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Franksville Businessmen's Association

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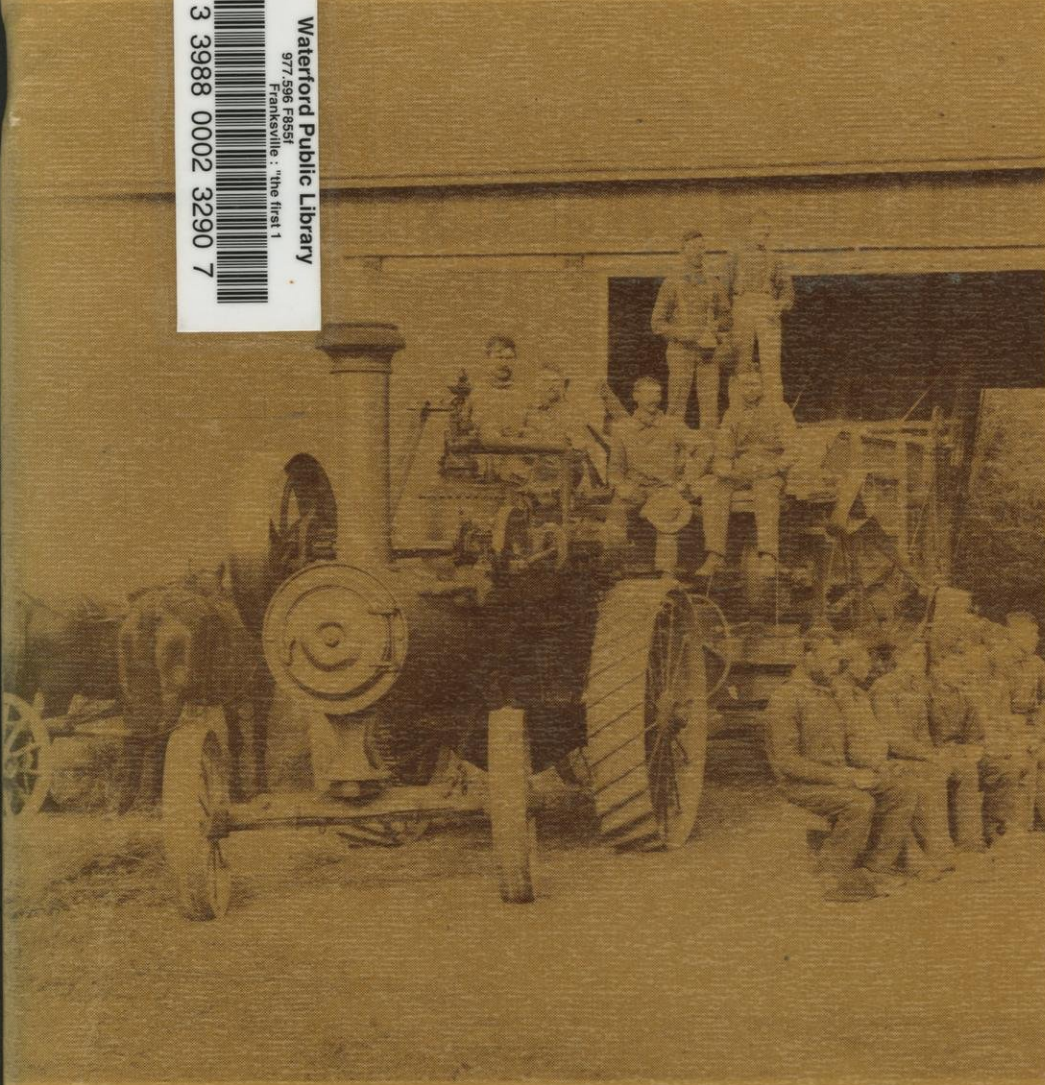
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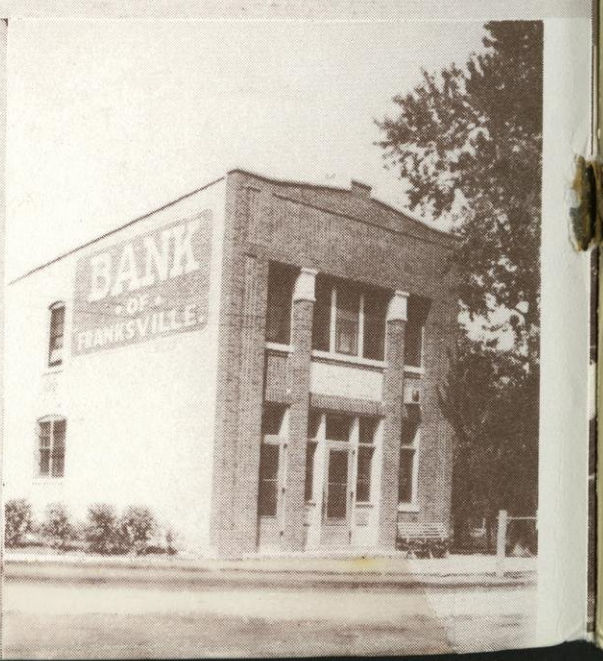
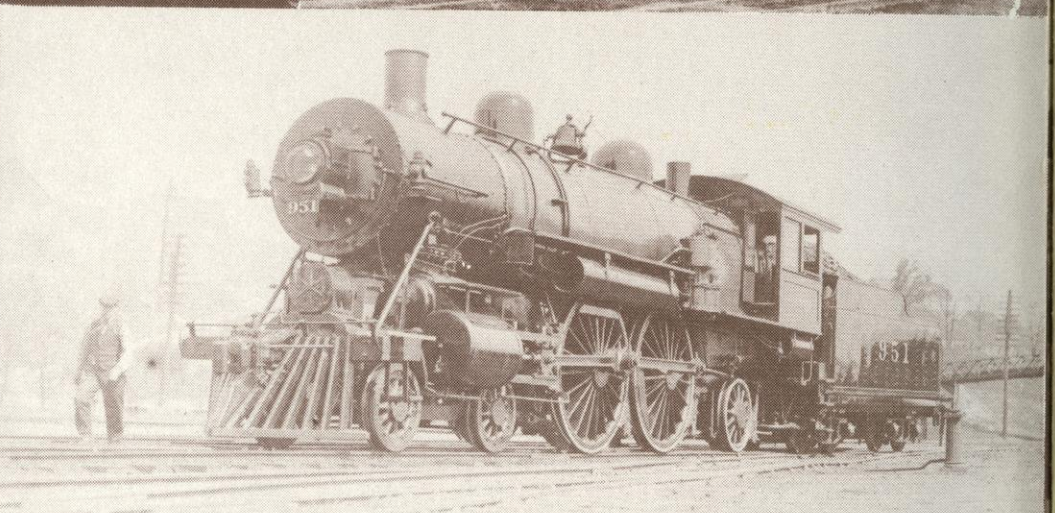
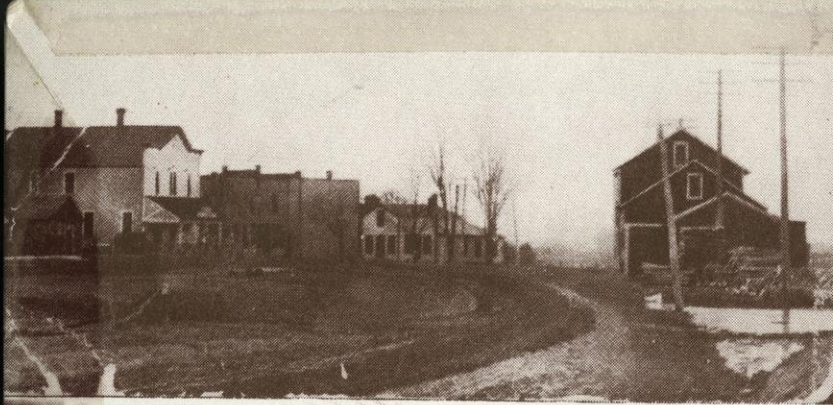
Franksville

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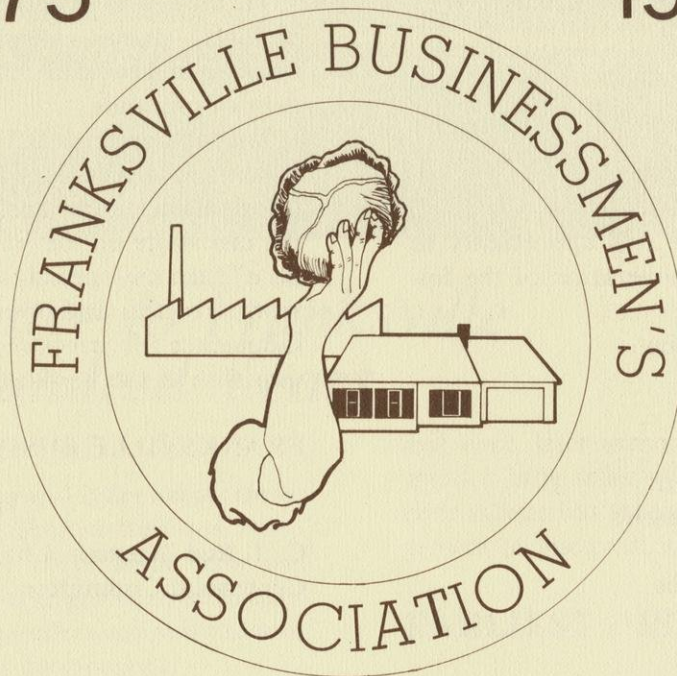


FRANKSVILLE

"THE FIRST 100 YEARS"
FRANKSVILLE, WISCONSIN

1875

1975



IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
25TH ANNUAL KRAUT FESTIVAL
JULY 24 - 27, 1975

IN APPRECIATION

This Centennial Booklet was compiled by C. J. Bud Wieman on behalf of the Franksville Businessmen's Association. Information was gathered from interviews, stories and pictures from various individuals and organizations. Many of these people submitted articles and stories and for the most part, they are presented just as they were written.

Several persons did considerable research and study so that their writings would more fully relate the history of Franksville, Skunk Grove, Caledonia and Racine County. They are:

Robert J. Brewer
Sandy Harre
Ernest A. Luedtke
Janet Gutknecht Morgan
Alvin J. Pietkivitch

We also wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the fine cooperation of the following individuals:

Mrs. Dorothy Anderson
George Bartel
Mrs. Lillian Bentson
Leo Duersten
Fred and Lois Fritchen
Vic and Donnette Geissner
Ed Hansen
Charles & Edith Jacobs

Mrs. Kate Jacobs
Mrs. Emma Jones
Glenn & Agnes Meissner
Frank Peterka
Mrs. Martha Olsen
Lyle Rammelt
Mrs. Martha Runge
Milton R. Runge
Mrs. Irene Schattner
Alex Stetka
Mrs. Mary Titley

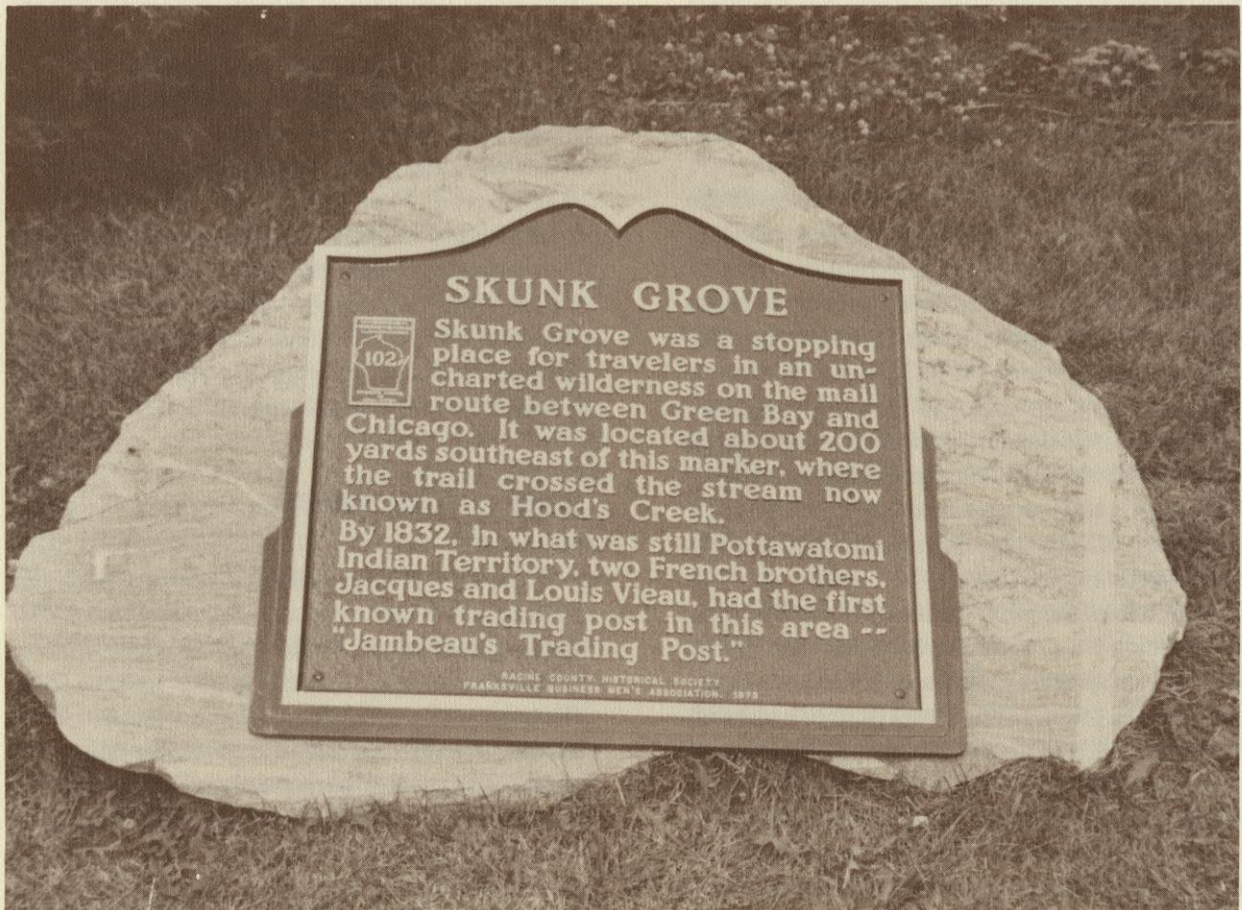
To these and countless others who offered pictures, stories, clippings, personal scrap books and provided other services, we owe a debt of gratitude.

For the Centennial Committee it has been an honor and a privilege to gather the historical information on our community. We accepted the task more on the basis of "someone had to do it" than any special talents we had to do the work. For this and other reasons we ask your indulgence for errors of both commission and omission in the booklet.

FRANKSVILLE BUSINESSMEN'S ASSO.

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C. J. Bud Wieman, Chairman
Centennial Committee



Skunk Grove to Franksville -- One Hundred Years

FOREWARD

Many towns, villages and cities across these United States have celebrated their one hundredth birthday, since 1776. Some have remained small, others have grown to sizes that would astound their founders and some towns and villages have even disappeared.

Would the early settlers of Skunk Grove, later to become Franksville, recognize their village today? Would they be able to point out familiar landmarks? Has the village changed much over the years? Who were these early pioneers? What did they do and did they leave some visible impressions that can still be seen today?

On this, the one hundredth anniversary of the village of Franksville, a retracing of its history may help to answer these and other questions. Descendants of the original settlers

and even later arriving residents, just might stand a little taller with pride in the fact that their village has taken its rightful place in the growth of our great nation.

EARLIEST HISTORY - - - -

Just as in most areas of the United States, the earliest record of modern man in the Franksville area clearly indicates it was occupied by Indians. The Potowatomi tribe roamed the area, but being nomadic people, they built no permanent structures to indicate their presence here.

Around the year 1832, the first white man, Jacques Vieau, (also known as Jambeau), the French Fur Trader, arrived. Jacques chose for his cabin and fur trading post, a spot along a branch of the Root River, southeast of the cur-

rent village of Franksville. These were perhaps, the first permanent structures in what is now, Racine County. The transition from indian occupation to the white man's, was made when Jacques took as his bride, a maiden of the Potawatami tribe.

Next, in 1837, Daniel B. Rork arrived in the Franksville area, migrating from around Burlington. Negotiations with Vieau resulted in Rork purchasing the Jambeau property for the sum of \$525.00, down considerably from the original asking price of \$2,000.00. Rork's interest in the land was for farming purposes. Most property deeds in the Franksville area show the name Rork. Some of his descendants, the Runge's still occupy land from that original purchase. Rork's son Marshall, was the village's first veterinarian.

Evidence of the next arrival, Henry Roberts, who became an implement dealer and horse breeder, exists today with a street in the village carrying that name. The street parallels the east side of the railroad tracks. Roberts purchase of 40 acres of government land at \$1.25 an acre established him in the community.

Following these two men to the village, were people who were descendants of settlers from New England, New York and Ohio, followed by the Welsh, Germans and other Europeans. The Welsh chose Franksville over Racine, preferring the prairie land to the swamper land of Racine. They built their church in the 1840's on the corner of what is now Gittings and Airline Roads. Anxious to enjoy the religious freedom of this new land, they thought nothing of walking the four miles to and from the church each Sunday.

After the 1833 Indian Treaty, fewer and fewer Indians were seen around the Franksville area. This treaty, ceded most of southern Wisconsin to the United States. Prior to this, one of five indian trails passed through the Franksville area, traveling from the lakeshore near Racine, through Skunk Grove, as the area was then known and on to Waukesha Springs. This trail crossed Root River near the old village of Thompsondale.

Enough people had settled in this portion of Racine County by the year 1842, to qualify it for township status. Territorial Governor Doty signed an act on February 7, 1842, establishing the Town of Caledonia. The first election in the

township was held at the home of Levi Blake, another early settler, who had migrated from Vermont, where there was a Caledonia County. It can be safely assumed that Caledonia was preferred over Skunk Grove.

In 1850, a plank road was built between Racine and Franksville and then later, extended on to Waukesha. This old plank road is the current Highway K, passing through Franksville in a somewhat east to west direction and is the present main street of the village. Dunkelow Road just north of the village, was another of these plank roads.

THE LATE 1800'S - - - -

Veterans of the Civil War returned to the village and other veterans came to the area to make their homes. William Hood, Bill Moore, Bernard Moore, Andes Moore and a Mr. Summerton were some of these veterans. East of the village, an underground for runaway slaves is recorded, with the slaves passing along the Green Bay Road headed north to the city of Green Bay.

