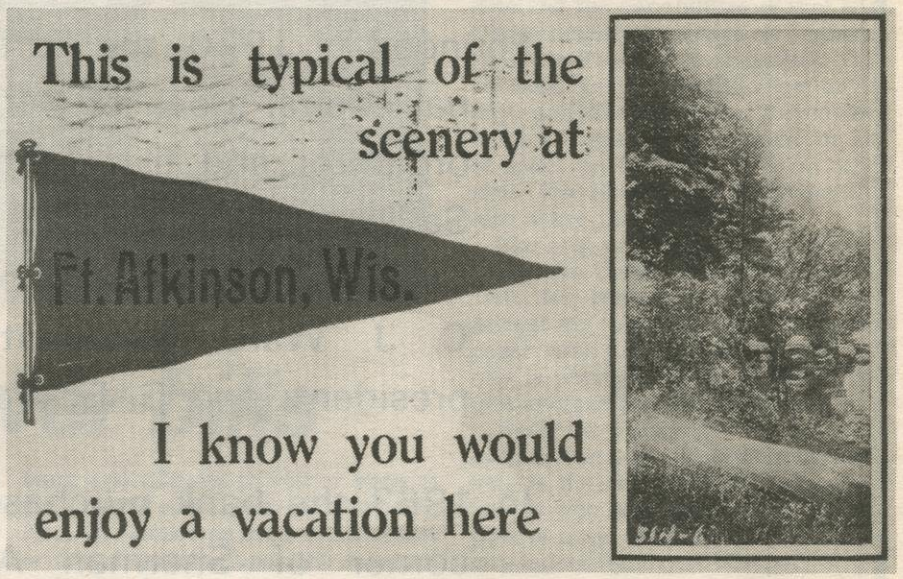
Humorous Fort Atkinson postcards in 1916.



Sewage plant opened in 1934

By Robert Angus

Fort Atkinson residents should have little sympathy for the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its dilemma caused by the rapidly falling price of oil these days.

Because, as a result of OPEC's greedy actions of a decade ago, local property owners are still paying much higher sewer-user fees today.

It all started in July 1974, when Fort Atkinson started up its new $4.5-million wastewater treatment plant. That facility, built on 14.7 acres of land along State Highway 26 South, featured a $600,000 incinerator. It was hailed as the "ultimate" way of getting rid of wastes — by burning rather than burying.

Unfortunately, soon after the start-up of that massive furnace, OPEC began to demand more money for its oil. So, after burning for just over two years, the incinerator became an early victim of America's oil crisis. It was just too expensive to keep operating; by that time, the furnace's fuel costs had soared by 300 percent.

A reluctant city council then ordered that the incinerator be shut down, that the sludge be properly treated and hauled as fertilizer (today called Fort-i-lizer) to area farm fields. This change became effective Aug. 6, 1976.

OPEC had struck at the very heart of the city's new sewage treatment plant, its incinerator. It was a crippling blow from which the facility has not yet recovered.

The $4.5-million plant, for which the city had borrowed a then record $915,000 in 17-year bonds in order to pay its share of 20 percent of the expense, had been designed to take care of the city's sewer needs for 20 years or more. But it was in deep trouble within 25 months.

At shutdown in 1976, it was anticipated that the incinerator would be fired up again and used about two or three months each year, es-

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Robert Street bridge in 1911.

Founded in 1910, the Fort Savings Bank had original capital stock of $40,000. O. W. Donkle, the organizer and first cashier of the Fort Atkinson Savings Bank located it at 106 South Main Street. Other original officers of the bank were C. J. Ward, president; G. W. Kindlen, vice-president; and G. E. Ward, assistant cashier.

In 1963 the bank purchased a tract of land at the corner of Sherman Avenue and Washington Street. On May 18, 1964 The Bank of Fort Atkinson opened it new doors in the bank's current location.

Today The Bank of Fort Atkinson has established itself as an economic hub of the Fort Atkinson area. Families and businesses alike have grown and prospered through their association with The Bank of Fort Atkinson.

Postcard from the early days.

Blame OPEC for sewer bills

(Continued from page 19)

pecially during the winter when hauling sludge became difficult. But that never happened; the price of fuel kept climbing for years, until the recent sharp collapse.

So, the city was faced with spending millions more to convert the plant from one that burned sludge to one that treated the waste and then had it hauled to farm fields. In fact, the shift from "interim" ways and means of sludge treating/hauling to permanent ways and means continues to this day.

Along with the new treatment plant came something else new to Fort Atkinson residents — a sewer-user fee system sufficient to raise funds to pay for the plant's operations . . . without reliance on the city tax roll. That was a mandate of the state Department of Natural Resources. That fee schedule suffered a severe blow with the April shutdown of hog-kill operations at Jones Dairy Farm, which had been paying the single-highest sewer fee.

Another recent impact upon the city's sanitary sewer system was more favorable. It came through the tax incremental finance (TIF) program of the late 1970s and early 1980s. Both the 77 miles of sewer mains and the treatment plant received major financial assistance under the program, with much of the collection system being replaced or restored. Also assisted under TIF was the city's 14-mile storm sewer system, which carries rain water into the Rock River.

The city's first sewer treatment plant, opened in February 1934 at a cost of $37,800, is to be razed, with no plans agreed upon as yet for the future use of the property. Located along Riverside Drive (Highway 106) on about five acres of land, it had been up for sale since 1975. But it brought no takers at the appraisal price of $70,000.

Now, a bit of a quiz. In Fort Atkinson's 150-year history, which of the countless events that have taken place have left the greatest impact upon the community as it exists today?

Among them are two that have strong support.

One was the arrival of the Chicago & North Western Railroad in 1859, after the community had suffered through years of high hopes and numerous frustrations. Once the iron ribbon of transportation was completed through the community, Fort Atkinson was really "on the map."

As it was explained by L.B. Caswell, a leading citizen of that day and of all history: "The railroad revived the spirit and energy of our people and all went to work with renewed courage."

And, indeed, following the arrival of the railroad, Fort Atkinson enjoyed a rapid growth in population and a large-scale manufacturing boom.

The second major happening with a lasting impact was the building of the rock wall along the banks of the Rock River through the city in the early 1930s. That construction helped convert the meandering stream from a virtual cesspool into the beautiful natural asset that it remains today.

Champion of the river wall is Elmore F. Klement, who was its chief architect 55 years ago and remains today at age 87 as one of its main advocates. "It's the most wonderful thing that ever happened to Fort Atkinson," said Klement, now retired after more than 40 years of service as city manager/engineer.

One must understand what the river bank was like then to appreciate what it is now.

Back before the 1930s, most of the community's raw sewage went right into the river. And much of the sloping land leading to the stream was utilized by its owners and others as a private dumping ground for trash. In some areas, debris from road construction and other building wastes had been unloaded on the top of the bank and allowed to roll or slide to the river's edge. And all along the Rock the bank was mud — either wet or dry, depending upon the seasonal water level.

In brief, Klement recalled, the river bank was "a mess."

The Great Depression, coupled with a decision by the state Department of Natural Resources (then the state Conservation Department) that running water was becoming an endangered species, changed all of that.

Klement, a 1917 Fort Atkinson High School graduate who earned a degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Engineering in 1922, had been hired as Fort Atkinson engineer in 1924. However, soon came the hard times and, in 1931, as part of his cost-cutting, City Manager Adolph Koenig laid off Klement as a full-time engineer but retained him on an hourly basis.

As an hourly worker, Klement received Koenig's approval to survey the river and establish a dock line through the city. That proved to be a timely undertaking. For it had barely been completed when the federal government began casting about for suitable projects it could finance under the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in order to provide jobs for the many unemployed during the depression.

Klement took his river wall plan to Madison and it was quickly approved as a WPA project. Soon, nearly 300 people, mostly common laborers but some skilled workers happy to have jobs paying 30 to 50 cents an hour, were busy piling up rocks along the river. They completed the task in about two years and, despite many predictions by "sidewalk superintendents" that the wall would wash away with the first big flood, their massive Depression-day monument remains intact today.

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Dumping rubbish a dilemma

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The Valley firm that year began to dispose of its collections in an old gravel pit on the Jack Bound farm on Kiesling Road in the Town of Jefferson. Later, still under contract with the city, Valley closed over the Kiesling Road landfill and began burying waste on a Ronald W. Nickel-owned site on Vickerman Road in the Town of Koshkonong. After the state disputed the capabilities of that site, Valley acquired acreage off Highway 12 in the Town of Koshkonong. That remains as the landfill location today, and Fort Atkinson fortunately holds a long-time agreement for use of space on that site. Several other area townships and municipalities also share that landfill.

The cost of getting rid of trash is expensive these days in contrast to 1960, for instance, when the total budget for "refuse and garbage disposal" was just $28,400. For 1986, the city is paying $152,000 for collection and another $155,800 for disposal.

While the Valley site was formerly open to free public dumping, that service is no longer offered. However, people who have excess trash to dispose of may, for a fee, do so at an in-city indoor facility on Klement Street in Industrial Park. That same building also houses a recycling center, where paper, aluminum, glass metals and other materials are received.

What did early-day Fort Atkinson residents do with their trash? Well, for one thing, they didn't have near the quantity that the average household has today since cans and paper cartons were virtually unknown, and paper bags, newspapers and magazines were not as numerous. Furthermore, most families had chickens, or even pigs, to serve as backyard garbage disposals. Burying garbage in backyards also was a popular disposal method.

However, there was still rubbish to get rid of . . . and a lot of that was simply dumped down the banks of the Rock River. By 1930, the river banks were "a mess," according to former City Manager Elmore F. Klement, who was city engineer at that time. But the erection of the rock wall along the meandering stream in the Great Depression, and the resulting clean-up order, stopped most of that.

For many years, "going to the dump" was quite a Saturday social event for residents who hauled their own trash or who had excess rubbish. On a warm, sunny day, people would dump their refuse at the city-operated landfill and then either seek possible collectibles among other's discards or chat with other dump-goers about events of the past week.

Modern-day Memorial Park, where the Little League baseball diamonds are located, is a former low area filled in with various trash and filler-dirt. The site of the Wisconsin National Guard Armory and its big lawn rest on a filled-in gravel pit.

The city's last public dumping area was east of Memorial Park.

Northwestern Manufacturing burned Jan 6, 1906.

Where there's smoke, there's fire

By Robert Angus

In a period of 150 years, most things have changed a great deal, but fire and smoke have not. They have remained just as hot, just as dense, just as deadly as ever.

So, the Fort Atkinson Volunteer Fire Department, in this sesquicentennial year, remains alert against the identical foe that was faced by early settlers. But, while the ingredients of an inferno have not changed, the weapons to fight them have.

Pioneers had only a bucket brigade, or buckets of water passed hand-to-hand, to fight spreading flames. Today, firemen have equipment that can pour out thousands of gallons of water or flame-killing foam at the turn of a hydrant or a flick of a switch. But, in those early days, buildings were not as big or as clustered as they are now.

Then as now, one of the prime considerations of the community has been to protect its citizens and its property from fire.

Fortunately, in all those years, many Fort Atkinson fires have been spectacular but few have claimed lives. However, in those 150 years, at least two of the fires have killed or crippled fire-fighting personnel.

One came in December 1923, when a newly-purchased American La France truck that was speeding to a fire at Rockdale went out of control, struck a culvert and turned end-over-end into a field. Three firemen died in that tragedy; three others were seriously hurt.

The other occurred the night of Feb. 7, 1970, when local volunteers were called to help fight an arson-caused fire that destroyed the 1868-built Old Main on the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater campus. Standing on a 20-foot ladder, Gary Gebhardt and Tim Dunlap were flipped by a "hose surge" to the pavement below, with Gebhardt suffering life-threatening injuries. Chief Pearson Gebhardt (Gary's father) and George Sherman, who were tending the ladder, also were hurt.

Some other flames that have etched major Fort Atkinson headlines have soared on these dates:

1871 — Dalton & Grassmuck Brewery.

1870s — Widmann, Wandschneider & Co.

1880s — High school building.

May 11, 1889 — Cornish, Curtis & Greene, plus Zeugner & Hoffman Lumber Co. and Northwestern Mfg. Co. warehouse. In all, 12 buildings were lost, with citizen attempts to fight the flames thwarted by a hose bursting in four places.

Jan. 5, 1906 — Northwestern Mfg. Co., maker of wagons, sleighs and furniture, and the city's leading industry, virtually destroyed by fire and

Augie Hausen's dog never missed a fire.

smoke that threatened all of North Main Street and which could be seen for 50 miles in all directions. The plant was located on and near the present city parking lot at the west end of North Water Street.

June 11, 1922 — Fort Atkinson Canning Co. lost its three-story main plant, two-story shipping rooms, warehouse, corn shed and boiler room, with canned goods ready to be shipped East exploding and shooting 200 feet into the air.

1926 — Junior high school.

1928 — First Methodist Church.

Oct. 25, 1942 — First Congregational Church.

1950s — Bowling alley on Madison Avenue.

June 1962 — An early Saturday night spectacular that attracted thousands of persons to Madison Avenue near the railroad tracks to watch the Hoffman Lumber Co. and Blodgett Milling Co. destroyed by towering flames and smoke.

Dec. 28, 1968 — J.C. Penney Store at southwest corner of Main Street bridge burned out.

Nov. 27, 1978 — A late-night spectacular which also attracted thousands of persons wrecked the Mazor Furniture Co., which was located in the only downtown building ever erected over the Rock River (in 1901, on northwest corner of Main Street bridge). The two-story structure, which could not be replaced at the over-river site because of state Department of Natural Resources restrictions, and a big stock of pre-holiday furniture was lost.

September 1984 — Non-spectacular but destructive fire causes $256,000 damage at senior high school.

Since 1978, the Fort Atkinson Volunteer Fire Department has been housed in a $330,000 structure erected on the western end of a city parking lot on East Milwaukee Avenue, property donated to the city by Butler Mfg. Co. and once the site of the massive James Mfg. Co.

Previously, or since its dedication in 1928, the department had been located at the rear of the Municipal Building. Earlier, fire trucks roared out of a building at the corner of North Water Street, East, and Edward Street; then the structure that is now Arcadia Alleys; then, in 1913, a building on North Main Street and East Sherman Avenue and then, in 1918, the former Phoenix Hotel (purchased by the city) which stood where the Municipal Building is located.

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Chief George Lohmaier with Volunteer Hose Co. at 27 E. Sherman Ave.

Building wall

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on the job in the morning. That was a little too fast for us because there was a lot of preliminary work still to be done. In a week or so we had enough trucks rented.

The dock wall was completed over the course of the next two years. When the farmers learned that we wanted stone, we got all kinds of calls to pick up stones the farmers had been accumulating for years. There was no problem in getting all the rock needed to build the wall.

The sidewalk inspectors said that when high water came next spring the wall would all be in the river, but it has been there for a half-century and there has been little repair work needed to keep it in good condition.

Firetruck crash killed 3 in 1923

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The bucket brigade was all the community had to fight fires until 1870, when a Cullin hand pumper was acquired. A used hand-pulled steamer-pumper was purchased in Iowa in 1886 and a steam pumper pulled by horses was added in 1889, with a $5 prize awarded to the first teamster to reach the station after an alarm sounded. In the same period, the department acquired a two-wheel hose cart and a ladder wagon.

Water sources in those early days, besides the Rock River, were big cisterns dug near the Methodist and Congregational churches.

The first motor truck, a Peter Pirsch rig on a White chassis, was purchased in 1919 but became snowbound in Whitewater and couldn't be delivered until 1920. The second vehicle, the ill-fated truck that was wrecked en route to Rockdale, was bought in 1923.

After protection by the bucket carriers under the command of fire wardens, the volunteer fire department was organized officially in March 1881, with J.C. Sawyer as first chief in command of 120 men — 80 in an engine company, 25 in a hook and ladder company and 15 in a hose company.

Down through the years, other chiefs have included: Eugene Pierce, 1885-87; J. Wolf, 1887-88; Matt Taylor, 1888-90; A.D. Merriman, 1890-97; Henry Petti, 1897-98; Will Touton, 1898-99; William Boettcher, 1899-1901; A.D. Merriman, 1901-06; Charles Messmer, 1906-07; George Lohmaier, 1907-08; August Hausen, 1908-13; George Lohmaier, 1913-16; August Hausen, 1916-18; George Hausen, 1918-19; Fred Zahn, 1919-21; William Rohde, 1921-23; George Lohmaier, 1923-28; Ben B. Beebe Sr., 1928-49; Pearson Gebhardt, 1949-74; Walter Wetzel, 1974-78; Phillip A. Doersching, 1978-present.

In recent years, the department has had four full-time firemen: Jerry Wileman, Mark Schoenleber, Mike Reel and Tom Emrick.

Fire officials under Chief Doersching include Wayne Allbee, first assistant chief; Ed Garthwait, second assistant chief; Fran Heth, captain, and Tom Mansavage and Gary Gebhardt, lieutenants.

The 23 other volunteers are headed by William Dolan, who joined the staff in 1950. Others are LaVerne Bickle, Robert Lodl, Tom Kopps, John Behrend, Robert Reel, Charles Bieberitz, Jeff Armstrong, Robert Allard, Steve Arnold, Jeff Dostalek, Tom Emrick, Keith Gebhardt, Mike Jaeger, Raymond Jung, Rod Kovnesky, Scott Marquart, Dave Merkel, Steve Mode, Robert Stray, Tom Gerondale, Andy Bauer and Dick Church.

The department, which has a 1986 operating budget of $208,720 (including $130,800 in salaries and $45,000 in fringe benefits), has as its disposal a fleet of vehicles recently enriched by a new 85-foot aerial ladder truck and a new 1,250-gpm pumper. Also in the fleet are a mini-attack pumper (1980); two other pumpers (1980 and 1956); two tankers (1979 and 1975), and a station wagon (1977).

Three firefighters died in 1923 truck crash.

Pioneer's word was his bond

By Robert Angus

In early-day Fort Atkinson, before organized law enforcement came to the small settlement, justice rested mainly on honesty — for a pioneer's word could usually be considered his bond.

But occasionally, justice came only after utilizing any tool that might be at hand; for instance, a 4-foot fireplace shovel with a wide, strong blade.

Caroline Rockwell was forced to use such a tool one spring day in 1838 when her husband, Charles, one of the city's better-known pioneers and builder of several of the community's first structures, was away from their cabin along the Rock River, having ventured into the woods that morning on a sugarmaking mission.

The Rockwell cabin, which later that year was to be enlarged and stocked with shipped-in merchandise to become Fort Atkinson's first commercial establishmnt, had frequently been visited by Indians seeking to swap venison, honey or fish for such things as flour and pork. Usually, Caroline and her 2-year-old son had the protection of an Indian-hating dog. But, on this day, the dog had gone into the woods with his master.

Approaching the Rockwell door on that spring afternoon 148 years ago were Tonta, a husky Potawatomie Indian, and his brother, both about 30 years old. Tonta wanted to trade honey for pork and flour and, noting the absence of Charles and the dog, was confident he could frighten Mrs. Rockwell into giving him more of the staples than she first offered. So he advanced toward her, flourishing a knife.

But the brave pioneer woman refused to panic and flee, as the Indians believed she would. Instead, she reached behind her, grabbed the shovel and "with a swift motion, brought it down with a sounding whack" on Tonta's head.

The surprised Tonta grunted and retreated. And with growing respect in his eyes, he called Caroline a "good white man's sqaw" and offered to make the trade on Mrs. Rockwell's original terms and leave the cabin. And that's what transpired.

Just a year later, the Rockwells and other Fort Atkinson settlers received some form of legal protection in the form of a Jefferson County sheriff — Edward Foster, one of the area's early-settler brothers who had been appointed to the post in 1839 by Gov. Henry Dodge. Rockwell was the area's first justice of the peace. The first circuit court judge to serve in the county was David Irvin, a Virginian appointed by President Andrew Jackson who held court in the barroom of the Jefferson House Hotel in Jefferson.

The start of locally-controlled law and order dates to 1842, with the incorporation of Koshkonong Township. Among the first town officials to be chosen were Robert Barrie, H.H. Wilds and Martin L. Bates as constables and William Barrie, Jacob Devoe and Charles Finch as justices of the peace.

The peace of the community was shattered in the fall of 1848 with the first multiple-death case. It seems that several Indians had partied at a Fort Atkinson watering hole and, while hiking back to their camp on Black Hawk Island, two of them got into a quarrel which ended with one killing the other by thrusting a knife into his neck. A brother of the victim then took off after the killer and, after catching him near what is now Jones Dairy Farm, got revenge by slaying him.

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Honesty was the best policy

(Continued from page 23)

When Fort Atkinson became a village in 1860, A.E. Jaycox was named constable and H.A. Porter justice of the peace. The latter's files for those early years reveal that, of 76 criminal cases, 30 were for assaults, 12 for liquor law violations and 11 for breaking fish and game laws. There were no further early-day homicides.

As a small farming community, Fort Atkinson's first law enforcement thrust apparently was to keep its streets free of congestion by farm animals, especially those considered possibly dangerous, and their residue. The Town of Koshkonong had addressed that same problem as early as 1843 (it was decided then that rams, bulls and stud horses not be allowed to run at large) and continued through 1849 with edicts that bulls, boars, stallions and rams "shall not be permitted to run at large." However, despite more laws, the town and then the village never managed to legislate relief and the animal nuisance evaporated only when the community grew and farms were located out of reach of local streets.

With the shift to city status in 1878, Fort Atkinson strengthened its police protection by having a police chief on duty by day and a constable roaming streets by night.

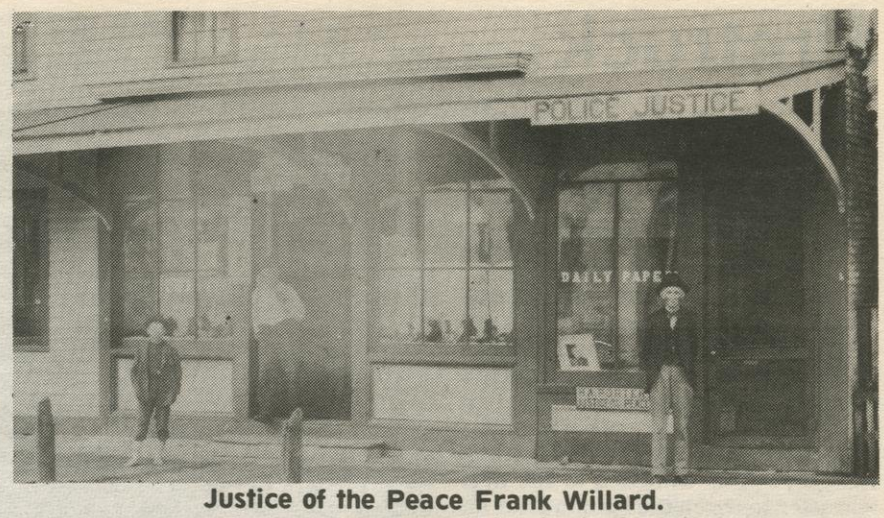
Early day chiefs, under the mayor system, were elected. The shift to the city manager form of rule in 1931 brought appointed chiefs.

Henry Wooden became the city's first police chief, being followed in order by Steven Rose, August F. Hausen, George Mason, Harry F. Mueller, Edward Schultz and William Ciske.

Mueller, who served in the 1930s and 1940s, was one of the more colorful lawmen. A man of rather small stature, he loved to jump upon his motorcycle and take off after speeders. It was during his term, too, that the city received its first so-called police ambulance, with a squad car that could be converted into an ambulance ordered in 1936.

As a new city 106 years ago, Fort Atkinson adopted an initial ordinance "for the preservation of good order and the supervision of vice and immorality." Among other things, it ruled that "any person who shall be engaged in any brawl or riot, or in producing any unusual noice of disturbance, or shall be drunk and disorderly, or be guilty of obscenity, shall forfeit and pay a penalty of not less than one dollar and no more than fifty dollars."

The present police station at 100 Edward St. was built in 1967 when Schultz was chief. Previously, police had been headquartered in the northeast room of the Municipal Building, with that structure dedicated in 1929, with a lockup in the rear. Before then, local lawmen were stationed at several other downtown sites, including at what is now Arcadia Lanes on East Milwaukee Avenue from 1870 to 1927. For many years, the city maintained a jail in a small brick building on the present city parking lot at the west end of North Water Street.



Justice of the Peace Frank Willard.

The first police wagon was acquired in 1927; the police-fire commission was formed in 1937; in 1939, a two-way radio system was installed, and in 1940, the Rock River boat patrol was organized.

High crime has never been a major problem in the city limits, from Chief Wooden through Chief Ciske. Since 1936, records show only four murders, the last in 1976 after which a husband was convicted of fatally shooting his 29-year-old wife on the steps of a downtown tavern. Since the 1960s, there have been only two attempted murders and two armed robbery/attempted murder cases. Only six armed robberies have taken place in the city since 1951. Never has a local bank been robbed.

In regard to traffic accidents, records dating to 1948 list 18 fatalities in the city, the last in 1983. During an eight-year period, 1952-1964, there were none. In the last 40 years, pedestrian deaths numbered only four (in 1948, 1956, 1979 and 1984), with the city being a state leader in pedestrian safety during a 21-year period (1957-1978).

Both of the Fort Atkinson area's most publicized criminal cases, those of the kidnap/murder of Georgia Jean Weckler, 8, in May 1947, and of Timothy Hack and Kelly Drew in August 1980, took place in rural areas and were handled by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, not city police. Neither crime has been solved.

The only Fort Atkinson police officer to die on duty was David A. McKee, who at the age of 38 lost his life April 9, 1968, while attempting to rescue a 16-year-old boy (Keith Nielsen) who had fallen into the Rock River from the Chicago & North Western Railroad bridge. Officer McKee, who in 1957 had been recognized by the local Jaycees as Young Man of the Year, was posthumously honored with the National Police Officers Association of America Medal of Valor.

Chief Ciske, 56, has headed the department since 1967. A minor league baseball player for seven years, he came here after 16 years with the Menasha Police Department, where he had attained the rank of captain.

The department is the center of the city's new one-call-for-emergency-service system and maintains a 24-hour city-wide patrol and dispatch service. Its equipment includes four (1984 and 1985 Chevrolet Impala) squad cars and updated radio facilities.

WCTU 'agitated' library construction

By Christine Blumer

The Dwight Foster Public Library has been an important chapter in Fort Atkinson's story for 95 of the city's 150 years.

It was the liquor-hating Women's Christian Temperance Union in Fort Atkinson that initiated the idea of starting a library. At the WCTU's March 10, 1890, meeting, they and other civic-minded citizens met "for the purpose of agitating the question" as to building a library, according to documents at the library.

They voted to raise $100 for the project and the city pledged $500. By January 1891, the WCTU had raised an additional $500, handing over the lump sum to the Businessman's Association to sponsor a library program.

The first library was housed in rented quarters upstairs at 115 S. Main St., which today houses JM Carpets. Sue C. Nichols was hired as the first librarian at $100 per year, and the first library board was appointed in May 1893.

Residents began a fund-raising campaign to build a new library. In 1904, Fort Atkinson's request for $10,000 from philanthropist Andrew Carnegie to build a library was denied.

A fund-raising drive 15 years later netted the $3,000 needed to purchase a white frame house near the corner of Milwaukee and Merchants avenues from Frank W. Hoard. The library board also bought adjacent property south of the residence for $1,250.

The frame house, which was later moved to Bluff Street by Charles B. Rogers, a local attorney, was presented to the city in 1912. It served as the library until the first wing of the present library was constructed in 1915.

H.E. Southwell of Chicago, a former Fort Atkinson man, donated $10,000 for the new library, stipulating that it was to be named after Dwight Foster, Fort Atkinson's first white settler and Southwell's father-in-law.

That donation, along with $5,000 from the city and donations including $300 from the DAR, were used for the $16,184 library and equipment.

The architectural firm for the project was Claude & Starek of Madison.

"When completed, the building will do credit to the city," the Daily Union stated in an article. "Standing on ground between two of Fort Atkinson's best streets, East Milwaukee Avenue and Merchants Avenue, it will command a fine view."

That new library, which accommodated twice the number of books as did the frame structure, was dedicated Oct. 13, 1916. But it kept on growing, and in 20 years, the library's circulation had jumped from 12,857 to 57,882 volumes annually.

This time it was Mary Worcester, Southwell's daughter, who came to the rescue. In July 1926, she gave $25,000 for "construction and proper equipment" of a new children's wing as a memorial to her mother.

The addition, designed by H.C. Haeuser of Milwaukee, was dedicated Jan. 28, 1931. The $30,192 pricetag was covered by the $25,000 from Worcester, $1,067.47 in interest on that money and $4,124.53 from a building fund.

In 1943, Worcester gave another $25,000 to the library for future building needs.

And there were some. Irene Metke, librarian from 1936-73, reported in 1965 that, "Because of space problems, it is necessary to discard an old book for each one added . . . there just isn't room to do otherwise."

In 1967, she warned the library board: ". . . someday, we'll stretch one shelf too many and we'll burst through the walls like the 10:30 sonic boom, and then we'll have to build a new library."

A year later, the library board looked into acquiring the adjacent Friedens United Church of Christ parsonage or construct a new building. The Wisconsin Division of Library Services recommended building a new facility, but instead the board decided to replace the wooden stacks with taller steel cases to add shelf space.

It abandoned the idea on Nov. 4, 1968, and the dream of reconstruction did not surface as a reality again until 1980.

The library construction's final chapter was written when, after two years of discussion, plaster dust and the reshuffling of books, a revamped Dwight Foster Library opened its doors Sept. 25, 1983.

The building, designed by The Potter Design Group of Madison, cost $718,298. That was covered by $300,000 from taxpayers, $200,000 from the Worcester Fund and $222,066.55 raised during a fund-raising campaign.

How well do you know Fort?

By Robert Angus

Do you have a small attention span? Want to digest Fort Atkinson's 150-year history in small bites? Then read on.

The following tidbits have been gleaned by reading articles or books by the late Hannah Swart and Zida Ivey, both past curators of the Hoard Historical Museum, and by memory recall:

—Four Fort Atkinson residents have served as presidents of the national University of Wisconsin-Madison Alumni Association — George I. Haight, Charles B. Rogers, William D. Hoard Jr. and Jonathan Pellegrin. No other small city in the nation can make such a claim.

—Long community service? Consider A.A. "Tony" Statz, who was on the Fort Atkinson City Council for 22 years, 1941-1963. Second in service on the council with 16 years has been Ben B. Beebe Jr., followed by Stanley "Steamer" Roglitz and John "Curly" Misfeldt, with 14 years each. Or consider Lucien B. Caswell, who sat on the School District of Fort Atkinson Board of Education for nearly 65 years before his death in 1919. Or Pearson Gebhardt, who headed the local volunteer fire department for 24 years before retiring in 1973.

—The same Lucien B. Caswell, born in Vermont in 1827, also apparently was the first attorney at law to practice in Fort Atkinson, opening his office here in 1852. He also has been the only local resident ever elected to the U.S. Congress, serving 14 years in the House of Representatives as a Republican starting in 1874. In addition, Mr. Caswell was elected to the Wisconsin Legislature, served as Jefferson County district attorney and played a leading role in bringing the railroad into the city and in organizing several businessess, including a local bank.

—The only Fort Atkinson resident ever elected governor of Wisconsin was William D. Hoard, founder of the Jefferson County Union and Hoard's Dairyman, who served one term as a Republican, 1888-1890. He also was the only citizen to serve on the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents, which he headed as president.

—In 1915, at the Panama-Pacific Exposition at San Francisco, Calif., Wisconsin honored Hoard as its most distinguished citizen.

—The first electric power came to Fort Atkinson in 1889 when A.R. Hoard installed a generator at his Hoard's Creameries Inc. dairy plant.

—Fort Atkinson's "Lady Bountiful" was Mrs. Mary Southworth Worcester, granddaughter of the city's first settler, Dwight Foster. The daughter of Celeste Foster Southworth, the first white child to become a resident of Fort Atkinson, she married H.E. Worcester and they resided in Milwaukee and Chicago, where he made a fortune in the lumber and real estate businesses. The Worcesters made generous gifts to the Fort Atkinson Historical Society, Dwight Foster Public Library, Evergreen Cemetery Association and Fort Atkinson Memorial Hospital.

—Fort Atkinson's last surviving Civil War veteran was George Pounder, who died at the age of 92 in December 1936.

—Fort Atkinson can't rival Milwaukee as a "brewery city," but its history includes at least five breweries, now long closed. They, and their founding dates, included Henry Pritchard Brewery, 1845; Dalton & Gressmuck, 1879; William Spaeth, 1883, and Carl Ebner, 1924. Another brewery, the Liebscher Brewery, was located on West Sherman Avenue for only three years.

—First auto dealership in the community was that of Klement Brothers, which offered Fords for sale in 1900.

—N.F. Hopkins opened the city's first men's clothing store in 1851.

(Continued on page 26)

Museum preserves past for future

Museum in library basement in August 1936.

By Christine Blumer

Step into the Hoard Historical Museum and you will enter a Fort Atkinson of years gone by.

For artifacts and mementoes of the city's 150 years are stored and displayed in the Merchants Avenue facility, which itself is 52 years old.

It was Feb. 22, 1934, that the Hoard Historical Museum opened, culminating a drive led by Marie Royce Donkle and the Daughters of the American Revolution to preserve the city's heritage.

Mrs. Frank (Luella West) Hoard held the organizational meeting at her home at 407 Merchants Ave., which today houses the museum itself.

"Guests were met at the door by one of the members costumed as a butler of Washington's time and were greeted in the reception hall by several ladies in Colonial costume," read an article in the March 4, 1933, Jefferson County Union.

The DAR display included patchwork quilts, the baby cradle of W.D. Hoard, who later became governor; a 1792-vintage bedcover made by Anna Rood, a black oak box carved by monks more than 900 years ago from part of a choir stall of Whitby Abbey in Yorkshire, England, and fittingly, a newspaper clipping telling of Washington's death.

Zida Ivey, a descendent of the pioneer Caswell family, later arranged the 108 artifacts in the basement of the Dwight Foster Public Library, and a museum was born. In fact, Ivey continued as curator for 34 years until her death in 1967.

In 1939, the Fort Atkinson Historical Society was chartered to accept local artifacts for display. Among the first loaned to the museum were Indian artifacts gathered over a 50-year span by local hotel keeper R.T. Lawton. By the end of 1940, the collection had grown to 800 items, including stuffed birds from John Mueller and Walter Pelzer and clothing from Juanita Schreiner.

The museum's course was altered Jan. 22, 1945, when fire damaged the library and basement museum. It took Ivey 10 months to clean up debris and reorganize the displays.

Her determination to raise the museum up out of the ashes ignited interest and in 1946 the society considered moving the museum to larger quarters at the Eli May house, which had been purchased five years before with profits from the centennial celebration and fund-raising.

Wartime rationing ruled out remodeling the East Milwaukee Avene house for that purpose. However, in 1951, Mary Worcester of Chicago, granddaughter of the Dwight Fosters, the first white settlers, donated $10,000 to renovate the May house.

But reconstruction had not yet started five years later when William D. Hoard Jr., son of the late Gov. W.D. Hoard, and his sister, Shirley Hoard Kerschensteiner, donated the family homestead on Merchants Avenue to the city for a permanent museum.

The 10-room former home of the Frank Hoards was dedicated as the museum Oct. 26, 1957. Charles B. Rogers, a local attorney and society president, told the crowd that it was "very fitting that this home be used to preserve the mementos of bygone days."

"It is a great pleasure for me now to dedicate this beautiful home as the Hoard Historical Museum," said state Rep. Ora Rice of Delavan, who keynoted the event. "May it live through future generations in honor and in memory of a name that has always ranked high and foremost in progress, citizenship and good government in Wisconsin."

From that point, the museum changed and grew dramatically.

Mrs. W.D. (Mary) Hoard organized the first museum art show, "Reflections of Fort Atkinson," in 1960. It is now one of the oldest continuing community art shows in Wisconsin.

Ivey was succeeded as curator by Hannah Swart, who played a great part in organizing and updating the museum collections.

Swart, who died in July 1984, was succeeded as curator by Helmut Knies, who had worked at the local museum as an editor and researcher for several years.

The museum today attracts thousands of visitors from throughout the U.S. and numerous foreign countries each year. In addition to the Hoard home proper, the complex includes the Dwight Foster house, Tools and Trades of Yesteryear exhibit in the carriage house and the National Dairy Shrine.

The Dairy Shrine, a $300,000 facility built in 1981 adjacent to the museum, serves as the national monument to the past, present and future of dairying. The shrine was founded to honor yesterday and today's dairy leaders and record milestones in the history of the industry.

The locating of the shrine in Fort Atkinson was fitting because the city has considered itself the nation's dairy capital since the 1870s, when W.D. Hoard began to promote the dairy cow as the "foster mother of the human race."

Fort Atkinson can claim lots of 'firsts'

(Continued from page 25)

—The first lumberyard to be located here was Morrison, Manning & Co., opened in 1859.

—Coon provided the meat for the first Christmas Eve supper in Fort Atkinson, served at the Dwight Foster cabin in 1836.

—Dwight Foster, the community's first settler, also built the community's first tavern in the 1840s at the corner of South Main Street and Milwaukee Avenue.

—The first commercial enterprise in the community was operated by Charles Rockwell, who in 1838 began selling dry goods, groceries and other merchandise from his cabin home. Rockwell, a carpenter, also built the city's first store, schoolhouse and church (Congregational).

—First buildings erected in Fort Atkinson were mainly constructed of lumber obtained from the Town of Hebron sawmill operated by Horace Churchill and rafted down the Bark River.

—George Prestidge, who emigrated from England in 1846, a journey of 53 days, opened the city's first photographic studio.

—Ezekiel Goodrich, a native of Stockbridge, N.Y., became Fort Atkinson's first furnituremaker in 1843, with his first products being chairs for Dwight Foster's tavern and a large rocking chair for Mrs. Foster.

—The first death in Fort Atkinson was that of Edward Foster, father of Dwight, Alvin, Edward and Rebekah, in October 1837.

—The first white child born in Jefferson County also was named Edward Foster, born to the E.N. Fosters, shortly after they arrived in Fort Atkinson in the spring of 1837.

—The first marriage in the city took place in 1840, with Stephen A. Rice, a farmer who had come from Vermont in 1837, taking Laura Roberts as his bride.

—Rufus S. Dodge became the city's first blacksmith in 1841. He later opened the first brickyard.

—George May opened the community's first sawmill in 1845, near the present Masonic Temple.

—On Sept. 29-30, 1853, the newly-formed Jefferson County Agricultural Society held its first annual county fair on grounds near Fort Atkinson's Green Mountain House.

—Owen Duffy, originally from Canada, was the city's first shoemaker; his wife, Emmaline, was a dressmaker.

—Orvis Vaughn, a New York native, became the first local groceryman in 1844.

—Where did the area's first settlers come from? Well, the 1860 Town of Koshkonong census showed a population of 2,029, with place of birth including 636 in New York, 465 in Wisconsin, 125 in Vermont, 58 in Massachusetts, 40 in Connecticut, 38 in Ohio, 37 in Pennsylvania and 31 in New Hampshire. Among foreign-born were 243 in Germany, 155 in Ireland, 74 in England in 27 in Canada.

—Fort Atkinson's first major industry was a chair and bedstead factory that was rebuilt here and opened in February 1867 after the original plant in Hebron had been destroyed by fire in October 1866. Named the Northwestern Furniture Co., it was renamed Northwestern Mfg. Co. in the 1870s after buggies, farm wagons and sleighs were added to its furniture products.

Fort Atkinson High School class picnic in 1889.

—The first Fort Atkinson High School class was graduated in 1871.

—A cheese factory was opened here by Daniel Holmes in 1868.

—The first letter ever to originate from the Fort Atkinson area was written July 4, 1832, by Lt. Albert S. Johnson, an aide to Gen. Henry Atkinson during the Black Hawk War.

—The year 1888 was unique in Fort Atkinson history. That year the city had an office for the governor (W.D. Hoard) on South Main Street and an office for a U.S. representative (L.B. Caswell) on North Main Street.

—In the 1890s, Fort Atkinson High School was the site of a summer school that attracted students (mainly teachers preparing for examination for school certificates) from all over Wisconsin and many other states. It was founded by Superintendent D.D. Mayne.

—Among the coldest temperatures recorded in the city were minus 37 in 1880-81 and 1886-87 and minus 36 in 1882-83. In the modern era, minus 33 in 1951 has been the low.

—Fort Atkinson's noble experiment in band concerts came in 1911 when the city band performed on a bandstand located on top of the Main Street bridge. But, because the sound of the music was absorbed by the water below, passing traffic helped drown on the remaining chords and listeners couldn't park their cars nearby, then changed locations the next year and presented the annual concerts from a traveling bandwagon.

—The city erected its first bandstand in Barrie Park in 1927 and dedicated it in honor of Bandmaster Joe Dietz.

—The first FHS band was organized in 1928 through the efforts of Superintendent Frank Bray and Director Stuart Anhalt.

—As late as 1916, Fort Atkinson had at least two cigarmakers — A.S. Weeler and John G. Hankes, turning out about 300,000 cigars a year.

—World War I brought about an American-German loyalty test in Jefferson County, which had a large German population. In Fort Atkinson, Carl Leschinsky was president of the German Military Association and when his son, Sam, announced that he was enlisting in the U.S. forces, they got into a fistfight on Main Street. Sam enlisted anyway and became a hero by overpowering a German machinegun nest in France in 1918.

—Fort Atkinson's Clarence J. Mussehl, son of a carpenter-contractor, developed and perfected the musical saw that became popular for a time across the country.

—The first issue of the Jefferson County Union, published March 17, 1870, proved to be so popular that not a single copy was preserved for the files.

—Fort Atkinson is now known as a city of beautiful parks. Leading the way was the dedication in July 1897 of Jones Park, which for over 50 years had been known as Jones' Grove. Under Mayor N.D.M. Bradt, it was purchased from Newton Jones, a Civil War veteran and grandson of Milo Jones, who had settled the land.

—The first white American ever to step on Fort Atkinson or Town of Koshkonong soil? Well, it could have been a young West Point graduate who later became president of the Confederate States — Lt. Jefferson Davis. In 1829, Davis walked from Fort Winnebago (Portage) to Fort Dearborn (Chicago), passing through the Lake Koshkonong area.

—The first Jefferson County census was taken in 1840 and tabulated 914 white inhabitants, 536 males and 378 females. Of the males, 206 were under the age of 20 and 206 were aged 20 to 50.

—In 1854, in a move against the extension of slavery, Middle West residents (many of them former members of the Whig Party) organized the Republican Party. And chosen to be that party's candidate for the Legislature from Jefferson County was Asa Snell (who in 1844 had built the house on what is now Hoard's Dairyman Farm). In the election, Snell lost to Democrat A.H. Van Norstrand.

—The first black residents of the city were Jim and Eliza Ann Ellis, who moved here soon after the Civil War.

Skit on March 21, 1884.

Weckler disappearance remains mystery today

Georgia Jean Weckler, a rural Fort Atkinson girl, was just 8-years-old when she disappeared after being dropped off from school by a neighbor.

Today, 39 years later, the case is still a mystery. Buford Sennett, then 22, confessed to being a part of the kidnapping and murder of the Fort Atkinson girl, but the case has never been closed, since no body was ever recovered. Sennett's alleged accomplice has never been identified.

Sennett was eligible for parole from Waupan in 1959.

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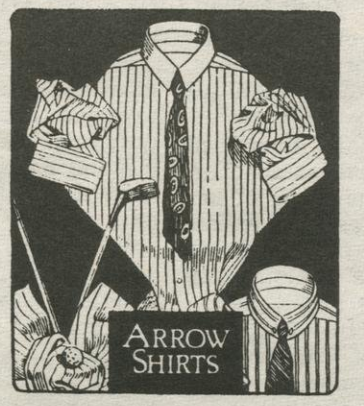

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—This extra purchase of 50 dozen shirts has been divided into two lots for quick action.

On Sale Saturday

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—VALUES UP TO $2.50	—VALUES UP TO $4.50
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—In the above lots are all sizes, small and large, from size 13½ to 18. Every shirt guaranteed fast color by the makers, Cluett Peabody & Co. Inc., of Troy, New York, makers of ARROW BRAND COLLARS.

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Jensen & Jones

Jane Crane was first teacher

By Christine Blumer

Fort Atkinson has long boasted a public school system that provides quality education for its children. But actually it was a child — 14-year-old Jane Crane — who became the settlement's first teacher in 1839.

The majority of early settlers were from New England, which boasted free common schools supported by public taxes. In addition, many could trace their roots to Germany, which was noted for progressive education.

It was Sally Crane Jones, wife of surveyor and Jones Dairy Farm founder Milo Jones, who first touted the need for schools. When her sister, Jane Crane, arrived in 1839 after completing seminary training in Vermont, she became the first teacher of formal education in Fort Atkinson.

Her seven students met in a log cabin built by William Barrie north of the Rock River. Among them were Elizabeth May (Mrs. Lucien B. Caswell), .Amelia Jones (Mrs. Edward Rankin), Newton Jones, Susan Snell, Celeste Foster (Mrs. H.L. Southwell) and Mary Ann Foster.

According to a narrative written in 1867 by Nellie Roberts, "The few people who first settled here became anxious that their children should have an opportunity to attend school. After talking the matter over, a log shanty, in which the room was 12-by-14, was furnished with crude furniture consisting of a splint-bottom chair for the teacher, benches for the scholars, made from hewn slabs with sticks whittled out for legs, and a cross-legged table.

"Sometimes when the smaller ones were sleepy, the teacher would make them a bed of shawls on the table, but if the child turned over, over it went, table and all, which ended the nap for that time."

High school girls about 1915.

However, when Caroline Barrie arrived to keep house for her two sons, it became necessary to move classes to Milo Jones' private cabin.

In the summer of 1840, Anna Snell succeeded Jane Crane as teacher, holding classes in the home of her father, Asa Snell. Classes in subsequent terms moved from place to place with various teachers in charge of different terms.

A year after the Town of Koshkonong Board of Trustees first met in April 1842, members voted to raise $100 to build a schoolhouse.

"The first public school house was built in 1844 by Mr. Charles Rockwell at a cost of $100," according to Nellie Roberts' writings. "It was a substantial and well-finished frame building. The school room was 21 feet wide and 30 feet long. The building formerly stood opposite where Mr. Tousley's Livery Stable now stands (corner of Grant and South Third streets), but now stands a little to the south, and I believe it is used for a dwelling. Besides being used for school purposes, religious meetings were held there for a long time (by the Congregational Church)."

School was held for seven months, in winter and summer only. It was expected that in spring and fall children would be helping with the planting and harvest. Boys usually only went to school during the winter, and as a result it was felt necessary to have a male teacher then to better control them. During the summer months a lower-paid female teacher was considered adequate to handle the girls.

But all teachers — tutors, as they then were called — were paid a meager sum. For example, William Barrie received $18 for teaching during the winter of 1843. A female tutor probably received $9 for teaching a four-month summer term.

By 1874, salaries had risen, but not that much. In that particular year, Principal J.Q. Emery received $1,300 per year, while his assistant got $45 per month. Grade school teachers were paid $40, $30 and $28 per month depending on the grade.

Where did the district get the money to pay teachers even that small a sum? Property taxes, of course, although that had not been the federal government's original plan.

The federal government had designated one section of a township — usually Section 16 — to be set aside for the support of schools, with revenues going to construction, salaries, textbooks, etc. But by 1842 the county had sold all of Koshkonong's Section 16, so the settlers, as well as their descendents, have had to shoulder the school tax burden.

Meanwhile, the original school grew so that in 1849 it was divided and an assistant was hired. Two years later, the district itself was divided: the school south of the river remained in the Rockwell building, but that on the north was held mostly in private homes. A building was constructed for northside youngsters in 1858.

The first brick school building was erected in 1859 for $5,500 on the site just south of Emery School, where the old Hoard school once stood. The lower floor was used for common or grammar school, where children learned at their own pace, progressing from the first through sixth readers.

Meanwhile, the upper level was rented to J.K. Purdy, who taught private classes to upperclassmen and eventually became school district principal.

The cost to attend Purdy's academy for the winter of 1859 term was $4 for the common English branches, $5 to $6 for the higher studies, $8 for music and $2 for instrument rental.

According to an advertisement for Purdy's school, he was assisted by a Miss Dora Turner, who taught

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The all-grade school play in Fort Atkinson about 1926.

School days

Three R's taught in Fort for 147 years

(Continued from page 28)

music, and E. Kienow, the German teacher.

"No pains will be spared to secure competent teachers, and provide every advantage for thorough instruction; and judging from the past success of the school, we think it may be safely recommended for the liberal patronage of the public," stated the advertisement. "Miss turner is an experienced teacher of music and has a new first-class piano for practice. Fort Atkinson is one of the healthiest and most pleasantly located villages in the state.

Actually, Purdy was the second man to attempt teaching secondary education. The first was a Mr. Atheron who in 1853 founded a private academy known as the Fort Atkinson Classical and Normal School.

The district reunited in 1866, and a site for a high school building was purchased for $850. Completed during the year, it cost $13,000.

"The first class graduated in June of 1871," wrote L.B. Caswell, former U.S. congressman and a member of the Fort Atkinson school board for 65 years, from 1854-1919. "With the untimely death of Professor Purdy, a second principal was engaged, Prfessor J.Q. Emery. He remained in Fort Atkinson for 16 years, leaving behind him an enduring monument in the cause of education when higher duties took him from us."

The first high school was destroyed by fire in 1888. It's successor is the topic of this passage from "Reminiscnces of a Country Lawyer," a column published in the Daily Jefferson County Union during the 1940s which was written by Charles B. Rogers.

"Not only was the high school class of '89 the first to occupy the new high school building, but we were the last class to graduate under Professor Emery. No sweeter, purer or better man ever lived.

"He made his students like their work and they loved him. He was always spoken of — like Bascom of the University of Wisconsin— with reverence by those who graduated under him.

"He left to become the head of the Normal School at River Falls; was afterwards state superintendent of public instruction and later state dairy and food commissioner and later in life still vigorous and strong, he returned to Fort Atkinson for a year as head of the junior high. He told me that was one of his happiest years; it was to him a 'return to the Elba,' with no Waterloo to follow. He lies by his good wife in the beautiful cemetery at Albion."

Youngsters at Hoard Elementary School.

A third high school building was dedicated in 1912. Of the new structure, which was razed a few years ago to make way for a $5 million reconstruction project, Professor J.A. Hagemann wrote, "In our new multimillion-dollar high school we can feel justly proud. It is a well-equipped building for high school purposes. It is recognized as one of the best in the state . . ."

Meanwhile, the elementary schools grew and multiplied over the years. The original frame school on the north side was replaced by a brick structure in 1866. A few years later, the Grove School near Jones Park was built.

The three graded schools were built between 1898 and 1901. The Hoard School replaced the original brick school built in 1858 on High Street; a new school, Caswell, was built on North Third Street and the original Barrie School was constructed on Robert Street. The next structure, the new Barrie School, was erected in 1939 on Roosevelt Street.

The Robert Street structure later was the home for The Fort Atkinson Vocational and Technical School, which grew into Madison Area Technical College. About 1980 it was torn down and now is the site for a parking lot at the Fort Atkinson Area Senior Citizens Center.

Later, the Rockwell and Purdy schools opened and, when James F. Luther Junior High School was completed in 1969, the former Emery Junior High was utilized as an elementary school. All schools have been since renovated.

The following years have brought about many changes in public education and curriculum. Public school superintendents have included E.H. Miles, 1918-21; Frank C. Bray, 1921-43; Winfred Gordon, 1943-50; James F. Luther, 1950-64; R.W. Hunsader, 1964-79; Dr. Thomas Kenny, 1979-84, and Dr. Gerald McGowan, 1984-present.

Second high school built in 1888; burned in 1926.

Catholic, Lutheran school bells ringing

Public education in Fort Atkinson has been augmented by two parochial schools, St. Joseph's Catholic School and St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran School, since the early 1900s.

St. Joseph's began in 1912 as classes taught out of a remodeled home that also housed xteaching nuns on East Sherman Avenue. The pastor was the Rev. Edward Aumann, who was beginning his 33rd year at the parish.

By 1919, enrollment had grown considerably, boosting the need to recondition more rooms into classrooms.

In 1929, the property on North Main and North Third was purchased for use as a school and residence for the parish sisters. During this time, the buildings were connected to the municipal sewage system.

Major expansion plans went into action in 1941. Still at the same site today, the new school building was used for classes that August. At that time, St. Joseph's had only one level and the basement was supposed to be used as a church for 15 years.

But it soon become overcrowded and two additional floors were needed. After immense fund-raising

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St. Paul's Lutheran School pupils taught by E.R. Schneider in 1901.

First Tchogeerrah lightened burden of some weary hours

By Christine Blumer

The greeting on page three of the 1917 Tchogeerrah reads, "In moments stolen from classroom, we have wrought this book hoping that it may lighten the burden of some weary hour or recall a pleasant memory in time to come."

Truer words could not have been written, for the annual — Fort Atkinson High School's first — contains numerous anecdotes, recollections and even self-fulfilling prophesies that should bring smiles to the faces of readers today.

For example, the seniors section includes photos of what were to become some familiar faces.

"Greater musicians have lived, but we doubt it." That was the notation next to a photo of Wesley Sontag, who became a noted composer and violinist. Sontag played violin in several sinfonetta orchestras and taught violin in the Julliard School of Music.

Of Elmore "Adolph" Klement, it said, "His heart runs away with his head." Well, Klement apparently put all of that heart as well as his head into what was to become a 44-year career of municipal service. He served as city engineer in 1924-68 and as city manager from 1941-69.

Leonard "Lengthy" Lemke, the Tchogeerrah noted, was "as long and bright as a darning needle," which makes sense because he played on the basketball team. Stan Mussehl was "a man not of words but of actions," as evidenced by his involvement in football and basketball, as well as being class president.

Several of the senior girls seemed to be fond of fun and frolic.

'Cyclonic Fiend' struck

On July 16, 1883, a "Cyclonic Fiend" hit Fort Atkinson, threatening to rip the city a part, read a special edition put out by the Jefferson County Union.

At 1:20 p.m., this city was visited by a terrific tornado, which struck the town on the north side just west of the extensive works of the Northwestern Manufacturing Co., and tore a path through to the west side, leveling in its path shops, dwellings, barns, and trees.

"Not that I love study less, but I love fun more," were the words next to Hertha "Herda" Wandschneider's photo. Of Elizabeth O. "Betty" Caswell, the editors wrote, "She never votes no to a good time."

But two of the girls studying the classical course apparently preferred being more mellow: "Never studies, never worries, never flunks and never hurries," the editors said of Gertrude A. "Polly" Beyer. For Maryette F. "Goodie" Goodrich, they wrote, "If it's all the same to you, I'll take my time."

And even back in those days, students ribbed each other with short and fat jokes.

"Wisdom personified and sawed off" was how Johnney Bauer was described. Next to William "Willie Jit" Lalk, the editors had penned, "Have you noticed that all comedians are small?"

"Quality, not quantity," were the words next to the oval photo of Alvina Ehlers, whose nickname was "shortstop." And for Mildred "Sally" Gates, it was written, "When a child she fell out of the window and came down plump."

Flip back to page 70 and you'll find students' most embarrasing moments. Their revelations, however, would cause nary a blush today.

Wes Sontag's face reddened "when I asked four different girls to the same party." That's a lot more embarrassing than John Bauer, who "discovered my hair parted crooked," or Gertie Beyer, who — heaven forbid — "discovered my hero shorter than I."

The students should have been more embarrassed by the things they said and did at their desks, judging from "Echoes from the Class Rooms" starting on page 86.

"Echoes" reiterated several incidents reminiscent of the "Who was buried in Grant's tomb" questions, all said in physics class:

"Mr. (Moody L.) Beanblossom: "Henry, what does a gram of any gas weigh?" "Henry: "I don't know."

Here's another, this one uttered by Sontag: "How much does a pound of mercury weigh?"

And yet a third: Mr. Beanblossom: "Leonard, which weighs more, a pound of lead or a pound of feathers?" Leonard: "A pound of lead."

Sometime the shoe was on the other foot, namely that of the teacher.

"Elmore (Klement): Miss Biedryscka (English teacher), put your fingers to your temples and say the abbreviation for mountain." Miss B: "M t, M t, M t. (Note: Needless to say, she finally fell and fell hard.)"

Sometime the antics detailed in the 1917 Tchogeerrah were enough to make a fellow — certainly not a lady — curse. But they didn't do it out

Look at this poem about chemistry: "Little drops of acid, little bits of zink, give us lots of learning, but raise an awful ————." Perhaps that was a — forgive the language — stink?

Also in chemistry class: "Mr. Beanblossom (unthinkingly): There's an 'H' of a difference between carbonates and bicarbonates."

And Miss Helen Joerns, German teacher, who was speaking to students about "Faust" and especially Mephistophles, said, as she exhibited the picture of him: "Doesn't he look like the D?" The Tchogeerrah staff had the good sense to censor the word "Devil."

Perhaps the modesty and language have changed somewhat in 69 years, but the attitudes toward homework surely have not.

"Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, if algebra won't kill you, geometry must," the editors quipped on page 89. Or this: "Just a little bluffing, lots of air quite hot, make a recitation, seem like what it's not."

On page 92 there is this one: "Failed in Latin and flunked in math, they heard him hiss. I'd like to find the boy who said that ignorance is bliss."

However, despite all the quips and quotes, gripes and goats, the young journalists writing the first Tchogeerrah undoubtedly related best — as we at the Daily Union can — to the following poem on page 93.

"A school paper is a great invention, the staff gets all the fame, the printer gets all the money, the editor gets all the blame."

St. Joseph's, St.Paul's offer school choice

(Continued from page 29)

activities, the parish was able to begin the project in 1949 with $17,000. A total of eight classrooms were built, in addition to several auxiliary rooms and offices.

The building program was completed in February 1950, when the Rev. George Zander was pastor. The parish paid off the school in just three years. By 1958, enrollment was at 300, large for a parochial school in a smaller town.

Since then, enrollment has continued to change, sometimes rising so that classes are crowded, at other times necessitating the closure of the seventh- and eighth grades, as in the 1970s.

In 1974, the two upper grades were re-opened and enrollment is at 175 today. In 1978, the school added two portable classrooms to help with space problems.

A kindergarten class will be added this fall at St. Joseph's, at which Sister Marysia is principal.

Just as St. Joseph's did, St. Paul's grew out of a congregation that felt the need for christian education. When J.H. Brockmann of Algoma was called as pastor to St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1868, he also was asked to teach school at least four days a week in a room provided for that purpose.

In 1869, it was decided to build a one-room school between the church and parsonage; this was later enlarged to two rooms and a the building of the present parsonage in 1895 the school was moved to the east side, which now is a parking lot. That was the first of three school buildings since 1868.

The original school was replaced by a larger four-room brick ediface in 1917. It was succeeded in 1957 by a 14-room structure on Bluff Stret, with five rooms added in 1965.

Students wishing to continue on to a parochial high school attend Lakeside Lutheran High school in Lake Mills. Originally called Jefferson County Lutheran High School, it used the then-vacated 1917 St. Paul's structure the first four years of its existancce.

Longtime instructors/principals at St. Paul's include Edgar Wehausen, 42 years, and Richard Sievert, who in 1985 retired after 53 years of teaching and administration. He was succeeded by Arden Wentzel.

Take out your ruler if ice man is cheating you

The Aug. 29, 1919, issue of the Jefferson County Union included the following tidbit:

"Fort Atkinson housewives who believe the ice man is not giving them full weight can obtain the exact weight of a block of ice without the use of scales. A foot rule or yardstick takes the place of a scale if the following plan is used.

"Measure the length, breadth and thickness in inches. Multiply the numbers together, divide the result by 30 and you will have the number of pounds.

"If a piece of ice is 12 inches wide, 18 inches long and 10 inches thick, the numbers multiplied and the product divided by 30 is 72."

Laura Graper, Jim Luther

Educators back at chalkboard

"Not Finished But Begun" (1884). "Ready For All Things" (1897). "Out of the Bay into the Ocean" (1900). "Impossible is Unamerican" (1909). "We'll Find a Way or Make One" (1920). "Pick Your Peak and Climb It" (1931). "We Can; We Will" (1941). "The Past Forever Gone; The Future Still Our Own" (1950).

By Tracy Gentz

Fort Atkinson High School students have been taught by many different methods through the years, but they've always been working toward the same goals.

The class mottos spanning 70 years are evidence of the ultimate lesson being taught, mainly one that gives hope for the future in reaching for and achieving one's dreams.

Two former Fort Atkinson educators with a total of 86 years experience in the schools say that how students learn has changed; what they learn hasn't.

"Kids today learn to hope and look to the future just as we did, that's what you get from your school days," James Luther, said from his home at Fairhaven Retirement Home for Senior Citizens in Whitewater. Luther was Fort Atkinson schools superintendent from 1950-64, and it is he for whom the junior high is named.

He said that many times, older people are biased and look at their youth as having been better than that of today's generation.

"We forget the kids of today are having a fun time, but in a different way. They are having their best times right now. It's the future," he said.

Knowing how to hope and work toward what seems to be the impossible is what has contributed to the growth of American society, Luther and longtime high school language teacher Laura Graper say.

"I think the quality of life in the U.S. can be attributed to a large extent to our schools," according to Luther. "We educate our kids and anybody who has the ambition can go, even through college. That isn't true in other nations. Those who have financial ability can go and the others don't have a chance."

Education has changed, however, since "their day." Changes in technology, lifestyle and even the the number of children mandated to attend school, regardless of interest, are major factors, the educators agree.

For Graper, school in the 1980s means dashing for a school bus on the corner four minutes before the bus arrives at 7:30 a.m. But when she was a girl, she walked two miles every morning to First Ward Elementary School.

Graper's family owned a 100-acre farm with 60 acres residing within the town line and 40 acres residing in the country school area, so Laura attended school in town. Mary Vosburg, a good childhood friend of Graper's, attended a country school nearby called Finches' Corner.

"Now, of course, kids think it's terrible if they have to walk a block. If the bus breaks down a block away, kids sit there and say, 'No, I am not going to walk,' " the retired teacher said.

Students didn't have much choice years ago: "There weren't any buses and you didn't think anything about it. If you wanted to go to school, you just did that," Laura said of walking.

Once in the classroom, things were different, too. While whispering to

James F. Luther

one's next door neighbor about the latest space invaders game might be common in third-grade classrooms today, children growing up in the teens discussed their after-school chores, if there was talking allowed during lesson time at all.

That wasn't the only regimentation. Graper recalled that when students were finished with an assigned lesson, the last person in the row would turn left in his or her seat, then right, and then finally rise to systematically collect papers.

"I know once I was in the back and the person supposed to do it was absent and I had to take his or her place and I didn't do it right. I couldn't get it on time. I couldn't see what it mattered. There certainly was more regimentation," Graper said.

She noted that education is different today because of the influx of students who really don't want to be in school. More than 30 years ago, Congress made it mandatory for all children up to age 16 to be in school. Every inch of Wisconsin soil had to be in a school district.

"Before that, if they had finished their country school and the area offered nothing else in the way of education, that was the end of it unless there was a tradition of going on to high school in the family," explained Graper.

Thus, students who didn't wish to be in school were.

"High schools were not ready for that influx of students," according to Graper. "I think there was a lowering of standards in the classroom in order to accommodate those who didn't want to be there," Laura said.

Teachers began substituting strong courses with diluted versions. Instead of a straight course in English literature, Graper said she would plan a class in practical English for students not planning to attend college.

But Luther said he believes mandatory schooling until the age of 16 improved things.

"When I finished high school during the World War I era (1914-20), many youngsters went as far as the eighth grade and quit. That was the chopping off point," he said. "From then (the mandatory school attendance) on, they started going to school and more and more were graduating.

"I think it elevated the quality of education to have these youngsters continue through high school and as a result more went to college."

Luther agreed with Graper that it might have caused some problems with students who did not want to be in school, but added, "at the time

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High school teacher and board of education party about 1929.

Students' goals still the same

(Continued from page 31)

they didn't want to be there but most youngsters go through a period when they aren't thinking quite straight and they regret their thinking later on."

Society's changing lifestyles have affected education over the years, too.

"When I first started teaching, we had a society in which very few women worked," Luther said.

Recent figures show 70 percent of the families in America have two incomes.

"With the mother leaving the home, there hasn't been that home guidance," according to Luther. "Youngsters have been on their own a while and we talk about modern kids as though they are bad. They aren't; they just lack direction and it is pretty hard to put an adult head on a kid's shoulders."

Luther added that progress is progress and Americans enjoy a better way of life thanks to the second income. "We never have any good without some bad," Luther said.

The advent of the automobile, an increase in the ability of people to travel and a rise in technology have all gone to work changing the face of education today, according to both Luther and Graper.

"Through radio and television, students know more about what is going on in the world. They have also traveled so much more," Graper said.

Speaking of her limited travel while young, Laura recalled the she was "Taking a Latin class in Janesville and it was a real expedition. Now kids go to Mexico or they go to Spain."

According to statistics, a quarter of all schoolchildren have traveled in a foreign country.

"I think now you have to send them up to space to thrill them; it's a wonderful time to be alive when you think how the world has shrunk," Graper noted.

Luther spoke of other mobility: "The automobile just raised havoc in our society. It made kids mobile, they could go riding out into the night 50 or 100 miles. When I was growing up, most of the kids hadn't even been out of their county."

Though children of today are more well-traveled and generally independent, all generations are motivated by curiosity. Working on that premise, educators during the 1900s used the drawing card of mischevism to motivate their students to learn.

Graper, who taught high schoolers English, Latin and German, began her career in Middleton in 1924, a school with only five or six teachers and 100 students. She moved to Fort Atkinson shortly thereafter and taught until retiring in 1967.

Putting the force of curiosity to work in the classroom is one of the secrets of teaching according to Graper, who has a span of 43 years as a teacher to lend credibility. It is especially productive in getting children interested in reading certain works of literature, she said.

"We could get a rise out of them with Canterbury Tales if we happened to mention there were some stories that weren't in their book but were in the original. The little more curious ones went to the library. Every time you mentioned some-

(Continued on page 33)

Fort's still home for Luther

By Tracy Gentz

Fort Atkinson was and still is a town of homespun fun, says Jim Luther, former superintendent of the School District of Fort Atkinson.

