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## Brillion hatchery history. March 6, 1995

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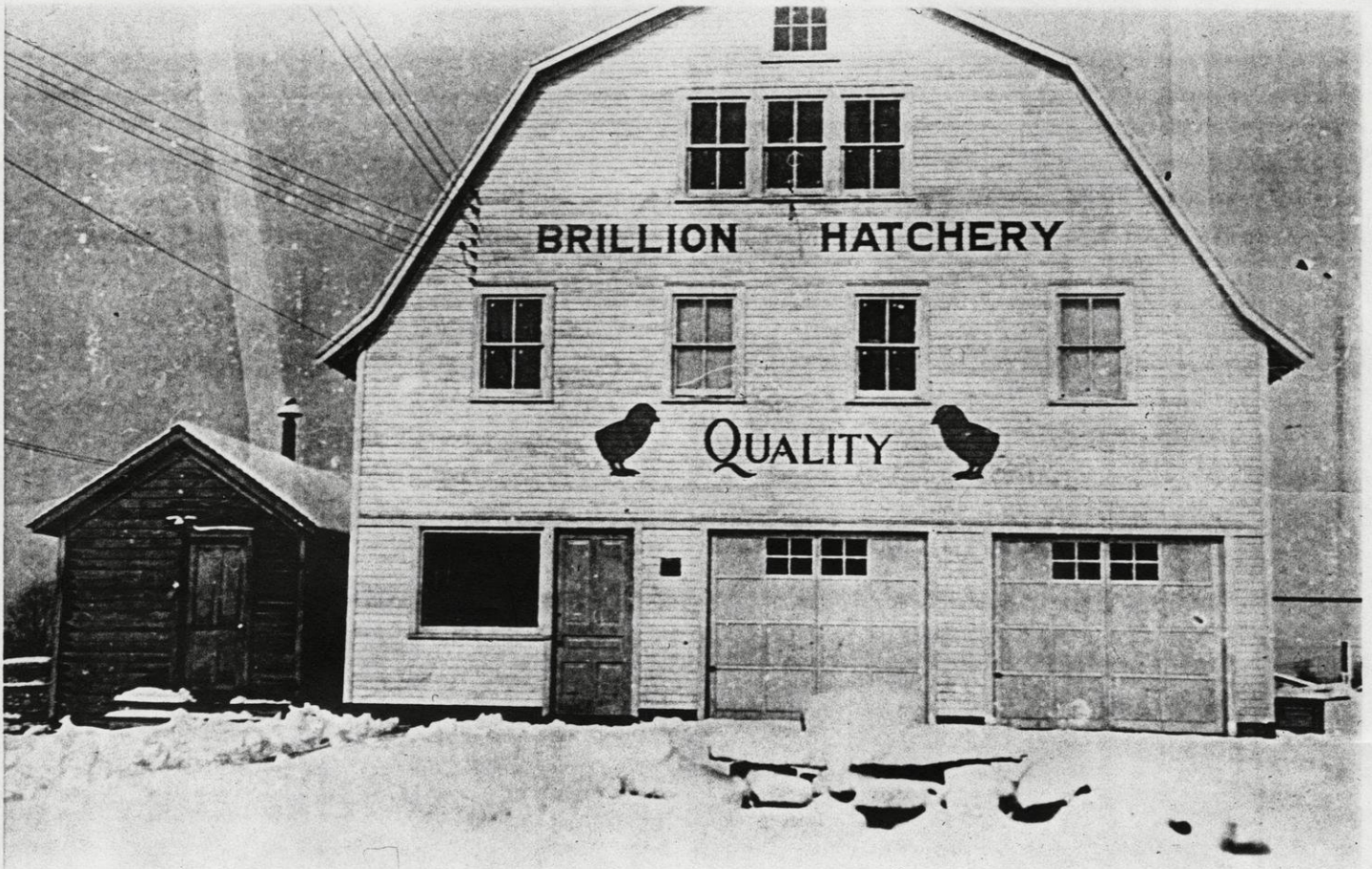
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THE BRILLION HATCHERY  
Constructed in about 1930



#### OTTO AND EDNA ZORN

This is the history of THE BRILLION HATCHERY, owned and operated by my father, Otto H. Zorn, born on October 8, 1891 in Brillion - the only child of Rudolph and Ardina Isack Zorn. In 1914 he married Edna D. Wegner of Port Washington whom he met in Milwaukee at the 17th and Brown Street Evangelical Church Youth Fellowship. My mother worked for a dentist in Milwaukee and my father attended Spencerian Business College to equip himself to do the bookkeeping for his father's construction business. He worked in the business for many years with his father. About 1924-1926 there was a lull in the building industry and my father began looking for another occupation which resulted in THE BRILLION HATCHERY. There is very little question in our minds as to what came first--"the chicken or the egg".