True village status came in April of 1874, when S.G. Knight of Racine, surveyed the area at the request of Daniel Rork and Henry Roberts. The plat was filed with the Racine County register of deeds on May 25th of that year. Most of the village lots today, were part of Rork's original land purchase from Jambeau.

Further evidence of village status had come in 1872, when a single set of railway tracks, running north and south on the western fringe of the village, were laid. Teams of horses used by the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway, were hired from Charles Gutknecht, a farmer whose land adjoined the right of way to the west. Laying the tracks was followed by the railway crew shelter, built on the present property of Klema Feeds and the building of the depot and telegraph office.

The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad had some difficulty in purchasing the needed right of way. The land needed was owned by Pat McAvay, who had no desire to see his land split by the railroad. Nevertheless, the land was purchased and the rail line was built. The second set of tracks was added by the railway in 1892.

Contrary to popular beliefs, the name Franksville was not the result of the kraut factory. One of the stories relating to the choice of a village name, supposedly came from the surveying episode, the name Franksville chosen because the surveyors name was Frank Brandecker.

The most popular story regarding the village name, resulted from the inauguration of railroad service. This story relates how the foreman of the first track-building crew, a man by the name of Frank Drandieker, spent considerable time visiting a young lady who worked at the "Villa", a nearby tavern. In answer to frequent questions as to where Frank was, the answer "Frank's at the Villa" supposedly evolved to Franksvilla and then to Franksville. In either case, the name Frank fits the name of the village.

Churches continued to plan an important part in the village's history. In January of 1874, T.D. Morris called a meeting of area protestants, to organize a union church association. A building committee consisting of George Baker, Robert Owen and Daniel Rork was appointed and a short time later, Rork and H.B. Roberts deeded the necessary land for the church to the association. By October of that year, the two story building was completed. Charley Peck was the building contractor. The building included a sanctuary upstairs and a large hall for socials and dinners downstairs. The dining hall served as a source of income for the church, hosting the Grangers, Good Templars Lodge, Union Lodge and the Modern Woodmen Lodge.

The church dedication ceremony lasted a full day, with a noon dinner of smoked ham, fried chicken, homemade bread and butter, breaking the days worship. A debt of \$600.00, which existed at the start of the morning's service, was paid from collections taken that day, a feat that would be difficult to duplicate today.

According to an article published in the Racine Argus, an important event occurred on Thursday, June 12, 1879. East of the village, in a grove owned by Henry Roberts, the tenth annual reunion of the Old Settlers Society was held. The reporter describes taking the train to Franksville and being met by Ladd Secor and teams of colts and carriages, to be transported to the grove. Carriage after carriage arrived till

some 1500 people had assembled. Seventy five members of the society answered the roll call by President A. G. Knight. Wilson's Band of Kansasville provided the music and Reverend Stein offered the prayers. A letter from the absent Judge Dyer referred to the "Old Days" of Jambeau, Captain Gilbert Knapp, Potawatami Indians and prairie wolves.

The village had now grown to include stores, hotels, a blacksmith shop and a grain and freight warehouse. Peddlers arriving on the three northbound or three southbound trains would stop in Franksville, rent horses and carriages at the Livery Stables and call on their customers in Raymond Center, Husher and Caledonia.

An 80 foot high wind powered grist mill was once a village landmark. The wind powered mill, fell into disuse, when a new water powered mill was built west of Racine, on Root River. The milk needs of the booming Horlick's Malted Milk company prompted area farmers to expand their dairy herds and they preferred the reliability of the water powered mill over the wind powered mill, with water a constant source of power.

INTO THE 1900'S - - - -

In 1907, L. Frank & Son Company purchased land from George Gutknecht. It began as a sausage company and later operated as the Frank Pure Food Company. The factory produced sauerkraut, a German method of rendering shredded cabbage into a dish which could be preserved for long periods of time. It was originally preserved in wooden barrels and transported for distribution throughout the country. The factory utilized the cabbage crops of the Franksville farmers, since it was the center of the local cabbage growing area.

The plant originally employed 30 people and the first year cabbage purchases from local farmers amounted to \$15,000.00, an amount important to the economy of the community. In the 1920's, Franks sold out to the present management, who continue to operate the factory today. It is the largest kraut producing plant under one roof in the country. It would be almost impossible to purchase a can of kraut anywhere in the country without it being

the familiar Frank's brand. Even in 1962, the company's average sales were over \$2 million, while cabbage purchased locally was worth a quarter of a million dollars and the plant employed 140 people.

Cabbage was just one of the crops grown in the rich prairie soil, which required no clearing before planting. Flax, wheat, hay, oats, and beets were leading crops. Cattle, horses, sheep and pigs were the animals raised. Many farmers purchased choice animals from the east for breeding purposes. Horses were vital to the farmers and wealth was often measured in the number of working teams. Cattle and pigs were brought to the railroad stock yards for shipment to market.

Neighboring farmers worked together during harvests, bringing in teams of horses to help pick corn, thresh or make hay. These events were also social in nature, giving the farmers wives the opportunity to get together to cook, bake and serve the working crews and do a little visiting at the same time.

Hay too, was an important crop, with the farmers loading loose hay on to wagons and transporting it to 5th and Welles Streets in Milwaukee, where it was purchased as feed for the brewery horses. Some crops were also hauled to Racine to Haymarket Square and sold there or loaded on ships in the Racine Harbor.

As in other parts of the country, prior to the automobile, horses were essential to the transportation needs of the people of Franksville. They not only provided the power necessary for the farm, but a means of travel. The horses and buggys transported the young men to the homes of their girls and many a young man's datability was measured by the appearance of his buggy and the speed of his horse. After an afternoon or evening ride in the buggy, couples might join together at one of the homes for songs while one of the girls would play the piano.

When the United States joined the fight in World War I, Franksville men responded. Dr. Roth, Walter Hanson, Clifford Metcalf, Arthur Bartel, Arthur Gielick, Irving Baker, Edward Klema, Henry Reickoff, Eddie Hanson, Iner Sorenson, Walter Howard, Irving Johnson and Victor Nelson joined the Army

while Ray Nau, Mat Compty and Keilin Johnson joined the Navy.

In 1915, a new school, the Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Joint District No. 16 was built. It followed the design of many of the schools built in that era. Where the one room school house had been, the new schools had two rooms, one for grades one through four, and another for grades five through eight. The lower area of the school provided space for joint school and community activities.

By 1916, the village had grown to include a Telephone Exchange in addition to the Post Office, Express and Telegraph Offices, Hotels, Blacksmith and Wagon Shop, Cement Block, Drain Tile Factory and of course the Kraut Factory, plus smaller stores and businesses. The first telephone company, Citizens Telephone, had been formed in 1911 and the first line strung by J.G. Ellis and Dr. Martin. Ten and even fifteen persons were on the single line. Messages were relayed through Mrs. Ellis, to the other subscribers.

Large families were in vogue, since much of the work on the farms were performed by hand and children were the least expensive means of providing the additional help required.

Typical of the sizes of the families were Anthony Bell with 18, John Bell with 13 and their sister with 10. The story is told of John Bell returning by sleigh from a trip to Milwaukee and stopping to pick up a small boy walking alongside the road. Mr. Bell asked the boy his name and received the reply, "John Bell". Seems Mr. Bell failed to recognize his own son.

Hired men in those days received about \$30 per month during the summer, which also included room and board. During the winter months, with less work to do around the farm, this dropped to \$15 per month. During the early 1930's, wages dropped to \$5 per month, if in fact work could be found at all.

Farming methods became progressively more efficient with farm machinery such as that developed by companys such as the J.I. Case Company of Racine. Threshing machines developed by Case were often tested on the Robert's farm, just west of Franksville. One of these early threshers was powered by six teams of horses, attached to a spoke device which as it turned activated a tumbler which threshed the grain.

The development of the farm tractor, perhaps more than any other piece of machinery, provided the real breakthrough in mechanized farming methods. Both Clint Ellis and George Gutknecht purchased International Tractors, but after a year of cranking, Gutknecht became so disgusted with his, that he returned to the use of work horses. The increasing tractor population reduced the needs of the services of both Blacksmith Diederich and Veterinarian Fritchen.

All births and most deaths occurred in the home, since there were no hospitals in the area. Country doctors, such as Roth and Corr had to be prepared for almost any situation. They could be summoned any hour of the day or night, have to hitch up the horse and buggy and travel off to attend their patients.

Natural disasters also took their toll. Tornados in the spring and summer and blizzards and storms in the winter. Tornados took down George Gutknecht's barn twice in 1920. Water was sucked up from ponds, oak trees uprooted and a barn turned completely around on a farm northwest of Franksville.

PEOPLE - - - -

Who were some of the people who contributed to the growth of the village of Franksville? A biographical sketch found in a history of Racine County in 1879 listed these names - - -

Charles Baker - - Farmer, born in Milwaukee in 1852, religion Lutheran, owned 39½ acres valued at \$50 an acre.

Lt. Col. Bartlett - - Came to Racine County from New York in 1835, was a Lt. Col. in 8th Wisconsin Regiment during the Civil War. Served two terms as county sheriff, admitted to the bar and served as Justice of the Peace. Owned a 240 acre farm.

John Erbe - - Farmer, born in Germany, owned 60 acres.

Smith Fancher - - Farmer, came to Racine County from New York in 1845. Owned 100 acre farm. Had 7 children, served as school trustee and treasurer, Justice of the Peace, Member of Methodist church for 50 years.

John Freliner - - Farmer, born in Germany, came to Racine County in 1877, owned 13 acres.

Fred Gerlitz - - Farmer, came from Germany in 1867, 3 children, owned 23 acres.

William Gittens - - Farmer, born in Wales in 1821, came to New York in 1840 and then to Racine County, member of Welsh Congregational Church, owned 150 acres valued at \$50 per acre.

Charles Gutknecht - - Farmer, born in Germany in 1840, came to Wisconsin in 1856 and Franksville in 1867, 5 children, owned 130 acres.

C. Jacob - - Farmer, came from Germany in 1860, 3 children, owned 60 acres valued at \$50 per acre.

Mrs. Isaac Kittinger - - Farmer, came from New York in 1855, both husband and son served in Civil War, son killed.

Amos Mann - - Farmer, born in Racine in 1853.

Jacob Nau - - Farmer, church leader, came from Bavaria about 1850, 4 children, owned 116 acres valued at \$75 per acre.

Reverend Cyrus Nichols - - Minister, came to Racine from Reading Pennsylvania in 1836, Minister to Skunk Grove, complained of parishioners bringing guns to church.

Thomas Place - - Farmer, born in New York in 1819, came to Racine County in 1835, employed for one year by trader Jambeau, was stock dealer, town supervisor and town treasurer, had 4 children, two sons served in the Civil War, one killed.

Benjamin Reynolds - - Farmer, born in New York in 1792, came to Racine County at time of land sale, 9 children, member of Close Communion Baptist Church, served as Justice of the Peace and other town offices, owned 120 acres.

G. F. Roberts - - Farmer and implement dealer, came to Racine County from Vermont in 1836, owns 160 acres.

Orlando Secor - - Farmer and horse breeder, came to Racine County from New York in 1840, 5 children, liberal contributor to churches, owns 157 acres.

Zeke Rogers - - Farmer, came to Racine County from New York in 1855, member of Raymond Baptist Church, 9 children, owns 277 acres valued at \$77 an acre.

H. E. White - - Farmer, born in New York in 1821, arrived in Raymond with only 5¢ in his pocket, owned 60 acres.

These are some of the individuals who contributed to the early growth of the village of Franksville and some of the family names, some of which are still evident today. There are undoubtedly scores of others, whose names are lost to history, who also made sizeable contributions to the village.

TODAY - - - -

If the early settlers were to come back today, few of the landmarks with which they were familiar could still be seen. The area surrounding the village is still populated with farms. Roads have improved, new businesses and homes have sprung up. The old hall in the village has been moved to the Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park. The park itself is a memorial to the veterans of still another war in which the men of the village and surrounding area served.

The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Depot remains, the third structure, replacing the previous two which burned. Trains no longer stop in the village, their service replaced with other modes of transportation.

The Kraut factory remains and at certain times of the year, the familiar odor of the vats floats over the village. It is still the major industry in the village. If there is one single item for which Franksville is famous, it is the Kraut it produces and the annual festival celebrated for the dish.

The local school, built in 1915, still stands, but it no longer serves just the children of the village, but children bused from considerable

distances away. Even it's days appear to be limited.

The continuing need for veterinarian services today is evidenced by the presence of Dr's. J. G. Fritsche and M. K. Urhausen, although their services are just as likely to be required for some villagers pet as a farm animal. The chestnut tree in their front yard is one of the few still remaining in the village.

Only one church survives, the United Methodist. All the others have disappeared.

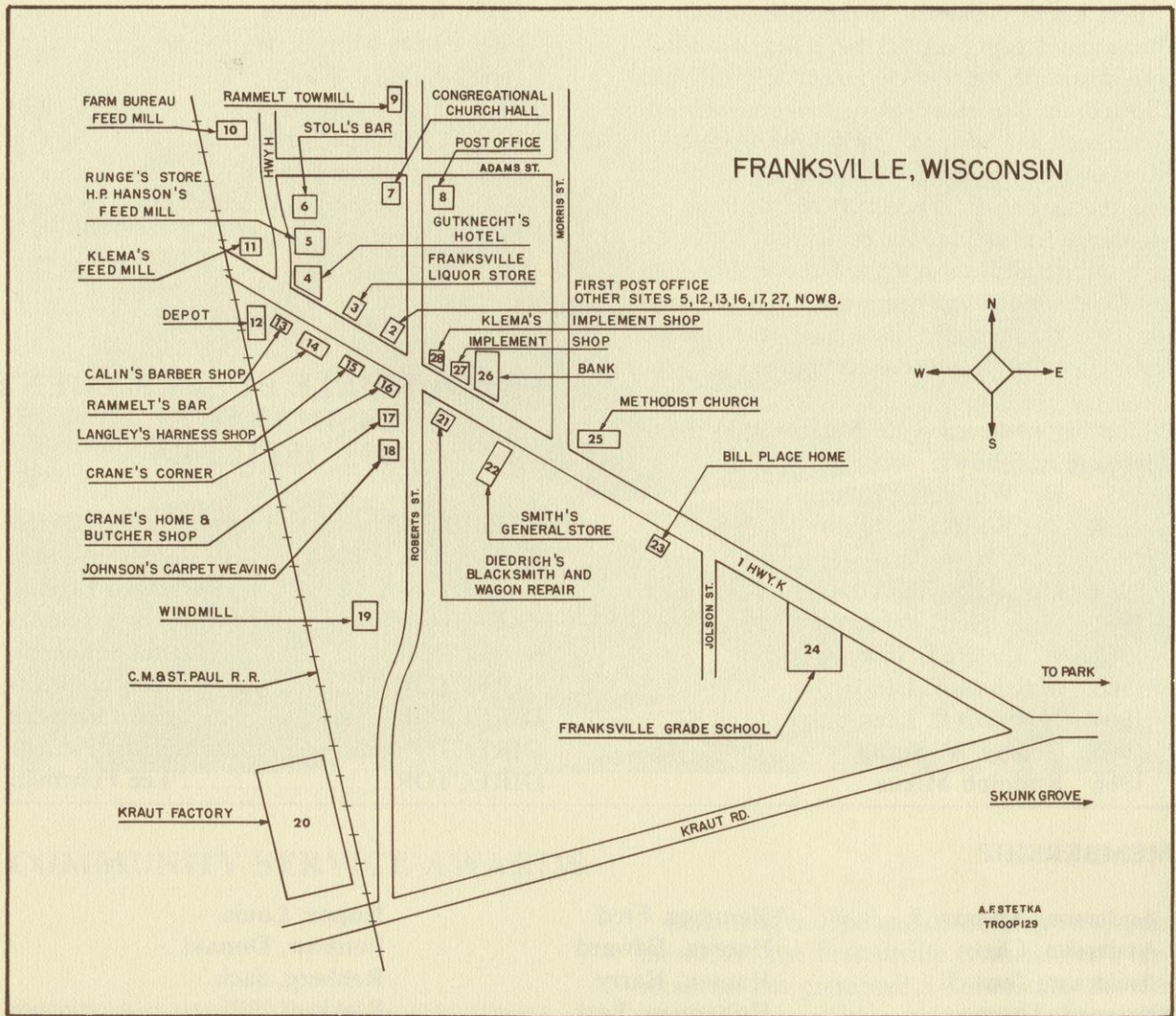
Bars have replaced the saloons and hotels, such as Gutknechts, the "Villa" and Ramelts. American Family and Associated Insurers Inc., for the most part have replaced the Fraternal Insurance of the Royal Neighbors. Templars and the Woodmen of the past. Gasoline stations and garages have replaced the livery stable and the blacksmith.

Two supermarkets and a hardware store replace the old general stores. John Mallone, a negro, who was the villages first barber, and was killed on the railroad in the fog, has two replacements, Clems Barber Shop and the Franksville Barber Shop. The modern Franksville Post Office replaces the Old Franksville Hall, with zip code 53126.

A modern bank, built for the certain expansion of the future, graces the east end of the community and offers banking services to much of Racine county. A feed mill still stands alongside the railroad tracks, sharing track frontage with a carpet outlet. Vegetables sold in the village are evidence of the continued agricultural influence on the village. A restaurant and a laundramat also serve the needs of villagers.

EPILOG

No one knows what changes the next one hundred years will have on Skunk Grove turned Franksville and whether or not familiar family names will survive another century. Time has moved slowly for the village and it has had time to remember the past. It can only be hoped that the future will be as kind.



The Franksville Businessmen's Association

The Franksville Businessmen's Association was organized on April 25, 1957. The first meeting was held at the Franksville M. E. Church and one of the purposes of the meeting was to discuss the need for a new post office in the community and what could be done about it. One month later, on May 22, with 38 persons attending, Dr. Willard L. Lynn was elected as the organization's first president. The businessmen are now in their 18th year and their list of accomplishments are outstanding.

The new Franksville Post Office became a reality in 1958. Many of the members were part of a group that invested in the present building on the corner of Roberts and Adams Streets, which was the previous site of the old Woodmen Hall. Other early activities included Christmas decorations on the main streets, sponsorship of the local Boy Scout Troop, support of athletic teams and events, benefit dances, and leadership in civic and social affairs.

Best know, however, is the sponsorship of the annual Kraut Festival that it began in 1963. The financial success of recent festivals has allowed the businessmen to make significant contributions toward park improvements. Most noteworthy are the shelters, blacktopping and tennis courts. The most recent financial assistance has gone to the park in the form of a new public address system. Scholarships and aid to senior citizen groups are still other ways that the businessmen have used their kraut festival profits to aid the community.

