



Historic places and people in the land of milk and honey: Wisconsin's treasure: a tribute to our past, a celebration of the present and our commitment to continue the good life.

Rochester, Wisconsin: Historic Hoyt House, 1998

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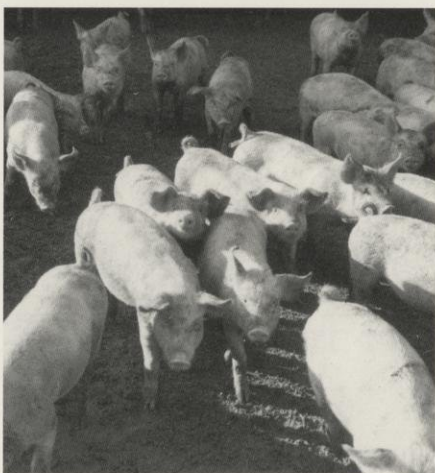
*Historic Places and People
in the*

Land of Milk and Honey

NSIN



HISTORY
ROOM
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IS



BEHOLD A BLESSING

There are people who never see
The beauties of this earth,
Who never pause a moment
To contemplate its worth.
It doesn't take the keenest eye,
A special map or chart.
One only needs to want to see
And open up his heart.

Roses on a painted gate...
The loftiness of trees...
Busy birds and butterflies...
Blossoms...sifted through with bees...
Raindrops falling cool and soft
Late in an afternoon...
Parched and browning grass...revived
By a gentle storm in June.

Open your heart to these wonders,
They surround you everywhere,
Some...even the blind can see...
God provides that with his care.
But, if you don't thrill to a rushing brook,
Or an autumn-frosted glen,
One blessing I'm sure you do behold
Is...the blessing of a friend!

Robert Stowell

The "Land of Milk and Honey", is sacred in our special place of Mother Earth. With this book, we honor the spirit and wisdom of its people, the productive power of the land, the importance of the animals and the legacy of our ancestors, from ancient civilizations to the recent past of 1836.

While we thank the many people who are sharing their reflections in this book, we know they represent but a fragment of the families who have contributed so richly to our history. Remaining steadfast through the years, they have surmounted sorrows and disappointments, natural disasters and financial failures to thrive and succeed.

As we surround ourselves with the beauty of our seasons, may we remember it is now our turn in time to enrich the quality of life through our thoughts, our actions, our celebrations and ceremonies. Everything counts, with vibrations spreading throughout the world...may they instill a renewed spirit of peace, equality and the goodness of life as we know it.

Pat Lunde

Published in commemoration of the 150th Sesquicentennial Celebration of Wisconsin Statehood and the Historic Hoyt House's Fall/Christmas Designer Showhouse and Gardens, "Christmas At The Hoyt House" in October, 1998. The Historic Hoyt House, located at 32560 Academy Road (Hwy. FF) in Rochester, is a 1841 Queen Anne/Eastlake country estate home built by William S. and Franklin E. Hoyt, father and son. Presently, the Historic Hoyt House is used to bring awareness to historic preservation, to showcase designers, artists and area businesses and to raise dollars for community projects. This Fall/Christmas Celebration will unveil "The World" by Ernst, a renowned sculptor from Rochester, who has recreated the chocolate sculpture "The World of Chocolate" to initiate the Burlington Sculpture Park in Year 2000.

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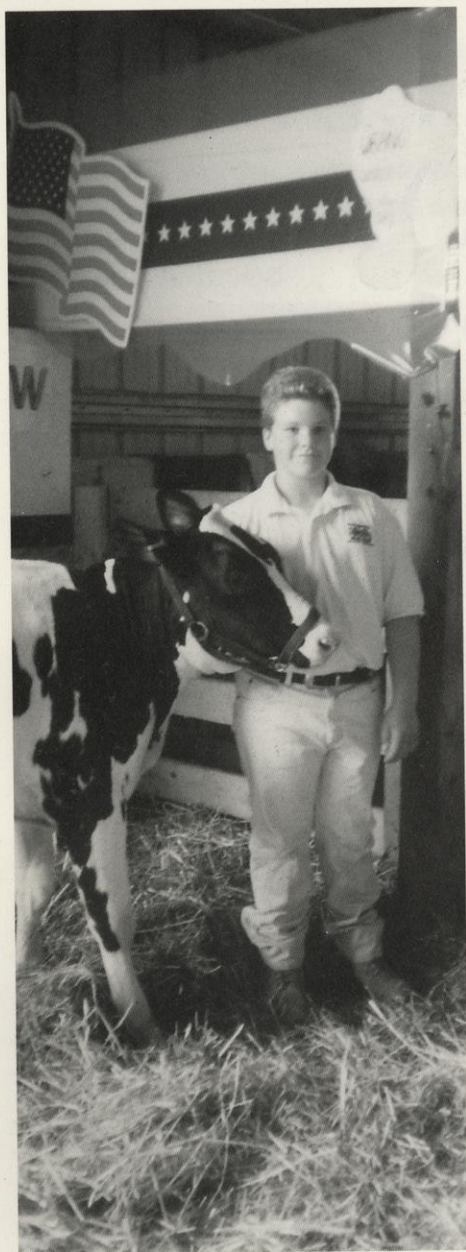
Historic Places and People in the Land of Milk and Honey

WISCONSIN'S TREASURE

A TRIBUTE TO OUR PAST,
A CELEBRATION OF THE PRESENT
AND OUR
COMMITMENT
TO CONTINUE THE GOOD LIFE

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The earliest settlers in this area were the Ayers, with continuous ownership of their homestead until 1968 when Gordon Betty Weinkauff purchased the one hundred seventy acre farm. In 1977, twenty-two dairy farms populated this area. Today, the Weinkauff's farm is one of the last remaining dairy farms in the Town of Rochester and is now owned by Mike and Judy Weinkauff. It's a family affair with Jacob, age twelve, winning Racine County's Champion Dairy Steer, direct from the dairy herd; Katie, age 10, winning a blue ribbon for her Hereford

Steer, which sold for \$1.55 per pound and Trevor, age 8, while too young for 4-H winning in the Open Class at the Racine County Fair.

Ed Ayers, former owner of the Weinkauff farm, was in the race horse business for many years and no doubt raised hay and oats on this farm for their animals. Mr. Ayers owned a barn and racetrack a short distance from the northwest shore of Echo Lake in Burlington. He kept and trained his Trotters and Pacers here.





William S. Hoyt, a builder-joiner, and Franklin E. Hoyt, a mason, father and son, came to Wisconsin from Cabot, Vermont in 1841 and together built their homestead. The Queen Anne-Eastlake country estate home was built for two generations with many details such as the Mariner's, Tree of Life and Harvest porches. Franklin E. Hoyt served many years on the Rochester Town Board, Racine County Board and two years as State Assemblyman. The Hoyts, now Pattersons, continue with the sixth generation in Illinois, Kentucky and Missouri. In the Rochester Cemetery, notice the family monument and surrounding circle of

descendants. The sister house, built by the third generation William Hoyt, a Racine County Judge, and the Hoyt barn with a new home are now private residences.

The Historic Hoyt House hosts Designer Showhouses and Gardens, bringing awareness to historic preservation, showcasing artists, designers and local businesses and raising dollars for local projects. "Autumn In The Country" in October, 1997, "Gardens and Galleries" in May, 1998 and "Christmas At The Hoyt House" in October, 1998 have brought thousands of people to this lovely home and its Holland-inspired gardens.



The early settlers in 1837 were George H. Palmer, who lived in a log cabin and was the first to raise corn. Other Settlers were "Deacon" Britten in 1839, William Lewis and "Squire" Everett in 1941 and "Judge" Martin in 1844, building the first saw mill. Samuel Martin built the first store and was postmaster in 1845 naming the post office "Martinville". In 1845, the village of Vienna was founded by Winslow Page Storms and in 1849, Storms wanted the name of the post office changed to Vienna. After court, costing Storms \$800, Vienna was established, named after a village in New York,

near where he had lived. In 1846, Storms built the cooper shop and blacksmith shop and the tavern with five bedrooms on the first floor and other bedrooms on the second ballroom floor and large tavern barn was built in 1847.

In 1849, the first mill and the schoolhouse was built with Orlando Stetson the first teacher. In 1851, the plank road was built from Racine to Janesville and Storms' tavern was a busy place with horses and wagons carrying produce to Milwaukee and people traveling west, carefully planning their trip so accommodations could be secured. Winslow was known for his oyster stew with supper served at midnight. The ballroom music was furnished by two fiddlers and dances lasted all night.

In 1853, Zahn bought the mill and in 1868 the spring thaw and ice washed away the

mill dam. Forty men rebuilt and Vienna's business flourished. After the Chicago fire with insurance rates soaring, the insurance was dropped in 1872 and fire then destroyed the mill. Again, the mill was rebuilt with friendship and unselfishness of friends. In 1912, with trends toward large, consolidated mills and another fire, the mill was not rebuilt. Sixty hardy early pioneers settled in Vienna with few new buildings after 1880. Today, Honey Lake is adjacent to Vienna. The Zahn's from Racine's famous department store purchased the property in about 1854 and built their country estate home. The Scheunert's purchased Vienna in 1916. The Kusik's and their eight children now own and enjoy the house. The 1849 Vienna schoolhouse and the 1929 original Spring Prairie Town Hall (pictured) are also private residences.

Rita Scheunert

B.R. AMON & SONS INC.



A. JAMES LLOYD



In 1928, William F. McCarthy of Chicago purchased the Greer farm and developed the Honey Lake subdivision. The three lakes...Honey Lake, Lake Tahoe and DelMonte Lake...were developed with Sugar Creek and Honey Creek and numerous springs providing the water. It was sometimes referred to as Molasses Junction and received its name from the honey bees along Honey Creek and because of the number of beekeepers in the area.

Honey Lake was a summer place of typical cottages for Chicagoans with mothers and children staying the summer and fathers joining the family on weekends. Only six families stayed the entire winter. During the summer, ice was provided by the Scheunert Bros., who cut ice during the winter and stored it for summer use in the ice house in nearby Vienna. The private community was entered through gates at the entrances. The homes had running water from the central well and water tower on

the hill. The beach house was the center of the community and dances were popular.

After the crash in 1929, the plan was not carried through and lots were sometimes a giveaway to encourage subscription to the Chicago Tribune. In 1938, Harry Allen purchased Honey Lake from William F. McCarthy's son and built a concrete dam to bring up the lakes' water level. The public areas were deeded to the Honey Lake Improvement Association who governed the community. In the 1970's, the Department of Natural Resources purchased adjacent wetlands for wildlife preservation and the Hogansons donated hundreds of acres to Nature Conservancy. In the early 1980's, the Honey Lake Lake District was formed to dredge the lakes with work completed in 1993. Today, about 800 people enjoy Honey Lake and the abundance of its natural beauty and its wildlife.



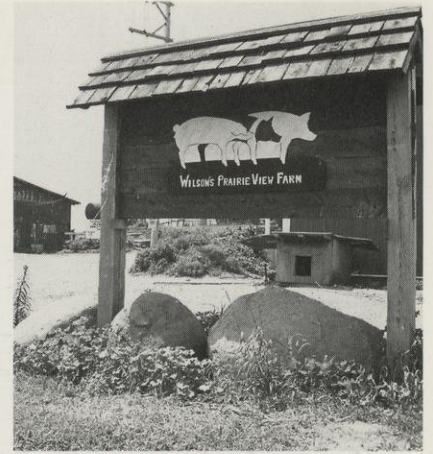
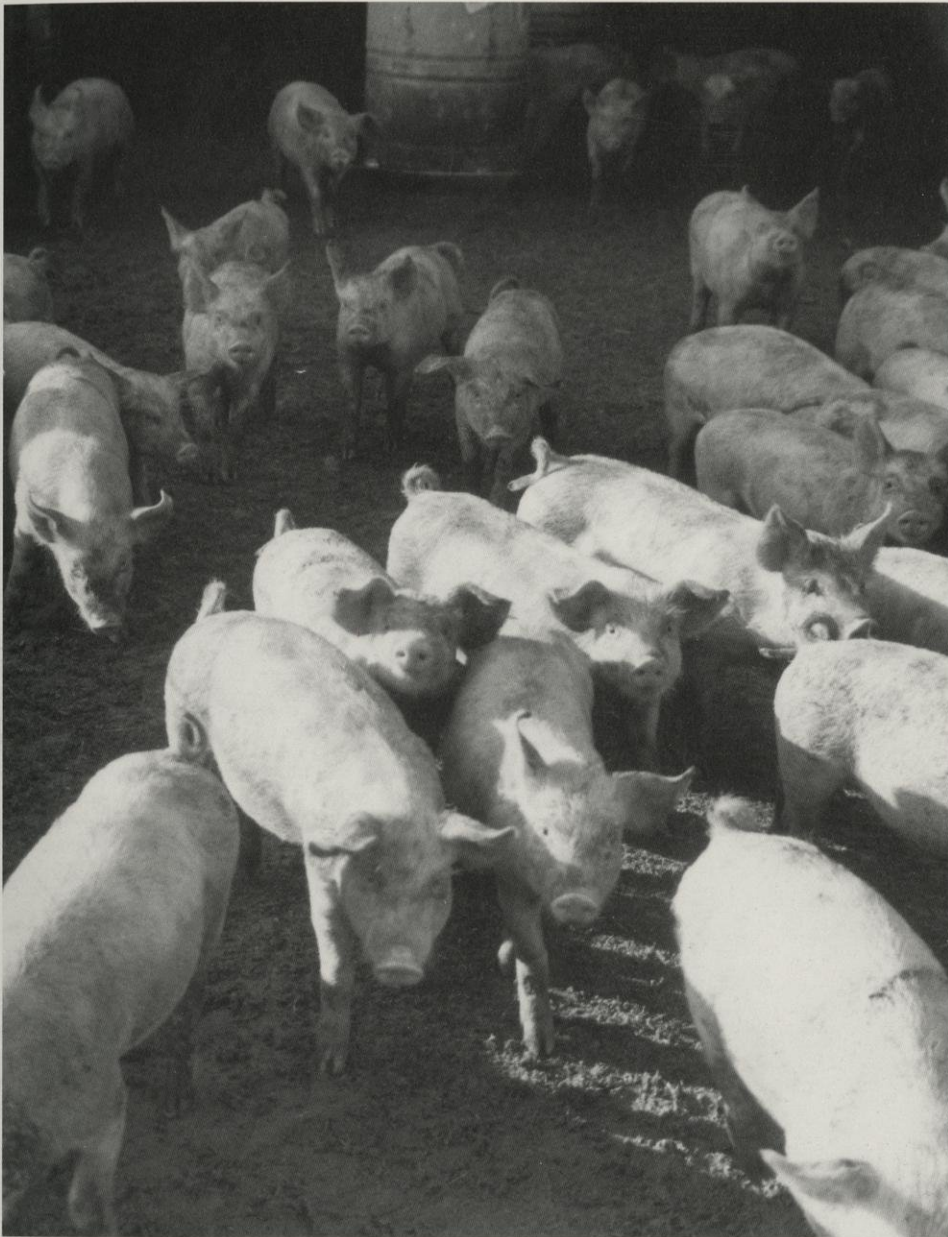
The Bieneman (German meaning bee-keeper) Farm on Bieneman Road was purchased from the Jakely family by George H. Bieneman in 1913. He and his wife Emilie (Meugler) Bieneman raised nine children. Anna Bieneman Cramer is still alive and well today. George H. Bieneman was Burlington's pioneer milk distributor in 1917, starting with horse and wagon and changing to a truck in 1919. His two sons, George and Edward took over the business in 1927 and proudly boast they never missed a day's milk delivery even though spring flood waters flooded the road and there were times when they were snowed in. The milk route was sold to Philip Warren in 1944.