Allen O. Zorn  
March 6, 1995

UP TO 1925 MOST FARMERS AND MANY OF THE CITY RESIDENTS HAD FLOCKS OF 20-30 LAYING HENS TO SUPPLY EGGS FOR FAMILY USE AND TO HAVE SOME EGGS TO SELL TO LOCAL GROCERY STORES FOR OTHER STAPLES FOR THE HOME. THIS INCOME WAS COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS "MOM'S EGG MONEY" AND WAS KEPT IN AN UNUSED TEAPOT OR OTHER SMALL CONTAINER IN THE KITCHEN CUPBOARD. THIS WAS WIDELY PRACTICED IN THE BRILLION AREA.

IN ABOUT 1926 FARMERS BEGAN INCREASING THEIR FLOCK SIZE TO ENABLE THEM TO IMPROVE THEIR FARM INCOME BY SELLING A LARGER SUPPLY OF EGGS TO LOCAL STORES, WHO, IN TURN, SHIPPED THEM TO LARGER CITIES. THE FARMERS ALSO OBTAINED PRIVATE CUSTOMERS AND SUPPLIED THEIR NEEDS WEEKLY. BY THIS TIME THERE WERE MANY SMALL CHICK HATCHERIES SPRINGING UP IN THE AREA - NEUSERS (NORTH OF BRILLION), FOREST JCT., CATO, REEDSVILLE, WHITELAW AND CHILTON. THEY HAD HATCHING CAPACITIES OF 300-500 CHICKS PER WEEK.

IN 1926 WE LIVED ON THE EAST SIDE OF So. MAIN STREET ACROSS FROM THE PRESENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. THE PROPERTY OWNER DIRECTLY ACROSS THE STREET FROM US PUT UP A SIGN SAYING "HOUSE AND LOT FOR SALE". I REMEMBER MY DAD MENTIONING TO MY MOTHER THE POSSIBILITY OF BUYING IT AND STARTING A POULTRY FARM. IT HAPPENED VERY QUICKLY THAT WE PURCHASED THE TWO ACRE PROPERTY FROM GEORGE ENGEL - MOVED ACROSS THE STREET IN THE SPRING OF 1927 - AND SOLD OUR HOME TO MR. AND MRS. JOHN WOLFMAYER. THEY HAD RETIRED FROM THE WOLFMAYER CHEESE FACTORY NORTH OF BRILLION. MY GRANDFATHER, RUDOLPH, NOW A WIDOWER, MOVED IN WITH US AND LIVED IN A THREE-ROOM UPPER APARTMENT UNTIL HIS DEATH ON AUG. 2, 1937.

AS SOON AS THE WEATHER PERMITTED WE STARTED CONSTRUCTING A POULTRY BARN TO HOUSE ABOUT 600 LAYERS. MY FATHER TOOK INTEREST IN A POULTRY FARM IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON WHO ADVERTISED "RECORD OF PRODUCTION STOCK" -QUALITY HATCHING EGGS. THESE EGGS CAME FROM HENS WHO HAD BEEN TRAP-NESTED TO RECORD THEIR PRODUCTIVITY FOR 365 DAYS. TRAP-NESTING CONSISTED OF USING METAL NEST BOXES WITH A TRAP THAT CLOSED WHEN THE HEN ENTERED AND LAID HER EGG. THE NUMBER FROM THE LEG BAND ON THE HEN WAS RECORDED. THE ONLY EGGS USED FOR HATCHING CAME FROM STOCK THAT PRODUCED 300-320 EGGS PER YEAR. THESE WERE THE HOLLYWOOD SINGLE-COMB WHITE LEGHORN STRAIN OF CHICKEN NOTED FOR THEIR HIGH PRODUCTION, WHITE-SHELLED EGGS WITH LIGHT YELLOW YOLKS THAT WEIGHED 20-24 OZ. PER DOZEN. THESE BROUGHT THE BEST MARKET PRICE. THE HENS AND ROOSTERS FROM THIS STRAIN WERE THEN USED TO PRODUCE EGGS FOR HATCHING PURPOSES.