The list of Franksville Businessmen presidents are as follows:

- 1957 Dr. Willard L. Lynn
- 1958 Dr. Willard L. Lynn
- 1959 Donald A. Pankow
- 1960 Donald A. Pankow
- 1961 C. J. (Bud) Wieman
- 1962 W. C. (Red) Titley
- 1963 Marshall E. Lee, Jr.
- 1964 Marshall E. Lee, Jr.
- 1965 George W. Smith
- 1966 Rudolph Mikus

- 1967 Rudolph Mikus
- 1968 John Margis, Jr.
- 1969 Kaleb J. Case
- 1970 Lee J. Fuhrman
- 1971 Lawrence Treffert
- 1972 Lawrence Treffert
- 1973 Lawrence (Jim) Zirbel
- 1974 Lawrence (Jim) Zirbel

FRANKSVILLE BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION 1975 OFFICERS

- PRESIDENT Lawrence (Jim) Zirbel
- VICE PRESIDENT Dennis Johnson
- SECRETARY Richard Brodek
- TREASURER Dwight (Ike) Temple
- DIRECTOR David Schoeppe
- DIRECTOR Lester Jacob
- DIRECTOR John Fritsche
- DIRECTOR Carl (Bud) Wieman
- DIRECTOR Lee Fuhrman

MEMBERSHIP

Anderson, Andrew J.
 Anderson, Carl
 Anderson, Jens. T.
 *Barnard, Thomas
 Bianchi, Rudy
 *Binetti, William R.
 *Bowen, Timothy
 *Braun, Eugene
 Brodek, Richard
 Carne, Frank
 *Clark, Marva
 Drought, Patricia
 Dummer, Gordon
 *Fohr, Robert
 Frank, Ardith
 Fritsche, John
 Fuhrman, Lee
 Garrett, Marcella
 *Goodman, Edith
 Gramza, Allen E.
 Grove, Donald
 *Gustin, James
 *Gustin, Lyle
 Hagemann, Jacob

*Hammes, Fred
 Hansen, Edward
 Hansen, Harry
 Holterman, Earl
 Huppert, Everett R.
 Jacob, Lester
 Johnson, Dennis
 Kahoun, Glorine
 Krizan, Ronald
 Larsen, Raymond
 Lee, Marshall, Sr.
 Lee, Marshall, Jr.
 Leonard, Charles
 Lueneburg, Clem
 Lueneburg, Gary
 Margis, John, Jr.
 Marsch, Vincent
 McClanahan, Russell
 Meissner, Glenn
 Meltesen, Robert
 Meyer, Ronald (Bud)
 Mikus, Rudolph
 Nelson, James
 Noll, Clifford

Noppe, Louis
 Pankow, Donald
 Rehberg, Jack
 Riekkoff, Bill
 *Rothfus, Irwin
 Schnabel, Karl H.
 Schoeppe, David
 Simon, Richard
 Smith, George
 *Steele, Arthur (Art)
 Tamm, Wm. H.
 Temple, Dwight (Ike)
 Tonar, Robert
 Treffert, Joyce
 Treffert, Lawrence
 Treffert, Lowell
 Welch, Franklin
 Wieman, Carl (Bud)
 Waligorski, Donald
 Zirbel, Irene
 Zirbel, Lawrence (Jim)
 *Winkler, Dennis

*indicate new members this year.



COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS



The Franksville Businessmen's Association first Community Service Award was presented in 1960. Recipient Rodney Olsen inspects the award as FBA president Dr. W. L. Lynn and Wisconsin Governor Gaylord A. Nelson look on.

Beginning in 1960 and continuing every year thereafter, the Franksville Businessmen's Association has presented a Community Service Award to one of its outstanding citizens. The first award was presented to Rodney Olsen on May 11, 1960 at the Motor Inn on U.S. 41 in Caledonia. The guest speaker on that memorable evening was the Honorable Gaylord A. Nelson, then governor of Wisconsin. Shortly after, Governor Nelson moved on to the United States Senate and the Motor Inn was destroyed by a spectacular fire but the Community Service Award has been continued. The Franksville Businessmen's Association appreciate this opportunity to again recognize the past recipients.

1960 Rodney Olsen	1967 Nels Jensen
1961 John Margis, Jr.	1968 Ken R. Olsen
1962 Fred J. Fritchen	1970 J. M. Gifford
1963 Milton R. Runge	1971 Victor Geissner
1964 Dr. W. L. Lynn	1972 Henry Rohner
1965 Milo Christensen	1973 Mary Runge
1966 C. J.(Bud)Wieman	1974 Lee Fuhrman

The History of the Kraut Festival

When Mr. A. A. Huppert of the Frank Pure Food Company held a "picnic" for his employees and a few friends, little did he realize that it was the beginning of one of the most successful festivals throughout all Wisconsin. Originally designed to show what real home cooked kraut should taste like and to raise money for the local park, the idea has grown to a four day celebration that attracts upwards to 40,000 persons.

With the exception of 1952, when the event was held on the main street of Franksville all of the Kraut Festivals have been held at the Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park. The early sponsors were members of the Franksville Athletic Club and the funds were used to develop the park. When the park was turned over to the joint townships in 1962 the festival was cancelled as it was again in 1967 when



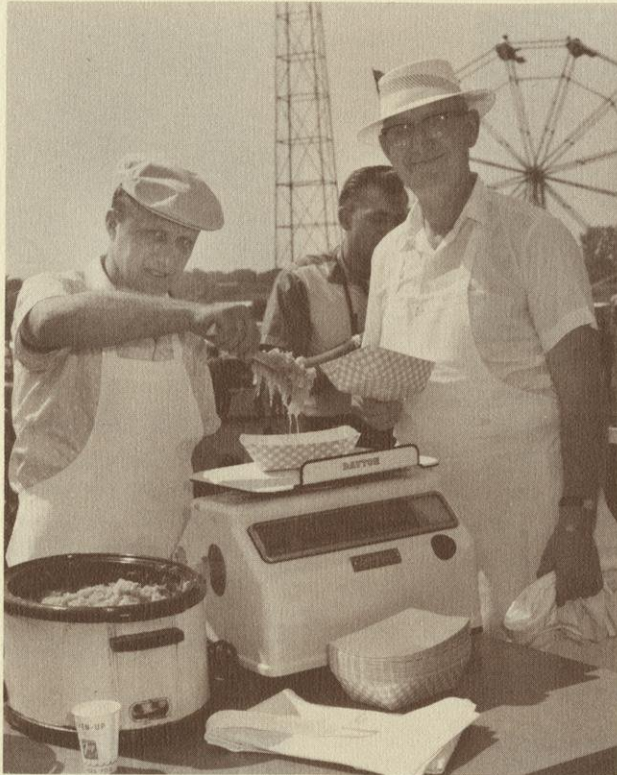
1952 Festival was held on the streets of Franksville shortly after the paving project was completed. Above pictures left to right Bill Keller, Mrs. Hazel Fritchen, Jerome Fritchen and Dr. F.J. Fitchen. Franksville Food Center in background was previously owned by H. C. Hoppe, Pearl Gutknecht and Christ Ramig. Building is now owned by Bob Tonar and is the site of the Franksville Liquor store. Fred Fritchen was the store's operator at time of picture.

Highway K was widened. It was in 1963 that the Franksville Businessmen realized another need for the festival and wanting to continue the tradition, decided to sponsor it and have done so ever since. The new need was the desire of local church and civic groups to raise money and so the businessmen sponsored the festival taking a small percentage from each of the groups that participated. Although the initial profits were small, justice would be served and today many of these organizations need only this one fund raising activity to sustain them throughout the year.

The Kraut Eating Contest originated in the early 1950's and it, too, had an inconspicuous beginning. Because a kraut eating contest had never been tried before, contestants were allowed to eat with their hands. The unfavorable publicity that followed caused the rules to be changed and along with other experiences gained, it now ranks as one of the highlights of the weekend. To our knowledge it is the only kraut eating contest in the world, therefore, our winner is "World's Champion". Maynard Entringer, the current champion, has held the title on numerous occasions and with a record attempt of two pounds in 46 seconds, new challengers are not easy to come by.

The Queen contest is a much different kind of a story. Originally called the Kraut Queen, the title today is a more dignified "Queen of the Kraut Festival". The first gal to wear the title of Kraut Queen was Dorothy Cooper Anderson who was crowned in 1959. The first queens were elected by those attending the festival, however, in recent years the finalist are picked by the businessmen themselves and the queen is selected by a panel of impartial judges.

One of the reasons the festival continues to grow in popularity is the picnic like atmosphere that prevails. The Memorial Park in late July is a good place for families and friends to get together and the combination of polka bands, outdoor dancing, plenty of draft beer and the finest sauerkraut is enough reasons to call Franksville the Kraut capitol of the World.



DEPARTED BUSINESSMEN . . . The late Alex Ramig of the Franksville Food Center and W. C. (Red) Titley of the Franksville Food Center weigh kraut for the 1962 Kraut Eating Contest.

1955 CONCESSION OF THE FBA

The Franksville Businessman's Association had an early involvement in Kraut Festivals before taking over the sponsorship in 1963.





1958
 Dorothy (Cooper) Anderson
 Housewife
 Husband: Andrew (Banker)
 1845 Hwy. H
 Racine, Wisconsin 53406
 2 Children



1959
 Ruth (Eppler) Hansen
 Housewife & Works at
 American Motors
 Husband: Robert
 (American Motors)
 4010 - 20th Street
 Racine, Wisconsin 53406
 3 Children
 1960 - No Queen



1961
 Linda (Miller) Galovits
 Housewife
 Husband: David (J.I. Case)
 614 Gould St.
 Racine, Wisconsin 53402
 2 Children
 1962 - No Kraut Festival



1966
 Barbara (Heberling) Dopke
 Physical Ed. Teacher -
 St. Catherine's
 Husband: Kenith (Dir. of Student
 Affairs - St. Catherine's)
 632 Crabtree Lane
 Racine, Wisconsin 53405
 No Children



1968
 Sherry (Kusters) Wifler
 Special Ed. teacher for
 mentally retarded children
 Husband: Mel
 (Audit Manager)
 473 Park Ave.
 Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54935
 1 Child



1969
 Linda (Downey) Tischendorf
 Kilbourn Gardens Restaurant
 Husband: Roger
 (Kilbourn Gardens)
 4300 No. Main St. - Apt. 107
 Racine, Wisconsin 53402
 2 Stepsons



1973
 Lisa Sajdik
 Student-secretary - grocery checker
 2515 Virginia St.
 Racine, Wisconsin 53405
 Single

Kraut



1963
 Cathy (DeVries) Keisler
 Fashion Design Inst.
 at Mount Mary College
 Husband: Lance
 (Drafting Inst.)
 5100 Russell Dr.
 Greendale, Wisconsin 53129
 No Children



1964
 Carla Kalbfleisch
 Secretary - Foundry Allied Ind.
 1308 Lathrop Ave.
 Racine, Wisconsin 53405
 Single



1965
 Dee Dee Davies
 Teacher - Trautwein School
 Miss Dee Dee's
 School of Dance
 1235 Cleveland Ave.
 Racine, Wisconsin 53405
 Single



1970
 Cynthia (Siefert) Moru
 Drug Research - Yale University
 Husband: Carl
 (Pharmacist's Ass't.)
 76 Main St. - Apt. 6
 New Haven, Conn. 06512
 No Children



1971
 Pam (DeGroot) Wahlen
 Model - Chicago
 Husband: Rudolph
 (Wiess Plumbing)
 33 Riverside Dr.
 Racine, Wisconsin
 1 Child



1972
 Mary Anne (Sadlon) Kolton
 Elementary Teacher -
 Kettle Moraine
 Husband: Gregory (Auditor)
 2092 So. 102nd St. - Apt. 206A
 West Allis, Wisconsin 53227
 No Children

Queens

1974
 Virginia Lee
 Secretary-receptionist at D & R Window &
 Awning
 6022 Golfridge Dr.
 Racine, Wisconsin 53406
 Single



Governor *Walter S. Goodland*



1862-1947

One of the truly great Americans and a man that all of Wisconsin can be proud of was one of our local residents, Walter S. Goodland. Mr. Goodland was a man of many talents. He was an educator, newspaper publisher, lawyer, postmaster, mayor, state senator, lieutenant governor, governor and Franksville farmer.

He was born in Sharon, Wisconsin on December 22, 1862 and attended public schools in Appleton and spent a year furthering his education at Lawrence college. Working as a

newspaperman and publisher he continued his education and was admitted to the Wisconsin bar in 1885. He gave up law the same year, however, and moved to Ironwood, Michigan where he founded the Ironwood Times. Goodland, then a Democrat, was appointed Postmaster of Ironwood by President Grover Cleveland. In 1889 he returned to Wisconsin, buying a half interest in the Beloit Times. A year later he moved to Racine and purchased a half interest in the Racine Call which was later sold to the Racine Times and for many years was published as the Racine Times-Call.

Mr. Goodland's first venture into politics came in 1911 when on his first attempt he was elected Mayor of Racine. His battle with a private water utility ended up in the courts and resulted in a municipally owned water system. Mr. Goodland served two terms as mayor of Racine and then moved on to the Wisconsin State Senate serving Racine County until 1934. It was then that he "retired" to his 150 acre farm on Highway 41 just west of Franksville.

His retirement was short lived, however, because in 1938 he was asked to become the coalition Democratic-Republican candidate for lieutenant governor. After winning the primary, he ran on the Republican ticket with Julius Heil to defeat the LaFollette Progressives. He was reelected in 1940 and again in 1942, however, Orland Loomis, with whom he had been elected, died before taking office and Goodland was appointed acting governor by the state supreme court.

Goodland was elected governor in his own right in 1944 and again in 1946, the later making him the "oldest" governor in the history of the nation. He died in the executive mansion on March 12, 1947 at the age of 84. An estimated 10,000 persons filed through the state capitol to see his body lie in state.

Governor Goodland will long be remembered by local residents. In spite of his many responsibilities, he always had time to chat and pass the time of day. At the time of his death he had a keen and alert mind and in spite of his 80 plus years, did not require glasses for reading. He loved animals and along with his good wife, Marge, lived and enjoyed life to the fullest. We are proud to say that the Governor picked our community to call his home during the most exciting time of his brilliant career.

The Franksville Churches



In January of 1874 a group of men met in the railroad depot and decided to build a house for religious worship. One month later, on February 28, all interested persons met and agreed to form the Union Church of Franksville. The first trustees were H.B. Roberts, J. B. Morse, J. Nau, O. Forbes, E. W. Owens, W. Rogers, Y. B. Morris, J. Summerton and R. Reynolds. At that meeting 110 people agreed to pay \$1,294.00 toward the building of the church. It would be called the Union Church and the general contract for approximately \$1500.00 was awarded to Charles Peck. The new church was to cost \$2,100.00 and all but \$600 was raised by the time of dedication on October 15, 1874.

The structure was a two-story frame building and on the first floor was a large recreation room where socials and suppers were held. The church had a seating capacity of 250. Part of the Union Church's income was derived from renting its basement to community organizations. In 1875 it received between eight and ten dollars a quarter (three months) from the Grangers, the Good Templers Lodge and the Union Lodge. An evening concert in 1876, revival meetings in 1882, the Modern Woodmen Lodge (begun in 1889) and a singing school in 1891, were just a few of the groups that met in the church.

Recorded in the treasurer's book are typical expenses of the Union Church; insurance payments to Henry Roberts; three to four dollars per month to E.W. Owens for janitorial service; \$4.50 to \$5.50 for a cord of wood; two dollars to Jake Nau for hauling nearly 1500 feet of lumber, three dollars to E. W. Owens for digging a ditch; \$27.88 to Henry Roberts for painting the church in 1882, .50¢ to Mr. Forbes for sawing wood and varying amounts to storekeepers Kellop, and later, Runge for lamps, lamp chimneys (\$.05), oil (\$.14 a gallon), broom (\$.20), etc.

Sunday collections also provided church income, and, in about 1878, there apparently developed two churches within the church. The treasurer's book reports Warren Rogers bringing the monthly collection of the Congregational Church while Daniel Rork presented that of the Methodist Episcopal Church; typical collections at first ranged anywhere from \$1.89 to \$6.00, with \$29.88 collected New Year's Eve 1884. Later, the two groups did separate and occupy their own buildings.

From the original name of the Union Church Association of Franksville the church has undergone several name changes. On June 22, 1896 the Association joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. The incorporated name to the Methodist Episcopal Church Association

of Franksville. That same year, a building fund was begun for a newly organized church.

Besides the Methodist and Congregational Churches, a Lutheran Church was at one time conducted in Franksville. In the summer of 1923 and in all of 1924, Rev. Huber of Racine bicycled to Franksville to conduct Sunday afternoon services on the George Gutknecht farm, in an old school house. The next year, services were held Sunday afternoon in the Methodist Church. Shortly after, all Lutheran Services in the area were discontinued and area Lutherans had to make the long trip to Huber's church in Racine.

On July 28, 1896, Augusta A. Ownes transferred to the church the parcel of land lying east of the church and adjoining the church property for the sum of \$1. Upon this land was created a church parsonage. The parsonage was used first by Rev. Henry Johnson and other pastors thereafter until 1930. It then became rental property and remained so until 1959 when it was torn down. In 1930 the

Franksville congregation joined with five other churches and were served by two pastors. After years of negotiation on the conference level, a Plan of Union was agreed upon and on May 10, 1939, the Methodist Episcopal Church, The Methodist Protestant Church South and the Methodist Protestant Church united to form the Methodist Church.

The present church was remodeled in 1955 at a cost of \$42,000.00 and in 1962 a new parsonage was built approximately one-half mile east of the church on Highway K at a cost of \$26,000.00. The first occupants of the new parsonage were the Rev. Paul Reinhold and family and consecration services were held on June 2, 1963.

In 1969, through a merger of the Evangelical United Brethern Church and the Methodist Church still another name change was affected. Today the local church is known as the United Methodist Church and the pastor is Rev. Kenneth Redfearn.

Racine County National Bank

The Racine County National Bank has been in existence since 1917; but to find its true beginning, we must return to the very start of this area, for it is from this hard stock and hard-working population that the bank and the area has achieved its current place in society.

"Jacques Vieau" was one of the early settlers of the Racine area. One of his sons, Jacques Jr., was the trader at Skunk Grove, the Racine Trading Post, and because the Indians slurred his name, he was often called and referred to as "Jambeau". The Jambeau Trading Post was located just southeast of Franksville along a branch of the Root River (just east of the present bridge south of Highway K). It is said that the grove was about a mile wide and two miles long.