In 1945, the farm was purchased by a daughter Lorretta (Bieneman) Zelenski. The

Zelenski's farmed it until it was condemned under Eminent Domain for the Burlington airport. This left fifty acres along the White River with the buildings.

It was then purchased by the Experimental Aircraft Association headed by Paul Poberezny, World War II transport pilot and engineering officer, for the Wisconsin National Guard. They moved to Oshkosh and sold the farm to Mr. Robert Cerwin and he in turn sold to Matt Lamb, the present owner. It is rumored this site was a landing point for the Indians and traders, being where the White River and Honey Creek meet. In 1841, it was known as "The Landing".

Robert Zelenski



The Ralph and Scott Wilson farm on Spring Prairie Road was founded in 1836 and known as Gardner's Prairie, named after the original homesteader, Palmer Gardner. Palmer Gardner built a log house, the first house in Spring Prairie on the site where Robert and Grace Wilson spent their lives.

Ralph's grandfather, John C. Wilson, was known for raising popcorn. For fifty years, Robert S. Wilson, Ralph's father, shipped lambs from Montana and from fall to spring fattened the lambs before shipping via train to the Chicago market. The Wilson family now raises and sells pure-bred hog breeding stock and some pigs for heart research on their seven hundred acre farm. Corn, hay, wheat and soybeans are planted for feed.

One stone barn remains from all the old buildings. The farms have seen five generations of Wilsons grow up and work the farm. Ralph and Jeanette Wilson have one son, Scott, and two daughters, Julie and Jan, and eight grandchildren.

**GLESSNER
APPRAISAL
SERVICE**

ONE STEP AT A TIME

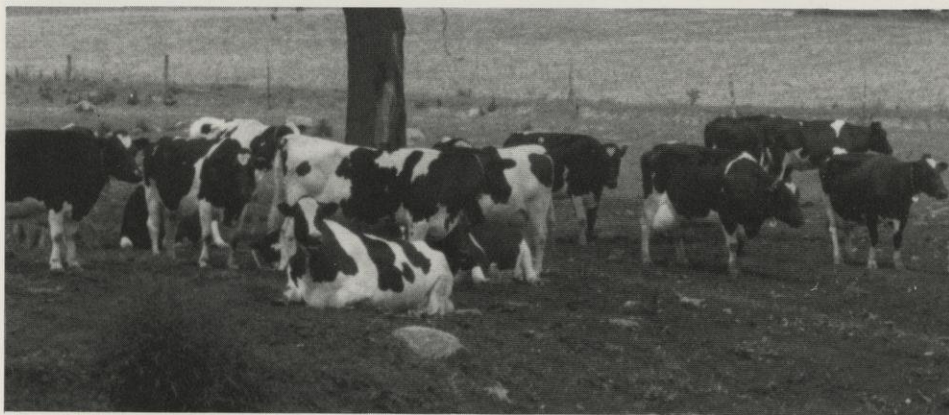
Life is like a mountain range
poised high above the sea,
With hills and plains and chasms
in varying degree.
And within this range of mountains
each child is given birth,
Seedlings sent from heaven
to be placed on the earth.

We cannot know when we are born
how high we're going to climb
But most of us will come to learn...
it's one step at a time.
Some will stay in the valleys
missing the beauty above,
Others will labor every day
in grace and hope and love.

Seldom dismayed by sweat and tears
though they may falter and fall,
Striving to take another step...
heeding the Master's call.
They may climb only a little way
in this world that we know,
Yet, when their labors are finished
they will leave it all to go-

There, where there are no mountains to climb
no chasms to be faced,
There, where all sorrow, sweat and tears
God has promised to erase.
Don't spend your time in the valleys
it's not so hard to climb,
Lift your eyes up to the hills...
take one step at a time!

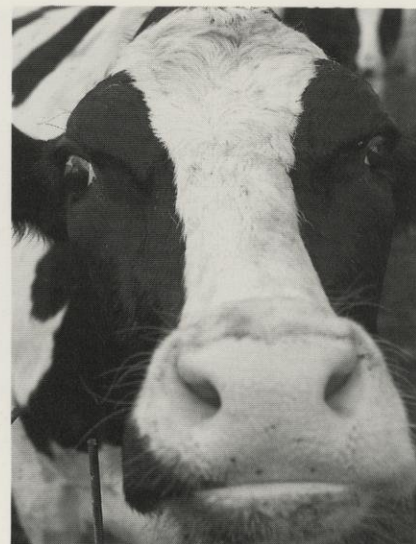
Robert Stowell



In Gardner's Prairie, the township of Spring Prairie, three Stowell Farms continue the farming traditions. Ross Stowell and his wife, Jill, who live on the Prairie Moon Farm, now manage the farms with one hundred thirty dairy herd and over two hundred beef and dairy heifer livestock and over seven hundred acres of crops to support the animals. Ross's father and mother, Robert and Dorothy Stowell's farm on Spring Prairie has been in the family for over thirty years. Their seven children are very accomplished in

various professions including Anna in Russian language and culture. Bob Stowell is a fine poet. He started writing when he was in grade school and writes every morning for one hour before chores on the farm. On the nearby farm, owned by David and Kit Stowell, early Gardner's Prairie settlers are buried in three cemeteries.

Ross Stowell is bringing the newest farm practices to the farm. A birthing facility is under construction. Recently, in one day, seven calves were born.





In 1839, the homestead, deeded by the US to William Darwin Crane, was sold in two weeks to Norman Dyer. In 1952, Marvin and June Stowell purchase the property. Their son and his wife, James and Bonnie Stowell now own the homestead. Stowell Trucking was started by Marvin Stowell in 1947 when as many as twenty farms existed on Spring Prairie Road alone. Marvin filled the need for reliable, efficient transportation of livestock to the Milwaukee and Chicago markets. The trucking business still prospers today, serving farmers and expanding in other areas. In 1974, Stowell's Catering was created for weddings, reunions, company functions. It has become the thirty-five year lunch stand at the Activity Center at the Walworth County Fair.

In 1962, the Activity Center and Cattle Show Area was built with contributions from farmers and proceeds from auctioning their livestock.

Jim has served for twenty-six years as Chairman of the Spring Prairie Township and has seen many changes as people from Chicago and Milwaukee settle in the country. The original name *Spring Prairie* came from the many springs and the lovely prairie fields. Four population areas in Spring Prairie are Honey Creek, Honey Lake, Spring Prairie and Paradise Valley. Development of cluster communities is receiving serious consideration vs. changing the pastoral landscape with endless small parcels for homes. "We need to carefully consider our future land use, for once it has changed use, it has changed forever."

STOWELL'S TRUCKING
STOWELL'S CATERING

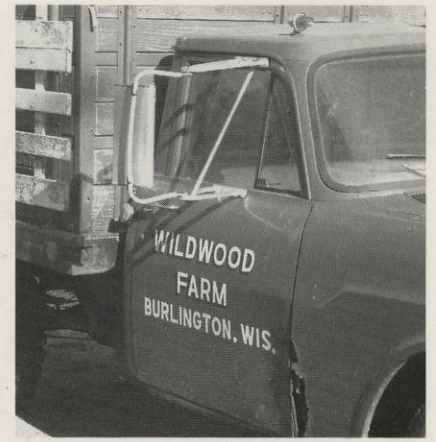
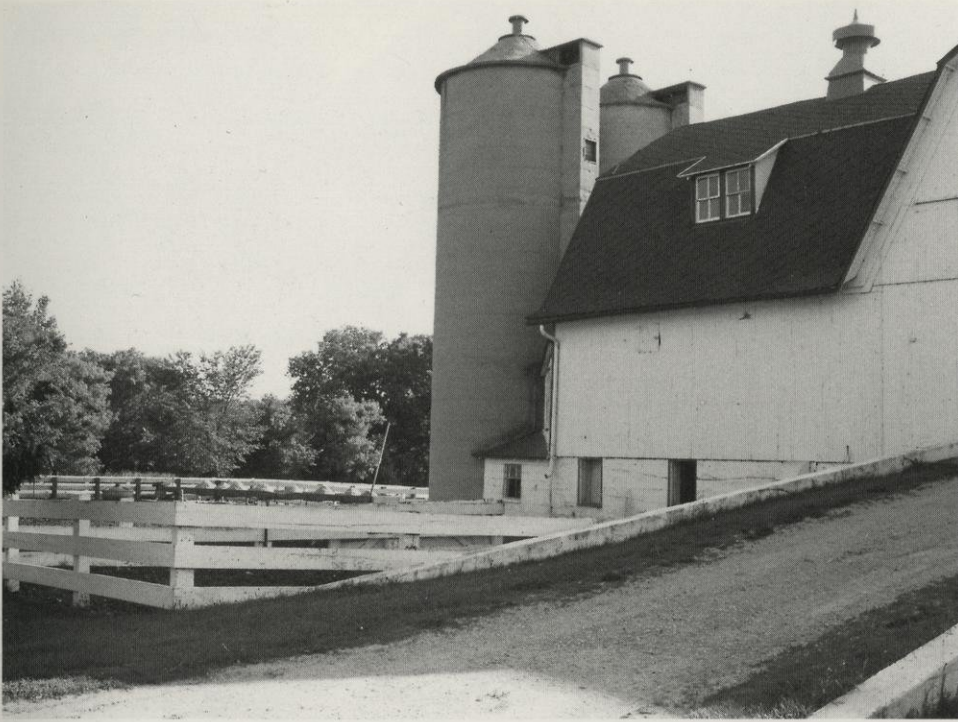


Maurice Ayers built this house on his farm three quarters of a mile south of Honey Creek in the 1880's. Mr. Ayers along with another Honey Creek citizen, Luther Anderson, together with a group of men from Racine headed by J.I. Case, founded the Bank of Burlington in 1872. The Bank of Burlington is now known as the M&I Bank of Burlington. Mr. Ayers was also a State Assemblyman for a time. Maurice Ayers died in 1884, leaving the farm to his son, Beecher. Beecher raised Brown Swiss cattle, taking many blue ribbons at county and state fairs throughout the Midwest going by train as far away as Syracuse, New York until the 1920's. Because of an outbreak of Hoof and Mouth disease the

entire herd was quarantined in Chicago for many weeks. Hauling feed and hay to them was a tremendous expense that put the Ayers Farm in dire financial straits.

Dr. J.F. Bennett bought and operated the farm through the thirties and forties. The farm had many renters and various owners from 1950 on.

Leo and Slava Naroditsky purchased the farm three years ago. Dr. Naroditsky is a dentist from Northbrook, Illinois. They have restored the house and are presently working on the grounds. He and his wife enjoy this country setting sometimes during the week and always on weekends.



Wildwood Farm was owned and operated in the late 1800's by the Anderson family. From about 1900 until 1945, this farm was home to Purlee and Marie Baker. Mr. Baker built the fine barn, silos and milkhouse that is in use today. He also built another house on this property. Margaret and Jimmy, their children, grew up here and helped their dad and mom on this farm.

Marie's maiden name was Rees, she was born in Denmark and was a wonderful cook. The Danes are noted for their kringle. Mrs. Baker made coffee kuchen that was out of this world. It was the treat Jimmy and

I often enjoyed as an afternoon snack when we were 10 to 12 years old.

Doug and Ethel McKeen started their farm life forty years ago and their four sons and four daughters and grandchildren enjoy this picturesque farm. Today, the farm is a dairy farm with over three hundred acres of corn, hay, and grains managed by Sean and Karen McKeen. Charles and Lynn Mills own Wildwood and in 1990 built their home overlooking the pastoral homestead.