On a sunny weekend afternoon in the 1950s, Jim and his wife could usually be found on a bus headed for a baseball game.

"We would get in the car and go to a game in Wausau or Rhinelander or often we took our own lunches and we would get on a bus and 25 or 30 of us would go and we ate and sang on the bus, just a hell of a good time," he reminisced from his home today at Fairhaven Retirement Home in Whitewater.

Fort Atkinson is a place where people stand together and know each other, according to Jim, and that's why he loves it so much.

"If you like people, you can find good people in Fort. I could name 50 or 100 people who have affected our lives in a big way, socially, and in other ways," Jim said.

Recently while sitting together at a family gathering, one of Jim's grandsons looked at him and asked, "Grandpa, should I locate in a big city or a small city?" Recalling his years in Fort Atkinson, Jim replied, "It all depends on what you are looking for.

"If you are looking for good living, a wholesome life where you can have an effect on society and on people, go to a small town. There is more. You become a member of the chamber of commerce, a member of the Rotary Club or the Lions and you are on the school board. You are closer to society and you can do something for it. If you want to make a lot of money and prosper in a big job, go to the city and nobody knows you and you don't know anybody else. You just clammer for success, you just go on piling it up."

Jim said the people of Fort Atkinson really enjoy living. Although he calls himself an "adopted citizen," Jim's eyes well up with tears when he says, "I have always called Fort Hometown USA."

150

An apple a day

Majeruses kept Fort healthy

By Vicki Damron

At age 90, Mrs. Peter James (Sophia) Majerus is still a handsome, slender woman whose self-assured manner gives visitors a sense of the control and confidence she must have given to patients as a nurse for nearly a quarter century.

Sitting in her easy chair in a glass-walled sitting room, she recalls the devotion to medicine both she and her late husband, Dr. "P.J." Majerus, shared during their years of operating the Fort Atkinson General Hospital at 408 Madison Ave., from 1920-41.

In 1942, Dr. Majerus leased his hospital to the newly formed Fort Atkinson Memorial Hospital Association. The couple continued to operate the hospital for eight years until 1950, when the current facility opened at 611 E. Sherman Ave.

From 1920-50, Dr. Majerus' hospital took care of 6,162 adult patients and 1,968 newborn babies, working a total 57,720 patient days. Surgical procedures numbered 3,072.

By 1950, a staff of 15 was required to run the hospital on Madison Avenue, compared to the 385 employees on today's staff.

In the following, Mrs. Majerus reminisces about her and her husband's life:

"Born Oct. 9, 1887, in Campellsport, a small town near Fond du Lac, "P.J." Majerus was just 33 when he came to Fort Atkinson. He attended Milwaukee Medical School (now Marquette University) and he took an internship at the County Hospital for one year.

"He served in World War I and then practiced at the Wales Sanitorium for tuberculosis before deciding to go into private practice in Sullivan. That's when we met.

"I graduated from nursing school at Milwaukee County Hospital in 1918 after a three-year program. The other nurses and I would get calls to come to Sullivan to take care of post-operative patients and other sick people.

"I went there a couple of times. I never thought of getting married, but we got to working together and fell in love.

"We married one year later in 1919. To tell you the truth it was in Waukegan, Ill. It was where everybody went. We didn't make a big deal about it. No honeymoon. We came right back to work in Sullivan.

"He gave me a wedding ring, which I never wore because it was a nuisance during surgery and when washing my hands all day long.

"My husband was a good surgeon and he set up to (build a hospital). Well, I was working anyway and going on cases with him; maybe it wouldn't be so bad (having a hospital). So we drove around and went to different places. And we liked Fort Atkinson.

"Then we bought (in 1920) the large house at 408 Madison Ave. and opened up a 10-bed hospital.

"When I think of it now," she paused, "you couldn't do it today because the restrictions are so terrific. Although we did have the state come and look as well as the fire department."

"At first when we came here, women didn't go to hospitals because they were afraid of (them). They had midwives and practical nurses who

Sophia Majerus

took care of the women. They stayed with them in their homes for maybe two weeks.

"Well, Helen Koester (a highly trained nurse with the Majeruses for 35 years) was influential in having people come to the hospital. Mothers just loved her. They would come and have their baby and they'd be in bed for nine days. We wouldn't get them out of bed, not even to go to the toilet. Then they'd get up the tenth day and go home.

"The hospital rates were $4 and $5 a day. Maybe $5 for the delivery room and 50 cents a day for the care of the baby. And maybe there were a couple of dollars for sterile pads and medication. But there was every little medication.

"Where could you have a vacation for $50 to $60? It was especially nice for a mother with a child back home. This would be her one vacation.

"Everyone then paid their hospital bills out of their own pockets. There was no insurance of any kind. The men were working and there were very few bills that weren't paid. Maybe it took them a year or two to pay for a baby or tonsillectomy. Sometimes they'd come and pay 50 cents or $1 per week.

"For some mothers with no money who were OK'ed by welfare, the county would pay us $5 a day and nothing extra. The doctor who delivered them would get $25 and we'd get $25 for 10 days. It got worse and worse as more people knew about it. At one time there weren't that many people that needed welfare. People were working.

"Mothers would eat well and they were fed home cooking. You know," she continued, "for 17 years we had three cooks. Then in three years we had 17 cooks. That shows how times had changed even then.

"We lived in the back of the hospital. There was a back room, a small room off the dining room. We made up a little piece for the nurses to rest for a couple of hours. They were really quite comfortable.

"When nurses first came to the hospital, they were paid $50 per month plus given room, board and their uniforms. Toward the end," said Mrs. Majerus, "I think Helen Koester was getting $100, but that's what nurses were getting over — $75 to $100 a month — even in Janesville.

"Nurses came on duty at 7 a.m. Their breakfast would be served

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P.J. Majerus' hospital.

Graper, Luther reflect on past

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thing like that and said don't let your grandmother catch you reading that, then they all went down and read it," Graper said with a sly smile.

She said that teaching was not so easy her first year.

"I wouldn't do that again even if you paid me big for it," she recalled. "We had no practice teaching. I was too shy and it is a wonder I wasn't let go that first year. The first year was horrid, the second year better and the third year was just fine."

Although Luther never attended Fort Atkinson High School and calls himself an "adopted citizen", he, like Graper, said that the education offered in Fort Atkinson is among the best available in the state: "Naturally I think Fort High is the greatest."

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Majerus kept Fort healthy

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right away and they'd work until noon. Then they had dinner and would get two hours off if they were lucky. Then they were all back on duty until 7 p.m.

"The night nurses would come at 7 p.m. They would not have any time off in between because if they weren't very busy they could nap a little bit.

"We'd get one Sunday off twice a month. All the nurses worked seven days a week. They didn't have families.

"We never thought of money. We worked so hard for the people to get well. It was the work that we wanted. We got such pleasure from it.

"I liked all my nurses, and they liked me in return, even though sometimes they could wring my neck and I could wring theirs too. It's almost like a family affair.

"We would work so hard over our patients. Of course sometimes they would die. After they were dead, I never wanted to see or hear of them again because it was like losing a part of your family.

"That's what nursing was all about. Making people feel better. Just washing their face with a warm cloth. They didn't forget that, never forgot.

"The care the patients got was so good because that's all we had. We didn't have antibiotics. We didn't have painkillers. As with our pneumonia patients," for example, "we gave them good care, but very restricted care and mostly just prayed.

"I'll never forget the first time we had three fairly young men with the most terrible pneumonia. All three of them. That was during World War II. My husband knew the head of the Wisconsin Memorial Hospital (now University Hospitals) and tried to get the new experimental sulfa drug to bring their temperatures down. He did (get the drug) and two of them recovered.

"Before antibiotics, cleanliness was extremely important. There was very little bone work done at that time," she reported. "You couldn't do bone work unless you absolutely had to because most of the time it would get infected and then there was a life battle. When mothers died postpartum it was due to infections and unclean procedures," said Mrs. Majerus.

The decision to close Fort Atkinson General Hospital really occured in 1940. "We had all we could do," she said. "But I saw the writing on the wall. My health wasn't very good. It was getting harder to get nurses for night duty and instead of doing less I was having to do more. P.J. wanted to build on in the back and have a new addition. I told him I thought I was just about ready to give up the ghost."

The Fort Atkinson General Hospital closed in December 1941.

"I retired but did teach Red Cross home nursing classes during WWII. I did very little nursing.

"P.J. invested in a knitting mill and would relieve a doctor occasionally in Hales Corners. "Then," she said, "he decided to buy this house (411 Madison Avenue), remodel it and start practicing again before his retirement in 1956."

Dr. Majerus died in 1965, at age 78, from a heart attack while vacationing at his deer hunting cabin in northern Wisconsin.

Dr. Frank Brewer's Fort Atkinson Emergency Hospital.

First Fort hospital opened by Brewer

(Editor's Note: The following article was written Jan. 27, 1974 by Frank M. Brewer Jr., son of Dr. Frank M. Brewer.)

"Shortly after the turn of the century there were five doctors in Fort Atkinson. There was peace in the land, but people did 'take sick' and a hospital was needed and through the efforts of Dr. Brewer one was provided even though it was done at great financial sacrifice on his part. He died (in 1911) at the early age of 48, and with his illness and death the hospital ceased to be.

The origin of Fort Atkinson's first hospital really took place about 1904, when Dr. Frank M. Brewer attemped to turn his office, then located over Dexheimer's Drug Store on Main Street, into a hospital by enlarging that office to provide for surgery and space for a few beds, separated by curtains for privacy.

While this makeshift arrangement served in a very limited fashion and some successful surgery was done there, he realized its complete institution by building an addition to his own home at the southeast corner of South Third and Foster streets.

The new establishment was called the Fort Atkinson Emergency Hospital. It provided modern, for the time, surgery facilities, two private wards and one general ward accomodating four to five beds. The house was wired for electricity, a furnace was installed for central heating and up-to-date plumbing was added.

Arrangements were made with both Milwaukee and Chicago surgeons whose services could be called upon, a full-time registered nurse was engaged for permanent duty, other experienced nursing help being available from other centers and volunteer practical nurses from the local community.

As can be understood, there was much more to the conduct of the hospital than furnishing expert medical and surgical services. Meals had to be prepared, laundry had to be done, furnace had to be stoked, hot water made available at all times — all of the unseen but essential services which are quite taken for granted in today's institutions.

These chores fell, for the most part, on members of the Brewer family with what help could be obtained from time to time.

The meals were prepared in the Brewer family kitchen on a large wood-burning range, which also furnished the hot water from the attached reservoir. Even the job of sterilizing instruments and dressings for operations and post operation care was done on the family kitchen stove. A room at the rear of the kitchen served as the laundry.

The doctor's wife worked, as well as managed all of these necessary activities and consequently was the strong supporting pillar of the institution.

The records which could show the number and descriptions of cases handled at the hospital during its five or six years of existence are long gone, but the Fort Atkinson Emergency Hospital fulfilled the purposes and the accomplishments which its founder had set for it.

The hospital's service came to an end when Dr. Brewer was taken ill and died in the summer of 1911.

It should be remembered that all during the years of the hospital's existence and operation,

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Fort settlers relied on home remedies

By Christine Blumer

Fort Atkinson's earliest settlers were a pretty sturdy lot, but even the strongest became ill once in a while. And when that happened, they relied on mostly home remedies.

The pioneer's medicine cabinet, as it were, was stocked with blue pills, senna, quinine, bone-set tea, burdock or snake-root bitters, concoctions of wild cherry or hickory bark and castor oil.

"Of the pests we endured in the early days there were three — the shakes, the Indians and the doctors," wrote one pioneer woman, according to the book, Koshkonong Country.

Early settler Eli May reported that there was little sickness at first, adding that the breaking and improving of the land brought fevers. And many settlers were not used to the climate and took ill.

The Town of Koshkonong underwent a malaria epidemic — then called simply fever — in 1839, and cholera took the lives of many in 1844 and 1851.

The early settlers had to take care of their own ailments, and they had some interesting sounding remedies, to say the least.

According to the Hoard Historical Museum, some "recipes" for those remedies included the following:

"Receipt for cough: half-ounce alconpain, one ounce each of spikenard, comprey, skunk cabbage, hoar hound, Indian turnip, stick licquorice, honey, two ounces rock candy, loaf sugar to sweeten. Add to one gallon of water simmered down to one quart. Strain and add honey. Take before eating.

Consumption: dandelion flowers, masterwort seeds, umbel roots. Take a handful of these and boil in the proportion of boiling three quarts of water into one and then strain it and add a pint of molasses to a quart of the mixture. Simmer it together and take off the scum and then add rum as you think proper.

"Poison: to destroy poison inserted under the skin by the bite of a mad dog, make a strong wash by dissolving two tablespoons full of the chloret of lime in half a pint of water and instantly and repeatedly bathe the part

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Morrison first doctor

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bitten.

"Ague and fever: half-ounce each of cloves, cream of tartar, Peruvian bark well pulverized. Put them into a bottle of best port wine and take the decoction on the well days as fast the stomach will receive it."

At first, the only trained medical help available was in Milwaukee, but soon doctors followed the settlers. Fort Atkinson's first doctor was John Morrison,, who moved here in 1846. Next was Horatio Gregory, who practiced medicine until he volunteered during the Civil War to serve as surgeon for the 1st Wisconsin Calvary; he was killed in 1862.

His well-kept record book shows that for the winter of 1846-47, the Milo Jones family paid $14.88 for doctor's bills.

On April 6, 1849, he sold to Daniel Robb of Fort Atkinson the following: tincture catechu (astringent extract rich in tannin), tincture opium, rheu pulois (powdered rhubarb laxative), febrifuge (any medication for relieving fever), cathartic pills (laxative), unguentium iodine, Dover's Powder (pain reliever composed of a tropical root, opium and sugar of milk) and essence of peppermint.

Other early doctors included Drs. Joseph Winslow, H.B. Willard, in the 1850s, and Drs. W.M.E. Smith, Fred J. Perry, E.W. Stone, H.O. White, Frank M. Brewer, H.F. Cooke, S.F. Smith and J.S. McNeel.

Among the members of this Fort Atkinson nursing class during World War I are Blanche Vandewater, Anna Lieberman, Millie Banker, Johanna Clark, Edith Beebe, a Mrs. Zwickel, Ella Abbott Bartelt, Gladys Weld Roberts and Maggie Maxwell Masters.

Woman joined council in 1981

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choose to take advantage of the tax incremental finance program. That decision, made in the 1970s under City Manager Martin, resulted in city improvements totaling nearly $8 million over a seven-year period, with none of that cost appearing on the tax roll.

During its entire period as part of the Town of Koshkonong and its 18 years as a village and its first 103 years as a city, Fort Atkinson never elected a woman to its municipal governing board. But that all ended in April 1981 when Linda Granger Larson was named to a two-year term on the city council.

Early on, the town board met at private homes or at a hotel. In the 1850s, governmental sessions were held at Krebs Hall, located at the corner of South Main and South Third streets. For a time, city hall also was at the corner of North Main Street and East Sherman Avenue. And the official gavel also sounded at the Bowen-Phoenix Hotel, which was located at the present Municipal Building site.

Then, in 1870, came the first real city hall on East Milwaukee Avenue, the same building that now houses Arcadia Lanes. Also home of the constable and fire department, it was the site of official city business until about 1927.

The present Municipal Building was dedicated Feb. 22, 1929, after being built at a cost of $160,000 with funds realized through the sale of the city-owned gas and electric utilities.

Take Indian turnip to stop that cough

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Dr. Brewer carried on his practice, in an era when house calls for a doctor were the order of the day instead of the exception and when house calls could mean (visiting) a patient a few blocks a way or (on) a farm six or more miles in the country, winter and summer, night or day.

It might be helpful for the reader of this paper to have a brief description of conditions in Fort Atkinson at the turn of the century and at the approximate time of the establishment of its first hospital:

Fort Atkinson had a population of some 5,000 people. It was even then a busy community with several local industries and servicing a large and prosperous farming area.

There were probably not more than two dozen automobiles in town, one of them being a single cylinder Oldsmobile owned by Dr. Brewer. By and large, however, the horse and carriage or sleigh was the principal form of transportation.

There were no paved streets. Country roads were dirt highways.

Electric-lighted homes were the exception. Kerosene lamps were in use in most houses, as well as a few stores. Inside plumbing was something of an innovation, with the outdoor privy being almost universal.

Telephones were in limited use. People, for the most part, walked to work, to the store, to church, even to dances and ice cream socials, to say nothing of the then popular travel lectures usually held in the church parlors.

Central heating was not new but certainly not in wide use, the base burner coal stove heating the home with a wood-burning range in the kitchen.

City-furnished water was available but in limited usage — every home had its well for drinking water and its cistern for water for washing purposes.

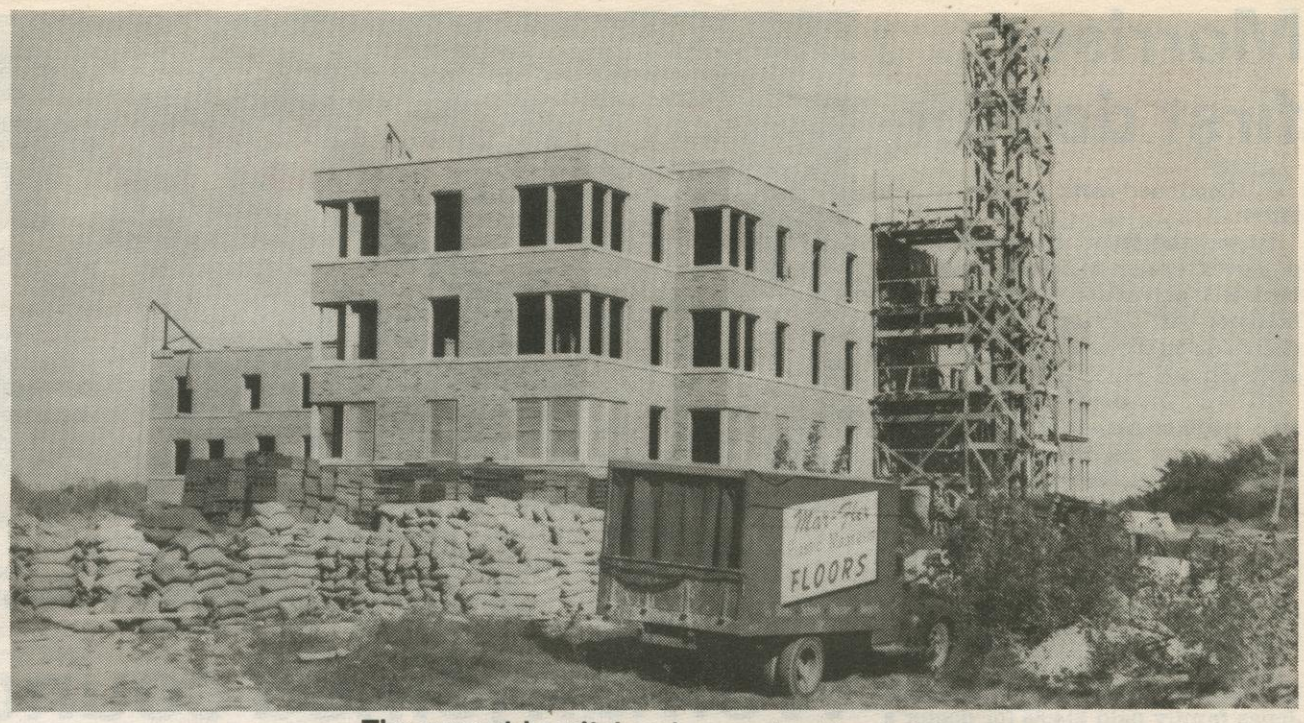
Milk was delivered in bulk by horse-driven wagons, measured out into the customers' pans where it was allowed to "set" until the cream could rise to the surface and be skimmed off for coffee, oatmeal or other special uses such as homemade ice cream for Sunday dinners.

Ice was cut during the winter from Rock River and stored in ice houses, protected from melting by layers of sawdust and hay.

There was skating on Rock River in the winter and swimming in Rock River in the summer at various places designated as "The Big Tree," "Stoney Point," "Crabapple Point" and, if undetected, under the railroad bridge.

Readymade clothes were scarce. Tailors made suits for men from bolts of material which they kept on hand. Womens dresses were cut from patterns and put together and fitted by seamstresses, material having been picked out at the drygoods store."

Hospital erected in late 1940s



The current hospital under construction in 1940s.

By Vicki Damron

In December 1941, Fort Atkinson was suddenly left without a hospital nearer than Janesville, Madison or Watertown. Dr. Peter "P.J." Majerus had just closed his Fort Atkinson General Hospital after nearly 22 years of operation.

It became apparent that some sort of hospital was essential to the well-being of Fort Atkinson, especially since travel restrictions were anticipated because of World War II.

Accordingly, a series of meetings was called by Ernest R. Klassy, a prominent businessman, in early 1942 to study the problem and form a plan of action.

The outcome was a non-stock, non-profit corporation organized under the name of the Fort Atkinson Memorial Hospital Association.

The statute under which the hospital was incorporated provided tha it would be a memorial to those persons who served in the two World Wars. It also authorized the city to make an appropriation to assist in the erecting and maintaining the building.

The articles of incorporation called for the hospital to be governed by a five-member Board of Trustees, with terms arranged so that one expired each year. Four of the trustees were to be appointed by the Jefferson County Circuit Court judge and one trustee by the Fort Atkinson City Council.

The first trustees were Edward C. Jones, Sheldon Vance, E.R. Klassy, Robert A. Krueger and Elmore F. Klement.

A board of directors also was established to act in an advisory capacity and to assist in various tasks. The first board included Mrs. E.H. Miles, Clarence C. Trieloff, Leo W. Roethe, Freeman Fingel and Hugo H. Vogel.

Today, due to various organizational changes over the years, there is simply a nine-member board of directors guiding the hospital's activities.

Current directors are James R. Schweiger, Ben R. Beebe, Dr. William L. Carter, Dr. David C. Grout, Edward C. Jones Jr., Sen. Barbara K. Lorman, John A. Neupert, James S. Schafer and Dwaine R. Sievers.

Building a new hospital was impossible during the war years. However, the board of trustees did make a preliminary study of hospital requirements and even retained an architect to draw plans for a 45-bed facility.

Between 1942 and 1944, the association received gifts totaling $65,000 to form the nucleus of a building fund.

The first fund drive actually took place in late 1944 with a $60,000 goal.

After the campaign opened, the trustees received a windfall. An anonymous donor, later revealed as Mrs. Charles Southwell Worcester, granddaughter of the city's founder, Dwight Foster, pledged to give $125,000 if the fund drive reached its goal. With that incentive, the industries and citizens responded liberally, surpassing the goal by $5,000.

By 1945, restrictions on building materials were removed and bids were taken on the 45-bed hospital. Unfortunately, the bids came in substantially higher than the funds at hand. The building program was suspended.

Then along came the Hill-Burton Act, under which the federal government and State Board of Health surveyed Wisconsin's hospital needs.

The survey labelled Fort Atkinson's hospital needs as critical and indicated the hospital size should be increased substantially above the 45 beds originally planned. Further, it said the hospital service area should cover the entire southern half of Jefferson County to include the Jefferson, Cambridge and Whitewater areas.

Following the report, the trustees applied for federal funds under the Hill-Burton Act and received a grant amounting to one-third of the cost of the hospital.

Architectural plans were revised in accordance with the recommendations. An additional fund-raising drive started in 1948 raised $80,000.

Now with the federal grant, the funds raised in the two campaigns and additional gifts and legacies, the Hospital Association had about 80 percent of the cost of the building. To provide the balance, it took out a $200,000 mortgage.

When dedicated on Aug. 27, 1950, the $1 million hospital, located at 611 East Sherman Ave., contained 62 beds for surgical and medical patients, a nursery accomodating 16 babies and the latest improvements in hospital construction and equipment.

In 1959, with hospital needs growing, the Board of Trustees built a 35-bed addition to the facility. Again, in 1969, members added 49 more beds.

Today, Fort Atkinson Memorial Hospital looks forward to another major renovation set to being early next fall.

Plans call for updating the second and third floors of the original 1950 portion of the hospital as well as constructing an addition onto the west side to centralize outpatient services.

Renovation will include the creation of bathrooms for each patient room, new electrical service, modern heating, ventilation and air conditioning service, additional energy efficient windows and renocation of the entire second and third floors.

The new addition, to be located between the emergency room and the original portion of the building, will centralize the hospital's ancillary outpatient services, broaden ambulatory service capability and improve traffic flow and efficiency.

The addition will house the physical and occupational therapy areas and include a physicians' lounge, medical records, additional elevators and a portion of radiology.

Vacated hospital space will then be used for ambulatory surgery, a chapel, respiratory therapy and education/health promotion.

In the process, the hospital will also be reducing its present inpatient bed capacity from 142 to 110.

Construction began for the present hospital in the late 1940s.

Sunday best

Faith gave pioneers strength

By Christine Blumer

Fort Atkinson's early settlers were God-fearing folk who relied on their religious convictions to pioneer the unknown wilderness.

As early as 1837, the settlers would gather at Edward N. Foster's house to hear sermons by the Rev. Samuel Pillsbury, a Methodist who came to the settlement from New York at the invitation of Caroline Barrie.

The first formal church — the Methodist Episcopal Church — was organized three years later, in September 1839, at the cabin of Jesse Roberts. The charge was an appointment of the old Aztalan circuit, organized in 1837 within the Illinois Circuit.

Services were held in private homes and in the Milwaukee Avenue cooperage and, after 1844, in the schoolhouse.

In 1852, the congregation built a church on South Main Street and the Fort Atkinson congregation became a separate charge. It was not until 1865 that plans were made for the first parsonage and for a 25-foot addition. A lecture room was built and a bell was purchased between 1867 and 1870.

The old church was dismantled in 1894, three years after a second church, carrying a $10,000 pricetag, was erected. However, that burned in a blaze Feb. 26, 1928.

In that fire, Rev. E.J. Matthews managed to save the church records but could not get to the pulpit to save the large Bible that had been in the church since the group's founding 90 years before.

Meetings and services were held in the junior high and Congregational Church until a new building was dedicated Sept. 29, 1929. Costing $128,000, the church was described in a Jefferson County Union article in the 1940s that it combined "the majesty of Gothic architecture with the beauty of ancient and modern art."

German Methodists

The German Methodist Episcopal Society was organized in 1849, and nine years later built a church at the northwest corner of Barrie and Williams streets. It later joined with the Protestant Methodist Church.

After the Methodists vacated the building sometime in the 1900s, it was used by the Episcopalians until they built their church, and later for a repair shop. Robert Dollase and Lotus Francisco purchased it for $1,500 for a shop. In 1950, it was razed and a new cement block building was erected.

Congregational

The first meeting of the Congregational Society was held at the home of Phineas Morrison on Oct. 2, 1841. Shortly thereafter, 14 persons completed the meeting at the two-room log cabin of Milo Jones, located about 30 feet from the current site of what was to become the Congregational Church.

The second Congregational Church was built in 1860 and burned Oct. 26, 1942.

There was a lot of church building in 1852, for the Congregationalists built on the southeast corner of Janesville and Milwaukee avenues. The Methodists' structure was raised first, but the Congregationalists' was the first worship center to be completed and opened in Fort Atkinson.

The Congregational Church became a separate charge in 1854 and the first minister was William Arms. The original church was replaced in 1866 at its present location at West Milwaukee Avenue and Grant Street. However, that burned Oct. 26, 1942, in a blaze believed to have been caused by a defective furnace pipe or faulty wiring. Damages exceeded $50,000.

An article in the Janesville Gazette "Had it not been for the asbestos roof on the church, possibly a large portion of the business district might have suffered, as a strong west wind was blowing. Practically the only things

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Frieden's Church confirmation class in 1917.

Faith helped settler forge new frontiers

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saved will be the choir robes and most of the library of several hundred dollars worth of music."

Services for the next four years were held at the American Legion Dugout, with children's classes taking place at the Masonic Temple. They were unable to build right away after the fire due to materials restrictions during World War II rationing.

In 1946, ground was broken for the new church. First to be built was Plymouth Hall, which was used as the meeting place until the entire church was constructed.

St. Paul's Lutheran

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church dates back to Nov. 23, 1861, when a group of Lutheran men met in the home of John Wandschneider to form "the First German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Fort Atkinson."

Pastor Edward Moldehnke from nearby Oakland, who later became the first president of the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, then in Watertown, served in Fort Atkinson in temporary quarters until 1883, when the Rev. K. Kienow was called and a church was built. The white frame building cost $1,600 and served as the place of worship until 1901.

In 1872, the church became affiliated with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

It was at the turn of the century that building plans for a new church were put on the drawing board. By March 17, 1902, the congregation learned that costs would exceed the $15,000 estimate by some $8,000. Even so, the old church was moved onto South Third Street and by June 1901, the excavation was complete.

What began as an exclusively German congregation in 1861 gradually made the transition to English. As early as 1902, English services were introduced on a once per month basis. These gradually increased and by the mid-1940s, German services were slowly fading out. In 1956, the congregation resolved to drop German services entirely.

St. Joseph's Catholic

As early as 1858, Catholics in Fort Atkinson were attending mass, but it was not until 1884 that St. Joseph's Catholic Church was established as a mission of Sacred Heart College in Watertown. The first regular pastor, F.X. Schneider, arrived in 1894; St. Mary's of Milton Junction was an out-mission. That church separated in 1911.

St. Joseph's dedicated a school Sept. 2, 1913, on the former Carl Schmidt property at the corner of East Sherman Avenue and Edward Street. The former home of Congressman C.B. Caswell was dedicated for school purposes in 1921. Twenty years later, the basement of the new and present school was opened and used as a worship center.

St. Joseph's dedicated its first structure built exclusively for church purposes in July 1956.

Christ Scientist

In 1892, a society of Christian Science was formed, with the church located on Whitewater Avenue.

Friedens

The Evangelical Synod of North America organized a church in Fort Atkinson in 1901 under the mother church of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Town of Oakland.

The little white frame church, known as the Universalist Church and located on the site of today's Faith Community Church, was purchased by the congregation for $1,500 in 1902.

The congregation purchased a lot for a parsonage at 302 E. Milwaukee Ave., and by 1912, began building a new parsonage. By 1923, the membership had grown so that a new church was built at a cost of $38,512.

Methodist Church in Fort Atkinson.

Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church today is Friedens United Church of Christ. By the way, "Frieden" is the German word for peace.

St. Peter's Episcopal

The first member of the Episcopalian Church in the area was Dwight Foster, the first white settler. Episcopal funeral services were held for his father, Edward, the first man to die in the frontier settlement.

In 1906, a mission was organized, with services held frequently in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Jones. Until 1910, the congregation also met in the Knights of Pythias hall and Friedens Evangelical and Reformed Church.

In 1910, the mission congregation purchased the lot and one-room building formerly used by the German Methodist Society at Barrie and Washington streets. The cornerstone for the current church at 302 Merchants Ave. was laid July 1, 1928. St. Peter's was admitted as a parish Oct. 9, 1955.

Universalist

On Feb. 11, 1866, the first liberal Christian group, a combination of Unitarians and Universalists, founded the Universalist Society. A brick church on North Main street was built two years later. That was purchased by the Catholic congregation in 1884 and was used by Faith Community Church until being torn down in 1971 to make way for a new church addition.

Many more churches have been founded since the early 1900s. They include the following: Bethany Lutheran Church, 1943; Evangelistic Center Church, 1958; Trinity Lutheran Church, 1942; Faith Community Church, formerly Open Bible Church, 1942; First Baptist Church, 1949; Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1950; Seventh Day Adventist; United Brotherhood of Christ, 1970; Church of the Nazarene, 1982; Peace Lutheran Church, 1980; Good News Church; Full Gospel Church of Fort Atkinson; Fort Atkinson Southern Baptist Church; First Church of Christ Scientist.

Fort man: 'I was a teen-age bootlegger'

By a Fort Atkinson man

The first thing I remember about Prohibition was when our neighbor warned my dad that he should buy whiskey because when the Prohibition came there would not be any. As a result, my father bought barrels of whiskey from a grocery commission house in Milwaukee. He stored them in the fruit cellar at the farm and he kept the floor damp so the kegs would stay tight. We had a supply of whiskey for a number of years.

In 1919 when we moved to Fort Atkinson, he had to move the whiskey without being caught, so he put the barrels into his car at night and brought them into town and put them in the basement.

Fort Atkinson had passed a no-liquor-license law prior to the coming of Prohibition, so the saloons in the city could only sell "near beer." They had to move outside the city limits to sell alcohol. The saloon down by Hebbe's Ice House at the Bark River Bridge was one that was built to avoid the Prohibition law.

After Prohibition became effective, all the saloons still had alcohol, but you had to ask for it since it was bootleg. They would have a bottle of grain alcohol and put in some juniper for gin or rye flavoring and flavor it to whatever kind of liquor you wanted. They kept the liquor out of sight under the bar, but the customers would have their drinks out in the open just like they would drink a glass of water.

The bar owners had to take some precautions in case the saloon was raided. One fellow had a mirror on the back bar and a sink with a water faucet which he let drizzle all the time. He would set a pitcher of bootleg liquor on a shelf above the sink and if the wrong person came in, he would bump it into the sink as if it were an accident and all the alcohol would be washed a way. Then, no one could get a hydrometer test to see if there was alcohol in there or not.

The saloon owners got most of their grain alcohol from local bootleggers, farmers mostly, who made it in their barns in big quantities. I knew one farmer who used to say, "Just look at that cornfield; every stalk's got two ears on it. Just think of all the alcohol I can distill from that, just look at the whiskey that will make."

The farmers did not have much trouble from the law in Jefferson County because the sheriff was a good friend to them, and I imagine he got a rakeoff from it so he made a little bit, too, on the side. He knew when the federal agents were coming, and he could notify most of the bootleggers by the grapevine and let them know to hide the evidence.

They did not have bales at that time, just loose hay. They camouflaged it by covering it on all sides and having a ladder to enter it from the floor of the barn. The farmer would use a gasoline burner or charcoal fire to distill it, and

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Laying the cornerstone for St. Paul's in June 1901.

Building St. Paul's Lutheran Church in 1901.

Bootlegger quenched Prohibition thirst

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then would keep the well running all the time to get enough cold water to condense the steam into alcohol.

I was in high school at the time and I had some relatives in the bootlegging business. I could see that it made money. After all, you could buy five gallons of alcohol and cut it, and you could get two dollars for a pint of gin. You would know a farmer who made it and go and buy it in gallon cans or five-gallon oil cans. That was grain alcohol and its potency would depend on how well the farmer had distilled it.

After we bought it, we would take a hydrometer test to see how it floated in there and know what the percentage was. We had a regular outfit for testing. We brought the alcohol to a friend's basement and processed it there. We put it in the tub of an "Easy Wash" machine that had suction cups, and aged the alcohol with charred white oak chips. You would take the oak chips and put them on a pancake griddle and char this with a bunsen burner until you got charcoal. We would leave the liquor in the washing machine for about a half day with the oak chips. Then we would take it out and filter it to get all of the charcoal out so it would be nice and clear.

Then we had bought coloring and flavoring from Walgreen's Drug Store. You could get brandy, rye, bourbon and scotch flavoring. It was legal to sell those. Then you would mix quantities of the alcohol with distilled water and take a hydrometer test. We mixed it to the alcohol percentage that we thought would be best.

We bottled it in milk bottles. We would borrow bottles from a dairy and paint them white like milk. We had a compressor and a paint sprayer, and we sprayed them over and made them look like milk with a little yellow top in the bottles like cream, and then we sold it.

If people called up and wanted a quart of whiskey we would run over with a quart. My friend had a car to get around so it was door-to-door service. Once we ordered labels to use with old whiskey bottles and flasks, but the milk bottles we didn't label. We sold just in town, and we were pretty careful to whom we sold. We had a couple taverns at that time, and we furnished them with a lot of gin and bourbon. I don't exactly remember what we sold it for, I think a half-pint of gin cost a dollar. There was a good profit. Out of five gallons, we could make double our money or more.

We never got into trouble with the law since no one bothered a couple of high school kids. We were pretty careful and nobody blabbed, and we didn't sell it to other high school kids.

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To drink or not to drink

WCTU won, lost battles against booze

By Christine Blumer

To drink or not to drink: that was the question with which Fort Atkinson struggled during its first 80 years.

The roots of the temperance movement in the U.S. in the latter 1800s took hold in Jefferson County, where a strong temperance society grew in the Town of Oakland.

According to "Koshkonong Country Revisited," it was there that "during the 1860s and 1870s that the members of the Good Templars and other temperance societies produced a series of hand-written temperance publications, including the Temperance Herald, Blue Ribbon Herald and Lamplighter. Mrs. Eliza Snell Blanchard was one of the guiding lights of the temperance movement in Oakland during this period, and she also served as the editor of the Temperance Herald."

In an editorial she wrote March 25, 1881, Blanchard stated that the motto of the temperance movement is "Up with right and down with wrong."

"We hold that intemperance is wrong and that temperance is right. Temperate in all things, eating as well as drinking. The good book says be ye temperate in all things, and as a brotherhood, we should be charitable one toward another, never finding fault without just cause. We think it a good plan to ask ourselves once in a while, what are we living for and perhaps twice in a while would not hurt us much."

Her editorial continued: "The same good book that has given us a compass to guide us though this world says 'love your enemies' but not swallow them as many do strong drink, which is an enemy to the Blue Ribbon Brothers. And 'pray for those that despitefully use you.' Now this is one of the best precepts between its lids, for if you are made of true coin when you are despitefully used, you will only buckle your armor more closely and do more valiant service for God and humanity."

In the Dec. 2, 1881, issue of the Union Press was this advise: "Leave off drinking, leave off chewing, leave off smoking, leave off swearing, leave off snuffing, leave the gals alone.!"

Another article in that issue offered the following advice to churchgoers:

"Don't go to sleep. Don't bring the baby with you. Don't sing if you don't know how. Don't sit down on your new silk hat. Don't put counterfeit coin in the plate. Don't stay home on collections Sunday. Don't read a book during the sermon. Don't go in late if you wear squeaky boots. Don't take a sneezing fit — if you can help it. Don't try to make children sit as still as Egyptian mummies. Don't be an active talker in church matters unless you are an active worker.

Also, "Don't keep your religion in the pocket of your Sunday coat. Don't think everybody went to church to see what you've got on. Don't pull a pint of peanuts out of your pocket with your handkerchief. Don't get red and give yourself away if something in the sermon hits you in a sore spot. Don't give your umbrella to a bevy of pretty girls and go home in a drenching rain. Don't do any inward swearing if a fly plays hopscotch on that bald spot. Don't stare every girl in church out of countenance because some girls like it."

Leave off drinking, leave off chewing, leave off smoking, leave off swearing, leave off snuffing, leave the gals alone!

—Dec. 2, 1881 issue of the Union Press.

Temperance viewpoints also could be found in "regular" newspapers in Fort Atkinson. Emma Brown of New York came to Fort Atkinson with her brother, Thurlow, who had published the distinguished temperance newspaper, The Cayuga Chief, in Geneva, New York. After visiting the Hebron area, he brought his paper west and the first issue in Fort Atkinson was printed Oct. 16, 1856.

It was renamed the Wisconsin Chief, but its editorial view still focused on temperance. The slogan was "Right on."

After her brother's death, Emma continued as editor.

One article fiercely denounced S.A. Craig, an assemblyman from the district who had suggested that 'people want beer as a necessity.'

Another suggested that if the doctor prescribes liquor as a remedy, readers should switch physicians. "Great numbers have been ruined by bourbon prescriptions," the Wisconsin Chief advised.

The struggle to promote the cause of temperance culminated on April 6, 1917, when Fort Atkinson voted by a 25-vote margin in favor of going dry.

The vote, 637-612, made Fort Atkinson one of 40 communities statewide to favor prohibition; others included Whitewater, Lake Mills, Cambridge and Hebron. Eleven others, including Jefferson, decided to keep the taverns open.

"Jefferson saloonkeepers are getting ready for one big carouse," the Jefferson County Union said in an editorial. "Boozers don't need to worry over Jefferson. She will be wet when Hades freezes over."

In the April 13, 1917, Jefferson County Union, it was reported that, "The city will become arid in July, the month when the license year expires. The issue brought out a record-breaking vote. The 'drys' had carefully tabulated lists of the voters of the city and they sent automobiles into various wards to get the no-license voters to the polls. The 'wets' also hurried cars after their friends."

The Union reported that the outcome, though slim, was in part due to the active campaigning of The Better Fort Atkinson Association. On one of its posters, for example, it asked voters to read the following and then "answer this woman's appeal — vote dry."

"My husband went to town yesterday morning and never came back until half-past twelve at night. He was dead drunk. He is not fit for any woman to have in the house after he is drunk. I wish whoever gets him so drunk would keep him until he gets over it. Is there not such a place to keep them while they are drunk?

"I am sick in bed and cannot stand it to have a drunken man tear around the house all night like crazy. I have been sick more than six months. Doctors say it is my nerves and I will never get well with that drunkard around. Our furnace fire is out, our house is cold and he is too crazy to know what he is doing.

"Please do all you can for me; be sure to stop it that they sell liquor to him."

Apparently that plea got to the hearts of at least the 25 people who tilted the vote in favor of prohibition. It was more gut-wrenching than the following ad by the pro-wet Greater Fort Atkinson Association.

"You are interested in this directly or indirectly! For license or against — vote wet. Keeps your taxes down. Keeps your buildings occupied. Keeps your workmen employed. Keeps your city prosperous.

"Don't encourage 'blind pigs.' Don't be a 'dead' city. Don't disappoint yourself. Leave well enough alone. Vote wet."

Fort Atkinson residents must have remembered those words — or gotten awful thirsty — a year later when they reversed their decision and voted 690-390 for allowing alcohol sales. But that didn't last too long, for only months later the Eighteenth Amendment went into effect prohibiting the manufacture, sale or transport of liquor nationwide. It was enforced by the Volstead Act.

The last night before the bars closed was June 30, 1919. They did not reopen until the 21st Amendment's repeal of prohibition in 1933.

The Union wrote in its July 4, 1919, issue: "Fort Atkinson was exceptionally quiet and orderly Monday night at the last sad rites performed for John Barleycorn. A goodly number of intoxicated ones were seen on the streets up until 1:30 a.m., but for the most part, they were orderly."

It continued: "Many curious people rode up and down Main Street in

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Enjoying a cold brew in the late 1800s.

Fort made moonshine

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That was my extracurricular activity in high school. I had made quite a lot of money to start college with.

There were a lot of people doing the same thing. Your next door neighbor was probably bootlegging. It was a popular small-time business, and Jefferson County was pretty wide open. The law didn't particularly bother about controlling it, so people would come from other counties and even from other states.

One time an undertaker in town wanted us to buy some real whiskey, so we drove to Detroit in a hearse and crossed the border into Canada and bought a lot of Three Star Hennessey. We bought an inexpensive casket from an undertaker there who had done a lot of business with the one in Fort Atkinson. We put the whiskey in the casket and the undertaker sealed it. The customs men at the border at Windsor didn't bother to check since it was a sealed casket, and you couldn't be sure the body was not diseased or something. We did that a couple of times.

The owner of one speakeasy had big plans. He bought milk trucks and had the farmers put their alcohol in there and then he would ship it to Chicago. He was in pretty much with a Chicago gang and of course there were always rivalries between gangs.

On one Thanksgiving weekend when I was at his place, it was held up by some Chicago gangsters at about three or four o'clock in the morning. They put us all in the dining

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150

Down on the farm

Hoard put Fort on dairy map

By Elvi Kau

William D. Hoard is probably best known in Fort Atkinson as founder of W.D. Hoard & Sons Co., publisher of the Daily Jefferson County Union and Hoard's Dairyman magazine.

Through his publications as well as his considerable skill as a statesman and speaker, Hoard had a profound influence on agriculture that began with Jefferson County's farmers and eventually reached those across the nation.

When Hoard arrived in Wisconsin in the late 1800s, wheat fields dominated the countryside; dairy farms were few and far between at this time. While wheat farming was profitable at first, yields fell rapidly on Wisconsin's thin glacial soil. Farm failures were becoming more common.

Hoard had witnessed a similar situation in his native New York State, where farmers had retired their plows and turned to cows for a more profitable form of agriculture. Hoard was convinced that if Wisconsin farmers would turn to dairying, it would prove a more soil-conserving and profitable way of farming.

While Hoard's formal education ended at age 16, his work for a progressive dairy farmer in New York was combined with constant exposure to the farm journals of the day, at the insistence of his employer. Now, as a young newspaper publisher and printer in Fort Atkinson, Hoard continued his avid pursuit of the latest dairy news.

In his conviction that Wisconsin was destined for dairying, he and several other former New Yorkers formed the Jefferson County Dairyman's Association and the Wisconsin Dairyman's Association. These groups provided a forum for farmers to compare notes and promote Wisconsin's fledgling dairy industry.

In 1885, publisher Hoard noted in his newspaper, " 'Hoard's Dairyman,' a dairy edition of the Jefferson County Union, will be issued weekly hereafter . . .

"We have entered upon this enterprise in response to the request of a great many dairymen in the outside portions of this and other states, who want a cheap, weekly dairy paper."

Today Hoard's Dairyman reaches dairy farmers in all 50 states and over 80 foreign countries. Its U.S. readers produce over 90 percent of the milk marketed in this country.

A gifted speaker, Hoard's speech circuit widened from local county and state dairyman's association meetings to a national circuit, as he preached the gospel of the dairy cow.

One of his early "sermons" was on better care of the cow. Before the turn of the century, cows lived a rugged life; today's cow is pampered by

NOTICE TO THE HELP

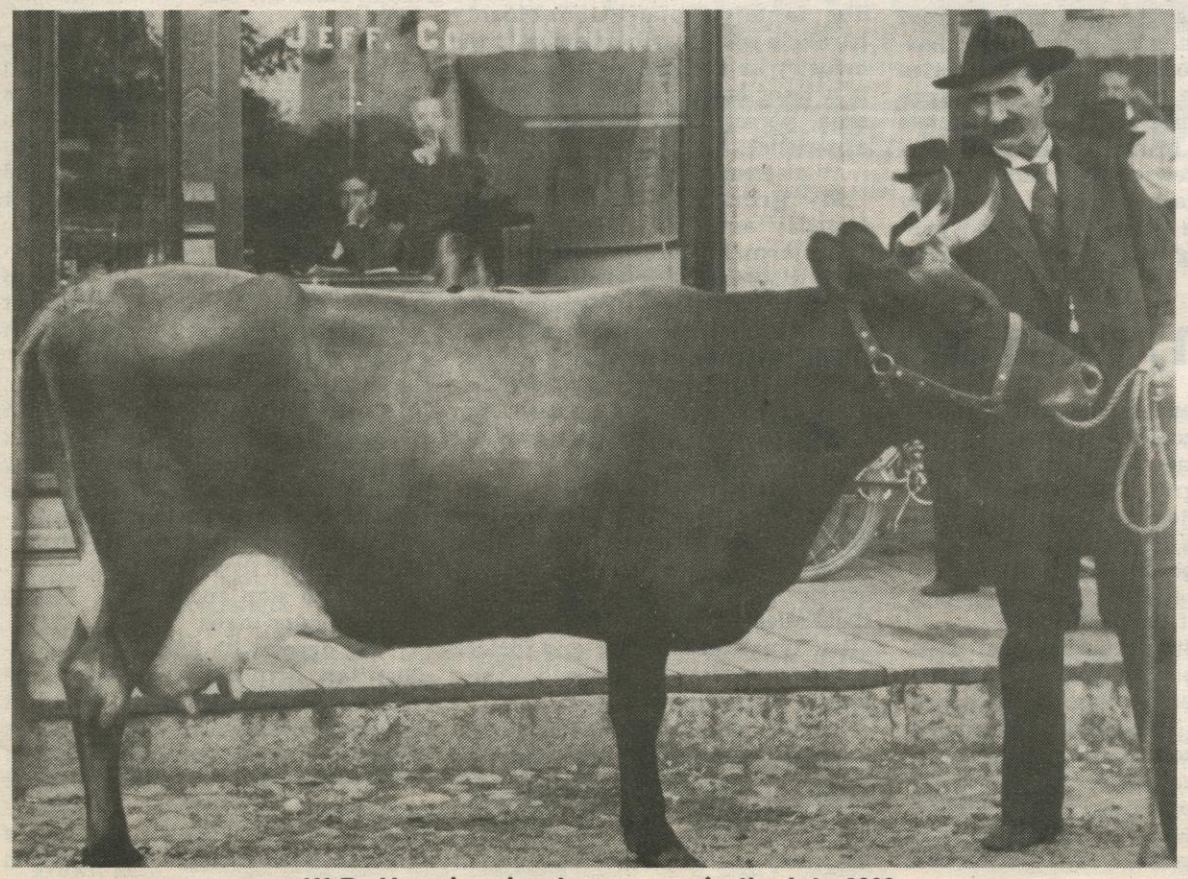
THE RULE to be observed in this stable at all times, toward the cattle, young and old, is that of patience and kindness. A man's usefulness in a herd ceases at once when he loses his temper and bestows rough usage. Men must be patient. Cattle are not reasoning beings. Remember that this is the Home of Mothers. Treat each cow as a Mother should be treated. The giving of milk is a function of Motherhood; rough treatment lessens the flow. That injures me as well as the cow. Always keep these ideas in mind in dealing with my cattle.

W. D. Hoard

Founder of Hoard's Dairyman

comparison. Hoard insisted that for better milk production, the farmer must "treat each cow as a mother should be treated." That meant shelter in bad weather, comfortable stalls, water piped to the barn and, please — no rough treatment, which "lessons the flow" of milk.

Hoard's emphasis on breeding cows for dairy purposes only — and not for the dual purpose of beef and milk — preceded the modern genetics



W.D. Hoard and a Jersey cow in the late 1800s.

responsible for the amazing 400 percent increase in milk production in the last century.

A cow census made in 1889 in New York was financed and later published by Hoard in his magazine. The census showed farmers they operated at a loss because they were unaware of their production costs compared to their income. Nor did they keep track of which cows were paying their keep through adequate production. Thus, Hoard demonstrated the need for a business-like approach to dairying. His census was a forerunner of today's Dairy Herd Improvement Associations that now include 3 million cows nationwide.

Even with growing numbers of cows and improving production, Wisconsin's dairy products had a difficult time competing with the established eastern market. Hoard noted the uneven quality of home-churned butter and locally produced cheese. He strove to impress upon the growing cottage industry the correct way to handle milk and butterfat.

Elected Wisconsin's governor in 1888, Hoard pioneered in the fight against food adulteration which was common throughout the nation. He created the country's first dairy and food commissions to assure pure food products. At this time, cheese was being "filled" with animal fat: a product that was vastly inferior in quality but extremely profitable to disreputable manufacturers. Similarly, oleomargarine was colored yellow to mimic butter and falsely labeled as butter.

His battle against food adulteration involved fiery testimonies before Congress. Filled cheese and mislabeled oleo slowly declined. But colored oleo was banned until 1950; the last tax on colored oleo ended in 1974.

Another fight for quality dairy products continued beyond Hoard's lifespan. In the days before pasteurization, milk was a common source of human tuberculosis. Beginning in 1895, Hoard fought a bitter campaign, often directed against his farmer friends, to eradicate cattle reacting to the newly developed bovine tuberculin test. Animals appeared healthy even though they reacted positively to the test, so farmers were reluctant to slaughter such a cow.

Thousands of subscriptions were lost, but Hoard and his successor editor, A.J. Glover, battled for what they knew was for the best interest of the dairy industry. Chicago finally passed a law in 1908 requiring milk to be pasteurized, except milk from tuberculin tested cows. The battle was not won until 1940, when the nation was declared free from bovine tuberculosis.

The many silos that dot the countryside throughout Wisconsin are another Hoard legacy. Farmers used to dry off their cows in the fall, giving them a winter vacation because suitable, adequate feed was not available to support milking year-round. Hoard promoted silos and used his magazine to address this new technology that made tasty, succulent forages available.

In 1889, Hoard bought a farm. While he wanted a better home for the several cows kept on his city property, the main objective of his purchase was to prove alfalfa as a suitable forage crop for the Midwest. At that time, university people cautioned against trying to grow alfalfa, claiming it would not survive the winters. Hoard's persistence and experimenting proved them wrong.

Today alfalfa is the queen of forage crops in the Midwest, and Hoard's Dairyman Farm continues as a testing ground for new ideas. Because of the farm's contributions to agriculture, it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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Dairying on the frontier.

Fort's cream of crop

(Editor's Note: Simultaneously, individual farms and the dairy industry as a whole experienced their own evolutions. Here, dairy farmer William Ward shares his history from a personal point of view.

(The author is a retired fourth-generation dairy farmer who farmed from 1947-85. He has been active in many Fort Atkinson organization's and in state and local dairy associations.)

By William W. Ward

Although we've never lived within the city limits of Fort Atkinson, dairy farmers have had an important role in the community's development and history. As individuals, we've supported the community and its churches, schools and businesses; collectively, dairy farmers have spawned the growth of many industries in Fort Atkinson — industries providing goods and services for the cow and her keeper.

Likewise, Fort Atkinson has given much to the dairy industry. Wisconsin hasn't always been America's Dairyland, but Fort Atkinson played a major role in Wisconsin's evolution into the No. 1 dairy state in the nation.

In the past 150 years, the dairy industry has evolved in many ways. For example, the way we get our drinking milk has changed from milking the family cow to meeting the farmer and his buggy to have him fill a family milk pail. It then turned to home delivery in glass bottles brought by horse-drawn wagons, and later by trucks, to carrying milk out of grocery or convenience stores in plastic jugs or paper cartons.

Cheesemaking has moved from the homemaker's kitchen to thousands of crossroads cheese factories dotting the state to a few large plants. Butter manufacturing has progressed from homemakers turning out a few pounds with a hand-operated dasher churn to country creameries with steam- or gas-powered big wooden churns turning out big batches to today's huge modern plants with their stainless steel continuous churns with cream going in one end and butter constantly coming out the other end.

Jefferson County has changed from no cows or milk plants to about 80 plants at its peak to the present day, when we are producing more milk than ever with most of it going out of the county to be processed; only two small cheese plants remain in the county — one at Milford and one at Concord.

The Ward family has been a part of Fort Atkinson almost since the beginning — since 1844. The evolution of our farming operation closely parallels what was happening in the industry as a whole. So what follows is a brief history of dairying in the area, personalized by one family's experience.

From England . . .

My great-greatgrandparents, Loveday and John Ward, Jr., left their farm in Cornwall England in 1843 or 1844 and traveled to Wisconsin. On June 21, 1844, they purchased a farm about three miles west of Fort Atkinson on what is now U.S. Highway 12. This farm is now owned by Holwis Farms (Craig and Tom Beane), and the house, by Perry and Marcia Baird.

Their first shelter was a log cabin by a spring, far away from the present road and buildings. This shelter served as a stopping place for new settlers passing through. Sometimes these guests just stayed overnight; at other times, as weather and further accommodations dictated, they stayed for some time.

John Jr. was 51 when he and Loveday and their family of five sons and two daughters arrived here. The children ranged in age from my great-grandfather, Edward, who was 23, to Stephen, 9. John Jr. died in 1847,

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Hoard: dairyman, editor

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Hoard was many things — publisher, editor, statesman and governor. Probably his most important role in regards to state and national agriculture was that of educator. In addition to his extensive speaking tours and his printed word in Hoard's Dairyman, Hoard was actively engaged in improving agriculture education in schools.

Hoard was influential in establishment of the country's first dairy school at the University of Wisconsin. In the later years of his life he served on the university's board of regents. As regent president, he pushed for more opportunities and better quality in agricultural education. To Hoard, the educated farmer was the successful farmer.

Then as now, farmers are an independent group. It is difficult to understand Hoard's incredible popularity with farmers as he unmercifully belabored the same themes — better care of cow, better efficiency, slaughter of tubercular cow.

Hoard felt the agricultural press had a duty to arouse the farmer to a larger understanding of life's possibilities. In concluding a speech urging fellow editors toward this duty, he told them, do it "with a loving heart." It was this total sincerity, this sense of mission and this "loving heart" that made Hoard the father of American dairying.

'Dry fears prove all wet': Union

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their cars and hundreds of others lined the sidewalks to watch the obsequies. A large number of people carried home heavy bundles, which they handled as though they were eggs. Everywhere people were carrying bottles wrapped up in newspapers. Every saloon was crowded to capacity for the final splurge. Many old customers were out to get their last saloon nip and to put their foot on the rail, lean their elbows on the bar and for the last time say, 'Here's looking at you, John.' "

The article noted that there was much singing of "How Dry I Am" after the zero hour, midnight, and that one northside saloon sold an out-of-town man $87 worth of whisky at one crack.

"Several of our saloonkeepers believe that prohibition has strong teeth and are not disposed to fool with Uncle Sam, so they are going to get out of the business now," the Union reported. "The others will watch and wait and probably sell soft drinks, etc."

It would be a 13-year wait, during which time Fort Atkinson and the rest of the nation's thirstier citizens attempted to find ways to quench their desires, whether it be stirring up a batch of bathtub gin or making moonshine in stills

The Jefferson County Union on April 3, 1925, reported on dry agents raiding Jefferson County saloons, led by District Attorney R.C. Twining of Watertown flanked by federal officers.

According to the article, the feds made the "big haul" at Charles Bienfang's saloon and home on North Water Street, East. The story relates the following:

"Entering the saloon, they served a search warrant on the daughters of Mr. Bienfang, who were in charge of the place. Back of the bar, the raiders found several bottles of tonic and bitters. Then a search was made in the livingroom but nothing was found. In the cellar, 14 bottles of wine and several bottles of tonic were lined up and later all but a small quantity of the wine was dumped into a sewer leading directly to the river.

"Returning upstairs, the officers searched one of the beds and found 12 bottles of moonshine. While the search was going on, Mr. Bienfang appeared and, realizing that he had been trapped, confessed to the dry officers. In total, the officers confiscated four cases of bitters, 18 quarts of grandad's tonic, 13 pints of Dr. Heller's bitters, three two-gallon jugs of wine, 17 quart botles of wine and two 10-gallon kegs of wine."

Prohibition continued through December 1933. On Dec. 15, 1933, the editorial page of the Jefferson County Union carried a brief item announcing that "Dry fears prove all wet."

"The return of the open saloon, much dreaded by drys, has begun with the closing of 6,000 speakeasies in New York City alone, according to an announcement by Police Commissioner James S. Bolan. Only 1,928 speakeasies have survived the first week of repeal, he said."

Although an Independent Republican newspaper, the Union agreed with Democratic President Franklin D. Roosevelt that the tax on liquor should be low.

In the editorial in the same issue, the Union wrote, "President Roosevelt's stand for a low liquor tax has raised considerable controversy among those who believe that the chief aim of repeal is to give the government a new source of revenue. The president feels that it is more important to stop bootlegging than to collect liquor taxes.

"We agree with him. If a prohibitive tax is placed on liquor, the bootleg racket with all its attendant evils will continue to flourish. If the liquor tax is low enough to put the bootlegger out of business, at least one important source of criminal income will be stopped. The whole value of repeal would be destroyed by an exorbitant tax."

Wards: four dairy generations

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some three years after arriving from England.

In 1851, the oldest son, Edward, and his wife, Jane Lean, purchased the Oakland Farm (on which David Ward now resides, located four miles west on U.S. Highway 12), and also the Jefferson Township Farm (present home of William and Jean Ward, on County Highway G).

The early settlers who came directly from Europe brought only selected personal effects; they obviously had no room for livestock. But settlers moving here from New York or New England were able to drive some of their livestock west.

One of these settlers was Charles Rockwell, who arrived in the Fort Atkinson area in 1837. As early as that year, there are records of his making cheese, probably a soft cheese similar to our cottage cheese.

There also are early accounts of the Armin and Anne Pickett family driving 10 cows to Lake Mills from their home in Ohio and losing some in the marshy area of what is now Chicago. Since about two-thirds of our early settlers came here from the eastern U.S., it was possible to buy cattle from a neighbor.

Cattle were important to those early settlers, but not as herds producing milk to be sold. Instead, most families wanted a cow or two to provide fresh milk daily for the family's use. They also got some meat when the cow's productive days were over or from the home slaughter of her offspring.

When the native grasses were lush and the cow was fresh (recently bore a calf), she produced more than enough milk for table use. Thus, the homemaker could churn some butter for the family's use. And if her skills included cheesemaking, the family was doubly blessed.

During dry weather when the cow's feed intake was limited to the marsh grasses she could find in the swamps, her output of milk was pretty skimpy and the hand-milking chore didn't consume much time.

The cattle those early settlers owned weren't the Holsteins, Guernseys and other dairy breeds we have today. They were miserable scrub cattle left to forage for themselves on what native grasses they could find. Few farmers planted clover or improved grasses, and alfalfa was unknown. They calved in the spring, were milked in the summer and dried up in the fall. The luckier cattle had sheds for winter shelter. Many stood pitifully humped and shivering in the family yard during winter storms, depending on straw or coarse hay to pull them through the winter.

Wheat was king . . .

These early pioneer families were very self sufficient but there were some items — salt, tools, clothing and certain foodstuffs — that they needed to buy. For these things they needed money or something with which they could trade or barter. Wheat fit the bill: it was easy to grow, it did well on the virgin soils and farmers were familiar with the crop.

Wheat became king, and for many years it was the principal grain crop grown here. By 1860, Wisconsin was the No. 3 wheat-producing state, but the king was in trouble. After years of continuous wheat, the thin forest soils could no longer support good wheat yields. Some farmers moved west breaking new ground. Others looked for new alternatives for agricultural production.

One of these was W.D. Hoard, who became a dairy evangelist. He had grown up on farms in New York State and had seen how dairying had fit the bill there. The cattle were able to use forages that didn't require cultivation, thereby preserving the soil. At the same time, the manure returned fertility to the land.

He spread the word in the "Dairy Notes" column in the Jefferson County Union that he started publishing in Lake Mills in 1870 (moving to Fort Atkinson in 1873). The popularity of this column with farmers around the state led to his founding of a separate publication, Hoard's Dairyman, in 1885.

Many farmers were not ready to accept the advice from Hoard and others that their salvation from the wheat error would come through the establishment of a dairy industry. They objected to the high cost of acquiring cattle and getting into the business of producing a product that was difficult to market. They weren't experienced in this field and the thought of having to care for and milk cows twice a day every day of the year was not especially appealing.

From cottages to creameries . . .

But, eventually, they began to listen and the number of cows in the state began to grow. Better cow care meant more milk per cow. As the state produced more milk, there were changes in the way it was processed.

Until after the Civil War, cheese and butter making were strictly cottage industries. This was "women's work," not worthy of the cultivator's time. Quality varied with the skill and cleanliness of the individual and cooling was limited to a cellar or spring house.

In 1864, Chester Hazen built the first cheese factory in Wisconsin in Fond du Lac County. A year later, Marshall and McCutcheon built one at Cold Spring. By 1870, there were 54 cheese factories in Wisconsin and the dairy industry was beginning to take off. These factories meant one skilled cheesemaker could produce more good cheese using equipment and methods not feasible for individual farmers. It also meant the hauling of milk by horses to the factory — hence, small crossroads factories within easy driving distance from the farms.

These factories were not without their problems. The most critical one was establishing a good, uniform, quality product that could find a market in urban areas. Then that product had to get to those cities, a problem that called for a unified effort of all engaged in the dairy business.

In his Jan. 26, 1872, issue of the Jefferson County Union, Hoard proposed the formation of a statewide organization to tackle these problems and promote dairying. Three weeks later, the Wisconsin Dairyman's Association was formed at Watertown. The founders included Hoard of Fort Atkinson, H.C. Drake and Stephen Favill of Lake Mills and W.S. Greene of Milford, who later became the Greene of the manufacturing firm, Curtis, Cornish and Greene (forerunner of Creamery Package). This organization flourished for over 50 years and did much to further the development of Wisconsin into our nation's leading dairy state.

By 1880, Wisconsin had over 400 cheese factories but only about 40 plants making butter (creameries). The farm homemakers were making more butter than the factories. The mechanical separator (De Laval's, 1879) hadn't been fully developed or accepted, so the cream had to be skimmed from shallow settling pans.

Also, there wasn't a good test to determine the butterfat content of milk until the University of Wisconsin's Stephen Babcock developed his in 1890. Prior to that, farmers were reluctant to sell their milk for the same price per pound as their neighbors when they were sure their milk would test higher and yield more butter. They skimmed their own milk, fed the skim milk to calves and pigs and had their wives churn the cream into butter.