Lucius S. Blake, a prominent citizen of early Racine and the first president of the OLD SETTLERS SOCIETY which held its tenth annual gathering at a picnic at Robert's (Skunk) Grove on June 12, 1879, wrote an interesting sketch of his first visit to Wisconsin Territory, which took place in 1835.

"In February . . . in company with my father and two elder brothers, C.H. and E.S. Blake, I left the Michigan Territory. In Chicago we remained a day or two to fill our wagon with supplies. Accordingly, we left on the 11th of February, 1835. The weather being somewhat cold and fearing that we might perish in the wilderness, we took a Mackinac blanket, which was to shelter four of us."

(The first night we brought up at Gross Point, 18 miles north of Chicago. Here at an Indian Trading Post, we were well cared for by the traders. Although the next day was much colder and knowing that we must of necessity lie out one night, as there was no house or settler between Gross Point and Skunk Grove where there was another trading post, we like all other western bound people, were impatient to be on our way.

"That night . . . we stopped in a grove about three miles west of Waukegan, and the night being very cold were compelled to stand up around the fire. About noon the next day, February 13th, we stopped to feed our team

States at that time). At this time also (which was the Roaring Twenties, remember) the Directors agreed to join with the Racine/Kenosha County Bankers Association in creating a "Reward" fund and to cooperate in every way . . . to reduce crime within this county."

There is no mention of the "Great Stock Market Crash" during the 1920 - 1930 Director's minutes. In fact, it was Business As Usual with loans being granted and salaries increased. During the depression, no depositor in the Bank of Franksville lost one penny of his deposit.

In October 1932, application was made for membership in the Temporary Federal Deposit Insurance Fund which was forerunner of FDIC. November of that same year saw the Bank of Franksville rent land to the Post Office for \$25.00 a year.

During the war years, W.G. Shumway was President of the Bank, having assumed that position in 1937. Discussion was given at the August 3, 1942 Board meeting to the possibility of purchasing "War Damage Insurance" as suggested by the Wisconsin Bankers Association. This was only eight months after Pearl Harbor remember, and many people **were** concerned that United States would be invaded.

In January 1946, L.C. Christensen was President, as well as Chairman of the Board. Marshall Lee became President in August 1946 and during that year request to open the Sturtevant Branch was made.

Then came the "Fabulous Fifties" and in June 1950, the Board of Directors passed a resolution that "The Bank of Franksville not employ married women". But the resolution was amended just two years later in August 1952 to read: "To keep married women employed as long as it takes to retain present efficiency in departments affected with new employees". The Bank now has a completely fair employment policy.

Robberies put the Bank of Franksville in the news in November of 1959, when it was discovered that a hole had been chopped in the floor directly above the vault in the Franksville Bank. The would-be robbers fled empty-handed when a cleaning woman entered. Then in March 1961, the Sturtevant Branch was burglarized of \$126.00 in change. The Sturte-

vant Bank was again the target for robbery in November 1963, when \$6,856.00 was taken at gun-point . . . but the two robbers were captured in Waterford within 25 minutes of the hold-up. A 16 year old youth robbed the Franksville Branch of \$618.00 in February 1964, but was shortly apprehended in Johnson Park.

In between these exciting events, the business of the Bank continued. William Stremke became President in March 1962 and in September 1963 the Sturtevant Branch was remodeled to include a drive-up window.

August 1964 was an eventful time for it was then that the Bank of Franksville became the RACINE COUNTY NATIONAL BANK and a part of the National Bank Association. Leo Duersten became President in January 1966 and in January 1967 the Racine County National Bank was the first bank in the State of Wisconsin to offer "Golden Passbook Savings".

December 1970 saw the plans for the new Sturtevant Bank with the contract awarded to Crestway Homes Inc. for construction. In January 1972 the site was picked for the new bank in Franksville, with the construction contract awarded to Van Sustern & Associates, Inc., in March 1974. The beautiful new Racine County National Bank at Franksville opened on February 18, 1975.

Though it has prospered over the years, the bank has not grown stuffy and formal. Perhaps its greatest asset is in its people - those warm greetings that are exchanged daily, where officials of the bank are called by their first names, where tellers greet their customers as old friends. On many a day one can enter the lobby of the Racine County National Bank and overhear enthusiastic conversations regarding crops, the weather or families. The "real world" can be found at the Racine County National Bank for here are followed sound banking and investment procedures, and also here the individual behind the number is not forgotten and because of it's consideration, many people consider the bank their "best friend".

and eat our dinner in Hickory Grove, about four miles west of what is now Kenosha. While waiting there the United States Mail Carrier approached. He was on the way from Chicago to Green Bay. The mail was carried upon a pony, which was led or driven by a Frenchman by the name of Pilkey. It was with great pleasure that we learned from him some landmarks that enabled us to reach the trading post at Skunk Grove, for the wind was blowing a gale from the southwest and it was impossible to follow the trail.

“ . . . With nothing but the white prairie around us and darkness fast settling in, we traveled on. The natural instinct of the horses . . . brought us safely at the Post about eight o'clock in the evening. Through the kindness of the Trader Jambeau and his Indian wife, we were made comfortable for the night.”

“If ever a wigwam or shanty looked like living, that place did; as they had a great fire and plenty to eat and drink, which at that time seemed better than anything I have enjoyed since.”

Yours truly,

Lucius S. Blake

Into such a primitive beginning, with the area wild, wooded and wonderful; with Indians and wildlife in abundance, came the first white settler, Daniel Rork, in 1837. Soon to be followed by others such as: Bartlett, Fancher, Gutknecht, Place and Roberts, Reynolds, White and Secor. Industrious effort paid off and the Village of Franksville grew and prospered with a hotel, grist mill and flax mill, several churches and stores.

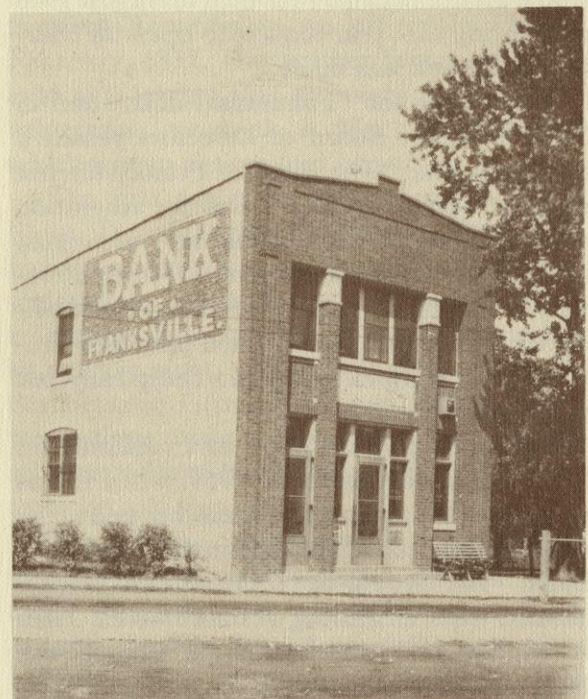
In November 1917, the BANK OF FRANKSVILLE was organized with the Board of Directors composed of T. Place, M. E. Walker, G. Miller, H. J. Smith, G. Buck, L. H. Parker, E. Harvey, E. J. Klema and T. C. Sansted, with a capital of \$20,000. George W. Miller was elected the first President and George Buck, Vice President. The bank opened for business Saturday A.M., June 15, 1918. That same day the Directors met for a special meeting to accept the resignation of E. J. Klema from the Board since he had been drafted to serve in the United States Army.

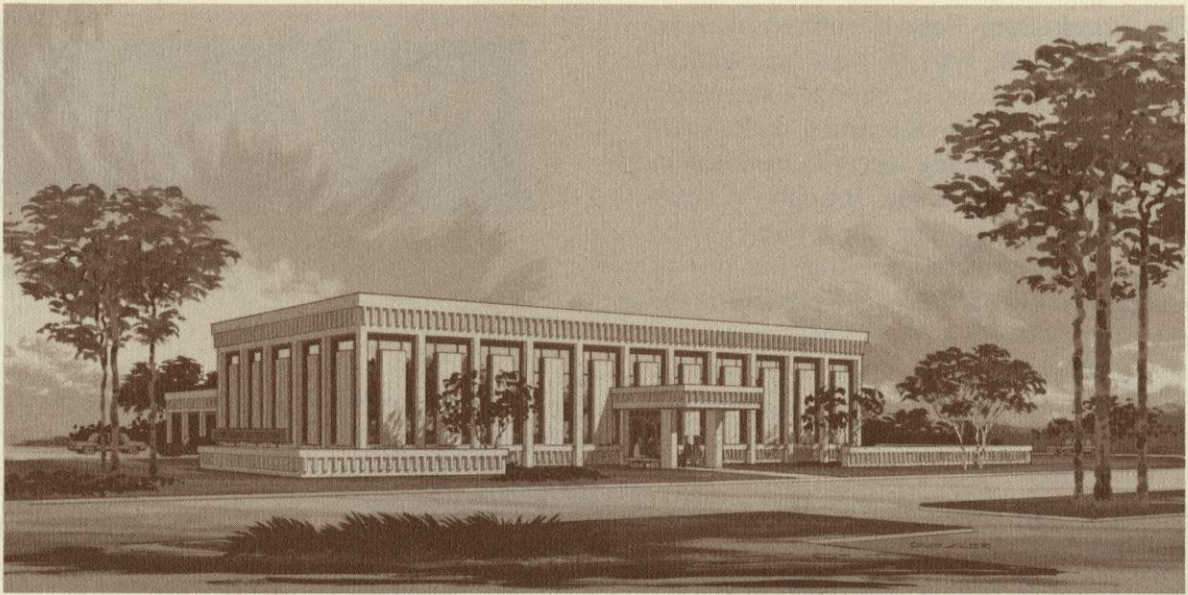
July saw the Directors authorize the President and Cashier of the bank to purchase an adding machine at the best possible price and terms. In September of that same year the minutes of the Director's meeting note that 2% interest shall be paid on Certificates of Deposit left in for three months. Also, an agreement was made with Melvin Lower for electric light for the bank. He would furnish the generator and gasoline engine and pay half of the operating expenses. The Bank would provide a set of storage batteries to be housed in Lower's cellar and pay the other half of the operating expenses.

By January 1919, the Cashier's salary was determined to be \$125.00 per month, while the bookkeeper would receive \$65.00 to \$75.00 per month.

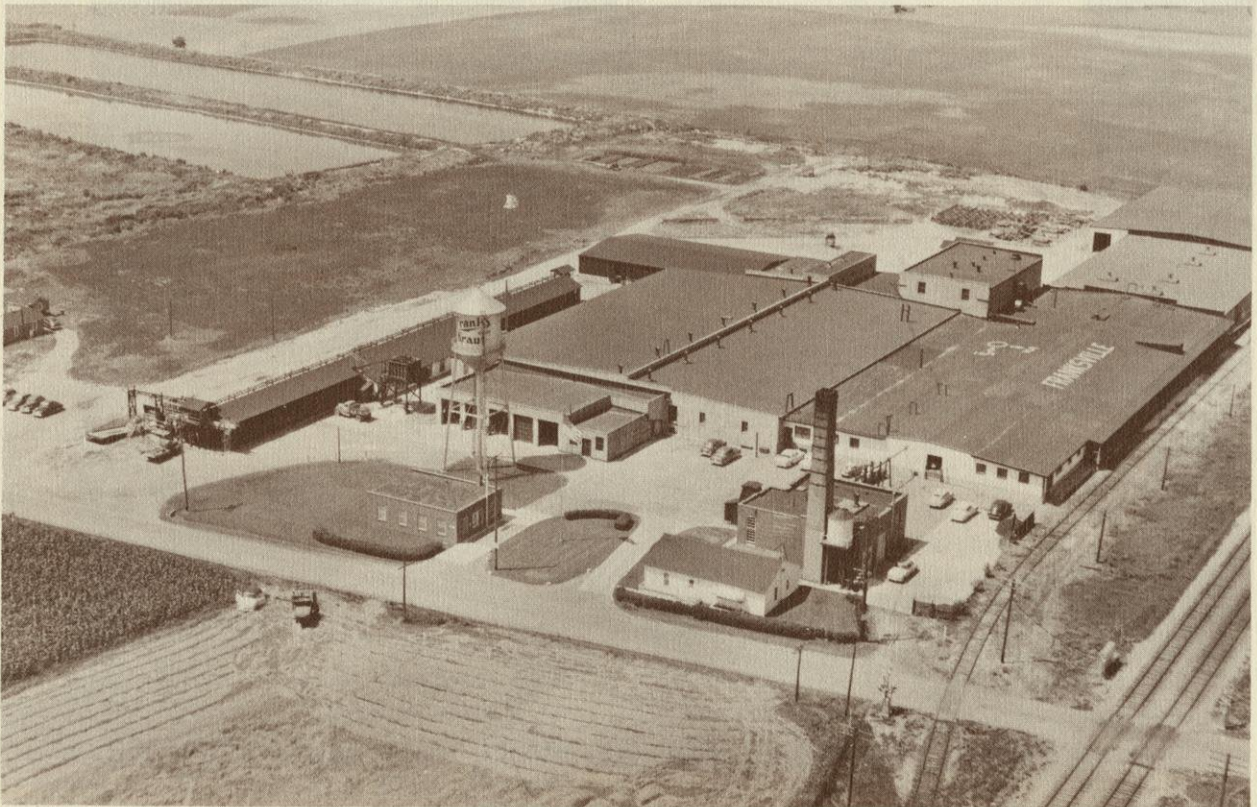
After the death of George Miller, George Buck was elected the new President in 1921. Under his direction and the authority of the Board, a loan to School District Number Three, Town of Caledonia for \$10,000 was issued for the purpose of building a new school in Husher.

In January 1924, M. E. Walker was selected President. During his years in office the Bank of Franksville decided to grant paid vacations to the Cashier and Assistant Cashier (the concept was not the general practice in the United