Wendell E. Earle



Stuart Vorpapel, Honey Creek, has kept bees for over thirty years, starting when he was in high school. He has worked as a state bee inspector and federal bee inspector and has taught beekeeping classes for several years. As one of the best known and most knowledgeable beekeepers, his colonies of bees receive the utmost care and attention and produce one of nature's most highly prized treasures...pure honey.

Did you know...that honeybees tap over two million flowers to make one pound of honey. A hive of bees flies over 55,000 miles to make one pound of honey. The average worker honeybee makes 1/12 teaspoon of honey in her lifetime.





The Robert and Mary Ann Zelenski farm on Honey Creek Road is known as the Badger State Stock Farm. The farm was founded by the Miller family. In 1900, it was purchased by Benjamin Mitchell and taken over by his son Oliver in 1930.

In 1956, Oliver's daughter, Mary Ann married Bob Zelenski. They ran the farm with dairy and hogs and sheep. They raised five children on the farm. In 1991, they discontinued the dairy and hogs and now they raise Clun Forest Sheep, an English breed. Clun Forest Sheep are no longer imported and were quarantined for six years in Canada before entering the USA market.

Robert Zelenski

Garden tip for growing tomatoes from Bob and Mary Ann.

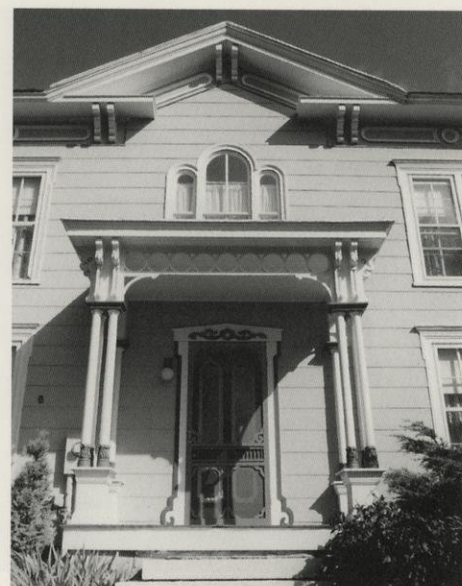
In the spring, plant each seedling in the center of a ten inch cement tile. From the hardware store, purchase six foot high reinforcing wire and encircle the tile which will support the tomatoes. The tile will protect the young seedlings, hold water and block cutworms. Tomatoes will produce abundantly and you can easily harvest the bounty.



Benjamin and Joanna Hoyt, brother and sister, came from Vermont in 1835 so that they would be here to claim farmland that would be available in 1836. They first claimed land in the community of Honey Creek, township of Rochester and together with his sons Gilman and Avery owned land about one half mile west of Honey Creek in Walworth County. Avery eventually became owner of four hundred and fourteen acres from Bell School Road on the east and Colbo Road to the west. This farm was known as Sunnyside Farm and a real showcase farm in Walworth County. The

farm of four hundred fourteen acres was divided up with Nathan Schmitters, Orlie Miller and Charles Palmer getting land from the farm. The original buildings and what was left, some one hundred twenty acres, was purchased by Barnis Rose. George Aspinall and later on his son, Allen, ran the farm for many years having a very fine herd of Registered Holsteins under the name of the original Sunnyside Farm. The house and some acreage is now owned and very well kept by Carlice and Henry Czarnecki.

Wendell E. Earle





John E. Hopkins purchased the land from the United States Government March 6, 1839. He sold it to Gilman H. Hoyt March 30, 1840 and Mr Hoyt in turn sold it to John Crego, Sr. in 1846. As near as we can tell by the abstract, the house was built by Lura Crego Comstack about 1863 and was in the Crego family until April 24, 1873 and then it was sold to Avery A. Hoyt. Sam Fredrickson bought the house July 10, 1906 and sold it to Delbert Harden October 9, 1909. It was purchased by Orlie and Mae Miller February 26, 1916 and July 14, 1960 by their daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Arthur Goetsch, who reside there today.

Avery Atkins Hoyt, 1824-1906 came to Honey Creek at the age of 13 through an early winter storm in October. At fifteen, he worked for John Hopkins and at seventeen bought his first forty acres. He married Carolina Hoyt, daughter of Tristan C. Hoyt in 1847 and they were important and active people. Avery Hoyt is credited with planting 1000 sugar maple trees along the roads from 1845 to 1860. Honey Creek is a special place every fall with these ancient trees in full color.

Nancy and Arthur Goetsch



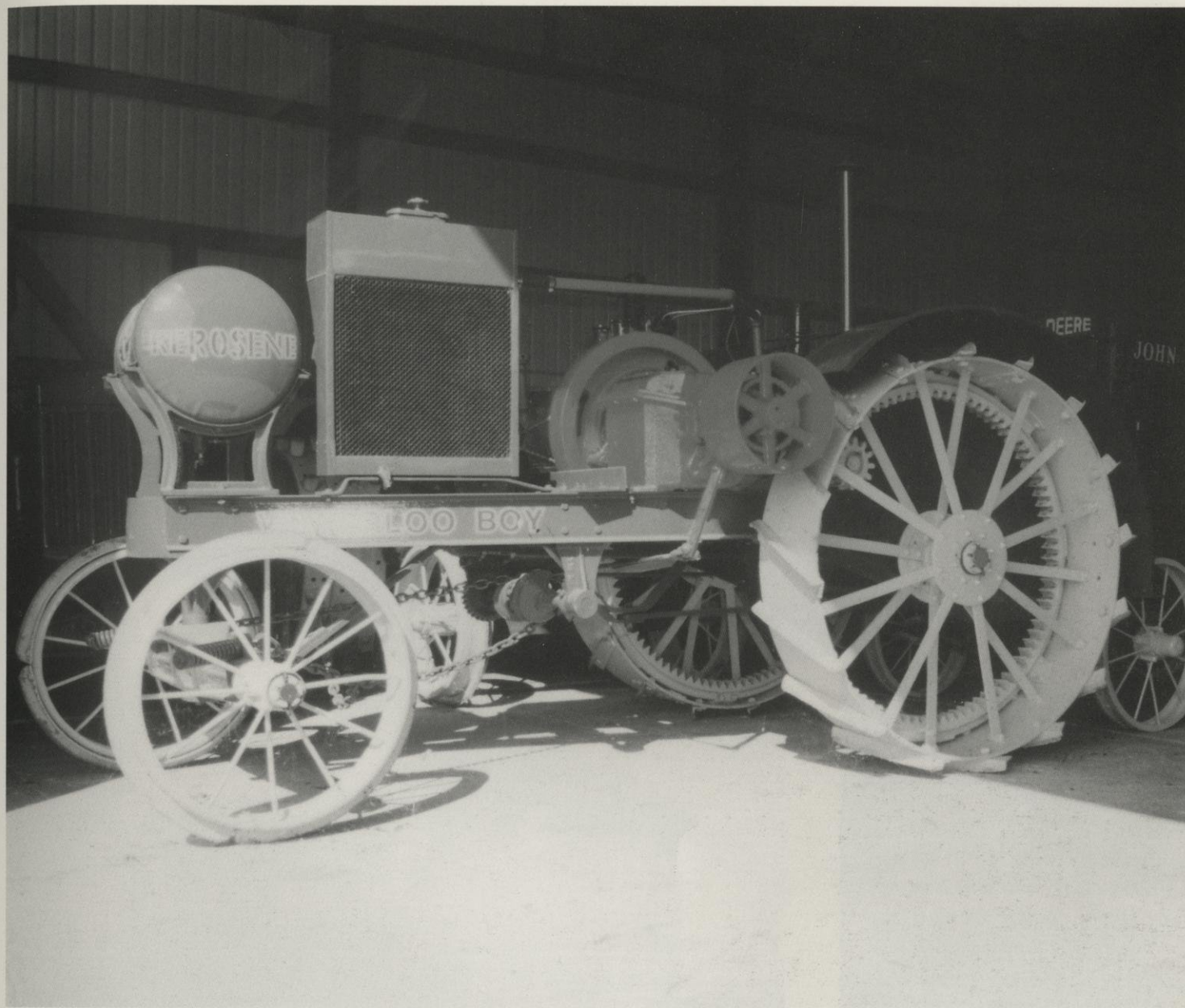
Dale Crites flying his replica of a Curtiss Pusher biplane. This plane now hangs in the lobby of Mitchell Field in Milwaukee WI.

Bob Huggins, together with his brother Ralph, lived in and went to school in Honey Creek. Following grade school they went to Burlington High School. Bob worked during his high school years as a draftsman for the Burlington Brass Works. He became interested in aeroplanes shortly after graduating from school and took flying lessons, thus launching what was to become a lifetime career. The two brothers were very good mechanics and in time began to build planes in the barn next to their house. The barn still stands. Bob taught his brother Ralph and neighboring twin brothers Dean and Dale Crites to fly in the early Twenties. One of their earliest creations was a cabin monoplane put together in 1928 or 1929 in

what is now Gene's Bug Hut on the corner of D & DD in the Village of Honey Creek. Egor Sikorsky, the man who developed the helicopter, came to Honey Creek to see the wing that was used in this airplane. He encouraged Bob Huggins to help him with his helicopter. The airplane itself was powered by an Indian Motorcycle engine and flew very well, but in landing, flipped over in a gully or ditch in the hayfield that was used as a landing field. It was patched up and was soon flying again with much more respect given to the ditch. George Gerber and Harvey Colbo also helped the Huggins and Crites built this plane. This was the FIRST cabin monoplane built in the State of Wisconsin.

Bob gave rides at \$1 per person or \$2, as his biplane could hold two people in the front cockpit. This was one of the attractions at the Racine County Fair during the Thirties. During the war, the Crites and Bob Huggins were instructors in the Army Air Corp. Ralph Huggins was killed in an airplane accident near Whitewater, WI. He was in his thirties at the time. Bob managed the Brown Deer airport until retirement. The Crites managed and were involved in owning airplanes and leasing them out at the Waukesha airport until they retired. Waukesha Airport was named Crites Field in honor of these two men.

Wendell E. Earle



It was a dream of Chuck Katzman to restore one John Deere two-cylinder tractor from every series starting 1914 to 1959. Today his John Deere Tractor Museum in Honey Creek has the total collection with each tractor having an interesting story. Ken Peterman, an industrious professor and knowledgeable restorer in Webster City, Iowa has worked closely with Chuck in restoring many of the tractors, including the Waterloo Boy. The Waterloo Boy Company was the start of tractor production at the John Deere Company. In addition to the Museum, Chuck is busy with many businesses focused on agriculture, trucking, warehousing and farming equipment.

Allen Stetson was one of the early owners of the farm in Honey Creek now owned by Chuck Katzman. Mr. Stetson is from the same family that made a name for itself in the Hat business. The Frasers were the next owners; they rented the farm out to different renters. Ed Kuehne was one of them. He was an outstanding farmer, great community leader, helping in every way he could in the church and school affairs. He liked to take part in many of the plays written by Reverend Mansfield in the Twenties. He left the farm around 1930 and Dave Fraser ran the farm during the Thirties and Forties and in time selling it to Mr. Bill Bushing. Chuck bought the farm from Mr. Bushing in 1978.

Wendell E. Earle



BURLINGTON FARM IMPL. GMC



The Land of Milk and Honey Awaits In Honey Creek, Wisconsin

*Some folks travel around the world
seeking peace and pleasure,
Hoping to find that perfect place
which they can rightly treasure.*

*In the United States some find their dream
in Seattle or in Branson,
But the land of milk and honey awaits
right here in Wisconsin.*

*Even our roads depict it so
from Prairie to Valley View,
Where on hill and plain the growing grain
stirs one's heart anew.*

*There's a little church upon a hill
with a creek not far below,
Which are little changed from yesteryear,
remembered long ago.*

*So unless you've found that perfect place
in Seattle or in Branson,
Perhaps you ought to come and see
Honey Creek, Wisconsin.*

Robert Stowell

In the 1880's, the SOO line RR built its line from Chicago to Minneapolis, coming through Honey Creek in about 1885 and hauling its first trainload of flour from Minneapolis to Chicago in 1888. The blacksmiths John Beers and Fred Bauman were kept busy shoeing the many horses being used in building the railroad. At this time Honey Creek acquired a depot, hotel, mill, lumberyard and stockyards. At the stockyards many head of cattle, pigs and sheep were shipped out whenever a carload could be assembled. Often some of the farmers and horse dealers would go out west, buy a carload of horses in Dakota and Iowa, selling them out of the railroad car in Honey Creek up at the depot.

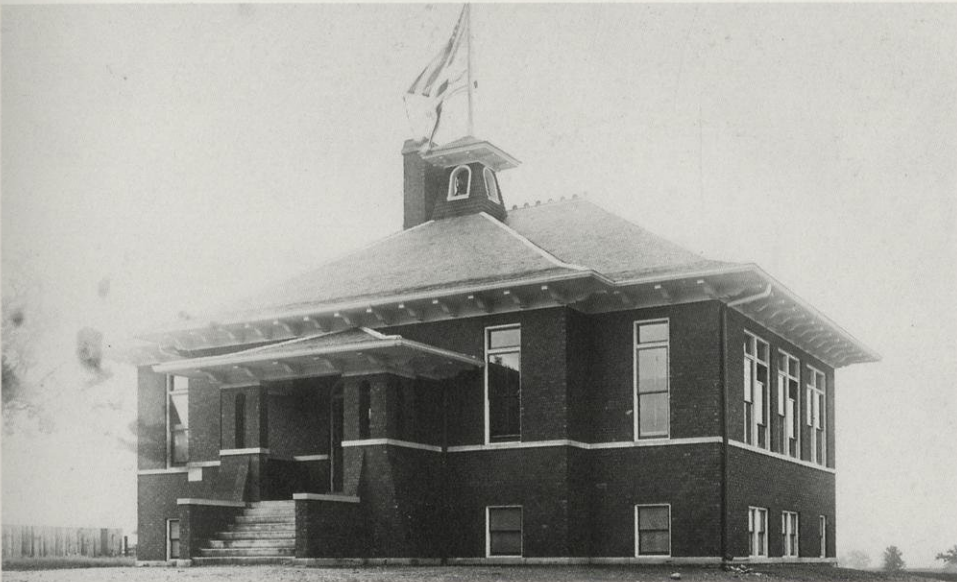
In season, pickles from surrounding farms were brought into the pickle factory. They were processed in huge tanks of salty brine and in due time put in pickle cars and shipped to Chicago for packing in jars. Vogler & Schillo operated the pickle factory for many years with Splinter Pickle being its last owner. Late October and early November seemed to be the cabbage harvesting time. Bill Baker, Bill Clason and Harold Rossmiller were among some of the farmers that loaded tons of cabbages into

refrigerated cars and shipped them to kraut factories in Chicago. Each wagon load would be weighed at a scale at the mill and the company would pay the farmers accordingly.