MY DAD ORDERED EGGS FROM THIS WASHINGTON HATCHERY AND THEY WERE SHIPPED BY RAIL TO US PACKED IN SAWDUST IN WOODEN CONTAINERS. WE TOOK THEM TO THE HATCHERY AT FOREST JUNCTION WHO HATCHED THEM FOR US. I BELIEVE THEY MADE SEVERAL HATCHES GIVING US A TOTAL OF ABOUT 2,000 CHICKS TO START OUR POULTRY BUSINESS. WE RAISED THE YOUNG FLOCK UNTIL THE ROOSTERS WERE SEPARATED VISUALLY AND WERE SHIPPED LIVE TO HELLER BROTHERS ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF MILWAUKEE. THIS COMPANY SERVED A JEWISH COMMUNITY THAT CONSUMED ONLY WHITE EGGS AND CHICKEN FOR MEAT. THEY ALSO USED ONLY FAT RENDERED FROM CHICKENS OR OTHER FOWL - NO LARD OR BUTTER. WHEN THE HENS BEGAN TO PRODUCE WELL, ONLY THE GRADE A EGGS WERE ALSO SHIPPED TO THIS CUSTOMER. THE CHICKEN CRATES AND EGG CASES WERE RETURNED TO US BY RAIL. THEY TOOK OUR ENTIRE PRODUCTION OF EGGS AND ALL THE ROOSTERS WE COULD SHIP. ALL

ALL FEED FOR OUR FLOCK OF CHICKENS WAS PURCHASED LOCALLY FROM HENRY CARSTENS AND SONS.

IN THE WINTER OF 1928 MY DAD LEARNED OF A HATCHERY THAT WAS DISCONTINUING OPERATION IN BEAVER DAM. HE PURCHASED THE HATCHING EQUIPMENT THAT WOULD HATCH 3,500 EGGS AND TRANSPORTED IT TO BRILLION - MOVING IT INTO THE BASEMENT OF OUR HOME. FORTUNATELY, WE HAD A LARGE BASEMENT AND WERE ABLE TO HOUSE ALL OF THIS EQUIPMENT - AND MOM STILL HAD LAUNDRY SPACE. BY THIS TIME THERE WERE FOUR CHILDREN - MYSELF, VERNON, ELIZABETH (KNOWN AS BETTY IN BRILLION) AND CHESTER.

OUR HATCHING BUSINESS BEGAN THAT SPRING AND IT DEVELOPED RAPIDLY BEYOND ALL EXPECTATIONS. THE FOLLOWING YEAR MOM HAD TO GIVE UP HER VEGETABLE CELLAR AND WE MOVED IN A NEW 5,000 EGG UNIT TO INCREASE OUR PRODUCTION. THIS MORE THAN DOUBLED OUR CAPACITY. THE SIZE OF THE BUSINESS NOW REQUIRED THE CONSTRUCTION OF LARGER QUARTERS AND THE NEW HATCHERY BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1930. THIS REQUIRED REDUCTION OF THE FLOCK SIZE. WE REPLACED OUR FIRST TWO UNITS OF HATCHING EQUIPMENT WITH NEW LARGER BUCKEYE INCUBATORS AND ONE HATCHER. WE ADDED A LINE OF POULTRY EQUIPMENT AND REMEDIES AND SOLD CARSTENS FEED DIRECTLY FROM THE HATCHERY.

WITHOUT OUR OWN LARGE FLOCK, FOR US TO PROCURE AMPLE HATCHING EGGS, WE HAD SEVERAL FARMERS WHO WERE GOING TO GO INTO THE LARGER FLOCKS OF CHICKENS. WE SOLD THEM BABY CHICKS OF THIS HIGH PRODUCTION WHITE LEGHORN STRAIN HATCHED FROM OUR FLOCK. WHEN THE CHICKENS WERE RAISED TO MATURITY

WE SUPPLIED THE ROOSTERS FROM OUR STOCK AND THIS FLOCK HAD TO BE MAINTAINED ON THAT FARM WITH ABSOLUTELY NO MIXTURE OF ANY OTHER BREEDS TO MINGLE WITH THE LINE. WE THEN PURCHASED ALL OF THEIR EGGS WITH A PREMIUM MARKET PRICE. SOME OF THE LOCAL FARMERS I REMEMBER BEING IN THIS PROGRAM WERE JAKE LINDNER, LOUIE LEUBER, ALFRED TAMM, EUGENE WOLF, WALTER TESCH, OTTO MACK, JOHN KOCOUREK, ED FISCHER, LOUIE BASTIAN, ALFRED ZEAMER, ADOLPH GRIMM AND WILLIAM KOCH, SR.