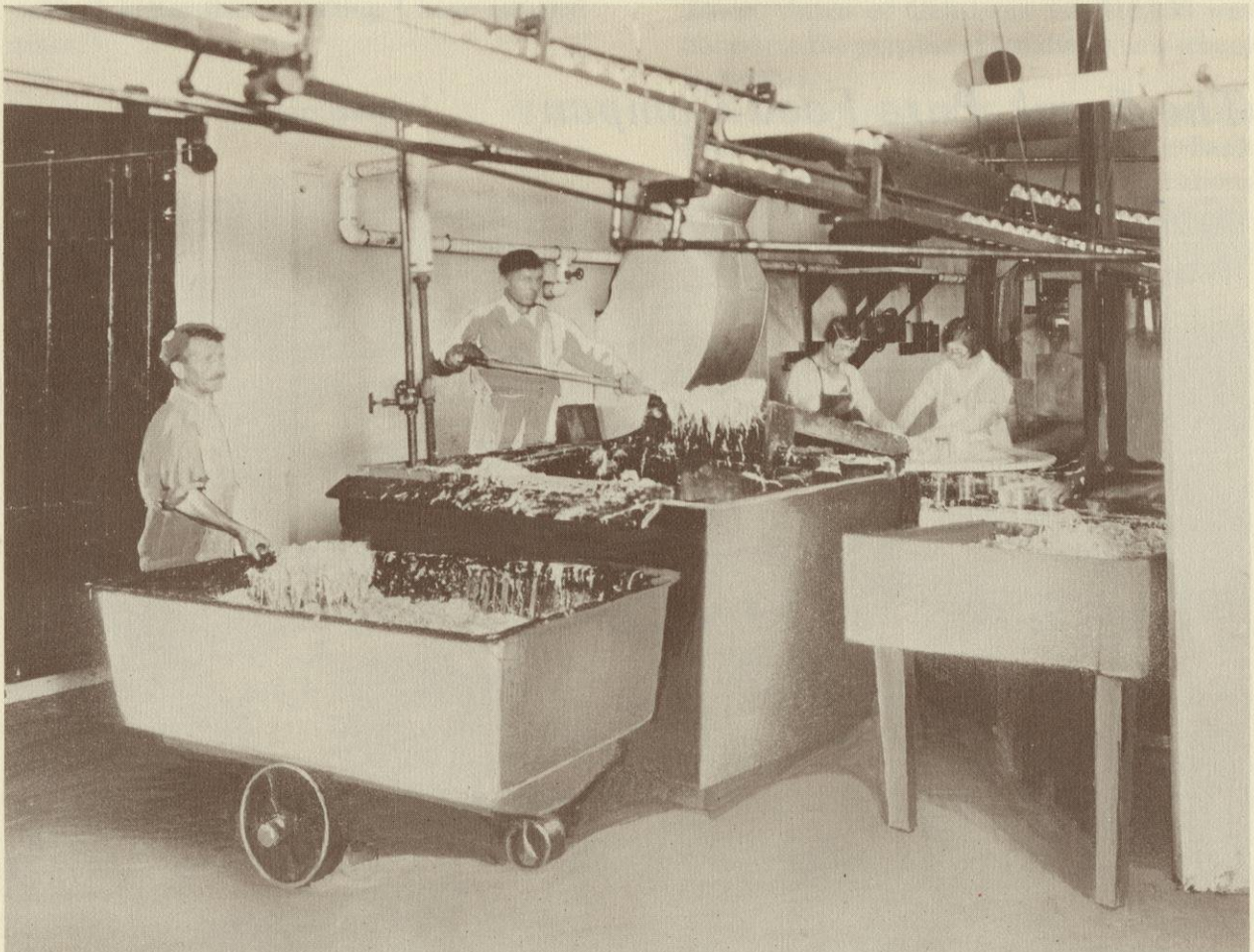
The Frank Pure Food Company



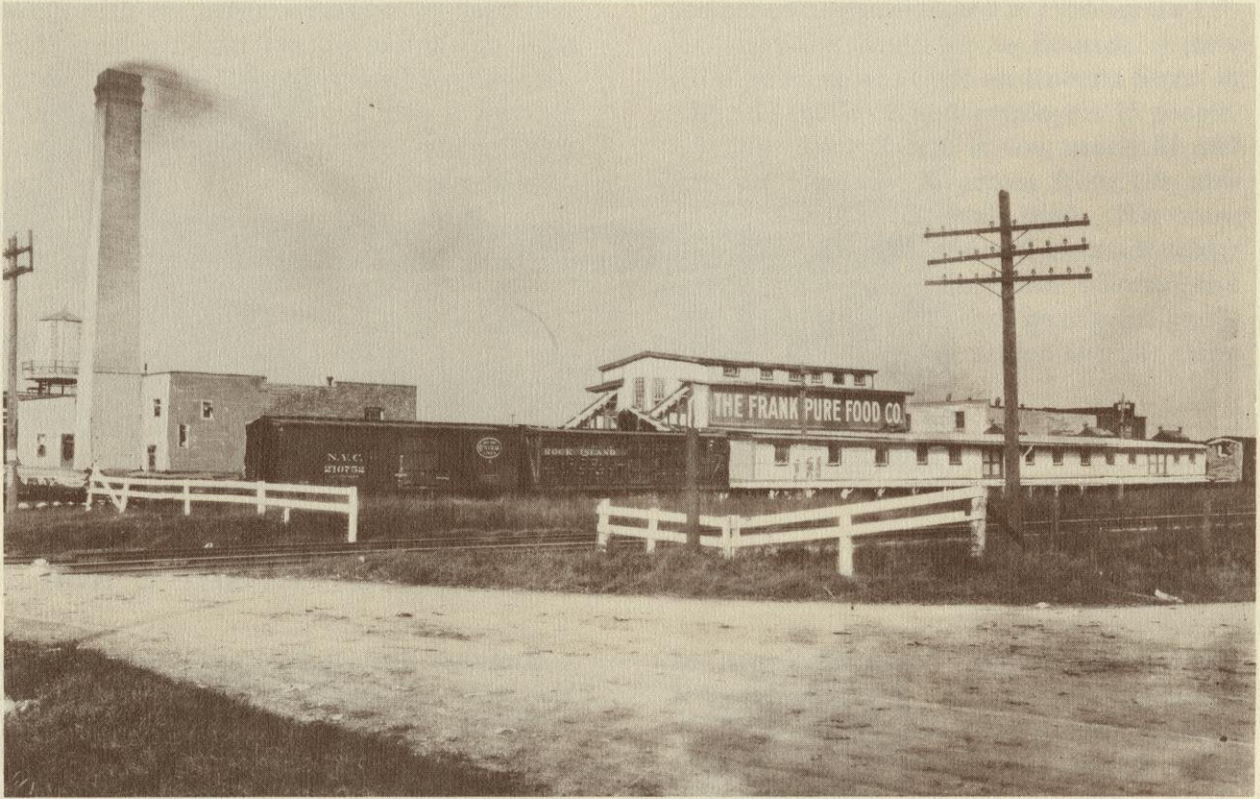
The Frank Pure Food Company was organized March 18, 1907. A plant was built at Franksville, Wisconsin shortly thereafter for the purpose of manufacturing bulk sauerkraut. The first canning line was installed in 1910. Expansion continued through the years that followed to the point where today (1975) the current Franksville operation has one of the largest kraut processing facilities in the country. In 1956 The Frank Pure Food Company purchased another kraut producing plant at Black Creek, Wisconsin. Both operations specialize in the production of Frank's Quality Kraut. Over these 68 years a reputation of good relations has prevailed with the farmers and farm community surrounding the Franksville area. Company employment as well as the employment on the cabbage growing farms of the area has helped to contribute to the growth of the community to its present status.



The original officers and directors included such names as A. L. Frank, Michael Frank, E. M. Oberndorfer, R. F. Oberndorfer, E. E. Frank, Nathan Frank and A. A. Frank. All of these people are deceased. Since then new familiar names associated with this enterprise were A. A. Huppert, D. B. Eisendrath, A. E. Slessman, and A. G. Henkel. In 1915 A. A. Huppert, was employed by the Frank Pure Food Company and in 1920 he became Gen-



Frank Pure Food Company canning room . . . taken in 1926.



FRANK PURE FOOD COMPANY . . . as viewed from across Kraut Road in 1926.

eral Manager and later President. The company was under his guidance until shortly before his death in 1967.

Mr. Arnold Huppert was assisted during most of his tenure by Mr. Henry Siefert acting as superintendent of the Franksville plant. Mr. Siefert started his employment with The Frank Pure Food Company shortly before World War I. After a few years absence, part of which time was spent in service during World War I, he returned to The Frank Pure Food Company and became superintendent. Mr. George Haigh became superintendent upon Siefert's retirement in 1962. Assisting Henry Siefert was his brother, Robert Siefert, who has been chief maintenance man for the Franksville plant, and is currently employed in this position. Another familiar name was Henry Orth. Henry started his employment at The Frank Pure Food Company in 1934. He first started as a truck driver and later became fieldman at the Franksville plant. His employment continued in this capacity until his

death in 1972. Since then the contacts with the farmers have been handled ably by William Fonk.

Current officers are D. B. Slessman, Board Chairman; E. R. Huppert, President & General Manager; C. L. Huppert, Vice-President & Sales Manager; and E. G. Sheriff, Secretary-Treasurer. Current directors are the above officers and D. B. Slessman, Jr.

Over the years several other items were introduced into the plant for production but due to adverse conditions, these items were discontinued. These included beets, pickles, spinach, snap beans, tomatoes, tomato juice and red cabbage. Reasons for their discontinuance included the tin conservation order during World War II, labor shortages and inconsistent crop yields. The years were good for cabbage growing and this proved to be the best direction for the company and farmers in the area.



Runge Gas Service, Inc.

Milton R. Runge, Board Chairman of Runge Gas Service, Inc. is a descendant of probably one of the oldest settlers in Caledonia. His great grandfather, Daniel B. Rork settled in the area just east of Franksville in June of 1837. Mr. Rork bought the claim of Jacques Vieau, who asked \$2,000 for it but finally sold it for \$525. It was fenced in 1834 and was probably the first claim to be fenced east of the Rock River. It was said that Dan Rork knew all of the settlers in this area and is credited in the assistance and erection of the first frame house to be built in Milwaukee.

Dan Rork's occupation was largely farming and he owned most of the land on Highway K east of the railroad tracks including that that is now the Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park. His son, Marshall, was also a farmer, however, his property was on what is now known as Kraut road and was located just west of the Frank Pure Food Company.

It was in the late 1800's that Rudolph Runge, Milton's father, came to Franksville and met Marshall Rork's daughter, Marietta. He had been a bookkeeper in Milwaukee and because of failing health believed that a change in location would aid in the restoration of his health problem. After going into the general store business Rudolph married Marietta Rork in 1892 and their first son, Milton, was born on September 17, 1894. The Runge's had four additional children including Edwin who was born in 1900.

Rudolph died in 1914 and the experience that Milton had gained while working for his father proved to be most valuable. At the age of 21 he left the only other job he had ever had and took over the responsibilities of not only the store but of his brothers and sisters as well. Trouble continued to plague him, however, because four years later the store, located where the Franksville Food Center is now, burned to the ground with all of its contents.

Milton Runge is a man of great intestinal fortitude and within a snort time was again operating a general store in Franksville, this time on Highway K across from the bank. It was there that he sold appliances and hardware



The old General Store on Howell Road

along with the other necessities of daily life. In 1935 he converted the first gasoline cooking stove to bottle gas, an effort that his oldest son, Ralph, would later expand into a thriving business. His first love, however, was animals and wild life and in addition to having a backyard full of various birds, he purchased a trio of mink and launced another son, Marshall, into the mink business. Although the store was sold in 1944, Milton's sons, along with some help from a son-in-law, continued their respective businesses. The mink business that at one time produced over 5,000 dark and muta-

tion pelts was discontinued in 1969 but the LP-gas operation continues to flourish. A new office building was built on Roberts Street in 1965 and the firms now employees 15 people.

Milton Rork Runge is now nearly 81 and lives on Highway K across from the new Racine County National Bank. His sons, Ralph and Marshall, as well as his daughter and son-in-law, Elaine and Bud Wieman, live nearby on the land that their great great grandfather, Daniel B. Rork, settled and laid claim to over 135 years ago.

Clem's Barber Shop



This barber shop in Franksville has been around for a mighty long time . . . since around 1903, in fact. In it's early days it had no running water and a potbellied stove provided the central heating.

The late Bernard Hansen built and operated the shop for 50 years, and being a versatile and enterprising gent, used the backroom to solder milk cans and sharpen saws for the farmers.

Then along came modern minded Clem Lueneburg, noted the building's prime location right next to the bank, and purchased the barber shop. Clem was not new to the community having barbered across the street for many years. He liked the location and not being one to stand still, he remodelled the shop several times always keeping pace with the progress of the town.

Today, the barber shop is regarded as a landmark and boasts all the latest innovations including all electric equipment and push button chairs. Male clients find the shop a place where they can have modern and conventional haircuts by appointment and for the ladies, Clem specializes in styling women's hair in a most original fashion.

Gary Lueneburg and Jack George round out the staff roster. There is something else that is old fashion about Clem's shop and that is the old fashion welcome that the customers get. As Clem says, "my customers have been getting clipped in this place for over 70 years, but they keep coming back."



CLEM'S BARBER SHOP with the late Ernie Wieman and Bernard Hanson after a snow storm in the early 40's.



The Fritchens

The Fritchens came to the area in 1851 when William and Gertrude Fritchen bought land and started farming just west of I-94 on what is now the 3 Mile Road.

Several of their children and grandchildren lived in Franksville and contributed to its history. Their son William built and lived in the home which many years has now been known as the Gus Meissner residence. Their son Henry spent his retiring years in the home where the Fritches lived. Dr. W.C. Roth, the last physician with his office in Franksville was Henry's son-in-law.

Dr. Fred Fritchen practiced veterinary medicine in Franksville from 1915 to his death in 1953. His sister and husband built the building that now houses the Franksville Oil Co.

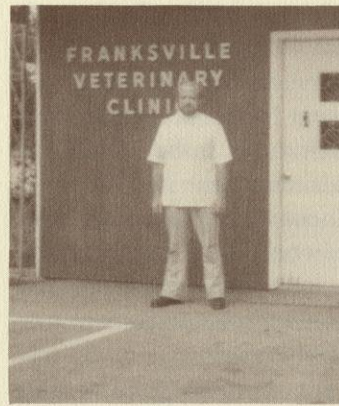
The late Jerome Fritchen, built the home where his family resides and the George Smith home. Fred and his family also live on Hy. K.

The Franksville Veterinary Clinic

The Franksville Veterinary Clinic originated with Dr. Fred J. Fritchen in 1915. Dr. Fritchen worked out of the building located behind his home at 10220 Highway K, until 1953.

In June of 1954, Dr. and Mrs. Willard Lynn purchased the home at 10203 Highway K, and opened the Franksville Veterinary Clinic treating 90% large animal and 10% small animals. After a fire destroyed their original clinic, they built the present Franksville Veterinary Clinic in 1961.

In July of 1967, Dr. and Mrs. John Fritsche, came to the Franksville Community, purchasing the clinic from the Lynn's. At the present date, Dr. Fritsche and his associate, Dr. Mary K. Urhausen, treat 30% large and 70% small animals.



Meissner's Fruit & Vegetable Barn



The barn in the background of this picture, built around 1900, is now Meissners' Fruit and Vegetable Barn. In 1943 Gus Meissner moved the barn across the street by horse-power from this site behind the homestead owned by Dr. George Baker (now owned by Tom Zimmerman) to its present foundation.

One of Franksville's more unique businesses, Meissners' Fruit and Vegetable Barn, has a history almost as old as the village itself.

Although the present business is only eight years old, Glenn Meissner's father, Gus, entered the produce business back in 1907. Produce marketing in those days meant not only long hours of farm work for Gus Meissner, but also rising at 2 a.m. to drive fresh produce to the Milwaukee market in horse-drawn lumber wagons over muddy roads.

In 1928, with the advent of modern farming equipment, Gus Meissner changed his interests to collecting and shipping produce by truck from Franksville to market points across the country. Glenn later took over his father's business after returning from military service in World War II.

While the Meissner place continued to be a crossing point for semi-loads of fresh fruit and vegetables, many people came to buy the cabbage, potatoes, watermelons, etc. from the warehouse when available. Then around 1948 Glenn's wife, Agnes, and his mother, Martha, began to operate a small fruit stand at the roadside on Hwy. K during the summer months. However, raising three daughters soon took priority over the fruit stand for Agnes, and the stand was closed.

In 1965 two of Glenn and Agnes' daughters, Julie and Nancy, wanted a way to earn money for tuition to Lutheran High, so their dad set them up with a wagon full of homegrown vegetables at the roadside, again on Hwy. K. The umbrella-shaded wagon produce business was well received by passers-by, and Glenn

gradually developed a new side interest, the retail produce business. In 1967 the summer hobby became a full-time business, offering farm-fresh fruit and vegetables to the public year 'round, with the store being housed in a large barn-warehouse.

Even the barn itself is part of Franksville's ancient history. The barn was built in the early 1900's. It is pictured where it first stood, in the background of the home of Dr. George Baker, whose homestead on Hwy. K is now owned by the Tom Zimmerman family. This barn was purchased by Gus Meissner in 1943 and was moved across the street to its present foundation by horse-power. It took three days to move the barn, which now shelters the fruit and vegetable business of the Glenn Meissner family.

As it has always been, the little produce market is still a family business. Glenn manages the wholesale selling and does the buying while his wife, Agnes, and sister, Millie, handle the retail clerking with help from his three daughters, especially 15 year old Peggy. The "pro" at the business, though, is Glenn's mother, Martha, who at 87 has been in the produce business for over 65 years. "Grandma" is always on hand to give advice to customers and package the eggs, strawberries, and manage other odds'n'ends. She says, "Keeping so busy keeps me young."

Meissners' fruit and vegetable market, housed in the quaint old barn with rustic antiques hanging from the walls, frequented by many old-timers, brings back a nostalgic touch of Franksville's past.

Krizan's Well & Pump Service

For John and Ronald Krizan of Krizan's Well Drilling & Pump Service, your well is more than "just a hole in the ground." In fact, they believe a good water supply is the most important necessity in the home. And they have been helping to insure the existence of these good water supplies to your homes and farms for 30 years.

Yes, the Krizan name was first placed on the Franksville roster of businesses 30 years ago in 1945 when John Krizan, Sr. began to drill wells along with the help of Fred Bartel and a drilling rig that had to be pulled by a truck and whose boom had to be pushed up by two or more men using two-by-sixes. John and Fred drilled together for a few years



until Fred was called into the service. At that time, John enlisted the aid of LeRoy Benson and the two partners purchased a more modern machine which served them for many years. At this time, too, they began to install water systems.

Several years later, however, work became scarce and LeRoy decided to seek other employment in town while John, Sr. began to teach his sons the business. The sons, John, Jr. and Ronald, learned the trade and worked with their father until 1966 when they enlisted in the service for 3 years. During that period, the Senior Krizan was forced to give up much of the work as he was no longer able to handle

the growing business without the aid of his sons. And so, while John, Jr. and Ronald were in the service, Mr. Krizan directed his efforts to pump work only.

During his many years of drilling experience, Mr. Krizan can recall many incidents, but he tells of this particular one which is prevalent in his mind, and which probably stresses best the importance of the well driller's expertise and responsibility to the public in obtaining good water supplies: "One time I had a well blow up while I was drilling. Gravel and water spread all over and it blew just like a geyser for about 2½ hours. Finally, it stopped gushing but I could smell a terrigle gas odor coming from the well. The next day the boys and I had to sweep and brush away the stones that had lodged in the gears of the well driller. In a few days, though, after drilling deeper, we did get water."

And so it was, that upon his sons' discharge from military service in 1969, Mr. Krizan retired and sold the well drilling segment of the business to John, Jr. while Ronald bought the pump business. And it is still today that the Krizan sons are continuing to carry on the business that was started by their father 30 years ago.



GUTKNECHT'S AND THEIR HORSES

Fred Gutknecht, along with operating Franksville's only hotel, was a fancier of fine draft horses.

Pictured above from left to right are Darrell Fritchen, Gus Brandt, Fred Gutknecht, Sr. and sons Fritz and Glenn.



THOMAS I. MORGENSON, JR. IMPLEMENT COMPANY . . . Left to right, Edwin Runge, Gene Mann, Raymond Paap, Karl Ramig, Thomas I. Morgenson, Jr. and Mrs. Morgenson. This building was previously occupied by Ed Klema who was engaged in several businesses including lumber and automobiles. Mr. Morgenson sold the

business to Nelson and Ruud. Later it became a warehouse for imported autos and still later it was used for manufacturing by the Wrapping Machinery Company. The entire building was torn down in the late 1960's and today is used as a parking lot.

The Franksville Athletic Club

If necessity is the mother of invention, then the same theory can be applied to the Franksville Athletic Club and the Mt. Pleasant-Memorial Park. The FAC was a very active organization from 1933 to the late 1940's. For many years their members labored in their efforts to support not only good ball teams but an adequate park in which to play their games. The first games were played in Gutknecht's pasture just west of the village, however, without lights all games were limited to Sunday afternoon affairs.

In the late 30's attempts in obtaining a piece of property near the corner of Roberts Street and Kraut Road were successful and for the first time in their history, the FAC had a lighted field of their own. At one time the club sponsored two softball teams, one hardball team and a girls team. The support of these teams

and facilities were done in a variety of ways including dances, card parties, plays and membership dues.

However, with the start of World War II and many of the members departing for the service, both interest and activities started to decline and before the war ended, the lighted field for which the members had worked so hard, had all but been abandoned.

The FAC made a comeback during the mid 40's but it's post war activities resulted in it's demise in favor of the Memorial Park Association. It, as an organization, is now only a memory, however, it can truly be said that many of the same people will be remembered as the source of the park, the moving of the Woodmen Hall and the annual picnics that were the forerunners of the post war Harvest Festivals and of the present Kraut Festival.



One of the last pictures to be taken of students at the old Franksville School when it was located at the present site of the Caledonia Mt-Pleasant Memorial Park. The above students were transferred to

the new Franksville School shortly after it was built in 1915. The original caretaker of the Memorial Park, Jens Anderson, is the last person on the right in the front row.

The Royal Neighbors



The Alpha Camp No. 1706 Royal Neighbors of America is one of the oldest fraternal organizations in the Franksville area. Organized in about 1890 with 12 charter members, it has remained active and today boast 110 members. Early R. N. of A. met in the Woodmen Hall

and worked with the Modern Woodman. Some of the familiar names that were charter members were the Jacobs, Bentsons, Naus, Sorenson, Rohners, McGregors and Hesses. Many of these were also members of the Royal Aid.



RUNGE MINK RANCH, 1945

Left to right, Harry Coder, E. P. "Casey" Jones Milton Runge and Harry Nyholm.

1915 FRANKSVILLE JUNIORS

L to R. **Top Row:** Harry Rhode, Ed Runge, Ed Ryterski and Harry Cary. **Second Row:** Wally Bartel, Pete Ryterski, George Riechoff and Herby Rhode. **Front Row:** Lyle Rammelt, Roy Tischendorf and Erv Guth.