The hotel near the depot on Langmaid Street served the people that came off of the passenger trains. This didn't happen often, but the bar always seemed to do a brisk business. Gambling on cards and the pool table was all a part of the activities up there for many years. It has been a private home for a long time now.

Many of the boys and girls from Honey Creek rode the passenger trains to High School in Burlington. The fare was \$.10 each way so it cost \$1.00 per week. The depot was a great place for the young people to watch the station agent as he worked the telegraph key, try the gum machine in the waiting room, and experience the sights and sounds of the railroad from benches in the waiting room. It became a part of the International Production Specialists when it was moved across the tracks by the DanDee Equipment Company some years ago.

Wendell E. Earle



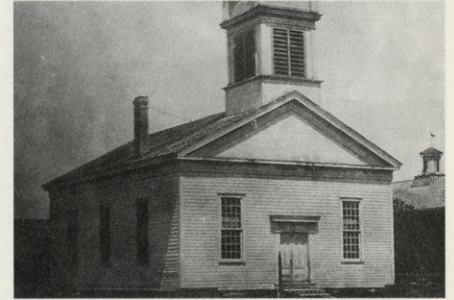
Our present church and hall were built in 1920 to replace the church and People's Hall that was destroyed by fire in 1920. Two wooden structures were our first church and hall in the early days. The church was moved to Rochester and turned into a house. The hall was torn down to make way for the People's Hall in about 1910.

The hall was always the center of social activities for our little town. School graduations, Christmas programs with huge Christmas trees being the high point of the year. Silent movies, basketball games, dinners, political rallies, basket socials, roller skating, annual flower shows by the Civic Club. Weekly dinners and suppers by the Ladies Aid were all a big part of Honey Creek for many years.

Reverend Mansfield was quite a playwright, so the hall was home to his many plays through the twenties. We still have a play troupe in Honey Creek and they put on two shows per year. Our hall and pavilion has been used for wedding receptions, anniversaries and birthday parties.

The Honey Creek Farmers Market uses the pavilion every Saturday morning during the summer. The Civic Club will be celebrating its 80th anniversary next year and the first week in October the community will be celebrating with its annual Turkey Dinner dating back to the early 1900's. The hall is still the hub of activity that is a big part of Honey Creek.

The first school in Honey Creek was built in 1838. Spencer Pittman the first teacher,



held school for only eight days. The next year the school year was a full three months under Mr. Coudry. It was a school from that time until its close in the 1960's. The little white school house was moved from the site to a lot about one half block away in 1860. That building is now owned by Kenny Goetsch. A two story stone building was erected in 1860 and replaced in 1915 by the present building. It is now the home of Marvin and Diane Wensel.

Henrietta Morton wrote a detailed history of the school in 1915 which was her Valedictorian speech to the people on her graduation day. She closed her talk that day with, "Today we launch, where will we anchor?"

Wendell E. Earle

**INTERNATIONAL
PRODUCTION SPECIALISTS**



OWNERS OF THE EARLE HOMESTEAD
 Racine County, Rochester Township
 Community of Honey Creek, Wisconsin

Calvin Earle, from Westford, VT	1836
Thaddeus Earle	1836-1899
John Earle	1899-1904
Grace Earle	1904-1932
Eugene Earle	1932-1968
Melinde Earle	1968-1985
Wendell Earle & Mildred Welke	1985-1997

Earle Homestead Farm of 172 acres divided in 1997 with 131 acres titled to Scott Welke, Arlington Heights, Illinois and Dale Welke, Burlington, Wisconsin.

Earle Homestead Farm buildings and 41 acres titled to Wendell Earle, Honey Creek, Wisconsin.

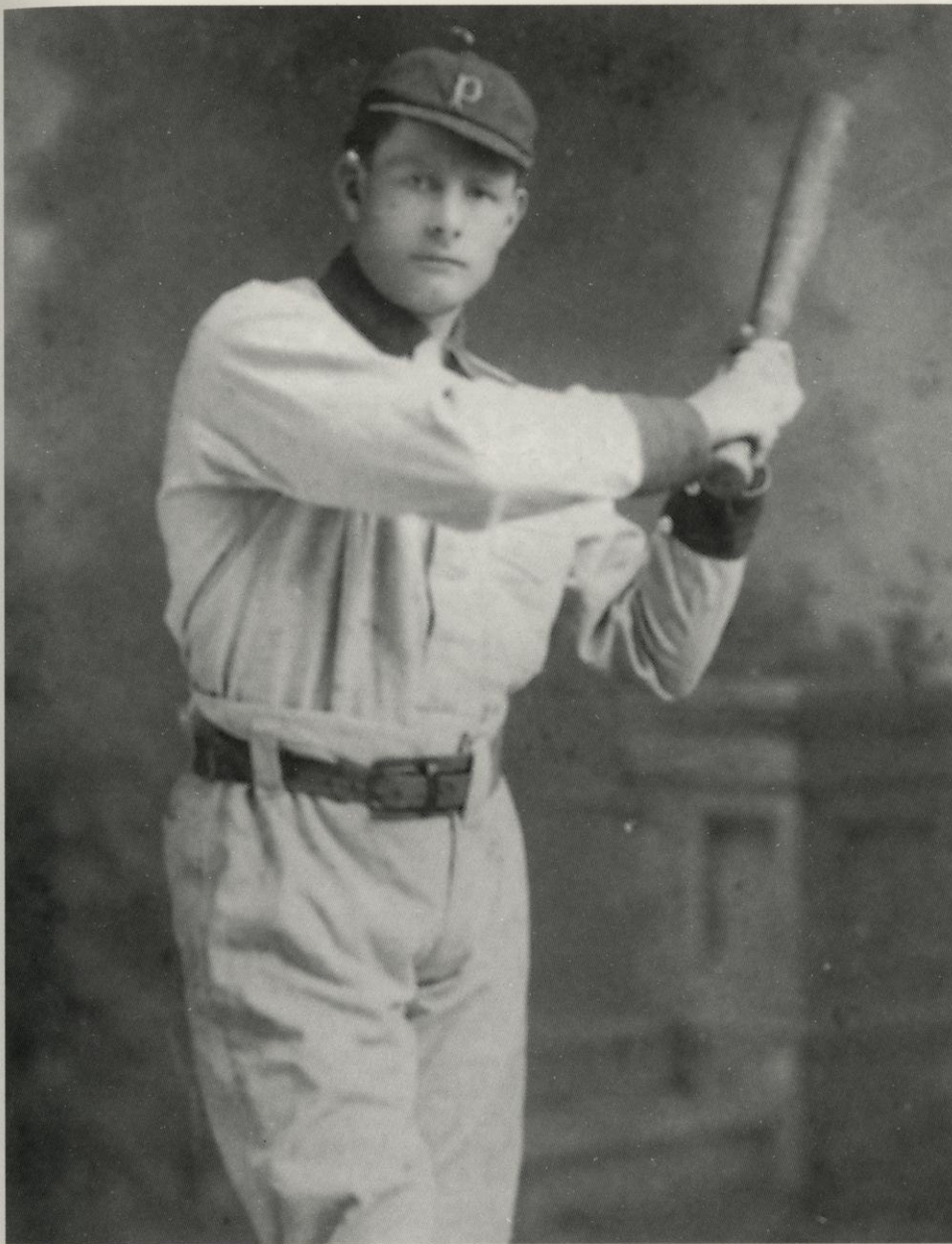
Calvin Earle and Thaddeus Earle came up from Illinois in the spring of 1836 and they had a land grant from the Federal Government signed by President Van Buren and stated that they should have 160 acres here in Honey Creek in the town of Rochester. Benjamin Hoyt had a land grant and owned 160 acres just north of the Earle Farm. The land grant was to Mr. Calvin Earle and he in turn sold the farm to his son after four years or so that they were in Honey Creek. The two of them cut down trees on the property and cleared the land. They used the logs to build a log cabin not far from where the present house stands. Shortly thereafter, Calvin returned to Illinois. Thad stayed on the farm and cleared the land and raised some wheat and had some sheep grazing on the hillsides. He also had a stone quarry on his property. Stone from the quarry was used to build a barn on the farm and also to build a schoolhouse next door to his house in Honey Creek. The log cabin was replaced by the



present house. It was built in 1852. In the next few years a granary, barn, sheep shed and tool shed were added to the list of farm buildings. Thaddeus was a farmer and respected citizen of Honey Creek for sixty-three years, leaving this world in 1899 at ninety years of age. John, Thad's son became the next owner of the farm. He was injured in a farm accident and was unable to walk, so the farm was rented out for a number of years. Eugene, John's son started farming in about 1911. He operated the farm from that time until his passing in 1968. The farm then became the property of Melinde, his widow.

Wendell was born in 1924 and helped his dad and mom on this farm all of his life. Upon Melinde's passing, Mildred Earle Welke and Wendell became the owners of this farm. Today, Scott and Dale Welke own one hundred-thirty acres of this farm. Wendell owns the homestead and forty-one acres of this farm.





Clarence Howeth Beaumont (Ginger)
July 25, 1876 - April 10, 1956, 80 Years Old

Beau is remembered mostly for his baseball exploits as he played for East Troy and was in many games in this area before going on to pro ball. He mentioned driving many miles with a horse and buggy to play Sunday afternoon games. He was the FIRST batter in the FIRST game of the FIRST world series played October 1, 1903 between the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Boston Pilgrims, later to be known as the Red Sox. He led the National League in 1902 with a .359 average and one of his achievements was six hits in six at bat, in one game. He told me that he drag-bunted the ball down the first base line and beat the throw to first base every time in all six at bat. During his career, he played with the Boston Braves, Pittsburgh Pirates and finished his baseball career with

the Chicago Cubs in 1910. His manager with the Pirates nicknamed him Ginger in reference to his rather leisurely stroll to his position in center field every inning.

After Beau's baseball days were over, he built a house in Honey Creek, now owned by Joe and Dorothy Zivkovich and married Norma Vaughn and raised three children, Marion, Charles and Janet. Beau also bought a farm west of Honey Creek and called it his Center Field Farm. The farm is now owned by the Krefts. Mr. Beaumont was an auctioneer and worked many farm auctions. He also liked to sing and was the choir director in our church for many years and leader in many song fests at PTA meetings and social events. Beau left us with many happy memories. He was truly a big leaguer in every way.

Wendell E. Earle

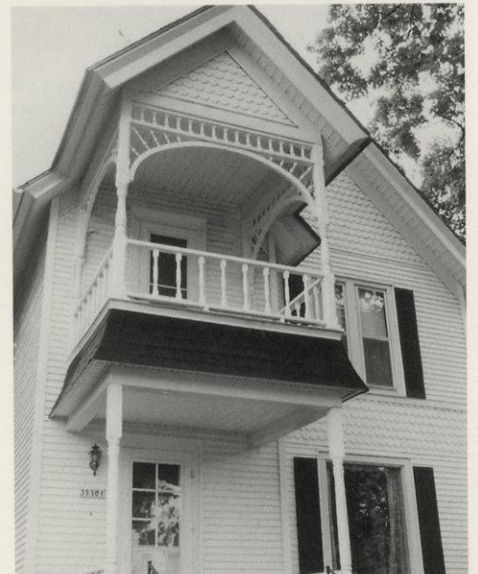




Mr. & Mrs. David Healy, son of Jedediah Healy, built this fine house in the 1890's and lived in it for many years. Upon their passing, Ellis and his sister Alma, children of David, spent their retirement here. Ellis had a John Deere dealership in Honey Creek for many years. Mr. & Mrs. Ray Earle owned the house for quite some time. Mr. & Mrs. Richard Linneman are its present owners.

Allen Martin and later on Andrew Everett owned this house. Mr. & Mrs. John Trost lived here during the Thirties and early Forties. Joe Micketts was the next owner during the Forties. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Nelson, Mr. & Mrs. Claude Dalton, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wood spent many happy years here from the Fifties on. Richard Woods and son David are its present owners.

Wendell E. Earle





Charles Schade built the house now owned by the Schwinn's around 1890. He was a very good carpenter. The stone work in the basement was done by Mr. Dave Drummond and son Robert, early stone masons in Honey Creek. The Schades spent many happy years there. Mr. Schade died in 1936, his wife in 1942. They had one son, Oliver, who followed the teaching profession. In settling the estate, Oliver sold the house to Elwin Himebauch for \$1,800. Elwin and Sadie lived in this house from 1943 until 1974. Elwin was a carpenter and built a neat little woodworking shop in his backyard. He kept bees and also had a great garden every year. Rhiny & Rita Scheunert, the next owners, sold the house to their son Fred. The Zusan's, the next owners, added a pool and huge deck. They also refinished

all the woodwork in the house to bring out all of its natural beauty. Richard, Shoe, Anna and Tucker Schwinn moved from Chicago to become its present owners a few years ago. Richard and Shoe own and operate Waterford Precision Cycles in Waterford, Wisconsin.