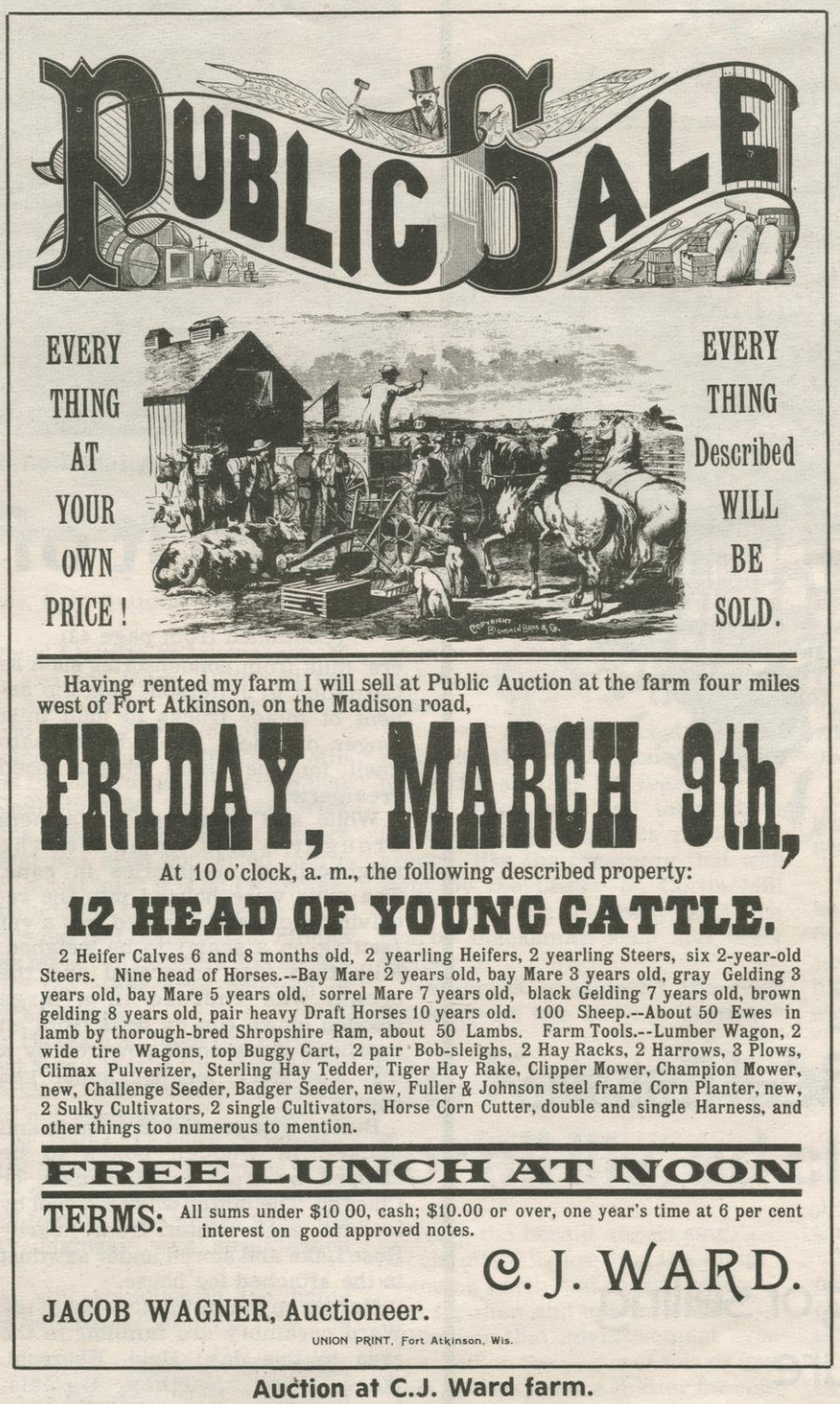
With the development of the separator, the Babcock butterfat test and improvement in churns, the growth in the number of butter plants or creameries was rapid. By 1905, Jefferson County had 66 neighborhood creameries and was Wisconsin's leading butter producer.

One crossroads creamery . . .

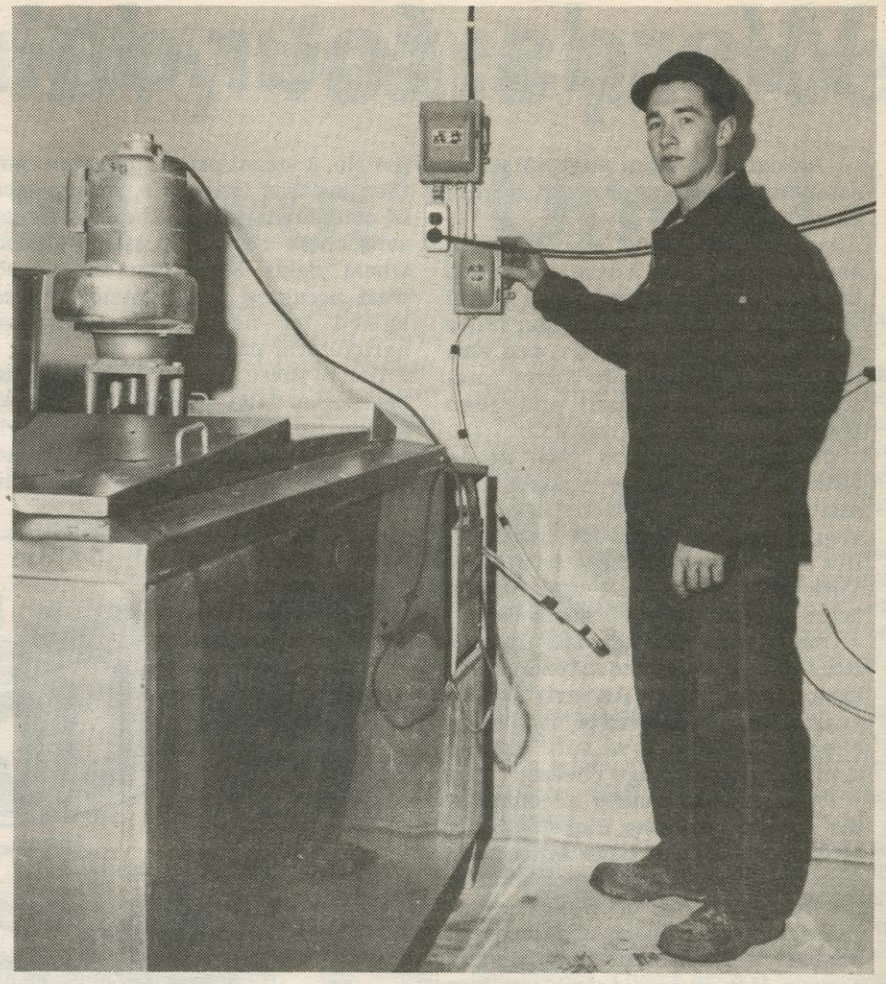
Meanwhile, back on the Ward farm, upon Edward Ward's death in 1891, his son, C. John Ward, took over the operation. In 1893, in partnership with Will Daniels, he built a creamery on the corner of the farm. This building at the intersection of U.S. Highway 12 and County Highway G still stands. Daniels was the buttermaker until grandpa (C.J. Ward) bought him out in 1895 and hired Phil Lean as buttermaker.

In 1897, the house on that corner was built for the buttermaker who had just married, at a cost of $800. In 1908, C.J.'s son, Chris Ward, became buttermaker and continued until 1918, when the creamery ceased operation. Stiff competition for farm-

(Continued on page 44)



Auction at C.J. Ward farm.



Bill Ward switched on new bulk milk cooler in 1950.

Skim it off the top

(Continued from page 43)

ers' milk from condensories such as Carnation in Jefferson, plus the advent of motor trucks to haul milk longer distances, spelled the death knell for the small neighborhood creameries.

While still in operation, farmers brought their milk to the neighborhood creameries in cans. The cans were hoisted into the receiving room and dumped into a vat (setting on a scale) to be weighed. Milk then was separated and the cream was churned in a large wooden churn run by belts from an overhead drive shaft powered by a big, stationery, single-cylinder gas engine.

Butter was printed in pounds and packed in wooden boxes to be shipped by train to Milwaukee or Chicago. The butter was kept cool by ice cut each winter from nearby Rose Lake and stored under sawdust in the attached ice house.

Names on the 1917 patron list at the Ward creamery are familiar in the area to this day: Heid, Ebersohl, Ward, Snell, Northey, Daniels, Leonard, Noel, Ostrander, Umland, Heitz, Kunz, Chapman, Anthes and Goodrich.

C.J. also was involved with creameries in Fox Lake and Randolf which were managed by another son, G. Earnest Ward, who later was assistant cashier and cashier at the Fort Atkinson Savings Bank for 50 years (now Bank of Fort).

Changes on the farm . . .

The press of other business took most of C.J.'s time, so the operation of the farm was turned over to his two youngest sons, Robert and Theodore S., following their graduation from high school. They enlarged the barn, added silos in 1918 and 1923 and started in the pure bred Holstein business. When the Ward creamery closed in 1918, milk was hauled by Leonard Brothers to a plant in Jefferson located by the old North Street bridge across the Rock River.

When the Wisconsin Electric Power Company built the lines to the farm in the late 1920s, the use of electric motors made possible many chore-saving devices. One of these was the milking machine, which eliminated hand milking. However, for a long time dairymen considered it necessary to hand strip each cow to get the milk the machine left.

In the early 1930s, the Deerfield Creamery solicited area dairy farmers to ship milk to them for eventual sale into the Chicago Grade A fluid market (milk destined for house-to-house delivery in bottles). The milk moved to Chicago by tank truck to Bowman Dairy. We had to be inspected by Chicago health department inspectors to see if we had the proper milk house, clean utensils, screen doors, enough ventilation and light, and so on.

Milk cans were cooled with cold water and the open trucks were replaced by trucks with closed boxes to keep out dust and dirt. These 100-pound cans had to be carried from the milk house out to the truck and lifted four feet up into the truck. It wasn't uncommon to see the more macho haulers carry one can with each arm. Mechanical refrigeration eventually replaced well water for the cooling of milk.

The elimination of cans and the start of bulk milk cooling came to this area in 1950 when Hugh Miller of Whitewater started a hauling route, taking the milk to Willow Dairy Farms in LaGrange, Ill. The first farm in Jefferson County to go bulk was Byron Freeman. His son, Wesley, now operating the farm, remembers that day in March when

(Continued on page 48)

Cy Curtis alive at Hake farm

By Mark Ferguson

If Cyrus Curtis were alive today, he'd surely thank two brothers who live on land he once owned northeast of Fort Atkinson along County Highway N.

Jerome and Lloyd Hake have found enough artifacts and have tracked down enough records about what is now known as the Curtis Mill area that they could open a museum. In fact, they have something similar to one next to Lloyd's house, although they don't call it that.

"We do this just to let people know," said the 63-year-old Lloyd of the log cabin he helped build that has been turned into a repository for everything from arrowheads to antique dairying equipment.

Curtis settled on 320 acres of land in 1839 on what is now the land around County Highway N and Curtis Mill Road. Since then, the land has been divided into smaller sections and sold. The Hakes' grandfather, Daniel Alexander Hake, purchased a plot in 1871 which has been in the Hake family ever since.

As two brothers who were born and raised on this land, the Hakes, especially the bachelor farmer Lloyd, have always felt close to it and want to preserve its past.

In addition to establishing a "museum," the Hakes have erected a sign in the shape of a circular saw on the site of the former Curtis Sawmill and Dam. The water-powered mill and dam were built in 1842 along a creek next to the highway. Although they were dismantled in 1868, what remains of the dam's dirt walls is hard to miss.

"Our grandmother used to tell us that when she was young, as many as 40 oxen at a time would drag logs down what is now Curtis Mill Road to the mill," Lloyd said. "After the logs were cut, the oxen would drag them down to what we called the Damuth Bridge (Curtis Mill Road and State Highway 106) and put them in the Rrock River."

In about 1949, the Hakes discovered several oak pilings near the old dam site while they were straightening out the creek.

"The pilings held water from washing underneath and must have been there more than 100 years, but they were just as sound as the day they were cut," said Jerome, a 75-year-old retired electrician for the Wisconsin Electric Power Co.

Never ones to waste anything, the old logs were cut up and used for shelves, light fixtures and other projects.

"Would I love to go back about 150 years and see them cutting at the mill," said Lloyd. "They evidently handled pretty good-size wood."

Another treasure of the Curtis Mill area is the old Curtis Mill School that was built in 1886. The small brick building was closed several years ago and has been converted into a house, but at least it is still standing. And hanging in Lloyd's garage is the school's old bell that brought him as well as his seven brothers and sisters and all the other area children to school each day.

The Hakes also have the partially burned scroll that is the register for the former Curtis Cemetery adjacent to the old schoolhouse. Curtises as well as Heths, Culvers, Whitneys, Wilkies, Spears and Wheelans were buried there, but their graves were moved to other cemeteries when the county highway was straightened out.

Also still standing is the home Curtis built for his family in 1854. The structure, with its hand-hewn wooden beams, wooden pins and boulder foundation, was eventually sold to the Hakes' grandfather for $2,500.

Jerome and Lloyd replaced the roof recently and the house is bound to last for another 100 years.

The Hakes also tell tales about those buildings that are no longer around, like the creamery that was right by the bridge on Curtis Mill Road and the highway and the nearby blacksmith shop and brick factory.

Jerome is considered the rock hound of the two and has extensive collections of Indian artifacts and other rocks, while his brother goes after antique farming equipment.

"You have certain characteristics and certain traits in your life. I've always been a stone collector," Jerome said.

"The old farm stuff is what intrigues me — stuff that even I never used," added Lloyd.

While they have never considered writing about their vast knowledge of the Curtis Mill area, the Hakes might just give it some thought. After all, it's got to be easier than straightening out a creek or building a cabin.

Hakes with rectangular butter churn.

Indian tools found on farm.

Dr. Kennedy's was cure for all ills, ad claimed

"Hark the herald angels sing,
Beecham's pills are just the thing!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
Two for man and one for child."

Whether that advertisement ever appeared on the pages of this or any other newspaper is a matter for conjecture. However, it was a popular advertising jingle in the 1890s and was indicative of marketing techniques of its era.

Advertising copy, as well as editorial policy, were governed by each individual's good taste and judgement. The writer of the above jingle evidently wasn't governed by good taste as much as the sale of pills.

The editorialist's judgment was often tempered by his ability to handle a punch in the nose for there were no libel laws in those days. Neither were there any pure food and drug laws.

The following are exerpts from ads published in the Jefferson County Union in the 1870s:

March 17, 1870 — "A great political achievement was accomplished by the election of Grant and a revolution of imminent social importance is the substitution of that pure and harmless preparation, Cristador's Excelsior Hair Dye for the deadly compound of lead and brimstone."

A full page ad in the same edition consisted of testimonials on Hembold's Concentrated Fluid extract Buchu! The Great Diuretic!

The greatest medical blessing of the age — Dr. Kennedy's Rheumatic and Neuralgia Disolvement — you name it, it cured it.

Another 1870 ad screamed Murder! Murder!! Murder!!! Beware of Quacks! A victim of early indiscretion, causing nervous debility, premature decay, etc., having tried in vain every advertised remedy, has discovered a simple means of self cure.

Dedication helps farms survive

By Laura Beane

They came from overseas, leaving behind family and friends, with little hope of ever being able to return to their homeland. Hard work and dedication to this new land led them to establish farms which have remained in the families one century or more.

But with the changing agricultural economy, few of them survive as land still owned by descendants of those first settlers. And, even fewer are actually farmed by descendants of the original owners. In fact, discounting the obvious Jones Dairy Farm and Hoard's Dairyman Farm, only eight 100-year-old farms are still owned by members of century farm families.

It was in 1852 that James and Philadelphia Wenham came to the Hebron area from England. The acreage is owned today by great-grandson Wesley Wenham and his family, though they do not farm the land. From James, the land had passed on to his son, George. George's children, Hubert, Elvera and Clarence became the owners of the Wenham farm and eventually Wesley owned the land. As was often the case, the home Wesley and his family occupy was built from wood harvested from the woods on the farm.

Germany was homeland for Peter Ebersohl, who emigrated in 1858 to New York State. After working there for several years, he moved to the Fort Atkinson area and purchased a farm in January 1867. After only 14 years of ownership he died, and his son, Charles, purchased the farm, which he divided into two parcels at the time of his son, Alvin's, marriage. The other parcel went to son Walter.

The farm owned by Alvin is now owned by the David Kemna family. The home in which they live was built for Alvin and his bride by a Mr. Trieloff of Fort Atkinson, who with his crew walked out to the job each Monday morning, returning to Fort Atkinson on Saturday evening. The entire cost was $3,500.

Walter Ebersohl's farm was purchased by his niece, Alvin's daughter, and her husband, Marion (Ebersohl) and Harvey (Behling) in 1966. They continue to reside along U.S. Highway 12 five miles west of Fort Atkinson.

Both farms were dairy farms but are only cropped now. When Peter Ebersohl bought the original farm, he cleared 20 acres of woodland entirely by hand, quite a monumental feat by today's standards.

Wardland Farms along County Highway G and U.S. Highway 12 west of Fort Atkinson was established by Edward Ward, who had emigrated from Cornwall, England in 1843 or 1844 with his father and mother, John Sr. and Loveday Rogers Ward. They purchased the farm on Highway 12, now owned by Craig and Tom Beane, which was known for many years as the Glover Farm.

Edward was the oldest of seven children — five sons and two daughters — and he owned the farm until 1892, when he sold it to John Daniels. The farm, which has remained in the Ward family for more than a century, was purchased by Edward in October 1851; he remained owner until his death in 1872. At that time it went to his only surviving child, C.J. Ward.

Christopher John, usually known as C.J. or John, was the owner of a string of creameries located at Fox Lake, Randolph and one whose building remains at the intersection of Highway 12 and County Highway G from approximately 1895 to 1918. After the World War I years, the milk and cream was hauled to condenseries by truck.

C.J. Ward died in 1923 and his two sons, Robert and Theodore, inherited the farm on Highway 12. The County Highway G farm was inherited by his five sons, Robert and Theodore, Louis of Midland, Mich.; Ernest, a Fort Atkinson banker, and Chris, who had been a buttermaker in his father's creamery and later a nursery owner.

In 1947, family ownership continued with Robert and Theodore buying out the non-farming brothers' interests. Theodore's sons, William and Ted, were also part owners with their father and uncle. Ten years later, Robert and Theodore retired and William (Bill) and Ted operated the farms until 1976 when, following a barn fire, Ted retired and the Bill Ward farmily organized Wardland Inc.

Since then, David Ward, Bill's son, has assumed management following his father's retirement. In 1985, Bill and Jan Ward visited Cornwall and the farms on which Bill's great-grandfather, John Ward Sr., and great grandmother, Loveday Rogers Ward, were born.

The Glover Farm now owned by the Beane family was once the site of a stagecoach stop at a home located near some springs on the back portion of the farm. The building is no longer there, but the springs are still active.

On Kunz Road between County Highway C and State Highway 106 is a farm settled in July 1847 by Jacob Kurtz and his wife, Susanna Klein Kurtz. The couple had five children, four of whom were born in Germany. Son George married Katherine Hetts and they and their four children became owners in February 1860, just before the Civil War.

George's two sons, Walter, who married Carrie Koeppel, and William, who married Alma Scherwitz, assumed ownership when the farm was divided into two parcels. A new home was built for William, with a barn to be added later. The "new house" was moved a short distance later, only to become a garage with plastered walls and windows when another new home was built by William.

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Fort sewer

(Continued from page 21)

According to Klement, obtaining rocks for the wall was no problem; area farmers had collected lots of them from their fields and were only too glad to have them hauled way.

Besides providing needed jobs for local workmen, the wall project gave the city a "tremendous asset," Klement feels. Within a few years, if the Fort Atkinson Development Council's plans are carried out, the river wall will be enhanced by a walkway stretching from near The Welcome Inn to Lorman-Bicentennial Park.

At about the same time as the river wall construction, the state had ordered the city to install its first sewage disposal plant (opened in February 1934). The only treatment plant the community had before was a septic tank at the east end of South Fourth Street, emptying into Haumerson's Pond. A sludge tank had also been built there while Klement was city engineer.

Before the installation of the sewer collection and treatment system, many private residents had septic systems while others had outdoor toilets. But, whatever, the city received much of the raw sewage.

The construction of the river wall and the city's first sewer treatment plant dovetailed so that the wall provided protection for the interceptor lines that were installed along the river bank en route to the treatment site along Riverside Drive.

The sewage plant opened in Fort Atkinson in 1934 made this city among the first in the country to have secondary sewage treatment facilities. It had a distinct advantage over primary sedimentation, which was almost the only other treatment given to sewage during that period. Indeed, many larger communities didn't even institute primary treatment until the 1950s.

When the local plant opened in February 1934, it was the first PWA project finished in Wisconsin.

The Hakes marked the Curtis Mill site.

In about 1939, the city purchased another 93 acres in the vicinity of the sewer plant for $4,400 to provide for sludge bed expansion. Much of that acreage is now Rock River Park.

Leslie Hummel, who died in 1972, had served as sewage plant superintendent for 29 years. He was succeeded by Karl Kutz, who retired in 1974. Current superintendent of the wastewater treatment plant is Roger Sherman, with Steve Jankowski as superintendent of the department of public works.

10 Fort-area farms are 100 years-plus

(Continued from page 46)

In the chain of family ownership, William's son, Elmer, married to Katherine Brounty, became the new owner. His sister, Evelyn, and her husband, Earl Heiden, became the owners of their father's farm next door, which had been divided off for Walter. Following a barn fire on the Elmer Kunz farm in 1969, the two farms were once again operated as one by Earl Heiden and Elmer Kunz.

An addition was built on the Heiden farm barn and Eomer built a new silo to replace those destroyed in the fire. The Guernsey herd was dispersed in 1973 following Elmer's death. Today, Earl crops the acreage.

Katherine Kunz resides in the home and Elmer and Katherine's son, Gary, retain an active interest in the family homestead. This farm featured an unusually huge round silo at one time but it was divided rightt down the middle when Walter and William divided the farm. Many years later, Elmer destroyed the silo by dynamite since they could no longer feed fast enough to prevent spoilage.

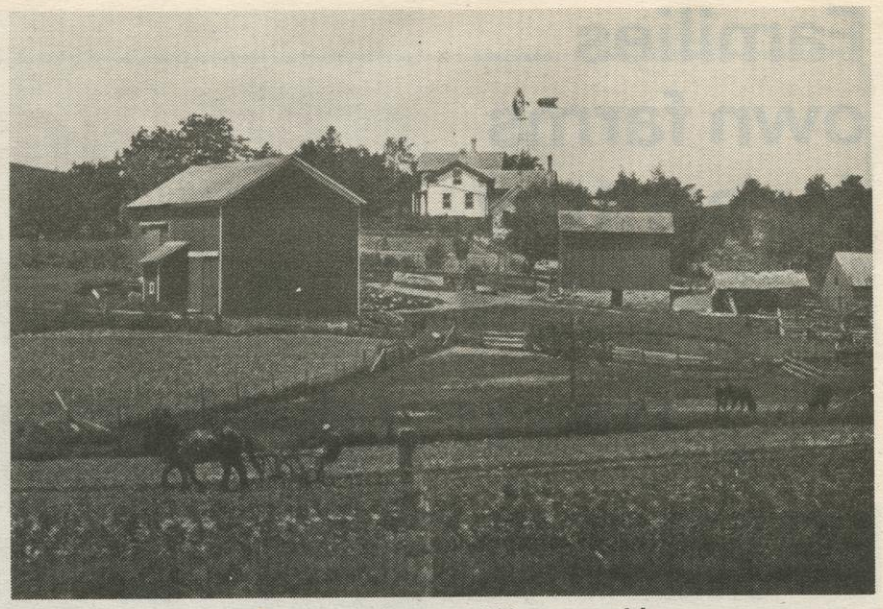
On Highway 106 east is a farm owned by the Lee Hubbard family. Lee's great grandfather, Ebenezer, came from England in 1848 to settle in Jefferson County following a few years in New York State. The orginal farm of 40 acres was expanded by Ebenezer's son, Aldo, when he came into possession of the farm. Omar Hubbard, grandson of the original owner, and Lee's father was next in line. Following his death Lee, took possession of the farm and resides in a new house near the old farm buildings.

Justus Anthes fled Germany in the night during the early 1850s to escape conscription. He worked in New York State long enough to receive his citizenship papers and accumulate some money for purchasing a farm in Jefferson County, Wis., in 1863. The original 60 acres was expanded by his son, J. Henry, who had purchased the farm after his marriage to Rose Smith.

One small parcel of land exchanged hands four times, mainly due to road construction, between the McGowan family and the Antheses or their descendants. In 1947, Henry sold the farm to his granddaughter and her husband, Laura (Ouweneel) and Craig Beane, the present owners. Henry continued to be active on the farm into his 90's and died at 98 in 1963.

It was evidently a long-lived family, as his sister, Mary Anthes Brueckner of Jefferson, lived to 100-plus. A brother, Albert of Fort Atkinson, lived to 96, and another brother, John, of Janesville passed away at 94.

Since 1947, the Beanes have expanded the farm to include parts of two century farms — the James McGowan farm, whose daugther, Georgia, with her husband, LaVerne Kutz, own another century farm, and parts of the Leonard farm owned by grandfather and uncles of the Beane's daughter-in-law, Kathleen.



Ward farm is over 100 years old.

It was only in the past half dozen years that a historical feature on the farm was torn down: a Green Mountain silo which was manufactured in Fort Atkinson by Cornish, Curtis and Greene.

Still another century farm is presently owned by Robert McIntyre. The farm is a combination of century farms owned by his mother and father's families. What was once a dairy farm has become acreage known to many Fort Atkinsonites as a pick-it-yourself fruit and vegetable farm.

August Kutz pruchased two 20-acre parcels of land in 1882: one from George Stanford and wife and another from Milo Jones of the Town of Koshkonong on what is called Kutz Road. On the northeast corner of Kutz and Bark River roads is the original homestead. Ed believes his folks lived there before this time, but there were no records prior to 1882.

August and Louisa Hackbarth Kutz, both born in Germany, resided here with their 13 children, Amelia Prell, Albert, Elizabeth Schrank, August, Paul, William, John, Ewald, Edward, Frank, Ernest and Carl. One daughter, Minnie, died in her youth. August died in 1900, leaving Louisa and the large family. Louisa died seven years later.

Paul Kutz, a single son, purchased the farm in 1918. By today's stan-

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Families own farms for century

(Continued from page 47)

dards, it is believed he made the purchase to settle his parents' estate and to satisfy his brothers' and sisters' wants or needs.

Ed Kutz purchased it from brother Paul in 1919 and farmed the original acreage plus additional land he purchased, for a total 87 acres. Ed farmed the land for 41 years and, as he neared retirement, he sold 20 acres on the south side of Bark River Road to a neighbor. These 87 acres raised six sons to manhood.

On Jan. 1, 1960 Laverne purchased the "home farm" from his parents. With the changing times, these 63 acres were not enough to allow them to be full-fledged farmers. As Vern was already a pipefitter at General Motors in Janesville, he did the necessary farmwork nights and weekends until he marked 30 years with General Motors in July 1980.M. in July of 1980.

Some might call us "hobby farmers." According to Internal Revenue Service standards, we are not. Whatever — there are lots of stories that the walls of this old house could tell — especially of the early days and of how things used to be.

The years have changed the face of these century farms but the families who live on and work them still have the love of the land which was so prevalent among the early Fort Atkinson settlers.

Ellen, Henry Moyse and son John try out McCormick reaper.

Educators go back to school

(Continued from page 33)

He arrived in Fort Atkinson in 1950.

"I went to school two years and then I went broke and I mean broke. I didn't have a penny and no source of income so I quit and sold Fuller brushes for a while," he said. "That didn't turn out, so I played baseball for money, but that wasn't enough. So I took this job in Montana as a principal."

A friend, school board member William Knox , told Luther of the superintendent opening in Fort Atkinson.

"It was the make-up of the school board that made me decide to go to Fort," Luther said. He took a cut in pay by taking the superintendency, but never regretted it.

Luther was honored for his service to the community with a farewell party given upon his retirement, as well as the dedication of the junior high in his name. Humbly, as if still stunned, Luther said of the party, "Gee, there must have been a thousand people there."

While superintendent, Luther was instrumental in beginning the now-huge scholarship fund Fort Atkinson High School students enjoy. This year's total was close to $100,000.

"When we first started this thing, I got the biggest one next to the Joe Davies; we got the Bingham fund. Mr. Bingham came to me after his wife died and he asked if he could have an interview with me. We got together and he presented his problem. He and his wife had planned before she died to have a scholarship in the name of their son who died when he was a freshman in high school," explained Luther.

"I established one myself, a small one of course," he added. "The income from it will be used perpetually. It will give somebody $1,000 or more."

Luther said he believes Glenn Lepley, Fort Atkinson High School principal, is the best in the state, adding that, "I think we established a solid foundation, the school is very well managed."

The scholarship fund and strength of the school's faculty are important commodities to society's well being, according to Luther. "When you look at the scholarships, that means a lot of kids are going to school who couldn't afford it and that is happening all over the country," he said.

First by pass?

According to available records, the first Fort Akinson High School football player ever to score a touchdown on a forward pass was Herman Venter, a speedy end who went for a touchdown on a 30-yard aerial from John Dieckhoff in 1909 in a game against Beloit. Fort Atkinson won.

Whether being able to attend school in 1920 or 1980, education provides a quality slate on which students write their futures. Luther said that school gives students hope, as well as knowledge that can never be erased.

Today's chalkboards are perhaps different, but the scribbles on them have that same sense of hope. The Class of 1986 says "Anything Can Happen." Sixty-six years ago the same spirit was alive.

"It will be many years before a class like ours appears, we all are very wise and keep our standards high, seniors; it will be hard to be apart but with our motto in our mind, we'll find a way or make one, we are that kind." — Class of 1920.

Perhaps it was school 'daze'

By Tracy Gentz

Though education has gone through a marked change over the last century and a half, students are still students and they can get into mischief once in a while.

Retired Fort Atkinson High School language teacher Laura Graper recalls with a smile the fate of three truant teen-agers trying to thumb a ride to Janesville.

"It was about 1919 or 1920 and the boys were skipping out of school and trying to hail down a ride," she said. They ended up hailing down the superintendent of schools and got hauled back."

The boys received severe punishment, with suspension following their misfortune. One teacher actually lost her job while trying to get the boys' punishment softened, according to Laura.

And then there were the talents of several senior boys interested in engineering. They decided to make up their own lab experiment and try it out on the principal. Laura was a sophomore or junior at that time.

"Squares of the wall could be pulled off and then put back into place with little chance of detection. Behind each square was a space big enough for let us say an alarm clock," Laura said. "The boys placed an alarm clock in each of a number of squares and set them to go off at alternating times. The boys put the walling back so there was no way to tell where the ringing was coming from."

Every morning the principal read notes to an assembly of students from 9 to 9:15 a.m.

"About five minutes into the daily

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At Henry Heth's sorghum mill in 1918 were Rudy Heth, Walter Heth, Leo Brueckner, Harry Kowalke, and John Bauer.

Bulk tank used

(Continued from page 44)

the bulk truck came to pump the milk out of the cooler. The truck was accompanied by all sorts of dignitaries and spectators to witness the event.

Our Ward Farm converted to bulk three months later, shipping to Willow Farms until the fall of 1951, when Hawthorn Mellody in Whitewater started accepting bulk milk. By this time, the farm was being operated by the next generation of Wards, Theodore's sons, William and Ted. Ted left the farm in 1976, and at the same time William's son, David, returned to the farm.

Right now most of the milk produced in Wisconsin is stored and hauled in bulk tanks — there is little can milk produced. The biggest share of that milk goes directly from the cow through a pipeline to the bulk tank to be quickly cooled without ever being exposed to outside air.

The bulk trucks pump the milk from the farm tank and deliver it to the large dairy plants, where it is bottled or processed into butter, cheese, ice cream or other dairy products.

Today, all the consumer has to do for a wide variety of fresh, cold dairy products is to go to any grocery store — a far cry from the days when families kept their own cow, churned their own butter, and, if they were lucky, made a little cheese.

Blue collars

Agriculture invaded industry

By Christine Blumer

"Fort Atkinson, Wis.: a wide-awake city of 4,500 people. Desirable residence location, public improvements and conveniences and the best order. Great dairy, stock and manufacturing center. Good location for factories."

So reads a half-page advertisement in an industrial edition included in the March 18, 1910, issue of the Jefferson County Union.

It was the first such supplement to the then-weekly newspaper published by ex-Gov. W.D. Hoard, and between the lines could be read clearly the importance of agriculture to Fort Atkinson.

Although the ad said, "Propositions solicited from those about to start or change sites," Fort Atkinson already had a good agri-business base.

Hoard wrote on the page entitled, "Dairy and Stock Center," that "but few people, even our own people, adequately realize the great value to this city of the dairy interest."

The dairyman calculated that four large companies — Cornish, Curtis & Green Co., which manufactured creamery equipment; Hoard's Creamery, W.D. Hoard Co. and Kent Manufacturing Co., makers of barn equipment — sent $1.25 million in goods out of the city annually.

"Then besides, this city is the center of a large and increasing export trade in dairy cattle. Parties from the Pacific states, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Mexico and states east of the Missouri River are coming to this city continually for dairy cows, mainly of the Guernsey, Jersey and Holstein breeds," wrote Hoard.

"This means an influx here of money from distant states of at least $250,000 as the total export trade of the country in dairy cattle amounts to about $600,000. George Knilans, John Gates Jr. and Seymour Merriman are kept busy much of the year in finding such cattle for outside purchasers."

In his book, "W.D. Hoard: A Man For His Time," Loren Osman wrote that cows outnumbered people 40,000 to 36,000 in Jefferson County in 1906.

Hoard reported in a letter to C.B. Craig in Duluth that year that the city boasted nearly 100 creameries and six cheese factories. Dairying, he wrote, earned $2 million for farmers; cows were averaging 250 pounds of butterfat, believed to be the best in the United States.

"That meant $2 million in bank deposits from dairymen, he went on, and total agricultural production in the county of $5 million," wrote Osman in the biography. "In a speech in Duluth the following year, he made similar claims, noting the area had only one cheese factory when he came there to begin preaching 'the gospel according to the cow.' "

However, there was much more to Fort Atkinson's agri-business community that just milk. Jones Dairy Farm, Kent Manufacturing, National Agricultural Supply Co. and, later on, Larsen Co. canners, Moore's Food Products, Redi-Serve Foods and the like located here, making Fort Atkinson a mecca for all types of agriculture-related industry.

The following outlines brief histories of the largest such companies:

Hoard's Creameries truck around 1900.

W.D. Hoard & Sons Co.

Hoard's Dairyman magazine first appeared Jan. 23, 1885, as a supplement to the Jefferson County Union, the newspaper founded by W.D. Hoard 15 years earlier. Each edition devoted at least three columns to the dairy and tobacco industries, generating so much reader interest that E.C. Coe, publisher of the neighboring Whitewater Register, encouraged Hoard to start a weekly dairy publication.

In his magazine, Hoard pushed for Wisconsin to abandon its wheat cultivation in favor of dairying. He also editorialized about eradicating bovine tuberculosis, culling cows, using alfalfa instead of clover for hay

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James Manufacturing parade float.

Curtis invented rectangular churn

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and storing feed in silos (see related story).

"I have devoted my efforts to the upbuilding of the dairy industry in the whole country and making more effective the Hoard's Dairyman as an exponent of that industry," Hoard stated in his autobiography.

Following Hoard's death in 1918, he was succeeded by son Frank, who continued as publisher until his death in 1939. His other two sons, Halbert and Arthur, assisted in the business.

The Dairyman's reins of leadership then passed on to Frank's son, W.D. Hoard Jr., publisher until his death in 1972, and now William D. Knox, who had been associated with the magazine for 32 years.

It was Hoard's successor as editor, A.J. Glover, who in 1946 renewed the magazine's campaign against brucellosis. The Dairyman's stances over the years also have ranged from opposing oleomargerine to promoting the year-round set-aside dairy program.

Hoard's Dairyman today has a circulation of about 200,000, and subscribers currently market 91 percent of the naton's milk supply. The company's headquarters, located at 28 W. Milwaukee Ave., was built in 1909 and a major addition was erected in 1973.

Hoard's Creameries

"Of Hoard's three sons, Arthur cut the widest swath in Fort Atkinson business, from farming to buttermaking to manufacturing stockings to resorts. He never achieved his father's stature as a cattle raiser, but he was one of the area's early Guernsey breeders, on his 153-acre farm on Lake Koshkonong," according to Osman's book.

It was in 1883 that Arthur Hoard, at age 23, opened Hoard's Creameries, meriting only a five-line paragraph in his family's newspaper. Located in a frame building along the Rock River on East Milwaukee Avenue, the firm produced only 50,000 pounds butter the first year. It was sold over the counter at the factory.

"This business was started in 1886 in order to supply the public fancy with high-grade butter and the founder, A.R. Hoard, took an original course to accomplish this," W.D. Hoard wrote in the industrial edition of 1910. "He went after the family trade and the returns for his efforts developed the business into an immense industry, which secured trade from all over the union and Canada."

Art Hoard expanded production and marketing, installed a generator at the creamery only three years after he started and led in the use of butterfat testing. His father, in 1901, told the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association that the butter was being used by 5,000 to 7,000 families and served several hotels. Commercial accounts included 100 hotels in Chicago, St. Louis and Pittsburgh, he said.

"Arthur Hoard started packing butter in small wooden tubs, but soon shifted to print butter. That gave the product identification, and since every package bore the name 'Hoard's Gilt Edge Butter,' if anything was wrong with it, noted the elder Hoard, 'it was rough on Hoard,' meaning it would relfect on the magazine," wrote Osman.

The creamery's Rock River location was chosen for the ease of harvesting winter ice for cool storage of the butter. By 1891, the Hoard & Strong cold storage plant was founded for handling poultry and eggs.

Art Hoard's marketing ensured fresh butter for buyers. He set up direct sales to the consumer, with only two days from churn to butter dish, compared with 10 to 14 days from other factories.

Hoard's Creameries opened branches at North Branch, Jefferson, Cambridge, Whitney, Star, Lima and Oakland. A new main plant was built in 1897, a year before a Danish pasteurizer was installed. At its peak, the plant was turning out 5,000 pounds of butter daily; $50,000 was being spent each year for advertising alone.

Art Hoard sold the business in 1935 to Claude Ryan and Emil Klingler.

Cornish and Curtis advertisement.

Kent Manufacturing

David D. James and his son, William, from their tiny blacksmith shop on a Wales dairy farm, built a cow stall with a rotating stanchion to allow the cow to turn her head for greater comfort. It also allowed the cow to be lined up with the gutter for better sanitation.

Charles Perry Goodrich, a Farmers' Institute lecturer and president of Kent Manufacturing Co., convinced W.D. James and his implement company partner, John Olson, to join the firm and manufacture the stalls.

James wrote, "So in 1906 I came to Fort Atkinson, because in my mind it was the center of the dairy world. I had only $2.50 in my pocket, but I believed in myself and my ideas and in the American dairy farmer."

The second winter, Harry Curtis, co-founder and vice president of Kent, handed the despairing James and Olson team $500 to keep the company afloat.

"It was the turning point, and the James Sanitary Cow Stall was on its way," according to Osman in his book. "A catalog was printed. The firm got a boost in 1909 when the state fair put a $9,000 model barn on its grounds, with James drawing the plans. Sales boomed by 30 to 40 percent a year. By 1912, the company name was changed to James Manufacturing Co., home of the James Way line of everything for the barn."

"Everything" ranged from stalls, stanchions and stable fittings to feed and litter carriers and hand corn planters.

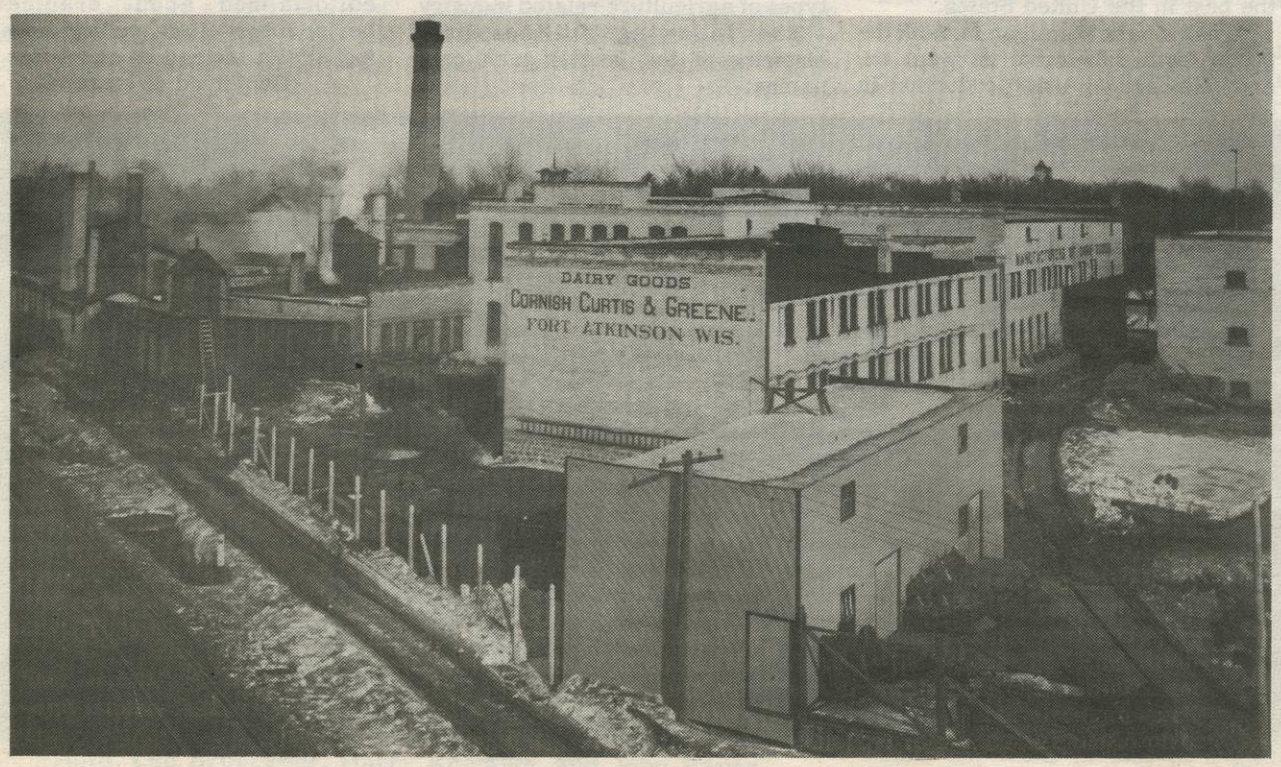
Hoard wrote in his industrial edition, "The success of this industry fully demonstrates the possibilities of this location for manufacturing . . . wherever the dairy and creamery industry are established, their goods are known to users, and the demand is increasing in a ratio which must inspire confidence in the future greatness of the industry."

In an article in Koshkonong Country Revisited Volume II, Fort Atkinson author and former Jamesway employee Crawford Thayer noted that in 1920, a new manufacturing plant and foundary were built on Janesville Avenue. But then a four-year agricultural depression struck, so new product lines were added to make up for the slack.

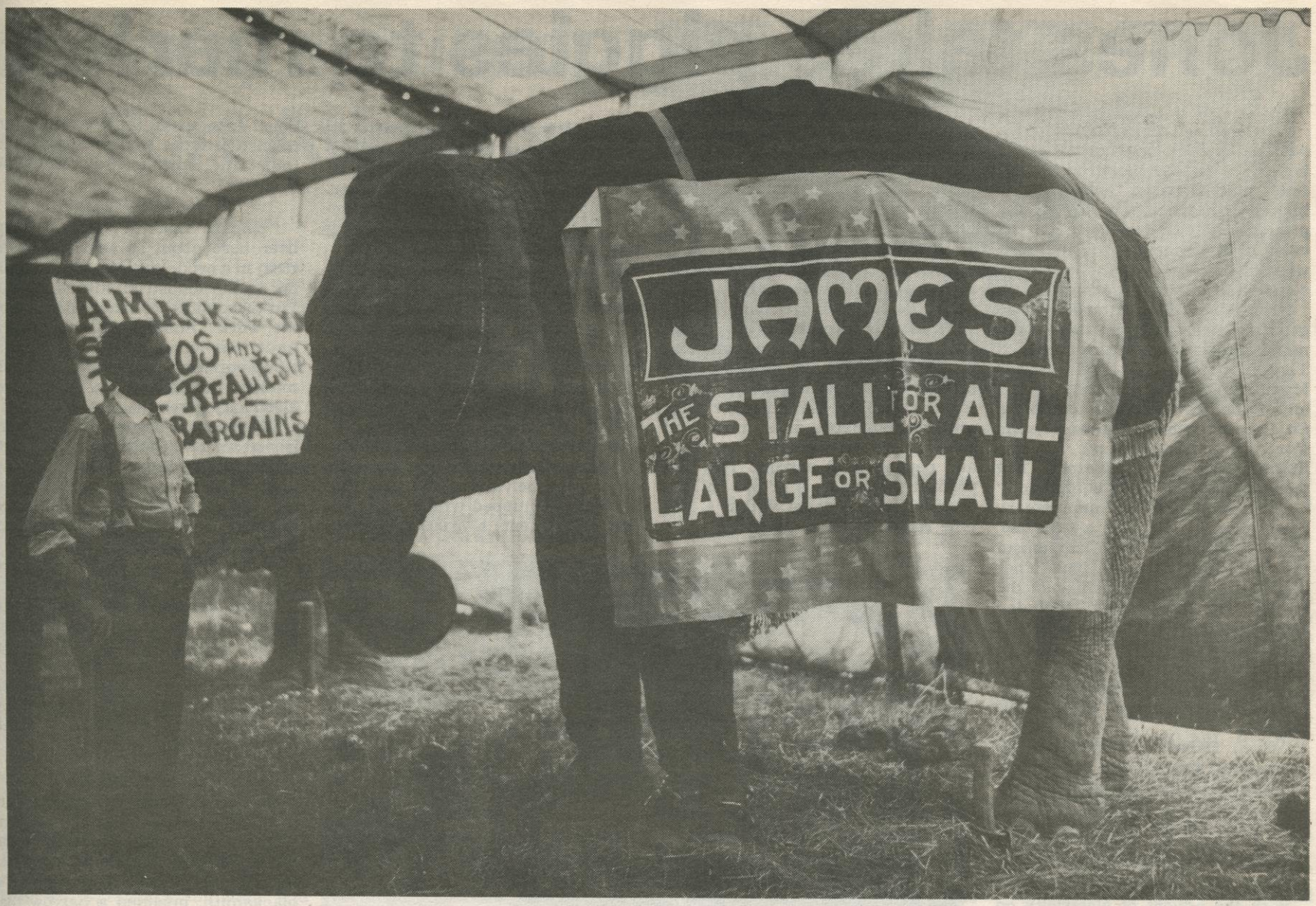
"The James foundry (which featured a complete pattern shop, malleable furnace, gray iron cupola and annealing ovens) started up in 1921, the recession year," Thayer noted.

That year, James added ventilation for dairy barns, and subsequently began a line of poultry equipment and introduced a hot water-

(Continued on page 52)



Cornish, Curtis & Greene in Fort Atkinson.



James Manufacturing advertised in a big way.

Jones takes piggies to market

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heated four-deck incubator for hatching chicks. In 1929, he introduced the first milking parlor and the first incubator-hatcher, employing the principle of egg transfer from incubator to hatcher on the 19th day, when the embryo of the chick becomes a breathing organism.

"Jamesway's incubator sales had grown to such a point that more manufacturing space was needed," Thayer noted. "In 1930, James Manufacturing Co. acquired the factory of the Northwest Manufacturing Co. (located on today's site of the Old Fort Shopping Center) for the manufacture of incubators, hog feeders and other wood equipment."

The company's 25th anniversary celebration in 1930 was a wild one, with 167 salesmen from throughout the U.S. and Canada, plus other James employees, marching in the street. The celebration included some spirited climbing of the facade at the Black Hawk Hotel to tear down a banner of an eastern salesmen and a gigantic fireworks display featuring the countenance of W.D. James himself.

"When Harry H. Curtis was introduced to speak to the convention, he stood at the podium and grinned, and grinned and grinned, and then sat down," Thayer wrote. "He never said a word. He didn't have to. Jamesway was a Horatio Alger success story come true."

With the advent of electricity on the farm after World War II, James Manufacturing Co. broadened its line to power choring equipment that completed in minutes chores which used to take farmers hours of hard physical labor.

In 1958, James became a division of Rockwood & Co., Chicago and in 1964, was purchased by Butler Manufacturing Co. of Kansas City as its Jamesway Division. It was in 1977 that Jamesway entered into an agreement with the Oswalt Division to market feed mixers to the dairy industry, and four years later acquired Nesseth Inc., a leading manufacturer of manure-handling equipment.

Butler reorganized into Butler Livestock Systems in August 1983 through the consolidation of the Jamesway and Oswalt Divisions.

Fort Canning

Fort Atkinson Canning Co. was incorporated in 1901 and at first canned vegetables ranging from tomatoes and beans to peas and corn. It eventually centered on just the latter vegetables.

One of the most spectacular fires in Fort Atkinson's history took place at the Fort Atkinson Canning Co., which burned at a loss estimated at $175,000 June 11, 1922, about 90 percent covered by insurance.

The fire reduced the building to ashes in less than three hours. Destroyed were the main three-story plant, office and shipping rooms, a warehouse, corn shed and boiler room. The loss included $12,000 worth of canned goods ready to be shipped to eastern customers, $6,000 worth of new machinery and 400,000 tin cans and 100,000 boxes.

Flames lit the sky to the extent that the fire was visible 35 miles away, attracting attention in Oconomowoc, Elkhorn, Stoughton, and exploding cans shot 200 feet in the air.

The Larsen Co. purchased Fort Canning in 1945. From a small beginning at Green Bay in 1882, the Larsen Co. is the largest independent canner and freezer in Wisconsin, a state that turns out more than one-fifth of the country's canned vegetables.

Two-thirds are under the Fresh-Like and Veg-All label. The company sells over half of the total industry sales of mixed vegetables.

Larsen Co.'s Fort Atkinson plant produces spinach, peas, peas and onions, peas and carrots, corn, corn and peppers and carrots. The raw product processed is grown on contractual arrangement within a 100-mile radius of Fort Atkinson.

Drawing used in early Jones Dairy Farm advertising.

The plant has undergone extensive remodeling in recent years. A new pea, carrot and spinach building was erected in 1970 and a modern automated corn receiving building was constructed two years later.

Larsen was purchased earlier this year by Dean Foods Co. of Franklin Park, Ill. The local plant employs about 40 full-time employees and about 300 seasonal hourly workers.

Creamery Package

David Curtis, a partner in the Cornish & Curtis lumberyard, had invented the rectangular churn for helping buttermaking in creameries and which provided the impetus to switch to dairy plant equipment. W.S. Greene provided capital in 1884, and Cornish, Curtis & Greene Co. was born.

"In 1884, W.S. Greene became a co-partner," Hoard wrote in his industrial edition. "He was a man of considerable means, which the then struggling firm needed to further their business. It made rapid strides, new articles were introduced until a full line of dairy and creamery supplies and outfits were made. It became the largest industry of its kind in the world and is now the largest, making up the Creamery Package Mfg Co.'s family."

It was the founders' sons, W.W. Cornish and H.H. Curtis, who consolidated with Creamery Package Manufacturing of Chicago, which in 1910, Hoard reported, employed 275 persons and in 1909 made over $50,000 worth of goods. (A fire in 1888 forced the firm to move to the corner of North Main and Madison Avenue.)

T.L. Valerius, the general superintendent there, was the inventor of the disc continuous ice cream freezer. Other early leading inventions included the automatic brush washing and sterilizing machine and automatic bottle filler and capper.

The firm was a pioneer in milk pasteurization equipment and milk homogenizers, a fabricator of stainless steel equipment, rotary pump, the first to introduce milk irradiating equipment through the use of ultraviolet light and was a leader in bulk milk coolers.

In 1916, the firm put more than 25,000 butter tubs on the market each week from the various factories. The plant was equipped with a complete fire department: a 75,000-gallon water tank was capable of supplying 750 gallons of water per minute to any of the shops. The employees underwent a fire drill monthly and a sprinkling system extended throughout the firm.

Creamery Package was believed to have gotten its name from one particular product — it sold a complete dairy outfit for a farm creamery. The package for 20 to 30 cows cost $98.60 and included a horsepower with sweep, 100-gallon churn, butter worker, salt scale, 15 Cooley cream cans with graduated measuring scale on the side, and a stencil with the name of the creamery to label outgoing butter shipments.

The firm, which through the years also turned to the manufacture of processing equipment for the food, canning, chemical, beverage and pharmaceutical industries, was sold to St. Regis Paper Co. in 1960. The company, which moved to Lake Mills in 1967, today is called APV Crepaco.

Landgraf & Wandschneider

Landgraf & Wandschneider was founded "about 37 years ago," Hoard wrote in his 1910 edition. The company manufactured milk wagons, trucks, dray and delivery wagons, garden and dairy wheelbarrows.

"Two men who are honest and conscientious in their work, and make none but high grade products, much credit is due them in this day of sham and cheap production," wrote Hoard in his industrial edition. "For instance, such men as this firm, whose motto is fine workmanship, good materials and honest representations. As a result, they have the confidence of those who are the best in their line, and are doing a fine business."

Spaeth Brewery

"William Spaeth began brewing beer here about 26 years ago (in 1883) in a crude sort of way," according to the industrial edition of 1910. "In those days, he had to do most of the work himself and his motive force was horsepower. He now has a complete brewing plant including all modern machinery and steam and electricity gives the power.

Of Spaeth Pilsener Lager Beer, Hoard wrote, "the produce is a high grade quality of beer in which purity is a prime factor. The beer is noted for its pleasant taste and tonic qualities, so is in popular demand for the regular and family trade."

About 4,000 barrels of beer were made each year at Spaeth Brewing.

In the Union's industrial edition six years later, an article reported that Spaeth was outputting 8,000 barrels per year. Located on the corner of South Water and Grant streets, its plans for expansion were cut short by the coming of Prohibition, which forced its closing in 1919.

Pounder's Harrow

George Pounder patented a harrow and manufactured the soil implement in a building located on the corner of South Main and South Water Street, West. Starting as a blacksmith, invented a harrow that "would do the best work at a minimum amount of cost and labor," according to an article written in the Sept. 29, 1916, industrial edition of the Jefferson County Union.

"The quality of the harrow which is manufactured here is backed up by the reputation of the firm. Mr. Pounder has a reputation of 35 years standing to maintain and he cannot afford to give you anything but the best grade of goods," stated the article. "These harrows are being used by farmers at a great saving of time and labor and if you are not familiar with the advantages of the Pounder harrow you should acquaint yourself with their merits at once."

Cigar makers

There were two cigar makers in early Fort Atkinson, A.S. Weiler and John G. Hankes.

Weiler manufactured LaGonda 10-cent cigars, with long fillers and Sumatra wrapped. He made 150,000 cigars annually.

A prominent cigar maker was Jankes, who made the Town Boost and Cuba Rico five-cent cigars and El Crispo, a 10-cent cigar. His plant also had the capacity for 150,000 cigars per annum.

"A good grade of wrapper is used on all of these and they are the kind that burn evenly all the way down instead of burning sideways," according to the industrial edition of 1916.

Nasco

It was in 1936 that Fort Atkinson High School vocational agriculture teacher Norman O. Eckley decided to do something about the fact that there was no central supply house and vo-ag teachers had to buy equipment where they could find it.

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Nursery spruced up Fort Atkinson

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Four years later, he launched a small catalog printed by W.D. Hoard & Sons Co. and mailed it to vo-ag teachers nationwide. Growth was slow and, due to World War II, materials and supplies became difficult to obtain.

In 1942, Eckley incorporated the business with O.A. Hanke, editor of Poultry Tribune, and J.W. Watt, publisher of Watt Publications at Mount Morris, Ill. The business was sold in 1946 to Hugh Highsmith and Leo W. Roethe.

Business expanded, with the then-called National Agricultural Supply Co. Inc. — Nasco — exploring other fields. In 1947, it inaugurated a catalog for artificial breeding rings for dairy cattle breeders, went into dairy herd improvement equipment and supplied equipment for the veteran-on-the-farm program.

In 1948, Nasco added a line of agricultural textbooks and in the early 1950s, began supplying home economics teacher supplies. Other catalogs have been targeted at the county agents and veterinarians.

Nasco eventually absorbed Bettersox Knitting Mills, which was founded by Art Hoard in 1908. Bettersox was a leading mail order distributor of hosiery for men and women for almost 60 years.

Today, Nasco performs marketing services in areas including home economics, biology, science, math, arts and crafts, elementary level teaching materials, industrial arts and medical training. It markets more than 40,000 items through mail order catalogs.

A division of Nasco International Inc., Nasco has been owned by Geneve Corp. since 1977.

Redi-Serve Foods

Redi-Serve Foods Inc. began in 1968 as a joint venture between Stoppenbach Meats (of Jefferson) and On Cor Frozen Foods Inc. of Chicago, Ill., in the former Prospect Foods plant on Wilson Ave.

Today located on the south side, it produces corn dogs, as well as chicken "Nibblers", meatballs, breaded veal, pork and beef patties, non-breaded salisbury steaks, precooked hamburgers and pork sausages.

Moore's Food Products

Another old industry that is fairly new to Fort Atkinson is Moore's Food Products Inc., a subsidiary of the Clorox Co. that distributes frozen vegetables and cheese cubes to institutions such as restaurants, schools and hospitals.

Moore's moved into its Fort Atkinson plant in 1963 as Moore's Seafood Products. Scott and Sam Moore built the company on the foundation of a Milwaukee fish firm purchased by their father, Winfield S. Moore, in 1922.

Jones Dairy Farm

"Milo Jones was not just a nobody," wrote Deborah Jones in the early 1950s.

Deborah was right about her great-great-grandfather, who was one of Fort Atkinson's earliest pioneers, farmers and businessmen.

Jones Dairy Farm was the homestead of Milo and Sally Jones, who settled here in the early 1830s. Jones, a government surveyor from Vermont, began dairy farming after receiving a 331-acre land grant from President John Tyler.

He believed in diversified farming, relying heavily on animal husbandry and commercial dairying and building not only barns and chicken coops but also a brickyard, tannery and tavern, the Green Mountain House.

As early as 1840, Milo owned 10 cows, producing the first cheese in Jefferson County. By 1857, he had quite the reputation as a dairyman: the January 1857 issue of The Wisconsin Farmer and Northwest Cultivator published his recipes for butter and cheese.

In 1853, Jones became the first president of the Jefferson County Society and in 1870, he co-founded the Jefferson County Dairyman's Association.

Rufus Dodge learned how to shoe horses.

Jones' knack for farming and business was handed down to his descendents.

"Jones Dairy Farm sausage as a commercial product was an accident, pure and simple," Milo C. Jones, Milo and Sally's son, said in a June 10, 1913, speech to the National Advertisers Convention in Baltimore. "It was not an accident that we knew how to make it, for it had been made upon the same farm for our own use, from the same formula for more than 30 years, before it was put upon the market."

When Milo C. Jones was ailing with severe rheumatism in 1889 and "was practically down and out for doing anything physically or financially," he decided to start up the commercial sausage business.

According to Jones, "When the boys were butchering one October day, it occurred to me somewhat suddenly, as I was watching them from the window of my room, that we would try and make a little sausage to sell. We began it the next day in the kitchen with a hand machine for a chopper . . . the lard was rendered on the kitchen stove by hand. The little cloth bags for the sausage containers were made in the other part of the house by the good wife, and the first batch was launched out."

The first customers were Jones' neighbors, who spread the word. Jones then wrote letters to private families, mostly in Chicago, since grocers weren't "favorably impressed with the handling of the sausage." Jones Dairy Farm began its national advertising campaign in 1903, promoting "Little Pig Sausages."

An advertisement showed "Dairy Farmer Jones" introducing a tuxedoed pig to a high society woman.

"Dairy Farm Jones, the first man to introduce the little pig into society," it read. "Mr. Jones stands sponsor for all his little pigs, and guarantees their conduct at the dinner table and after. The Jones Little Pigs should not be confused with the Street Car Hogs nor Subway Porkers.

"The Jones Little Pigs are Country Bred and raised with Great Care. They are educated and educating. Anyone who has not met Jones Little Pigs should arrange for an introduction."

In his speech, Jones said he could "take every pound of sausage made in our institution and say to it, 'Mr. Sausage, you are honest, there is not a single dishonest constituent in you. You are worthy of the confidence of the people. You stand for the best that there is, not only in me, but in every man in our shop.' "

Jones Dairy Farm continues today, although earlier this year, it marked the end of an era by closing the slaughtering operation.

Its products include pork sausage, bacon, ham, and liver sausage.

Coe, Converse & Edwards

The Coe, Converse & Edwards Nursery represented the consolidation of three well-known nurseries, Coe and Converse, F.C. Edwards and Edwards & Son, according to an article in the Jefferson County Union on Sept. 29, 1916.

R.J. Coe came to Fort Atkinson from New York in 1869 and began planting strawberries on a 10-acre nursery. A decade later he went into partnership with D.C. Converse, adding small fruits and shrubbery.

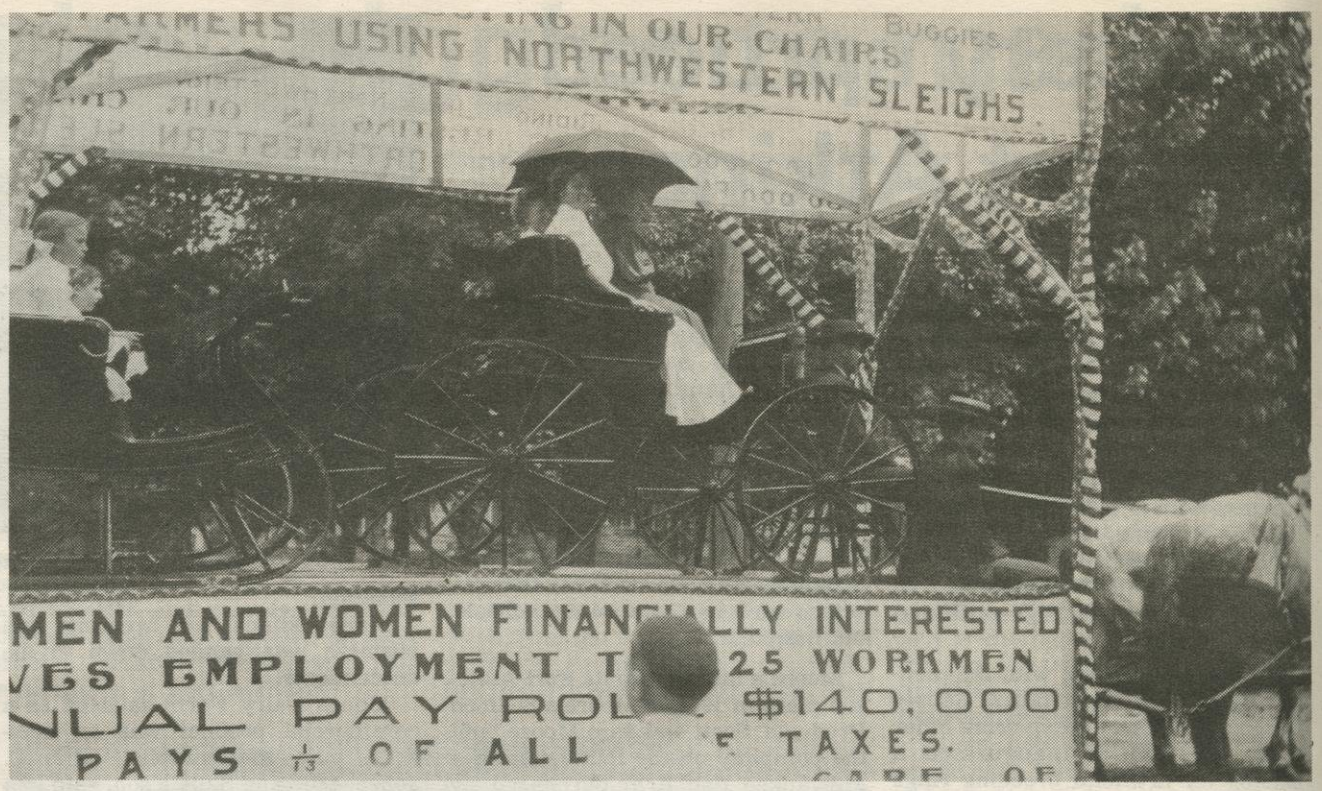
Meanwhile, J.M. Edwards and son bought the old fruit farm of I.N. Stone and started up a nursery, but he combined with Coe and Converse in 1902.

"Perhaps the most interesting part of the nursery is the small plant devoted to the growing of perennials directly north of the warehouse (located on Rockwell Street)," the article said. "Here are rows upon rows of flowering plants, perennials, ornamental shrubbery and young shade trees. There are blue and golden junipers, Japanese yews, purple leaf plums and blue spruce. The nursery makes a particular specialty of Kosters' blue spruce, imported from Holland. The variety has a uniform blue color and is one of the

(Continued on page 55)

Home of Jones' 'Little Pig Sausages'.

Carriage, furniture firm built in 1866



Northwestern Manufacturing advertises in parade.

By Christine Blumer

Fort Atkinson's "Industrial Revolution," as it were, was in full swing in the latter 1800s, putting the city on the business map.

In an Industrial Edition published by the Jefferson County Union March 18, 1910, editor W.D. Hoard philosophized that, "Manufacturing success does not necessarily depend on locations, resources or some natural inheritance. Our experience as an industrial editor has taught us that it depends more on the enterprise of the residents of a given community, than any of nature's gifts."

If that is so, then Fort Atkinson had more than its share of enterprising entrepreneurs. Many focused their businesses on agriculture-related industry, while others produced everything from furniture to silk stockings.

Northwestern Mfg.

The city's first major non-agricultural business was the Northwestern Furniture Co., which actually was started at Hebron (then called Bark River Mills) but moved to Fort Atkinson in 1866.

The owners, Burnham and Bullock, had a working capital of $25,000; that had multiplied to $300,000 by 1910.

In the Jefferson County Union's Industrial Edition published on March 18, 1910, editor W.D. Hoard reported that the firm's name was changed to Northwestern Manufacturing in 1879, when it purchased Widmann, Wandschneider & Co., a wagon and carriage manufacturer, and Foundry & Machine Co. Also purchased later was J.A. Chapman Co., which made cutters.

Northwestern's warehouse, along with the nearby Cornish, Curtis & Greene Co. and Zeugner & Hoffman Lumber Co., was the site of one of Fort Atkinson's largest fires, taking place on Jan. 5, 1906.

According to "Fort Atkinson's Picturesque Past," Jefferson and Janesville firefighters were called in for mutual assistance.

"At Jefferson no car could be had to transport the engine; at Janesville the engine and hose cart crashed through the platform at the depot. Before they could get the equipment out of trouble and loaded, they got word that the fire was under control. It had been managed without outside help. The assistance of employees from other plants and citizens had turned the trick."

Northwestern rose up out of the ashes, and by 1910, the firm occupied 1½ blocks of land and employed some 250 workers.

"The product consists of farm wagons, carriages, sleighs, chairs, etc., in a great variety of designs and construction," Hoard wrote in 1910. "These in every way represent perfect workmanship and select stock, items which have always been the guiding thought in this production."

He continued: "Its influence on local prosperity has been beyond the possibility of estimation. In its official staff, the selection has always been a good one for the Fort, for the reason that they were men of great public spirit whose every act was for the good of the city."

An Industrial Edition circa 1916 boasted of Northwestern's "cleanliness and freedom from litter on the floors."

"A corps of sweepers is kept continually busy going from one department to another and the result is that each floor is kept in readiness for active operations . . . a vacuum system for the drying rooms and kilns has been connected with the exhaust from the power plant is annually saving the cost of 600 tons of coal. This system is not only economical, making use of all waste steam, but is especially adapted to keeping drying rooms at the proper temperature. Every piece of furniture in the

(Continued on page 55)

Northwestern Manufacturing's wheel shop.