FRANKSVILLE AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

Looking south toward Highway K from the Howell Road, Breitsmith's Tavern on left, Rudolph Runge's General Store, Gutknecht's Tavern, Rammelt's and Tom Calin's house

and barber shop. On the right is the original mill built by Henry Tischendorf. The property is now owned by Martin Klema.

1963 Kraut Eating Champ Maynard Entringer and Master of Ceremonies, Fred Fritchen

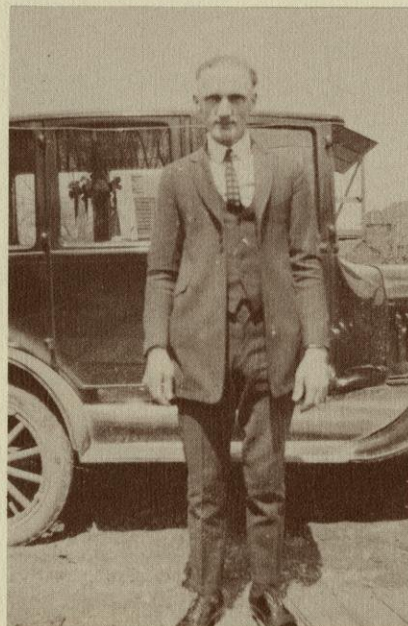


**JOHN DIEDRICH BLACKSMITH
& WAGON SHOP**

Diedrich home and shop as it looked in 1921. Was later operated by John's son, Bill, who many say could have been a major league pitcher except for his wife who would not approve. The shop was last operated by Lloyd (Frosty) Peters in the 50's and both shop and house were torn down in the 60's. Site is now Franksville's newest building, the Franksville Realty Company, owned and operated by the Marshall Lee family.

MAIL CARRIER ED RUNGE

Edwin R. Runge shortly after he became a rural mail carrier in 1921. "E.R." carried mail on the Franksville route for 42 years before retiring in 1963.





Franksville's Main Street in the early 1900's.

Pet Valhalla At Franksville



When faithful old Fido is called to that Great Kennel in the Sky, his owner now can provide a permanent resting place with casket and all. The same goes for cats, birds, and other small animals.

No longer does the deceased pet have to be dumped unceremoniously into a land fill site, incinerator or to a rendering plant.

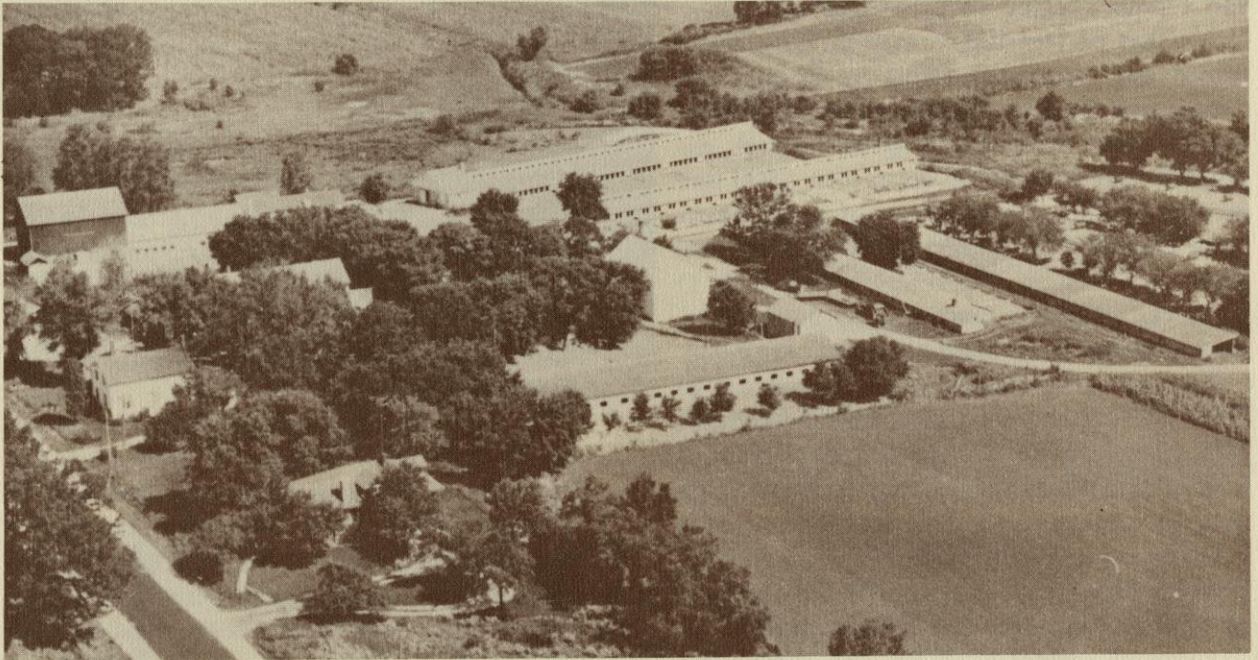
Carl Anderson, a local Landscape Nurseryman at 10025 Kraut Road, Franksville, has a different plan: setting aside a small area as a pet cemetery. A peaceful, landscaped park, where a statue of a poodle sits at the entrance; your deceased pet may rest in quiet dignity.

Carl got the idea by reading a trade magazine which carried a story of an Iowa nursery man who provided a final resting place for pets. Getting interested in possibly creating a similar service for our area, he began looking and visiting pet cemeteries in other areas. Checking with a local cemetery manager, there were many people requesting burial of their pets in human cemeteries, which is not allowed.

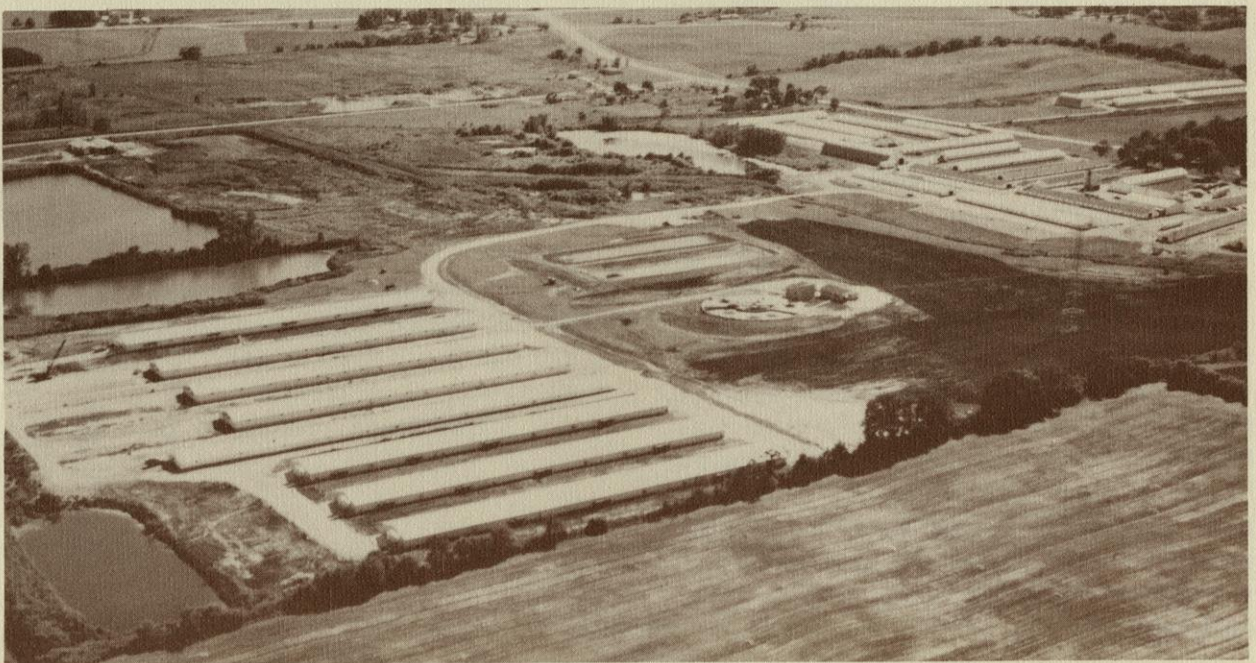
The word "Valhalla" traces back to Norse mythology. It was the abode where the souls of heroes slain in battle were received by the god named Odin, and fought and feasted in his service.

Farewell to Fido can be done with complete dignity and as a gift that lasts forever in your memory, in remembrance of devotion.

C & D Duck Farm



COOPER DIXON DUCK FARM as it was in the 1940's and **C & D DUCK COMPANY** as it is today.



Eighty acres of land at Route 2 Box 585, Franksville were purchased in 1878 by William R. Cooper for \$2300. That 80-acre tract today is the heart of the nation's largest duckling growing complex, C & D Duck Co.

William Cooper was a farmer, but son Archie had other ideas. He and his friend Clayton Dixon decided to grow and sell ducks. From that partnership formed in 1923, determined and innovative effort by Cooper and Dixon and by their successors in ownership, Alfred "Bud" Ruud and Eugene Walrath, expanded that original 80 acres into 1,000 and increased annual production of fancy ducklings from the first year's 7,000 birds to last year's 3.5 million. Marketing of the C & D product, originally restricted to Milwaukee, now stretches from coast to coast.

Located on Racine County U, just north of Hwy. 20, C & D grows, processes and markets over 20 percent of the nation's production of fancy Pekin ducks. An immigrant from China over 100 years ago, the Pekin grown out in the C & D pens bears little resemblance to his ancient and honorable ancestor. He is a duck and he is white, but there resemblance ends.

Years of careful selection and meticulous attention to genetic principles have given C & D a duck which reaches the desirable seven-pound market weight in seven weeks, a duck which has more meat and less fat than his ancestor, a duck which feathers better and uses feed more efficiently than his ancestor.

Today's C & D operation bears little more resemblance to the original Cooper and Dixon partnership than does today's C & D Pekin to that early immigrant. A management staff of professionals with broad experience in all aspects of the hatching, growing, processing and marketing complex directs the work of nearly 200 employees.

Then, it was a two-man operation with a few seasonal employees. The talents and interests of Cooper and Dixon did very naturally complement each other. Cooper's function was the selling of the birds and every morning he loaded his truck with fresh-killed, ice-packed birds and set off to Milwaukee to sell the load as best he could. Dixon stayed at home and worried with the hatching and growing of the ducklings.

It was a hand labor operation from beginning to end in those days. Human fingers instead of mechanical fingers stripped away the feathers. A good man could pick 125 birds in a 12-hour day.

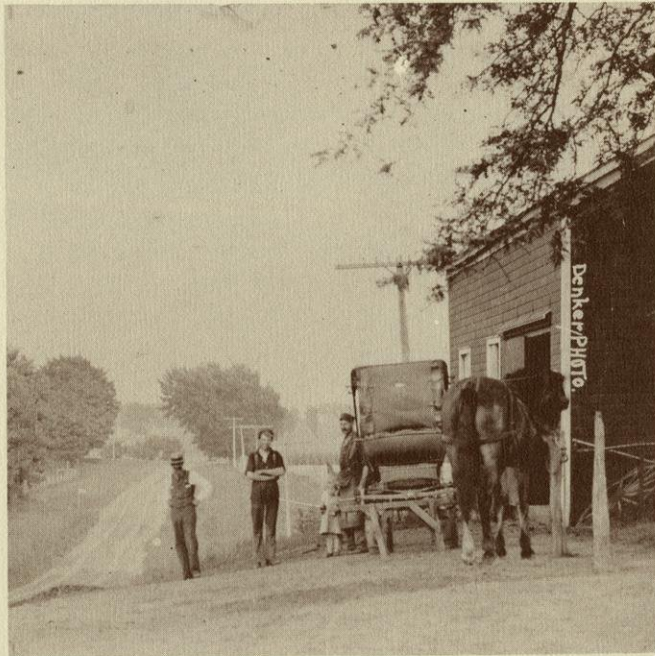
The birds did not grow out as quickly. The feeds in use were not as efficient as today's carefully researched and nutritionally balanced diets. Months were needed, not weeks, to reach market weight.

Winter ice was cut from Eagle Lake and Brown's Lake. Chipped and crushed by hand, that ice preserved fresh-killed quality. Today, gigantic compressors chill and freeze the carcasses in minutes. Hard frozen and in their colorful C & D plastic jackets, C & D fancy ducklings move out under refrigeration to the nation's restaurants and supermarkets from coast to coast.

To provide a dependable flow of birds into the C & D growing pens, C & D owns and operates a breeding farm and hatchery at Holland, Mich. Tulip City Hatchery's 65,000 breeding hens produce the eggs that feed the incubators. An environment-controlled truck makes four round trips weekly between Holland and Yorkville to deliver the 60,000 ducklings needed weekly in the Yorkville growing pens.

Today's carefully supervised and tightly scheduled operation did, in fact, grow from the Cooper-Dixon partnership of 53 years ago, but the only really enduring tie to the past is the 80 acres of land Bill Cooper brought in '78.

The C & D management team is headed up by corporation president Alfred Ruud. Walrath, as vice president-operations, carries responsibility for the operation of the new, million-dollar processing plant placed in operation in early 1975. Willard L. Lynn, DVM, as vice president-farms & hatchery operations, directs the vast breeding, hatching and growing complex and James E. Christopher, vice president-marketing, plans the promotion and sale of the firm's annual production of ducklings.



JAKE JACOBSEN'S BLACKSMITH SHOP at Thompsonville. Picture was taken from U.S. 41 looking east on what is now known as Highway K. The late Mr. Jacobsen and his shop are pictured on the right, now the home of Rasmussen & Hanson Implement Company.

RACINE COUNTY GOES TO THE WISCONSIN STATE FAIR

Several hundred persons, including the Racine Boy Scout Drum and Bugle Corp, assemble at the intersection of U.S. 41 and K for the trip to West Allis and Racine County's day at the fair. Picture was taken from Piskula's Garage, J. C. Ellis home on the left and Jake Jacobsen's Blacksmith shop on the right.





Paul Smerchek (Pavel Smrck) is the century ancestor of many present residents of Racine County.

Paul was born December 31, 1810 in Veseli, Moravia where he was educated in the public schools and spent his early years on a farm. On August 9, 1836 at the age of 25 he was united in marriage to Anna Gregor. In the autumn of 1856 Paul and Anna left Moravia with their six children, aged 2 to 16 years, to make a new home in America. Anna died on the way and was buried at sea. The rest of the family

and their maid landed in New York and then made their way to Racine, Wisconsin. Paul purchased 40 acres of wild land in Caledonia township soon after their arrival. The whole family shared the hardships of pioneer life, clearing the land and learning a life of self-sufficiency.

About a year after establishing himself in Caledonia, Paul married Antonia Sutura, a native of Moravia, who had been in the service of the family and accompanied them to this country.

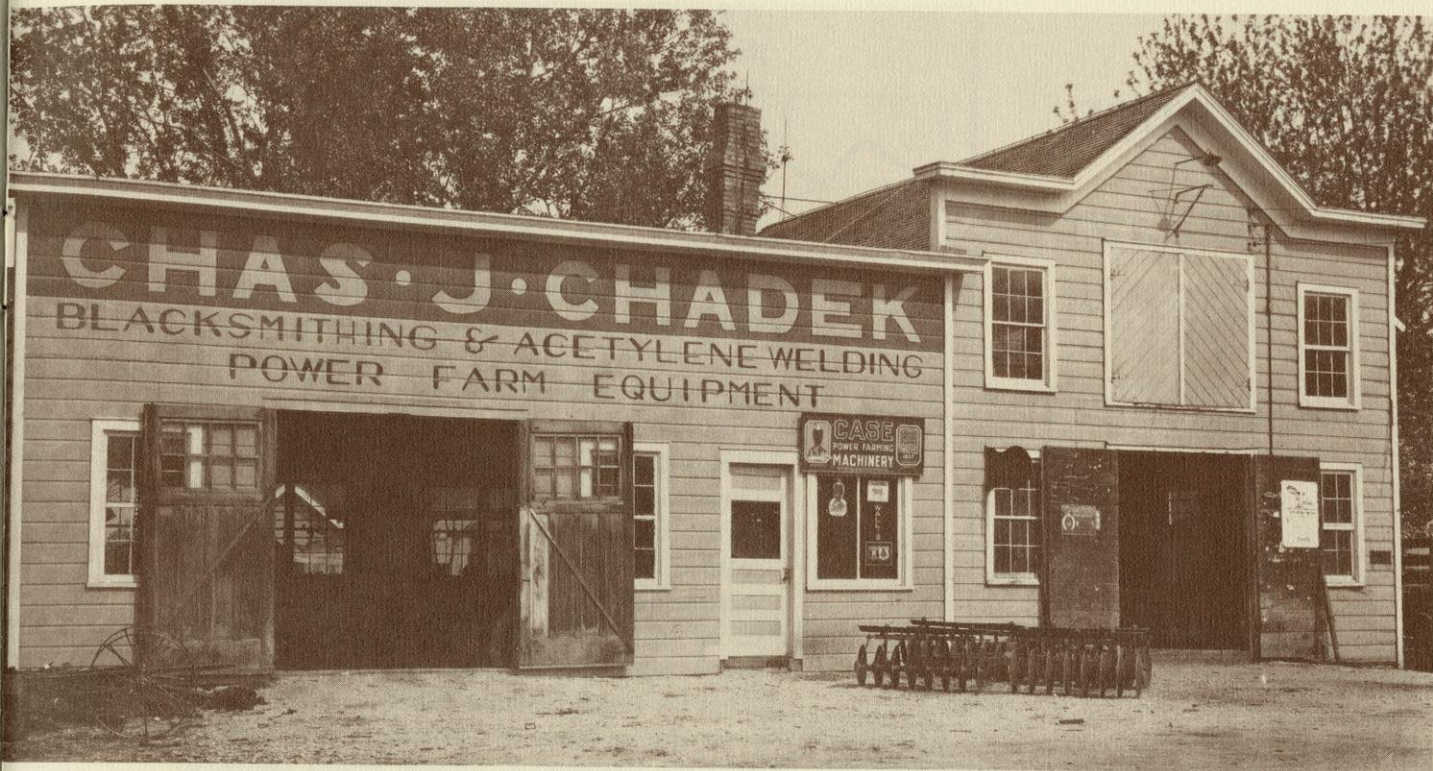
The childrens' education was limited to the winter months when the farm work was finished. As each child attained adulthood they were assisted in establishing a farm and (or) home of their own. Of the six children, Joseph, Frank, Vincent and Josephine who married Joseph Lorence, established homes in Caledonia. Paul Jr., and Anna who married Joseph Stritesky a resident of Kansas, moved to Irving, Kansas after their marriages.