Mr. Gauthier, blacksmith and handyman, bought a small horse barn and moved it onto the corner lot two houses from the Schade house. He made a cozy little house out of it and spent his retirement there. Debbie Hargrave and Dennis Perman added a beautiful porch and landscaped lawn and pond to turn it into a spot of eye-catching beauty.

Wendell E. Earle



Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Wilmer came to Honey Creek from East Troy at the turn of the century. The couple had three girls and four boys, some were born in Washington and the younger ones in their home near Honey Creek. Carol and Susan were school teachers in Detroit, teaching hearing-impaired children. After returning from teaching, they were in the antique business for many years. Florence died at about ten years of age. Mark and Alex became lawyers, Mark in Arizona and Alex in Green Bay, WI. Walter was a lifetime farmer on the family farm. Bernard served in the army in Africa and Europe during World War II. After returning from the War, he helped Walter on the farm. All the Wilmers lived long and useful lives. Susan and Carol both living to be over one hundred years old.

Wendell E. Earle



Jedediah and Abigail Healy came to Wisconsin from Mansfield, Windham Co., Conn. in 1839 with six children, four sons and two daughters. They came by boat via the St. Lawrence Seaway and tried to land at Racine but the lake being too rough to attempt to reach the beach were obliged to go to Milwaukee. They bought eighty acres in Rochester township, added twenty acres of meadow and then added thirteen acres. The farm is located on the road which was formerly the old Indian trail from Weatherford to Delavan. According to 1892 biographical sketches, the farm has been known as one of the finest in the country, producing fine crops with domestic stock of cattle, hogs, sheep and horses and mules. Jedediah built a beautiful and solid stone house in 1858 that has been home to many families through the years. Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Hazelo lived there for many years. Gaye and Bob Bowers spent quite some time and money restoring this historical house. Michael J. May, a historic building restoration business, was awarded

the Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation Award for 1993 for this project. Colleen Garrigan and Steve Coster are the present owners.

David, one of Jedediah's sons, owned a farm on North Maple Road in the Town of Waterford. Morris, David's son, bought the farm from David. Lyman Healy, David's grandson bought the farm from his father Morris. Lyman and Myrtle Healy ran this neat well kept farm for many years. Myrtle Guth, Lyman's widow, is its present owner.

Wendell E. Earle



Perennial
Farm

Northwind



The former Pleasant View School, District No. 3, was in session from 1866 to 1963. Another of the area's fine stone buildings, it was built by William Plucker; stone was quarried on the Ela farm.

One special person, Ben Schade was a graduate of Pleasant View and later served on the school board for many years. He lived just west of the school and on August 13, 1954, Ben noticed a fire at the school. Records and registers dating back to 1862 were in danger of being destroyed. Ben put out the fire and salvaged as much as he could; those records and registers are now in the Parkside archives.

In 1963, it was converted into a residence, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. William Brausch.

Gary Schrader

Rochester Cemetery is a peaceful place any time of the year, but aflame with fall maples is a balm to eye and spirit.

Names found in the cemetery attest to the English ancestry of the early settlers: Belden, Hoyt, Atkinson, Russell, Caty, Healy, Hulburd, Adams, Palmer, Frost.

Rochester's long tradition of Memorial Day started in the cemetery in 1867, when J.D. Wright decorated the cemetery with flowers to honor his brother Joseph and other casualties of the Civil War. Fourteen soldiers of the Civil War from Rochester are honored every year, along with all veterans from all the other wars we have been involved in. Three from the War of 1812, one from the Battle of Waterloo and one who witnessed the Charge of the Light Brigade.

Eileen Albright



Racine County School of Agriculture and Domestic Economy opened in November of 1912. It closed as Ag School in 1957 with forty-five dedicated years of service to the students and people of Racine County.

It had facilities for all sorts of agricultural training, such as milk testing and judging cattle, sheep, poultry, horses and swine. Shop classes including carpentry, mechanical drawing and iron work in the forge room. Work with beekeeping and orchard work including pruning and setting out fruit trees was Mr. Klumb's specialty. Mr. Dittbrenner was the ag teacher and football coach for many years. Valdemer Beers taught woodworking and was the basketball and baseball coach from 1912 to 1947.

The school had great classes in typing, shorthand and bookkeeping along with its very fine home economics department. This enabled the young ladies of Ag School

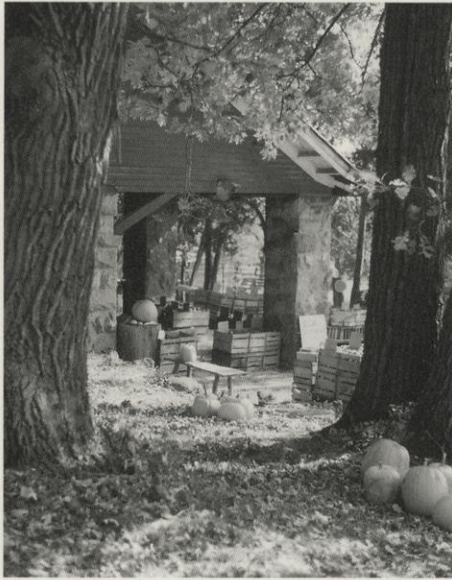
to use their new found skills in the business world almost as soon as they graduated. Miss Orlicky was one of their teachers. Miss Laughton was one of the Ag Schools very fine English and History teachers. Ag School also had a band, one of its directors was John Meyer, a man who could play three or four band instruments. Mr. Polley was Superintendent serving longer than anyone else in that capacity.

Some of the "Aggies" coming from afar stayed at the dormitory. It was built in 1918 by Burlington building contractor, Olaf Hoganson. The dorm served the students and the school from that time until the school closed in 1957.

All of Ag Schools many students are forever thankful and grateful for these dedicated people that helped us over life's sometimes bumpy trail.

Wendell E. Earle





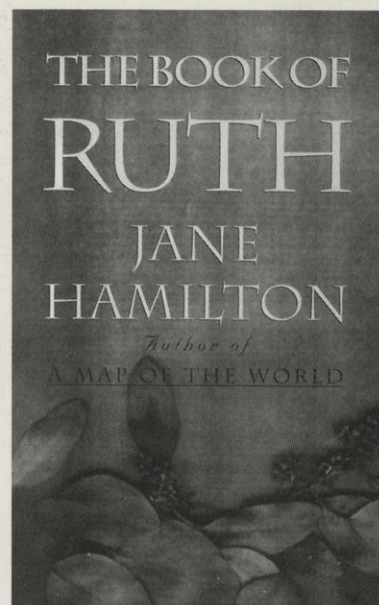
Benjamin Ela Gallup was an early lawyer and real estate dealer in Chicago after 1853. After his death in 1896, his widow, Delia Hulburd Gallup, returned to spend summers in Rochester, her childhood home, and built a country home where her children and grandchildren could visit.

The barn is understood to have been built first, with a semi-finished upstairs where workmen lived while they built the house. It included stalls and stanchions for a few horses and cows. The present apple salesroom served as a garage which housed Mrs. Gallup's rubber-tired Studebaker surrey and a Rausch and Lang electric car.

A water tank on the windmill supplied water pressure and a thirty volt electrical system with batteries and a gasoline engine provided power before it was locally available.

When she died in 1921, the estate was sold to her husband's cousin, George Ela. His family expanded the original orchard with newer apple varieties. Today, some thirty varieties of apples and five varieties of pears are sold commercially during the autumn and winter season.

Edwin Ela



In this powerful, incandescent novel, Jane Hamilton has worked a small miracle: she has given voice to a young woman you have passed on the street a thousand times. Perhaps you have never noticed her, but the next time you see her, you will know who she is. Passionate in her commitment to life, Ruth is a stunning testament to the human capacity for mercy, compassion and love. *THE BOOK OF RUTH* is a magnificent debut.



Built by Abial Whitman in 1847, this home has been better known as the Belden House. Whitman never lived in the house. He was one of several from Rochester lured to the California gold fields. He made a fortune in the grocery business, but died on the return trip home. His widow, Aurilia Farr Whitman Brown, willed the house to her 10 year old step-grandson, later Judge Ellsworth Burnett Belden, in 1876.

Though the interior later was remodeled it still boasts hand hewn laths and wooden pegs. Present owner is Mrs. Robert Belden.

It is thought this house is about 145 years old. Believed to be the home of Dr. George F. Newell, Sr., who had a practice in Rochester during an unnamed epidemic in 1862, which claimed many lives. Now owned by Ken Wienke, also the former proprietor of the filling station next door.

Down the hill is a red brick house tagged as a Cady house. Henry Cady operated a drug store and confectionary and was Postmaster for many years.

Grey and Marge Abendroth, present owners in doing research found the house is made of St. Louis brick, brought all the way from the Mississippi. Many houses along the Mississippi are made of this brick.

The boyhood home of Clarence "Ginger" Beaumont. He put Rochester in the news when he made the Wisconsin Hall of Fame as a baseball player. He hit .357 in 1902 for the Pittsburgh Pirates to lead the National League. Present owners are the James Radewans.

Eileen Albright

**SPONSORED BY
ROCHESTER HISTORIC
PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**



The two story red brick and fieldstone part of this dwelling was built in 1850. It has a living room, small kitchen and pantry on the ground floor, with two bedrooms under the rafters. A frame kitchen was added in 1868, later a bedroom was added on the rear.

August and Regina Albrecht purchased the property in 1874. He built and operated a wagon factory around the corner. Grandchildren knew he came home for lunch everyday about 10 am and were on hand to maybe get a piece of kuchen or gooseberry pie, or a bit of blood sausage.

This graceful pink brick building with wood pillars is the original exterior of the house. The earliest information on this house is a Land Patent dated December 10, 1840 by Martin Cole Whitman.

In the early part of the century, Mrs. Eliza Davis kept her very spirited horse in the accompanying barn. She literally waged war with her horse and buggy for she loathed the "devil wagons" as she called the new fangled motor cars. But her young neighbors of the time remember her treat of sour cream cookies: 3 cups sugar, 1 cup butter, 1 tsp. baking powder (in flour), 1/2 tsp. vanilla, 3 eggs, 2 cups sour cream, 1/2 tsp. lemon. Add as much flour as can be stirred with a spoon. Roll out, cut and bake in a quick oven.

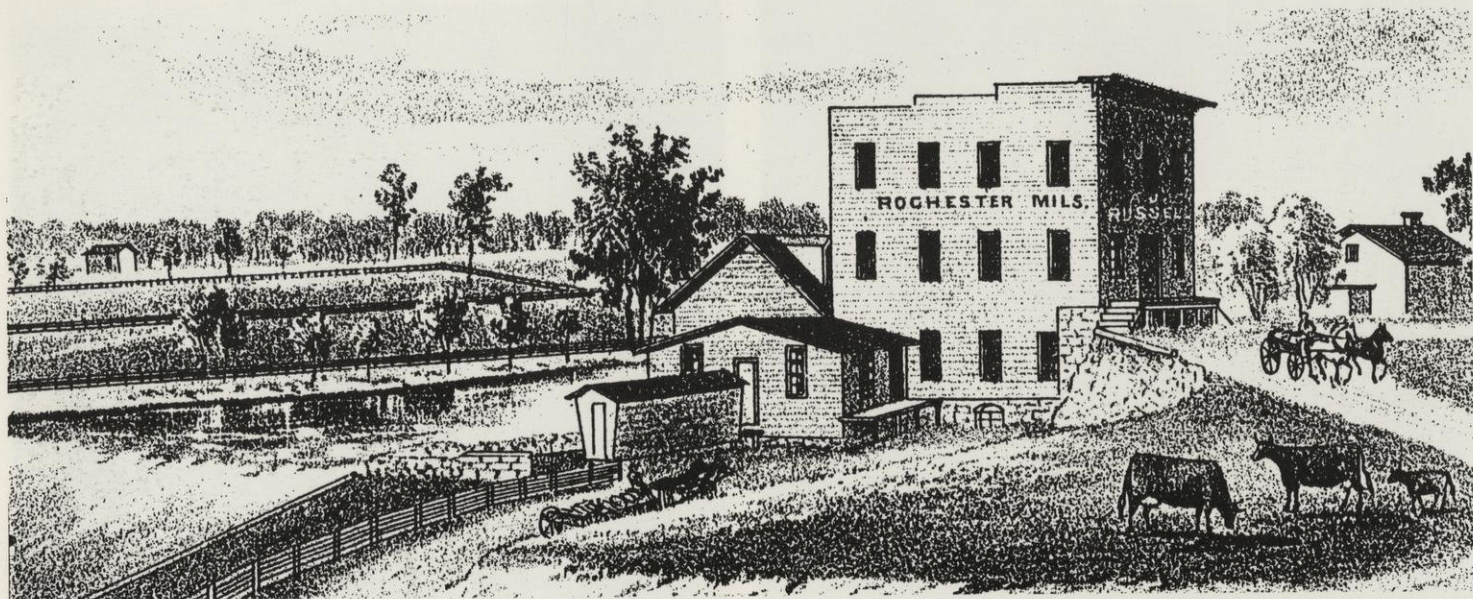
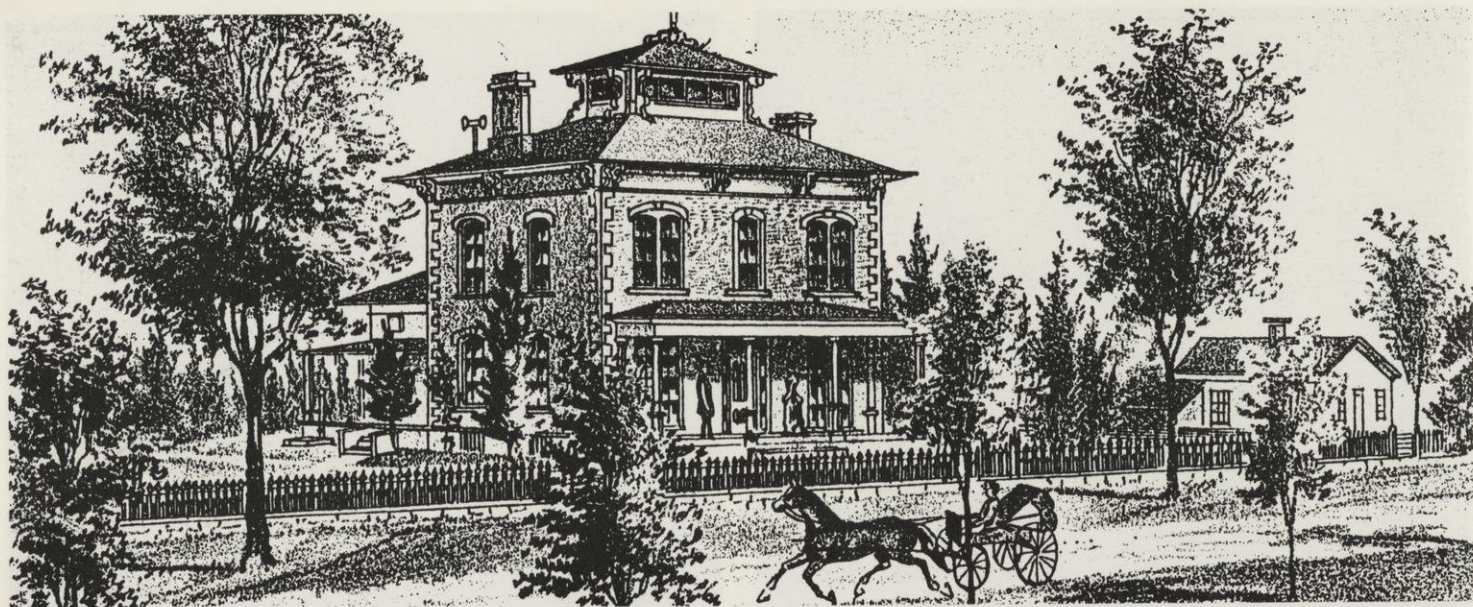