WE PICKED UP EGGS FROM THESE FARMERS EVERY SATURDAY. PRIOR TO PICK-UP THEY GRADED THE EGGS TO GRADE A STANDARDS. THE EGGS WERE PACKED IN 30 DOZEN CRATES AND WE REQUIRED ABOUT 15 CRATES OF NEARLY 5400 EGGS PER WEEK FOR OPERATION. TWO HATCHES WERE SET PER WEEK - A HATCH TOOK 21 DAYS. IF THE LOCAL FARMER'S SUPPLY DID NOT MEET OUR NEED, WE WERE ABLE TO PURCHASE EGGS OF THE SAME STRAIN AND QUALITY FROM THE ADOLPH WUNSCH HATCHERY AT SHEBOYGAN AND WE OFTEN BOUGHT FROM THEM WEEKLY. WE ALSO OCCASIONALLY HATCHED OTHER BREEDS FOR MEAT PRODUCTION FOR OTHER FARMERS FROM EGGS PROCURED FROM THE WUNSCH HATCHERY. THEY WERE EQUIPPED TO MAINTAIN SEPARATE FLOCKS.

ALL THE FLOCKS UNDER OUR CONTROL FOR PRODUCING OUR HATCHING EGGS WERE BLOOD TESTED FOR POLORUM DISEASE. MY DAD AND VERNON OR I WENT TO EACH FARM PRIOR TO THE HATCHING SEASON FOR THIS BLOOD TEST. IT WAS OBTAINED BY TAKING A BLOOD SAMPLE FROM UNDER THE CHICKEN WING AND PLACING IT ON A HEATED SPECIMEN PLATE, MIXING THE BLOOD WITH A STAINED ANTIGEN. IF THE BLOOD SEPARATED INTO BROKEN CLOTS, THE TEST WAS POSITIVE AND THE CHICKEN WAS REMOVED FROM THE FLOCK. THIS TEST INDICATED THAT THE OVARIES WERE

INFECTED AND THE HEN WOULD NOT PRODUCE. THE CHICKEN COULD BE USED FOR FOOD PURPOSES AS THE MEAT WAS NOT AFFECTED. ONE FARM COULD BE TESTED IN A DAY - SOMETIMES IT WAS A VERY LONG DAY WITH US GETTING HOME AT 2 OR 2:30 IN THE MORNING.

AT ONE FARM I SPECIFICALLY REMEMBER, THE FIRST FIVE BIRDS THAT WE CHECKED SHOWED UP POSITIVE WITH THE DISEASE. THE FARMER'S WIFE TOLD US TO GET THE "WITCHCRAFT" OUT OF THE BARN AND MY DAD REASONED WITH HER AND HER HUSBAND TO KEEP THE FIVE HENS SEPARATE TO DETERMINE THEIR PRODUCTION. THEY AGREED TO DO THIS AND WE CONTINUED OUR TESTING - WE FOUND NO MORE DISEASED HENS IN THE FLOCK. AFTER ABOUT A WEEK, MRS. "FARMER" CALLED US TO LET US KNOW THAT, INDEED, HER FIVE CHICKENS WERE NOT LAYING. THEY BUTCHERED THE CHICKENS AND FOUND THE OVARIES COMPLETELY INOPERATIVE WHICH WERE NECESSARY FOR EGG PRODUCTION. THEY BELIEVED IN THE ACCURACY OF THE TESTING PROCEDURE.

FERTILITY OF THE HATCHING EGGS WAS ONLY ABOUT 60% EARLY IN THE SEASON, INCREASING UP TO ABOUT 90% BY MAY. WHEN THE CHICKS WERE DAY-OLD THEY WERE "SEXED" TO DETERMINE FEMALES TO BE RAISED FOR EGG PRODUCTION. THE DAY-OLD ROOSTERS WERE MARKETABLE FOR RAISING FOR FOOD PURPOSES. SEARS AND ROEBUCK PURCHASED JUST ABOUT ALL THE DAY-OLD ROOSTERS WE COULD PRODUCE AND WE DELIVERED THEM TO SEARS IN MANITOWOC, WHICH WAS OUR MAIN OUTLET FOR THEM. THOSE THAT WE COULD NOT SELL WERE DESTROYED BY GASSING AND BURIAL.