The Smerchek name is well known in Racine County, for many descendants have been active members in community affairs, politics, and businesses. The wonderful life of farming has been followed through the years by many descendants with some of the fourth and fifth generations still operating farms in Racine County. The original homesite on the Six Mile Road has remained in the family.

Centennial Salute (1975)

A salute to our heritage, and ancestors
Which came so many years before.
It's time to think, when great grand-parents were young.
Thats when it all begun;
The history of our cities, towns and country dear
It has weathered many a storm, strife, sun and rain.
And now and then a cyclone tore.

With confidence, faith and love, the only great reward.
They tilled the lands to feed the world.
And built a church to praise the Lord.
With industry of many kinds, to keep us all secure
So let us celebrate this Centennial year,
Shout it loud and make it clear
We've come a long way - so they say,
So Happy Birthday on our day. Cheer; cheer.

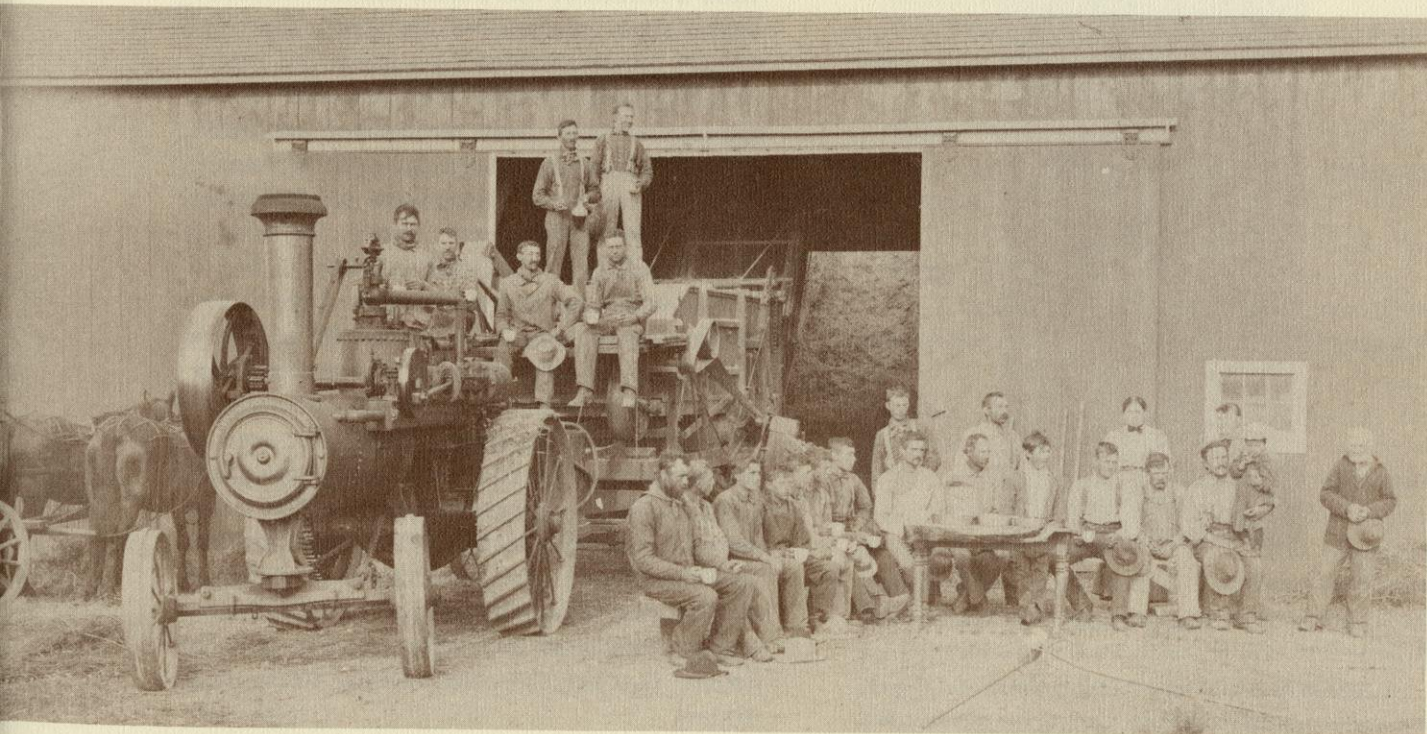


CHARLES J. CHADEK - HUSHER

Part of this building still stands today at the corner of Highway 38 and Nicholson Road. Chadek was first a Wallis tractor dealer but switched to Case in about 1927.

THRESHING CREW TAKEN IN 1880

Picture was taken on the William Walter farm on Nicholson Road. The Nicholson & Shepherd rig was owned by Henry Meissner and Ernst Erbe. Walter later sold the farm to Fred Mahn and is now owned by Mrs. Irene Proeber.



SKUNK GROVE THE FIRST FRANKSVILLE?

Alvin J. Pietkivitch
Racine, Wisconsin
1975

WRITTEN ESPECIALLY
FOR THE
FRANKSVILLE
100 YEAR
CENTENNIAL



Louis Vieau

A rare photo of brother and partner of Jacque's
Jr. Indian traders at Skunk Grove, Franksville, WI.

Superior -- first rate it's prairies and timber--this was Skunk Grove, as written by the early surveyors. It may seem that other sections of Racine County might have been more enticing to live in, but this was the cross roads of the Indian trails. Ruts were worn a foot deep and three feet wide in some areas with numerous smaller trails running in every direction.

The Black, White, Red Oaks, Sugar Maples, Black Walnut, Ash, Elm, Beech and Linden trees and the variety of game were enough to lure settlers and traders alike.

While settlers and traders were trying to spell Wisconsin (Wiskonsan -- Wiskisnsin -- Ouisconsin), abundant drops of wheat were being produced year after year. 21,000 deer were killed in one year in Racine County, and were selling for 75 cents each; wild turkeys, fish of all sorts, including the Pike and Muskeg-lunge, filled lakes and rivers and provided the meat for trading or nutrition.

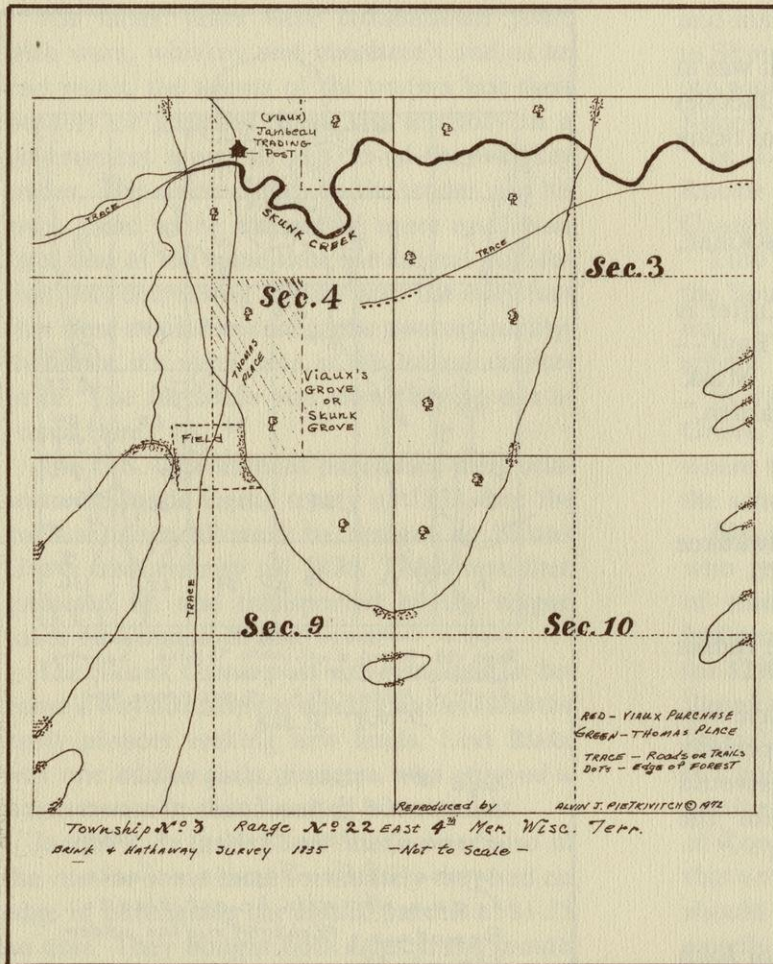
In the newspaper, "Advocate" on June 4, 1844 this account was written, "--one Jambeau a Frenchman who had always lived among the Indians, a hunter by birth, profession and practice, mounting a Canadian pony and killed 20 prairie chickens in one forenoon."

In 1825 or sooner, a very primitive postal service was started between Ft., Dearborn (Chicago) and as far North as Green Bay. It took a month or more for a letter to travel between these places and it's speed depended largely on the weather.

Milwaukee, at that time included Racine County as there were no distinct boundries, till the U.S. Government surveyed the land in 1835. There were misspellings of the name, Milwaukee in these early letters, the same as the misspelling of our state's name.

The majority of traders were French and some English and a very few variety of others. The French trader married into the Pottawatomie Indian tribes and this gave them a deciding edge in the trading field. The sons of these relationships took the name of the father, such as Joseph LaFramboise, son of Shaw-we-no-qua, and later called Chief LaFramboise.

There was a lot of activity around Skunk Grove and Milwaukee in the late 1700's and early 1800's and the following are parts of letters that were written during these early times:



Letter Dated: 1785

“ - - the first I know anything of was Alexander LaFramboise from Mackinaw. He was located at Milwaukee with a trading establishment, another trader whose clerks name was Stanislaus Chappue, and one other post run by John B. Beaubien.”

Letter Dated: Oct. 7, 1792

“ - - I am sorry it is out of my power to procure you the racine of Grand River.” signed Wm. Burnett.

Letter Dated: To Geo. Boyd, Indian Agent.

“ - - Mr. Crafts of this place (Chicago or Detroit) states to me that Mr. Michael Dousman informed him he intended to push whiskey into the Indian country with all his traders and particularity at Milwaukee.” signed: Lewis Cass. (Governor of Michigan Territory 1813-1831.)

Letter Dated: 1802

“ - - Joseph LaFramboise came from Mackinaw and settled at Milwaukee as trader.”

Letter Dated: 1803

“ - - Capt. Thomas Gummersall Anderson conducted a trading post as a trader.”

Letter Dated: 1804

“ - - Laurent Fily -- (I believe he remained here in Racine County and turned to farming.)”

Letter Dated: February 25, 1816,
Milwauquis

“ - - after having made you my compliments if you will accept them from me I promise you to assist my cousin Jaque Viaut (Jacques Vieau) from this place (Milwaukee) as far as the portage of Sturgeon Bay for the amount of a fifty pound sack of flour, if you will send it to me.” signed: James Michel LePollier.

Letter Dated: 1818

" - - Solomon Juneaus first location was at the trading post of his father-in-law (Jacques Vieau). (S. Juneau is given the credit for being the founder of Milwaukee.)

Letter Dated: August 31, 1821, Mackinac, To L. Grignon;

" - - I have learned the Revenue Cutter is going to leave this for the Bay (Green Bay) - - please give Capt. Knapp, water or Musk melons or anything else out of the garden."
Signed: John Lawe.

Letter Dated: Oct. 11, 1821

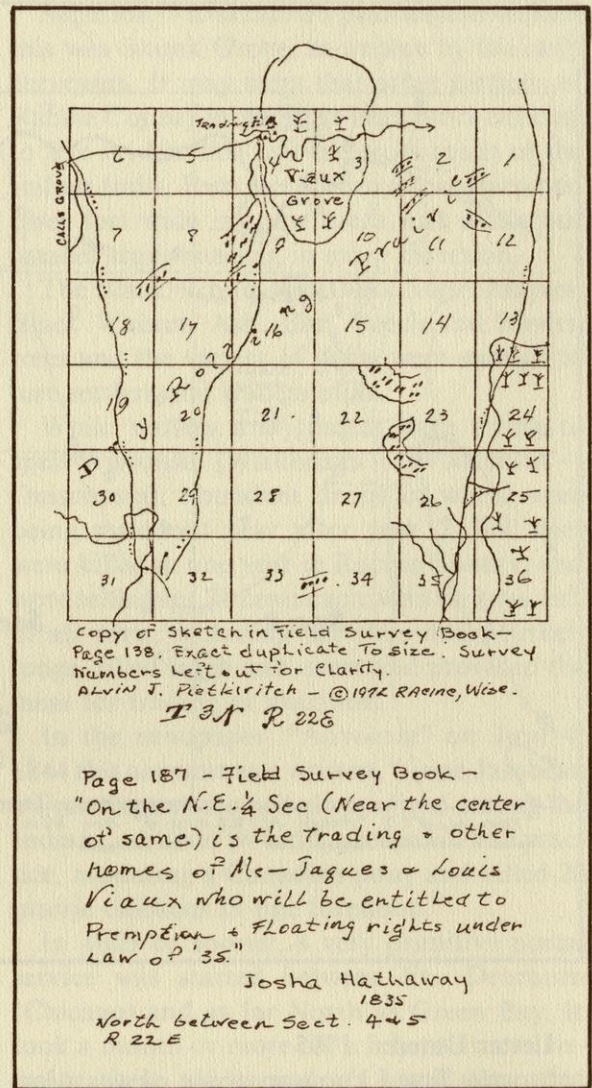
" - - finally I learn that the store at Milwaukee were closed up by the Indian agents."

Letter Dated: Nov. 20, 1821; Office Indian Trade Mathew Irwin, Green Bay

" - - I approve of the outfits you have furnished to Mr. Morrell and Mr. Vieau especially the latter as the condition of the Indians would have involved some suffering but for the course you have taken to supply them - -"
Signed: T. L. Mckerney

Letter Dated: July 26, 1822, To Major John Biddle Ft. Howard, Green Bay

" - - on my arrival at this post respecting the Indians at Milwaka and the conduct of the traders or trader at that place. I arrived at Milwaka on the 17th and found the Indians too much intoxicated to assist me in crossing the river soon after crossing I met Mr. Golomons (Solomon Juneau) who stated that he was a licensed trader from this place that Mr. James Kinzey had arrived there a day or two previous from Mackinaw with three barrels of whiskey and that since his arrival the Indians had been continually intoxicated. He further stated that Clark the reputed agent of Kinzie was purchasing the Indian horses. I continually observed the Indians lounging in the vicinity of Clark's house and I percieved they came from the back part of the house with whiskey which I presumed they had purchased of Clarke. It may be necessary to add that I had met Mr. Kinzie two days previous within a few miles of Chicago and he was not at Milwaka at the time I was there though Mr. Golomons informed me that he heard Kinzie declared he



would continue to sell whiskey as long as he was permitted to remain in the country."
Signed: Lt. James Webb

Letter Dated: Nov. 12, 1824

" - - Mr. James Kinzie is in opposition to Mr. Beu (John B. Beaubien) and J. V. (Jacques Vieau) Ocoman Paso is here." (Paso's name appears on Hathway's hand drawn map.)

Letter Dated: July 29, 1829

" - - to Antoine Ouilmette for depredations committed on him by the Indians at the time of the massacre at Chicago (Ft. Dearborn) 1812 and during the war, 800 dollars."

The latter years were troublesome years with wars, whiskey and massacre's and as an end result, the agents of the traders lost their licenses or expelled from the territory in a government move to get rid of the whiskey trader. The worst enemy to the trader was his own greed as he demanded more and more furs, and at the same time the animal population was decreasing rapidly and the only furs that were available were of the poorest quality, therefore it's value was at it's lowest market price. The fur trade was slowly dying out around here.

The U.S. Government purchased the Pottawatomie lands in the treaty of 1833, but the Indians were allowed to remain at Skunk Grove and vicinity till 1835. They were then gathered up and transported by the wagon loads to Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The Skunk Grove post still remained, it became a wayside stop for weary travelers and the early pioneer seeking new lands. Levi Blake was one of the early pioneers who enjoyed a warm house in this deserted countryside.

Jacque's, Jr. and Louis Vieau were also in the run for some land, fortunately they had an edge in purchasing the choice parcels at \$1.25 an acre. They bought both sides at the mouth of Root River and Skunk Grove (Lot's 1, 2 and 6, see map) where the trading post was for about \$330.00 dollars, which totaled for about 267 acres.

Louis was business agent for the tribe, named a Chief and was their interpreter. He became very wealthy and towns were named in honor of him: Belvue and Louisville. He died on May 6, 1872.

Prior to all this, in October 10, 1836, the house of Louis Vieau was chosen for the polling place for it's territorial councilman and also hired Thomas Place as a clerk in 1835.

In 1836, Rev. Cyrus Nicholas preached at a Welsh church built on the corner of the Gittings Rd. and Airline Rd. It became known as the Skunk Grove church till it was torn down in 1924.

In 1836, Sy Butler of Skunk Grove, was one of the men who drafted the "Constitution of the Milwaukee Union" an agreement between settlers to protect them from claim jumpers and speculators.

In 1836, Levi Godfrey, owner of a log tavern

and inn at Rochester, drove a team all the way to Skunk Grove for fresh meat. The tavern and inn was being used as a convention hall to elect Knapp for the territorial legislature.

In December 7, 1836, the formation of Racine County was formed from Milwaukee County.

Lute Secor built a hotel and post office on the South end of Skunk Grove, on old Highway "C" maybe a half mile West of Bartlett school.

In 1840, a log school was built in Skunk Grove, soon came a store and post office and where the plaque now stands is about where the school stood.

Mr. Gurden Hubbard of Chicago, a man who grew quite wealthy with his own string of trading posts, from Ft. Dearborn thru Indiana bought out the entire Vieau holdings for \$2900.00. Soon after Mr. Hubbard sold the Skunk Grove parcel to Mr. Benj. Reynolds and Daniel B. Rork. Not much later he sold the rest to Capt. Knapp and in turn Capt. Knapp wrote a letter to Mr. Barker for buying the North side of Root River, 60 some odd acres. It is strange that a man as wealthy and wise as Mr. Hubbard should sell all he had bought so soon and for exactly what he paid for it.

The Vieau history is far from being complete and this is all I have been able to accumulate during the last three years.

Jacque's Vieau, Sr., was a fullblooded Frenchman born in Montreal, Canada, May 5, 1757. Soon after the Revolutionary War, he left Quebec for the Northwest as an employee of the American Fur Co. They traded some years about the Lake Superior region Wabash, and about 1790 came to Milwaukee. He had built a post on the Menomonee River about 2 miles from where the Green Bay Trail Crossed the river. He lived till 96 and passed away in Green Bay in 1853.

I do not know the name of his wife, but it is written she is the daughter of a sister to the Pottawatomie Chief of the entire Pottawatomie Nation, also known as head Chief Puch-wau-she-gun.