Another of Rochester's graceful brick houses is next door. The house was built c. 1845, later bought by John Wood, a blacksmith from England. It has remained in the Wood family until 1974. Wooden additions were added in 1860 and 1896. It is thought that an upstairs room was used as an early school. It was purchased by the Philip Clarks in 1974.

Labeled Greek Revival style, the red brick house was built in 1848 by Joseph Jackson and is one of the many Jackson houses found in the village. It has three interior walls made of stone. Joseph is listed as a boot and shoe dealer, and this was the first house in Rochester to be wired for electricity.

Eileen Albright

**SPONSORED BY
ROCHESTER HISTORIC
PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**



Many stone buildings scattered in the western end of Racine County are considered unique. The Russell house in Rochester is considered one of the finest rural, Italianate villa homes in southeastern Wisconsin.

Andrew J. Russell, proprietor of the mill across the street, built the house in 1867, taking four years to complete. Stone was hauled from Lannon, Wisconsin by ox cart. Mr. Russell carved his own woodwork which is still beautiful today.

Though some remodeling has been done, a frame wing and garage attached to the rear, the original beauty is still there.

It is said that on a clear day one can see five counties from the widow's walk or cupola on top. Present day owners are Elaine and Rolland Draves.

Several mills have been erected on the site of the Russell mill. It seems mills are prone to catch on fire. The first grist mill here on the west bank of the Fox River was built by Philo Belden, J. Ford, and T. Green. Other names connected with the various mills were Hogeland, Hurbut, Scott, Jones, Titus, Merrill, and Rose.

Andrew Russell built his mill in 1884 and it lasted to within present memory. The last owner was Henry Davis, who ran it for the longest period of time, 1939-1976. He sold it to Ray Kempken who had it razed in 1977.

Others before the settlers found this a favorite spot. For many years a huge oak tree called the Indian Council Tree stood just south of the mill.

Eileen Albright



Richard Emerson Ela started out from Lebanon, NH and after a variety of jobs and places, he landed in Rochester. In the spring of 1839, he built a 1-1/2 story house on the east side of the Fox River. He began making fanning mills in his basement and soon had a factory across the river. His house was eventually enlarged to twelve first and second floor rooms, four basement rooms and three attics. This space was needed for ten children, hired help, and visitors. Many were businessmen who bought his machines or were involved in his branch shops. Ela did much to help make this area an agricultural center.

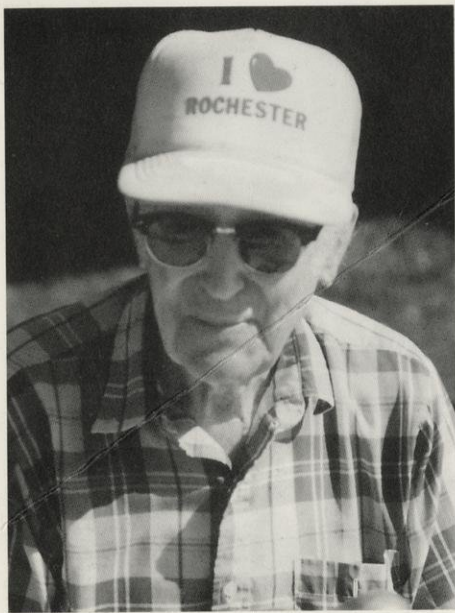
The large factory Ela built on the west side of the river, beside the fanning mills, produced plows, milk safes, carriages and wagons. By 1842 he was making 100 mills a

year plus all the other implements. Due to Ela, Rochester became the agricultural heart of the farm implement industry in Wisconsin. He was awarded silver and bronze medals by the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society in 1852 and 1853 for the best exhibit of agricultural implements manufactured in Wisconsin.

He closed his business in 1871. A cheese factory and a button factory used the site at one time. Eventually the area became Pioneer Park, a memorial to Ela by his descendants and given to the Village of Rochester.

The park is used for Memorial Day celebrations and most recently for the Sesquicentennial Water Carnival.

Edwin Ela



Main Street has an interlocked history. Heartfelt Inspirations, the craft and antique store gives hands-on classes in glass art and quilting. At one time, the building was known as the Frank Edwards Store. One of the proprietors is the great-granddaughter of Frank. Before that it was a furniture and harness shop where the proprietor lent out books. Nestled next to it was a little ice cream shop where the old red filling station is today. The shop was moved to the middle of the block where it became the Public Library from 1923-1995.

Today, the charming boutique and coffee shop, Finders Keepers, has given a new lease to the little old ice cream shop.

Finders Keepers

Heartfelt Inspirations



This Greek revival, two story building was built by Peter Campbell in 1843, on the site of Godfrey's frame hotel. The rear stone portion was added later and contains a ballroom with a spring floor.

Known variously as Union House, Big John's, Smitty's, Village Inn and now Chances with owners Thomas and Debra Schuerman. It has been hotel, tavern, inn and restaurant and thought to be the oldest continuous-use commercial building in the state. Up until the 1970's, the ballroom was a popular place for dances, especially wedding

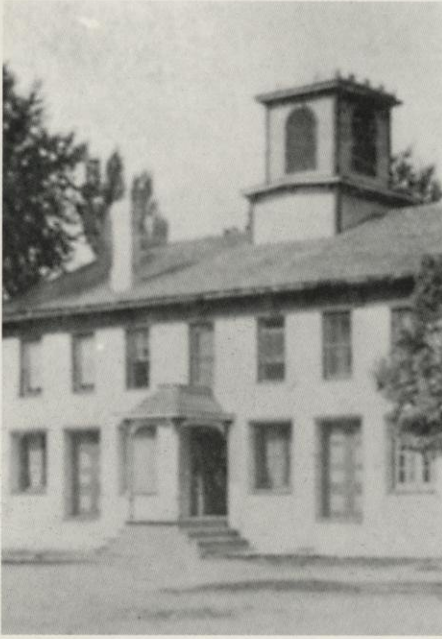
dances. Stringent building codes forced closure of the ballroom.

During the heyday of the plank road--1848-1857, when Rochester was the third largest settlement in the territory--Union House was a most popular stop on the Racine to Janesville road, when 100 wagons and teams were said to go through in a day. History of the building also says it was a safe house for escaping slaves on the way to Canada.

Eileen Albright



State Financial Bank
Where small business grows.



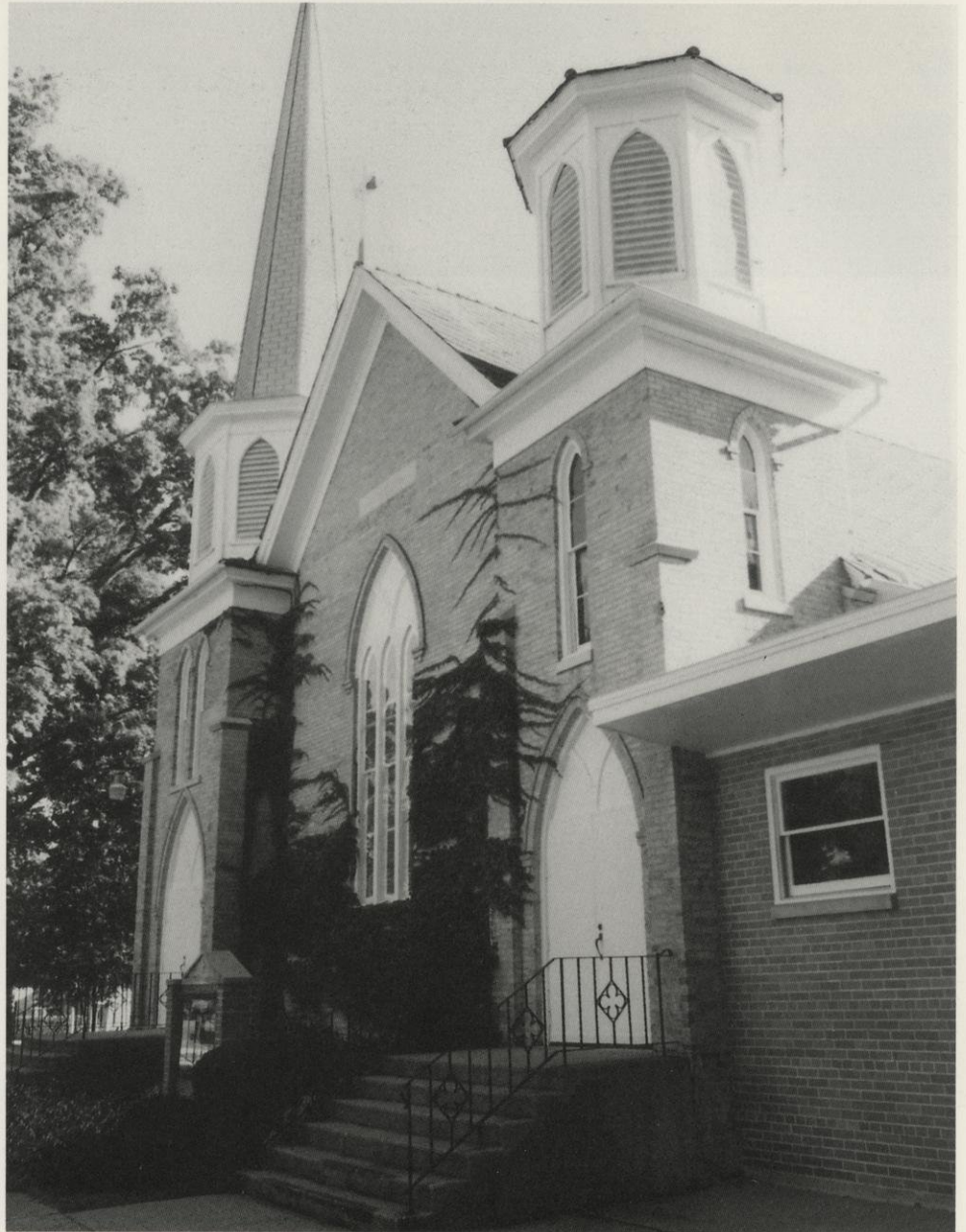
ROCHESTER ACADEMY

A SCHOOL FOR

BOYS AND GIRLS.

ROCHESTER, WIS.