Fort knitted 'no-protest sox'

(Continued from page 54)
Northwestern Line is made wholly at the local plant, from the time it arrives from the forest as lumber until it leaves the factory as finished product."

The article noted that in 1909, the firm put 135,000 chairs on the market (600 made per day), as well as library tables, card tables, sanitary wood beds, portable electric lamps, farmwagons and trucks. In addition 4,000 bobsleds were placed on the market in the fall of 1910.

Northwestern was well known for its buggies and especially the spring cutter, which had an ash frame, basswood panels, nickeled dash and arm rail mountings and was trimmed in crushed red mohair plush.

Northwestern was a booming business, until the coming of the automobile. Its lines of wagons, buggies and sleighs began to stagnate and eventually were dropped. A series of business reverses and unsettled furniture market after World War I spurred Northwestern to declare itself insolvent in 1923.

The buildings were sold to the Atwood-Koeberl Co. of Janesville, which also was in woodworking. After that firm went bankrupt, it was occupied by the James Manufacturing Co. for many years until the early 1960s, when it was razed to make way for the Old Fort Shopping Center.

Moe Light

It was back in 1929 when Henrik and Ole E. Moe of Milwaukee organized Moe Light to manufacture residential lighting fixtures. In 1936, Moe Brothers Manufacturing Co. was moved to a new plant in Fort Atkinson, being the first major industry attracted here during the "industrial expansion" era.

The firm was awarded many defense contracts during World War II, making, for example, grenade and bullet shells. In 1948, Lee B. Thomas became president of the company, which merged five years later with Electric Sprayit of Sheboygan. The parent name was changed to Thomas Industries Inc.

Thomas Industries continued on Fort Atkinson's industrial scene until last year, when the firm closed its Fort Atkinson plant for good. Company officials cited foreign competition as a main cause for the decline in residential lighting and ceiling fan business.

Bettersox

Bettersox Knitting Mills, which for more than a half-century was the nation's largest mail order hosiery mill, was founded Dec. 8, 1908, by Arthur R. Hoard.

Originally, it specialized in knitting men's socks for sale in Wisconsin and especially Jefferson County. The firm was good in advertising to doctors — it would mail one sock to a prospective customer, advising him that, if he would order a dozen pair, the mate would be included, thus giving him 13 pair for the price of 12 — a baker's dozen for a mere $3.

Such a deal. And it got few complaints, until a man's sample was sent to Dr. T. Bannan of Syracuse, N.Y., and it turned out that "T" stood for Theresa.

Dr. Theresa sent Bettersox the following poetic protest:

"I do protest your Bettersox, you've sent around to all the docs.

"Of my hometown — each, half a pair, for some of us with feet all bare — must offer quick to sell or buy the other sock.

"One lucky guy, around the festive board one night, matched up three pairs that fit him right. Now, I protest. My sample hose is half a size too large at toes. And in the length — I blush to see — it leaves all nude my maiden knee."

"And part below, and up the thigh, the chilly winds unhindered sigh. For you must know, Sir Bettersox, there are two different kinds of docs."

That didn't deter Bettersox, however. It wasn't long before it became apparent that women demanded high-quality hose, and the firm began manufacturing seamless women's hosiery.

In 1926, Bettersox installed full fashioned hosiery equipment and became a leader in the manufacture and sale of full-fashioned sheer hosiery in silk and later, nylon.
By 1927, Bettersox added seven fully automatic machines that produced 24 stockings per hour. THose were replaced by two machines in 1948.

The Jefferson County Union wrote in 1930 that, in the Bettersox Knitting Mill, "only the very highest quality of yarn is used in making 'no-protest' sox, the cotton hosiery is made from 'Sea Island' yarn, 'the strongest, longest and silkiest fibre and most expansive yarn made."

During World War II, Bettersox had five contracts for making socks for the U.S. Navy. Nylon came into use in 1940, but disappeared until 1946 because of the war rationing.

The company was acquired by Johnson Hill Inc. in 1963 and by Nasco Industries two years later (Bettersox produced cow blankets for Nasco). Early in 1965, it joined with Royal Industries of Chicago.

Uncle Josh

Uncle Josh Bait Co. was organized in 1922 as a partnership between Alan P. Jones and Urban J. Schriener, who designed and developed a fish lure of pork rind which would imitate the action of a frog. Production started the following year.

The name "Uncle Josh" was chosen by the two founders because the man who rented them fishing boats at their favorite spot reminded them of a famous vaudeville comedian of the day known as Uncle Josh.

The first item made was the original green pork frog. Since 1925, many products have been added, including salmon eggs, catfish bait, trout baits, dough baits and metal fishing lures.

The original partnership was dissolved in 1949 and the company was incorporated. That same year, Uncle Josh built a new plant at its present Clarence Street location

Highsmith

In 1956, Hugh Highsmith assembled a small stock of library supplies and books, set up shop in three rooms over a law office and sent a "product list" to prospective customers.

Today, the firm has just completed its sixth expansion at a rural Fort Atkinson location

The Highsmith Co. today produces catalogs marketing more than 20,000 items to libraries, businesses, schools, hospitals, museums and banks. It has more than 200,000 customers in the United States and foreign nations such as Puerto Rico, Canada, Guam, England, Africa and the Virgin Islands.

Recent years have seen the continued growth of Fort Atkinson's industrial base, with corporations such as Wand, Fort Packaging, Spacesaver and Norland locating in Fort Atkinson. It is hoped that they will continue to grow so that their names will be among those featured in "veteran" businesses when the city's bicentennial edition is published.

Inside look at Bettersox Knitting Mills.

Holmes founded cheese co-op

(Continued from page 53)
prettiest spruces that can be grown."

Fort Cheese Factory

The Fort Atkinson Cheese Factory was founded in 1868 by Daniel Holmes, who each year contacted dairy farmers to provide him with milk to produce cheese on a cooperative basis.

According to a contract for 1873, signed by early settlers Charles Rockwell, Milo Jones and others, Holmes was to "make all needful regulations, to employ such help and purchase such materials and supplies for us as may be necessary for the sufficient prosecution of the business . . . As far as practicable the net proceeds of each sale shall be equitably divided among the several patrons according to the amount of milk furnished by each."

Johnson Hill Press

Johnson Hill Press Inc. actually began in 1957, when George Pellegrin started "PCA Farming" for the Farm Credit System. In 1965, it changed its name to Johnson Hill Press and moved to its present location on Janesville Avenue. In 1970, it became independent and locally owned.

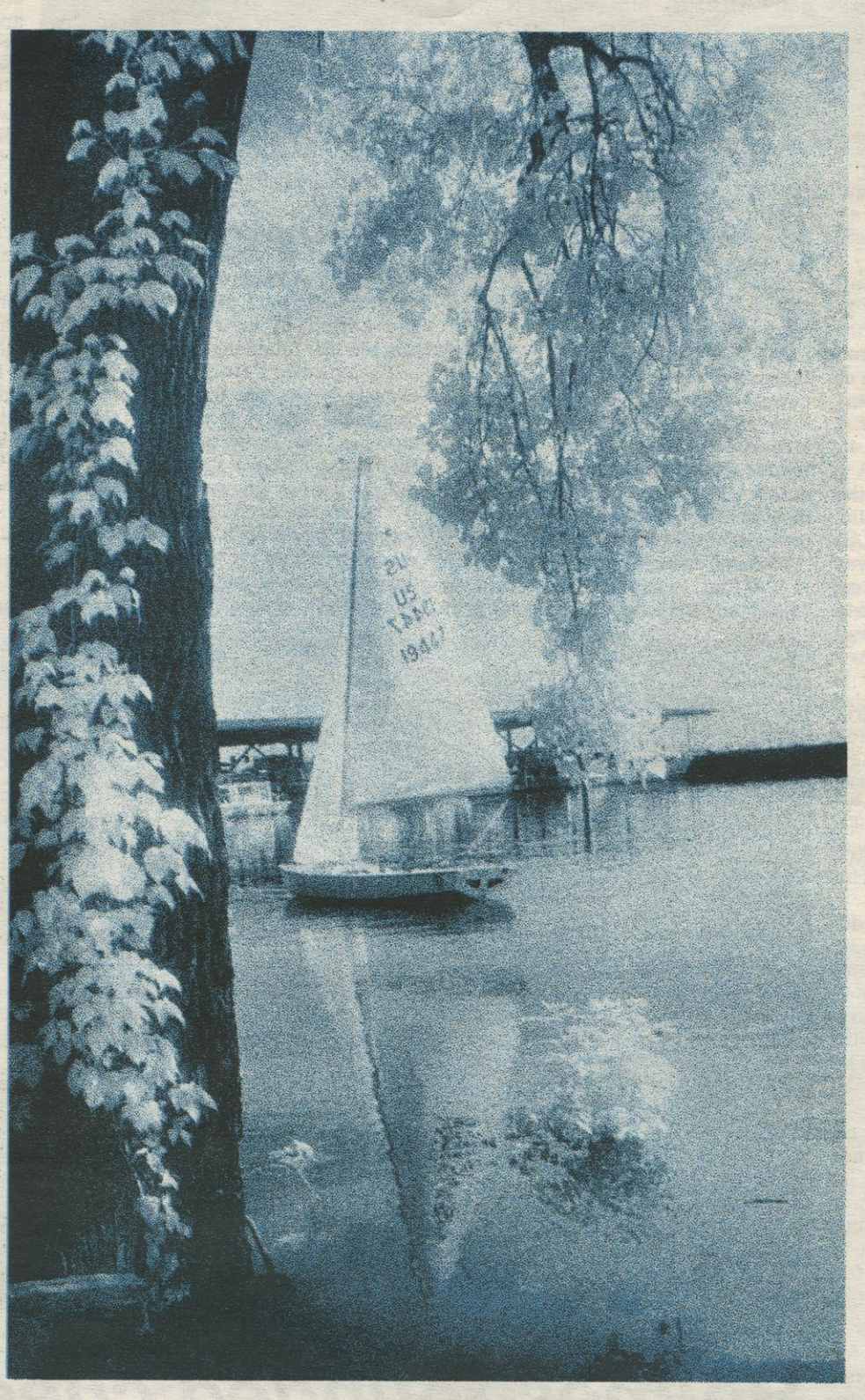
Johnson Hill publishes several agricultural periodicals, including "Farm Equipment," "PCA Farming" and "Feed & Grain Times," and other titles representing organizations such as Peterbilt.

Hartel Corp.

Brothers Doug and Thomas Hartel founded Hartel Corp July 1, 1972, with an initial capital investment of $600. It was located in a facility on Rock River Road and then on Riverside Drive.

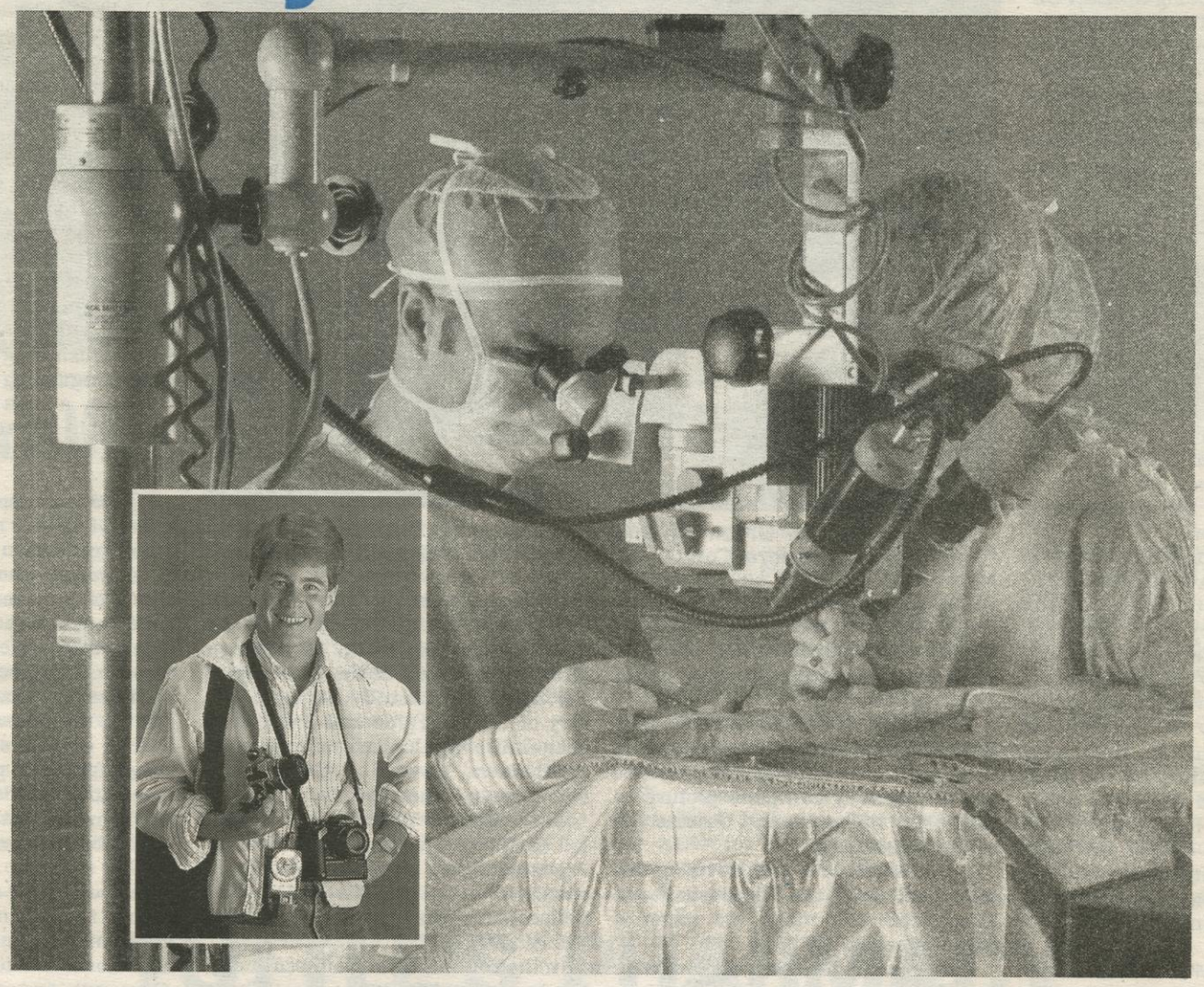
The company designs, engineers, manufactures, installs and offers start-up and service for complete processing systems serving the dairy, food, cosmetic, chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

Special Sounds



JOY FM 107

We focus on Family Health Care.



From complicated eye surgery like this, to the most routine family health care, you can count on our top notch, comprehensive program of services at Fort Atkinson Memorial Hospital. It's comforting to know that some of the most advanced medical technology in the country is so close at hand. And that our staff of dedicated professionals provide expertise along with the kind of caring and compassion you expect from a small town hospital.

You can trust your whole family to Fort Atkinson Memorial for in-hospital and outpatient care. We also provide Rehabilitative Services and Home Health Care so you can continue to receive the same high quality care while you're recovering in your own home. And, even if you're not the patient, our friendly staff is trained to make sure your needs are attended to as well. It's all part of the total family health picture at Fort Atkinson Memorial. We're moving ahead in family care.

- Family Practice
- Internal Medicine
- General Surgery
- Orthopedics
- Ophthalmology
- Otolaryngology (Ear, Nose & Throat)
- Pathology
- Pediatrics
- Radiology
- Urology
- Vascular Surgery
- Allergy
- Gastroenterology
- Gynecology
- Neurology
- Oncology/Chemotherapy
- Psychology
- Oral Surgery

General Visiting Hours 11AM-8PM
Maternity Visiting Hours 2PM-4PM, 6:30PM-8PM
(Grandparent & Sibling Visitation Available)

611 East Sherman Avenue, Fort Atkinson (414) 563-2451

fort atkinson memorial hospital

'Union' still rolling off press

By Christine Blumer

There's no remaining copy of the March 17, 1870, issue of the Jefferson County Union, because editor W.D. Hoard forgot to save one. But it still is remembered for being the first Union ever to roll off the press.

The tiny four-page weekly began in Lake Mills but moved to Fort Atkinson on May 2, 1883, at the prompting of Fort Atkinson businessmen.

Hoard did not have sufficient funds to launch his own printing plant when he came to Fort Atkinson, So he turned to Miss Emma Brown, who was printing the Wisconsin Chief, a temperance newspaper located at the corner of West Milwaukee Avenue and South Main Street. He bought his own plant about 1883 at the corner of South Main and South Third streets.

On Jan. 23, 1885, Hoard separated the dairy section into what became Hoard's Dairyman magazine. He continued the newspaper, which in 1939 was named the second-best weekly in the nation.

He moved to the present location at 28 W. Milwaukee Ave. in 1908.

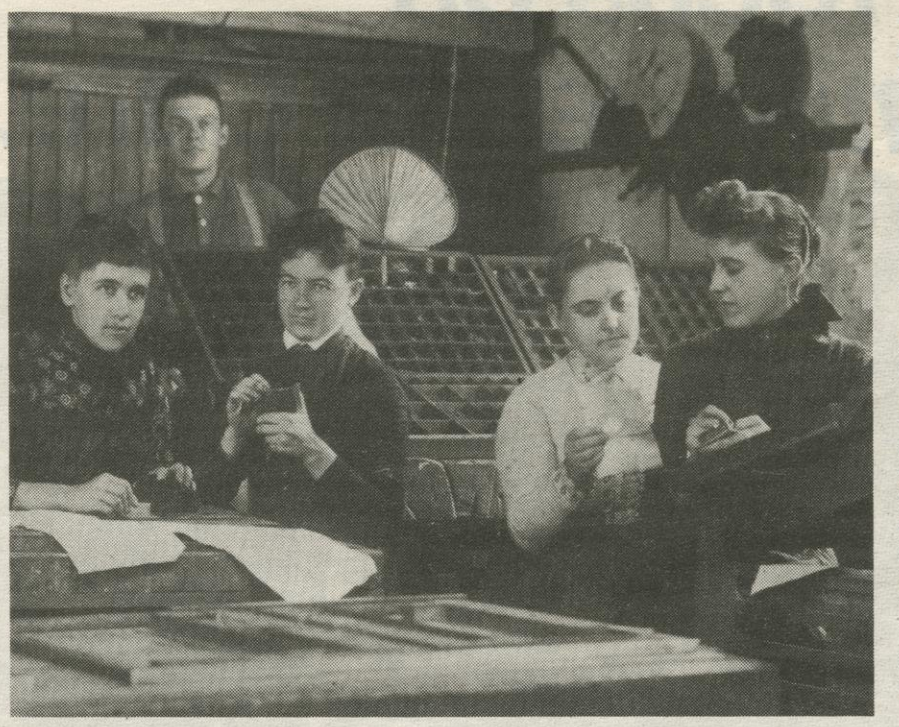
An important date in the newspaper's history was March 1, 1946, when the Jefferson County Union became a daily newspaper.

The newspaper was known for being one of only a handful of newspapers nationwide that were published for a century by the same family. Gov. Hoard remained active as publisher until his death in 1918. Frank W. Hoard, one of his three sons, succeeded him until his death in 1939. Another son, Halbert Hoard, served as the Union's editor for many years.

Frank's son, W.D. Hoard Jr., served as publisher until his death in 1972. He was succeeded by William D. Knox, who is publisher of Hoard's Dairyman magazine. In 1977, Brian V. Knox was named to the publisher post.

But it is the original Hoard who gets the most ink in this story in light of his colorful and interesting views as a publisher.

Hoard became known for his innovations in journalism and his flamboyant style in both writing and editorializing. He is said to have originated the concept of using community correspondents and placed a sales representative in each main subscription area.



Jefferson County Union employees pictured on Dec. 25, 1890, are Sue Nichols, Isadore Cowan, Millie Brandel and Birtie Morrison.

He told his writers to "gather up as large a mass of facts concerning as large a number of people as possible, and to make a complete picture of the social, religious and busines life of the community."

By 1874, Hoard was advising his fellow editors at the Wisconsin Press Association to "make the paper a popular necessity."

"We have a limited yet honorable and important sphere to fill," he continued. "It is our manly duty to grow to the full circumference of our possibilities. We may not command the telescopic range or vision possessed by the city journal, but we have a right to remember that the microscope has become no less important in disclosing the world we live in."

In addition to local news, the Union placed great emphasis on editorial stances. While he did not believe in his reporters' being biased, Hoard did cross the paths himself, as evidenced in this lead: "A destructive fire occurred in the First Ward Friday night, whereby the soap factory of George Hyde was reduced to ashes. Although not an extensive establihsment, it was all George had and thereby much to him."

In the book, "W.D. Hoard: A Man for his Time," author Loren Osman reported that Hoard's most personalized outlet for his beliefs and philosophies was his column entitled, "Musings."

In that outlet, Hoard offered many Hindu proverbs, such as, "Those whom God and their fellows love best are the true poetic souls of the earth." He warned that selfishness would make "desert wastes of our souls unless we struggle toward the true and the beautiful."

And he noted once, "Heaven be praised for odd people . . . Maintain your individuality and you will bring relief to many a weary heart."

Many "Musings" dealt with the values of home and farm folk. He wrote against snobbery and, according to Osman's book, "was ahead of his time in his consciousness of sexism when he contrasted German mothers for vigorous training of their children with American mothers who he said taught their daughters the pursuit of fashions to attract males. Girls would be better with work and study, he commented, adding, 'Life is a matter of exhaustive earnestness . . . Marriage has many joys but it also imposes many grievous burdens, especially on the wife."

His editorial columns were filled with not-so welcomed ideas at times. He tangled with dogmatic religious teachers who he said were suppressing thought, and as governor clashed with churchmen over the teaching of the English language in schools. He wrote regarding that Bennet Law, "When a man relegates his citizenship to the dictation of his church, he is but a slave and nothing else."

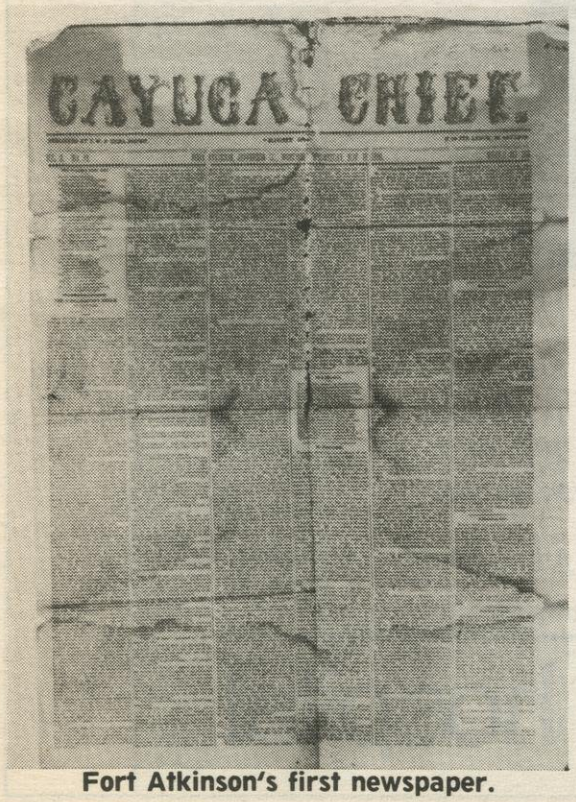
Hoard's unique writing style and sense of humor were evident in the following written in the June 29, 1875:

"A youth who had breathed the blasts of between 35 and 40 winters called upon one of our justices last week and offered 50 cents for divorce. The poor fellow, with tears in his eyes, opened his heart and related the following tale.

"His wife loved him fervently but she weighed 250 pounds and of course he could not expect the entire love of her being to center in one man. So he kindly invited a neighbor to his house to play seven-up. As he expected, his wife soon found a busom in which to repose the balance of her affection; all went well until one day he drew near home and found his kitchen windows out and sounds of woe and bloodshed filling the air.

"His neighbor's wife had arrived and the two women were discussing the question of equal rights. He did not go into the house for three hours, as he had to look after his stock; at 9 o'clock, he took a look over the premises and came to the conclusion that his wife had been licked but at a terrible cost. The remains of a $25 set of teeth were scattered about the

(Continued on page 59)



Fort Atkinson's first newspaper.

'Chief' was first paper

By Christine Blumer

It's not front-page news that the Daily Jefferson County Union is Fort Atkinson's only daily newspaper. However, it is newsworthy in that it is the longest-published sheet in the city's 150 years.

The first newspaper in Fort Atkinson actually was the "Cayuga Chief," later called the "Wisconsin Chief," established by Thurlow Week Brown at Auburn, N.Y., in January 1849. It moved to Fort Atkinson in October 1856.

The Chief editorialized in favor of the temperance movement, mainly because he and his sister, Emma, were advocates of temperance and human freedom. It was published Wednesday in its West Milwaukee Avenue office, which also printed the Jefferson County Union for owner W.D. Hoard.

Thurlow died in 1866, so Emma Brown continued to publish until ill health forced her to turn over the subscription list to the publishers of the Western Good Templars.

The Fort Atkinson Standard was first published by J.A. Shepherd in 1859. Shortly thereafter, he sold it to J.C. Keeney. The newspaper was published Thursdays and was said to favor the Republican Party.

Another short-lived newspaper was the Fort Atkinson Herald. Established in 1866 by Henry S. Ehrman, the Herald was located on Milwaukee Avenue where the former Hoffman Shoe Store was located.

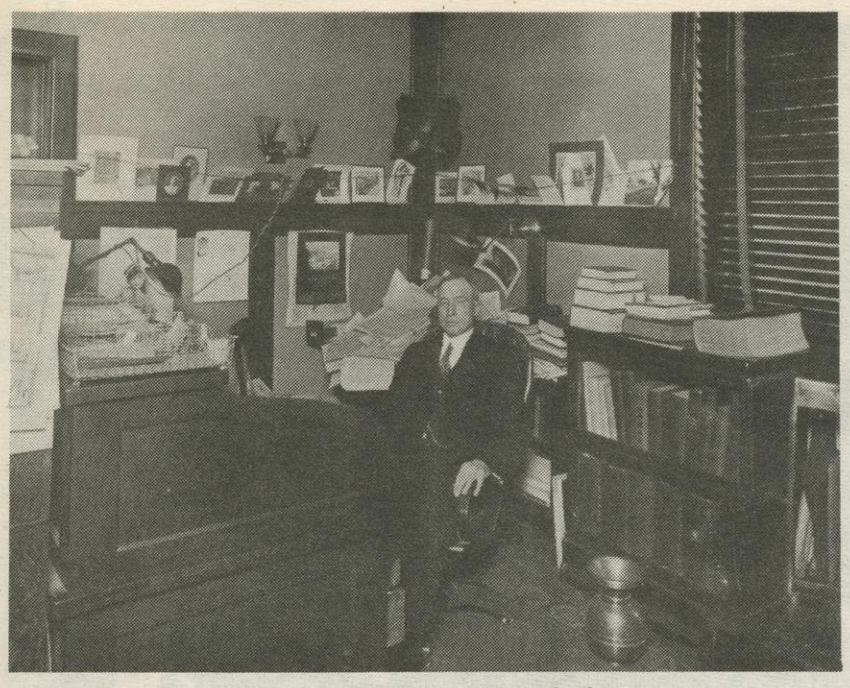
The newspaper, which also leaned toward Republican, then was taken over by H.M. Kutchin, who sold his interest to J.C. Keeney, the old Standard editor who, for an unknown reason, suddenly left town in 1873.

The Fort Atkinson Chronicle was founded by Miriam S. Parker in October 1895, and went through several name changes before merging with the Daily Jefferson County Union in December 1947.

The Chronicle in 1903 was sold to Charles Richards, who called it the Jefferson County Democrat. Three years later it was purchased by a Mr. Merrell and C.C. Nettesheim. The latter bought out his partner in 1923 and ran it alone until 1926, when he sold out to men named Wicklund and Schmeid.

It was that year when the name became the Fort Atkinson News. Ted Hartman bought out Schmied in 1929, operating the News for 13 years.

(Continued on page 59)



F. Hoard at his rolltop desk.

Union rolling off press

(Continued from page 58)

house and the furniture was scratched horrible, he thought, by the toenails of the combatants.

"As he stood contemplating the scene and saying cuss words to himself, he had a vision in which his wife appeared with a frying pan and he heard himself called a miserable little sneak for not coming in to help, then a sensation as though he had bumped his head against the fry-pan. He then felt himself lifted by the seat of his trowserloons, as it were, and ejected from his mansion via the window.

"He wipes his eyes as he concluded and told the justice he felt mad about it and was willing to give 50 cents for a divorce. That learned justice gazed upon him pensively a moment, then helped him gently outdoors, remarking as he did so, that any man getting mad about a trifle like that couldn't get a divorce of him for 50 cents if the court knew herself."

Today, the Daily Union continues as the city's longest continuing newspaper. It might not carry such flamboyant musings as wrote Hoard, but it follows the traditions set by its founder more than a century ago.

Chief published in 1856

(Continued from page 58)

In 1940, E.L. Hartman became associated with the paper, changing it two years later to the Fort Atkinson Daily News, published by Ray Breiweiser.

In 1947, it merged with the Daily Jefferson County Union.

It was in 1936 that G.W. Knutson founded the Fort Daily Reminder, classified as a "shopper news" and operated out of his home on South Water Street until he went into service during World War II. Knutson was severely injured and never returned to resume publication. Upon the merger of the Fort Daily News and Jefferson County Union, former Reminder staffer Byron Bullock reestablished the weekly publication and later in the year, formed a partnership with Harley Von Haden, another Reminder alumnus. Bullock sold out to Von Haden who continued to print the Reminder until its sale to Harland and Diane Everson in 1983.

LeRoy Gore, a former editor of the Jefferson County Union began a monthly rural magazine called "Down on the Farm" in the late 1950s and hired Byron Bullock as ad manager. Gore started a new publication in 1968 and Bullock purchased Down On the Farm in 1961, turning it immediately into a bi-monthly and then into a weekly publication with a pictorial foremat called "Town and Country Reporter."

The paper enjoyed wide popularity throughout Jefferson County during the 1960s for its coverage of "ordinary people" events such as 4-H programs, church projects, parties and weddings. An outspoken, political conservative, Bullock always regretted being unable to generate any controversy with his competition because they shared the same opinions. Poor health prompted the sale of the paper in 1969 to Jerry Rogan, who moved the operation to his native Jefferson.

Emma Brown

Not much color choice

Back in 1915, a single choice of a black Model T was available. That Model T, with freight and delivery cost just $506.60.

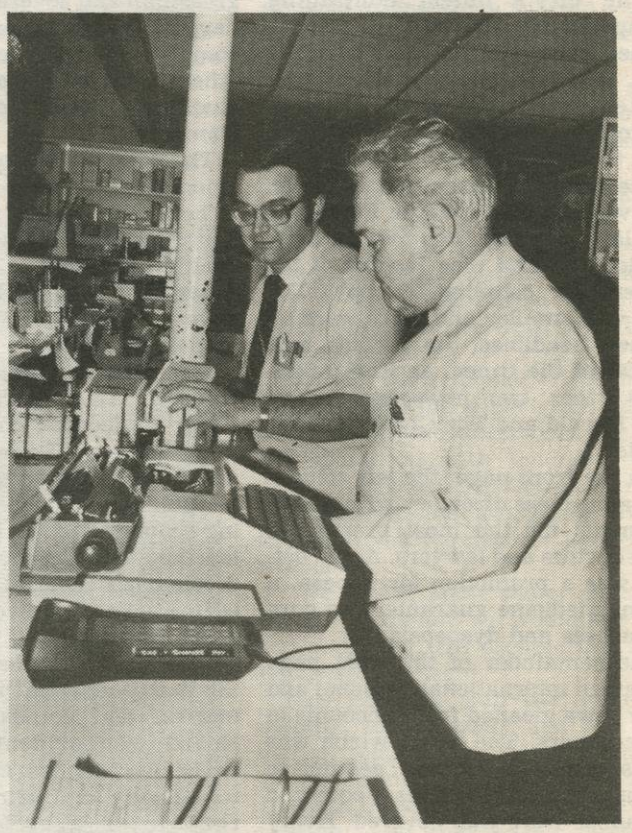
TUTTLE'S PHARMACY

Family owned and operated in Fort Atkinson for 55 years!

From 1931 when Harold Tuttle purchased the Judd Gates Drug Store on South Main Street until the present, the Tuttle family has been serving Fort Atkinson area residents.

In 1944 Harold Tuttle was joined in business by his son, Jim. In 1972 Jim's son, Jon, joined his father in the operation of the store.

Numerous remodeling projects have been completed to expand the store and maintain the high degree of service that customers have come to expect.



Above: Jon and Jim Tuttle at work in the Tuttle Pharmacy of today.

Left: The original Gates Drug Store which occupied the south half of today's Tuttle's Pharmacy.

W.D. Hoard Co. staff in late 1800s.

It took a whole week to read 'Union'

By Joan Jones

Reading early editions of the Jefferson County Union is a pleasant way to step back in time. To get an idea of what life in Fort Atkinson was like a century ago, I went to the basement of the Hoard Historical Museum, where the bound volumes of the city's oldest continuing newspaper are housed.

The Union was first published by W.D. Hoard in 1871, but since those copies are available only in microfilm, I arbitrarily decided to read the 1883 volume.

The early Jefferson County Union was weekly, published on Friday. It was larger in size than today's daily version and had nine instead of the current six columns of copy. The type was smaller and there were no banner headlines. Its format was typical of the times, as Fort Atkinson's other two newspapers, The Fort Harald and The Chronicle, look similar.

On the front page, the left column was a business directory with advertisements for the most prestigious local doctors and lawyers. At the bottom was a promotion for Zopesa, a patent medicine guaranteed to cure biliousness and dyspepsia.

The remainder of the front page contained international, national and state news gleaned from accounts in other papers. The news, which was probably not too current, seemed to feature disasters, as fires, floods and tornadoes were well covered. Every edition contained a murder story, a tragic accident or a bizarre death such as an acrobat killed doing a somersault or an intoxicated painter falling from a smokestack.

The editorials were located beneath the masthead on the inside first page. There was not always an editorial written by Hoard; more frequently, other newspapers' editorials were quoted.

The editor and paper were Republican and Republican candidates and causes were championed. In 1883, Fort Atkinson's L.B. Caswell completed his eight years as a congressman and several columns were devoted to his accomplishments — some written by the editor, but many others from independent sources, including a letter from "an honest Democrat."

The political bias of the editor was evident as he wrote in one column, "There are yet in the Republican party thousands of men who have not 'bought and sold in the temple' or 'bowed the knee to Baal'. They believe fair play is a jewel, politics or no politics."

The editor was what we might consider a law-and-order man. One editorial decreed the verdict in a murder trial, "The machinery of law and function of the lawyer seems to be mainly employed of late in assisting scoundrels prey on society. Mob law and execution of justice by individual is a deplorable remedy but it seems to be the only one that is likely to do the business."

Directly below the editorials was the dairy department, and here the interest and enthusiasm of editor Hoard was evident. There were never less than two columns devoted to dairying and farming. Of course, that later grew into Hoard's Dairyman magazine.

Marriage notices and obituaries followed. Some of the marriage notices included a list of presents received, including the names of gift givers. Lucky was the bride who received a china tea set, a silver cake basket, pickle caster, satin applique tidy, celluloid and Russian leather toilet case, as well as an easy chair.

Gifts of money were listed and $2 seemed to be the usual amount. But, alas, a note from the editor about half way through 1883 stated firmly that it is not considered good taste to publish a list of wedding presents, so the practice ceased.

Obituary notices were interesting in a grisly way. These were written in a lofty and noble style, but were often very specific as to cause of death. In 1883, some causes of death were paralysis of the lungs, attack of apoplexy, congestive chills and dropsical ailment.

Suicides were covered in detail. One poor lady took acetate of potash which, the article explained, she bought at a Jefferson drug store. The possible reason for the suicide often was the topic of speculation.

Insanity was also a familiar subject. There were several reports of people sent to the Madison Insane hospital, one a young girl. And one Fort Atkinson woman was "attacked with insanity while she and her husband were visiting friends in Minnesota.

The local news column which followed the obituaries was generally more cheerful with its reports of parties and dances as well as frequent items about new buildings and businesses. The most desirable organization for young ladies must have been the Star Broom Brigade. This group dressed in attractive costumes and entertained crowds at the municipal opera house (Arcadia) by performing military drill routines with brooms instead of guns. The Star Brigade also had a fund-raising ice cream social on the lawn of Dr. H. White's residence, which today houses the museum.

The Owl Club held 10 dances a year at the municipal building. It was reported that "100 couples charmed the glowing hours with flying feet until midnight."

Fraternal organizations, a reading club and church groups met often and their activities were well covered in the local news. There wre performances of traveling troupes and local talent at the opera house. In 1883, roller skating came to Fort Atkinson (also to the opera house) and was enthusiastically received.

Sports were not as well covered as today. There was a Fort Atkinson baseball club, the Brown Stockings, and the score of their game against Palmyra was 37-7. This is somewhat better than the Lake Mills Paralysers, who lost a game 61-41.

Civic pride and encouragement of growth was a theme often found in the local news column. The editor took pride in reporting that five carloads of livestock had been sold or that Will Pinger had an elegant new chair for his shaving parlour.

Hoard happily noted, "We see that the spirit of improvement has taken the increased possession of our people this season. Considerable effort has been laid out in fixing up many of the homes and it tells in the general appeearances of the city."

But apparently there were still some problems, because the paper admonished its readers, "Don't throw old tin cans and pans and old bottles and bits of crockery into the street for horses to cripple themselves on."

Sparring with Jefferson was part of the picture even in back in 1883. The editor wrote, "We have only the kindest of feelings for Jefferson and many times have driven there to en-

(Continued on page 65)

150

Penny candy

You can find it at Westphal's

By Tracy Gentz

It's Saturday night back in 1915, and downtown Fort Atkinson is open for business. McMillen Brothers' meat market is advertising Jones' Little Pig Sausages and Haumerson Hardware's got a sale on square-headed nails. The smell of fresh baked goods draws some shoppers to Hibbard's Bakery for cookies and maybe even a chocolate ice cream soda.

But you don't need sausage, and you've already munched an apple at Frank Wickes' grocery store. What you do need are hair ribbons to wear to Sunday's church social, so you stop to see Harriet at Westphal's Dry Goods.

"The girls wore great big bows in their hair in the teens, great big ones, and my dad fixed a counter and a cash box and I tended to the ribbons," Harriet Westphal Vance, now 83, reminisced. "I felt awfully important."

Harriet was 14 or 15 when she starting clerking at the shop, located on South Main Street where the Body Image building stood recently, now vacant after going out of business. A pretty teen-ager, she, too, wore her own hair "pretzled" in braids with two large bows on either side.

Owned by her father, John Westphal, the dry goods store featured ladies' ready-to-wear suits, coats, dresses and yard goods.

"I was five years old when my father bought the store," Harriet recalled. "He had worked before on this side of the river at The Fair Store," said Harriet from her Sherman Avenue home.

"He spent maybe a year or more remodeling the store," she recalled, noting that the building had housed a hardware store. "He had a dress shop upstairs and the office was on the half-way level. There were high ceilings in the store, and an open office that went around and you could see down on the floor."

Harriet got started in the business early, stopping in at the store after coming home from Caswell Elementary School.

The girls wore great big bows in their hair in the teens, great big ones, and my dad fixed a counter and a cash box and I tended to the ribbons. I felt awfully important.

—Harriet Westphal Vance

"I was a little bit young to start with, but he gradually increased my responsibilities," she said of her father. "We wouldn't get out of school until 4 p.m. and I would go to the store and do what I could. I thought I was awfully important at 10 years old. Then, as the store gradually enlarged and I got older, I really went to work."

Harriet had some home chores to finish first before going down to the store.

"I used to go down after school, I put baked potatoes in the furnace on the open door; it was a wood and coal burning furnace and we would put potatoes in there for dinner at night," Harriet said.

Harriet also helped out at the school as a teen-ager, after classes were done for the day at Fort Atkinson High School. She remembers those years fondly.

"In those days there were no buses, so the children wore rollerskates to get to school and back," Harriet reminisced. "When I was about 17 in high school, we used to walk this (north) side of the river to the high school in the morning, we would get out at five of noon before the whistle blew for lunch and then be back at 1. We would rollerskate in the spring and fall; you could go faster.

"Some of the girls I went to school with lived on Adams Street, and that is way north and they had to walk. We swallowed our food fast."

Harriet continued: "Lots of times I would stop at the store and my dad would be ready to go home for dinner or lunch, and we would go along together."

She described her father as a "wonderful, wonderful man," adding that he would travel to New York and Chicago to purchase lines of clothing for the store.

"He would generally go for two or three weeks at a time, but one year he came home after being gone for only a week. He claimed of not feeling well and never gained back his health," Harriet noted.

John Vance came down with pernicious anemia. His ill health forced him to sell his store in 1921 to a Whitewater merchant.

Harriet has many other recollections about Fort Atkinson some 80 years ago.

At the turn of the century, Fort Atkinson elementary and high school students attended school from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. And teachers were much more strict.

"Believe me, we learned," said Harriet. "We couldn't fool around much. We spent a good many hours in school."

Students had recess, as they do today: "We used to jump rope and play jacks," she said. "Crochet was another popular game; we didn't play it at school but at home we would play until we were just about blue in the face."

Harriet, whose blonde braids have turned a striking silver gray during the past eight decades, looks back at her childhood with fondness. She said children in those days had to use their imagination to create entertainment for themselves and their friends.

"We would make paper dolls by the hundreds and we would sew for our dolls, too. We created our own toys," Harriet said.

Few children skip the stage of wanting to run away and join the circus, though, she noted. Perhaps venturing into space is a close second, but the circus still remains tantalizing. And that hasn't changed over the years.

"Our neighbors had a trampoline and other equipment," according to Harriet. "We would put on a circus show and charge kids pins, regular sewing pins, to see the show. We

(Continued on page 62)

Pictured at Westphal's Dry Goods in 1910.

Main Street still remembers

By Christine Blumer

The face of Fort Atkinson's business district changes with the wind; ask 10 longtime residents which store was where when, and you'll get 10 different answers, maybe more.

There are at least eight non-industrial businesses that were founded more than 45 years ago and that today continue under the same name or that are operated by the same family.

Two of them, Jensen & Jones, which was founded in 1914, and Roy Peterson's barbershop, begun more than a half-century ago, are featured in separate stories in this section. The others are included in the following retail roundup:

Lorman Iron & Metal

The sign painted on the side of the barn-like building on South Main Street read in big letters, "Louis Lorman. Dealer in Junk." Plain and simple. No advertising hype. After all, what more could one say about the product?

But one man's trash was Louis Lorman's treasure, one that helped build a business that continues as a success 73 years later.

Lorman, a Russian immigrant, in 1913 arrived in Fort Atkinson, where his aunt lived. His aunt's daughter had married a man who was in the scrap metal business, and Lorman tried his hand at it, too.

He borrowed $28 from a cousin, bought a horse and wagon and started canvassing the area, knocking on doors, seeking to purchase old iron pieces. Sometimes he traded cloth scraps or small iron for a broom or spools of thread, though most business was carried out on a cash-and-carry basis.

Soon Lorman bought a barn in which to store the accumulated junk. It remained at the South Main Street site until 1947, when he moved Lorman Iron & Metal to its present site across from Ralph Park on the city's north side.

Louis Lorman died in the early 1970s, and the business was taken over by his son, Milton, who also was a state representative. Since Milton's unexpected death at age 52 in November 1979, the firm has been headed by his widow, Barbara, who herself is a state senator.

Tuttle's Pharmacy

For more than a century, there has always been a pharmacy located in the 100 block of South Main Street. It was E.E. Sheldon who founded a drug store there in the 1870s. That was purchased by Judd W. Gates, who operated Gates Drug Store for 36 years.

In the meantime, a Clinton man named Harold W. Tuttle was taking a short course in pharmacy at Marquette University in Milwaukee. After five years of apprenticeship, he passed his pharmacy exam.

Starting at a pharmacy in Soldiers Grove, Tuttle moved to Monroe. He later sold the business to a 50-store chain, but was not content managing and not owning his own business.

Harold purchased Gates' store in Fort Atkinson on Oct. 26, 1931, and it has been in the family ever since.

Tuttle's Pharmacy today is owned by Harold's son, Jim, who graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1944 and went into partnership with his father. He became sole owner in 1962.

Also following in both his father's and grandfather's footsteps was Jim's son, Jon, a 1965 Fort Atkinson High School graduate who received his pharmacy degree from UW-Madison in 1971 and became a registered pharmacist six months later.

Meanwhile, Trudy Tuttle manages Tuttle's Hallmark Cards & Gifts, adjacent to the pharmacy. The shop, which opened its doors in 1973, moved to that site five years later.

Although there's been only a few owners, the drug store has seen lots of changes. From 1932-35, Tuttle's served meals, and it had a soda fountain until 1951. There have been several remodeling projects.

Kent's Ice Cream

Kent's Ice Cream has been a favorite gathering place on hot summer days for the past 45 years.

In 1941, Oscar Vasby opened Kent's Ice Cream shop on Madison Avenue, naming it after his four-year-old son.

Vasby, who was earning $16 per week making ice cream mixes at Carnation Co., said he figured he could make another $16 by opening his own business on the side. His wife, Mildred, took care of the shop during the day.

The Vasbys started with an $800 building, $200 worth of freezers and a $400 ice cream maker. When he finally sold his business to Art Nelson, Fort Atkinson in 1953, Vasby's sales were totaling 22,000 gallons of ice cream every six months.

Nelson sold the business to Walter Coghlan, who operated the shop from 1964 until August 1980, when he in turn sold it to Jim Fiedler.

Fiedler, who in recent years moved Kent's west to the former A&W, has made Kent's known at fairs and events throughout the Midwest for his Ca-Caio Bars, giant ice cream treats.

Harriet's

When Charlotte Hevey opened a millinery shop in 1924, she had no idea it still would still be going strong 62 years later.

Charlotte, affectionately nicknamed Aunt Lotty by family and friends, was a woman possessing a good understanding of the business world. As owner of The Hat Shop, she was the first female member of the Fort Atkinson Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors in the 1940s.

Located for one year on Main Street where Milton's on Main now stands, The Hat Shop then moved

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Tailoring and dressmaking upstairs at Westphal's.

Harriet: times change

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would use my bear and put it into a cage and a rabbit, a stuffed one I had. They weren't real of course but they would be our animals.

"We would get up on a bar and swing around and then hang and then swing around. Oh it was fun, and everyone would come and watch. It cost more pins to see the animals," Harriet recalled.

Another thing she remembers very clearly is a story told to her as a youngster by her mother, Lizzie.

"My mother had a very good friend by the name of Hattie and their windows faced each other; they were real close. In those days, you had to take your sheets and hang them out your window so they would be fresh," Harriet recalled.

"My mother would always beat Hattie, so Hattie would take her sheets and hang them out before she went to bed. My mother would wake up and Hattie's sheets were already out, so she started trying to get up earlier each day to beat her. It took a long time before she figured it out."

Main Street has changed a lot since Harriets' days clerking in Westphal's Dry Goods. A mental stroll downtown during the teens brings to Harriet's mind Grandma Bowens.

"She used to sit and rock out in front of the old wooden hotel; Bowen's Hotel, had a porch on it on Water Street. It was located where the municipal court building is now.

"She was called Grandma Bowens because she acted old and dressed old. She would sit under that (porch) in the summer shade and rock and rock and rock and her daughter ran the kitchen part," Harriet chuckled.

Harriet Westphal Vance

North down the street was the grave digger, Joe Kouzner, she said, and "he had an old shack in the back where he would make these gravestones, great big ones, and leave them sitting around right up next to the sidewalk and he would chip away.

"He was very eccentric," Harriet continued. "He had a cane and he walked the streets and people were a little bit shy of him and he was a little bit bashful. Joe was quite a character in town."

Across the street was the Odd Fellows Hall, where Faith Community Church's parking lot is today located. Upstairs was the dance floor where Harriet took lessons when "I was only so high," she said,

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Frank Wicke's grocery store about 1900.

Businesses still going strong

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north to the Como Photo site. Business was good, but Aunt Lotty wasn't getting any younger and needed a slower pace.

It just so happened that her real niece and husband, Harriet and Donald Chwala, decided to drive from Chicago to Fort Atkinson for a Sunday visit. On the way home, Harriet told Don she hated to see Aunt Lotty give up the store. On July 2, 1957, they opened up under the name of "Harriet's."

Four years later, Harriet's celebrated its grand opening in a new location in the Gates Building, now occupied by J.C. Penney, on Water Street. After five years there, Harriet's moved to its present location on 101 S. Main St.

The Chwalas sold the business to Joyce Patefield last year, however, Harriet's name still remains on the sign outside the Main Street landmark.

Black Hawk Hotel

For all but five of Fort Atkinson's many years, there has always been a downtown hotel.

It started in 1848, when Milo Jones Sr. built the Green Mountain House, a four-story hotel named in honor of Jones' home state of Vermont. He was proprietor until 1855, when he sold it to Stephen Davis, whose family operated the hotel for 25 years.

Its subsequent names as the hotel changed hands over the years included The Higbie House, Hotel Snover and Hotel Fort.

Business was booming when in 1915 Frank W. Hoard and Harry Curtis put up $75,000 to build the new Blackhawk Tavern adjacent to the Fort Hotel. In the Sept. 9, 1915, edition of the Jefferson County Democrat, the headlines termed the "new hostelry one of the finest-equipped in the state."

A hundred guests turned out Nov. 19, 1915, for a testimonial dinner opening the Blackhawk Tavern. Hoard and Curtis sold the business in 1929 to Wisconsin Hotel Co., and on Aug. 3 of that year the Fort Hotel on the corner was razed to make room for a new east addition to the Black Hawk Tavern.

The renovated Black Hawk, which carried a $75,000 project pricetag, was dedicated March 7, 1930. Information on the owners in the next 53 years is sketchy, however, the most recent included Rio Achilli, who purchased it in 1972, and the current owners, Jackson L. Logan, who with his brother, Jay, and their wives, have operated the Blackhawk Restaurant & Lounge since September 1983.

J.C. Penney

The first J.C. Penney store in Fort Atkinson opened its doors on March 25, 1932 on the west side of South Main Street next to the bridge.

It was just 6,500 square feet, small when compared to the 11,300 square feet of space in its location nearby today. Eleven managers have passed through the store since the first, William Steffins.

In the early years, clerks had to wade through stockrooms due to high water and flooding in the basement.

Penney's remained at the South Main location until a 1968 disaster left the store in ashes. Fire ravaged the recently redecorated building, gutting the interior.

It looked like the end of J.C. Penney in Fort Atkinson because headquarters had decided not to rebuild. According to the current manager, Jerry Heiliger, Fort Atkinson spirit came to the rescue. The Fort Atkinson Area Chamber of Commerce and numerous residents circulated petitions and made phone calls to place pressure on the company.

Their perserverance worked. Since it re-opened March 11, 1970, J.C. Penney has been located at 41 S. Water Street.

Standard Oil

When George Jones took over the Standard Oil station, now Jones Standard Service at 303 S. Main Street, gas was just 20 cents per gallon. That was back in 1951.

Michael Newcomb, who owned the station for a couple of years before Jones, said that in those days "rarely did they say 'fill it up.' "

Explained Will Krentz, an earlier owner of the station, "There wasn't that kind of money, only out-of-towners, those generally traveling to Chicago, would fill their tanks."

In the 1940s, Fort Atkinson residents went to the neighborhood station and got five gallons for a dollar. Self-serve stations were uncommon then, said Newcomb.

"For a dollar, we checked the oil, the water, the battery and washed the windshields," he said. In addition, the tires were checked for the proper amount of air and "We'd sweep the floors of the car if it needed it."

Other owners of the station have included Jim Vosburg and Bud Martsolf.

The station has been remodeled since Jones took over in 1951. It has grown from two pumps in the 1940s to nine pumps today. The station used to face Third Street and be a two-bay facility.

J.C. Penney began on Main Street.

Lucien Caswell started banks

A bank is a place where the community begins to grow. The bank is the place to which you bring your hopes and your dreams and you leave with your hopes realized. The bank is the place to lay away money safely and regularly for 'the rainy day', for retirement, a home, an education or the beginning of married life. The bank is a great place to go and to know.
—Daily Jefferson County Union, Sept. 12, 1963.

By Tracy Gentz

"Everyone now on earth would have to live 500 years and work every second of both day and night and count $21 a second, just to count what $1 would amount to if put in the bank at 10-percent compound interest for 500 years."

So read an advertisment 60 years ago for The Fort Atkinson Savings Bank, one of the city's earliest financial institutions.

Unfortunately, no one was able to take advantage of such financial genius, for the earliest of Fort Atkinson's banks traces back only 129 years. Still, it was the third-oldest in Wisconsin and one of the first 50 banks established nationwide.

It was in 1857 that Lucien B. Caswell organized Fort Atkinson's first two banks: The First National Bank of Fort Atkinson and Koshkonong Bank, the latter of which failed due to the Civil War.

Caswell, an attorney, organized a syndicate: "It occured to us that we ought to have a regular bank of issue under the state law. We filed with the comptroller of the currency, we filed the proper papers and procured a plate for the currency," Caswell wrote in the unpublished "Autobiography of L.B. Caswell," which is today located at the Hoard Historical Museum.

The design of Fort Atkinson's first paper money depicted not a president but rather, two Indians in a canoe gathering wild rice on Lake Koshkonong. A fitting name, for the bank circulating those notes was Koshkonong Bank.

Lucien B. Caswell

It wasn't until June 3, 1864, that the National Bank Act created a uniform currency which stabilized the nation's economy. Until that time, banks issued their own notes while the government minted coins only. In fact, in 1860, there were 2,000 banks with individual notes.

"They issued $25,000 from that plate and with that bought $25,000 of South Carolina State Bonds," according to Caswell's writings concerning Koshkonong Bank. "For nearly two years we did a fine business with the bank. But early in 1863, Fort directors withdrew and Koshkonong Bank was moved to Jefferson."

A man by the name of Dr. Van Norstand wanted to purchase the Koshkonong Bank and did so, despite warnings by Caswell and his associates that the South Carolina bonds would depreciate quickly due to the Civil War. Norstand, who was convinced the war would be over quickly, insisted; he was wrong, however, and was forced to liquidate, causing heavy losses to depositors and stockholders.

Interior of Citizens State Bank in Fort Atkinson.

The second bank organized by Caswell in Fort Atkinson, First National Bank, is the third-oldest bank in Wisconsin, having been founded in 1863. It also was one of the first 50 organized nationwide.

First National, which actually opened its doors in 1864, began by pooling $50,000 in holdings by 22 spirited citizens who petitioned the comptroller of currency for one of the first national bank charters in America. Early officers included L.B. Caswell, president; H.O. Caswell, vice president; L.B. Caswell Jr., cashier, and J.F. Schreiner, assistant cashier.

The bank was first started at 116 N. Main St., and then moved to 100 S. Main St., and eventually to its present site at 70 N. Main St.

It became First American Bank & Trust Co. in December of 1975.

During the early days, banks were open long hours due to the difficulty of traveling for depositors. Banks and merchants alike opened their doors at 6 a.m., remaining so until 9 p.m. And this was six days a week.

There was no "trot-up window," but banking services did offer the basics: regular banking, receiving deposits, making loans, advising farms and providing insurance.

According to early records, the bank's officers were cautious and for the first 15 years of its history did not lose even one dollar due to bad loans or investments.

First American today is among the top 5 percent of Wisconsin banks.

L.B. Caswell Sr., having had great success in the banking business, encouraged one of his sons, Chester A. Caswell, to found a state bank. He also was the first city attorney.

Citizens State Bank emerged in July 1884 with a state charter and capital totaling $25,000.

Again L.B. Caswell had a hand in the forming of this bank. He encouraged C.A. Caswell to undertake the venture. C.A. Caswell became cashier and L.B. Caswell was on the board of directors. At this time loans were plentiful with an acre of land selling for a mere $20 to $41.

In 1937, Citizens State Bank, located on Main Street, was remodeled and capital stock rose to $50,000 shortly thereafter. On Jan. 26, 1970, the doors of a new bank on Milwaukee Avenue, one block west of the original site. Today the bank is the second largest in Fort Atkinson.

A longtime employee and president of Citizens State Bank from 1958-63, Edwin Hedberg, reminisced shortly before his death in 1963 about the banking past of Fort Atkinson.

"During the last half of the century there have been phenomenal changes in the banking business. We used to make real estate loans without requiring monthly or semi-annual payments on the principal. The interest on the one loan which ran for 20 years without any payments amounted to more than the principal. Now very few real estate

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First National Bank on Main Street.

All things change but barbers

By Mark Ferguson

"All things change except barbers, the ways of barbers, and the surroundings of barbers. These never change."

Mark Twain penned those words in 1871, but they could just as well have been written by Roy Peterson today in summing up his almost 60 years as a Fort Atkinson barber.

Roy's Barber Shop, a permanent fixture at 232 Main St. since 1931, has stayed much the same as the day it opened, with its big front window and old-fashioned barber pole. Even the barber chair with its leather strap for sharpening razors remains.

"This barber chair was real old when I got it, but it still works," said 86-year-old Peterson, whose shop is Fort Atkinson's oldest continuing business.

Hairstyles have come and gone the way of the fads that brought them and Fort Atkinson has nearly doubled in size, but the clip-clip of the barber's scissors and the soothing coolness of talcum powder have never changed.

The soft-spoken and bespectacled barber will not venture to guess how many heads he's gotten to know in his long career, and the conversations that accompanied them, but he probably knows the hair — as well as opinions — of Fort Atkinson residents better than anyone.

"I've lived at a good time because I've seen a lot of changes," he said.

Peterson likes to describe these changes in terms of the avid sportsman he has been since he was a youngster fishing the Rock River.

"There used to be thousands of acres of ducks out on the lake (Koshkonong) and now you don't see them at all," he lamented. "Those were the days when you could leave your gun and decoys in the blind, come back the next day and they'd still be there. Where K mart is now, I shot a lot of pheasants and rabbits. It was nothing to catch fish in those days. And people did a lot of clamming, looking for pearls and selling the shells as buttons."

The walls of Roy's Barber Shop, jammed with fishing and hunting trophies, attest to Peterson's sporting skills.

Roy Peterson in Main Street shop.

"I've always said that there's been more fish caught and deer killed in here than in any other barbershop," he said.

Fishing and hunting stories or the latest headlines are often the topic of conversation among Peterson's customers, even when they do not need a haircut.

"It was the biggest fish I've ever seen," said one man who stopped by only to recount a recent fishing trip to northern Wisconsin. "The big ones always get away."

"Some of those stories can get a little fishy," Peterson replied.

The passage of time is also noted at Roy's by the photographs of heavy flooding or deep snow.

"The 1929 flooding is the worst I remember," says Peterson, referring to photographs he has of high water along State Highway 26 on the city's north side and at the Bark River Bridge. That year the ice from Lake Koshkonong piled up on shore and wiped out a lot of cottages."

Peterson decided to become a barber in 1920 after short stints as a farmhand and trucker.

"I always wanted to be a barber," he recalled. "I would stand in front of a barbershop in Jefferson and thought, 'That's what I want to do.' "

The fifth of 11 children, Peterson was born Oct. 13, 1899, on a 120-acre farm about one-quarter mile from where he lives now along County Highway K between Fort Atkinson and Jefferson.

"I was kicked out of the nest when I turned 18," he said. "My dad said I'd better get a job on a farm and I did, but I think that was the biggest mistake I ever made. The farmer would get me up at 4:30 a.m. and I worked until 7 p.m. Then I had to milk the cows.

"I worked on a farm about three months and I got $1 a day. I said, 'there's got to be a better way to make a living than this.' "

Peterson and a friend, Al Bienfang, went to Milwaukee in search of a better job and found it in driving truck.

"I was making good money, but there wasn't much to do with it, except go to a dance or a show, so most my money went into the West Allis Bank," Peterson said. "That's when I decided to be a barber."

Peterson and Bienfang quit their jobs and went to the Wisconsin Barber School. Bienfang was hired by a Rhinelander barbershop and Peterson ended up in Fort Atkinson.

"A friend told me they were looking for a barber in Fort," he said. "I first started working in the basement barbershop in what is today the Black Hawk Restaurant and Lounge. There were three of us working there. We had quite a business at that time.

"I'd get one-half day a week off and worked four nights a week in addition to days. We'd come to work at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday and start shaving and still be shaving on Sunday morning at 1 a.m. Saturday was considered shave day. The whole shop would be full."

He continued: "The elite group got a shave everyday and would get haircuts, too. They wore it short. It was 60 cents — 40 cents for a haircut and 20 cents for a shave."

Today, the cost of a haircut at Roy's is $4. Few customers ask for a shave anymore, though.

Peterson took over his own shop in 1929 in what had been Frank Wicke's Grocery at South Main and Third streets. Then Marachowsky's Grocery took over and he had to find a new location.

Roy's Barbershop found its final home in part of a bake shop at 232 S. Main St.

"I've been here ever since," he said. "We had a real good business. There were three of us starting out. I've had about five barbers work for me over the years. Bob Langer was the last. He has opened Langer's Trim and Style on Whitewater Avenue. I've been alone for six or seven years now."

Peterson said that, while he is not as quick with the clippers as he used to be, he still has a steady hand and

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'Union' style different today

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joy a quiet hour from business. We climbed the hill and feasted our eyes on the beautiful scenery (including) the stately buildings reared at the expense of taxpayers. On returning home, we were led to be satisfied by business instead of bricks."

Hoard's sense of humor was often evident: "The indications are that we shall have a mild summer with little if any sleighing before the middle of August," wrote Hoard.

In reporting on a former citizen's business success, the editor said, "Who says Fort Atkinson men don't succeed — particularly when they move away."

Another column included this intriguing item: "The citizens of Fort Atkinson are the most benevolent people in the world; a family living on the bank of the river wishing to remove to another city were given the funds necessary for their removal with a cheerfulness seldom exhibited when calls for aid are made."

The local news column also included many accounts of sickness, dreadful accidents, burglaries, fires and runaway horses. A "smart aleck" in a buggy ran down an old lady on her way home from the Fourth of July celebration. However, the newspaper carefully noted that the young man was from Whitewater.

The local news columns are a delight to read. The chatty, friendly tone is very different from modern day journalism. And, they do give a sense of what life must have been like in Fort Atkinson at this earlier time. Probably this neighborly style was possible because most of the people mentioned were known to the editor and his staff.

Following the local news was a personal column that accounted for who was visiting whom. There was a lot of traveling as family and friends visited from community to community.

One attention grabber stated, "Mel Jones has resigned his position on the railroad and is home for a play spell."

Following the personal column were the classified ads. They included promotions of special sale items as well as those for employment: "Wanted: an intelligent, honest boy — German preferred — to learn the business at the Cash store. Only boys who mean business need apply."

There were display advertisements in the paper as well as market reports, lists of inventions and news from neighboring communities. The last page was devoted to stories and poems.

The Jefferson County Union was published only once a week, but it certainly contained a week's worth of reading material.

Rice's life mystery

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writing, and one of her first jobs was as a serial scriptwriter for WCLO in Janesville. She also worked for the Chicago Daily News and United Press International.

She also began a lifelong addiction to alcohol.

She eventually turned to writing about crime and mysteries. Her first book, "Eight Faces at Three," was published in 1939 and was an immediate success. It was followed by more than 20 others, a magazine called the "Craig Rice Crime Digest," several screen plays and film adaptations of two of her novels.

One of her books, "Trial by Jury" was set in a fictional Wisconsin town that was a thinly disguised Jefferson. The main locale of the plot was the courthouse. Craig used the old Jefferson County Courthouse as a model which she copied faithfully right down to a description of the secret staircase which lead to the circuit court chambers on the top floor.

In 1946 she was honored with a cover story by Time magazine. Time noted that her literary specialty was the detective farce. It wrote that Craig "invests unholy living and heinous dying with a high atmosphere of mixed excitement and amusement. The excitement is provided by a realism of a sort and is set to dialogue of the Hemingway type . . .

Some of her books have such pleasant titles as "The Corpse Steps Out," "The Big Midget Murders," "Having a Wonderful Crime," "Home, Sweet Homicide" and "My Kingdom for a Hearse." Several of these were published under the pen names of either Daphne Sanders or Michael Venning.

Her personal life matched that of her novels for garishness. She had three children from five marriages. Her alcoholism, chronic arthritis and the loss of one eye were all factors leading to her early death at the age of 48 in Los Angeles.

Barber Roy Peterson on the left.

People more sophisticated: Harriet

(Continued from page 62)

gesturing with her hand.

Sundays were spent doing her grandparents' for supper or, on special occasions, to the Green Mountain House, where the Black Hawk Restaurant and Lounge is now located.

"We would go to the livery stable and rent a horse and buggy," Harriet commented. "It was really fun. It would take an hour to go six miles. Grandma and grandpa lived on Hebron Road. We would go there for Sunday dinner occasionally."

On Friday nights, Fort Atkinson gathered along Main Street to hear the city band play from a band shell situated over the Main Street bridge. "People gathered to listen," Harriet said.

Persons wanting to visit other cities could go down to the depot and catch the train, which stopped three times daily. Chicago and Janesville were within reach; those leaving early enough in the morning could go shopping in Chicago and be home by 7:30 that night.

Hardly a soul would shop outside Fort Atkinson during Christmastime, if they were smart, Harriet said.

"Everyone used to decorate the town up fine. All the store windows were all decorated up and everything. It was always such a thrill to wake up and find that beautiful tree all decorated with neat things. And the presents underneath; we had a lot," Harriet said smiling.

Christmas in Fort Atkinson was truly special, she recalled. The Vances would "go to my aunt and uncle's house for oyster stew the night before. It was so good."

Times have changed somewhat, Harriet said. A member of First Congregational United Church of Christ, Harriet said she can hardly name half the parishioners.

And although the townspeople still are good people, she said, "people have grown more sophisticated now. They aren't quite as friendly. In a small town, everybody knew everybody."

Fort Atkinson can never recapture that small-town charm again, but just like people, the face of a community weathers and changes. Fort Atkinson, after 150 years, has an altered look, Harriet said. It's not better or worse, just different.

Standard Oil station in early 1900s.