WE EMPLOYED A PROFESSIONAL "SEXER" WHOSE NAME WAS VIRGIL SWEET FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON WHO ALSO WORKED FOR HATCHERIES AT TWO RIVERS, DOOR COUNTY, PORT WASHINGTON AND NEW LONDON. WHEN VIRGIL RETURNED TO WASHINGTON FOR YEAR-AROUND LIVING, WE EMPLOYED A JAPANESE (THE ART OF SEXING WAS ACTUALLY A JAPANESE TRADE). THIS WAS DURING THE WAR YEARS OF 1942 TO 1945 AND THE NEW SEXER WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE OF HIS NATIONALITY - EVEN THOUGH HE WAS AMERICAN-BORN. HE HAD TO BE "BAILED OUT" SEVERAL TIMES AFTER PROOF OF HIS CITIZENSHIP AND OCCUPATION WAS CONFIRMED. SEXING THE CHICKS GUARANTEED 90% WOULD BE PULLETS. ANY CHICK WHICH WOULD GIVE ONE THE LEAST DOUBT AS TO IT'S SEX WOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A ROOSTER.

ONE FRIEND CONFIDED A STORY TO US, BUT HE WOULDN'T COME TO TELL IT HIMSELF TONIGHT. WHEN STANLEY HEIMKE WAS 7 OR 8 YEARS OLD HE SAYS HE WENT INTO THE POULTRY BUSINESS. HE AND HIS DAD CAME TO THE HATCHERY AND BOUGHT 100 ROOSTER CHICKS FOR 1¢ APIECE - A ONE DOLLAR INVESTMENT. OF HIS 100 ROOSTERS, ELEVEN TURNED OUT TO BE PULLETS, THEREBY PROVIDING PROOF THAT THE SEXER TRIED HIS LEVEL BEST TO PROVIDE BUYERS WITH A FULL COUNT OF PULLETS.

WELL STANLEY RAISED HIS CHICKENS - THEY ATE THE ROOSTERS AND KEPT THE HENS ABOUT TWO YEARS. THEY, NATURALLY, LAID MORE EGGS THAN ART, FLORA AND STANLEY COULD POSSIBLY EAT, SO THEY SOLD EGGS TO SCHARBARTH'S. STANLEY FELT IT WAS A PROFITABLE BUSINESS HE HAD GOING - BUT HE MUST HAVE GOTTEN SICK OF FEEDING THE CHICKENS AS HE QUIT!

PRIOR TO HATCHING, THE EGGS WERE STORED IN A COOL TEMPERATURE OF 50 TO 60 DEGREES BEFORE BEING PLACED IN THE INCUBATORS. THEY WERE PLACED SMALL END DOWN ON INCUBATOR TRAYS WITH SPACE FOR 108 EGGS PER TRAY. THE TRAYS WERE PLACED IN THE INCUBATOR. AS MENTIONED BEFORE, TWO HATCHES WERE SET PER WEEK, SO CHICKS WERE HATCHED TWICE A WEEK. INCUBATION TIME WAS 21 DAYS. IN FULL PRODUCTION, WE COULD PRODUCE ABOUT 2,000 CHICKS EVERY SUNDAY AND THURSDAY WHICH WAS AN APPROXIMATE 80-90% HATCH. 70% WAS REQUIRED TO COVER COSTS.

ON ONE OCCASION VERNON RETURNED HOME WITH A LOAD OF EGGS IN THE BACK SEAT OF A 1932 MODEL A FORD - A DOG RAN OUT OF THE DRIVEWAY ALONGSIDE OF THE REINHARDT HARDWARE AND INTO THE FRONT OF THE FORD. VERNON APPLIED THE BRAKES, JARRING THE EGGS. OF THAT LOAD OF EGGS ONLY A 30% HATCH WAS REALIZED. SPECIAL HANDLING OF HATCHING EGGS WAS REQUIRED **AT ALL TIMES**. ALL EGGS WERE OBTAINED AT 22¢ PER DOZEN ABOVE MARKET PRICE. THIS WAS TO COVER THE COST OF "ROOM AND BOARD" FOR THE BREEDING STOCK DURING THE HATCHING SEASON. ONE ROOSTER WAS A "LIVE-IN" FOR EVERY TWELVE HENS.

TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY WERE ELECTRONICALLY CONTROLLED IN THE INCUBATORS. WE MAINTAINED A TEMPERATURE OF 103 DEGREES IN THE INCUBATING MACHINES. THE EGG TRAYS WERE TILTED MECHANICALLY IN THE INCUBATOR TO AN ANGLE OF 30 DEGREES TO THE LEFT OF FLAT IN THE MORNING AND TO 30 DEGREES TO THE RIGHT OF FLAT BY EVENING. THIS WAS DONE TO PREVENT THE EMBRYO FROM BECOMING ATTACHED TO ONE SIDE OF THE EGG OR THE OTHER, SIMULATING THE ACTION OF THE MOTHER HEN ROTATING HER EGGS IN THE NEST.

THE EGGS WERE LEFT IN THIS INCUBATOR FOR A TOTAL OF 18 DAYS AND THEN REMOVED FOR CANDELING. INFERTILE EGGS WERE DESTROYED. THE FERTILE EGGS WERE THEN PLACED ON LARGER ROOMIER TRAYS WITH THE EGGS LYING FREE ON SCREENED-BOTTOM TRAYS SO THE CHICKS COULD MOVE ABOUT IN HATCHING. THESE TRAYS WERE PLACED IN THE HATCHING MACHINE WHERE THEY REMAINED FOR THE FINAL 72 HOURS. THEY REQUIRED VERY LITTLE ADDITIONAL HEAT DURING THIS PERIOD AS THE BABY CHICKS WERE THEN GENERATING SUFFICIENT BODY HEAT. ON THE 20TH DAY, THE BABY CHICKS (STILL IN THE SHELL) WOULD PECK A SMALL HOLE OR CREATE A CRACK IN THE SHELL TO LET IN AIR FOR BREATHING. THE LAST DAY THE HATCHER WOULD OPERATE JUST WITH THE COOLING FAN RUNNING. WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE 21ST DAY, THE TRAYS OF BABY CHICKS WERE REMOVED AND THE CHICKS WERE PLACED IN BOXES OF FOUR COMPARTMENTS WITH 25 CHICKS PER COMPARTMENT. THESE BOXES WERE MADE UP BY US PRIOR TO EACH HATCH. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY THE CHICKS WERE EITHER SEXED OR SOLD AS STRAIGHT-RUN AS ORDERS REQUIRED.

SOME OF OUR CUSTOMERS ORDERED CHICKS TEN DAYS, TWO WEEKS, THREE WEEKS OR FOUR WEEKS OLD BEFORE PICK-UP. THIS WAS AN ADDED SERVICE AND THEY WERE TAKEN TO THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE HATCHERY BY ELEVATOR AND PLACED IN ELECTRICALLY HEATED STORAGE BROODERS. THEY CONSISTED OF COMPARTMENTS FIVE HIGH WITH 100 CHICKS IN EACH COMPARTMENT, TOTALING 500 PER BROODER. WE HAD SIX OF THESE STORAGE BROODERS. DID YOU TAKE NOTICE THAT I SAID THE CHICKS WERE MOVED BY "ELEVATOR"? I DO BELIEVE THAT WE HAD BRILLION'S FIRST ELEVATOR IN THE HATCHERY. THIS WAS CONSTRUCTED BY MY FATHER BEFORE I LEFT FOR SERVICE IN 1942.

AS AN ADDED SERVICE FOR THE LOCAL FARM TRADE, WE DID CUSTOM HATCHING OF DUCKS, GEESE, PHEASANTS, SPECIAL BREEDS OF CHICKENS AND TURKEYS. THE EGGS WERE SUPPLIED BY THE FARMER. THIS WAS USUALLY DONE IN THE LATTER PART OF SPRING WHEN OUR CHICK PRODUCTION HAD TAPERED OFF.

TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, WE ONLY HAD ONE SEVERELY DEFORMED CHICK HATCHED. IT HAD FOUR LEGS AND POSITIONED ITSELF ON THE FRONT TWO LEGS WHILE THE REAR TWO EXTENDED OUTWARD FROM THE BODY. WE KEPT IT FOR SEVERAL DAYS - AND PHOTOGRAPHED IT.

BY 1942 ALL OF THE SMALL HATCHERIES IN THIS AREA HAD CEASED OPERATION. DURING THE YEARS THAT MY PARENTS HAD THE BUSINESS, THEY ENJOYED IT VERY MUCH. IT WAS A FAMILY BUSINESS WITH VERNON, CHET AND I WORKING AS WE GREW UP. VERNON HELPED OUR GRANDPARENTS ON THEIR FARM AT PORT WASHINGTON AND FINISHED HIS LAST TWO YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL THERE. HE ENLISTED IN THE U.S. ARMY AIR CORPS IN 1940, BEFORE WE ENTERED WORLD WAR II. I LEFT FOR SERVICE IN 1942 WITH CHET STILL AT HOME IN HIGH SCHOOL.