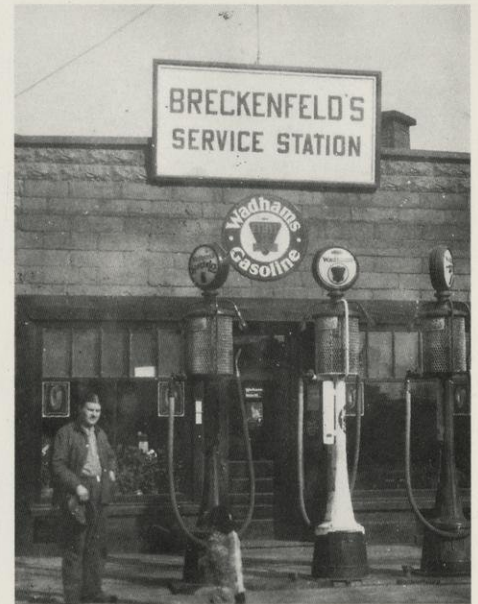
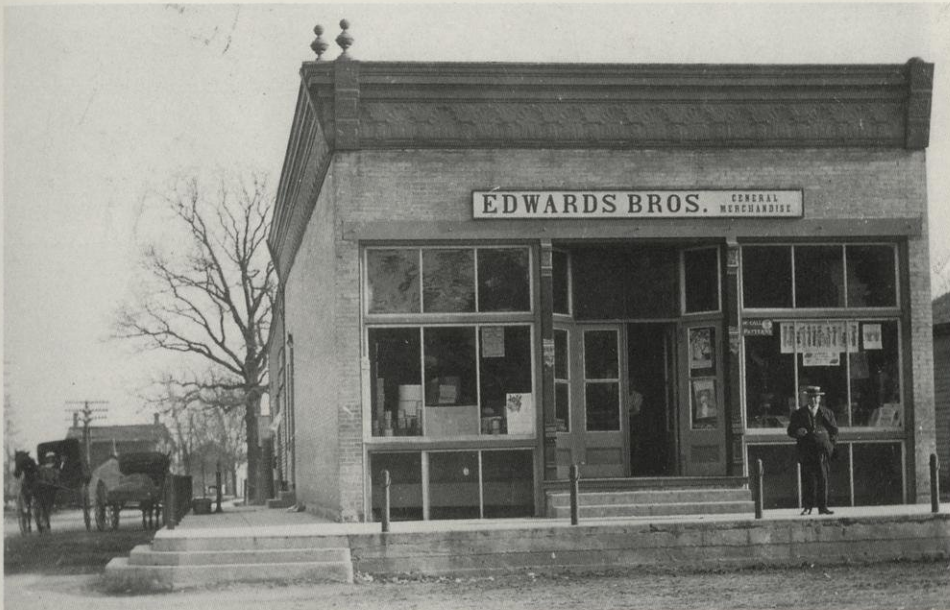
TENTH YEAR
1903.



The Rochester Congregationalists formed around 1840. The present church was built by the Universalists between 1868 and 1870 and called Grace Church. The Congregationalists bought the building in 1901. In 1940 there was extensive remodeling. A new Hammond organ was installed, as well as a new kitchen and a large community room. While not specifically named Community Church, Mary Ela in her *A Multitude of Witnesses* says, "while never specifically named Community Church, it has functioned as such since its earliest days."

The only thing left of the Rochester Academy is a set of steps lovingly tended by Pete Laughran. The Congregational Church was the final owner of the building under the auspices of Beloit College, which took it over as a preparatory school. It acquired the name Rochester Academy by which name the building was thereafter always known. The school lasted until 1910. Originally built as a third hotel for Rochester's heyday, it was never used as such, but a series of schools were held here, which pointed up Rochester's educational emphasis.

Eileen Albright



The first use of the building now known as Community Bank was the Edwards Bros. Mercantile Store. Will and Frank Edwards ran it together; later Will had other partners such as Paulson and Atherton. Atherton later bought out Will. Frank moved into the Edwards house on Front Street and started the filling station on the N.W. corner. The Winklers next owned the store with an IGA Grocery. It also continued as the post office.

The building was then used as an auto body repair shop until the State Bank of Union Grove, now Community State Bank, purchased the property in 1982.

It was renovated into a turn of the century yet state-of-the-art banking facility. The exterior was kept to fit in with the character of the Village of Rochester. Antique furniture used throughout the bank keeps the 1900's motif. A cast iron check writing table dating back to the 1800's

came from another old bank and an 1880 Seth Thomas master cylinder wall clock adds to the atmosphere.

Kitty-corner from the bank was Breckenfeld's Service Station. Pete Breckenfeld organized the Rochester Fire Company and was the first fire chief. The station was the first firehouse.

Eileen Albright



In 1926, two farm boys, business administration students from Marquette University, started a forty-year partnership. Bauer Mohr from Spring Prairie and Herman Bock from Columbus started in business by buying a stuffed octopus from a carnival shill and went on the road with their show. This side show venture was so successful that within a year they decided to start a new venture. On a whim they bought a few pair of wild northern Minnesota mink caught by an Indian. They learned feeding and breeding of mink and that decision blossomed into the Bock and Mohr Fur Farms at Rochester.

Originally located at the Mohr farm in Spring Prairie Township, they leased the George Ela farm north of Rochester with 2500 pens. Needing more land, the Rowe farm, east of the village, was purchased with room for several hundred additional pens.

The farms became the world's largest commercial mink producers with a \$120,000 annual business.

Through experimentation, the farms created the famous silverblue or platinum mink.

The former mink farm on Highway D is now a working farm owned by Joe and Lone Kojis.

Eileen Albright



Beldens Hill, the original home of Philo Belden, was often a scene of excitement. From the hill where the vista was long, a horn was blown to alert people that mail was coming in, first by horseback and then by coach-and-four that splashed over the ford.

Belden settled here in 1833 and was a potent force in early Rochester. He built the first sawmill on the Muskequoak (Muskego) River and later helped establish the grist mill on the Fox. He was a State Senator and later County Judge of Racine County.

Today's owner is equally prestigious -- Ernst Gramatzki. Ernst is a world renowned artist, sculptor, potter, painter and poet. Some of his work is in the Smithsonian Institute in D.C. as well as in art galleries in both the U.S. and Europe. At present, he is working on a sculpture of the world, commissioned by the Historic Hoyt House, to be put in Burlington's permanent riverfront garden.



Charles Moe was one of the early settlers in Waterford. He came here in September of 1848. He and Nelson Palmer operated a flour mill at the east end of the mill dam. After that, the two men started a dry goods store east of the bridge, on the north side of Main Street. After a few years, Mr. Moe put up a store building on a site where the laundromat now stands. Charles Moe built the brick house for his family of seven children. They lived there until 1905. When he passed on, his widow and children moved to California.

Mr. and Mrs. Gunner Knutson bought the home at that time. Gunner died in 1932, his

wife Emma in 1945. Gunner was a veteran of the Civil War, so the Waterford Legion took part in the funeral service at the Norway Church and Cemetery. All of them were dressed in their World War I uniforms, proud, nice looking men in their 30's. They gave Granddad a soldier's farewell.

The house was rented out for a few years, then sold to Keller Brothers. After they spent their retirement here, the house had a number of owners. It has been well kept all through the years and will be a beautiful Waterford landmark for years to come.

Wendell E. Earle



**MEALY-KOENIG
FUNERAL HOME**



Sandy and Dan Collins purchased the home built at the turn of the century and developed the River View Inn in Waterford as a bed and breakfast in 1993. Sandy is now an innkeeper. The River Room and the southeast sun porch overlook the Fox River and Community Park. The Bird's Nest Room has vaulted ceiling and uniquely furnished with antiques and Victorian touches. Sandy has hosted people from Germany, Austria, California and closer to home in the Midwest. Tourists are discovering the Midwest as a pleasant country experience and enjoy Waterford's quaintness, Uncle Harry's ice cream, biking Rustic Roads, its

many interesting restaurants and the feeling of this All-American small town. Sandy, many times dressed in period costume, is a great hostess with her four-course breakfast, fresh flowers, lightly starched and pressed linens and other amenities.

The builder of the home trademarked his work with exterior building detail common for late-Victorian houses across the country. The decorative woodwork was especially popular for Queen Anne-inspired houses. Notice this detailing on 113 S. Jefferson, 124 S. River, 301 E. Main and 202 W. Racine in Waterford.



Aptly named, Heavenly Haven Antique Mall and Divine Shops bought the former Waterford Methodist Church. The main antique mall occupies the upstairs level with the Divine Shops downstairs: The Book Cellar, dealing in new and used and traded books; Sweet Dreams, with a variety of candies, novelties and coffees, and Angel's Gallery Craft Mall, with new and used finds of all kinds. All four stores opened in the Spring of 1995, the same year the Methodist congregation moved into its new church.

A Methodist church group formed in Waterford in 1847 and the church was built in 1873. After the English and German Methodists combined, the church was renovated, enlarged, and re-dedicated in 1923 as the Community United Methodist Church of Waterford.

Realizing the old church was outgrown, a new church was built and the old one sold. Easter Sunday, 1995, the new sanctuary was used for the first time.

Eileen Albright

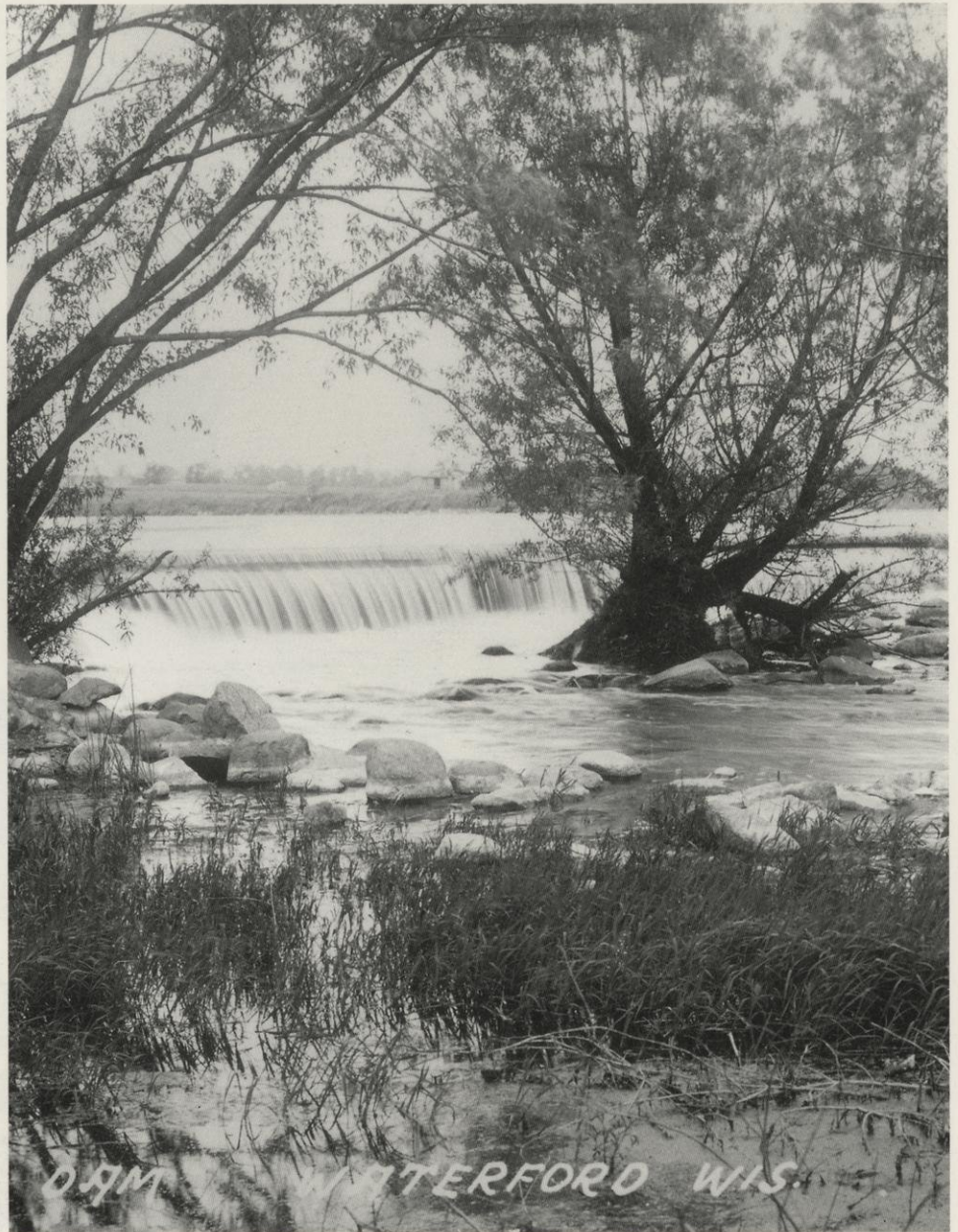


When Equitable Bank SSB purchased its Waterford property at 212 W. Main Street in 1982, all necessary remodeling had already been done to make it an effective bank building, yet the antique character of the building was well preserved. Old plaster and lathe walls had been repaired, and interior woodwork, including all doors, the staircase, decorative window casings and the fireplace mantel remained. The only major change had been the relocation of the front door to the center of the building. Built before 1857 in Italianate style, the building appeared essentially the same then as it does now, two and a half stories with single-story flanking wings. The walls, approximately two feet thick, were constructed of concrete block coated with stucco. Elaborate decorative ironwork adorned the porches on the wings in the early years, and shutters framed the windows.

The property has had a long history and many owners. The land was purchased from the government in 1839 by Eliphalet Cramer, who sold it to Levi Barnes and Samuel E. Chapman the same year. The house appears well established in an 1857 wedding photo, when it was owned by Waterford storekeeper, Frederick Weage. In 1880, at the time the above lithograph was made, it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Carsten Clausen and Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Mollzen. From 1895 to 1915, it was owned by Dr. Thomas Moyle, a veterinarian who performed large animal surgery in his barn on the property. Interestingly, that part of the property has been a veterinarian's office, again, for the past several decades. The last owners to live in the building were Mark and Carol Dull, who sold it in 1971.

Liz Noble

THE EQUITABLE BANK SSB



Waterford Dam

In 1837, the first dam was built across the Fox. A saw mill soon followed and in 1838 Chapman and Barnes built the first grist mill.

There were five mill sites shown on an 1845 map, along the west bank of the river. From the dam the water went through the mill race and each mill got a certain amount of water. Each mill had to take a turn and close down if there was not enough water for all of them.

The present Waterford Public Library and village offices now occupy the site of the original mill.

Across the street the former jail can be pointed out. The jail is gone, but one can find the heater from it stored away in the basement of the house across the street.

History of Waterford



St. Thomas Aquinas

English, Irish and German Catholics began settling in and around Waterford in 1837. A small church was built, but by 1850 it was outgrown and families labored to build a new one. This was completed in 1851. It is listed as being one of the finest scenic stone buildings in the western end of Racine County.