Masons began in 1863

Billings Lodge No. 139, Free and Accepted Masons, has been a part of Fort Atkinson history for 123 years, tracing its roots back to 1863.

The lodge, located at 211 S. Water St, East, is named after Henry M. Billings, who died just four months before the lodge was formed. Billings was instrumental in bringing Freemasonry to Fort Atkinson.

Two other Masonic organizations were chartered later, including Fort Atkinson Chapter No. 29 on Feb. 7, 1866, and Fort Atkinson Council No. 16 on Feb. 24, 1881.

The Order of Eastern Star, a Masonic organization for men and women, was brought to Fort Atkinson on Feb. 6, 1895, when Martha Chapter No. 66 was chartered.

Fort Atkinson has also had active Masonic youth groups. Chapter No. 366 of the Order of DeMolay for Boys was instituted on April 21, 1923, and Fort Atkinson Assembly No. 3 of the Order of Rainbow for Girls was begun Sept. 10, 1938.

Fort Atkinson Freemasons began meeting at Good Templars Hall, a building which stood on the corner of South Main and Third streets. The lodge was moved to the second floor of the Perry Building in 1901.

The rent at that time was just $200 per year for the second floor of the building. The lodge met at this building until 1930, when the Fort Atkinson Club was purchased on Water Street, where the organization still meets today.

Veteran barber

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gets plenty of business.

"If my legs hold out, I'm going to keep working," said Peterson, who works 3½ days and is at home with his wife, Regina, the other 3½ days a week. "I like people and I like what I'm doing. I never got up in the morning and hated to go to work."

Main Street might be paved and the hitching posts that once dotted the curbs in his younger days are long gone, but Peterson's love for his job as well as fishing, hunting and the tall tales that go along with them — these never change.

Chamber promotes business

By Betty Bullock

The earliest record of a business association in Fort Atkinson goes back to its incorporation with Secretary of State William B. Froelich on Oct. 6, 1889, when a group of local business people organized the Fort Atkinson Improvement Association.

Headed by N.F. Hopkins and H.P. Pettit, its primary purpose was "to foster and promote the business interests of Fort Atkinson." That premise still underlies the objectives of its successor, the Fort Atkinson Area Chamber of Commerce, which in 1986 is headed by Gerald A. Mortimer, executive vice president of Nasco.

Goals have broadened and concerned themselves with a variety of aspects impacting Fort Atkinson's quality of life today . . . which all directly relate to the promotion of business interests, such as good educational facilities, reliable and competent city services, cultural and recreational opportunities, good health care services, and of course, the physical and financial opportunities for businesses and services to grow and prosper.

The Fort Atkinson Area Chamber of Commerce has undergone numerous reorganizations and revitalizations throughout its history. Shortly after the advent of that historic threat to horseflesh — the automobile — we have been told the local organization called itself the Fort Atkinson Automobile Association and made Sunday soirees to the neighboring communities in the interest of telling the advantages of doing business with Fort Atkinson merchants and service folk.

Documentation points to the official organization under the name of the Fort Atkinson Chamber of Commerce, early in 1924 under the leadership of President J.W. Meyer and directors J.G. Westphal, L.C. Gillard, George A. Potter, George Rankin, C.A. Aspinwall and W.D. Leonard. Membership dues were $10 (pledged for no less than a two-year period) and the organization's motto was "The City of Quality."

The first printed newsletter of the organization, dated Feb. 14, 1924, told high school students to "carry with you into the life of this city, the general truths, guiding principles and ideals and habit of thinking that will make it possible for you to apply these principles and ideals to your daily problems to begin to pay a debt you owe to your school, your home and your city.

"You will also be ready to think with others for the general good of whatever civic and social organizations you may join after leaving school and when you reach the age of the youngest men in the Chamber of Commerce, if you join that organization, you will be ready to help it teach the public to think straight and in a big, unselfish way. A modern Chamber of Commerce is the clearinghouse for all civic and commercial problems which the people must solve. With a thought of what the city should be 10 years hence, a thought only of what will contribute to the beauty, health, education and industry of the city, the truly conceived Chamber of Commerce plans without political, sectarian or other interest."

Today's chamber continues to encourage future leadership through their business awareness classes and their annual Senior Class Economic Seminar, as well as providing funding for Business World scholarships.

The next major reorganization took place in March of 1939 under a committee composed of Fred Hadinger, Harry Neipert, Pearson Gebbhardt, John Hackl and Everett Hein. The bylaws of 1924 were used as guidelines for the group, which delayed actual formation until a goal of 100 members was reached. New articles of incorporation were filed on June 8, 1939, with E.S. Engan serving as president, Richard Biehl, second vice president, E.E. Hein, secretary and Ed Hedberg, treasurer.

Dues structure and by-laws were reviewed and amended under Harry Hoffman Jr. in 1964 and will face their next major revision later this year.

In the early days, the chamber operated with volunteer leadership. Following the 1939 reorganization, E.R. Parker served on a part-time basis as chamber "secretary" and chamber offices were housed on the second floor of the Weidemann building, which was located just north of First American Bank and Trust.

Chamber Executive Secretary Ralph Ebbott promotes pool.

Eugene Meyer and Woody Bienfang enjoy chamber's Farm-City Days.

Farm/City Days was a successful event originated by Ebbott, who had the honor of chairing the chamber's 50th anniversary in 1949.

Ebbott retired in the early 1960s and Dick Depper was hired as chamber manager. Under Depper's leadership, programs and membership increased and the need for larger quarters found the organization moving to 8 S. Water St., East, in Harriet and Don Chwala's building. When Depper moved to a large chamber in Wausau, Ed Rains was brought from Iowa to guide Fort Atkinson's growing organization.

Betty Bullock became the first woman to head the Fort Atkinson chamber in 1971, and was one of three women chamber executives in Wisconsin and one of 13 in her U.S. chamber organizational management class at the University of Colorado in 1973.

Today, the classes are 55 percent to 60 percent female and chambers throughout the United States have women providing creative and effective leadership for their organizations.

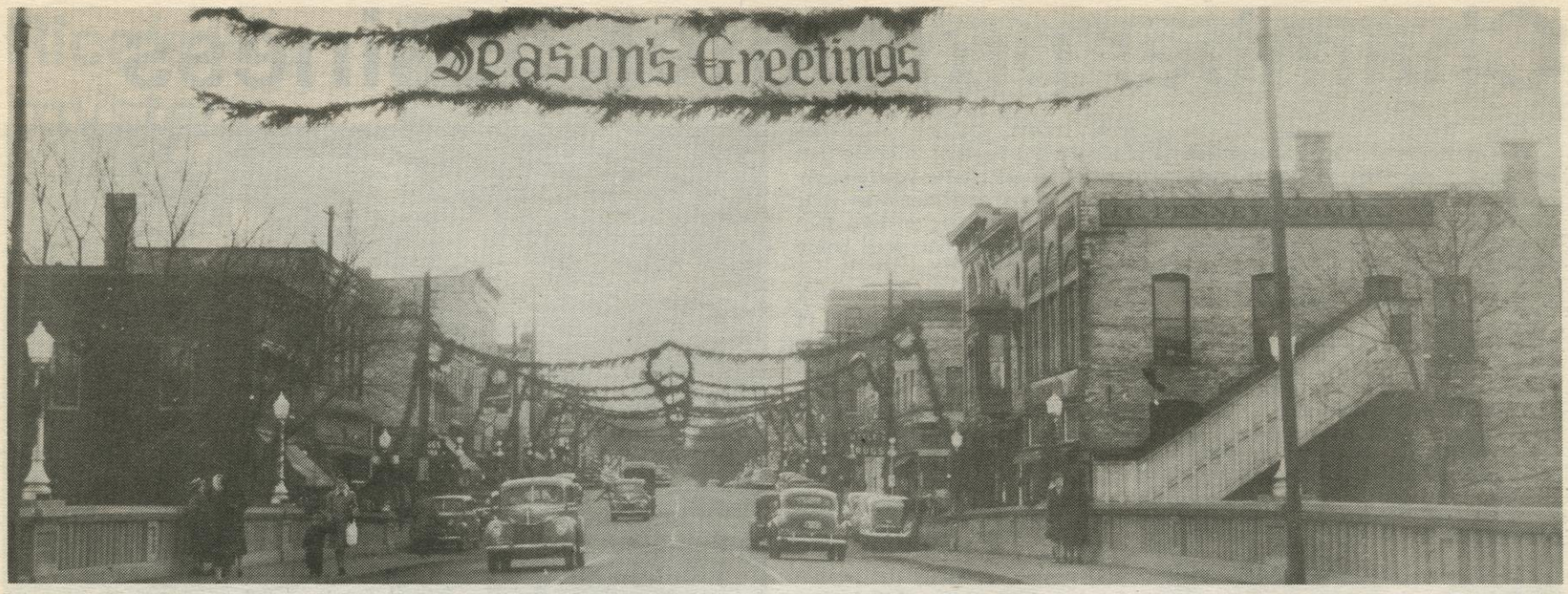
Bullock has seen the membership increase from 161 to 225, representing industry, retail, professional and service businesses. The chamber moved into spacious quarters at 89 N. Main St. in December 1984 to accomodate its increasing activities.

Throughout its existence, with its various name changes and locations, the Fort Atkinson Chamber of Commerce has played an effective leadership role in this community. It has concerned itself with a broad spectrum of public interest which has included industrial expansion and job creation; supporting and assisting in fund-raising for the hospital, swimming pool, schools and library, and worked to improve shopping convenience by addressing parking needs, store hours and product availability, as well as the amenities of trees, flowers and seating benches in shopping areas, Christmas decorations and Santa Claus. That's not to mention the countless contributions of prizes and financial support from members for the endless worthwhile projects promoted by the city's active civic and social organizations.

The chamber has a long record of working to achieve effective and safe traffic patterns throughout the city, encouraging the development of the local airport facility and sponsoring a variety of educational programs for businesspersons, youth, farmers and area residents. It has taken courageous stands on numerous legislative issues affecting both business and the public good.

Many of its members have been honored at the local, state and national level for their business achievements and contributions. In 1985, Ted Batterman, president of Spacesaver Corp., won the coveted Wisconsin Small Business Person of Wisconsin title and tied for second place nationally. This year, William D. Knox, president of W.D. Hoard & Sons Co., which publishes Hoard's Dairyman magazine and the Daily Jefferson County Union newspaper, was selected as Wisconsin Agri-Business Advocate.

A modernized "fort" still serves as the chamber logo and the present motto, "Fort Atkinson: Where Tradition Means Progress," is a fitting slogan to carry the Fort Atkinson business community forward into the next century.



Fort chamber of commerce-sponsored Christmas decorations.

Chamber chief Ralph Ebbott at pool fund-raiser.

Fort celebrated armistace

"Fort Atkinson Goes Wild Over Official News of War's End. Whistles Blow, Bells Ring and Band Plays. Cheering Citizens Parade Up and Down Main Street. Speeches and Community "Sing." Big Celebration at Jefferson."

Those were the front-page headlines in the Jefferson County Union, Friday, November 15, 1918.

Fort Atkinson was like any other city big or small, celebrating the end of the war. "Enthusiasm . . . swept over Fort Atkinson Monday morning when word was received long before daylight that Germany had signed the armistice terms, which represent a complete surrender," said the paper.

"By 6:30 o'clock Main Street contained several hundred cheering, shouting, jumping men, boys, women and girls. From that time until nearly 11 o'clock . . . every noise making devise that could be brought into play. Automobiles going at break-neck speed, darted about the city, their owners tooting their horns continually to arouse the slow or drowsy," continued the story.

Tradition tailor-made for Fort

By Tracy Gentz

It was back in August 1914 when two young men ventured into a merchandising business, creating a shopping tradition that continues on today, 72 years later.

Art Jensen and Ben Jones founded Jensen & Jones clothing store at 225 S. Main St. Today located only a few blocks away, at 318 Washington St., it is one of only a handful of Fort Atkinson businesses operating under the original name

Times have changed since that opening day: the first three years, Jensen & Jones sold wool coats for $5-$8 and a full suit could be purchased for only $12.50 to $25, depending on the quality.

Today, ties sell for the price of the less-expensive suit 72 years ago.

The Jensen & Jones of yesterday was a trendsetter, having suits on the rack rather than tailor-making them for customers.

"We're dealing with a company that said, 'we'll have the suits here and we'll just do some fitting, but the suits will be on the rack,' " said Chuck Frandson, co-owner of Jensen & Jones since March 1975.

Until Jensen & Jones, Fort Atkinson residents had to travel to Milwaukee or Chicago to avoid a two-week wait for a fitted suit.

"No suit was ever made and put on a rack. You came in and you said, 'I want to buy a suit' and they said, 'we have this blue' and they showed you fabrics on a bolt," Frandson explained. " 'We've got this brown wool and you said, 'OK, I want that.'

"The man measured you and you were told to come back in 10 days to two weeks. You did that and then they did some final adjustments to make sure everything was just right and that was it."

Despite the way things always had been done, Jensen & Jones helped take the knitting and darning needles out of the housewife's hands. Men started going to Jensen & Jones to purchase undergarments such as longjohns and socks.

"People said, 'No., you can't do that, that's impossible,' " Frandson said. "But Jensen & Jones did do it.

"Society was really coming out," Frandson said, noting that mass manufacturers of clothing were to the garment business what Ford was to the automobile.

"They were determined. They said, 'We're going to fill a factory. We're going to put 100 sewing machines in it and we're going to sew one-piece union suits, or one-piece underwear,' said Frandson. "They were really brokers finding people and saying, 'We'll give you everything, we'll give you underwear, any kind of socks, gloves or shirts you want. They suddenly went right from soup to nuts.

Not only was Jensen & Jones a trendsetter in the way it did business, but it was a trendsetter in the way it attracted business.

During the early 1900s through the 1930s, space could be purchased on the front page of most newspapers. Jensen & Jones took advantage of this by advertising not with prices but with attitudes: a 1917 ad suggested that men might want to bring their women along when shopping because "their opinion is important, too."

"They ran ads regularly and most often they were messages," Frandson noted. "They were little stories about the business attitude and what kind of service the store was dedicated to. It wasn't just a suit or a coat or something like that. Every week this was one of Jensen's main purposes, it was a way to reach a lot of people and let them know," Frandson said.

Jensen, who generally wrote the ads and handled the money in the store, is remembered as a very business-like man. He believed that businesspersons had "some inherent responsibility to the public," according to Frandson. "You couldn't let loose, you had to stay very business-like. Things had to be done just so."

Frandson heard the tales about the two original partners in his store from Harry Kohler, who worked at Jensen & Jones for nearly 40 years, starting in the 1930s.

"I have heard stories from an oldtimer in the business who worked when the cash was counted by hand and Jensen would add and re-add deposits because it had to be to the penny," Frandson said.

"It wasn't that he was worried about the penny, but being a penny off was just a failure in business. It was like you weren't keeping track of everything you were supposed to keep track of and that was at a time when there were no automated cash registers, it didn't show how much change you were supposed to get," explained Frandson.

Clothing was an important business, not just to the store owners but to the customers as well. Clothes acted more like a thermostat, Frandson noted.

"You couldn't run to an office where it was air conditioned, or you couldn't go home where it was air conditioned or to a car that was air conditioned. A lot of their physical thermostating was the clothes they wore and most men never wore less than a short-sleeved long-legged union suit. That was a certain part of the modesty of the era."

There was a great deal of emphasis placed on the selection of basics — long underwear with short sleeves, long underwear with long sleeves, light-weight long underwear with short sleeves, heavy long underwear with long sleeves — while when it came to a suit, you'd be talking about either a black one, a blue one or a gray one.

—Chuck Frandson of Jensen & Jones

This emphasis on dress and modesty meant more business in those days, but Jensen & Jones has lasted all these years because of its strong start and ability to adapt.

"It comes from making more right decisions than wrong ones," Frandson said modestly.

When Frandson first started in the 1960s, the store carried Arrow shirts, white shirts.

"We used to carry seven different kinds. Every neck and sleeve length from 14 to 17½, sleeve lengths 32 to 35 because that was men's dresswear, that's what a specialty store was supposed to carry," Frandson said.

Whether they were button-up collars, snap-back collars, soft collars or dark-fused collars, just the collars alone could be reason to go to seven different shirt styles and 35 different sizes.

The early 1900s offered 14 different varieties of long underwear at Jensen & Jones. When Frandson started at the store in the 1960s, Jensen & Jones was still carrying nine varieties.

"There was a great deal of emphasis placed on the selection of basics — long underwear with short sleeves, long underwear with long sleeves, light-weight long underwear with short sleeves, heavy long underwear with long sleeves — while when it came to a suit, you'd be talking about either a black one, a blue one or a gray one," Frandson said with a smile.

Frandson said that customers were demanding and would never back down when it came to purchasing underwear.

"If you didn't have the right one, if a guy said, 'I want the heavy-weight short sleeve, I don't want the medium-weight short sleeve,' he wouldn't compromise, no way," Frandson said. "He'd wait until you got them in and then he would come back."

There was a good chance he would return, as Jensen & Jones had only one main competitor, and that was Hopkins, which turned into a ready-to-wear store.

Frandson said that most customers had "their schedules as far as renewing their wardrobe. There were some guys who bought a suit every year in the fall or right before Christmas. Harry Kohler could just about call it. He would say, 'Well, we ought to be seeing so and so in the next week,' and that guy would show up."

The Jensen & Jones partnership was comparable to the 'Odd Couple' of today: Jensen was known as Mr. Business, while his partner was a footloose kind of guy, a "party type," Frandson said.

Jensen & Jones was "kind of a

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Jensen and Jones.

The Marechal Niel Ladies Military Company.

Charge of the Broom Brigade?

What? You never have heard of the charge that was made
By the fearless Fort Atkinson Broom Brigade, in year eighty-three?
When a score of batteries were hushed in a breath,
And victory was snatched from the jaws of Death?

—o—

By Thomas Beebe

Fort Atkinson had many famous military units, one of the best known being Hoard's Rifles, whose members distinguished themselves in the Civil War and the Spanish-American War. However, how many have heard about the Rifles' auxiliary, the Star Broom Brigade?

Nineteenth century middle class women, according to "Koshkonong Country Revisited, Vol. 2," spent a great deal of time imitating the martial activities of their male relatives. In Fort Atkinson, this manifested itself in the Star Broom Brigade. It was later called the Marechal Niel Ladies Military Company, the unofficial auxiliary to Hoard's Rifles.

The women first performed in 1883 in city hall. Their performance was viewed for a 25-cent admission, and was labeled as "about the plumpest 25-cent entertainment Fort Atkinson has seen in many a day."

The group's opening performance was spectacular. "When the handsome drop curtain first rolled up, the large stage was filled with our unrivaled band. They gave one of their choicest selections, and were vigorously applauded by the 300 people present.

"The next event was a tableau of several ladies positioned, with brooms, and was announced as the original Broom Brigade. Responding to a deafening encore, they swept the floor and prowled the air for imaginary cobwebs.

"We ceased wishing we were the cornet to admire the uniform of the company, which was formed by Sergeant 'Hop,' and then Capt. John Foote, looking like a West Point masher, and began the long anticipated broom brigade drill.

"The captain commanded the company well, and can confidentially challenge any similar organization for proficiency and general military display. Cheer after cheer greeted their soldier-like management of the broom and we were proud of them.

"An intermission followed, when his honor, Mayor Dr. Horace Willard, appeared on stage and read his original poem on "The Charge of the Broom Brigade," which was greeted with rounds of applause. The band discoursed enchanting music again, and then Mrs. Capt. Charles Learned marshaled the Fan Brigade in toe line on the rear of the stage. They came majestically to the front in couples, an ordinary fan at each end, and made a sweeping salute, returning to their places, to be followed by others.

"Then came in unison at the captain's call with military precision, the bashful, saluting, flirting, inviting, surrender, recover fans, etc.

"When the curtain dropped, a vigorous encore brought them to the stage, and once more to the measured music of the organist, Miss Ida Clapp, they gave the closing evolution of the fan drill.

At the end, "there was a rustle of uniforms and the melodious reveille brought the dear musketeers trooping to the center of the hall where their brooms were stacked."

—o—

"With only a sign have I pondered and wondered
At the glorious charge of the gallant 600 and Russia's defense;
But I wept when I learned that the charge that was made
By the valiant Fort Atkinson Broom Brigade was 25 cents."

(The quotations at the beginning and end are from his honor Mayor Dr. Horace Willard's original poem, "The Charge of the Broom Brigade."

The Star Broom Brigade drilled by Capt. Drake.

'Hello girls' on the line

(Continued from page 16)

ing from 1 inch to 12 inches; 3,767 water services, from three-quarter inch to 8 inches; 3,603 water meters and 334 fire hydrants.

The telephone came to Fort Atkinson in 1883, seven years after it was invented by Alexander Graham Bell, with the central facilities being located in the drug store of H.J. Dexheimer on Main Street. For a time, Walt Greene was the proud possessor of the only telephone in town except for the central office and, when Greene used his instrument, Dexheimer had to run around the downtown area trying to find the party to whom he wanted to talk.

The first long-distance phone service united this city with Jefferson.

Also in 1883, the city granted a franchise to the Wisconsin Telephone Co. At first, the telephone was considered by most residents as a mere "toy," but by 1888 there were 26 local subscribers.

The telephone exchange (with its "Hello Girls") was located at various second floor sites on Main Street until a business office was built on East Milwaukee Avenue in about 1960.

Men's clothing needs change

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social hub as well," he pointed out. At one time when things were really going well, there were probably five full-time men working in the store.

"Any place where you have five guys working and they can talk while they work, that is kind of a social environment," Frandson said. "They didn't have to sit at a typewriter where they couldn't be distracted. They were moving around the store, putting up displays and waiting on customers. It made it kind of a natural place for that kind of social behavior."

The socializing moved into the back room, too, where teachers — mostly male at the time — could stop for a drink.

"Those men, their job would be threatened if they were seen publically walking out of a tavern," said Frandson. "They were to be like ministers in terms that they had to deal with children and they had to set a higher example of behavior in the community. It must have been kind of a heavy burden."

While at 89 N. Main St., the store had a back room in which there was a tailor bench: "It was pretty well concealed from the outside, you had to practically get into it to see what was going on back there, and that was a place where a bottle of spirits was kept," according to Frandson. "Those people could come and have the social relief of having other people around them to talk to. That was the place to hide that kind of stuff."

Frandson said that the Jensen & Jones of the 1920s had an atmosphere similar to a barbershop: a place to gather and socialize and find out what is going on.

"Those guys only got a haircut once every 50 times they went to the barbershop," Frandson said. "They went there for today's news."

150

Over there

Fort among freedom fighters

By Thomas Beebe

Everyone knows of Gerald Endl, Fort Atkinson's only Congressional Medal of Honor winner. Most people have heard the story of Paul Frank Florine, a World War I casualty for whom the local American Legion Post was named, and most people know of Edwin Frohmader, who still lives on in memory at the local VFW post.

Like most cities, Fort Atkinson has sent hundreds of young men and women to the far corners of the nation and world to fight for freedom and the American way. However, the city's military history is richer and deeper than most, dating back, actually, to an era before Fort Atkinson was founded some 150 years ago.

Fort Atkinson's military heritage was actually born in the latter portion of the 18th century with the birth of Black Hawk in 1767. From that time to the United States' most recent conflict in Southeast Asia, the history of Fort Atkinson has been intertwined with battles, campaigns, casualties and honors.

Our heroes, living and dead, are still around. Our city is named after one of the great generals, explorers and builders of the 19th century. Many streets bear the names of war legends; Fort Atkinson's parks honor war veterans, and a vital National Guard contingent carries on a history which dates back before the Civil War.

As Fort Atkinson commemorates its sesquicentennial, it is impossible to do so without remembering names like Atkinson, Caswell, Drake, Langholff, Florine, Frohmader, Luebke and Smith. Local residents might have dreaded the death and destruction of war, they might have mourned the loss of loved ones and they might have cried for youth never to return from lands with strange names, but Fort Atkinson was always there when America needed soldiers and sailors.

We can't hope to delve into a definitive history of Fort Atkinson's role in military conflicts in these few pages. That history is too long, too glorious and too important. However, an overview of the last 200-plus years will give readers an idea just how much history this city has had a hand in.

Black Hawk War

In 1767, Black Hawk was born at the confluence of the Rock and Mississippi rivers near what is now known as Rock Island, Ill. During his formative years, he came to know the Rock River Valley, an area he and his Sauk tribe long held dear as a vital hunting and fishing ground.

Black Hawk was raised as a brave. He joined the British, as a 15-year-old, to fight in the Revolutionary War. In the early 19th century, he and 500 Sauk and Fox braves again joined the British in the War of 1812.

1894 'Union scout' Willard Wooden.

When the Treaty of Ghent ended the conflict in 1814, the British left Wisconsin, and the American flag went up in 1816 for the first time at Fort Howard (later known as Green Bay). During the changeover, Wisconsin Indians became confused and increasingly hostile.

Black Hawk learned of problems with the "white man" back in 1804 when a treaty with the United States government let the Indians use the land, but only as long as the Washington and the westward migration of settlers allowed it. This uneasy relationship came to an end in 1823 when white settlers moved into the Rock River Valley to live on the land and harrass the Indians.

Another famous name entered our history in 1826. Trouble erupted between the Chippewa and the Winnebago tribes, and Gen. Henry Atkinson was dispatched from Jefferson Barracks, Mo., to calm things down. He sailed up the Mississippi River with 500 troops and easily pacified both sides in the conflict, and, more importantly, established a U.S. military presence in the area.

In 1830, whites took over more and more Sauk villages and hunting grounds, pushing the Indians to the brink of starvation. Black Hawk, a 67-year-old chief, 400 of his best warriors and 1,200 women and children decided that it was time to cross the Mississippi and return to the burial ground and the hunting and fishing areas of their former homes along the Rock River.

Black Hawk had no intention of fighting the whites, and dispatched several envoys on a peace mission. On May 14, 1832, they were attacked and one was killed. This misunderstanding started what came to be known as the Black Hawk War.

Gen. Atkinson moved back into the Rock River Valley — along with men like Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Winfield Scott, Zachory Taylor, Albert Sidney Johnson and many others — and entered into a series of hit-and-run skirmishes with Black Hawk that frustrated the military and had the Indians constantly on the run.

During these battles, the Indian women and children took refuge on what is now Black Hawk Island, and Atkinson, a noted military architect, constructed Fort Koshkonong.

Finally, the lack of food and shelter and the overwhelming odds against him, forced Black Hawk to gather up his tribe — braves, women and children — and flee north with Atkinson in pursuit.

On Aug. 2, 1832, he reached the Mississippi River and was met by the gunboat Warrior at the mouth of the Bad Axe River. Black Hawk's white flag went unheeded as the Warrior poured cannon and musket fire into the tribe from one side as Atkinson's troops moved in from the other.

With bayonets drawn, the troops forced the Indians into the river where they were shot as they tried to swim to safety. The massacre, history says, continued for hours.

As the Black Hawk War ended, the valient Indian chief found he had only 150 of the original band of 1,600 that had crossed the Mississippi only months earlier. He was imprisoned for a brief period and then taken to Washington, D.C. where he met with President Andrew Jackson. Black Hawk died on Oct. 3, 1838, at the age of 71 on a reservation along the Des Moines River in Iowa.

Trying to put this period in area history into perspective, the "Black Hawk Historical Drama" souvenir program of 1976 noted that the Black Hawk War never really was a war. Rather, it was "important principally because it was the last stand of the Indians in the Northwest Territories. Rather than a war, it was really a hide and seek between the

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Soldier's Monument in Evergreen Cemetery dedicated Memorial Day in 1898.

Hoard's Rifles mustered

(Continued from page 71)

U.S. Army and the Sauk Indians. It was not a story of military glory . . . Instead it was a story of a tired, dispirited old Indian chief who went to war because of a misunderstanding."

Mexican War

Fort Atkinson men went to war again along the Mexican-Texas border in the Mexican War. A company was organized in Milwaukee, and a recruiter was sent to Watertown. Fifty-eight men responded from Jefferson County and were seeing action when the fighting ended on March 10, 1848.

Civil War

In the years that followed, the Rock River Valley began to grow and prosper. Eventually, Fort Atkinson became a community. Across the land, lives were changing — sometimes for the better sometimes for the worse. By the mid-19th Century, there were rumblings along the Mason-Dixon Line. The war between American brothers in the the north and south was blowing up on the horizon like a summer storm.

When hostilities broke out at Fort Sumter in South Carolina, volunteers throughout the North, including Wisconsin, flocked to the colors. Jefferson County and Fort Atkinson youth were there too.

The first local effects were minimal. Militia units were mobilized, including Fort Atkinson's Black Hawk Rifles under the command of Capt. William Lohmiller. Also included in the mobilization were the Jefferson Artillery Co. and the Watertown Rifles. A total of 1,884 Jefferson County men were called up.

Hoard's Rifles of Fort Atkinson.

In mid 1862, the 29th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment was formed in Jefferson and surrounding counties. Company D, known locally as the Caswell Guards, came from the Fort Atkinson area and also included many young men from the Town of Koshkonong. Under the command of Capt. Gustavus Bryant, they received an enthusiastic sendoff in November 1862 at the schoolhouse.

Each member of the company received a pin cushion and needle contributed by the schoolchildren, and the officers were given swords and sashes. As is usual before the reality of battle sinks in, there were rousing patriotic speeches and enthusiastic singing.

Tony Haumerson, Bill Wooden, Frank Imig, Ira Noel.

The 29th Infantry Regiment spent its early Civil War days in Mississippi and Louisiana. Its first military assignment was a foraging expedition. One southern plantation yielded three prisoners, 20 mules, five horses, saddles and harnesses, two large wagons, a carriage, 15 hogs and many turkeys and chickens. The

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VFW chartered in 1930

By Doug Welch

The Cross of Malta, which has symbolized the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States for more than 80 years, came to Fort Atkinson in 1930, when 15 area men chartered the Edwin Frohmader Post 1879.

Chartered on Aug. 14, 1930, the unit was named after one of the first Fort Atkinson men to be killed in World War I.

Frohmader was born Feb. 18, 1890, and was killed in action on Oct. 19, 1918, in France while serving with Company B of the 32nd (Red Arrow) Division, U.S. Army. His body was brought back to the United States and buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Fort Atkinson.

In 1930, members of the Post 1879 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars included George F. Heinz, Carl F. Miller, Andrew S. Pohlman, A.F. Tews, A.G. Boettcher, Peter Christopolis Paulos, Allen W. Hanson, Alvin F. Koser, Herman F. Schultz, James G. Donnelly, Edwin G. Beemer, Gerald E. Hyde and John H. Henzler.

Paulos, the only surviving charter member of the unit, resides at 136A W. Center St., Whitewater.

Since the post was established 56 years ago, 46 different commanders have served as its leaders.

The VFW began nationally shortly after the Spanish-American War in 1899. Many of the men who fought in Cuba and in the Phillipines were too ill from the ravages of tropical fever and medical neglect to hold down a steady job. There were no government hospitals and no means of financial assistance.

Several individual factions of veterans organizations united in 1902 to comprise the VFW, a group which has stressed patriotism, comradeship, and service ever since.

The Cross of Malta was selected as the VFW's official emblem. The Cross of Malta is 1,000 years old and was the emblem of Knights of St. John, the world's first great brotherhood of men who fought to free the oppressed and administer to the sick and needy. The VFW selected the Cross of Malta as its emblem because, like the original Crusaders, members have pledged themselves to defend human rights in time of peace and war.

The VFW Congressional Charter limits VFW membership to male officers and enlisted men, and to those honorably discharged, who have served in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard in any foreign war, insurrection or expedition for which our government has issued a campaign badge or medal.

VFW members include veterans of the Spanish-American War, the first and second World Wars, and campaign-medal service in Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippine Islands, China, Mexico, Nicaragua, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Japan, Korea, Vietnam and other theaters of military operation recognized by our government as being foreign combat service.

Fort Atkinson also has as VFW Auxiliary.

Fort soldiers fought at Mexican border

(Continued from page 72)

total haul was valued at between $2,000 and $3,000, "a pretty good commencement for the second day in the rebellion," according to one member of Company D.

In 1863, the 29th Infantry Regiment became part of the Army of the Ohio and fought at Vicksburg, Jackson, Port Gibson and other locations in Mississippi. First Sgt. Dolphus Damuth reported that the campaign cost Co. D 26 deaths in 1863, seven from combat wounds. Most, Damuth noted in a letter home, died from general debility to congestive chills to diarrhea.

As the war continued, volunteers from back home slowed to a trickle. National, state and local governments were forced to pay bounties in order to induce recruits. The Town of Koshkonong voted $25,000 to pay for young warriors.

When that didn't work, a draft was instituted. The first, in 1862, led to riots. Only one-third of those called in Wisconsin responded, and the state counted approximately 11,000 draft dodgers. Lucien B. Caswell was the Fort Atkinson's draft commissioner.

Dead and wounded veterans weren't the only affect the Civil War had on Fort Atkinson. During the war, Congress enacted the first National Banking Law to raise funds, an act that coincided with the need for banking and banks in Fort Atkinson. In 1863, L.B. Caswell chartered the first bank in the city.

"Koshkonong Country Revisited," a history of the Fort Atkinson area, noted that, "The Civil War produced both an expansion of the economy and the money supply which fueled capital investment," and led to the emergence of Fort Atkinson as a vital and growing city which began to see the growth of a manufacturing and industrial economy.

Fort Atkinson also shared in the changes and newness of the post-Civil War era. For example, the black migration from the South saw the black population of Jefferson County increase from five in 1860 to 66 in 1870 to 94 in 1880. Fort Atkinson's first black residents were Jim and Eliza Ann Ellis.

Fort Atkinson's boys didn't get much rest before they were called to the colors again.

In December 1888, Hoard's Rifles formed in the basement of the Lyric Theatre, which was used as an armory for drill purposes. The unit's first officers were Capt. F.E. Drake, 1st Lt. E.J. Gibson and 2nd Lt. A.D. Merriman. Mrs. W.D. Hoard, on behalf of her husband, Gov. W.D. Hoard.

Hoard's Rifles were mustered into the Wisconsin Army National Guard on April 25, 1889, an event that climaxed with Fort Atkinson's first military ball. They became Company B, 1st Volunteer Infantry, Wisconsin National Guard, the only Jefferson County unit to participate.

However, as is so often the case, the reality of war never measures up to the anticipated glory. For six months, Fort Atkinson boys trained at Camp Cuba Libre near Jacksonville, Fla. It was difficult war experience which included a killer typhoid epidemic. Letters home

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Waiting at Jefferson Junction Sept. 10, 1898, to greet Company B soldiers.

Jefferson County Civil War soldiers and sailors held 16th reunion at Jefferson Aug. 15, 1918.

Company B leaves for Great War

(Continued from page 73)

indicated that the troops were so demoralized that drills and unnecessary work were suspended. In the end, without serving overseas, Fort Atkinson's Company B lost 10 men.

Mexican Conflict

The local unit was sent home to muster out on Sept. 7. However, they were reorganized in December of 1898 under Capt. E.J. Gibson. Other officers included 1st Lt. Fred Glazier and 2nd Lt. C.H. Aspinwall.

Stability settled across the country, and across Jefferson County, until small but bothersome eruptions along the Mexican border in 1916. Once again, Fort Atkinson boys were ready to serve.

On June 19, Capt. Arthur R. Langholff formed up Co. B and read the orders which would send them to Camp Wilson, Texas. Other unit leaders were 1st Lt. D.D. Hills and 2nd Lt. L.B. Reich.

The local troops left Camp Douglas on July 8 and spent a brief period training in trench warfare, an ominous portent of a horrendous war only months away, and were mustered out on Jan. 19, 1917.

World War I

World War I seemed to bring the horror of war to America for the first time, and Wisconsin and local men and women were in the forefront of the experience.

The state sent 98,211 troops, 1,604 from Jefferson County, into service. Many were members of one of the most decorated units of the war, the Red Arrow Division, which was comprised of National Guard units from Wisconsin and Michigan. Included was Fort Atkinson's Company B, under the command of Capt. Langholff. Junior officers were 1st Lt. D.D. Hill and 2nd Lt. Louis B. Reich.

Following training at Camp Douglas and Camp MacArthur near Waco, Texas, Company B — and a score of other local boys who were members of other units — departed for Europe to fight the war to end all wars.

Jefferson County's first fatality occurred in the middle of the cold, cruel Atlantic Ocean. The troop ship S.S. Tuscania was torpedoed on Feb. 5, 1918, and George A. Reinhardt, Jefferson, was among the 225 soldiers and sailors who died. Among those saved from the icy Atlantic was Leslie A. Roessler, Fort Atkinson.

Company B and the remainder of the 32nd distinguished themselves on five European fronts and in three major offensives. Local troops were in the thick of battle when the first American troops crossed into Germany; Fismes was captured in the Aisne-Marne offensive; as the only American unit in the 10th French Army in the Oise-Aisne offensive, and U.S. units twice went into the line in the Argonne-Meuse offensive.

Mess time at Camp Douglas in 1908.

Fort Atkinson residents fought the war on the home front, too, not just in the fields, cities and trenches of Europe. Anti-German hysteria accounted for many changes in everyday life. Germany Street was renamed Sherman Avenue, the teaching of German was prohibited in the schools, and the Jefferson County Union ceased publication of its German-language edition.

Charles B. Rogers was a name that came up often in the Fort Atkinson war effort. He headed up the Committee on Patriotic Organizations for Jefferson County which oversaw the draft process, handled a Speakers Bureau whose main job was to push Liberty Bonds and kept an eye on fuel and food conservation.

Rogers was also in charge of the Four-Minute Men. These patriots filled in with patriotic speeches while the reels were being changed at local movie houses. In one effort, they collected 30 pairs of binoculars for an American Navy which was desperately in need.

Other home-front efforts included a Home Guard, which drilled and trained to fill in for the boys who were overseas, and the Womens Committee, led by Carrie Smith, which was in charge of food and Liberty Loan drives, patriotic speakers and Americanization campaigns.

Although everything and anything German was open to criticism and attack, Rogers tried to temper enthusiasm with common sense and compassion. He told his Four-Minute Men to "damn the Kaiser all you please, but leave the German people alone."

Despite these efforts, a Court of Loyalty, under the authority of the Fort Atkinson Council of Defense, gave birth to loyalty campaigns. The group was charged with cooperating with the federal government with the receiving and investigating all failures to register for the draft, violation of government orders and other real or imagined anti-war incidents. The Court of Loyalty covered the city of Fort Atkinson and the towns of Oakland, Sumner, Hebron and Koshkonong.

By and large, the population cooperated in the loyalty effort "so that the snake of disloyalty may be scotched wherever it raises its ugly head, that sedition may be punished and that every obstacle may be removed that in any way impedes the successful prosecution of the war."

One poor soul caught in the net of the Court of Loyalty was Farmington resident Edward Biederman. He was charged with having "feloniously obstructed recruiting." His heinous crime was to question the Army's method of troop movement by asking, "What do they mean by putting those boys in cars like cattle and shipping them off? Those boys ought to stick together and show them."

The terrible emotional effect of World War I can be seen in the split of a Fort Atkinson father and son. Carl Leschinsky was president of the German Military Association. He and his son, Sam, disagreed over the latter's wish to enlist and came to blows on Main Street. Sam enlisted anyway and went on to become an American military hero by capturing a German machine gun nest in 1918.

World War I ended on Nov. 11, 1918. The boys from over there came home, and three brought honors with them. Capt. Arthur R. Langholff, a member of Company A, 128th Infantry, won his Purple Heart on Oct. 14, 1916, and Pvt. Paul W. Cornish was awarded his for action on Oct. 4, 1918 with the 5th Regiment, 2nd Division, USMC. 2nd Lt. Louis B. Reich, Headquarters Company, 128th Infantry, was honored with the Distinguished Service Cross.

However, 10 of Fort Atkinson's finest didn't come home. Numbered among the World War I dead were: Edwin Frohmader, Oct. 19, 1918, at a base hospital in France; Edwin Baldwin, Oct. 9, 1918, Great Lakes, Ill.; Warren Longley, March 18, 1918, Camp Merritt, N.J.; Walter Richards, Oct. 26, 1918, Fort McIntosh, Texas; George Sauer, Dec. 14, 1918, someplace in Germany; Henry Heese, Sept. 28, 1918, Great Lakes, Ill.; Wilbur Converse, Nov. 7, 1918, Jacksonville, La.; Paul Frank Florine, June 19, 1918, France; Guy Black, Sept. 14, 1918, Fismes, France; Fred Stear, Oct. 31, 1918, England.

Sending off Fort Atkinson's boys to World War I.

World War II

The peace that followed World War I was short lived. In 1920, the Fort Atkinson unit was redesignated as Troop E, 1st Cavalry, Wisconsin National Guard. A short time later, it became Troop E, 105th Cavalry. Capt. George P. Lohmaier was in charge, along with C.F. Snover, Frank Geldard, Harry O. Mueller, William G. Lohmaier and Leo W. Puerner. On Sept. 23, 1940, the unit was called into federal service as Company E, 107th Quartermaster Regiment.

In the early morning hours of Dec. 7, 1941, the United States was plunged into its second worldwide conflict of the 20th century when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

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Rogers headed up home front efforts

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At the time of the great troop mobilization, the 32nd Infantry Division was one of the first combat units called into federal service. In April 1942, most of the unit was shipped to the Pacific Theater, where it docked at Port Adelaide, Australia.

Included in the 32nd Division callup were Jefferson County's two National Guard units, Company L, 127th Infantry of Jefferson and Company E, 107th Quartermaster Regiment, which were merged into the 732nd Ordinance (light maintenance) Company from Fort Atkinson.

With Fort Atkinson boys in the ranks, the 32nd Division — from September 1942 to August 1945 — took part in four major campaigns: Papuan, New Guinea, Southern Philippines and Luzon. The unit distinguished itself as being the first U.S. division to be airborne trained and to fight against the Japanese in the southwest Pacific.

All told, the 32nd spent 654 days in combat, more than any other U.S. infantry division in any war in which America has been involved.

When World War II ended, members of the 32nd became part of the occupying army which landed in Japan. Finally, a conclusion was brought to another period of military history for Fort Atkinson and Jefferson County when the Red Arrow Division was formally inactivated on Feb. 28, 1946, at ceremonies in Kyoto, Japan.

As a unit, the Fort Atkinson area supplied 524 officers and men to the war effort. However, many, many more served their country — including hundreds of women who served overseas and on the home front — in units of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard.

Fort Atkinson, just like in World War I, rose to the occasion during World War II. The Jefferson County Union reported that "from the moment when the ugly cloud of aggression first appeared on the horizon of our lives . . . the community has thrown its might unreservedly into the prosecution of the war. Whatever we are, whatever we have, has been and is being given without question. Nothing — neither lives, nor money, nor blood, nor work has been withheld."

Smokestacks of Fort Atkinson's industrial community worked overtime turning out everything from milk tablets and butter to hand grenades and bomb fins; from airplane parts to Nissen huts; from bacon to stockings and raincoats. While the boys were fighting in the Pacific and European theaters, the home folks were supporting them at Creamery Package, James Manufacturing Co., Moe Brothers, Cownie, Jones, Bettersox, Constant, Hoard's Creameries and others.

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Fort Atkinson's George McKeand led show troop on the S.S. George Washington ship.

World War I's 'awkward squad' on the S.S. George Washington, led by George McKeand.

Fort answers war call again

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During 1944, 1,986 citizens were employed directly or indirectly in the war effort. In one year, they turned out $15 million "worth of the tools of war our armed forces needed to bring the Nazis to their knees."

Folks on the home front gave in other ways too. Practically all local industry flew the Minute Man flag indicating that 90 percent or more of the employees had signed a plege to devote at least 10 percent of their gross income to the purchase of war bonds.

Fort Atkinson was quick to realize the value of blood plasma in the treatment of war wounds. Enthusiastic cooperation was given to the American Red Cross blood donor program, and a total of 2,500 pints was donated during seven local drives.

The Jefferson County Union also heaped praise on a "comparatively small, but very had working group of ladies" who toiled faithfully for five years at the Red Cross rooms in the Hoard apartments. A total of 1,355 ladies devoted 116,280 hours to a "labor of love and mercy" turning out 243,400 surgical dressings, 1,425 knitted articles, 4,407 sewed garments, 695 filled kits for embarking servicemen and 1,117 unfilled kits.

Finally, the Union praised the Home town folks, "a spontaneous and voluntary organization composed of everyone in the community. Through this group, every local seviceman and woman was reached with greeting cards on birthdays and holidays — "no serviceman or woman had a chance to forget Fort Atkinson."

The Union closed with a promise from the folks back home that "we pledge there will be no relaxing in your hometown until those misguided monkeys of the Orient are beaten to their knees, and you can come home victorious — come home to stay."

Korea, Vietnam

As we well know, neither World War I nor World War II were the wars to end all wars. Fort Atkinson boys were to fight and die again on foreign soil.

Less than five years after the fall of Germany and Japan, 100,000 Wisconsin residents joined United Nations troops, from 1950-53, to battle communism in Korea. Of this total, 723 were killed and 1,936 were wounded.

Three Fort Atkinson boys — Robert Luebke, Douglas Maas and Irving Schuett — gave their lives in the effort.

The peace of the late 1950s and early 1960s was shattered in 1961. Nikita Krushchev tried to "free" West Berlin, Germany and President John F. Kennedy called his bluff.

In July, Kennedy asked Congress for permission to call up troops, and in August the infamous Berlin Wall was constructed. By October, the situation had heated considerably, and 120,000 Reservists, including two National Guard divisions, were called to the colors again.

As might be expected, the glory of the 32nd Division was in the call. Four Jefferson County units were once again in the forefront: Company C, 3rd Battle Group, 127th Infantry from Watertown; Company E, 3rd Battle Group, 127th Infantry from Jefferson; Headquarters Company, 2nd Battle Group, 128th Infantry from Whitewater, and Company C, 2nd Battle Group, 128th Infantry from Fort Atkinson and under the command of Capt. Robert W. Lueder.

The local units were activated in October 1961 and sent to Fort Lewis, Wash. where they spent one year. Kennedy's bluff worked, and the units returned to Jefferson County in August 1962.

Finally, the long history of death and destruction in Southeast Asia drew in the United States again in 1964. When the French were driven from Indo-China, the United States found itself deeply involved in a faraway country called Vietnam.

American involvement increased throughout the 1960s and into the 1970s until an uneasy peace brought an end to the country's most unpopular war.

Once again, Fort Atkinson families wept for their boys who fought and died for their country. Capt. George F. Daily, killed on May 12, 1966, was the first of six local casualties.

Victory parade route May 17, 1919.

Fort Atkinson honor roll May 17, 1919.

Children marched as a flag in World War I victory parade.

Before hostilities ended in 1973, five other local boys were killed in fighting in Vietnam: L/Cpl. Terrance Beck, Dec. 20, 1967; L/Cpl. Charles F. Huff, June 3, 1968; Pfc. Gary W. Smith, Feb. 24, 1969; Sgt. Larry A. Smith, April 16, 1969, and Capt. Andrew Kirchmayer, Nov. 18, 1969.

From the Revolutionary War to the conflict in Vietnam, the history of Fort Atkinson has been intertwined with the military. Many of our streets and organizations bear the names of our heroes; many of our industries grew up and gained strength in war-related efforts, and the very name of our city is deeply rooted in the military.

When the people of Fort Atkinson join together in 1986 to remember their history and roots, it cannot be done without remembering names of boys and girls who went off to places with names they couldn't pronounce in lands they had only heard about to fight for the folks and the way of life back home.

Farm Progress Days here

Fort Atkinson played host to Wisconsin Farm Progress Days in the fall of 1956. The statwide agriculture show took place at the farms of the Ward Brothers and Craig Beane west of Fort Atkinson.

(Editor's Note: Koshkonong Mounds has been a vacation spot since 1898. The first building was constructed as a summer home by Whitcomb and Hudson in 1879 and sold to Walter, Clarence and Ferdinand W. Peck. Arthur Hoard bought it and converted it into a hotel in 1898, operating it until his death in 1942. It became Koshkonong Mounds resort two years later.)

Heiden recalls horror of war

We had guns and drums
and drums and guns
The enemy nearly slew ya,
Oh my darling dear, you look so queer,
Johnny, I hardly knew ya.

—Traditional folk song.

By Doug Welch

Just like every small town, Fort Atkinson's history was shaped by outside forces.

Probably the single-largest outside force that touched nearly every community, large and small, was World War II. Nazi Germany's quest for global domination, followed by the Japanese Imperialist movements in the South Pacific, forced the world into a war-filled nightmare the proportions of which had never been experienced.

One of the first persons in Fort Atkinson to be rudely awakened by the war's hellish bad dream was Bruce Heiden. Heiden, who resides at 303 Memorial Drive with his wife, Lucille, was among the first group of area men to be drafted into the service April 16, 1941.

He was also the first Fort Atkinson man to be wounded in action during the war when he sustained a bullet wound in the shoulder on Nov. 21, 1942.

As bad as the five-year dream was for Heiden and those with whom he served, the attitude of the country at the time he was drafted into the service was dutiful.

A picture that appeared in the Jefferson Banner in mid-April of that year depicted 14 smiling inductees ready to board a bus for their final examination in Milwaukee. Heiden was one; with him were Gerald Muir, Gerald Endl, Orville Stelse, Hubert Schneider, Lester Daugs, Elmer Merriman, Myron Knutson, Art Krantz, Henry Tiffany, all of Fort Atkinson; Edvald Torgerson and Ray Zahn, both of Jefferson; Lawrence Thayer, Palmyra; George Brom, Helenville. Endl, who was killed in action, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously.

"War hadn't broke out yet," Heiden recalled. "It wouldn't for a year. I was drafted into the army for a year, but it got to be five years by the time we got out. But everyone figured it was good. It was good training and it still is good training — except the war parts aren't the best."

Heiden received most of his training with the 128th Company of the 32nd Infantry Division at boot camp in Camp Livingston, La. The division trained for several months, including maneuvers in Louisiana and North Carolina.

From there, Heiden's division was transfered to Fort Devins, Mass., and was scheduled to leave for Europe. However, in April 1942, the division's orders were changed.

"Our engineers went to Europe but we were transported by train to San Francisco to Fort Ord," Heiden said. "We filled our companies there and sailed for Australia."

Heiden's division was on its way to fight the Japanese in the South Pacific, where the Army of the Rising Sun appeared to be unstoppable since Pearl Harbor.

The Japanese had routed the Americans in the Philippines, the Dutch in the East Indies and the British in Burma, Malaya, Singapore and Hong Kong. With those successes in hand, the Japanese made a number of moves to threaten the homeland of a fourth foe, the Australians.

"We were scheduled to land in Brisbane (located on the coast of Australia, approximately in the middle of the continent) but the Coral Sea battle was going on and it made us take a detour and land at Adelaide (located on the south coast of the continent)," Heiden recalled.

North of Australia lay a host of islands regarded by the Australians as a buffer against aggressors. The nearest, New Guinea is the largest island in the world next to Greenland.

New Guinea is 310,000 square miles of mostly jungle and swamp and ribbed with rugged mountain ranges.

However, early in 1942, the Japanese, meeting little resistance, landed on New Guinea and began a push toward Port Moresby on the island's south coast, where they would have a base to attack Australia.

Bruce Heiden displays purple heart.

"Six weeks after we landed we headed up to Brisbane and were waiting to go to New Guinea," Heiden said.

Where are the legs with which you run
when first you went to carry a gun?
Indeed, your dancing days are done,
Johnny, I hardly knew ya.

The allied forces took a stand near the Imuta Ridge north of Port Moresby in October. At that time, General Douglas MacArthur called upon all available forces to move from the Australian mainland to New Guinea. The 32nd Division was to attack at Buna, a city on the north coast of New Guinea, approximately 200 miles north of Port Moresby.

"We flew to Buna and started combat the first part of November," Heiden said. "The Japanese were coming down that way."

On Nov. 19, in a drenching rain, two battalions of the 128th Infantry launched an attack on Japanese positions at Camp Endaiadere, east of Buna. But the Americans were met with heavy fire from Japanese bunkers and sustained many casualties.

Two days later, division headquarters ordered an all-out attack along the entire Buna front — even though additional artillery and mortars had not yet arrived and the Americans were ill-equipped to deal with the bunkers.

Air strikes intended to open the enemy positions proved disastrous as bombs fell on advancing troops, killing 10 American soldiers and wounding 14.

"We were supposed to get air support for protection at 11 a.m.," Heiden recalled, "11 o'clock got by, 12 o'clock got by — our planes were doing a lot of bombing at Guadalcanal about that time. It got to be about 2 o'clock and our first lieutenant got itchy hands and said,'Boys, we're not going to wait any longer,' so we started advancing.

"We got probably 100 to 200 yards and here the American planes come and we were right in the area where they bombed," Heiden continued. "As long as one of them didn't hit you, you were all right. They always said if one didn't have your name on it, you didn't have to worry."

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Fort Atkinson Company E before leaving for Louisiana in Octber 1940.

Heiden saw flip side of war

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The American bombs and the heavy Japanese fire pinned down Heiden's unit, and he got hit by a sniper later that day.

"They were real sneaky and good at camouflage," Heiden said of the Japanese soldiers. "We'd spray up into the trees with automatic rifles and they'd drop right out of the trees. The one that got me, we didn't get.

"We were on the move pushing the Japanese back when we got pocketed in because our first platoon, being practically buried by the Japs, we had to fill in for them," Heiden said. "We didn't have enough support and quite a few men got killed.

"When I got hit, I didn't even know I got hit," Heiden recalled. "It was like somebody tapped me on the shoulder. Then pretty soon the fellow next to me said to me 'you're bleeding!' The blood was coming out and right away he told me to wait and the medics came and picked me up and took me on a stretcher to the evacuation tent and I stayed there overnight."

It was probably the longest night Heiden ever spent in his life. Heiden took a bullet in the shoulder that went into his rib cage and exploded in his lung. Not only could the field medics do little except stablize the wound, but the Japanese decided to counterattack.

"In a big tent like that they put us all down on stretchers and the doctor came in and told us not to move," Heiden said, gesturing. "If someone had severe wounds, and mine included, he told us not to move. But that night the Japs came over and bombed within a short distance of the tent and when we heard the bombs come down, we were all gone. There was no one left in the tent."

Even though the campaign was just the beginning of the seemingly endless island fighting with the Japanese, combat was over for Heiden. He was flown to Port Moresby, where he eventually received an operation which included the extraction of one rib. However, the bullet remained lodged in Heiden's body and further operations became impossible because of complications with malaria.

After 10 months in the hospital in Australia — which was highlighted by a week-long visit from his older brother — Heiden returned to the states in August 1943. The bullet was finally removed during an operation at General Hospital in Santa Barbara, where Heiden recovered.

You haven't an arm and you haven't a leg,
you're a mindless, boneless, chickenless egg.
You'll have to be put with a bowl to beg,
Johnny, I hardly knew ya.

While Heiden recuperated, he returned to limited duty working in the hospital and eventually as a military policeman. It was there that Heiden saw a different part of the war that was nearly as frightening, and made more of a lasting impression, than combat.

"You can't help it when you get into combat, especially the tight spots we were in, but to get down on your knees and pray because you don't know which one's got your name on it," Heiden said. "When I worked in the hospital, we had to take patients to places where they could rest. These were fellows who you can't say lost their mind but they just cracked up.

"I think that was the most dreadful thing I saw," he continued. "A fella asked me if I wanted to go to the basket room — he called it a basket room. I said, 'what do you mean basket room?' And I went down there and there was all these fellows with no arms and no legs and it made you realize how lucky you are."

Heiden was lucky enough to be discharged when the war ended in 1945 and return to Fort Atkinson and a job at Thomas Industries. He and his wife, Lucille, raised three children and after 39 years he retired. About six years ago, he lost his left arm to cancer.

Now Heiden looks back on his war experience with mixed emotions.

"I had a lot of good times I guess," he said. "You make your good times. You figure 'I'm here today and tomorrow I may be gone'. But I saw a lot of country that would have cost a lot of money to see. But I wouldn't have wanted to see it under those circumstances."

Simonson named state champion at checkers

In 1926, Fort Atkinson resident Oscar Simonson, at the age of 47, won the Wisconsin state checker championship held in Milwaukee. Simonson beat 60 of the state's best players to become champion.

During exhibitions, Simonson was known to take on as may as 20 players simultaneously. Simonson's greatest fame as a checker champ, came in the 1940s when he was a member of the 20-man United States checker team that easily defeated Great Britain in a match.

Leaving for active duty in World War II.

Sgt. Gerald Endl

Medal awarded Sgt. Endl

By Thomas Beebe

When Uncle Sam has called, Fort Atkinson has been there with its sons and daughters. Hundreds upon hundreds of local residents have crossed the country and the seas to protect America from one threat or another.

Many of Fort Atkinson's boys came home to posthumous honors and burials in area cemeteries. Gerald L. Endl, the city's only Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, was one of those native sons.

Staff Sgt. Endl was a member of one of the most decorated units in American military history, the 32nd (Red Arrow) Division. At age 29, he was killed during World War II on July 11, 1944, at Anamo, New Guinea, in the Pacific theater of war.

Endl was a hero in every sense of the word, trying to save the lives of 12 of his buddies while putting his own in jeopardy. According to accounts, he "deliberately drew enemy fire to himself so other men of his unit could help the wound soldiers. While serving as a decoy, he was fatally wounded."

The memory of Sgt. Endl lives on today. Endl Park and Gerald and Endl streets, in the third Fair Oaks addition on Fort Atkinson's southwest side, remind one and all that soldiering can be an honorable profession, and Staff Sgt. Gerald L. Endl was the ultimate professional.

Jefferson County did have one other Medal of Honor winner, Sgt. Kenneth E. Gruennert, 20, a native of Helenville. He was killed at Buna, New Guinea, on Dec. 24, 1942.

According to the citation, Gruennert, second in command of his platoon, single-handedly attempted to neutralize two pillboxes that were slowing his unit's progress. He succeeded at the first, using hand grenades and rifle fire and killing three enemy soldiers. After bandaging his serious wounds, he advanced on the second pillbox, where he died.

Although not a county resident, Cambridge's Sgt. Truman Olson was also presented the Congressional Medal of Honor for action near Cisterna di Litoria, Italy, Jan. 30-31, 1944.

High society

Victorians joined 'study clubs'

By Christine Blumer

The Victorians living in the late 19th Century were a social lot: the men spent their free time relaxing with the "boys" out at the hunt club; the women turned toward self-improvement and civic mindedness.

One of the oldest and most prominent organizations for the cream of Fort Atkinson's female crop was the Tuesday Club, organized in 1881. It was Mrs. N.F. Hopkins who, with Mrs. J.Q. Emery formed a 16-member "study club."

According to an article in the Milwaukee Free Press July 14, 1912, "The Tuesday Club of Fort Atkinson occupies an unique place among the women's clubs of the state. It was organized in 1881, and in spite of many changes and revolutions in the club movement, it has kept its first ideals and has remained for more than 30 years a study club pure and simple.

"The words 'study club' do not mean that its influence has not extended beyond its own membership. It has always been one of the influential and respected institutions of the community.

Written by Mrs. Joe (Lillian) Schreiner, who did some "stringing" for the Milwaukee newspapers, the article noted that the first 16 members studied "Romola" by George Elliot. The club also was active in protection of landmarks and natural resources, as well as promotion of the library and public schools.

The latter is mentioned by Mrs. Hopkins in reminiscenses quoted in Koshkonong Country Revisited I.

"In taking a backward glance, I wonder that we were not discouraged at our undertaking, for there was no public library and very few reference books to be had; however, one kind friend offered to loan us some choice books from her collection and Milo Jones drew maps for us, which helped us greatly.

"The world did not swarm with study clubs, as at present, and we knew practically little of those which did exist. The systemized club work, as it is today, was a cloud in the distant horizon — no bigger than a man's hand. We were, in reality, a nameless orphan waif, but we were earnest, and we felt no need of a constitution or of officers. However, at the second season, it was thought best to have a program and this necessitated a name. Mrs. Jones, I think it was, suggested that the club be known as the "Afternoon Tea."

In its third season, the organization became Tuesday Club and elected officers. But its purpose remained unchanged.

"We as a club do not propose to sway the masses or lead the multitude, neither do we sign for pages of commendation or ask you to build monuments of worlds or marble in honor of the Tuesday Club, but we do rejoice when spoken thoughts are rich with approval, which is a blessing to all labor," Mrs. Hopkins noted. "Surely they will be wrought in turret and tower by the master architect who directs as we build."

Her typically Victorian language is difficult to understand, but it all boiled down to having a place for the exchange of ideas.

Tuesday Club was one of the earliest such clubs, but many followed its footsteps. The Imperial Club, for example, was begun about 1897, and was the sponsor of an annual gala ball at the city hall.

In January 1899, the club's third annual ball featured Eastern Star society women dispensing "refreshing punch," according to newspaper accounts. And "one of the pleasant features of the evening was a very pretty waltz, played by the orchestra, entitled the 'Imperial Waltz,' composed and dedicated to the Imperial Club by Walter Crawford. It was very heartily encored."

The article continued by listing what women attended and a description of their gowns.

Several study clubs were born after the turn of the century.

The Ingleside Club, formed in 1909, was named at the suggestion of Mrs. Herbert Main, who said in reminiscenses published in Koshkonong Country Revisited II that the idea sprung up at a Daughters of American Revolution meeting the previous year.

She said she suggested to "Mrs. Sara Coe Telfer that we and a few other young married women start a study club of our own. Several of our friends had been married that year and were starting new homes and firesides. The organization meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Jessie Beach Olson. The club was named Ingleside, which means fireside."

The club, which had 10 charter members, charged 25 cents annual dues, which rose to 50 cents in 1911 when it joined the state federation. In addition to cultural programs promoting the home and homemaker, the club was active in civic work.

The Coterie Club was organized with 12 members Nov. 2, 1908, at the home of Mrs. C.L. Goodrich. The name was derived from the Latin "coteria," which means a set or circle of friends who associate and meet together for social and friendly exchanges.

Mrs. William Rogers chose the motto for the Tuesday club, which the first year studied U.S. history and readings: "The brightest and best that knowledge holds, is the pure gold sought by the Coterie."

Dues were at 50 cents by 1910 and the bylaws were adopted in February 1911. The club donated to many community programs, including Forrest Law Sanitarium, beautification of the riverbank, the Red Cross, Christmas baskets for the needy and adoption of a French war orphan after World War I.

In 1905, 17 women met to form a study group at the urging of Mrs. Charles Pearce and Miss Blance Hager. The literary club first was called Scissors and Paste Club, and later, the Badger Study Club.

The group met Mondays but then changed it to Tuesday, the day other study clubs met. Its first topic was the State of Wisconsin; others ranged from history and geography to drama and biography.

The Badger Study Club met at various intervals during the Great War, but it did a great deal of Red Cross work, Christmas baskets and outfitted a worthy girl at her high school graduation.

Fort Atkinson women might have been reading on Tuesdays, but they were singing by Thursday. The Music Study Club was founded in 1911 by a Mrs. Swits, and offered musical programs each meeting.

"In this way, the Music Study Club gave to its members an opportunity to enjoy good music, study composers and in many ways giving a fuller understanding and appreciation of this great art," wrote Fort Atkinson author Crawford Thayer.

The club spread its talents throughout the community, and offered many public programs. Among the local artists in the Music Club-sponsored programs was Wesley Sontag, a virtuoso violinist who went on to teach at the Julliard School of Music. It also held a Music Memory Contest in the schools.

A Janesville Gazette article published apparently in the early 1950s reported that the Tuesday, Ingleside, Coterie, Badger and Music Study clubs had all banded into a city federation in order to work jointly for community betterment.

Crazy Eight Club in 1895 included Belle McMillen, Venice Westerfield, Lyllian Haumerson, Mae McMillen, Hattie Chapman, Agnes Foote (Hoard) and Amy Mason of Antigo.

Imperial Club minstrel show in 1899.

Congregational Church Gleaners' 'Trip Around the World' in 1900.

Lucien Caswell founded first Fort bank

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loans are made without a monthly or semi-annual required payment on the principal," said Hedberg.

"And in the golden days, banks didn't make loans on cars. I could never understand why local banks should permit finance companies to secure all loans on automobiles, especially when the credit rating of the local buyer was excellent. I decided that we would make a few such loans to determine how they would work out. When the elderly chief bank examiner paid his next visit to the bank, he severely criticized the new policy, saying 'Hedberg, don't you know that when a man buys a car, he should have the cash to pay for it?'"

Hedberg continued, "On one occasion, an elderly couple came to the bank with a shoebox underarm. They told me they had some money which they wished to deposit in the bank. When the money was counted, there was more than $10,000 in the box. The couple, apparently up to now, were fearful of the safety of banks and they admitted that they never left their home without taking the shoebox with them."

Fort Atkinson Savings Bank, incorporated in 1909 by a group of citizens, was later renamed the Bank of Fort Atkinson. It was located first on South Main Street.

The old 106 S. Main Street building cost just $2,400 to build in 1909. Inside the impressive building were tellers working behind a "bandit barrier", a 9-foot-high wall consisting of steel and bullet-proof glass. The barrier, according to early records, was not replaced with a chest-high counter until 40 years later in the 1960s.

It moved to a new building at the corner of Washington Street and Sherman Avenue in May of 1964.

Rounding out Fort Atkinson's financial services are the Hopkins Savings and Loan branch, which came to Fort Atkinson in September of 1982; First Federal Savings & Loan, which arrived in October 1981, and the Fort Community Credit Union.

The Fort Community Credit Union is an outgrowth of the Thomas Industries Credit Union, started in 1942 by employees of Moe Bros.

Hunters flocked to Black Hawk Club

By Christine Blumer

"In truth, Wisconsin hunting is not as it used to be."

That's what Walter Frautschi wrote in the June 1945 Wisconsin Magazine of History, claiming that things had changed a lot in the 70 years since the Black Hawk Hunting Club opened its doors to area sportsmen.

It was in 1875 that a group of wealthy men formed the club at Blackhawk Island on Lake Koshkonong. The club was formally incorporated three years later and attracted members whose names were not only known locally, but state and nationwide as well.

The original members hailed from Whitewater, Fort Atkinson, Milwaukee, Beloit and nearby communities; there were only a few Chicagoans. But when word got out that Lake Koshkonong was shallow, had wild celery and was large enough to attract flocks of the canvassback, the king of game birds, hunters from as far away as Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York joined up.