OUR UPSTAIRS IN THE HOUSE WAS RENTED TO MR. AND MRS. FRED PETER. MRS. PETER HELPED MY PARENTS WITH THE HATCHERY WORK AND WAS LOVINGLY KNOWN AS GRANDMA PETER TO US KIDS. HER NAME WAS MARIE.

IN THE SPRING OF 1945, AFTER CHET WAS DRAFTED INTO THE NAVY, MY PARENTS SOLD THE BUSINESS TO EARL PITZNER OF FORT ATKINSON AND THEY MOVED TO THE PRESENT DELTON TAMM RESIDENCE ON HWY. 10 (RYAN STREET). EARL PITZNER EVENTUALLY DISCONTINUED OPERATION OF THE HATCHERY IN THE LATE 1960S

AND THEN LATER SOLD THE PROPERTY TO CARL AND MARY FANSLER IN FEBRAURY 1973. OUR LOCAL TELEPHONE OPERATOR AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBER, ALICE SCHULZE, RESIDED IN THE UPSTAIRS APARTMENT FOR MANY YEARS WHILE BOTH PITZNER'S AND FANSLER'S LIVED THERE.

OUR FATHER PASSED AWAY OCTOBER 28, 1961 WHILE AGAIN LIVING IN THE HOME ACROSS THE STREET THAT THEY SOLD TO WOLFMAYERS IN 1927.

OUR MOTHER PASSED AWAY AUGUST 12, 1973 AT CALUMET HOMESTEAD AT NEW HOLSTEIN.

IN SEPTEMBER 1988 EXPANSION OF THE BRILLION PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM NECESSITATED MOVING THE 100 YEAR OLD HOME TO 524 FAIRWAY DRIVE ABOUT A HALF MILE SOUTH OF IT'S ORIGINAL LOCATION. SCHOOL CLASSES WERE EVEN DISMISSED FOR THE EVENT. THE HATCHERY WAS DEMOLISHED ON SEPTEMBER 21, 1988. THE MAPLE TREE ON THE FRONT LAWN OF THE PRESENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADDITION WAS ON THE NORTH LAWN OF THE HOME. IT'S DEMISE WAS SEVERELY THREATENED BY THE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION, BUT A NUMBER OF LOCAL CITIZENS, MYSELF INCLUDED, WENT BEFORE THE SCHOOL BOARD AND PLEADED FOR MERCY FOR THE OLD MAPLE TREE WHICH WAS GRANTED AND IT STILL STANDS TODAY.

MANY OF THESE EVENTS HAVE BEEN PICTORIALLY RECORDED AND ARE ON THE TABLE FOR YOU TO LOOK AT. A COPY OF THE PHOTOS AND THIS TALK WILL BE GIVEN TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AS A RECORD OF **THE BRILLION HATCHERY.**

THE DOOR STOPS OR BOOK ENDS ARE COVERS FOR BRICKS GIVEN US BY THE FANSLER'S AND JOYCE MADE COVERS FOR BRICKS FOR EACH OF MY BROTHERS AND MY SISTER BETTY.

MOM'S TEAPOT FOR "EGG MONEY" CHANGE, A PIECE OF LUMBER FROM THE HATCHERY AND ONE OF MY DAD'S IMPRINTED PENCILS ARE DISPLAYED.



*Malwitz*  
MILWAUKEE, WIS.



This is the home across the street that Otto studied over and decided to purchase the property in the spring of 1927. South side is pictured.



This is a view of the same home much earlier when August Habermann owned it. Arnold (father of Lloyd) was a child in this home.

Four Generations of ZORNS in Brillion in 1916  
left to right: Rudolph, Allen, Frank and Otto



From this house on So. Main Street, Otto conceived  
the hatchery business concept. Rudolph lived to  
the left (North) and they shared a driveway.





Otto started raising the Hollywood strain of White Leghorn chickens purchased from the State of Washington. This was the original breeding stock used for hatching eggs.



School gym and office



The home and yard was spruced up.  
Note the Maple Tree at far right.  
The hatchery business was begun in  
the basement of the home.