Madeline, she married a Thiebeau, and died at Steven's Point, Wisc., 1878.

Josette, she married Solomon Juneau, who is credited for founding Milwaukee. She was born in Sheboygan County and died in 1855.

Paul, died in Kansas, 1865.

Joseph, died in Green Bay, 1879, aged 72.

Amiable, born in Waukesha County on March 15, 1816. She spoke nine different Indian languages besides French and English.

Charles died in Kansas, 1876.

Andrew J., the Governor appointed him Milwaukee County Auctioneer on March 8, 1842. Andrew has written an article in the Wisconsin Historical Collections.

Nicholas died in Indianola, Kansas 1848 (?)

Peter J. was appointed 1st. Lt. Company A, 2nd. Regiment of the Wisconsin Militia by Governor Doty.

Charles married Rosanne Mirandeu and moved to Kansas in 1837. The Mirandeu's were early traders of Milwaukee.

Jacque's Jr. and Louis Vieau were partner's at Skunk Grove. Jacque's was born about 1804, and continually confused with the elder Jacque's. He moved back to the Milwaukee and built the first log tavern and was known as the first keeper. It was called the Triangle and later it's name was changed to the Cottage Inn. Jacque's was known to have died in Kansas.

Louis (Lewis) stayed around here till 1836 or close to that time and then joined the Pottawatomie tribes in Kansas. He raised five daughters and two sons. One was Mrs. Rachel Thurber of Shawnee County, near Rossville and the other Mrs. Sophia Johnson in Oklahoma.

Louis Vieau's allotment was on the famous Oregon Trail where it crossed the Vermillion River. He built a log cabin there and also a toll bridge, charging \$1 for each outfit that crossed, if traffic was good he made as much as \$300.00 dollars in one day. He furnished hay and grain to travelers and was a stage stable for the stage run between Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth.

A neighboring town of Skunk Grove, the town of Raymond, voted on Feb. 2nd, 1846 to name the town "Blackhawk", on Feb. 3rd, 1846 it was changed back to the name Raymond. It still remains that way today.

In 1850, a plank road was started from State St., and Northwestern Ave. and was to run through Franksville and on to Raymond Center. Only nine miles were laid and it never was completed.

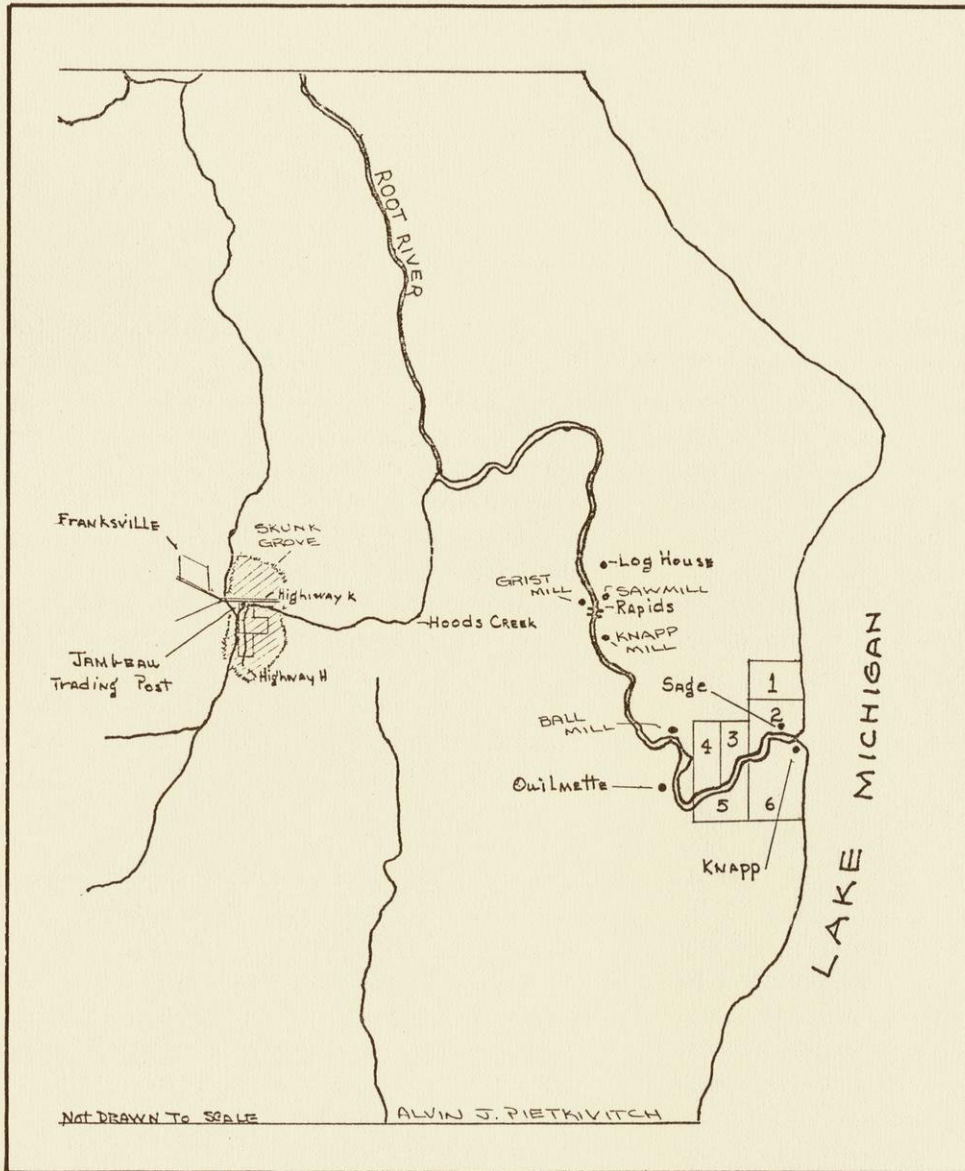
In 1857, a wild story about the Indians were attacking the area, was the last Indian scare.

In truth a whole Militia went to meet the Indian attack and found just one old Indian sitting by the road. It turned out to be some ones joke -- much anger and red faces. Many settlers that hurriedly ran into town for protection had found out it was all a hoax, had some of the wildest excuses for being in town.

In 1859, Skunk Grove was in the township of Orwell for a short time. Racine County was split into three townships; Caledonia, Orwell and Mt. Pleasant, and soon after it was changed back to just the townships we have today. Some settlers by the name of Catlin from Orwell, Vermont may have had something to do with it's name change or some descendant of Lord Orwell (1763) who was a member of the board of trade and plantations. Lord Orwell's motto was "so act that you secure worthiness."

The name of Franksville has had a variety of name origins, and I would like to add one more. Michael Frank moved to Southport (Kenosha) from the state of New York in 1836. He became known as the Father of Wisconsin's free school system and later served in the upperhouse where he succeeded in passing a bill in 1845 to establish a free school in Southport. It was very prominent to name towns and events after some one important or in the limelight at that time. It could have been very popular to name Franksville after Michael Frank.

As time progressed, more settlers arrived and soon the frontier and pioneer was gone. Trees were removed for farming and lumber, clapboard homes were erected and no more the lengthy distances as neighbor moved closer to neighbor. Franksville again begins it's second round of being the North, South, East and West terminal of importance.



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News notes from

the past

From The Sentinel Files

July 8, 1875

MILWAUKEE — The Transatlantic, an aerial balloon piloted by Prof. J. H. Steiner, ascended with Steiner and three other passengers from the corner of Cass and Ogden Sts. The gas filled balloon sailed about 20 miles south of the city before landing near the little station of Franksville. An altitude of one-half to three-fourths of a mile was reached during the trip. Before the ascension, the balloon was loaded with equipment including a hygrometer, barometer, thermometer, compass, level, sextant, several bottles of brandy, a goodly stock of provisions, a toad, two birds, a grappling iron and a double barrelled shotgun. The load was too heavy, however, and had to be discarded before leaving the ground.

Steiner is a veteran of 318 ascensions. His latest trip that ended at Franksville grossly undershot its mark, as he had intended to travel to the Atlantic Coast to prove the existence of alleged fixed westerly wind currents above a certain altitude. In 1860, Steiner made several ascensions from Milwaukee, one of them carrying him over Lake Michigan to the Michigan railroad station of Mattawan. Twice he fell in the lake. A high board fence surrounds the launching grounds at Cass and Ogden Sts. used yesterday. Spectators who entered to watch the balloon being filled with gas were charged a small fee.

now

World's Largest Kraut Factory

The Frank Pure Food Co. at Franksville is believed to be the largest kraut factory under one roof in the world. With a second smaller plant at Black Creek, Wis., Frank packs some 300 tons of sauerkraut per day when in full production.

The 60-year-old firm hires 40 to 45 persons the year around and has from 65 to 70 employees during the peak canning season from early August to mid-autumn. It is one of 15 kraut-packing companies in Wisconsin.

Eighty per cent of the cabbage grown in Racine and Kenosha counties winds up under the Frank's label. About 50 growers supply the plant.

Frank's concern for the crop begins at the planting stage. The firm supplies seed, plants, pesticides and other essential materials, plus advice, to the growers.

At harvest time, cabbage arriving at the Franksville plant is dumped from trucks into a hopper and travels up a conveyor belt. An inspector takes two sample bushels from each load and examines them for quality.

An automated belt system carries the cabbage to a cutting room where women feed the heads into coring machines. The cabbage travels on through trimming and washing machines, then past a final inspection and into a cutting and shredding operation.

An automatic salter drops salt on the cabbage as it enters the vat house for fermenting. When the vats, ranging in capacity from 25 to 90 tons, are filled, polyethylene film is placed over the top and sealed with water. Periodic tests determine when the kraut is ready for canning.

KRAUT COOL EATING

I Scream You Scream for Lemony Kraut Ice Cream

(Makes 2 quarts)

Kraut in ice cream? You're putting me on! The Flavor is light, lemony and refreshing and the mixture delightfully creamy.

2 tablespoons cornstarch
1 cup sugar
¼ cup grated lemon peel
(about 6 medium lemons)
1½ cups milk
2 eggs, separated
½ cup each: lemon juice,
sauerkraut juice
1 quart heavy cream, whipped

Mix cornstarch, sugar and lemon peel in saucepan; stir in milk. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture thickens and boils 1 minute. Remove from heat. Beat egg yolks in large bowl. Gradually blend in milk mixture. Cool. Stir in lemon juice and kraut juice. Beat egg whites until stiff, but not dry. Fold with cream into cornstarch mixture. Turn into refrigerator trays. Freeze until ice crystals form around edges of trays. Turn mixture into large bowl and beat well. Return to trays. Freeze until firm. Mellow in refrigerator for ½ hour before serving.

Kraut Puts Kick into Cocoa Cake

This recipe from the Frank Pure Food Co., combines kraut with cake:

Chocolate Kraut Cake

2½ cups sifted flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. baking powder
¼ tsp. salt
½ cup cocoa
1½ cups sugar
2/3 cup shortening
1¼ tsp. vanilla
3 eggs
1 cup water
½ cup well-drained kraut

Sift flour once, measure, add soda, baking powder, salt and cocoa, then sift again. Cream shortening and sugar until light and fluffy. Add vanilla. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each. Add dry ingredients alternately with the water, beating until smooth after each addition. Add kraut and mix well. Pour into greased 13×9×2 pan, bake at 375 degrees, about 35 minutes, or until cake tester inserted comes out clean. Cool and frost with any desired frosting.

Hero Krautwich

(Makes 6 to 8 servings)

2 cups well-drained sauerkraut
½ cup sour cream
1 tablespoon chopped chives
¼ teaspoon dill weed
15-inch loaf of italian bread, halved lengthwise and buttered
Romaine lettuce
4 slices sweet onion
¼ pound sliced liverwurst
3 large rectangular slices Swiss Cheese, halved
½ pound sliced bologna
1 medium tomato, thinly sliced

Mix Kraut with sour cream, chives and dill weed; chill. On bottom half of bread, layer: lettuce, onion, liverwurst, cheese, bologna, tomato, then kraut mixture. Cover with top of bread. Secure with picks.

Spitted Bologna With Kraut (Makes 8 servings)

A new taste-temper for the spit . . . a good-sized bologna with a yummy sauce. The kraut's sauced, too.

1/2 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar
2 tablespoons flour
1/2 cup catsup
1 tablespoon soy sauce
1 clove garlic, crushed
1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
Dash pepper
4 cups undrained sauerkraut
2 pounds bologna, in 1 piece

In medium saucepan mix together: sugar, flour, catsup, and seasonings. Drain kraut juice into saucepan. Stir over medium heat until sauce boils 1 minute. Remove from heat. Score bologna and skewer onto rotisserie spit. Brush with some of the barbeque sauce. Roast in rotisserie 25 to 30 minutes at 350°, or according to range manufacturer's directions, brushing twice with sauce. Add kraut to remaining sauce and cook about 10 minutes. Serve bologna on kraut mixture.

Stout Hearted Kraut & Frankfurters (Makes 4 to 6 servings)

Frankfurters with flare! This eye-appealing dish is sweet and sour in flavor and fits any budget.

3-1/2 cups undrained sauerkraut
1/2 cup sliced celery
1/3 cup sliced onion
1/4 cup butter or margarine
1 pound frankfurters, cut in 1/2-inch slices
1-3/4 cups water
1/4 cup white vinegar
3/4 cup sugar
1 beef bouillon cube
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ginger
1/8 teaspoon pepper
1-1/2 tablespoons cornstarch
Chopped canned pimiento, or sauteed fresh red pepper (optional)

Drain kraut well and reserve 1/4 cup of the liquid; set aside. In large saucepan or Dutch oven, saute celery and onion in butter until crisp-tender. Remove with slotted spoon. In same pan brown frankfurters; remove. Add 1 1/2 cups of the water, vinegar, sugar, bouillon cube, seasonings and reserved kraut liquid. Simmer, stirring until sugar and bouillon cube dissolve. Bring to boil; stir in cornstarch blended in remaining 1/4 cup water. Boil 1/2 minute, stirring. Add kraut and stir in franks, celery and onion. Heat to serving temperature. Garnish with pimiento and serve with mashed potatoes.

Kraut In A Crown (Makes 8 servings)

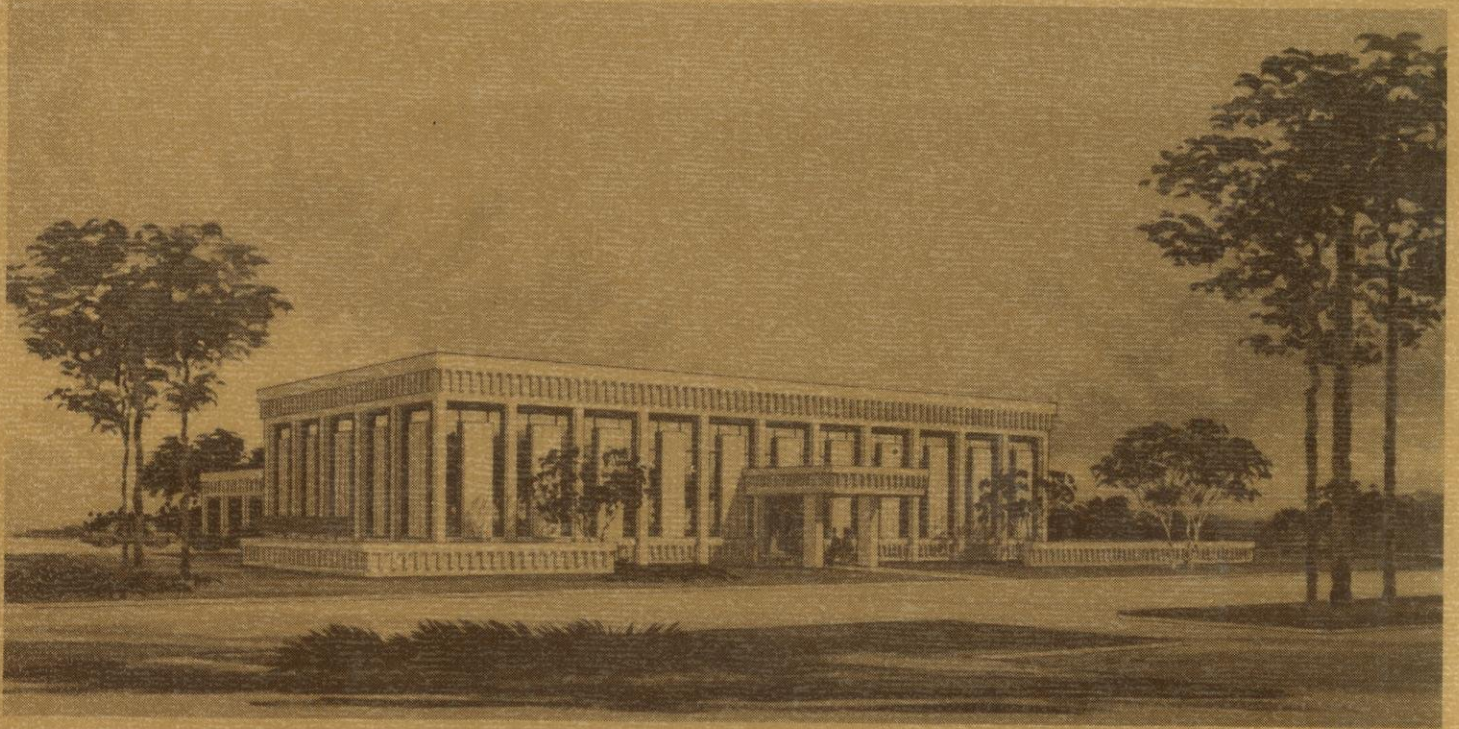
Your dinner table can sport a crown roast without selling the family jewels. The frankfurter goes elegant in this kraut and bean stuffed crown.

3-1/4 cups drained sauerkraut
1 can (16 ounces) pork and beans
1 can (6 ounces) tomato paste
1/4 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
1 tablespoon prepared mustard
1 teaspoon *each*: salt, onion powder
1/4 teaspoon *each*: pepper, cumin
16 frankfurters
1/3 cup grated Cheddar cheese

In medium saucepan heat: kraut, pork and beans, tomato paste, sugar and seasonings. Meanwhile, using needle and heavy-duty white thread (doubled), thread frankfurters together 1-inch from top, allowing extra thread for tying. Arrange in circle and tie ends together. Cut off excess thread. Stand frankfurter crown in shallow pan; fill with kraut stuffing. Bake in 350° (moderate) oven 20 minutes. Sprinkle cheese on top; bake 15 to 20 minutes longer.

Views from the Kraut Festival





Racine County National Bank
Franksville, Wisconsin

"A part of the life of Franksville since 1917"