"At one time, Lake Koshkonong had the reputation of being the best canvassback lake in the country and was said to have the greatest concentration of deep water ducks of any body of water on their line of migration," Frautschi wrote. "It is not surprising then that many of the great and near-great of the day coveted an invitation to be guests at this famous club."

An anonymous guest described the club in 1877: "Here we were, two miles from any house and the steward not expecting any company, but did we fare poorly? Judge for yourself: broiled prairie chicken and toast, baked potatoes, hot rolls, coffee and plenty of milk. Marckres, the steward, apologized for the 'meagre' fare, and said had he known of our coming he would have killed some woodcock for us. After breakfast, we took a sail across the lake, and then saw what makes it such a famous resort for canvassback ducks."

According to the writer, Marckres told him that until 1876, hunters using sneakboats to pursue the birds would bag 100 at a time. That drove them away, and was prohibited by law during 1875-76. Blinds and decoys were allowed since then, and, he said, he had seen scores from 40 to 75 canvassbacks shot by hunting parties per day.

"He told me of bagging hundreds of snipe, prairie chickens, quail and ruffled grouse, and during the afternoons of two days catching 64 black bass that averaged three pounds each; and then again 28 bass he and Valentine caught one morning before breakfast, in the river almost in front of the house."

The membership roster had some famous names on it: Pabst, Case, Spooner, Plankington, Peck. Gen. Phil Sheridan frequented the Black Hawk Club, particularly in 1874 and later.

Wrote Frautschi in 1945, "The tradition at the hunting clubs was that the general matched his ardent love for hunting with a marksmanship commensurate with his status as a military man, but Ira Bingham, Koshkonong hunter, is quoted as saying, 'I have sculled the general many times up to a flock of canvassbacks and I also shot from the blind with him. He was a greater general, apparently, than a marksman.' "

Bringing humor to the Black Hawk Club was George Peck, Wisconsin governor from 1891-95 and author of "Peck's Bad Boy." The register for Nov. 1, 1888, noted that George W. Peck, while chewing tobacco, fell down the steps, swallowed his quid and falling face down into the mud.

When it was discovered at the annual meeting in 1894 that Peck owed $40 dues — a situation in which members usually were suspended — the directors adopted a resolution saying that all current and past governors are honorary members and have all privileges except the right to vote.

According to Frautschi, the original Koshkonong flatboat or float was shaped like a pumpkin seed. The hunter lay in a long pit projecting below the bottom and under the waterline; the rest of the boat was wings.

Hooky, Spud, Bus and Loony Fritz caught 275 pounds of fish.

"With decoys placed on the boat and just beyond its periphery, the setup was ideal for slaughtering ducks. Fortunately, our laws, which provide that hunters keep back of the reed line, today prevent the use of such engines of destruction," wrote Frautschi.

Also used then but now illegal are scull or sneak boats, but it was the monitor, named after the famous Civil War vessel, which made Koshkonong famous, said Frautschi. It was a modified flatboat in which the rower sat in a cockpit and was able to elevate a canvas extension in case of a high sea or cutting wind.

"Ira Bingham was the first designer, during his market hunting days, of the monitor," according to Frautschi. "But Duane Starin, a Fort Atkinson village blacksmith and a man whose activities were only slightly handicapped by having no legs, brought it to its highest perfection."

The Black Hawk Club president, G.E. Esterly of Whitewater, and E.D. Coe, publisher of the Whitewater Register, pushed for state law abolishing the use of "any float, sneak boat, sail or steamboat or floating box for hunting." W.Y. Wentworth, steward of the club from 1879-1905, also was game warden and took his responsibilities seriously.

"Dean Swift confessed that in those days the commercial men had a signal arranged to let them know when a warden was approaching," stated Frautschi. "With strong field glasses, they watched the flagpole of the Taylor Hotel Lake House for notice that an investigator was near. But we may be sure than Wentworth was aware of such dodges.

"Here we have the strange but commendable situation of a group of men, whose fraternity was motivated by a love of hunting, actually leading in the sponsorship of restrictive regulations which would tend to make the securing of game more difficult, and at the same time employing the services of a gentleman whose additional responsibility it was to enforce such laws," noted Frautschi.

The objectives of the club were to "properly protect game and fish, to enforce the laws concerning them, to foster public opinion in all that relates to the better protection of game, to elevate the moral standard of true sportsmanship and to encourage physical training and recreation of members."

Frautschi noted, "Not all members acquiesced in these principles at all times, but generally they were followed strictly."

A day's hunt bagged 65 ducks for Black Hawk Hunt Club shooters W.R. Ivey, Thad Chase, Frank Scribner and Bill Westerfield.

Bachelor Club joking around in 1891.

'Spinsters' had single cause

By Christine Blumer

"Spinster/'spin-ster/n: an unmarried woman past the common age for marrying — spin-ster-hood/n.

Such is Merriam-Webster's definition of the single woman, a word which today, more often than not, is considered very offensive.

But the "old maids" of yesteryear apparently weren't as sensitive to such terminology, for Fort Atkinson's unmarried women "of age" formed their own Spinsters Society.

The March 28, 1884, issue of the Jefferson County Union reported on the formation of the Spinsters Society — the secretary was a Miss Ketchum — that met weekly, apparently to contemplate on what they considered the idealic life of matrimony.

"Now comes along a society which has long been wished for," the newspaper wrote. "It has been seen that the precious hours of leap year were being frittered away in idle talk, and nothing was accomplished. In order to make the most of the time yet remaining, a notice was privately circulated inviting all ladies of an uncertain age to meet to organize a society, the object of which should be to further the interests of the old maids of our city."

The article stated that the hall was filled with women age "sweet sixteen" and "to any other age you dare speak of above your breath. The chief ones meant business and were not to be driven from their purpose by the sight of the crowd."

The single women outlined five resolutions:

—"That first, last and all the time, we are wishing to emigrate to the State of Matrimony;

—"That it is not only our duty but our privilege to employ all the artifices of which we are capable to induce the men to bow at our feet;

—"That leap year was ordained by the creator for our special benefit, and that we ought to be diligent in the use of time;

—"That we prey without ceasing;

—"That in view of our great necessities, the state Legislature should devise some method in the way of bounties, etc., that would bring the 'lords of creation' to their right senses."

There apparently was a lot of discussion about the last resolution; some women believed that the 'lords' would be after them just for the bounty.

"But when the vote was taken, it showed that men we want and men we will have, if by any means they are to be obtained," the article added.

Perhaps they should have joined forces with the Fort Atkinson Bachelors' Club, which, judging from an old yellowed photograph consisted of many a fun-loving "gay bachelor": their shoes are off, feet up, pipes in hand and they're having some back-slapping good times.

Theater opened in 1850s

By Christine Blumer
and Tracy Gentz

The curtain rose on Fort Atkinson theater in the early 1850s, when Krebs Hall, a long white frame building, was built for dances, concerts, talent shows and the occassional traveling road shows.

It was behind what was known as the "three-cent corner," named after the only saloon that sold beer for three cents, until the 1940s, and in its final years was a second-hand store and cobbling shop.

According to information compiled by the late Zida Ivey when she was curator of the Hoard Historical Museum, a group of people in 1884 formed a stock company and built a brick building for entertainment, which today is still in use as Arcadia Lanes.

The structure originally had a belltower which housed the community fire bell; the fire engine was in a room behind the dressing rooms in the basement below the stage.

"Not infrequently during a show the fire bell suddenly clanged out startling the audience and actors with its sudden alarm," wrote Ivey. "This was very effective during a death scene or as the romantic lead and his lady love came to a tense love scene. The actors forgot their lines and members of the audience found it necessary to run out and learn whether the fire was 'at our house' or place of business."

The audience sat on hard kitchen-type chairs that squeaked whenever they shifted or fidgeted. Footlights were hung on the floor and when not in use — and sometimes when in use — folded down out of sight.

Theater props were different than they are today. A storm at sea, for example, was produced by prop boys who held the edges of a large gray cloth of stage size or larger and shook it. A memorable snowstorm was produced, Ivey noted, "by sifting chopped paper through a large perforated tube extending across the top of the stage; for some reason the snow became clogged in the tube and was suddenly dumped out both ends

(Continued on page 83)

Woman sought husband in early 'personals'

(Editor's Note: The following was printed in the June 5, 1903, issue of the Jefferson County Union.

(It stated that, "We have received the following letter from an unknown correspondent enclosing $1. Letters addressed to "m z x t" in care of this office will be held confidentially until sent for by the party writing the letter. As there was no request to fix up grammar or spelling we have printed it just as it came. One dollar is hardly enough for so long an advertisement, but on account of its unique character we will strain a point and insert it all.")

"Too correspnde with a goode man not over fourty years Who is abel to support a healthy widow of the same age or perhaps less with fore children, 2, 4, 6 and nine years.

man must be willing to sign the following marks of a goode husbande.

1. To Git up at 5 o'clock without bein called if he begins work at 7 if not to hours before he has to go to work.

to Get a pale of fresh wall water and pump to pales of sisturn water each morning without askin.

3. In Winter take care of cold stove without havin to keep it on my mind to reminde him.

fore If not to work to keep out from the house exsept sick no obgection to his fishing if he can catch any sunday afternoons to go with me to the semitary.

fiv Must pervide matereal fore 1 cake and sevan pies each week my childrin like both.

6 Goode beefe to frie on tuesday and saturday nuff for 6 to much pork make my childrin sick a plenty of other foode.

Clothes for us that will mak us dessent and you to hang up your overhawlls in the barn You to tak a bath as often as i do up to 2 times a week if necessary.

Must scrap your feet i hav enuff to make the childrun cleane theyres

you must acte pleased when i put arm around you and not mak fun of it. that dont go with me.

not to speke of departed wifes not me of departed husbandes ecsept at semitary while the other is rounde my childrun not to peddul but go to schule and you to have descent work.

For these few marks which will binde on me as well as on you i agrree to luv you like a goode wife i concent to marry you. If i dont concent no harm done is there send pikshure and make it your own address.

Mister editor, i inclothes 1 dollar for this but if i dont neede it so long i expect back what is fare make it as long as your can for the money.

i dont have to tell how much money ive got and i dont have to have no man just to support my childrun they can soon support themselfess.

i want a man nt no meere ornamente if there haint any them ime satisfide.

keep my name secret as i might not git the man i want."

Fire bell interrupted love scenes

(Continued from page 82)

in great snow balls.

"To add to the grotesqueness of the scene," Ivey continued, "the tube itself dropped down and showed its full length and where the snow came from was no longer a mystery."

The drop curtain depicted a romantic scene in the middle with advertisements surrounding it. The scenery was typical of the era, with a lake in the background and urns and trailing vines scattered hither and yon over a stone wall.

Road shows stopping in Fort Atkinson would perform at the Opera House. They cost 10, 20 and 30 cents; for a few extra pennies, one could reserve a seat by ordering it at the Drug Store. The troupes usually stayed a week, offering a different play nightly with a Saturday matinee.

According to Ivey, the Opera House rented for $10 per night, and a six-piece orchestra would play before the show began for $12, if the troupe had none. Several days before the troupe's arrival, teen-age boys would drop handbills off at houses and in turn receive free tickets.

"In the 1890s and 1900s, a better class of plays was brought to the small city when companies were on tour," according to Ivey. "Between times, hypnotists and trained animals found their way to the local stage. Before the child labor laws gave protection to children, youngsters would appear in song-and-dance acts and took part in the plays. The Indian medicine shows also had their day, peddling their elixers and spell-binding talks mixed with cheap vaudeville. Strangely, standing room at these fake performances was at a premium."

The business eventually became the Lyric Theater, and by 1912 was purchased by W.G. Lloyd of Chicago, who began showing silent movies. John Bellman was appointed manager, helped by brothers Frank, who did the orchestration, and Otto, the projectionist. John's wife, Katherine, was cashier for the business, which featured a movie theater upstairs and bowling alley downstairs.

High School Glee Club girls present 'Julius Caesar' in 1916.

"Our stage was beautiful," wrote Katherine Bellman. "Our props consisted of wood scenes, a parlor scene and some outdoor scenes. All the merchants would give us a chair or table and other pieces of furniture. Every year, the high school would have a class play," which was held there until the Municipal Building was completed in 1929.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church presented its annual children's art show at the Lyric, and each fall the Eureka Hook & Ladder Co. would put on two masquerade balls. There'd be a home talent show twice a year, and a roller rink was in business seven nights a week.

The Lyric Theater also was the spot where one took dates to the vaudeville shows, political meetings — Fighting Bob La Follette spoke there — Indian shows and eventually talkies. Cost was 5 and 10 cents on weeknights; 25 cents for weekend vaudeville shows.

"One of the first movies we had was D.W. Griffith's 'Birth of a Nation,' according to Bellman. "It was a big production which came from Milwaukee to our theater, and they had all the kettle drums and the whole sound effects for the film. It was in the winter of 1916, and there was such a crowd of people that we could hardly seat them. Seats were $1.50, and it was 26 below zero and they came from all over."

Bellman recalled that, in addition to the feature, moviegoers would view a slapstick comedy such as Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton or Harold Lloyd.

"As the years went by, we knew that talking pictures were coming so we sold the theater. Changing to talkies would have meant a lot of investment, and we were getting along in years. It was a strenuous life. We sold it to the Herro family, and later it was turned over into the Arcadia Bowling Alley," according to Bellman.

The first true movie house was the Empire Theater, opened in 1907 by Theodore Notbohm and William Hunt in the then-George Niedecker building on North Main Street. George Notbohm, his wife and a Mrs. Towers played the piano while the movies were shown, and Hunt would drive about town in a car with a large sign advertising the night's feature film.

Its opening night featured a filmstrip, "Roosevelt in the Jungles

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The Cricket Players

Silver screen arrived in 1928

Empire Theatre opens at 225 S. Main St. in 1909.

(Continued from page 83)

of Africa." It is reported that the first night's attendance was a man and three boys. That doubled the second night and from then on, the crowds grew rapidly.

Located at 223 S. Main St., the Empire Theater employed a man to explain the movie to the audience; occasionally, the person who sang and played the piano would do the explaining. Illustrated songs were thrown on the screen.

The Empire Moving Picture Theater, as it was called, had on its screen some early silent pictures entitled "Little Lord Fauntleroy," "The Trap" and "The City of Silent Men."

The billboard over the Fort Atkinson theater when it first opened in September of 1928 read "Marion Davies attraction in 'Her Cardboard Lover.' " Its predecessor had been the Crystal theater , built by Fred Langholff in 1920 and sold in 1922.

The building located at 209 S. Main St., now on Milwaukee Avenue, was turned into the Crystal Cafe and then the Ivanhoe Restaurant before becoming Fort theater.

In 1929, Fort theater was wired for "talkies" a major transition in the movie industry. It had another improvement in 1930 when an air conditioner was installed.

Moviegoers at that time could enjoy a movie for 10 cents, much less than today's $5 admission.

The Uptown theater began serving Fort Atkinson residents in November 1937. It had an interesting cooling system: owners I.J. Craite and John Mayles flooded the theater's flat roof with 2 to 3 inches of water during the summer months. This supposedly helped keep the theater cool and protected the roof from the sun's rays.

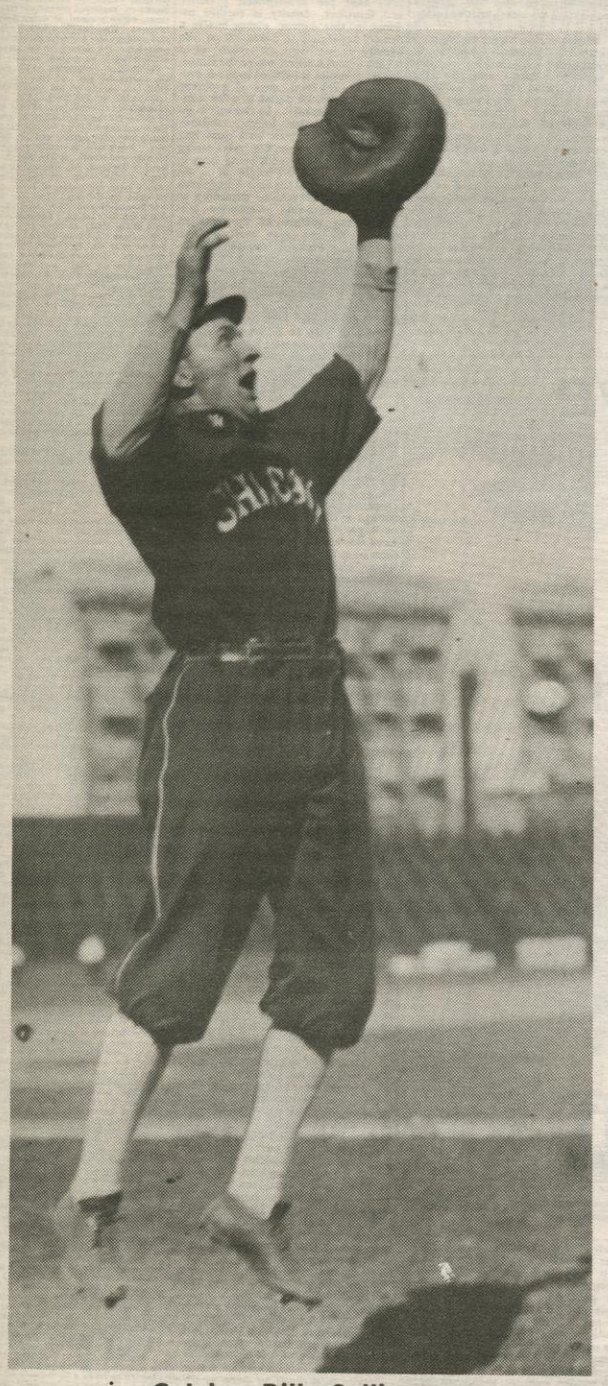
The main floor of the theater seated 392 people, while the balcony held 92, for a 484-person capacity.

An American pasttime was born during the 1950s, when Fort Atkinson opened its first drive-in movie theater, the Highway 18 Outdoor Movie theater.

Budding actresses in a home talent play included Florence Quam, Marie Wandschneider, Lucia Perry, Nelle Colby, Pauline Valerius, Anita Donkle, Doris Goodrich, Marguerite Edwards, Margaret Nelson.

150 Peanuts and Crackerjack

Fort catches 'Sullivan Fever'



Catcher Billy Sullivan.

By Doug Welch

Listed in the seemingly endless entries of the 3,000-page Baseball Encyclopedia is one William (Billy) Joseph Sullivan Sr., born Feb. 1, 1875, in the Town of Oakland, Wis.

Sullivan, born five miles west of Fort Atkinson, is the only athlete to graduate from the area sandlots to the major leagues. He enjoyed a 16-year major league career that began with the Boston Nationals in 1899. Two years later, he was traded to the Chicago White Sox where he played at historic Comiskey Park for 14 years.

In 1906, Sullivan was an intricate part of the White Sox team that defeated the cross-town rival, Chicago Cubs, in the only pure-Chicago World Series.

Sullivan, on June 29, 1954, was enshrined in the Wisconsin Hall of Fame at Milwaukee Milwaukee County Stadium during a game between the Chicago Cubs and Milwaukee Braves. Sullivan's initial nomination was made by the Daily Jefferson.County Union in Fort Atkinson.

Sullivan's career began as a pitcher in a cow pasture in the Town of Oakland. His boyhood was spent on the farm and he received his education at a country school and at Fort Atkinson High School.

During his high school days he played shortstop and Holly Rose did the catching . . . until one day, while playing with the local team in Palmyra, Rose was injured and Sullivan was called to replace him behind the plate. That move launched Sullivan's famed career.

Sullivan played his first organized baseball with the Fort Atkinson prep team and the local city nine. After a brief sojourn in the minors, Sullivan joined the Boston Nationals in 1899 and remained with them through the 1900 season.

With the Nationals he caught, among others, the great "Kid" Nichols, the first Wisconsin-born diamond star enshrined in the Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, NY. Nichols, a Madison native, is sixth on the all-time victories list with 362 and is also a member of the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame.

In 1901, Sullivan signed with the White Sox of the newly-formed American League, and the Sox went on to win the league's first pennant under the direction of manager Clarke Griffith. The Griffith name is still in baseball as the adopted son of Griffith, Calvin, is the former owner of the Minnesota Twins and is now a consultant for the team.

In 1906, the Comiskey aggregation, famed as the "hitless wonders" and led by Fielder Jones, not only copped the American League flag, but went on to upset the powerful Chicago Cubs in six games of that year's World Series.

The famed Irish battery of "Walsh and Sullivan" reached it peak in 1908 when "Big Ed" won 39 games. The Sox lost the pennant that year on the final day of the league scramble when "Wild Bill" Donovan and the Detroit Tigers trimmed them and took first place.

Sullivan managed the team in 1909 and then turned the reins over the Hugh Duffy the following season, preferring to concentrate on running the team from behind home plate. He remained with the team through 1914 although Ray "Cracker" Schalk replaced him in 1912.

Sullivan caught for the American Association champion Minneapolis Millers in 1915 and scouted and coached for the Detroit Tigers in 1916 before ending his baseball career.

The genial Irishman caught about 1,400 games for the Nationals and White Sox before hanging up his spikes. Sullivan was never known for his offensive prowless. He sported a lifetime .212 batting average, hit only 21 homers in 16 years and didn't get a hit in 21 plate appearances during the World Series. He was known more for his glove, having led the American League with the best fielding percentage among catchers three different years.

However, Sullivan's son, William Jr., picked up some of the offensive slack for his dad. Billy Jr. enjoyed a 12-year major league career, catching for the White Sox, Reds, Indians, Browns, Tigers, Dodgers and Pirates. Billy Jr. compiled a .289 lifetime batting average.

Billy Sr. died in 1965 at his home in Newberg, Ore.

Touchdown tradition goes way back

By Doug Welch

While the names Kyle Borland and John Offerdahl have received national attention in recent years, the football tradition at Fort Atkinson high school goes back a long, long time.

Those two superb athletes have led great football teams under the FHS colors, but this is only the most recent of many eras that have brought pride to the Fort Atkinson tradition.

The first record of football at FHS was in the 1891 season, but interest was not greatly generated and it was dropped the following year. The game returned for keeps in 1896, with the first recorded score being a 40-0 win over Palmyra. That apparently garnered interest, and by the turn of century, Fort Atkinson had established a solid tradition.

It was a much less sophisticated game in those early years. The players made their own padding and equipment, including noseguards because face masks were not used until much later. Jones Park was the first and long-time home for the high school games, most of which were played on Saturday afternoons.

Prior to joining the Rock River League in 1924, each school scheduled games with whatever team it could, and a playoff system was developed to declare a state champion, a distinction FHS claimed in 1902.

Helping in the 1902 title drive was Billy Juneau, a star halfback at the University of Wisconsin who came to Fort Atkinson during the week to help with practice sessions. The talented Juneau helped coach the team to wins over a number of area teams and finally a 12-0 win over northern champion Kaukana to take the state title on Thanksgiving Day.

Juneau continued to produce a winner the following year, with the locals again gaining a berth in the state title game against Eau Claire. A controversy developed when Eau Claire refused to make the trip for the title game as was agreed in a coin flip. The season ended with the

(Continued on page 88)

Gridder trophy.

Jefferson County Union.

A REPUBLICAN NEWSPAPER.

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Especially Devoted to Dairy Interests, being the Official Organ of the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association.

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Editor and Publisher.

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Jefferson County Union.

VOLUME VIII. | FORT ATKINSON, WISCONSIN, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1878. | NUMBER 47.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Condensed Telegraphic News.

CURRENT PARAGRAPHS.

A Convention of State Agricultural Societies will be held in Washington, on the third Tuesday in February.

Hon. John B. Kerr, an ex-Member of Congress from Maryland, died at his residence in Washington on the 27th.

Wm. M. Tweed, has made application to the Supreme Court of New York, for his discharge under the provisions of the Poor Debtor's act.

Jacob and J. A. Huntsinger, bankers at Pottsville, Pa., have been sentenced to two years' imprisonment in the County Jail for conspiracy to defraud depositors.

During the first century of its existence, the United States Government paid pensions to its soldiers and their widows and orphans amounting to $425,000,000.

At the State Prohibitory Convention held at Concord, N. H., on the 23d, Asa S. Kendall was nominated for Governor, and strong prohibitory resolutions were adopted.

A Washington telegram of the 24th says the Government would not release the Syndicate from its last subscription of $10,000,000 of 4 per cent. bonds, as previously reported.

The United States Treasury held, on on the 26th, $346,075,050 in Government bonds to secure the National Bank circulation of $320,972,474, and $3,643,000 in bonds to secure public deposits.

A cylinder containing gas for a calcium light in a Baltimore theater exploded, on the 24th, just before the beginning of the matinee performance, and three men, attaches of the theater, were fatally injured.

The Keokuk Packet Company has recently voted to dispense with the sale of liquors on all boats belonging to the line. These bars have heretofore yielded the company a net profit of about $12,000 a year.

The Methodist clergy of Chicago, at a recent meeting, unanimously adopted a resolution, reaffirming their belief in the future endless punishment of the wicked, as distinguished from the theory of the restorationists on the one hand, and from that of the annihilationists on the other.

The Supreme Court of South Carolina has decided that Circuit Judges must be elected by ballot instead of *viva voce*. This decision ousts all Circuit Judges elected prior to 1877 by the Republican Legislature, and retains the two elected last year by the Democrats. Chief-Justice Willard dissented.

A recent New York dispatch says it had transpired that the "Colorado Stone Man," which had been claimed as a petrifaction, was manufactured by the man who constructed the "Cardiff Giant," some years ago, and planted in Colorado, where it was opportunely "discovered" by the fabricator.

A new five-dollar counterfeit note on the Farmers' National Bank of Virginia, Ill., was discovered at the National Bank Redemption Agency, in Washington, on the 24th. The plate is evidently altered from the one from which the five-dollar counterfeit on the Traders' National Bank of Chicago was printed. The charter number on the counterfeit discovered is 1,407, while that on the genuine is 1,471.

In reply to a communication from Mr. Glover, Chairman of the House Committee on Expenditures in the Treasury Department, relative to the proposed investigation into alleged abuses in said Department, President Hayes stated, in writing, on the 21st, that he should be glad to co-operate heartily with the committee in such investigation, and to that end would issue such proper directions to all officers of that or any other Department as might be required to secure prompt and effective assistance in the conduct of the investigation. He further gave assurance to all subordinate officers that the fact of their testifying truly and fully before a committee should not be used to their prejudice.

The following was the vote on the Matthews resolution declaring the right of the Government to pay its bonds in silver, adopted by the Senate, on the 25th. *Ayes*—Allison, Anthony, Bailey, Beck, Booth, Bruce, Cameron (Pa.), Cameron (Wis.), Chaffee, Coke, Conover, Davis (Ill.), Davis (W. Va.), Dennis, Dorsey, Eustis, Ferry, Gordon, Grover, Hereford, Howe, Johnston, Jones (Fla.), Kirkwood, McCreery, McDonald, McMillan, Matthews, Maxey, Merrimon, Morgan, Oglesby, Plumb, Ransom, Saulsbury, Saunders, Spencer, Teller, Thurman, Voorhees, Wallace, Withers—43. *Noes*—Anthony, Barnum, Bayard, Blaine, Burnside, Christiancy, Conkling, Dawes, Eaton, Edmunds, Hamlin, Kernan, Lamar, McPherson, Mitchell, Morrill, Paddock, Randolph, Rollins, Sargent, Wadleigh, Windom—22.

THE TURCO-RUSSIAN WAR.

A Russian official dispatch, published on the 22d, says that Gen. Gourko had fought Suleiman Pasha for three days and finally driven him into the Rhodope Mountains. The Turkish loss was 4,000 killed and 8,000 prisoners.

The Greek Archbishop has been appointed Governor of Adrianople.

It is officially stated that the Russian losses up to Jan. 10 were 82,195.

A telegram from Crete received on the 24th, says the Christians hold all the open country, the Turkish attempts at conciliation having failed.

The London *Post* of the 27th publishes the following as an official version of the preliminary conditions of peace between Russia and Turkey:

1. Autonomy for Bulgaria (boundaries not defined) under a Governor to be appointed according to the stipulations of the Constantinople Conference; the Turkish military forces to be withdrawn to certain localities to be determined upon.
2. The independence of Roumania, with compensation for territory near the mouth of the Danube, which she will make over to Russia.
3. Local autonomy for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and independence of Servia, with territorial rectification. This rectification of the Servian frontier may mean the transfer of Little Zwornik to Servia, but in deference to Austria and other Powers, the question is left open.
4. Aggrandizement for Montenegro on the basis of the *statu quo post bellum*, subject to the approval of the Powers.
5. The cession of Batoum and the payment of indemnity money, territory, or some equivalent to be determined upon.
6. The Sultan to undertake to consider how to protect Russian interests in the passage of the Dardanelles.

On the 26th, the Montenegrins captured, after a violent bombardment, three fortified islands in Lake Scutari.

GENERAL.

Cleopatra's Needle arrived at Gravesend, Eng., on the 21st.

The reported appointment of U. S. Grant, Jr., as Assistant District Attorney in New York City, was denied by the Attorney-General, on the 25d.

The Senate, on the 22d, rejected the nomination of Michael J. Waldron to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Tennessee, *vice* Batou, resigned.

On the 22d, the Iowa Legislature re-elected Hon. Wm. B. Allison United States Senator. In the Senate the vote stood: Allison, 32; D. F. Miller, 12. In the House, Allison received 67 votes, Miller 23 and Gates 3.

The Greek Ministry has been reorganized under the Premiership of M. Coumoundoures, who is supposed to represent the War party.

The Italian squadron has been ordered to the Levant.

Alfonso, King of Spain, and the Princess Mercedes, third daughter of Duke de Montpensier, were married at Madrid, on the 23d. The attendance of representatives of foreign Powers was great. The Pope sent a wedding-ring and a rose of diamonds. The Duke de Montpensier gave his daughter 25,000,000 francs in addition to a great quantity of diamonds and a rich trousseau.

A Bismarck, (D. T.) dispatch of the 23d says a report had been received there that Sitting Bull was encamped on French Creek with 1,000 lodges, including the escaped Nez Perces, and the recent deserters from the agencies, numbering 286 lodges, with 800 warriors. Sitting Bull's own camp contained 2,300 warriors and 5,000 women and children. They were well mounted and armed, and all the principal hostile Chiefs were with them. A southern movement was indicated, and it was believed that an attack upon Fort Keogh was meditated. Gen. Miles had only 500 men to oppose them.

A New Orleans dispatch of the 25th says the application of the members of the Louisiana Returning Board to transfer their cases to the United States Court had been that day refused by Judge Whittaker, who thereupon in the absence of defendants declared their bail forfeited and issued a *capias* for their arrest. Up to midnight they had not been taken into custody, and were supposed to have taken refuge in the Custom-House. Defendants' counsel gave notice of an application for a writ of *habeas corpus*.

Several failures were announced, on the 26th, among the more important of which were those of the Casements Savings Bank, of Union City, Pa., and Chas. A. Easton & Co., one of the largest cotton brokerage houses of New York.

CONGRESS.

MONDAY, Jan. 21.—Bills were introduced and referred in the Senate—to establish a mint for the coinage of gold and silver at Indianapolis, Ind.; authorizing the coinage of a standard silver dollar, and providing that gold and silver jointly and not otherwise shall be a legal-tender; the Matthews Silver resolution was taken up and Messrs. Jones and Cockrell spoke in its favor....Among the bills introduced in the House were the following: Authorizing the coinage of the silver dollar, and declaring gold and silver jointly and not otherwise to be full legal-tender; to incorporate the National Railroad Company for the purpose of constructing a railway from the Atlantic seaboard to Chicago, St. Louis and Council Bluffs; to prevent further reduction or retirement of United States Treasury notes, and to keep them, after resumption, as the paper currency of the country; to suspend for five years the operation of the law requiring the purchase annually of 1 per cent. of the debt of the United States; for a Constitutional amendment providing for the issue of legal-tender notes, and regulating the amount thereof; for the relief of actual settlers on the Sac and Fox Indian lands; for the relief of settlers in the Black Hills. A joint resolution of the Missouri Legislature for the removal of the National Capital was reported back adversely and laid on the table. A motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill authorizing the payment of custom duties in legal-tender notes after Jan. 1, 1879, was defeated—yeas, 154; nays, 96—less than two-thirds in the affirmative.

TUESDAY, Jan. 22.—In the Senate, several petitions were presented and referred. A bill was presented from the Finance Committee to remit taxes on insolvent savings banks. A bill was introduced and referred to repeal that portion of the National Bank act which imposes a tax of 10 per cent. upon the circulation of State banks. The statue of Wm. King, the first Governor of Maine, and which was contributed by that State to the National Statuary Hall, was accepted, and Messrs. Hamlin, Blaine and others made addresses....In the House, the Fortification Appropriation bill was reported and referred. A resolution was adopted instructing the Committee on Banking and Currency to ascertain the amount of gold and silver coin and bullion owned by the United States, the amount of bonds which had been sold by the Secretary of the Treasury for coin, the amount of gold and silver coin, bank notes and legal-tender held by banking institutions, and such other facts as will tend to inform the House when and by what method it will be practicable and consistent with the public welfare to resume specie payment. The Senate joint resolution accepting from the State of Maine a statue of William King was passed.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 23.—A large number of petitions were presented in the Senate. Mr. Blaine introduced a bill providing for the coinage of a silver dollar of so many grains as the Director of the Mint shall from time to time prescribe, to be a legal-tender in common with gold coin up to and including five dollars, and for all sums exceeding five dollars the debtor shall have the right to tender, and the creditor to demand, one-half of the amount in gold coin and one-half in silver coin. The Matthews Silver resolution was further debated, Mr. Cockrell finishing his remarks in its favor, and Mr. Randolph speaking in opposition....In the House, a bill was introduced relieving bank deposits from the Internal Revenue tax. The Senate resolutions in honor of the late Senator Bogy were presented and eulogies were pronounced, after which the resolutions were adopted.

THURSDAY, Jan. 24.—After the transaction of some unimportant business in the Senate, on the 24th, the resolution of Mr Matthews to pay the interest and principal of Government bonds in silver, was again taken up and debated, Mr. Lamar making a lengthy speech in opposition thereto. Mr. Conkling favored and Mr. Thurman opposed an amendment to make the resolution a joint instead of a concurrent one, a joint resolution requiring the sanction of the President as well as both houses of Congress....The bill amending the laws concerning commerce and navigation and the regulation of steam vessels, was considered in the House, and several amendments were disposed of.

FRIDAY, Jan. 25.—In the Senate, Mr. Blaine made an explanation with regard to the Silver bill introduced by him on the 23d, to the effect that he had purposely left the number of grains in the dollar blank, because he had not felt willing to vote for a dollar of 412½ grains. He had been erroneously reported as leaving, in his bill, the number of grains in the dollar to be determined by the Director of the Mint and the Secretary of the Treasury, when it was the price of silver bullion per ounce be left to be publicly fixed, as near the market value as possible, by such officers. The resolution of Mr. Matthews, declaring the right of the Government to pay its bonds in silver was again taken up, and the amendment making the resolution a joint instead of a concurrent one was rejected—yeas, 23; nays, 39—after which, Mr. Edmunds' amendment providing for the payment of bonds in gold or its equivalent, and declaring that any other payment, without the consent of the creditor, would be in violation of the public faith, and in derogation of the creditor's rights, was rejected, after considerable debate—yeas, 16; nays, 44. Other proposed amendments were similarly disposed of, when the resolution as submitted by Mr. Matthews was agreed to—43 to 22. The preamble submitted by Mr. Edmunds, on the 14th, and that of Mr. Morrill, on the 15th, were rejected, after which the preamble of Mr. Matthews was adopted—42 to 20. The House bill to authorize the free coinage of the standard silver dollar and to restore its legal-tender character then came up, but, without further discussion, an adjournment was had to the 28th....In the House, the bill revising the Steamboat laws was further amended and passed—173 to 80. The bill extending the time for the withdrawal of distilled spirits in bond until July 1, 1878, was considered in Committee of the Whole, and a spirited debate ensued. A report was made from the Judiciary Committee on the subject of the arrest and imprisonment of Congressman Smalls, of South Carolina, to the effect that there was in such arrest and imprisonment no breach of the privileges of the House. Adjourned, the session on the 26th to be for general debate only.

—"Sweet are the uses of adversity," as the widow said when she went to buy her second-mourning outfit.

WISCONSIN STATE NEWS.

A JOINT Convention of the State Agricultural and Horticultural Societies will be held in the Agricultural rooms, in the Capitol Building, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Feb. 5, 6, 7 and 8.

THE following are the current prices for leading staples in Milwaukee: Flour—White Winter, $5.00@6.00; Spring Extras, $4.25@5.25. Wheat—No. 1, $1.07¼@1.07⅜; No. 2 $1.01@1.04¼. Corn—No. 2, 41@41¼c. Oats—No. 2, 23⅝@23¾c. Rye—No. 1, 51½@51⅝c. Barley—No. 2, 59½@59⅝c. Mess Pork, $10.60@10.70.

LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.—The Senate reassembled on the evening of the 21st. The Revisers of the Statutes reported progress. A joint resolution passed ordering sundry copies of the "Blue Book" for State officers, members of the Legislature, etc. Bills were introduced—amending the law governing warehouse receipts; providing for the election of two additional Supreme Court Judges; to revise the General Statutes, etc.

ASSEMBLY.—The Statute Revisers submitted a partial report. Joint resolutions were offered—to refund certain moneys to the Mineral Point Railroad; to distribute the Revised Statutes to officers of the Legislature, etc.; advocating the remonetization of silver, and instructing Senators and Representatives in Congress to favor such legislation. Bills were introduced—to amend Sections 3, 4, 8 and 15, Chapter 163, relative to the record of marriages and deaths; to amend Chapter 154, General Laws of 1871, relating to the collection of demands against boats and vessels; to authorize the Governor to purchase the library, cabinet and scientific instruments of Moses Strong; to amend Chapter 43, Laws of 1869, relating to incorporation; to amend Chapter 134, Revised Statutes.

SENATE.—On the 22d, sundry memorials were presented for the enlargement of the Northern Hospital for the Insane. Sun'ry bills

venting law partners of District Attorneys from acting as Justices of the Peace; amending the Statutes relating to towns and town officers; relating to evidence and competency of witnesses in certain cases; amending the Statutes relating to Justices' criminal cases; amending Chapter 87, Revised Statutes; for the protection of rabbits; amending the Statutes relating to trials in criminal cases. A bill passed authorizing the Supervisors of towns to regulate the license of hawkers and peddlers in certain cases. The Silver resolutions were referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

SENATE.—On the 25th, a joint resolution was introduced for an amendment to the Constitution forever prohibiting the traffic in intoxicating liquors. A resolution passed asking for information as to the cost of publishing and distributing the Supreme Court reports. Bills were introduced—repealing the laws relative to the publication of local laws; appropriating some $3,000 to settle the claim of E. A. Calkins; relative to transfer of stock in incorporated companies; authorizing the State Board of Health to make a report to the Governor and publish 8,000 copies of the same; for the abolition of time sentences to the State Prison. Adjourned until the evening of the 28th.

ASSEMBLY.—Resolutions were offered—instructing the Committee on Claims to prepare a bill refunding $60,000 to Marathon County; asking the Trustees of the Northern Hospital to report the expense of building, etc., for 1877; inquiring whether any legislation can be devised to abolish tramps. The use of the hall was granted to the Agricultural and Horticultural Societies, in which to hold a Convention. Bills were introduced—for the erection of a monument to the late Gov. Harvey, and appropriating $1,800 therefor; appropriating $100 to the Portage County Agricultural Society; for the allowance of the account of E. A. Calkins; appropriating $30,000 to the Deaf and Dumb Institution; repealing the law of 1870 relating to exemptions; amending the Revised Statutes relating to cemeteries; relating to the poor....Adjourned until the evening of the 28th.

One of the Recent Eulogies on the Late Senator Morton.

Among the many eulogies recently pronounced, in the United States Senate, on the life and character of the late Senator Morton, was the following by Senator Wadleigh, of New Hampshire:

As much as any other Senator, he led the debates and guided the action of this body. The last ten years of his life were one constant and hopeless struggle with the incurable disease from whose grasp there was no escape, and which day by day steadily approached the citadel of life. He knew that his days were numbered and were few; yet he looked firmly in the face of the relentless, torturing, conquering enemy, and kept on his way. He shirked no labor, however arduous; he left no duty unperformed. His devotion to duty was heroic. His journey to the Pacific coast in the last months of his life was marked by prodigies of herculean labor. Ease, comfort, nay, even life itself, seemed of little consequence to him when compared with the imperious duty to which he seemed to have bound himself of preserving the results of the Civil War to the people of the United States forever. Worn out by ceaseless labor in the performance of public duties, in the armor of battle he calmly met the stroke of death.

In robust manliness the intellect of Senator Morton was unexcelled. His speeches were marked by logical-force, clear perception and a strength of statement which resembled demonstration. Though destitute of rhetoric and bare of ornament, their massive force almost silenced doubt and compelled conviction. Even his extemporaneous efforts had the symmetry of labored production.

Like most really great men, the deceased Senator was profoundly sincere and earnest. He despised the petty trickery of politics. Incapable of treachery, he was slow to suspect it in others. Confident in his strength, he scorned the arts of weakness. He had, too, the generosity and magnanimity which are inseparable from true greatness. No party conflicts tinged his personal relations with bitterness. Nor can I believe that he was not a lover of peace. But he desired a peace based upon justice, and therefore enduring forever. He could not accept a peace which he believed was based upon injustice and wrong. Against wrong and injustice of all kinds, and upon whomsoever exercised, he fought with indomitable courage and unbending will. In his tomb lies the boldest champion of the oppressed, the sternest foe of oppression. His sympathies were bounded by no lines of creed, nor condition, nor race, but were broad as humanity. In

express a willingness to take one less prominent, until at last they are willing to take anything, and end by taking cold.—*Cor. Cincinnati Times.*

Some Reminiscences of Lincoln.

We copy from *Scribner's Monthly* the following passages from "Personal Reminiscences of Lincoln," by Noah Brooks:

"Lincoln particularly liked a joke at the expense of the dignity of some high civil or military official. One day, not long before his second inauguration, he asked me if I had heard about Stanton's meeting a picket on Broad River, South Carolina, and then told this story: Gen. Foster, then at Port Royal, escorted the Secretary up the river, taking a Quartermaster's tug. Reaching the outer lines on the river, a picket roared from the bank, 'Who have you got on board that tug?' The severe and dignified answer was, 'The Secretary of War and Major-General Foster.' Instantly the picket roared back, 'We've got Major-Generals enough up here—why don't you bring us up some hard-tack?' The story tickled Lincoln mightily, and he told it until it was replaced by a new one.

"Anything that savored of the wit and humor of the soldiers was especially welcome to Lincoln. His fondness for good stories is a well-accepted tradition, but any incident that showed that 'the boys' were mirthful and jolly in all their privations seemed to commend itself to him. He used to say that the grim grotesqueness and extravagance of American humor were its most striking characteristics. There was a story of a soldier in the Army of the Potomac, carried to the rear of battle with both legs shot off, who, seeing a pie woman hovering about, asked, 'Say, old lady, are them pies sewed or pegged?' And there was another one of a soldier at the battle of Chancellorsville, whose regiment, waiting to be called into the fight, was taking coffee. The hero of the story put to his lips a crockery mug which he had carried, with infinite care, through several campaigns. A stray bullet, just missing the coffee-drinker's head, dashed the mug into fragments and left only its handle on his finger. Turning his head in that direction, the soldier angrily growled, 'Johnny, you can't do that again!' Lincoln, relating these two stories together, said, 'It seems as if neither death nor danger could quench the grim humor of the American soldier.'

"As a rule, Lincoln wrote his most important letters with his own hand. Some of these, perhaps most of them, were read over to confidential friends and were corrected or modified before being sent. He kept copies of letters of moment, and even some of these copies he made himself with painstaking care. In his office in the public wing of the White-House was a little cabinet, the interior divided into pigeon-holes. The pigeon-holes were lettered in alphabetical order, but a few were devoted to individuals. Horace Greeley, I remember, had a pigeon-hole by himself; so did each of several Generals who wrote often to him. One compartment, labelled 'W. & W.,' excited my curiosity, but I never asked what it meant, and, one night being sent to the Cabinet for a letter which the President wanted, he said, 'I see you looking at my "W. & W." Can you guess what that stands for?' Of course, it was useless to guess. 'Well,' said he, with a roguish twinkle of the eye, 'that's Weed and Wood—Thurlow and Fernandy.' Then he added with an indescribable chuckle, 'That's a pair of 'em!'

"A remarkable and highly characteristic letter of Lincoln's was one which he wrote to Gen. Hooker just after the latter had taken command of the Army of the Potomac. It was quite long, occupying nearly four pages, of large letter paper, and written entirely in the President's own hand. In this letter the good Lincoln advised Hooker in the most kindly, even affectionate manner, not in respect of military affairs, but as to his

There are about ...,000,000 more Asiatics; thus we proceed until all the rest of mankind are in—1,400,000,000, in about thirty layers. The box is now about half full, and it would require about fifteen times that number of people to fill it. What shall we do? Animals, of course, are still left. Take the whole animal creation, yet it is not full; and all this is only one geographic cubic mile, of which the earth contains 2,662."

The Force of Habit.

AMONG the conspirators shot the other day for scheming the massacre of the President and his Ministers in Guatemala, was a young student, by name Rafael Segura, whose skill in forgery is represented as having been surprising. He had forged the signatures of the President and General-in-Chief to various fraudulent documents and orders required for carrying the plot into execution. On being arrested he was brought before the President, and pleaded in defence of his acts that he was without a father and absent from his mother, and that by promises of promotion under the new regime and of large sums of money, he had been induced to commit the forgeries in question. The President requested him to give a proof of his talent, which he did by immediately writing an order with the name of the President so exactly imitated that even the President himself declared that unless he had seen it written he could not have told that it was not his own. Thinking that a youth possessed of such gifts might ultimately become a useful member of society and a good servant of the Republic, the President told him that he would give him a full pardon, and, further, would, if he wished it, assist him in his career by giving him employment under the Government. Segura, who was barely twenty-one years of age, warmly thanked the President for his generosity, and made the most earnest assurances of good conduct in future. The first use, however, he made of his liberty was to forge an order for the release of Rhodes, one of the principal offenders—an order which only by the merest accident failed to effect its purpose. This was too much for the President, and Segura, being sentenced to death by the Military Tribunal, was shot with the other conspirators on the 7th of November.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

—"Who loves a rainy day?" asks a literary journal. We know; a milkman. Ask us a hard one.—*Hawk-Eye.*

Talking Across the British Channel.

ON Saturday last some further experiments were carried out on the telegraph cable connecting St. Margaret's Bay, near Dover, and the Village of Sandgatte, on the French coast. The Mayor of Dover and several other gentlemen connected with the town drove over to the bay and assembled in the little telegraph hut erected on the beach within a few yards of the shaft of the borings connected with the proposed channel tunnel—a gross and material way of connecting the two countries compared with the delicate communication we were about to establish.

Mr. Bordeaux, the Superintendent of the Submarine Telegraph Company, at once established a communication with the opposite coast, and, at his request, conveyed by an ordinary pocket telegraph instrument, the telephones were attached to the French end of the cable, and, in a few minutes, we were conversing across twenty-two and a half miles of wire at the bottom of the sea. The portable instruments, made in polished mahogany, and in shape like a champagne glass without a foot, were used. By placing one to the ear, and speaking into the cup of the other, a continuous conversation was kept up without difficulty. Although the wires were being used on the ordinary business of the station, and the clickings of the Morse instruments being worked at Dover and Calais were going on all the

golden bays. Faint at heart I bent over the sufferer, evidently one of our own men, but now mangled beyond recognition. He prayed for death with his poor torn lips, and in a minute more W., our surgeon, and two more of our officers were by my side. I made room for W., who stooped for a few seconds over our comrade, and then rising sadly shook his head, murmuring "No help."

A sudden impulse prompted me to seize the poor, helpless hand in my own, and, pressing it, whisper a few words of comfort. At the sound of my voice came the sadder appeal: "Nicolai, for old friendship's sake send a bullet through my heart." This voice sounded so strangely familiar, and yet I could not recognize it. "Who are you?" "Alexis S." Alexis, my old schoolmate, who had a few hours ago shared my breakfast by our bivouac fire, and then rode away, handsome and bold, at the head of our gallant first squadron. He had fallen wounded, helpless, his horse shot under him, and the fiendish Turks were slowly torturing him to death when our approach drove them away. Clasping my hand in his, he still begged for death. My revolver was empty, discharged in the scuffle a few moments before. I looked at W., who silently drew out his, and shuddering in every nerve, placed the muzzle against S.'s breast, and with averted face, fired twice in succession, while I still pressed the poor hand in mine. We wrapped him up in my cloak, and placing him in the shallow ditch, rolled a bowlder over him, and then, with our hands still moist with his blood, we swore to each other never to empty the last chamber of our pistols, but always to reserve a shot for ourselves and friends should any of us, wounded, have to be left behind. May a quick death, a soldier's death, be ours.—*Translation in Cleveland Herald of a Private Letter from a Russian Officer.*

Speculations as to the Inhabitants of the Moons of Mars.

PROBABLY the most convenient assumption we can make is that there may be creatures in a general respect like ourselves on these moons of Mars, but that, owing to the extreme rarity of the atmosphere, their vital energy is so far reduced that they are not more active than we are, despite the feeble action of gravity in their world. The air must be exceedingly rare, most certainly, even if the quantity is proportioned to the volumes of these moons. On this assumption the quantity of air is less than the quantity of terrestrial air as 1 is less than 400 times 400 times 400—that is, amounts only to 1-64,000,000 part of the terrestrial air. Being spread over a surface which is but 1-160,000 of the earth's, it follows that the quantity of air above each square mile of surface is 1-400 part only of the quantity over each square mile of our earth's surface. This would be little enough in all conscience; but this is not all. For the action of gravity being, according to our assumption, only 1-600 of terrestrial gravity, it follows that the atmospheric pressure and, therefore, density is further reduced in this degree, giving finally a density equal only to 1-245,000 of the density of our own air. Now, at a height of seven miles, where the atmospheric pressure is reduced to one-fourth that at the sea level, men of ordinary constitution would perish in a few minutes, if not instantly. In Coxwell's ascent to nearly that height, Glaisher fainted, and Coxwell only just had strength left to draw the valve-string with his teeth (his hands being already powerless). Yet at a height of seven miles, the density of the air is 60,000 times greater than that which, according to our very reasonable assumption, prevails at the surface of the Martian moons. We can very well believe, then, that in whatever way the inhabitants of these moons may be adapted, corporeally and constitutionally, for existence in their small homes, the rarity of the air there must tend to reduce their vital energy. So that we may well imagine that, instead of being able to leap to a height of half a mile or over a distance of two or three miles, they are not more active than we are on earth with 600 times greater weight, but a far more effective respiration. We might, perhaps, go even further than this, and assume that, in order to give to the inhabitants of these moons locomotive powers proportioned in the same way to their own dimensions as ours are, they must be supposed very much smaller than we are. We might imagine them in an atmosphere so exceedingly attenuated that creatures which could have vitality enough to move freely about must be no larger than flies or ants, and must have also some such provision as insects have for more effective respiration. In this way we might find in the Martian moons a minature of our own earth, not only in the proportions of these worlds themselves, their lands and seas and atmospheres, but also in those of the creatures living upon them. But it would not be very interesting to consider mere miniatures of our earth such as the moons of Mars would thus come to be regarded. Indeed, in that case, little more could be said than that all the relations presented by this earth were or might be represented in the Martian moons, but on a greatly reduced scale.—*Richard A. Proctor, in Belgravia.*

Thin Skins.

No doubt sensitiveness is a mark of a refined temperament, but in view of the roughness of everyday life, we can but think that too much of it is a positive misfortune.

The sensitive man is never thoroughly happy.

He is too thin-skinned to bear with equanimity the temperature of the world at large. He is always getting slighted by somebody. He is always having his feelings hurt. Some wrong is being continually done him. He is always left out when he should be counted in, and *vice versa*.

If Mrs. A., who is near-sighted, and would not recognize her own grandfather three doors off, meets him on the street and does not bow—he is slighted! Mrs. A. has cut him! If Jenkins has a party, and invites a dozen friends, and leaves our thin-skinned man out, he feels himself aggrieved. If his next-door neighbor has an attack of dyspepsia, and wears a long face in consequence, our sensitive man is sure there is something wrong. Somebody has been misrepresenting him!

He is always in trouble. As a child his nose will be perpetually out of joint; as a young man his teachers will be in a conspiracy against him to prevent him from gaining the first honors; and when it comes to falling in love, and going courting, Heaven preserve him! for if there is a marriageable man within ten miles of his "beloved," he will be sure to think she favors him.

Your thin-skinned man is always taking hints.

The old adage says: "If the saddle fits you, buckle the girths."

He is continually buckling girths. If anybody laughs behind his back, they are laughing at him. If he has a long nose, and noses are mentioned, he is sure he is attacked. If he comes from a poor family, and anybody mentions poverty, he is ready to flare up—they are twitting him with his humble origin!

His friends are a source of unhappiness to him, for they must talk of something, and who can manage conversation so skillfully as not to run against some of the angles of a sensitive man?

The minister means him, he feels sure, when he is preaching about special sinners, and consequently he refuses to subscribe fifty dollars to that worthy's salary.

Almost every newspaper article he reads hits him, and he is ready to beard the editor and challenge the author in behalf of his wounded feelings.

In short, he leads a life of it, and every humane person must pity him.

Time will, in some measure, wear away extreme sensitiveness, but it is a long, hard process, and if any of our readers are born with thick skins, let them thank fortune for it.

For it is a fact that this world will go on just as it has gone on for ages, totally unmindful of individual feelings, heedless of crushed spirits and broken hearts, careless of lost happiness, indifferent to the joys or sorrows of its inhabitants.

And the man who is never slighted, who never takes hints, who is never downcast because of evil doers, who can go on secure in his own sense of right doing, and receive no wounds of feeling or sensibility, is the man whose days will be many, whose sleep will be quiet, whose liver will never require pills or bitters.

Happy individual!—*Kate Thorn, in Y. Weekly.*

—Mary: "There's such a rude gentleman dining up-stairs to-day." Cook: "Why, what d'ye mean? He ain't a bin' saying nothing to you." Mary: "No, bless yer; but missus was a talking about the Akkademy, and if he didn't tell her as he could see she painted! And so she do every night; but he needn't a said so afore people."

—*Frazer's Magazine* acknowledges that Londoners say cawn for corn, pawk for pork, land for lard, witch for which and weal for wheel.

THE "PETRIFIED MAN."

Particulars of the Building of the Colorado Stone Man—How the Fraud Was Perpetrated and Dust Thrown in the Eyes of Distinguished Scientists—Alleged Experience of the Artist in the Manufacture of Prehistoric Bird-Tracks.

A New York special to the Chicago *Tribune* of Jan. 26 says:

Mr. Fitch, said to have been engaged with Hull in making the "Colorado Petrified Man," has given a *Times* interviewer some further interesting facts concerning the swindle. ... will disgust scientists more than anything ... is his statement that Hull placed in the Connecticut Valley the famous tablets with marks of supposed prehistoric bird-tracks on them, which aroused so much discussion and interest. Hull bought a turkey ... and used its feet to make the tracks. Fitch ... proprietor of a factory for the manufacture of artificial stone by a new process known as "the Rollins carbureted stone process," ... the northern part of this State. He ... Hull, the maker of the Cardiff Giant, ... upon him in February, 1876, and after a roundabout conversation offered him ... to aid in the manufacture of the new ... Hull told him what he wanted was to get ... bones into the figure, and he did not ... how. Fitch said he could manage that. ... bargain was struck, and in March, 1876, ... went to Elkland, Pa., where Hull had ... farm of 300 acres. On this farm Hull ... built a large ice-house of brick, with a ... skylight in the top. Here the model ... was manufactured. Hull made the model ... Fitch did the casting. The molds of the ... part of the body as high as the waist ... taken from Hull's son-in-law, a slender ... fellow over six feet high, with remarkably long legs. Sections of about a foot at a ... were taken by Hull, and immediately filled with material by Fitch, who says the marks of their joinings were perfectly visible ... while the statue was on exhibition, and ... cannot conceive how other persons failed to observe them.

It was necessary to strip every time a ... cast was made, and the atmosphere of the house being very cold the model was constantly complaining, and finally refused to do ... any longer. Hull was obliged to have impressions taken of the upper part of his own ... to finish the work. Hull is the exact opposite of his son-in-law, short-bodied, thickset, ... with an immense chest. This accounts for ... disproportion of the statue, something ... Mr. Fitch says, it has puzzled him ... scientific persons should have passed o... without comment.

The statue was built standing up. ... were made. The first one was ruined ... ing. The material used was simply Portland cement, with one-fortieth part of ... lic-brown put through to color ... The cement was made of the ... consistency, with water, and, ... been colored with metallic-brown, was run into the molds and set up. A human skeleton was purchased, and portions of it ... in various parts where examination would likely to be made. There are bones ... the way up both legs. A straight bone ... inches long was stuck in the lower portion of the back, with an inch protruding to keep ... tail from breaking off. To prevent injury ... the upper part of the body, the shin bone of a cow was inserted through the ... from ... middle of the head down to the point of ... chest, where the statue subsequently ... across in Colorado. A piece of skull was ... placed back of the left ear, where the ... was afterward bored into. Some ground ... were moistened and rolled into little ... and placed down the middle of the ... provide against a search for vertebrae. ... story about blood, and eggs, and ground ... is nonsense.

Completed, the figure was laid on a ... brick platform under which was a furnace. Over the platform was a tent-like structure covered with tarred paper. Charcoal ... burned to make carbonic acid gas. This ... let in upon the figure in accordance with ... Rollins process, and the action of the gas ... the wet cement turned it into stone inside ... week. The familiar process for making ... cial stone is by means of silicate of soda. ... carbureted process is little known, and ... was the principal stumbling-block in the ... of the scientists. There was no baking ... The cost of the material was $41.45.

Hull used up his money, $4,000 to ... and then applied to Barnum. Barnum ... George Wells, of Bridgeport, to examine ... and his report being satisfactory ... an interest and provided for bringing ... The statue was shipped as a fire-machine ... Bridgeport, and thence to Colorado Springs, where W. A. Conant, an employe of Barnum, was station-agent of the Santa Fe Railroad. Conant took charge by Barnum's orders. ... story of his discovery of the "Petrified Man" is known. At Barnum's request, Prof. ... of Bridgeport, and Prof. Paige, of Council Bluffs, examined the figure and made ... vorable reports.

The way the Professors were deceived ... this: Hull listened to the discussions of ... scientific men over the statue, and learned ... if it were a petrifaction, crystals of ... would probably be found in its interior. ... professors insisted on boring into the ... and a day was set for the operation. Hull ... some crystals and had them pulverized ... did the boring himself, holding the ... powder between the thumb and forefinger of his left hand, carefully mixing it with ... powder from the boring. He completely hoodwinked the learned men.

Conant found other petrifactions ... statue. One of these represents a turtle, ... was manufactured from a cast taken from a large snapping-turtle, which Hull bought. ... salmon trout was similarly imitated.

The statue is now in the New York Museum of Anatomy, owned by Barnum. While at ... Aquarium there was a loud demand on ... part of the scientists that it be cut in two to discover whether the necessary crystals were inside.

Hull has been occupied recently in chiseling a hole in the statue's stomach. In this he ... ranged nicely a number of crystals of ... and then covered the orifice up with ... material to that used in the original manufacture. The alteration is now undergoing ... hardening process, and it was intended ... Wednesday to place the "Giant" on exhibition again, and have him cut in two across ... stomach for the satisfaction of the scientists ... dodge that will probably not be tried now.

Mr. Fitch is of the opinion that the exposure has ruined Hull. Barnum and his agents ... pected to make a great deal of money ... the giant when put on exhibition again, ... having been fixed up in the manner described. Hull has gone under the alias of George Davis, and disguised himself to conceal ... identity with the manufacturer of the Cardiff Giant, out of which he realized, it is said, ... 000. He has proved himself one of the shrewdest humbuggers of the age.

—A Nantucketer has raised wheat from seed found in the hand of an Egyptian mummy. He is now experimenting with corns taken from the mummy's feet.—*Puck.*

—American women, according to a French journalist, live on candy.

THE MARKETS.

NEW YORK. Jan. 28, 1878.

LIVE STOCK—Cattle	$8.50	@ [illegible]
Sheep	4.25	@ [illegible]
Hogs	4.25	@ [illegible]
FLOUR—Good to Choice	5.50	@ [illegible]
WHEAT—No. 2 Chicago	1.25½	@ [illegible]
CORN—Western Mixed	.49	@ [illegible]
OATS—Western and State	.38	@ [illegible]
RYE—Western	.74	@ [illegible]
PORK—Mess	12.00	@ [illegible]
LARD—Steam	7.75	@ [illegible]
CHEESE	.07	@ [illegible]
WOOL—Domestic	.32	@ [illegible]

CHICAGO.

BEEVES—Extra	$5.00	@ [illegible]
Choice	4.35	@ [illegible]
Good	3.75	@ [illegible]
Medium	3.40	@ [illegible]
Butchers' Stock	2.25	@ [illegible]
Stock Cattle	2.50	@ [illegible]
HOGS—Live—Good to Choice	3.50	@ [illegible]
SHEEP—Live	2.75	@ [illegible]
BUTTER—Good to Fancy	.23	@ [illegible]
EGGS—Fresh	.13	@ [illegible]
FLOUR—Choice Winter	6.50	@ [illegible]
Fair to Good Spring	4.50	@ [illegible]
GRAIN—Wheat, Spring, No. 2	1.08½	@ [illegible]
Corn, No. 2	.39½	@ [illegible]
Oats, No. 2	.23	@ [illegible]
Rye, No. 2	.49½	@ [illegible]
Barley, No. 2	.49½	@ [illegible]
PORK	10.60	@ [illegible]
LARD	7.20	@ [illegible]
LUMBER—1st & 2d Clear, 1 inch	33.50	@ [illegible]
3d Clear, 1 inch	27.00	@ [illegible]
Common Boards	11.00	@ [illegible]
Fencing	10.00	@ [illegible]
"A" Shingles	2.80	@ [illegible]
Lath	2.00	@ [illegible]

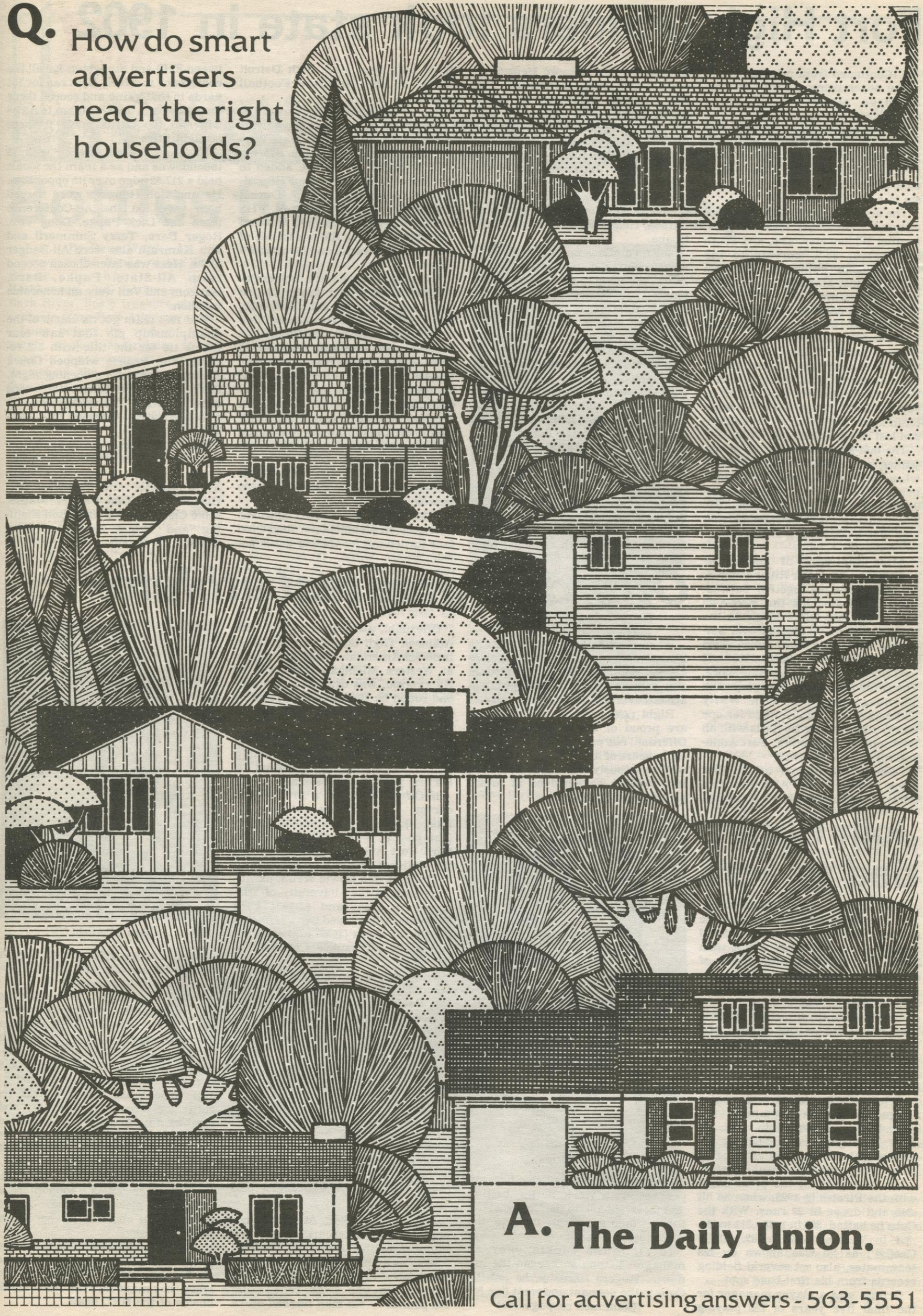
BALTIMORE.

CATTLE—Best	$4.75	@ [illegible]
Medium	3.75	@ [illegible]
HOGS—Good	5.50	@ [illegible]
SHEEP—Good	4.00	@ [illegible]

EAST LIBERTY.