The hatchery is built and note the growing Maple Tree.

OTTO H. ZORN

PHONE 5

BRILLION



HATCHERY

HOLLYWOOD S. C. WHITE LEGHORNS

QUALITY BABY CHICKS IN SEASON

Brillion

Wisconsin

Otto H. Zorn Phone 5W

*Brillion Hatchery*  
Brillion, Wis.

No. 137

Brillion, Wis., Apr 7 1943

PAY TO THE ORDER OF \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ DOLLARS

To CALUMET COUNTY BANK }  
79-1040  
Brillion, Wisconsin }

*Otto H. Zorn*



Betty and Chet in front of Hatchery



Back view of Hatchery House  
Note the Maple Tree again - always growing



A deformed 4-legged chick hatched at The Brillion Hatchery



Otto H. Zorn by Maple Tree in about 1932.



Vernon Zorn by Maple Tree in hatchery yard - March 1988

About 56 years later



Allen Zorn by Maple Tree on the lawn in 1992.



The house is readied for removal from the property for school expansion in September 1988.



The house-moving was an event and school was recessed to watch it exit the property and enter Main Street. Note "Old Core" still remaining in school complex.







The 100 year old home moved on down Main Street to it's new location at 524 Fairway Drive for the Fansler family in September 1988.





Back at the site, the maple tree is enclosed in the snow fenced area and has a sign for company. Note the Hatchery is still standing. It was demolished on September 21, 1988



MAPLE TREE REMAINS - 1988



We snap a picture every now and then.  
This is late October 1990. Tree is  
probably "hurt" by construction, but  
it lives on.

## Historical Society holds meeting

BRILLION — The March meeting of the Brillion Historical Society was held at the Community Center on Monday, March 6, beginning at 7:30 p.m. There were 25 in attendance, including guests Henrietta Mack, Reedsville; Chet Zorn, Appleton; and Vernon and Betty Zorn, Delafield.

Allen Zorn presented a history of the Brillion Hatchery which was started by his father, Otto. It was located on South Main Street on part of the present Brillion Public School. The hatchery specialized in one breed of chickens, but would hatch other breeds, or ducks, geese, etc., for their customers. Zorn explained how the business got started and grew, the hatching process, and where the chicks were sold. It was a family business until it was sold in 1945. The building was demolished in 1988.

President Harold Wolf presided over the business meeting. Among the matters presented were:

1) A July trip to museums in Waupaca and Wild Rose, with lunch at the historic hotel in Wild Rose is being planned - exact date to be determined.

2) Final plans for the fund-raiser Chili Dinner on March 12. Matching funds from Lutheran Brotherhood -

Branch No. 8365 will go toward a new museum building.

3) President Wolf thanked the committee for the monthly displays at the Community Center. The current display calls attention to the "kick-off" for the fund drive for the new museum.

4) The Building Fund Drive Committee reported that 714 "Building Blocks" have been purchased, amounting to \$3,570.00. May 1 is the target date to complete this phase of the fund drive, the goal is \$10,000. Those who wish to "Invest in Brillion's Heritage" (and have their name displayed in the new museum) will have an opportunity to do so at the Chili Dinner on March 12.

The society approved the next fund raiser, a brat/hamburger fry on April 27.

5) Wolf thanked all those who helped for the Home Show. Winner of the gift certificates were Em Tienor and Laurie Schwahn.

6) Secretary Bernice Eichhorst reported receipt of \$800 from the Brillion City Community Drive.

At the April 3 meeting, Don Bessert will present the history of Bessert Electric.

Guests and new members are always welcome.

## Chili dinner set for March 12

The Brillion Historical Society and the Lutheran Brotherhood, Calumet County, No. 8365 are co-sponsoring a chili dinner on Sunday, March 12 at the Brillion Community Center. Serving will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The menu includes chili, cheese and crackers, sandwiches, dessert and beverages. Containers for the take-outs will be provided. The proceeds will be matched with funds up to \$500 by Lutheran Brotherhood,

Calumet County No. 8365.

The goal is to build a museum-type building to display numerous items donated over the years. These articles and historical photos emphasize the progress the community has made. Tours of the History House prove that people of all ages are interested in our link to the past. The society appreciates your donations and assistance to preserve Brillion's heritage for future generations.

Thank you, Allen, for your presentation  
about the Biellia Hatchery. It was very  
interesting. Many thanks for all your  
effort.

Sincerely  
Vesta Pagel

MARCH 9, 1995

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