CATTLE—Best	$5.00	@ [illegible]
Medium	4.25	@ [illegible]
HOGS—Yorkers	4.25	@ [illegible]
Philadelphias	4.50	@ [illegible]
SHEEP—Best	5.00	@ [illegible]
Common	3.50	@ [illegible]

Q. How do smart advertisers reach the right households?



A. The Daily Union.

Call for advertising answers - 563-5551

Fort High gridders took state in 1902

(Continued from page 85)
game never being played and Fort Atkinson claiming its second straight state title.

Juneau stayed on during the 1904 season and his team lost 9-6 to Milwaukee in its bid for a third straight championship. Juneau went on to coach the University of Wisconsin to a 1912 Big Ten title.

The next title came in 1911 as FHS adapted well to the forward pass, beating Whitewater, 43-0, and South Milwaukee, 28-0, enroute to the championship game. In the title game against Madison, a downpour turned the game into a kicking duel with Fort Atkinson scoring the game's only two points on a blocked kick resulting in a safety.

Art Mussehl, Ralph "Zip" Owens, John Dieckhoff, and Burns Beach were among those chosen to the All-State team. Mussehl was picked as captain and left end of the All-State team again in 1912 when Fort Atkinson lost at La Crosse, 46-7.

The last Fort Atkinson title before joining a conference came in 1922 when FHS belted a number of opponents. FHS defeated Cambridge, 51-0, Jefferson, 69-7, and Waterloo, 79-0. The state title clash on Thanksgiving Day was a convincing 29-0 win over Kenosha.

After one year of getting aquainted to the Rock River League, Fort Atkinson put together back-to-back championships the next two years. The big win enroute to the 1925 title was a 7-6 thriller over Jefferson in a mud bowl when Earl Bienfang recovered a fumble and took the ball in for the winning score. The game for the title was played on Thanksgiving and with Wally Dahms recovering a fumble for one score, and running 28 yards with an interception for another, Fort Atkinson rolled to a 19-6 win.

Dahms was named to the first Rock River Valley All-Conference team in 1925 along with Cecil Smith, Chet Merriman, George Henze and quarterback Fritz Dornbusch. The 1925 champs outscored its opponents, 256-38.

Coach Abe Abendroth put together another winner in 1926. Although the team lost to Stoughton, and was tied by Waupun, Jefferson and Lake Mills, FHS still gained a share of the title. Dahms repeated as an All-Conference choice, along with Edgar Larson, Henze, Dornbusch and Earl Hoane.

The formations and style of equipment continued to evolve in the 1930s, but the spirit and tradition started so many years before, remained intact. In 1934, coach Carl Mathusen built a champion around one of the best players to ever come out of Fort Atkinson. Howie Weiss, who went on to numerous honors at UW, including All-American status, was the leader of the 1934 champions. When fullback Woody Bienfang was sidelined with a broken leg, much of the running duties fell on Weiss. Weiss was also called on to kick and pass, and his total offensive output helped FHS outscore its opponents, 208-12 on the year. Wilson Beebe complimented Weiss well in the backfield and both he and Weiss ranked high in the conference rushing and scoring columns. Weiss went on to play two years with Detroit Lions. of the National Football League.

Ben Beebe and Butch Werner became known as the touchdown twins in the 1936 championsip year. Werner led the conference in scoring with 42 points and Beebe added to the team totals that saw FHS outscore its opponents, 260-27. During the three-year span of 1934-36, FHS teams won 25 games, lost one and tied three, ranking the era as one of the most successful in the school's history.

The 1956-57 years were the next title gold mine. Under coach Claude Radtke and assistant John Kammer, the Cardinals rolled to consecutive unblemished Badger Conference titles. The 1956 title was wrapped up with on a thrilling 13-12 win over Middleton with Jim Corrigan scoring the tying touchdown and kicking the winning point after. Corrigan received All-State honors, Ed Sandvold made the third team and Loren Ehlers and Charlie Hoefs were honorable mention.

Corrigan finished the year with 64 points and accounted for over 1,200 yeards.

In 1957, Billy Hess picked up where Corrigan left off and better than 5,000 fans turned out for the big game between FHS and Stoughton for all the conference marbles. Hess ran for 167 yards in that game and scored three touchdowns to lead his team to a 27-6 win and the Cards made it three straight titles.

Hess led the conference with 15 touchdowns and as a team the locals held a 217-52 edge over its opponents. He and Bob Haugom were named both ways on the All-Conference team and Dick Papke, Doug Vail, Roger Bare, Terry Summeril and Jim Kamrath also were All-Badger picks. Hess was later chosen second team All-State. Papke, Bare, Haugom and Vail were all honorable mention.

The 1964 team got its chunk of the championship pie that saw four teams tie for the title with 5-2 records. Sun Prairie whipped Chuck Thompson's team on opening night, after which five consecutive wins were recorded. The undisputed title was spoiled by Jefferson in a 21-14 loss.

The tradition showed up again during the early 70s when players like Perry Shuman, a second-team All-State tackle, and two-way All-Badger back Tom Vander Mause, Mike Ciske, Gary Telfer, Ron Fleming and Roger Deets led solid Blackhawk squads.

Jolly Cholly tied to Fort

Fort Atkinson might be celebrating its bicentennial before the Chicago Cubs win their next National League pennant, but it was a man with strong ties to the Land of Blackhawk who managed Chicago's northsiders to their last World Series appearance in 1945.

Charlie Grimm, described by those who knew him as the original Mr. Cub, resided on Lake Koshkonong for about five years during the 1970s. He and his wife, Marion, also rented a house in Fort Atkinson in 1981.

Grimm began a 20-year major league playing career with the Philadelphia Athletics in 1916. In 1925, he began his long-lasting relationship with the Cubs after being traded from the Pittsburgh Pirates.

His best year at the plate came with the Pirates in 1923, when he hit .345 and drove in 99 runs. With the Cubs he batted .306 in 1925, .311 in '27, .331 in '31, and .307 in '32. "Jolly Cholly", as he was known by his teammates, also set several fielding records from his first-base spot.

Grimm was a player-manager for the final five years of his playing

Charlie Grimm

career. In 1929, he made his first appearance in a World Series, batting .389 (seven-of-18) as the Cubs lost the Series, four games to one, to the Athletics.

In Grimm's rookie year as manager, having succeeded the immortal Rogers Hornsby, he led the Cubs to the pennant and went five for

(Continued on page 109)

Offerdahl greatest athlete?

By Art Kabelowsky

When Fort Atkinson celebrates its bicentennial in the year 2036, there's a good chance that John Offerdahl will be remembered as the greatest athlete ever produced by the city.

Right now, though, city residents are proud of the accomplishments Offerdahl has put together during the early years of his football career . . . while anxiously waiting to see what new heights he achieves in future gridiron endeavors.

Offerdahl, a 1982 graduate of Fort Atkinson High School and a three-time All-American inside linebacker at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, was drafted in the second round by the Miami Dolphins of the National Football League on April 29.

The 6-foot-2½, 232-pounder deprted for the Dolphins' pre-season camp earlier this month in preparation for his first year of professional football.

If Offerdahl builds a pro football career — and nobody, not even the most skeptical NFL scout, doubts that he will — he will become the third Fort Atkinson native to make the National Football League.

The first was Howie Weiss, an All-American at the University of Wisconsin in 1938 (and a 1934 FHS graduate) who played two years with the Detroit Lions (1939-'40) before going to the Milwaukee Chiefs for a year.

The second was guard Whitey Woodin, who played on the Green Bay Packers' offensive line for about a decade, beginning in 1931. He played on the strong FHS teams of the 1911-'14 era.

And there's a good possibility that a fourth Fort Atkinson pro could join Offerdahl in the NFL this fall. Kyle Borland, who spent three-plus seasons in the United States Football League (including a stint with the first USFL champs, the Michigan Panthers), is currently negotiating with a pro team. Borland is a product of the FHS and UW-Madison football programs.

Offerdahl left Fort Atkinson High School in 1982, afterearning All-State honors during the 1981 football season as a linebacker and tight end. He finished high school as a 6-foot-2, 190-pounder who could bench-press 225 pounds — but built himself into a


John Offerdahl

muscular 232-pounder who can bench nearly 400 pounds and run the 40-yard dash in 4.72 seconds.

While in college, Offerdahl took just two seasons and two games to become the top tackler in Western Michigan history. He finished his collegiate career with a conference-record 694 tackles, including a 15.5 average during his senior season.

He also broke school career records for forced fumbles (17) and fumbles recovered (eight). Offerdahl was also Western's Most Valuable Player in 1984 and 1985, and its Best Defensive Player in 1983.

Offerdahl was an honorable mention All-American as a sophomore, a third-team pick as a junior and a second-team choice after his senior year.

And since Miami didn't have a first-round pick, Offerdahl became the first player the Dolphins selected when they made him the 52nd overall choice of the NFL draft.

Mulligan stew

Bottles filled with Fort's past

By Doug Welch

Between the banks of the Rock River, northeast of Lake Koshkonong and southwest of the Bark River, lies a treasure chest of artifacts from Fort Atkinson's past.

Long before the ecology movements evoked awareness to our fragile environment, rivers throughout the land were used as dumping grounds for a variety of unwanted items. Dozens of decades later, the rivers, the Rock included, have been turned into natural junk museums of sorts with the entombment of discarded objects on their bottoms.

But this shrine consists of the dark, murky cover of water and sediment that is the substance of the river. Entering the clouded museum, which blinds its visitors with its own evironment of dank mire, is not an easy task. Its admission fee for visitors is persistance. Its prerequisite is the ability to scuba dive.

Two of the most frequent visitors to this museum are Fort Atkinson native Andy Bauer and Charles Daniel of Fox Lake, Ill.

Diving a river the color scheme of the Rock will never rank high on the list of popular leisure time activities. But Daniel and Bauer spend a great deal of their spare time searching the riverbed with their hands in quest of anything that feels like a discarded piece of history.

The two, working together on weekends and occasional weeknights, mostly find bottles and pottery. Glass and clay items don't give way to oxidation the way metal objects do.

"When you do this long enough, your fingers actually paint a picture of the river's bottom," said Daniel, a veteran diver of more than 20 years. "Only they don't see what you haven't touched. You're limited to what you touch and you may pass inches from a great find."

Gloved hands also make last week's bottle of Ripple wine feel like last century's clay beer bottle. Daniel and Bauer spend a good deal of time putting their hands on a bottle, bringing it to the surface with visions of a rare find, only to identify a recently-tossed whiskey bottle.

But not always.

On June 21, while diving just southwest of the Robert Street bridge, Bauer put his hands on a bottle and began to surface. When he reached the top, he discovered he was holding a thick, gray clay bottle with the words "Liebscher" and "Fort Atkinson" written diagonally on the top of the body.

It was the one prize which for years had kept Bauer scouring the bottom of the river. Louis Liebscher, a Milwaukee native, opened a brewery in 1861 on the banks of the Rock River between today's Pizza Villa and Papa John's. But fire struck in 1864 and Liebscher moved his operation back to Milwaukee.

125-year-old bottle.

Bauer had found a bottle that was between 122 and 125 years old.

"I was so excited I started jumping up and down and splashing in the water trying to get Charley's attention," Bauer said. "The people on the shore who were fishing knew I found something and wanted to know what it was."

"He found something there that takes us right back to Abe Lincoln's day," said Daniel, who found a similar bottle in the river near the city about 10 years ago. "With that find, we jump back 130 years."

Bauer, who works for the city's water department, plans to have the bottle displayed at the Hoard Museum for a while. He has no plans to sell it, although he estimated the bottle's market value to a collector could be $300 to $1,000.

"It's priceless to me," Bauer said. "If I found another, I'd probably give it to the museum."

Daniel sold the Liebscher bottle he found to a collector in Hebron. But selling the bottles for profit is not as much of a motive as is moving an artifact from its cold tomb to an environment where it is appreciated.

"Yeah, we sell a few bottles here and there to pay for a tank of air or some gas," said Bauer. "But we'd be in the river anyway. We enjoy diving rivers and if we find anything of historic value we try to bring it to someone's attention."

"First we are divers," Daniels explained. "This is a skill we attained as divers. We'd be in the water whether we were finding anything or not. It's nice to lock in on skills that can be used while diving."

Daniel said he got into river diving about 22 years ago while diving near Sheboygan.

"I was hooked on this on the very first bottle I pulled up," Daniel said. "At first I thought it was a Coke bottle but I went back after it and it was an original soda bottle. It had a note in it and when I opened the seal it fell out in little pieces."

Daniel took the note to a laboratory where it was pieced back together. It was a suicide note dated April 18, 1896. It was written in a woman's handwriting, Daniel said, and instructed the finder of the body to return it to the person's mother in Ohio. "Out of work — despondent" were the last words.

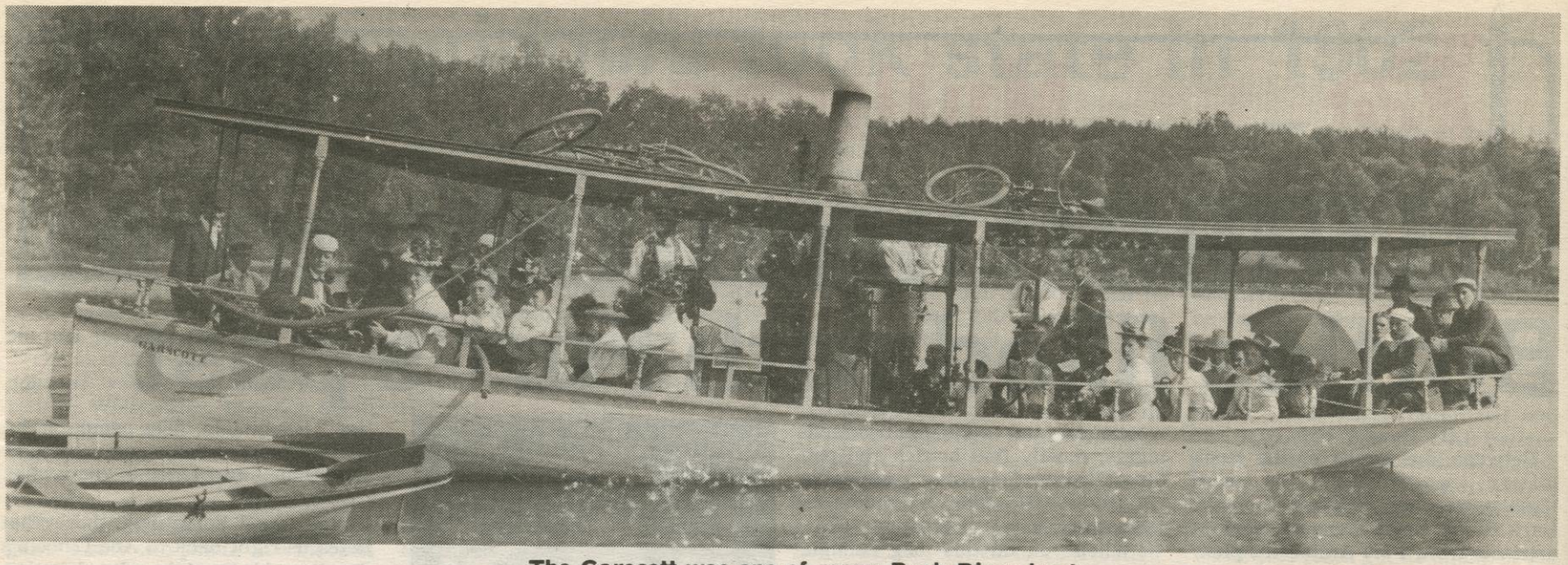
Since that time, Daniel has been diving rivers and lakes in Wisconsin in search of trinkets of history and mysteries of heritage. He prefers to sell any artifacts he finds and doesn't keep to local collectors so they will remain in the area. Although, he added, sometimes he has trouble even giving away things to local museums.

Daniels has found a wide variety of the river's offerings. Old guns, clay smoking pipes, tools, boat props and porcelain oddities are commonly found by Daniel and Bauer.

Bauer learned to dive when he served in the Marine Corps from

(Continued on page 90)

Andy Bauer and Charles Daniel with some finds.



The Garscott was one of many Rock River boats.

Indian trails led way to Fort Atkinson

By Robert Angus

By land, water and air, people have arrived in or departed from Fort Atkinson in style during its first 150 years.

While transportation today is overwhelmingly by automobile, there were periods in which the prime modes of travel ranged from walking or horseback riding, to horse-drawn buggies or stage coaches, to steam-powered or gasoline-propelled boats to railroad passenger trains.

Early settlers arrived here by foot or on wagons drawn by horses or oxen, most of them coming from Eastern states after brief stops in Milwaukee. Travel for them meant tough times; for some, it meant driving their slow-moving livestock ahead through unmarked woods and over uncharted meadows.

The area's very first residents, for instance, including the Dwight Foster family and Aaron Rankin, spent seven bitter cold November days and nights in 1836 (all out "in the weather," with no rest stops at waysides or inns) on their trip here from Milwaukee. And, once those tired travelers got here, only an unfinished cabin greeted them.

Traveling in those early days was mainly over old Indian or military trails, if they happened to lead where one was going. There were no roads and no bridges across the many streams. In fact, after being here for a time, early settlers of the area sometimes still managed to get lost in the woods..

Realizing even then that fast and economical transportation was important to the well being of the newly-established Wisconsin communities and their people, and being restricted in getting from here to there by the speed of a horse, people of that era naturally turned to the mode of travel that had served man well for centuries — water.

In 1837, Increase A. Lapham was hired by Byron Kilbourn of Milwaukee to survey a route for a canal linking the Rock River (starting near Fort Atkinson) with Lake Michigan. The project was pronounced feasible and groundbreaking for the 51-mile, $800,000 project was held July 4, 1839.

However, it soon became apparent that the costly effort was not worth the gain and construction was halted in 1844 after $57,000 had been expended.

Contributing to the demise of the canal project was the belief at that time that the area would soon be served by another means of travel — the smoke-puffing locomotive. Fort Atkinson anticipated being on the route of an extension of the Mississippi Railroad Co., which already ran from Milwaukee to Whitewater. However, that railroad was eventually extended, not to Fort Atkinson, but to Milton and other Rock County areas.

Things began to improve in the public transport sector in the next decade, however. By 1844, C. Ganong & Co. was operating a mail stage from Madison to Milwaukee via Cottage Grove, Lake Mills, Aztalan, Summit and Prairieville. By 1847, Wisconsin Stage Lines, with its general office in Milwaukee, included stops in Fort Atkinson on its runs to Galena, Ill., each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, with overnight stops in Mineral Point.

Those hard-riding stages connected with "all the principal stage routes across the territory and state." So, wide travel was possible for the hardy pioneers, but few had the money or time to take advantage of it.

In those early days, too, Monmouth H. Ganong, Fort Atkinson's ninth postmaster and a Main Street merchant, also operated the Ganong Stage Coach Lines. By 1852, this area was served by a stage line running from Whitewater to Madison.

However, Fort Atkinson continued with its dream of being served by a railroad, which was far and away the leading mode ot travel in the early days. In the 1850s, after the Rock River Valley Union Railroad Co. had been chartered, those dreams grew stronger. But there were many delays in expansion of that road, mainly due to lack of money. And the nation's financial panic that peaked in 1857 didn't help the cause any.

In a firm and rather desperate measure, Fort Atkinson electors voted in a special election in June 1856 to contribute $50,000 of their own funds to financially assist a railroad that would extend its service to the community

By that time, the Chicago, St. Paul & Fond du Lac Railroad Co. had laid rails from Chicago north to Janesville and from Fond du Lac south to Minnesota Junction. But then it stopped, its resources gone. However, with a new charter and more cash, the Chicago & North Western Railroad Co. finally completed the Janesville to Minnesota Junction link in October 1859.

So, finally, Fort Atkinson had a railroad, giving a big boost to its economy and to its future. As L.B. Caswell, a leading citizen of the city's early days, expressed it: "The railroad revived the spirit and energy of our people and all went to work with renewed courage."

With the coming of the railroad, resulting in a rapid growth in population, Fort Atkinson enjoyed a large-scale manufacturing boom in the decade of the 1860s.

The railroad depot became the hub of the community, with residents gathering there to watch the arrival of the puffing metal monsters and to greet visiting strangers or residents arriving back home. Long-awaited mail also came on those trains.

By the turn of the century, the city was served by 16 passenger and freight trains each day. A big, modern depot was erected here in 1906.

Trains remained the main mode of public transport for generations. However, with improved highways, cars, trucks and buses, rail business then began to decline sharply. Passenger train service was curtailed with the drop in business; and finally, at 4:40 p.m. June 6, 1950, the last passenger cars departed the local depot, leaving the city with only two freight runs per day.

The once-proud passenger depot was acquired by the city and razed in 1973. The freight depot was next to go and, eventually, the tracks were torn up south of the city. Only occasional rail freight service is offered

(Continued on page 91)

Bottle search

(Continued from page 89)

1974-78. Bauer learned to rescue dive in the service and still uses his skill by showing up when word of a drowning in the area is sounded.

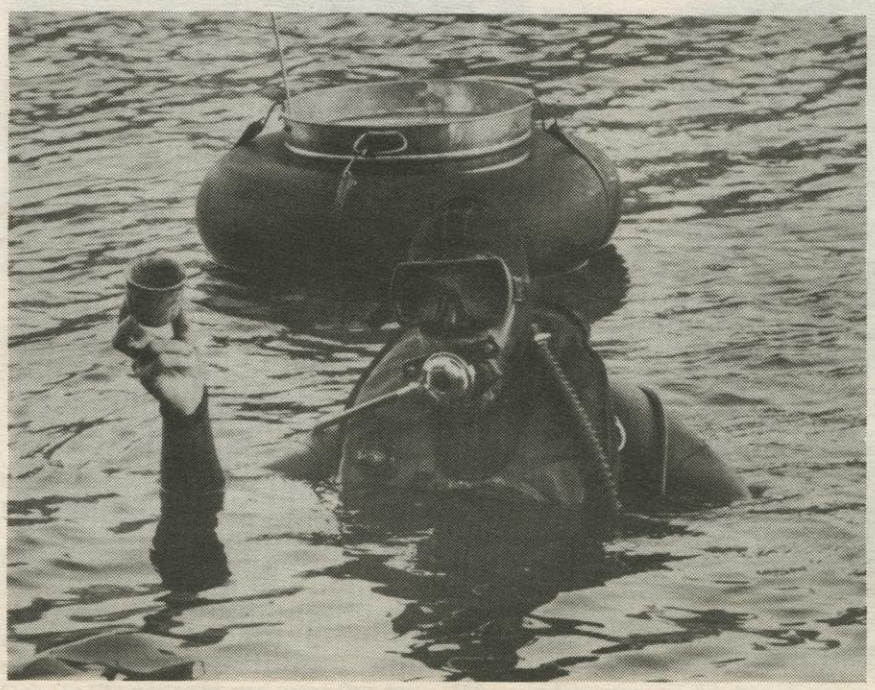
"The best part of this is the rescue thing," Daniel said. "People don't realize how fortunate they are to have someone like Andy here. He's a highly trained and unique diver and he knows this river."

What's Bauer's next goal now that he has found a Liebscher bottle?

"I'd like to dive Peshtigo," he said. "That whole town burnt down and they threw everything in the river."

But for now, both will continue to dive the Rock River museum in search of even more rare items.

"Jefferson and the Fort Atkinson area have been unique areas to dive," Daniel said. "For the amount of artifacts in the water, you can't go wrong."



Charles Daniel finds an old jar.

Settlers arrived by wagons, locomotive

(Continued from page 91)

to local industries now, all from the north.

With the steam-powered trains also came the steam-powered boats. As it meanders through Fort Atkinson, the surface of the Rock River today is dotted only by an occasional fishing boat or small pleasure craft — slim evidence remaining of what once was heavy river traffic.

Before roads were paved and the popularity of the automobile, the river was for pleasure cruising. Each spring hundreds of boats of various sizes were launched here.

Most popular of those early-day watercraft were the passenger-carrying steamboats, which made runs down river to Lake Koshkonong by the 1870s. Those boats added greatly to the social life of the community, with many steamer passengers going to the popular dances held at Hoard's Hotel (now Koshkonong Mounds Country Club) or "overnighting" there.

The paddle-wheel craft, most with paddles at the rear but some side-wheelers, varied greatly in size and accommodations. One of the largest was the "Little Queen," which made its first trips to the lake in 1877. Capable of carrying 150 people, it had three decks and even offered a soda fountain.

Another popular boat was the "Uncle Sam," built in 1898 by Arthur R. Hoard, who also owned the hotel. A stern-wheeler, it could hold 175 passengers on its single deck, protecting them from storms with side curtains. It had its own power generator, powerful searchlight and a whistle that could be heard for miles.

The "Uncle Sam," which was docked near the Main Street bridge, made trips to the lake each Sunday and three other week days. The craft also could be chartered for private parties. The boat ride fair to the hotel was 25 cents, or double that if one wanted to take in the complete ride around the lake.

Gasoline later replaced steam to power the passenger launches. Hoard finally docked the "Uncle Sam" for good and came out with the 40-passenger "Annie Laurie."

In the early 1900s, among the largest river craft were Ray Thompson's "Water Lilly," which first was used for passengers (46) before being converted to commercial fishing use in the 1930s, and Henry Niedecker's "General Atkinson," which could carry 35 passengers. Another familiar craft on the river those days was the "Yellow Fellow," built by employees of Cornish, Curtis & Greene, a large industry of that period. It could hold 35 people.

Many other boats powered by gasoline and naptha also ran up and down the river, but much of the romance of water travel had vanished with the disappearance of the steamboat.

The auto age didn't come to Fort Atkinson until much later, but local residents got their first glimpse of the "horseless carriage" in 1878 when a steam wagon named the "Oshkosh," a contender in the great auto race from Green Bay to Madison, clanked its way through the community.

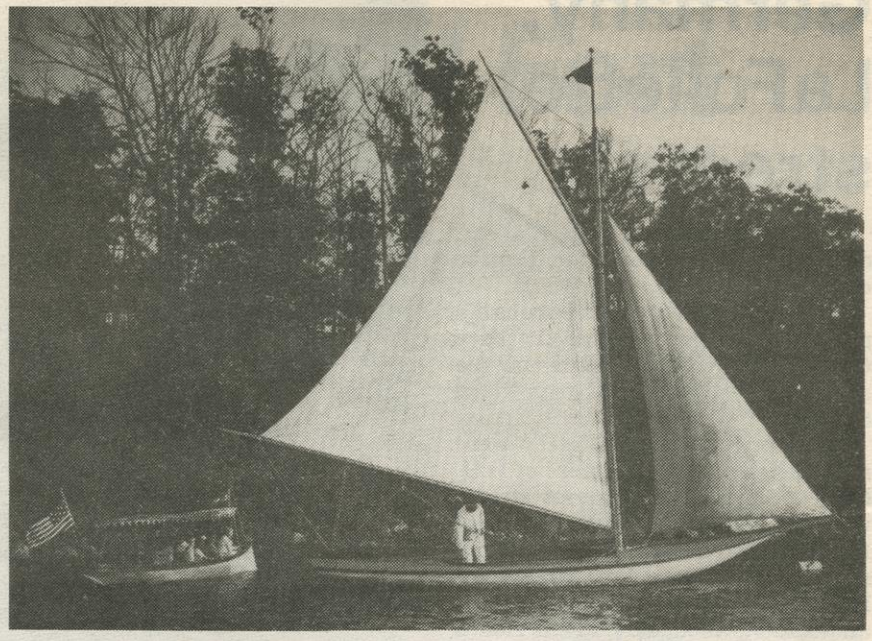
A large crowd was attracted to see the "novelty," which called attention to itself via a loud steam whistle.

The Jefferson County Union of that time described the cumbersome vehicle as "rather handsome," noting that it was a cross between the locomotive and steam fire engine. Propelled by an endless chain, it weighed 6,500 pounds.

Not exactly a pleasure vehicle, the "Oshkosh" while here demonstrated its plow-pulling capacities on the farm of M. Snell. But few local residents thought it exhibited encouraging features for farm and road use.

From Fort Atkinson, the "Oshkosh" snorted on to Janesville, a trip it made in 3 hours and 15 minutes, and then it was off to Madison.

Despite their low opinions of the "Oshkosh," Fort Atkinson residents were quick to claim ownership of the first automobiles as they became available. In fact, some local residents built self-propelled vehicles of their own.



Art Hoard's sailboat at Lake Koshkonong.

The 1896 census of Fort Atkinson revealed that 15 automobiles were owned in the city. That same census showed that horses, mules and asses in the city totaled 294. By 1920, cars outnumbered horses etc., for the first time — 293 to 114.

A public-operated airport has served Fort Atkinson since 1945, when the city began to lease Mid-City Airport from Ray Gardinier. That field, located between the city and Jefferson along Highway 26, was purchased by the city for $34,175 in 1951. The actual price was $38,675, for there were to be improvements costing $4,500. Of that amount, the city paid $13,940, with state and federal funds making up the difference. In its early days, the airport had a manager, but no more. Without a paved runway, it presently serves industrial and pleasure craft, but plans call for expansion and improvement.

Transportation in Fort Atkinson also included public bus service for a brief time in the 1940s-50s, but patronage was insufficient. Taxi service now is the only in-city public transport.

Sliced in two by the river, bridges have always been a vital link to transportation in the city. During its first six years of existence, the city survived with a ferry (flat boat) that was first propelled by a pole and later by rope. Then, in 1842-43, the first Main Street bridge was erected of timbers. It was described in 1845 as being "very frail and flimsy," with no railings on either side. Just a few years later, in December 1849, a special town meeting was held at which residents voted to raise $350 to repair or rebuild the bridge.

In 1881, before the auto was invented, a steel bridge was built that had a narrow 20-foot driveway and a 5-foot walk. The present Main Street bridge was erected in 1918, after residents approved bonding for $50,000 for a cement structure 286 feet long, with a 35-foot driveway and two 8-foot walks. That was rebuilt in 1964.

The first Bark River bridge was built in 1852. Early Fort Atkinson also was served by a narrow span connecting Robert Street with Milwaukee Avenue. That was relocated and rebuilt in recent years.

Up until 1910, traveling in the city by any means was either dusty or muddy, for all streets were dirt and there were only a few board walks in the downtown section. The city's first paved streets were made of wood blocks laid on Main Street (which tended to wash away in times of flooding). Later, macadomized and cement pavement came to the city.

Milwaukee Avenue surveyed by Jones

Names of Fort Atkinson streets tell much about the city's history and its people.

It is natural to start with Foster Street, for its name marks a beginning. Dwight Foster was the first white settler to come to this area. He was responsible for the city's initial growth and progressiveness.

True, the old Fort Atkinson — first called Fort Koshkonong — was here before Foster came east. In fact, many settlers built their cabins out of logs used in the stockade. But, Foster was the first settler to make this his permanent home.

Shortly after Foster came, Milo Jones, a government surveyor, arrived to survey mill sites. He was working with a company stationed in Milwaukee. He settled in Fort Atkinson, and both Milo Street and Jones Avenue have since been named in his honor.

From the corner on which J&M Carpets now stands, Milo Jones surveyed the first street in this city, Milwaukee Avenue, then known as the Bark River Road.

Main Street was an old territorial road leading from Racine to Madison. There is no record of its original name; we only know that it was merely a rough path in the wilderness. It was the first street in the settlement to be surveyed, with Milwaukee Avenue second.

After Foster built his cabin, he returned to Milwaukee to bring his family to a new home. It was at this time that he met a man by the name of Aaron Rankin, who had journeyed by boat and boot to Milwaukee from New York. Rankin now joined Foster and soon made his home here, too. His brother came to the settlement later. Rankin Street is located just off Riverside Drive.

Rockwell Street is named after one of the city's prominent settlers, Charles Rockwell. He started many ventures in what was then a struggling gathering of people. He built the first church, the first school and the first farm building. He also built and operated the first dry goods store and officiated at the first funeral.

One of the initial industries this community developed was the cooper business, where barrels were made. There is Cooper Street, just south of the river and west of Main Street. One cooper shop stood where First Congregational United Church of Christ is now located.

In 1868, J.K. Purdy established the first public school system and became the first superintendent. The street bearing his name runs from East Milwaukee Avenue down to the Legion Dugout.

Robert Street was named after Robert Barrie, a member of one of the early families which annexed land to the city. Barrie Street was named after the family.

It appears the city council got bold once and even named a street after itself. Council Street runs north four blocks off Van Buren Street.

L.B. Caswell was a leading citizen in this part of Wisconsin and a former school and current street bear his name. He served as representative to the United States Congress, besides making his mark in many ways in local business life.

In 1894, Grant Street was conclusively adopted as the title of the avenue between South Main and Maple streets. By mistake, it was labeled Ashley Street on a county map some years before, but it was found that its original name had been Grant.

When the Civil War came, many men from the village joined troops. When the war was over, citizens renamed Ashley Street in honor of Gen. U.S. Grant.

Walton, McComb, Ralph, Hake, McPherson, Edward, Converse, Short and White streets were named after prominent old families in town. Some

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Germany, LaFollette streets?

(Continued from page 91)

of these people annexed land to the city.

Clarence Street was probably named after early settler Clarence Curtis, who lived on what is now the corner of Clarence and North Third Streets.

Janette and Lucile streets were namesakes of the daughters of H.H. Curtis. Shirley and Harriet streets were in honor of the daughters of Frank Hoard and A.R. Hoard, respectively. These four streets are located in what was the Hoard-Curtis annexation. About 1914, Frank Hoard and Curtis annexed a total of 180 acres to the northwest part of the city.

Dempster Street was named after William Dempster Hoard, former governor of Wisconsin. He was founder of Hoard's Dairyman and the Daily Jefferson County Union.

At one time, Drummond Craig was postmaster here. Hence the city has a Craig Street. Craig was also an early family name in this area.

The McMillen Street label originated with McMillen Brothers, who owned a slaughter house and meatmarket for many years.

Wilcox Street might be named after A.J. Wilcox, who was a member of the school board in Fort Atkinson for years, or possibly after Joe Wilcox, who owned the lumber yard.

All tired out were W.D. James, Jack Olson, George James and Harry Westcott.

Frederick and Boldt streets are named after Frederick Boldt, whose land was part of the original village.

When Eli P. May annexed land to the city, he named two of the newly-created streets, Roland and Zida, after his grandchildren. They are down near the old May home on East Milwaukee Avenue. Zida was also the name of his sister.

Harry Mooradian, a native of Armenia, named a street after his homeland. It is directly west of the hospital.

Sherman Avenue was once called Germany Street, but when World War I broke out in 1917 and relations with Germany ceased, it was decided that the name of the nearby Sherman Avenue would be applied to the entire street. At the same time, La Follette Street was changed to Wilson Avenue because Sen. Robert La Follette opposed America's entry into World War I.

Cloute and Heth streets are named after families who owned land in town, and Rogers Street is the namesake of the late attorney Charles B. Rogers.

Two of the city's newest streets, Gerald and Endl, honor Gerald Endl, Fort Atkinson's only Congressional Medal of Honor winner, who died a hero in World War II.

Converse Street remembers the pioneer nurseryman, while Grove Street was named after Jones' Grove; Edgewater Road after the Edgewater Stock Farm located there and James Place and Jamesway after W.D. James.

Snow, twisters stormed Fort

By Christine Blumer

Although usually fairly pleasant, Mother Nature has had her nasty moods, as is evident in two "killer" tornadoes and three paralyzing snows.

The area was particularly hard hit during the 1870s and 1880s, when two twisters and one of the city's three worst snowstorms struck.

In 1878, a tornado swept through Jefferson County, mainly in the Town of Oakland, killing one man, injuring others and leaving in its path $50,000 in damages.

"The tornado . . . entered Jefferson County in the Township of Oakland from Christiana, Dane County. Here it passed across a part of Cedar Lake, and those who saw it state that the water was drawn up into the clouds, creating a sight fearful and great to behold," according to local newspaper reports.

"The water thus sucked up by the cyclone was thus precipitated, with immense force, upon the land farther to the east. Gathering force with every current of air, it struck a large barn, 36-by-54, and crushed it like an eggshell. Although the house was next to the barn, it was little injured; yet the large hickory, oak and poplar trees standing all about the house were twisted into basket-stuff."

Christian Gross was killed in the twister, but he did manage to save his wife, Louise Brandel Gross, and their eight children.

"That portion in which the family were was unroofed and the beds blown to no one know's where," according to newspaper accounts. "The stove was thrown down, and the fire scattered about the room. The doors were so jammed together as to prevent any chance of getting out, and the family was in imminent danger of being burned alive.

"Mr. Gross, although very ill at the time, managed to get hold of a peck measure and with the contents of a swill barrel standing in the room, put out the fire."

His widow, who was the maternal grandmother of George Swart of Fort Atkinson, rebuilt the farm and was called upon many times to serve as a nurse and midwife.

Five years later, a twister prompted the Jefferson County Union to publish its first "Union Extra." The headlines of the issue on July 16, 1883, read, "The Tornado's Terror," "Fort Atkinson Visited by the Cyclonic Fiend," "The Northwestern Manufacturing Company's Works Blown to Atoms" and "The Establishment of Cornish & Curtis a Complete Wreck."

No one was killed, but the twister ravaged the city's industrial area, including Northwestern Manufacturing Co., which received an estimated $15,000 damage, and Cornish and Curtis, where $5,000-plus damage was done to the lumberyard and butter churn facility.

"The day had been marked by peculiar electrical disturbances," according to the Union Extra article. "At 3 o'clock in the morning, a tremendous thunderstorm passed over the city, and at 10 o'clock a severe hailstorm came. The heavens gave evidence that the electrical forces were greatly agitated.

"The tornado is described by Mr. Will Whitney, who lives on the Madison road west of the city, who states that he saw the black funnel terror moving from the southwest, its course in the air marked by a vast mass of trees, limbs and debris. It seems to have been moving high in the air until it came near the shops of the Northwestern Manufacturing Co., when it suddenly descended to the ground and in an instant where before was the busy hive of industry, now lies almost a mass of ruins.

"The tall smokestack of the company was snapped off like a pipe and the west wall of the same crushed in. In this shop were several young ladies and other hands employed, yet, strange to say, none were injured."

The tin roofing of Judge Lucien B. Caswell's home was blown off, as was the steeple at the Universalist Church. Caswell's roof in places was "crushed in like an eggshell" — still a favorite phrase by the editor after five years."

Cyclone hit Fort in early 1900s.

The article continued: "In less than twenty seconds of time damage to the extent of $50,000 was done, as the terrible funnel swept through our beautiful city. The work of years now lies in a dreary waste. Still, amid it all, the cry goes up on every hand: 'Thank God! Not one was killed.' And yet, it seems a miracle that there was so little injury to life and person."

According to the Jefferson County Union on March 11, 1881, "The severe storm of Sunday, 27th February, 1881, drifted the roads and railroads full, and it was only by the severest effort that the latter were cleared and the trains got in motion by the 2nd. That night it commenced snowing, and in four hours fully 10 inches had fallen. All through the night and the whole Thursday the storm raged with unabated fury, the snow falling rapidly the whole time, a high wind piling it in tremendous drifts. Friday morning the streets presented a scene which baffles all descriptions. The undrifted depth of snow was over three feet.

"But the drifts! Oh, the drifts! On Main Street, from the bridge for workers were busy all day Monday removing the snow from the streets."

Water Street, West, during the big snow of 1881.

three blocks south, the drifts varied from four to eight feet. On South Water Street, from the mill to the lumberyard of A.D. Wilcox and Co., the snow was piled across the street 12 feet high in some places, and this was much the condition of all streets running east and west.

"The whole of Friday was spent in shoveling paths, and after this was accomplished the streets presented a wonderful look. Deep canals were cut here and there, and the snow piled as high as it could be thrown in square blocks, giving a bold, rugged cast to the scene that exceeded all winter landscapes ever seen in Fort Atkinson."

Fort Atkinson was snowbound April 15, 1921, when 10 inches of snow fell on the city.

An article in the Daily Jefferson County Union in 1949, which reports that 10 inches of snow fell 28 years ago to the day, said drifts were piled as high as six feet in some areas of the city.

In the article, Mrs. Clyde Bartlett of 320 Robert St., recalled that it started snowing April 14, 1921, and continued through the night, tying up traffic for several days.

"She recalls that the fire truck enroute to a fire was stalled on Main Street and that the James Manufacturing Co. instructed its employees not to return to work on the following Saturday afternoon, due to high drifts," the article stated.

The lead paragraph in the then-weekly Jefferson County Union published April 22, 1921, stated, "After a week of balmy weather and just when people were thinking about spring flowers, gardens, lawns and summer, along came a blizzard which swept nearly the entire state and covered Fort Atkinson with 10 inches of snow."

The article continued: "It was by far the worst blizzard experienced in this section since 1881 . . . Snow was piled up in drifts about the city, which made walking difficult and travel with automobiles next to impossible. Country roads were blocked and train service delayed. Farmers were forced to stop their fieldwork and say things about the weather."

Even so, the snow didn't stay around very long.

"A hot sun all day Sunday and a still hotter sun Monday melted the snow, and by Tuesday noon only a few piles of the 'beautiful' were to be seen," according to the Union.

Famous Fort Atkinson faces

Sontag noted for musical talents

Fred and Minnie Heid Sontag lived in the 300 block of Fort Atkinson's North Main Street. On May 19, 1899 they welcomed a son, Wesley, to the family.

City resident Harriet Vance remembers that Minnie Sontag seemed to have a dream for her son: she insisted that he practice long hours on the violin, often calling him home from croquet or other games to practice. She never wanted him to engage in games which might injure his hands, Mrs. Vance recalls, and also kept him from learning to drive a car.

Minnie Sontag's dream came true. Wesley continued his fascination with the violin, fostered by the Fort Atkinson teaching duo of Lila and Mattie Snell, through high school and music studies in Milwaukee and Chicago to reach the heights of his profession as an instructor at the Julliard School of Music in New York. He was, at the time of his death in 1979 at the age of 80, known throughout the world as a violinist, instructor and composer.

Despite his fame, Sontag never lost his connections with his roots in Fort Atkinson. On one of his many visits back to the city, he stopped at the Hoard Historical Museum. Much impressed, he included the facility in his will, leaving the city many family heirlooms and, more importantly, his music library of compositions and arrangements.

In 1984, the museum donated what curator Hannah Swart labeled "a beautiful collection" to Edgewood College, where, as he stipulated, it was to be used for music instruction. A Wisconsin State Journal article of that year quoted Edgewood's orchestra instructor as saying, "We have something here and we must share it with others."

Sontag's obituary in the Nov. 16, 1979, edition of the Daily Jefferson County Union attested to his prowess in the musical world. After completing studies he played violin in a symfonetta orchestra and taught at Juliard and New York University for years. While in New York, he conducted orchestras in Orchestra Hall and Town Hall, and also was guest conductor of the London, England, Symphony.

He directed the nationally-known Schrafft's and Texaco choruses; composed and arranged orchestrations for all ages, and composed many works which were published and are now heard around the world.

As are most people with a creative bent, Sontag wasn't one dimensional. After retiring from New York City to Princeton, he became interested in horticultural photography and won numerous prizes in New York Horticultural Society exhibits, with some of his pictures being taken in formal gardens throughout Europe — photographs now on display in the Hoard Historical Museum.

Throughout his life, Wesley Sontag retained an interest in Fort Atkinson, an interest which continues after his death through his works on display at the museum. Even in death, he continues to have a lasting influence on the city he always called home.

Wesley Sontag

Ernie Hausen: world chicken-plucking champ

Fort Atkinson has had its share — perhaps more than its share — of notable sons and daughters: those who have gone on to become known nationally and internationally for their prowess in a wide range of skills and expertise.

We have had the Hoards and Fosters, Jameses and Swarts, Niedeckers and Sontags, Sullivans and Offerdahls. Each and every one is a fine example of the mettle of Fort Atkinson.

Yet, in all of those 150 years, our community has had only one world champion — Ernie Hausen.

Born in 1877 in Fort Atkinson, Ernie worked his way through the local school system and then worked for McMillen Bros. butcher shop, a job he held for 26 years. In addition to supplying Hausen with a living, his tenure at McMillen Bros. supplied him the training he would need to capture his world title and hold it against all comers — man and machine — until he died undefeated in 1955, an amazing 33 years.

What was Ernie Hausen's distinction, the skill that set him apart from all others? He could pluck a chicken faster than anyone or anything alive.

In 1922, a Lake Geneva man appeared at a local poultry show and challenged one and all to a chicken plucking contest. Never bashful, the young meatcutter stepped forward. As if following the script of a movie, Ernie denuded his bird in six seconds, well ahead of the shocked record holder. That same night, Ernie lowered his mark to five seconds, once again rolling past the champion and sending him back to Lake Geneva a beaten man.

Before he left, the former titlist told Hausen he would never be beaten, a prophesy that held true for the next 33 years. Thirty one years after his death, with chicken plucking now a lost art, his record of 3½ seconds is unapproachable.

Hausen's reign as world record holder includes victories over men from Bangor, Maine, to Denver, Colo., and from Mexico to Canada. Also among those to fall to his flying fingers was a machine designed exactly to dethrone him during an exhibition in Indianapolis, Ind.

One of his greatest afternoons came before the hometown folks in Fort Atkinson where he was matched against the young guns trying to claim their fame against the old master. Over 350 were on hand to watch in 1939 when Hausen was challenged by Waukesha County chicken plucking king Victor Pundsack and city champ Herbert Weber.

An eye-witness account of the spectacle said:

"He picked one chicken in slow motion to show the technique; he picked one with his eyes bandaged to show that his fingers know their business; he wore big rubber mittens in picking a third to prove that nothing could stop him, and finally he picked the fourth in high, in 4 2/5 seconds, as a warning to his challengers."

Needless to say, history has recorded that Pundsack and Weber were sent to the Boot Hill of chicken pluckers just like all of the other young upstarts.

During his long reign, Hausen demonstrated his skills to more than 100 schools in Wisconsin, also speaking on dressing and preparing game and fish. On retirement, like many great champions, he took to the exhibition trail, appearing at festivals, carnivals and fairs across the country.

The story of Ernie Hausen: 33 years as world champion chicken plucker; the undefeated conquerer of man, machine and, by his own count, a million featherless fowl.

Lorine Niedecker's poetry lauded

Lorine Niedecker

By Thomas Beebe

It is sad, but so often true, that the great are never appreciated until they are no longer with us. In February 1986, four actors read a new play, "Niedecker," written by Kristine Thatcher, an actress at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater. It seemed to be just one more step in the awakening of the world to the work and life of Lorine Niedecker.

Born in Fort Atkinson on May 12, 1903, to Henry and Daisy Kunz Niedecker, she went on to be one of the community's truly famous sisters. Although an obscure poetess during her life, she grew to "the Emily Dickinson of her time," following her death at age 67 on the last day of December in 1970.

Most of her life was spent in a small cottage on Blackhawk Island, unnoticed by the world although loved neighbor of her Lake Koshkonong friends.

Yet, in the last few years, the world has taken note of the life and work of Niedecker. The Cambridge Quarterly Review in England, the New York Times, The Nation magazine and the Christian Science Monitor are just a few of the more prominent journals that have carried serious reviews of her work.

Her works have drawn praise from such world renown poets as Basil Bunting, William Carlos Williams, the dean of American poetry, August Derleth, and Jonathan Willaims who said, "Lorin Niedecker is one of the best poets period — living or dead, male or female."

Writing for the Christian Science Monitor, Steven Ratiner surmised that she never became a major literary success during her life because she didn't address the great visions and large human themes that literary critics revel in — she didn't write to the masses. Instead, Miss Niedecker wrote "flinty succinct verses filled with edges and silences."

Lorine Niedecker left Fort Atkinson for a brief time to attend Beloit College and work as a script writer for WHA, Madison. However, most of her life was spent with her parents (her father was a carp fisherman and tavernkeeper) caring for her invalid mother after her father died.

Later, she lived alone in the Blackhawk Island cabin she inherited from her father. Her marriage in 1928 to farmer Frank Hartwig ended in divorce because, as friend Gail Roub put it, "He expected her to be a farmer's wife."

(Continued on page 95)

Main Street Fort Atkinson in 1948.

Fort woman's poetry lauded

(Continued from page 94)

Niedecker began to publish her poetry in the mid-30s but she was never far from routine occupations. After two years at the local library, she visited New York City but never strayed long from Blackhawk Island. She scrubbed floors at the hospital and worked as a proof reader for Hoard's Dairyman, just to "make a little money for the really important things."

"At 60 one does foolish things," Niedecker wrote, and in 1962 she married Albert Millen, a rough outdoorsman-turned-Milwaukee building painter. They spent four trying years in Milwaukee before returning to the shores of Lake Koshkonong.

Like her father and mother, Lorine Niedecker had heart problems. However, Al and her poetry kept her mind sharp and her body, according to Roub, "like a young girl's." In 1960, she said she planned on 10 "good years" to "make a fair start at getting to the bottom of it . . ." She fell three years short.

On Dec. 1, 1970, Lorine had a stroke. "I don't know what's the matter," she told Al and never spoke again. Campfire Girls caroled her at Fort Atkinson Memorial Hospital, and a long-time friend decorated the Christmas tree in her room. On New Year's Eve she died and was buried in Union Cemetery.

Al died in 1981 and was buried next to her under a gravestone that reads: "Al Millen, husband of Lorine Niedecker." Shortly after his wife's death, Al mused about her life: "After she left, I thought, 'Who is she? And what is she?' "

A quarter-century later, Al's question is still being considered. The answer — from her friends, her neighbors and her peers — is that Lorine Niedecker was among the best that Fort Atkinson sent into the world.

—o—

I worked the print shop
right down among them
the folk from who all poetry flows

The women hold jobs —
clean house, cook, raise children, bowl
and go to church.

What would they say if they knew
I sit for two months on six lines of poetry?

—Lorine Niedecker

'Times' cover featured Fort author Craig Rice

By Joan Jones

Craig Rice was once described by an acquaintance as being the only person he knew who could crochet, play chess, read a book and compose music at the same time — and hold a highball.

The woman who possessed that remarkable dexterity was born in Chicago in 1908. She was the daughter of Harry "Bosco" Craig, a painter and sometime adventurer, and Mary Randolph, the daughter of a Chicago physician.

Her globe-trotting parents had taken time out from their travels so that the child could be born in the United States. They left again soon after Georgiana's birth. After being shunted around the homes of several relatives, she arrived in Fort Atkinson at the age of six.

She would spend a considerable portion of her remaining childhood years with her paternal aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Elton Rice, who resided on South Main Street. It was during those years that she added the surname Rice and dropped

Craig Rice

Georgiana. It was said that her penchant for mystery was partially due to her Uncle Elton, who liked to read her the poems of Edgar Allan Poe.

As a grown woman, she lived in Fort Atkinson, Chicago and California. She had acquired an interest in

(Continued on page 66)

Back in 1859, farm protest against tax

Farm protests against the ever-increasing costs of education are far from new in the area.

In fact, they date back more than a 125 years.

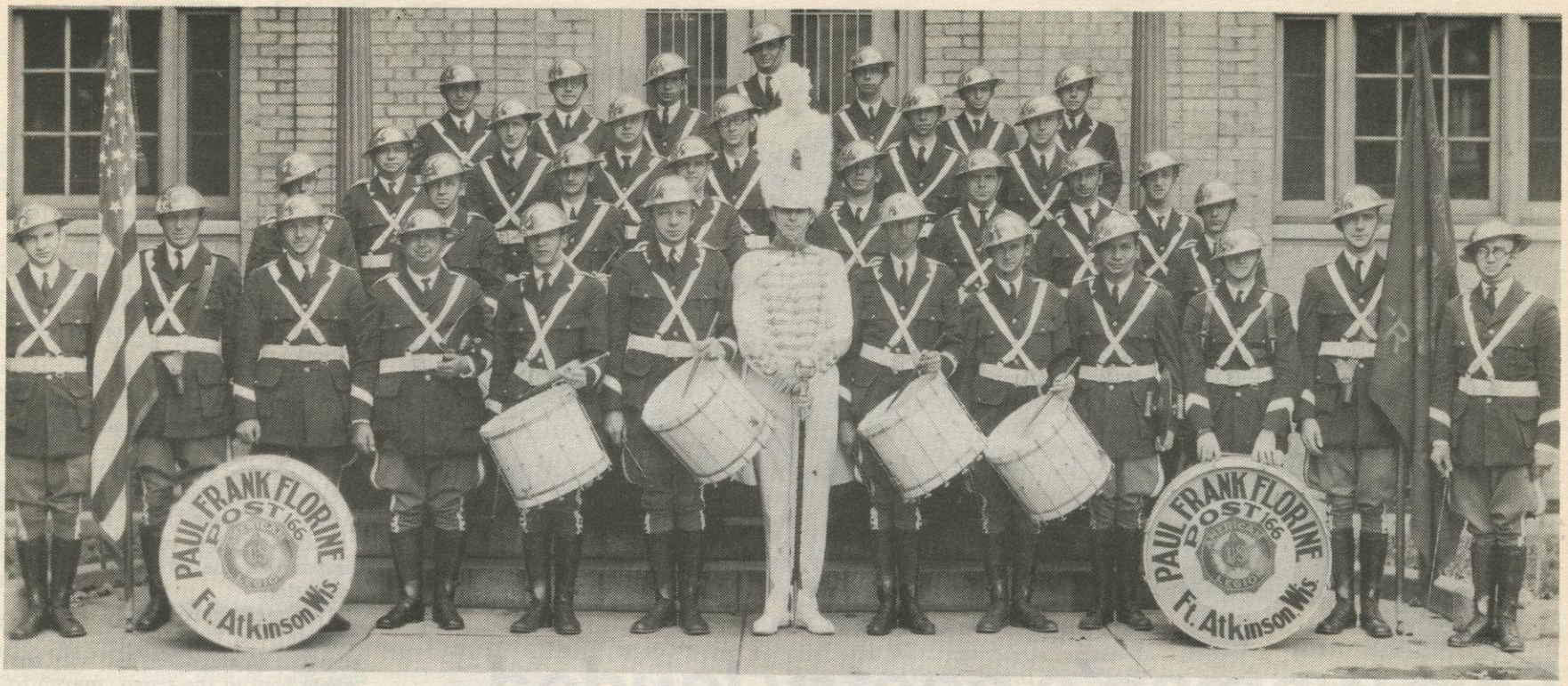
Monday evening, Feb. 14, 1859, in the Town of Koshkonong, farmers of Koshkonong and Cold Spring met, with Giles Kinney as chairman. Object of the meeting, said Kinney, was to secure "some combination and union on the part of farmers, producers and laboring men for the purpose of protecting their rights and interests against the numerous evils and aggressions to which thay have been unjustly obliged to submit."

Specifically, those "evils and aggressions" were listed as paying "a large portion of taxes for the support of the government and education."

Farmers were urged at that meeting to "place yourselves shoulder to shoulder, and with the whole soul in the tread, march to the ballot box, the high places of power and the seats of injustice, and a better order of affairs may be attained."

Keep those cows fenced

Back in the 1870s, people had problems of a different type. In 1874, the Union reported, "There is a strict law in force in this village against allowing cattle to run at large. We notice that some people are in the habit of turning out their cows in the morning and allowing them to feed in the streets for several hours before driving them to pasture."



The American Legion Band poses at the municipal building.

Joe Dietz strikes up the band

(Editor's Note: This article on Fort Atkinson's musical history was written by Joe Dietz for Koshkonong Country Revisited. The 94-year-old Dietz, who today resides at Fairhaven Retirement Home in Whitewater, has been known as Fort Atkinson's own Music Man for decades.

(He directed military bands during World War I and afterward accepted an offer from the Red Cross to perform for military hospitals and rehabilitation camps. Back in Fort Atkinson, he directed the local military band from 1915-35 and also waved the baton for many years in the city band.

(The Barrie Park Bandshell was dedicated to Dietz in a special program in 1981.)

By Joe Dietz

Since I was born in 1891, I had little to contribute to early band history except by recalling what my father told me. He referred to the different names the band went by, such as the Fort Atkinson Cornet Band, the Fort Atkinson Brass Band and the Fort Atkinson Military Band, which carried on until 1941. My father, who was a bandsman in the early years, mentioned Samuel Bridges as a director of one of the early bands. Another director was Frank Conrad, who operated the hardware store and was a tinsmith by trade.

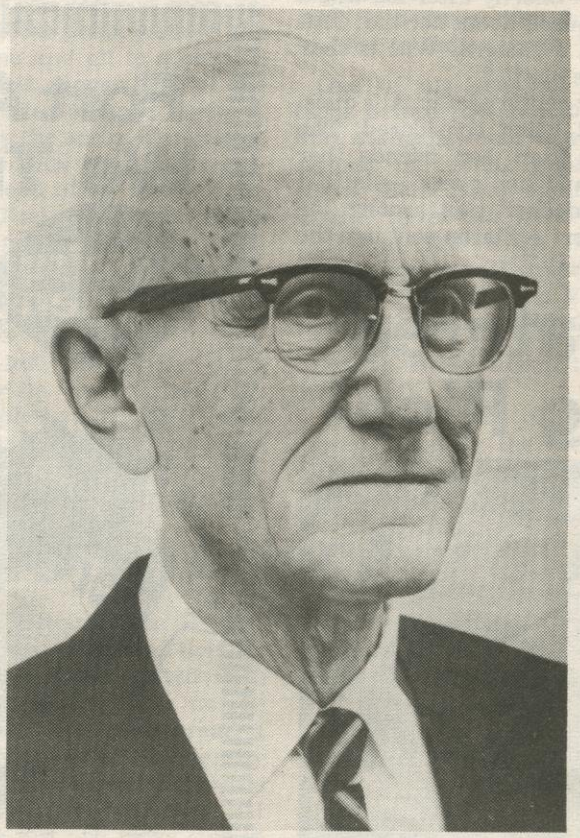
At the end of the Spanish-American War, the remains of the soldiers who died in the South, mainly from disease, were returned to their homes for burial. On those occasions, the band always turned out and played in the funeral procession to the cemetery. I well remember proudly marching alongside my dad for a short distance on those occasions. Upon entering the gates of the cemetery, the marching pace was slowed and the dirge played, and then the procession proceeded to the final resting place of the soldier.

During those early days, bands made their services available for torchlight parades at election times, particularly for national elections. One or two days prior to an important rally, local members of a particular party would go out to the marshes and pick cattails and soak them overnight in kerosene. On the night of the rally, the musicians would parade on Main Street followed by a large group of party members carrying lighted cattails. It was quite a method for whipping up enthusiasm and spirit, not only to get visitors out for the rally, but to encourage them to vote on election day.

I was told of another event which occurred back then. At that time, trombones were of the valve-type as on such present-day instruments as trumpets and cornets. Along about that time, a new trombone was introduced whereby tones were emitted by slides pulled back and forth to different positions.

The first of these trombones in Fort Atkinson was purchased by a Leo Gibson, whose father was a well known doctor in the city. The Dexheimer Drug Store maintained a bulletin board in front of their store where special items were posted. It announced that the new instrument would be played at the next appearance of the band.

As was the custom at that time, the band marched to the end of Second Street at the Green Mountain House, formed a circle and prepared for the big event. Just about everybody in town came



Joseph Dietz

out to see and hear this new instrument being played. The sidewalks and street corners were packed. People kept crowding closer and closer to the performer anxious to hear music coming out of such a contraption. It was quite an event in Fort Atkinson history.

For many years, weekly band concerts were played during the summer months of June, July, and August. The concerts were played from a bandwagon moved to different blocks along Main Street. An occasional concert would be played at Barrie or Jones Parks.

In about the year 1911, an investor, T.L. Valerius, who was associated with the Cornish, Curtis, and Greene Co., conceived the idea of building a band stand located on top of the Main Street bridge. The idea was prompted by a desire to avoid the congestion created by the band playing at different locations along Main Street. The idea solved the congestion admirably, but not enough consideration was given to other factors that created problems.

First of all, the music did not carry well since water attracted sound up and down the river. Secondly, traffic passing underneath the band stand was disturbing. Then too, people could not listen sitting in parked cars when the cars parked some distance away. All in all, the most that could be said for the idea was that it was a noble experiment. After one season, the bandstand was dismantled and concerts were again played from the bandwagon drawn to different locations.

I well remember the first band I was a member of, at the age of 12. There were no boys' bands in these parts at that time, so Dr. Frank Brewer, the founder of the first hospital in Fort Atkinson, directed one called the "The Creamery City Band." It was named after a large creamery owned and operated by A.R. Hoard.

The band practiced in a large barn located on Foster Street. There were some 40 members, and they were uniformed in white, appropriate for the name "Creamery City." The band was in big demand for celebrations and parades in surrounding towns, and it received a tremendous ovation wherever it played. The band also appeared in cities like Janesville, Oconomowoc, Fond du Lac and Baraboo.

Carl Wandschneider, a superintendent of the James Manufacturing Co., directed the Fort Atkinson Military Band from 1912-15. I followed him and directed the band from 1915-35. Others who directed the band from 1936-41 were Floyd Bordson from Watertown, Herman Helvig from Janesville and Victor Buelow from Jefferson. Membership of the band during those years varied from 24 to 30.

Much of the success of the band during the 1915-1935 era should be credited to the energy and effort of one of its members, A.E. (Bump) Jones. To improve the band's capabilities, Jones occasionally sought outside bandsmen to strengthen certain sections of our band. He would advertise for musicians to come to Fort Atkinson and, in return for their services to the band, he managed to find jobs for them.

Jones, along with the band director, Joe Dietz, built up a large music library consisting of classical, semi-classical, instrumental solos, descriptive numbers and popular music. Few bands in

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Quilts: patchwork of Fort's 150 years

by Pat Landowski

The earliest quilters in Fort Atkinson have left behind a fantastic collection of functional and fancy quilts, many of which can be seen at the Hoard Historical Museum.

The majority of the early quilts, some of which today are in private collections, were made for daily use and for protection against the harsh winters. This is evident by the use of simple designs, homespun and left-over fabrics.

The Almira Foster quilt is a good example of the earliest bedcovers. The quilt was carded, spun, dyed and woven by Almyra Foster in 1838. The filler was horsehair from the settler's own horses, and the quilting pattern of diamond shapes was very uneven and crudely done. This piece showed the meager resources of the frontier women.

The designs of the older (100 years-plus) quilts are generally geometric with each block done in different colors from clothing scraps. Fabric was scarce and homespun was very time consuming, so every small piece of leftover fabric was utilized in quiltmaking. These were true scrap quilts.

Most patterns were created simply by folding a piece of paper into a pattern. Cardboard copies of these templates in envelopes accompany some of the quilts at the museum. These templates were passed among quilters and used many times, and the patterns are used today with contemporary fabrics.

It is obvious that many of the older quilts were done at a quilting bee. The changes in stitch length and tension show where one quilter ended and another started. The majority of quilts were done by family members, young and old.

Quilting was an important scene in early Fort Atkinson. The men would have a logging bee or barn raising and the women would meet at a nearby residence or farm to cook for the men and quilt.

The quilting bee became a day for meeting with friends and neighbors. It was a family affair with most of the activity held outside, as many homes and cabins were too small to accomodate a quilt frame with eight to 10 women around it.

The women had to make due with limited supplies, money and utensils in a more often than not crude, inadequate home. Most of the women were completely isolated and longed for female companionship. Hence, the importance of the quilting bee. This social occasion provided the personal interaction that was so badly needed in frontier days.

Once the quilt top, filler and batting were set on the frame, the actual quilting began. The design was usually the mutual choice of all involved. The men joined the women for a lunch in which each woman had prepared her best recipe for all to share.

By the end of the day, the quilt was completed (average 100 hours of quilting) and removed from the frame to be bound by the women. There were album quilts, freedom quilts, friendship quilts, bridal quilts and signature quilts. These were made at parties often of the same name.

Quilts were the diary of the quilter; into each block was a part of her life. Many quilts were embroidered or signed on the plain patches with dates of births, anniversaries, marriages and deaths of family members, thus leaving a history on fabric.

As Fort Atkinson grew, so did quilting. There arose a competition among quilters to create more intricate designs and stitching. As the economy rose and fabric became more available, the quality and designs of quilts improved.

A very important source of our quilting heritage comes from the local churches. The early day church quilting was for charitable purposes:

Patched pants in the 1800s.

ladies aid groups quilted for families who lost everything in a fire or some other disaster, while some were made for orphanages or the missions. Later church groups quilted tops brought to them by customers. Many were made to be raffled at church affairs, the profit being used to pay church debts.

Two outstanding quilts constructed by such groups are the Congregationalist Church Quilt of 1885 and the Oakland Church Quilt of 1890. Both quilts show ingenuity by listing within the quilt names of many of their parishioners. The names and even tiny sketches in India ink remain very visible after 100 years. The Crazy Eight, a duo card club and quilting group from St. Joseph's Catholic Church, also made many quilts.

Betsy Sears made a quilt in 1883 that is fantastic, considering the hardships of her life and the lack of resources. She constructed an applique of exquisite beauty and workmanship. A masterpiece of handwork, it is hanging in the museum for all to see.

The names Ouwneel, Sears, Foster, Westphal, Snell, Blanchard, Zwieckel, Urban, Scullin, Murtaugh, Brickson and hundreds more have left Fort Atkinson with a legacy in cloth.

Quilting continued to thrive through the early 20th Century. Designs became more intricate and detailed; complete quilt kits could be ordered from catalogs. The Victorian Era was noted for its crazy quilts made of scraps from silks and velvets which were elaborately embroidered. The 1930s brought a rage of miniature piecing and vivid colors.

Quilting was not a popular pastime from 1940-70. But it made a comeback in the early 1970s, when

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Parade some 40 years ago.

Strike up the band

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this area could duplicate this library.

It was during this period that the band members decided to do good things for the city other than just playing music. The band sponsored the Lincoln Chautaugua, which made available to our residents high-class music, as well as nationally recognized lectures. The band also sponsored home talent plays and minstrel shows using the talents of band member Herbert Barret's experience in directing such entertainment.

During World War I, a band was organized among older musicians in Jefferson County in order to keep up morale among older musicians and spirits and play in patriotic events throughout the county. Carl Wandschneider was the director of this band, which had 75 members. It contributed tremendously to uniting the people in support of the war and, after serving the purpose well, it was disbanded at the end of the war.

In the early 1930s, the Farm Bureau Band was organized mainly through the efforts of our local Farm Bureau. Composed of Farm Bureau members and some younger musicians, it was headquartered in Fort Atkinson. They played for many events throughout the county as well as in a series of band concerts locally. This band was under the capable direction of Stuart Anhalt. It contributed much to cementing rural and city relations throughout the county.

In 1928, the Fort Atkinson High School Band was organized through the efforts of Frank Bray, superintendent of schools, and Stuart Anhalt, who was engaged as director. The first appearance of the band was at the dedication of the Municipal Building on Feb. 22, 1929. It was given a tremendous ovation by the packed assembly.

In 1927, the city erected a bandstand in Barrie Park, which was patterned after the bandstands built for the U.S. Military service. Accomodating 28 to 30 band members, it was quite adequate for most of the band of that day. It was dedicated in honor of Bandmaster Joe Dietz.

Ode to Fort Atkinson

Kids with knack for rhyme take Fort back in time

(Editor's Note: In recognition of 1986 being the 150th anniversary of the founding of Fort Atkinson, English students at Fort Atkinson High School each wrote their own "Ode to Fort Atkinson." The following authors penned their poems in Phil Schubert's American Literature, Drama and Poetry class last semester. Spelling remains as the authors intended.)

By Tim Jung

Wilt that thou could see
The changes in thee
Through the years of war
With thouse of the land
And fighting of brotheres at hand.

Thy freedom was first ignored,
From thouse where thine came opressed.
Thy young and old fought the same,
To forge a new life and more.
Beat back the forces from whence thy came.

Looking for more room and a place to grow,
Thus sprung to life.
Through greife and strife,
and futures unseen.

When thou began thust forged the land,
Clearing the way for a new beginning.
Some mistakes allong the way,
With natives whom thou pushed astray,
After being made inert,
A smeered and made as low as dirt.

Your brotheres split and,
sons left to fight.
To many died, for countrys sake.
Governed states won the war
For better or worse, the end had come.

Sons still alive returned,
To bear the burden of the land.

You trained them well,
For countrys sake.
For each time called the horn to arms,
your children heeded calls to arms.
From wars of worlds,
to Insane battles.

The countrys, children you have bred
but in what path have them you led?

By Cindy Olson

Here you lie in Southeastern Wisconsin,
Away from the big cities.
Your atmosphere is that
Of any small town;
There's friendliness and peacefulness,
Yet activity to be found.

Between Chief Blackhawk
And General Atkinson,
Our town's oldest heroes,
Your name was derived
As a result of their battle,
And today still survives.

Your history dates back to 1836,
When Foster was our first settler.
Eventually your population grew,
When families like Jones and May,
Decided that this would be
A great place to grow.

Wisconsin is a farming state
And Fort is no exception.
Jones Dairy Farm was our first,
And fastest-growing business.
It was the beginning of what was soon to be
A fast growing community.

We are fortunate to have
A daily newspaper in Fort.
It all began,
With a publisher named Hoard.
His major claim to fame, however,
Was when he became Governor.

Hundreds and hundreds of kids
Have walked the hall of FHS.
Dozens upon dozens of teachers
Have occupied the classrooms.
You have produced many fine scholars
Throughout these long years.

Older homes gave been restored,
And the fort has been rebuilt.
Our museum is clearly unique,
Especially for a town our size.
All these things were done with care,
To preserve sweet memories.

The town has a mixture of people,
From farmers to businessmen.
But once a year,

Neal Rogers (Hasel)

They all come together
At our festival
With a spirit that lasts all year.

The flowing Rock River
Continues to be an attraction
To fishermen, boaters and nature lovers.
It divides the city
With its curving banks,
And adds to the beauty of the town.

Your face has changed
Throughout these years
As people have come and gone.
The generations have passed,
And now, at last,
You're 150 years old.

By Kathy Rose

150 years you have stood
Proudly
On the banks of the Rock River.
Yet it is only for 17 of these
That I have been a part of you.

I have not seen the
Gradual metamorphosis
From a lonely,
Rough-hewn structure
Standing in grim defiance
Of the unknown,
To a thriving town,
Its beat the pulse of a
Maturing midwest.

I cannot praise through
Experience the
Things that were,
But only those that are now.
Yet your success is written
On every building,
Every street corner,
Every school in your domain.

The children who have
Grown up under your
Trees,
Laughed in your parks,
Learned in your buildings,
Are crying to the world
Of your growth
With each of their successes.

So do not mourn
That your history will be lost
To the graves of
Lives long gone.
You have outlived
Those who laid the rough
Foundation of your birth.
And you will outlive
Those whom you now shelter.

Yet there will ever remain
The memory of the beginning,
Now and in the trials of
The future,
Which you will survive,
And conquer.

By Carla DeGidio

Oh, little town of Fort Atkinson,
Today is your day to shine.
It has been 150 since you were born,
Take some time to sip some wine.

From the mere beginnings of the Indian Mounds,
To many smoke stacks of progressive industries,
You have struggled, You have grown,
You have accomplished so much.

Smiling faces, friendly faces,
Helpful people all around,
The small-town atmosphere
Is such a joyful place to live!

Mighty Koshkonong,
The rolling Rock River,
We can't forget the Blackhawk Fort
Which reminds us of a more serious time.

Firecrackers, dances, parades
Will fill your city with pride.
We will all celebrate with Fort Fest
To cheer you on for the rest of our lives.

By Rob McGowan

Far removed from worldly troubles,
Living isolated
In a northern town.
Does anyone remember
A sweltering afternoon
In a field in Tennessee?
Does anyone remember
A festering hole in the ground
On the plains of Belgium?
Does anyone remember
A cold night in December
In another northern town?
Does anyone remember
A dripping Asian jungle?
Fort Atkinson is far removed
From worldly troubles.

There is a lonely rock
That stands mute on a green hill.
It only speaks to those who approach it.
The rock remembers
The city's sons
Who believed their cause was worth dying for.
Max Krebs; time passes.
James Short and Delos Piper; time passes.
Wilbur Converse; time passes.
Helmer and Walter Kreklow; time passes.
Douglass Maas; time passes.
George Dailey; time passes.
Once a year, in a northern town,
We drag ourselves to the hill
And stare silently at the rock.

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Hoard Hotel given four stars

By Christine Blumer

Hoard's Hotel was THE place to stay in its day, but apparently it was THE place to work, too.

Just ask Della Pierce, who for 29 years was employed as a waitress and then manager of the rambling hotel overlooking scenic Lake Koshkonong.

"Everyone who has worked there says they enjoyed it so, that they had the most wonderful time of their life at Hoard's Hotel," the longtime Fort Atkinson resident said. "I have to say the same thing."

It was in 1925 that Arthur and Agnes Hoard hired Della as a waitress for their hotel, located where Koshkonong Mounds Country Club is today. After 10 years in a starched white apron, she moved behind the desk as manager until 1954.

Hoard's Hotel was a grand, grand place. It attracted mostly wealthy Chicagoans who stayed for weeks at a time. Some even summered up here in the "north."

"I had to do all the corresponding with guests," Della recalled, noting that most everyone returned the same time each year. "We almost knew exactly when one gang would come from Chicago and they'd fill the place and then the next week another gang would come. One cottage would be taken every year all summer long."

The hotel proper was surrounded by cottages the colors of the rainbow. The Hoards lived in the green one nestled a short hike away behind an Indian mound, while the "boys working on the golf course" stayed in a yellow one. A little blue cottage was located next to where the silo is today.

The summer help all had their own rooms. They were usually coeds studying to be teachers at what was then Whitewater Normal College. Cash Williams, a Whitewater dance instructor who was hotel manager for many years, arranged for hiring seven girls as summer waitresses.

"The girls came at Decoration Day and never got a day off until Labor Day. They had to work every Sunday and weekday, and nobody every complained," Della reminisced, adding that she and her late husband, Bill, an electrician, also stayed at the hotel those busy months.

There sure were a lot of stories connected with that hotel, I tell you. Those were wonderful years; I wouldn't trade them for anything.

—Della Pierce

"The girls got $10 a week and board and room. With the wages they got for the three months, they still had tips left over. People tipped good down there. Perhaps tips were not what they are now, but they went further."

Tips probably were good not only because the guests were well-to-do, but also because the service and accomodations were first class all the way.

The Hoards knew that the way to a guest's heart is through his or her stomach, and they instructed Mrs. Friedel, head cook for some 34 years, to buy only the freshest and best of everything.

"We got all our steaks from Oscar Mayer in Madison, and they were all aged steaks," according to Della. "We would buy about 200 a week — aged so they're almost green in the corner.

"You don't know what the people of early days ate like," she added. "They wouldn't eat a steak like we have now."

Della said it took six weeks to age a steak — probably though a salt-brine process: "Oh, it's a different taste, I tell you. It gets tenderer and tenderer and never spoils.

"We could put about 80 steaks on the big wood stove at one time. Mrs Friedel always had a dish with juice on the stove and if anyone didn't want it rare, she'd put the steak through the boiling hot broth and it would be just right. If you put them back on the stove, they'd get tough."

The Hoards, who only ate aged steak, also would buy six to seven longhorns of aged (3-year-old) cheese from Dellas "home farm" near Fond du Lac, got fresh melons from Milton and all their vegetables from a neighboring farmer.

"In Depression times, it cost $3.50 for board and room," Della recalled. "We got all our vegetables from a farmer woman who cleaned them all; boy, did she scrub them nice and clean. One time she brought a washtub full of vegetables all clean and I paid her a dollar, and was she ever glad to get it."

Butter came directly from Art Hoard's adjacent farm, as did the fresh cream for the morning oatmeal ("They all gained, you know") and evening dessert.

"Every day we made homemade ice cream. The, boys night after night, would sit in the kitchen and made seven gallons at a time. We'd get seven quarts of cream from A.R.'s farm. Everyone who came there enjoyed it so because they could go and watch them milk . . . they'd never ever seen a cow before."

Hoard apparently had pretty good taste in his guests, too. For Della, they're the subject of many a humorous — as well as spine-shivering — tale.

"We had three bachelors who came to the hotel and one new girl always wanted to wait on the best-looking men," Della reminisced. "Well, this Mr. Beck was coming and we all knew — except for her — that he was as homely as could be and that he chewed and chewed and chewed his food, his bones going up and down.

"So we girls would say, 'Oh, who's going to get Mr. Beck?' One girl said, 'I always have him; I think I should have him,' although she really didn't want him at all. So the new girl said, 'How about giving me a chance?' "

Della and the other waitresses peeked through the diningroom door to see the look on their coworker's face when she got a glimpse of her customer.

"He stayed a month and she had to wait on him every meal and then had to wait until he got through eating as he'd chew and chew on his steak," Della chuckled.

Then there was the "old maid sister" of a Mrs. Grimes from Chicago, who always brought her canary along on vacation.

"She lived upstairs in a great big room and she would bring that bird down in the morning to clean its cage," Della said. "And it always sang; it didn't make a difference if people were sleeping. It would always be singing all the way down the hall."

Della told of another time when a couple drove up and looked as though they did not have a penny to their name. So she and her boss decided to check them into Room 14, what Della called a "warm room" reserved for persons unable to pay their bill.

"They registered and the bellhop carried their suitcases up to 14 and they said they wanted a private room with a bath and that they could afford it," Della said. "So we gave them Room 11, a corner room across the hall with a view of the lake.

"Who do you suppose he was? He was the artist from Marshall Fields who painted fancy dishes. They

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Hoard Resort photographed by Thomas Williams, Milwaukee.

Koshkonong Place tennis courts in early 1900s.

Hotel was Chicagoans' second home

(Continued from page 99)
wanted to look like that because they wanted no one to know who they were so that they could have a vacation."

Some of the hotel's guests wanted anonymity because they were notorious rather than infamous. That was the case when a cook and maids found out one guest was hiding after having committed murder.

"Mary Schultz was a second cook down in the kitchen and she would be building a fire in the morning when this man would always come out in the kitchen for a cup of coffee," according to Della. "One day she saw the Chicago Tribune article about a man wanted for murder and said, 'My gosh, that's the man who comes in to the kitchen for coffee."

The maids subsequently discovered a blood-covered umbrella in the man's closet. The Tribune had said that indeed was the weapon.

"Nobody ever knew this, but Mr. Hoard said to him, 'We're not going to report you, but please leave here. Forget your bill; we know what you're here for. If we know you're here, the girls would have to go to testify."

The man disappeared during the night, with a little folding money given to him by Hoard, Della said.

"We knew it was him because he had a mark on his face . . . oh, we were scared."

A few of Della's stories center on the Hoards themselves, people she described as extremely generous and kind.

Art Hoard owned two dogs that would always sit on an Indian mound and await his arrival home at 11 a.m. after a morning at Bettersox, which he owned.

"One day Mr. Hoard drove up and the dogs just sat there and A.R. couldn't figure out why they didn't come to meet him," Della related. "Then the telephone rang and it was the police asking whether Mr. Hoard drove his own car home."

Apparently, Hoard, who was a director of First National Bank, had left a morning meeting and driven away in a Cadillac owned by Clarence Aspinwall, an officer at the bank who had left his keys in the car.

"Both had a Cadillac the same color parked on Main Street by the bank and everybody left their keys in the car in those days," Della said. "I can hear A.R. on the phone saying, 'That's why the dogs didn't greet me, and I wondered what that package was doing on the front seat.' "

A true character in every sense of the word was Hattie Foote, who was Agnes Hoard's unmarried sister. Hattie, who was employed at the hotel for many years, was known for her good — and sometimes embarrassing — nature.

For example, Della remembered when both Foote girls were living at home on South Third Street, East, and Art Hoard was courting Agnes. It was a time when livingroom stovepipes were removed during summer, leaving an open hole in the ceiling to the second floor.

"Well, Hattie used to take off her girdle and swing it out through the hole from upstairs while Mr. Hoard was there, and Agnes would be embarrassed to death," Della laughed.

She continued: "Another time, Mrs. Hoard had her first silk stockings and was walking down the street with Mr. Hoard and Hattie yells out after them, "Agnes, don't you tear my silk stockings."

Hattie was just as boisterous as an adult, Della said. She recalled once when Hattie, who was about 50 at the time, and Lizzie Westphal (Harriet Vance's mother) stopped in Gates Drug Store on a Saturday night.

"Judd Gates was courting Hattie's other sister, who they never called Minnie but always, 'my sister, Minnie Gates,' Della said. "Well, he asked Hattie to deliver a box of candy to Minnie.

"But as soon as they got outside, they opened it and ate it over the bridge and then threw the empty box into the river. Minnie never, of course, said thank you for the candy and eventually Judd Gates said, 'Say, did you ever get that candy?' "

When given he third degree, Hattie told her sister, "Ho, ho, ho. It's down the river a long way by now," Della laughed.

Hattie Foote was jovial right up to her death, from rectal cancer.

Della recalled that, when the doctor had Hattie bend over to take photos of the interior of her posterior, Hattie exclaimed, "Well, take a good one, doc, because I've never seen it myself."

The Hoard Hotel, with its many cottages, croquet lawn and grassy tennis courts, eventually was razed to make way for a new country club and 18-hole golf course. But the bulldozers could never erase the memories of the people who made Hoard's the place to be a half-century ago.

"There sure were a lot of stories connected with that hotel, I tell you," Della nodded with a smile. "Those were wonderful years; I wouldn't trade them for anything."

Quilting bee

(Continued from page 97)
quilts were no longer functional but works of art. Quilt shows sprang up in every corner of the nation, and quilting became the medium for creative fingers. They were no longer just on beds but were used on walls, furniture, clothing and hundreds of home decorating items.

Quilting is alive, well and flourishing in Fort Atkinson. The Piecemakers Quilt Guild of Fort Atkinson has more than 150 members and sponsors a yearly quilt show and quilt raffle. This year's show will be held on Sept. 27 at J.F. Luther Junior High School. The Hoard Historical Museum will display quilts from our past in conjunction with the quilt show.

Madison Area Technical College-Fort Atkinson offers all levels of classes in quilting. The fabric stores offer a vast array of fabrics and needs for the home quilter.

Never has an art of yesterday been as popular as it is today. We are bound to our past by quilting and future generations will one day admire the needlework of the 1980s.

Fort Atkinson has played host to at least two men who were or were to become U.S. presidents. Richard Nixon spoke at the Lincoln Day dinner for the Jefferson County Republican Party in the 1950s. He is shown with Congressman Glenn Davis, GOP chairman James LaChance, and Wright Hallfrisch. Also shown is a visit by ex-President William H. Taft to W.D. Hoard Co. With him are George Rankin, Frank Hoard and A.J. Glover.

Students who rhyme go back in time

(Continued from page 98)

The etched names stare back, echoing pur silence.
The rock soon passes from memory, forgotten,
Until next year.
And time passes.

By Lisa Babcock

For 150 years children have
Played in your streets.
Old men and women find refuge in your ancient walls.
One-hundred-and-fifty years of dances and church socials,
And men who've done service to our country
And various "Fort Fests" of sorts
Have taken place on your premises.

Chambers of commerces have come and gone,
But you've perservered throughout the years.
Generations of two and three have also grown up here,
And your schools have produced an elite class of citizens.
Patriots and protestors, and politicians too,
Good businessmen and poets,
Football players
And many, many, wonderful local people.

W.D. Hoard and Dwight Foster,
Two cherished names
From your past.
We are grateful to them for our settlement here,
If only they were here so we could thank them in person.
But for now it will suffice
To remember them with gratitude.

One is found in a museum and credited in the paper,
The other is remembered, appropriately,
In a center of learning — the library.
If only every citizen who lives
In the protection of your fort
Could appreciate them equally
Fort Atkinson could live up to her great name.

Felix: simple pleasures best

By Tracy Gentz

Life today certainly is different that it was years ago, but it's not necessarily any less exciting.

That's particularly true in the case of Ralph "Felix" Provenzano, a lifelong Fort Atkinson resident whose 72 years have been filled with lots of laughter and good clean fun.

As youngsters, Felix and his friends would fly kites, but not in the air. Instead, they'd iceskate on the Rock River, using the kite as a sail.

"We would go 45 or 50 miles per hour," Felix reminisced from his home at 724 Riggert Road. "You would put it on your back and go down to the lake and the wind would blow you like a sail. You would have to really be careful because if you got to going too fast and hit a big crack, the ice would tear your leg off."

Felix said he and his pals probably were the only kids in town to be such daredevils on the 2½-foot-wide kites. They didn't worry about the danger, though, because, he said, "if we were going too fast we could snap it off and skate free."

He recalled once when they did have a problem: "We had an iceboat and we fell into the river in one of the cuts in the ice and they had to pull us out," Felix said.

The worst thing was, though, the prospect of going out to the woodshed after disobeying mother and father.

"We could have drowned that night; oh, if my mother knew what we did, we would be in the woodshed all the time," chuckled Felix. He said his parents "would restrict you by probably giving you a crack right where you needed it, but that would be enough to get your attention."

When not kite-skating on the river, the young Felix would enjoy hopping along the houseboats lining the river-bank from the Chicago & North Western Railroad tracks down to Riverside Drive.

The river was also a source of fun while a 14-year-old Felix worked at his first job, manning a fruit stand on the bridge overlooking the river.

"People would be fishing in the river and they would be really watching their line. We (Felix and a friend) would go up to the railing and throw potatoes over there," he recalled "They would go splash in the water and the guy would sit up and start looking around. It took him some time to figure out what was going on."

I think if you live a good clean life, that is all that matters. That means living within a certain standard of laws and paying your bills, paying your taxes and helping your neighbors.

—Felix Provenzano.

Also at the fruit stand, he said, was a fisherman "who would have his boat pretty close to the railing, and one time we threw a watermelon that just missed the guy's boat. We didn't intend to hit him, but he didn't fish in that spot very much afterward."

Felix' father was a section foreman for the railroad, taking care of the line from Fort Atkinson to Jefferson Junction and to Koshkonong and up north of Clyman.

"Sometimes when they were working in the area (on the tracks), I could ride," Felix said. "They had a little hand cart with a little motor on it and that was kind of fun to ride on."

Fort Atkinson was quite a railroad center in the early 1900s, Felix noted.

"They used to drive the cows and when they would herd them together and ship them out to Mexico after corraling them, we could hear it," he explained.

It was kind of special being the foreman's son, Felix said. The trainmen would give him and his friends rides up and down the track in the caboose.

"We were the only kids who were allowed to be around there," Felix recalled.

He boasted on about his father, of whom Felix obviously was very proud.

"My dad was a big gardener and we were the only family in town who had celery and we had peppers and carrots but the stores didn't handle very much. In those days if somebody wanted tomatoes for Christmas, they would tell them to go down and see my dad and he would have them all winter long."

When not hanging around the tracks or kite-skating, Felix was working. He was employed by most of the food stores in Fort Atkinson at one time or another, and saw a lot of changes.

"Today you go into the markets and you hardly know who is working there. In those days it was more personal. People were friendly then," Felix said.

"We had fun in the stores; it was what you made it."

He recalled one woman who habitually stole eggs in every grocery story at which he worked.

"They would never go up to her and say, 'Hey, you stole some eggs'," said Felix. 'Instead two employees would get on each side of her and give her a friendly bump. They would just break the eggs."

There were some stingy clerks, too. At one store, Felix said the clerk broke a green bean in half to make the order weigh exactly a pound.

"Their eyes met with a thousand words at that moment," he said of the clerk and customer.

Then there was the case of the unpopable popcorn. A woman brought back popcorn she purchased three times, only to finally discover she was trying to pop yellow split peas.

One of the market "regulars" was the fire department dog, who always was given a bone to take back to the station.

"One day, the only bone available was a big bone, so I gave it to him. He dragged, pulled and tugged it to the fire station. It wasn't long before a young man came back with the bone and said that the dog was so pooped out he couldn't enjoy the meal," laughed Felix.

And then there was the time when he wanted to help a National Guardsman bleach out his leggings. He sold the man a gallon of bleach, but the man returned a few days later for more.

"A few more days past and the guard just brought back the eyelets and fasteners of the leggings," he laughed again.

Those simple pleasures always were the best, Felix contends. People did not have the luxuries they do today, and they perhaps were easier to please.

Felix's home had no electricity until he was 10 years old, and then when it was installed, the entire family would gather around the single light bulb. And naturally there were no electric refrigerators, either.

"My mother used to put up crocks of green beans packed with salt. The salt and water would preserve them and then you would just render them off and they were fresh," he recalled "We would put eggs in lard or something we called waterglass and put them in jars and they would stay fresh all winter long.

"We had about 300 to 400 jars down there. You couldn't go down to the store and buy everything because there wasn't that much money around," Felix said.

Because there was no electricity, the Provenzanos used kerosene lamps at night.

"Most people didn't have electricity, so we had candles and kerosene lamps. My sister nearly caught the house on fire when she bumped over a kerosene lamp and in those days who were you going to call? The fire department came running, but they were literally 'running'. They didn't have a truck; they came with a cart and a tank of water and a kind of pumper. I believe it was 1930 before they had a truck."

Felix' fondest childhood memories center on playing marbles with the kids at St. Joseph's Elementary School . . . . and being beaten by them.

And he also smiles at the memory of the "cigar woman": "She would go and buy two big cigars, expensive cigars, and she would sit in her car and light up the cigars and blow the smoke out of the window. None of the

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Mr. and Mrs. Art Hoard and Helen in Egypt.

Felix still up to old tricks

(Continued from page 102)
women smoked then. This was in the 1930s and some smoked but not out in the open. She was the only woman I ever knew who smoked a cigar."

He also recalled the time when he was lucky at gambling, if that's what you consider luck.

"I happened to buy the winning ticket for a turkey drawing. To my surprise, a 24-pound live bird was delivered to me in the store with a big rope around its neck. For the first time in my life I was at a loss for words," Felix said.

Not having the heart to kill the bird himself, Felix had his father do it.

As a teen-ager, he would hang out at the Eatmore Lunch, where he'd gamble once in a while.

"They would have a football pool there and I won $100 once," he recalled. "They had great big cards (with the winners' names) up on this wire and when I would be on break, I would always sit on the end so I wouldn't see these cards.

"Those guys had a great big sign up there that read, 'Don't tell Felix he won the pool.' Nobody told me and it must have been a week later and 'Pappy Rice' was throwing dollar bills out in front of me and I said, "Hey, Pappy is giving away all of his money" and I was picking them up and stuffing them into my shirt pocket. He finally told me "it ain't mine, it's yours; you won the pool."

Fort Atkinson gave Felix many cherished memories of a fun-filled childhood. Those times are what one should never forget, Felix said.

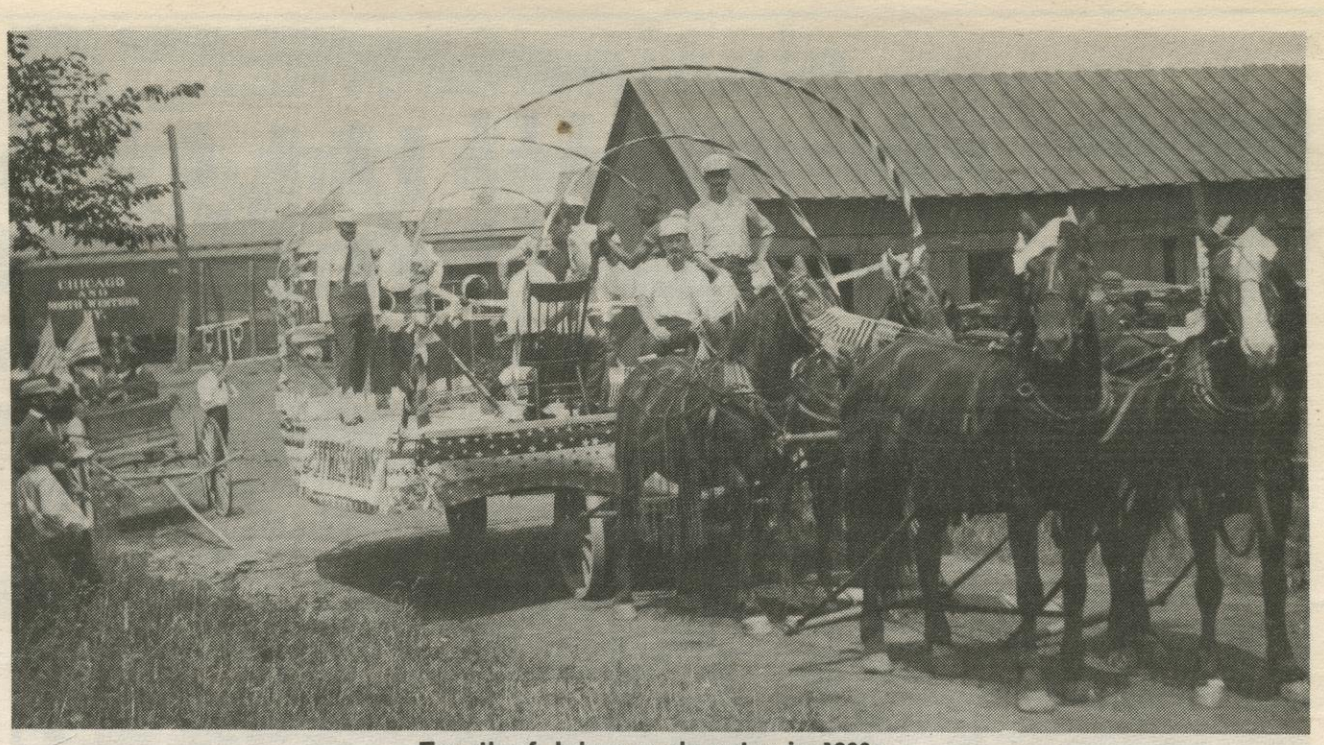
"I think if you live a good clean life, that is all that matters," he philosophized. "That means living within a certain standard of laws and paying your bills, paying your taxes and helping your neighbors."

Felix Provenzano

Fort's W.D. Hoard was known as 'cow editor'

William D. Hoard devoted so many columns of the Jefferson County Union to the cause of dairying that he became known as the "cow editor".

The nickname was first given to Hoard as an insult during his Republican campaign for the governorship in 1888, but later it became a phrase used with great respect across the country.



Fourth of July parade entry in 1800s.

Honeymoon over for city girl

By Mary Kamrath
(personal account)

Fifty years ago, a city girl and farm boy were united in marriage. She was a city girl no more.

The next morning they started on their honeymoon. For her short trip, she wore bib-top overalls, a chore jacket, stocking cap, four buckle boots, a pail on her arm and she was off to the barn.

She picked up a milk stool, sat down and began to milk, and after a half an hour had a cup of milk. Now she wondered how in the world her husband and father-in-law could carry out full pails of milk in such short time; there must be an easier way. The next morning she tried again, but the same thing: no more milk, two sore wrists.

After three days milking two times a day, she was given a different cow to milk. Now, this time she thought she was getting somewhere, only to find the cow was doing the conga — one, two, three, kick — the cow's foot landed in the bucket of milk in the gutter. It took about two weeks to really get the hang of it. What she didn't know the first cow was an old cow with arthritis, and that's why she stood so still.

But there is more. After breakfast, she would let the cows out, push the honeywagon in and begin to pitch fertilizer, bed the cows, feed them and get them back in the barn. Once the chores were done, it was back to the house to get dinner, do the dishes, wash clothes, and then do the chores again.

Spring rolled around and there were fences to fix and fieldwork. Plowing was done by the men with horses, but then the field had to be disked and dragged; that's where she came in, walking all day in back of a spring-tooth harrow, and scared as she was of horses.

A daughter was born, four years later there were twin sons and another two years, another daughter was born, but that didn't stop the farm work. Her mother-in-law took care of the children while she worked in the field. After farming with horses for 13 years, her husband bought a brand new Farmal tractor. It made things a little easier, but there was still hay to be pitched by hand, oats to be shocked and a lot of sweat working in the hot sun.

In 1956, her husband got a job at the feed mill, and by then she could run the farm by herself. She plowed, prepared the field, sowed grain, planted corn; cut, raked and baled hay, and even filled the silo by herself. In 1959 the cows were sold. It made farming easier, but she could have cried to see her cows go.

She still had 150 chickens and a dozen pigs to care for. By now her oldest daughter was to be married, one son joined the Navy the other one got a job. Two years passed and the one son was married and after a four-year hitch in the Navy, the second son married. The same year, her youngest daughter, too, was married.

She picked up a milk stool, sat down and began to milk, and after a half an hour had a cup of milk. Now she wondered how in the world her husband and father-in-law could carry out full pails of milk in such short time; there must be an easier way. The next morning she tried again, but the same thing: no more milk, two sore wrists.

—Mary Kamrath

Now she was back where she started from. So she, too, went to work at the mill for the next 20 years, retiring in 1978.

Now you will wonder what her husband was doing the early years of their marriage. Well, he was a milk hauler: he loaded cans double deck on a truck and, in winter in deep snow he hitched up the horses to a sleigh.

When they retired they decided to spend the winter in Florida. So one day early in December at 1:30 in the morning,already having packed a day earlier, they started out.

It was like winter wonderland, but getting out in the country the snow was blinding and as they neared Janesville the snow turned to drizzle. Nearing Rockford it was a mist and very foggy, and by the time they got past the toll road looking for the Indiana turnoff it was so dark and foggy you couldn't see a cars length ahead of you.

Well she knew the turnoff was coming up, so she watched and when they got there she said "turn here." He said, "Where?" and went right by. Some 17 miles further, a big sign with lights read "stay in this lane to the loop." Well, he panicked. She said, "Don't sweat it, we'll find a way back," so they came to an overpass, she said "turn here to your left and then take the first turn again to your left and we will soon be on our way back."

Everything seemed to be back to normal when "thump, thump, thump;" you guessed it — a flat brand-new tire. The road was under construction and they picked up a nail. It was raining and very dark, so they thumped along to another overpass where they could change the tire.

They got out of the car, and she wanted to see he didn't mess up the trunk so while getting a flashlight she stepped on a newly seeded bank and sunk in some gray clay mud. She tried to pull out her foot, but it held fast — she pulled some more and finally pulled it out, but her new suede shoe didn't come up with her foot.

By now she was laughing so hard and trying to stand on one foot that she fell in the mud. She looked for her shoe but all she could see was a hole in the mud. She reached in and sure enough it was still warm, but it was stuck. After some pulling, the shoe came up covered with gray clay-like mud. She scraped some off, but the shoe never came back to its color.

Well, they were back on the road and found their way to the Indiana turn-off and everything was going fine for two hours when — you wouldn't believe it — they took another wrong turn. After two hours, they were right back where they started from.

By this time she didn't know if she should laugh or cry. It was still very dark and foggy. Some time had gone by when they missed another turn, this time due to road construction. The fog didn't lift until noon. What should have been a 1,215 mile trip ended up to be 1,500 miles.

Fort Atkinson Automobile Association gathering.

Confessions of bootlegger

(Continued on page 40)

room and stripped us and tied us with cords to chairs and set up a machine gun on a tripod to watch us. One guy walked in back of us and poked us in the ribs with his gun. They weren't interested in alcohol, only money. They were going to pull the owner's toenails out if they didn't find the money.

The owner had hidden his money in large bills in the light switches and under the canopies of the light fixtures. They tore everything apart, slit the mattresses and what not looking for money, which they didn't get very much of.

There were citizens who were opposed to bootlegging and in favor of Prohibition, but when the law officers didn't enforce the law, there was not much they could do. Once in a while the federal man would make a raid to make it look good. They raided a farmer south of town once who was making moonshine. They smashed his still and dumped the mash out, and his cows ate the mash and were drunk and staggering.

One time here at Ebner's Brewery they were making near beer or tonic or something and the federal men caught up with them. They sneaked in as the boys in the brewery were catching the alcohol coming out of the smokestack as steam and taking and condensing it and putting it back after the keg was labeled and corked. They used a hypodermic needle and squirted alcohol back in so that you made a stronger beer.

Fort High runners took title in 1920s

Down through the years, Fort Atkinson High School has earned a reputation as being strong in track, winning more than its share of honors in Badger Conference, but what may be the finest of all teams in the school's history came in late 1920s.

With coach "Abe" Abendroth leading the local thinclads, they won the Class B state championship at Madison in both 1927 and 1928 before losing the 1929 title by half a point.

In 1927, competing at Camp Randall, the then Rock River Valley Conference champions scored 21½ points to 17½ for second-place Spooner. Fort Atkinson had two first places at state and two second places. Finishing first were Wally Dahms in the half mile (2:05.5) and George Henze in the discus (122 feet, 9 inches). Henze also was second in the shot put while Chet Hanson ran second in the mile.

In 1928, Fort Atkinson won its second straight state Class B title after winning the first annual Southern Six Conference title that year and finishing first in each of five meets. Dick Ninedorf was the top performer as he won the broad jump (21 feet, 1¾ inches); tied for first in the pole vault (11 feet), and ran second in the 120-yard high hurdles. Jack Wagner was first in state in discus (109 feet, 9 inches), while Capt. Orrell Anderson was second in the 400-yard dash and Harold Krull was second in the 220-yard low hurdles.

In 1929, Fort Atkinson lost the state Class B title to Platteville, 29½ to 29. That year, Ninedorf was first in both the pole vault and broad jump and second in the 120-high hurdles ;Ilow Heinz was first in the 220-yard low hurdles; Russell Heinz was first in the high jump; Albert Bauer was second in the mile run.

Aeroplane express came to Fort Atkinson in 1919

The world's first aeroplane express landed in Fort Atkinson Sept. 12, 1919, when Lt. Bert R. Blair brought a shipment of Society Brand clothes from the factory at Chicago to N.M. Hopkins store.

Blair flew a Curtiss bi-plane and landed at the Will Hackbarth farm at the south end of Main Street at 1 p.m. that day. He was met by a special welcoming committee headed by Mayor Klein.

"A representative of the concern visited flying fields at Dayton, Ohio, and in the East and on his return it was decided to inaugerate the service. The war came on shortly after, which made it necessary to abandon the idea until this spring.

"On his trip to Fort Atkinson, Blair will make the 95 miles from Chicago in one hour and 30 minutes actual flying time. He will be greeted by a tremendous crowd."

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Ace Chimney Cleaning Co.
Adventure Land Video
Animal Clinic of Fort Atkinson
Arcadia Lanes
Atlas Bait Co.
Badger Paint Store
Badger Press, Inc.
Badger Waterproofing
Baker Glass
Bank of Fort Atkinson
Bardenwerper, Dr. Charles
Bell & Bell, S.C.
Beltrone, Robert
Berdine's Stitchery
Bergey Jewelry
George Black, Jeweler
The Black Hawk Restaurant
Blackhawk Alarm & Electric
Blackhawk Express, Inc.
Blodgett Milling Co.
Borchardt Woodworking Service
Brown Cab Service
Buchta Appraisal Co.
Business & Tax Systems of F.A.
Butler Livestock Systems
Cafe Carpe
Canton Restaurant
Carl's Liquor Store
Chadwick Funeral Home
Church Electric
Church's Hardware Hank
Cindy B Fashions
Citizens State Bank
Cloute Window & Wall Washing
Coast to Coast Store
Como Photo
Computer Portraits by Marshall
Corroon & Black of Wis., Inc.
Country Crafts & Fabrics
The Country Kitchen
Creative Mfg. Co.
D & B BBQing
Dairy Queen Brazier
Davenport Optometric Center
Day Insurance Agency
Drs. Detwiler, Williams & George
Double Three Transpotation
Dover Auto Body
Dunlap Memorial Home
Dunsmoor Doors
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The Fireside
First American Bank & Trust Co.
First Federal Savings & Loan
Fort Aluminum
Fort Atkinson, City of
Fort Atkinson Health Care Center
Fort Atkinson Medical Center
Fort Atkinson Memorial Hospital
Fort Atkinson Vision Clinic, S.C.
Fort Car Wash
Fort Community Credit Union
Fort Fur Co.
Fort Packaging Co.
Fort Reminder
Fort Rural Life Assoc.
Fort Tax Service
Fort Theater
Fort Transpotation & Service
Freightsavers
GMN Clinic
Roger R. Gehrke Construction
Gobel, Dr. Thomas
Greener Realty
Jim Gregar
Happy Time Nursery School
Hardee's
Harold's Muffler Shop
Harriet's
Harry & Sons Tire & Auto Center
The Hartel Corp.
Hartwig's Egg & Poultry Market
Allan Haukom
Wayne Hayes Real Estate
Highland Dental Health, S.C.
The Highsmith Co.
W. D. Hoard & Sons Co.
Hopkins Savings & Loan
Humphrey Floral & Gift
Interiors Complete
J M Carpets
Jefferson Co. Farmco Co-op.
Jefferson Co. Advertiser
Jellystone Park Camp-Resort
Jensen & Jones, Inc.
Jiongco, Dr. Edgardo
Johnson Hill Press
Jonas Office Products, Ltd.
Jones Dairy Farm
Edward D. Jones & Co.
Jones Intercable, inc.
Justus Insurance Agency
K-mart
Kentucky Fried Chicken
Steve Kittleson Insurance
Kleifgen, Dr. Walter
Koshkonong Galleries, Ltd.
Koshkonong Mounds Country Club
Krause Blacktopping
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Lake Geneva Spindustries
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LaMuro, Gene
The Larsen Co.
Legion Dugout Bar
Lemke, Norman F.
Liberty Hill Stables
Lik-Nu Auto Body
Lorman Iron & Metal Co.
Lorraine's Hair Care
Lueder's Radio & TV
Luisier, Dr. David
MATC-Fort Atkinson
M & F Data Center
Madison Ave. Health & Racquet Club
Mansavage, Robert
Margraf Agency
Marquart Homes
Mason Insurance
McDonald's
Dr. Gerald McGowan
McIntyre & Associates
McIntyre Florals & Gifts
Medical Associates of F.A., S.C.
Mental Health Consultants, S.C.
Mike's Bakery
Milton's on Main
Mittag, Mark
Moore Sports
Moore's Food Products
Doug Mueller & Co. (Rug Doctor)
Nasco
Nasco Farm Store
The Needle Corner
Nitardy Funeral Home
Noel-Schopen, Inc.
Norland Corp.
North Shore Resort
Nysather, Dr. Peter
John C. Olson Insurance
Opportunities, inc.
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery of Fort Atkinson
Papa John's Fresh Pizza
Parsons' Chiropractic Office
J. C. Penney Co.
Performance Cycle Specialists
Petrolane Gas Service
The Pharmacy
Photography Resource
Piggly Wiggly
Pilgrim's Progress Campground
Powers' Tire & Auto Center
R-Way Discount Station
R & H Services, Inc.
Realty World-Home Realty
Redi Serve Foods
Richie's Family Restaurant
The Robin's Nest Styling Salon
Rogers, Smith & Rogers
Rural Insurance- Don Hollenbeck
SCHARE Outpatient Program
Schildt Chiropractic Office, S.C.
Sears Catalog Merchant
Robert Selberg, CPA
Sentry Foods
Skate Capitol
Simonson Oil Co.
Carol Smith Real Estate
Smith Motors, inc.
South Central Appraisal Co.
Southgate Gutter
Spacesaver Corp.
Spot-Free Car Wash
Stardust Gifts & Crafts
Bill Starke Ford-Mercury
Stevens Mile-Away Motel
Stitch 'N Time
Stop-N-Go Food Stores
Don Strom & Associates
Sutherland Lumber Co.
Swearingen & Housley Insurance
Terra Employment Agency
Trentadue, Margo
Trendsetters Styling Salon
Tuttle's Hallmark Cards & Gifts
Tuttle's Pharmacy
Uncle Josh Bait Co.
Valley Sanitation Co., Inc.
Vance, Wilcox, Short, Johnson & Ristow, S.C.
Van's Shoe Repair
Video Country
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Wahl, Dr. Kenneth
Waldmann Plumbing & Heating
Wand Corp.
Waterman, Art
Wayne Feeds
Jim Weiss Real Estate
Welcome Inn
Wilsons
Wisconsin Bell
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B. C. Ziegler Co.

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Today Bill Starke Ford-Mercury is housed in a modern facility on Janesville Avenue, at the south edge of the city. Bill Starke Ford-Mercury is proud of its Fort Atkinson heritage. And also proud of the complete service and auto body departments that complete the make-up of this all-around car dealership. For the finest quality new or used cars, there is only one name to remember —

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Headlines report news events

By Helmut Knies

In an effort to tell the story of Fort Atkinson on year-by-year basis, the following is a list of the most important, moderately important or just "so so" news story of every year from 1836 through 1985. The biggest story of 1986, naturally, is Fort Atkinson's 150th birthday.

1836 — On Nov. 10, Fort Atkinson is founded by Dwight Foster.

1837 — The first officially recorded death in Fort Atkinson occurs with the passing of Edward Foster Sr.

1838 — Dwight Foster starts a ferry service across Rock River.

1839 — The first school in town is taught by Jane Crane.

1840 — Joseph Morrison becomes the first doctor in Fort Atkinson.

1841 — The first religious organization, the Congregational Society, is organized.

1842 — Koshkonong is organized as a separate township.

1843 — The first bridge across Rock River is finished.

1844 — The first school house in town is built by Charles Rockwell.

1845 — The first saloon, The Old Tiger, is opened by David L. Morrison.

1846 — George May builds the first sawmill in Fort Atkinson.

1847 — Surveyor Milo Jones completes the first plat of Fort Atkinson.

1848 — The first murder in Fort Atkinson occurs as the result of a fight between two Indians.

1849 — The German Methodist-Episcopal Society is organized.

1850 — The first brewery in Fort Atkinson is opened by Dalton & Grassmuck.

1851 — Fort Atkinson schools enroll a total 106 pupils.

1852 — The first Methodist and Congregational churches are built.

1853 — The first Jefferson County Fair is held here at the Green Mountain House.

1854 — James Crane opens the first restaurant and confectionery.

1855 — J.K. Purdy starts a private academy for higher education.

1856 — The Cayuga Chief, the first newspaper in Fort Atkinson, is published by Thurlow and Emma Brown.

1857 — The Good Templar Lodge is founded in Fort Atkinson.

1858 — The Town of Koshkonong is founded by L.B. Caswell and J.D. Clapp.

1859 — The Northwestern Railroad is built through Fort Atkinson.

1860 — Fort Atkinson is incorporated as a village.

1861 — St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church founded.

1862 — Fort Atkinson goes to the Civil War when Company D, 29th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, is recruited here.

1863 — The First National Bank of Fort Atkinson is founded.

1864 — In an effort to secure volunteers for the Army, the Town of Koshkonong offers an enlistment bounty of $100 per man.

1865 — Cornish & Curtis start a lumberyard in Fort Atkinson.

1866 — The Northwestern Manufacturing Co. is founded.

1867 — The Fort Atkinson Brickyard is begun by L.M. Roberts.

1868 — Daniel Holmes opens the first cheese factory in Fort Atkinson.

1869 — The Universalist Church is organized.

1870 — The Jefferson County Dairyman's Association is begun in Fort Atkinson.

1871 — The Fort Atkinson High School graduates its first class.

1872 — Cornish & Curtis manufacture its first rectangular butter churn.

1873 — W.D. Hoard moves the Jefferson County Union to Fort Atkinson.

1874 — L.B. Caswell becomes a United States congressman.

1875 — The Black Hawk Hunting Club us founded.

1876 — A golden eagle measuring 7 feet, 1 inch from tip to tip was shot on Lake Koshkonong.

1877 — Levi Gilbert of Fort Atkinson builds the first silo in Wisconsin.

1878 — Fort Atkinson is organized as a city.

1879 — The first city band is begun by Stephen Abbott.

1880 — Oscar Cornish serves first of record four terms as mayor of Fort Atkinson.

1881 — The Fort Atkinson Fire Department is organized.

1882 — Forty-seven days of below-zero temperatures recorded, with Fort Atkinson cooling down to 36 below zero.

1883 — The first telephone service is begun in Fort Atkinson.

1884 — Citizens State Bank is founded.

1885 — Hoard's Dairyman Magazine is established.

1886 — Hoard's Creameries founded.

1887 — Fort Atkinson's phone directory listed 26 subscribers.

1888 — W.D. Hoard elected governor of Wisconsin.

1889 — The first Jones "little pig sausages" are made by Milo C. Jones.

1890 — The first electricity for commercial use is generated in Fort Atkinson.

1891 — The first Edison phonograph in Fort Atkinson was put on display at the Wernicke store on Main Street.

1892 — The first library in Fort Atkinson is opened.

1893 — Burglars stole $25 worth of buggy whips from Notbohm's harness shop.

1894 — A train car derailment in Fort Atkinson kills five men.

1895 — The Fort Atkinson Chronicle, later the Fort Atkinson News, is first published.

1896 — Jones Grove is purchased by the city and becomes Fort Atkinson's first park.

1897 — The start of rural free delivery by the

(Continued on page 108)

South Main Street looking south at turn of century.

Independence Day dancing at Jones Park.

Newspapers tell top events

(Continued from page 107)

post office.

1898 — "Hoard's Rifles," Company B, 1st Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, is mobilized for the Spanish-American War.

1899 — Edward Bellman of Fort Atkinson wins the first Milwaukee-Watertown round-trip bicycle race in an adjusted time of 7 hours, 14 minutes.

1900 — The first golf in Fort Atkinson was played at a nine-hole course in Jones Park.

1901 — The Fort Atkinson Canning Company is founded.

1902 — Fort Atkinson High School Cardinals football team wins its first state championship.

1903 — Dr. Frank Brewer starts the first hospital in Fort Atkinson.

1904 — The first five miles of city sanitary sewers are laid.

1905 — The Northwestern Furniture Co. burns down.

1906 — James Manufacturing Co. is founded.

1907 — The first movie theater, The Empire, opens on Main Street.

1908 — Bettersox Knitting Mills is opened.

1909 — Fort Savings Bank is founded.

1910 — The Fort Atkinson Gas Co. is established.

1911 — The census shows that 25 percent of all Fort Atkinson women are working at jobs.

1912 — The Dwight Foster Public Library is completed.

1913 — Fort Atkinson holds its first Chataqua.

1914 — Fort Atkinson volunteer firemen place first in a statewide fireman's competition.

1915 — The first Fort Atkinson Clean-up Week is held.

1916 — Main Street is paved for the first time.

1917 — Fort Atkinson votes on prohibition.

1918 — The present day Main Street bridge is completed at a cost of $44,000.

1919 — Fort Atkinson plays host to a giant homecoming parade for more than 500 World War I veterans.

1920 — James Manufacturing Co. builds a 5½ acre factory on Janesville Avenue.

1921 — The Majerus Hospital on Madison Avenue is opened.

1922 — Ernie Hausen becomes the world champion chicken plucker.

1923 — Two monster blizzards in one week paralyze Fort Atkinson in March with 15-foot snow drifts.

1924 — Federal agents break up a major bootleg operation in Fort Atkinson, arresting 19 men and dunping over 2,000 gallons of beer.

1925 — First annual Easter Egg Hunt held in Jones Park.

1926 — Fort Atkinson High School burns down.

1927 — June Hillyer of Fort Atkinson becomes Miss Wisconsin.

1928 — The Methodist Church burns down.

1929 — The Municipal Building is completed.

1930 — Fort Atkinson's population goes over 5,000 for the first time.

1931 — Fort Atkinson city government changes over from mayoral to a city manager system.

1932 — City government opens Stop-and-Go motel to ease the problem of unemployed itinerants.

1933 — The Hoard Historial Museum is founded in the basement of the library.

1934 — Building of the Rock River dock wall is begun as a Work Progress Administration project.

1935 — The city takes over control of the water utility.

1936 — Fort Atkinson celebrates its centennial with a three-mile-long parade viewed by 15,000 spectators.

1937 — The American Legion builds a clubhouse along Rock River.

1938 — Moe Bros. Manufacturing Co. opens in Fort Atkinson.

1939 — The new Barrie School is completed.

1940 — The Fort Atkinson National Guard Company is called up for federal service.

1941 — Nasco is founded.

1942 — The Congregational Church burns down.

1943 — The Army/Navy "E" for excellence is awarded to Creamery Package.

1944 — Staff Sgt. Gerald Endl is awarded a posthumous Medal of Honor for heroism in New Guinea.

1945 — The Larsen Co. is founded.

1946 — The Jefferson County Union becomes a daily newspaper.

1947 — Eight-year-old Georgia Jean Weckler of Oakland is abducted and murdered.

1948 — The high school athletic field is completed.

1949 — A puppy saves the lives of five members of the Clayton Hall family when he roused them from sleep as flames engulfed their home.

1950 — The new 62-bed Memorial Hospital is dedicated.

1951 — The longest strike in Fort Atkinson history, lasting three months, ended at Creamery Package.

1952 — Richard Nixon gives the Lincoln Day speech at the Municipal Building.

1953 — A $650,000 addition to high school is dedicated.

1954 — The city spends $75,000 to obtain off-street parking downtown.

1955 — The city pool opens in Rock River Park.

1956 — The William Ward and Craig Beane farms play host to Farm Progress Days.

1957 — The high school football team wins its second straight Badger Conference championship.

1958 — The high school basketball team wins its second straight Badger Conference championship.

1959 — Spring flooding along Rock River is just three inches shy of breaking all-time records.

1960 — A car-truck accident on U.S. Highway 12 dumps 8,000 gallons of LP gas causing a major evacuation.

1961 — The local National Guard is called up for service during the Berlin Crisis.

1962 — The worst fire in 50 years occurs when the Hoffman Lumber Co. burns down on Madison Avenue.

1963 — The new armory is completed on Whitewater Avenue.

1964 — Fort Atkinson's Marilyn Draeger is chosen as Alice in Dairyland.

1965 — J.F. Luther Junior High School is dedicated.

1966 — Fred Van Acker of Fort Atkinson is found guilty of murdering a 2-year-old girl.

1967 — The new police station on Edward Street is completed.

1968 — Police Officer David McKee dies in an heroic attempt to save the life of a boy drowning in Rock River.

1969 — For the first time ever, the opening of school was delayed as the result of a pay dispute.

1970 — On three separate occasions, voters turn down board of education building and expansion plans.

1971 — Fort Fest is born and the first Black Hawk pageant is held.

1972 — After a 5½ year struggle, the city was granted federal money for a low income and elderly housing project totaling 75 units.

1973 — The new Robert Street Bridge is opened to traffic.

1974 — The new sewage filtration plant, the largest city construction project ever, is opened.

1975 — The first murder within the city limits in 37 years takes place with the death of John Deegan.

1976 — Fort Atkinson celebrates the Bicentennial by dedicating Lorman-Bicentennial Park.

1977 — After three years of controversy, plans for a nuclear plant near Fort Atkinson are shelved.

1978 — The Mazor Furniture Mart burns down.

1979 — "The Fort Seasons" mural is created on the wall of the Hartel Building.

1980 — Two Fort Atkinson teen-agers, Tim Hack and Kelly Drew, are murdered in rural Ixonia.

1981 — The Dairy Shrine Museum is dedicated.

1982 — The 1911 High School building is torn down and replaced with a $5 million renovation.

1983 — The Dwight Foster Library renovation is completed.

1984 — Labor strife hits Jones Dairy Farm as the company seeks concessions from workers.

1985 — Thomas Industries closes its Fort Atkinson plant after 48 years in business.

Luther, Graper recall mischievous students

(Continued from page 48)

announcements, they started ringing, oh, he was mad," said Laura.

A generation later, after Laura had grown up and become an educator herself, students were still trying to out-do that prank.

"I had one girl who often came to talk to me after school, say, 'I wish we could do something; I hear dad talking about what he did.' " Laura recalled.

Laura has continued to take classes beyond her original degree. An English course on Adoloscent Literature at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater required the reading of some 100 books and Laura had never read anything in science fiction before. She recalled one book in which a little boy was preparing to go to the moon.

"The mother says, 'Be a good boy while you're up there, Tommy' and I thought that was the silliest thing. The kid's going to the moon!,"

—0—

At the tender age of 13, boys and girls are still at the "none-of-the-other-sex-allowed-in-here" age. Jim Luther, former eighth-grade teacher and superintendent of schools, reminisces about his junior high students with fondness.

"They were good kids, but full of hell," he laughed. "I came back one weekend on a Monday morning and above the classrom door was a sign that said 'Luther College'. They wanted to pretend they were college students. The boys later gave away the fact they weren't in college when they added a sign that read, 'No Women Allowed'."

He remembers the time when, as coach of a basketball team at Menomonie High School, the winning team got a game set up with an out-of-town team after winning the city league.

The boys played a team about 20 miles away.

"It was zero degrees out there. There was hay on the bottom of the boxed sleigh and enthusiasm to keep the boys warm. We played the game and won so I took them to a hotel to have oyster stew," Jim said.

He grins while recalling what one of his players did while leaving the lobby.

"I had a big tall center, a great big boy, and the rest of them were smaller," reminisced Jim. "Right in front of these kids, my big center was standing in the middle of the lobby smoking a big cigar. It struck me so funny I could hardly face him, I thought I would burst out laughing. He was smoking the cigar and these little kids, they were all 6 inches or more shorter and all looking up in idolation.

"I walked over to him and I took the cigar out of his mouth and threw it in the spittoon. Every lobby had a spittoon and I gave him a dime and said, 'Now, you get yourself a candy bar and he did.' He got two and he split them up among the eight kids."

Three cager teams eyed state

By Dave Ehrhardt

With the city's proud tradition being the talk of the town this sesquicentennial summer, Fort Atkinson High School basketball is one topic that is a "must."

In the 65 years the school has fielded basketball teams, three teams have qualified for the state tournament, that being in 1980-81, 1956-57 and 1937-38.

Coach Don Gruber's squad qualified for the Class A field in 1981 by turning in the most memorable performance in the school's history with a 104-78 rout of Beloit Memorial in the sectional final at Janesville Craig High School.

The Purple Knights fell victim on that night to Fort Atkinson's 63-percent shooting from the field and 73-percent from the free throw line: "I just couldn't miss," said forward Steve Ehrke who shot 12-of-16 from the field.

Fort Atkinson moved into the sectional final by downing Waterford, 55-50, in the sectional opener.

Fort Atkinson was matched up with Plymouth, a small Class A school in Northeastern Wisconsin, in the opening round at state. The dreams of a state championship were shattered in FHS's opening game at the Fieldhouse when it dropped a 63-59 decision to the Panthers that broke the Black Hawks nine-game winning streak they rode to Madison.

Fort Atkinson finished the season 19-4 overall with a second place showing in the Badger Conference. Joining Ehrke on the team were leading scorer Keith Neubert, Brian Borland, Jim Ketter, Vince Peterson, Mike Knapp, John Offerdahl, Mike Smrekar, Jerry Quaerna, Dean Hollenbeck, Jeff Smith and Bob Wright.

"It was a once in a lifetime shot," Gruber said. "This team made it to state, and they can never take that away from them. They just came to a peak at the right time of the year."

The 1956-57 team under Kermit "Doc" Weiske compiled a 14-0 record in the Badger and enjoyed a No. 1 ranking in the state on its way to Madison.

At Madison, the Cardinals (the team's nickname before Black Hawks) downed LaCrosse Logan, 65-57, in its opening game but dropped a 58-57 decision to Madison West in the semi-finals after leading by as many as 14 points. Fittingly, Jim Bakken (former kicker in the National Football League) dropped in the winning field goal for West.

FHS lost to Two Rivers, 79-62, the following day to finish fourth. The club, which was sparked by Ed Sandvold, Loren Ehlers, Dick Papke, Jim Corrigan and Bill Hess, ran up a string of 24 straight wins before the loss to West in Madison.

The 1937-38 team set the precedent for Fort Atkinson High School teams of the future. The Cardinals were the first FHS team to win a league title, 8-2 in the Southern Six Conference, a district tournament and qualify for a trip to state.

Art Freudenberg coached the team that finished 13-6 overall with players Willard Pitzner, John Kammer, Eugene Tilton, Bob Luebke, Edgar Roloff and others.

After copping the league crown, Fort Atkinson went to the district tournament in Watertown and proceded to beat West Milwaukee, 21-13, and Watertown, 24-17. Fort Atkinson downed Delavan, 35-17, in the regional final for the right to go to Madison.

The Cardinals brought home disappointing results from Madison with two last second losses. The first was to Tomah, 30-26, with the second coming in the consolation round to Evansville, 24-23, in overtime.

Grimm at home in Fort

(Continued from page 86)

15 in the series at the plate. However, the Bronx Bombers of Ruth, Gehrig and Dickey spoiled Grimm's World Series debut as a manager by sweeping the Cubs in four games.

During his lengthy playing career, Grimm appeared in 2,164 games, had 2,229 hits and 1,078 runs batted in while compiling a lifetime average of .290.

In 1945, Grimm, having retired as an active player, returned the Cubs to the October Classic by guiding them to a 98-56 record. But fate being larger than Grimm himself, the Cubs lost the Series in seven games to Detroit. Little did Grimm or the legions of Cubs fans realize, it would be the last pennant for the Cubs.

In 1949, Grimm was fired by the Cubs. In 1952, he was hired as manager of the Boston Braves, after he had several successful stints managing the Milwaukee Brewers of old American Association, and remained with the Braves when they moved to Milwaukee. Grimm managed the Braves the first four years they were in Milwaukee, guiding them to second-place finishes twice. He was replaced by Fred Haney in 1959.

At the end of the 1959 season, Grimm was again hired to manage the Cubs, replacing Bob Scheffing. But on May 5, 1960, Grimm was out again. This time he was replaced by Lou Boudreau, who had been announcing Cub games. They merely switched jobs.

Grimm's first close association with Fort Atkinson came in 1954, during his years as manager of the Milwaukee Braves. He agreed to be the speaker that June at the banquet honoring W.J. "Billy" Sullivan, a Fort Atkinson native who went to become a star catcher of the Chicago White Sox from 1901-14.

While residing here, he joined the Koshkonong Mounds Country Club and tackled the game of golf. But his game on the fairways never became one to rival that of his game on the baseball diamond.

Grimm died at his home in Scottdale Ariz., on Nov 15., 1983.

Mack shoes entered a float in early July 4 parade.

Tell us about the olden days

Everyone remembers different things about the years gone by. That's particularly evident in the responses of several women who sat down at the Fort Atkinson Area Senior Citizens Center with the Daily Union reporter and a tape recorder to do some recollecting about whatever topic popped into their heads.

The first is Florence Strasburg, who with her husband, Harold, farmed near Lake Mills and then Cold Spring. Today they reside along County Highway J. They purchased their farm in 1945 and bought another farm a mile down the road and built a house there 16 years ago.

By Florence Strasburg

"There's been a lot of changes over the years. One day, my husband and I had been cutting hay all afternoon and he said, 'I wish we had someone to cultivate.' I said, 'Well, I'll try.'

They got the tractor ready for me and I said, 'How do you mow it?' My husband said, 'I'll go along with you for the first run.' I said, 'If I can't do it alone, I don't want to do it at all.'

I did, and I got a lot more work that year and the 25 years that followed."

Ed and Isabel Sexton have resided at 508 Clarence St. since building there in 1936.

By Isabel Sexton

"Before I married into the family (before 1932), Ed's folks lived on Clarence Street by the bait company. His grandfather (Levi Jaycox), who owned land down there, had horses and he would move houses. I don't know where he got the houses from — near the lake or out in the country somewhere — but he would move the houses in with the horses.

One night we had a party in the backyard and a neighbor said, "How many of these houses were here before Lorman (Iron & Metal) came into the area?" He said they were all here, only our house was 50 years old and we were one of the newest ones.

I don't know what grandfather did otherwise. Nothing, it seemed. I guess his wife did the work. They had a farm out in the country down by the river, and grandma would do all the work and he went hunting and fishing.

Ed's lived on the same street almost 76 years. Once he lived on North Main Street and his grandma lived next door where we live. His folks built a house on the other side.

My kids always say, "Buy a different house, buy a bigger house," you know. And he wouldn't move, I guess because he's lived there so many years. We'd have to move the street in order to move him, too.

Most people walked to work and they'd come home for lunch. But they would pool their cars during the gas ration during the war. I went to work at J.C. Penney when my son was 2½ years old. On Saturdays, sometimes I'd walk to work three times for a split shift. I'd have hours like 10 a.m. to noon, 2 to 6 p.m. and 7 to 10 p.m.

I wasn't even afraid to walk home then. But now, I wouldn't even go a half-block.

I started working at Penney's in 1936-37 as a clerk and marking merchandise. I think I was there until about 1943-44 and then I went over to Thomas Industries, where I was for 25 years.

I did everything: worked on the line and the defense area. We made 20-mm shells for guns and grenades. We worked on a lathe and inspection. The men set up the machines.

I remember that there was a horse livery across from Clarence Street and when I walked to Moe Light (Thomas Industries) across the field, there were still all these stalls for horses. When my girlfriend and I went to work we'd have to wear boots; but after Lorman's moved in, they improved the streets and we didn't have to wear them anymore."

Luella Pagel, of Sullivan, teaches crocheting through Madison Area Technical College-Fort Atkinson at the Fort Atkinson Area Senior Citizen Center.

By Luella Pagel

"I worked for a lady (a Mrs. Shallert) who used to have a hired girl (in the 1920s). She lived down in Edgerton and I worked for her in Sullivan. She had a number of little children.

The hired girl had charge of the house and in those days you didn't have baker's bread, so she taught the girl how to make bread.

One day when the lady was gone, this girl started her bread dough and I don't know whether she figured it didn't turn out right or what, but anyway, she decided it was not good. She didn't want to tell the lady about it, so she went and buried it out in the chicken yard, just putting a little covering of dirt over it and thinking that the lady wouldn't know anything about it.

So it was warm weather and the next morning the lady when out there to feed her chickens and here she saw this big mushroom rising up out of the ground. She couldn't figure out what it was until finally she discovered it was the bread dough.

I also remember that, when the kids would hold their breath, this same hired girl would take and put them underneath the pump and make them breath."

Donna Miller, who is in charge of the nutrition site at the Fort Atkinson Area Senior Citizens Center, was a Fort Atkinson resident for 49 years, living in the 400 block of Edward Street. Today she resides in Jefferson, but said Fort Atkinson still is her native home.

By Donna Miller

"Why do I love Fort? I can remember good old Main Street. I worked at Tuttle's Drug store when I was 14 to 16 (early 1950s) and I also remember it as a youngster.

I particularly remember old Ott's Grocery Store on Friday nights. It was a treat to go down on Main Street (Ott's used to be located where Jensen & Jones was and the fabric store is today) and then we'd go to the grocery store and my folks would take us to the drug store and buy a sundae. Nowdays kids don't know what it is to go to a soda fountain."

Schoeller home first on block

by Mrs. Forrest Schoeller

My husband and I have raised a lovely family in one of the oldest homes in the city (339 Maple St.). We have tried to find out when the house was built, but the nearest we could come was a map that Mrs. (Hannah) Swart showed us in 1865 of the Milo Jones addition, and our little house sets on the corner of Fourth and Maple all by itself.

Hannah (longtime curator of the Hoard Historical Museum) said not much building went on during the Civil War, so it probably was built sometime before 1860.

It was a humble little home, and still is, with no fancy fireplaces or woodwork, but the big corner lot is still beautiful except for the sacrifices of the lovely elm and maple trees.

The house had been vandalized, ravaged and burned, and was being sold for taxes.

Somehow it said, "Buy me. I will make a home for you." We did.

There was no restoring as everything of any value was stolen. We rolled up our sleeves and went to work. My husband put in all new wiring and plumbing and tore down the chimney going through the center of the house.

It wasn't until our comfortable flat was sold and we had one month to move that we even thought of living in it. Anyone who could remember back to 1945 knew how hard it was to rent a house and get material. A priority list was needed for windows, plumbing, wiring, sheet metal for heat ducts, etc.

With the help of friends, the burned addition was torn down.

It was hard those first years. The plaster walls were broken down and a plan made. Our first concern was for our children, but they were kept neat and clean and the new baby was placed in a canvas swing from the ceiling.

My husband and I worked when he was through at the shop and as we had the money and could get the material.

The garage was cleaned up both inside and out. I could write a book about that: at one time the garage was condemned as it was leaning so badly. No one thought we could save it, but it was straightened, roofed, painted and a pretty window box added. We think it's the prettiest garage on the block.

Our house will never make the historical register and there is nothing for the "walk of homes."

We never got it to be the "dream house" we pictured. We never had the money or the time, but a lot of love has come from that humble old home and I am proud to what we have done. We have lived here 41 years.

No one famous ever slept here, but our old humble little houses shouldn't be forgotten either in our sesquicentenntial year.

E.N. Foster first death

The first death ever recorded in Fort Atkinson occured Oct. 19, 1837, with the death of E. N. Foster Sr.

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