A school was built in 1852 and can still be seen on the grounds, used today for storage. The next school, built directly behind the church was completed in 1941 with a new addition in 1959.

In 1980, the Uhen Center was dedicated, to be used as a gymnasium for physical education classes, sports events and for recreational and social programs, as well as an additional church when needed. Once staffed by School Sisters of St. Francis, it now has entirely lay personnel.

Under deeply spiritual leadership, the laity from the very young to the very old are involved, not only in the church, but with the wider community as well. Very Reverend Dennis VanBeek is Pastor; Carl Mahnke is Deacon.

Eileen Albright



The band shell is located on the Fox River bank and South 1st Street. Donated by ten businessmen who held dances to fund this project of a shell for the enjoyment of music, the "Ten Club" Park has been a Waterford centerpiece since 1920.

Entertainment of bands, musical instrumental programs, and tap dancing performances were free, as the people sat on their blankets or in cars parked, at an angle on 1st Street.

Santa always found his way to "The Ten Club" park.

Lois Lewis





STEAM BOAT



EXCURSION!

THE STEAMER DAN THOMPSON,
Will leave the Warf in Waterford, for an Excursion

To Lake Tishigan and Return,

On Monday, the 4th of May, 1868,

at 10 A. M. and 3 P. M., two Trips, accompanied by the full

BRASS BAND OF WATERFORD.

Tickets for the Trip, - - - 50 Cents.

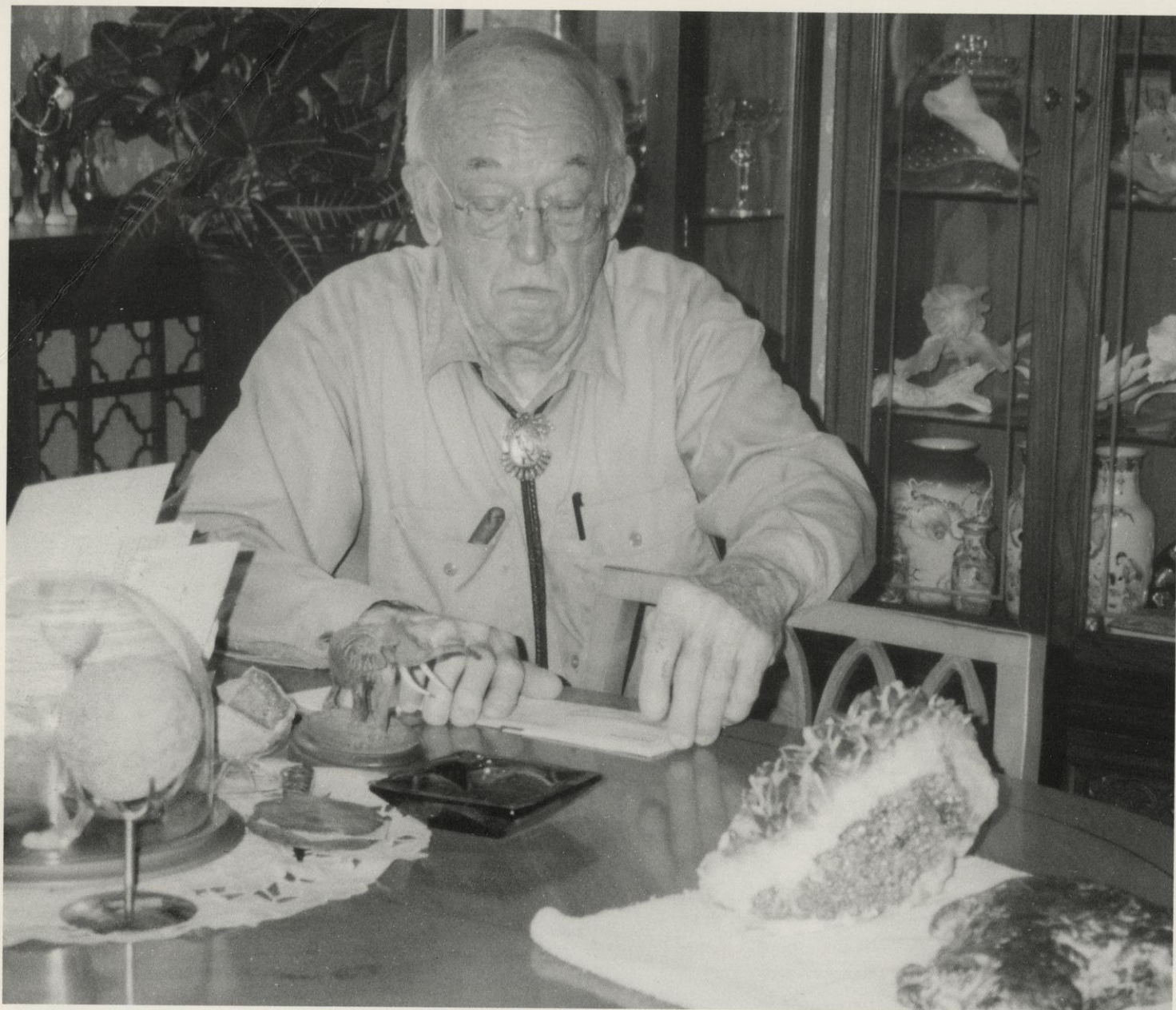
The proceeds to pay indebtedness for Brass Instruments.
Tickets may be procured at the Post Office in Waterford, and from
any member of the Band.

Waterford Ice House

The Ice House was located on the shores of the Fox River. Frozen river water was sawed and then stored in the icehouse, chunks of ice separated by saw dust and later sold to people who had ice boxes, and needed to cool their food. This historically significant stone icehouse was abandoned and razed.

"Nothing on earth
Is more gentle and yielding than water,
Yet nothing is stronger.
When it confronts a wall of stone,
Gentleness overcomes hardness:
The power of water prevails."

**SOUTHEAST
TELEPHONE**



Noll Buildings

Ten Club Park in Waterford was once the site of one of Waterford's grandest buildings, a general store and grocery owned by Louis Noll. His brother, Charles, owned the furniture store and undertaking parlor across the street. An equally grand building, one floor was living quarters, and it seems they even had dances on another.

As related today, it seems the fire of 1898 which destroyed most of downtown Waterford was started on a weekend by a mistake like Mrs. O'Leary's cow. Someone decided to go to the basement to have a cigar. Somehow, a spark dropped onto flammable material and in a matter of moments a blaze was started. A strong west wind spread the flames quickly, even across the streets; the furniture store caught fire and with it the entire block, including the hotel, and then to buildings across Main

Street. Only a few buildings made of brick escaped total destruction.

Though the Nolls lost everything, new buildings soon went up. The Park Apartments took the place of the furniture store, and Ten Club Park was the site of the general grocery store.

Louis Noll was an unofficial banker, giving real estate and other loans, but he lacked a state charter. After the fire, the state insisted he get a charter. The Louis Noll Company was formed and a new general store was built on 2nd Street, with a bank on the north end of the building.

The mercantile business in 1907 consisted of dry goods, notions, crockery, men's furnishings, hardware, paints, shoes and groceries.

as told by Charles Noll



Fox River Hotel - Waterford

Ole Nelson, his wife and four daughters, ran a successful hotel for twenty-six years. The wood frame hotel was destroyed in the disastrous Waterford Fire of 1889. It was rebuilt with three layers of brick, steam heat and up-to-date conveniences, and was considered one of the finest hotels in Wisconsin.

Joe Wieners and Emma Nelson worked in the hotel for her uncle. After their marriage they bought the hotel in 1906. They had two children, Russell and Helen.

Helen remembers today that they always had good help and faithful workers. Helen

was born in the hotel and remembers it as an exciting place, with summer guests from Chicago and chicken dinners every Sunday along with home-made ice cream.

Helen remembers vividly the jubilation after the armistice of WWI. A huge bonfire was set in Ten Club Park where they burned a very large picture of The Kaiser.

The Wieners sold the hotel in 1921 to Floyd Plucker and C. Madden. A variety of businesses used the old building. Today, Granny's Restaurant is the newest piece in the on-going history of the Fox River Hotel.

as told by Helen Walle



Stone-Front Farm got its start in 1903, when Elam Buttles and his wife Daisy bought the farm at the time of their marriage. The farm has long been a home for Registered Holstein cattle; the Stone-Front name and prefix was derived from the fieldstone exterior of the oldest part of the house, and from the stones at the front of the lawn.

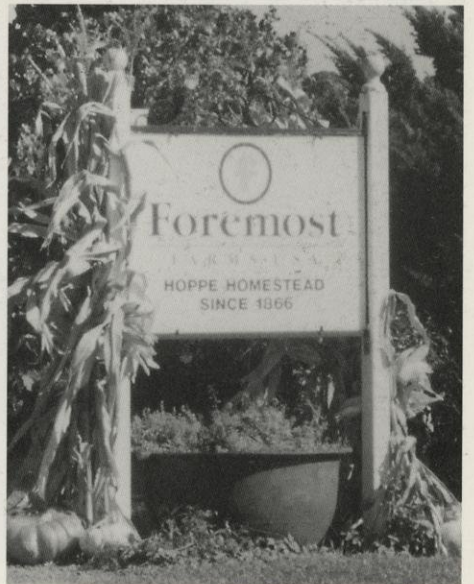
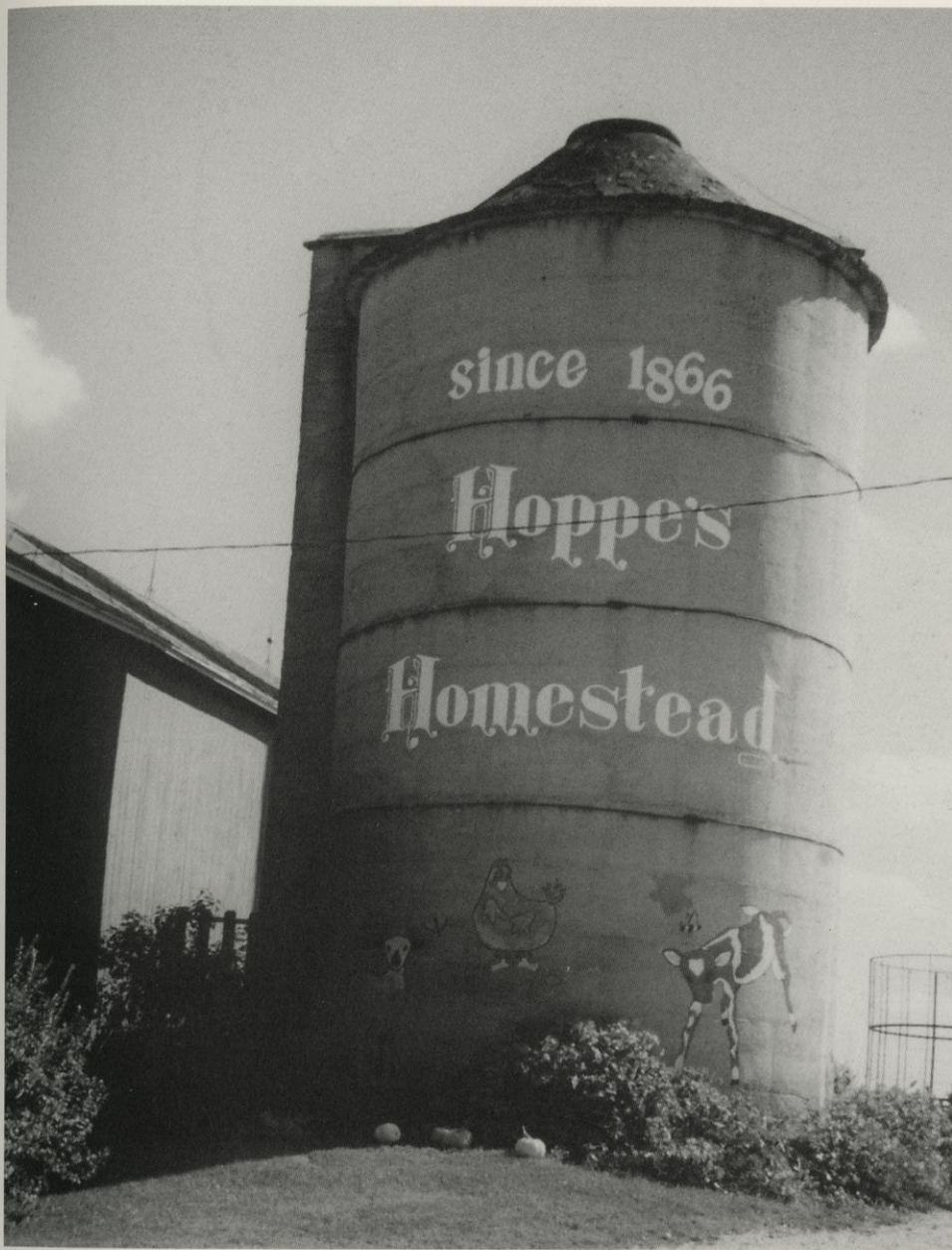
Lee and Lucile Buttles continued developing the Registered Holstein herd, and also maintained a large flock of laying hens for an egg route and on-farm egg customers.

The Buttles family has shown their cattle at county and state fairs and at the district and state Holstein shows. They encouraged others by hosting twilight meetings, judging practices, and fitting workshops. Often, calves and heifers are loaned to area youth to be their 4-H or FFA projects.

Breeding stock has been sold locally and has also been exported to Germany, France, Africa, Venezuela, Iran, Mexico and Japan. One cow, "Stone-Front Prestige Angie," was a 3-time All-American for her new owner.

Elam and Barbara Buttles expanded the farm into "cash crops" and added more acres to the farm unit, raising hay, corn and winter wheat. A grain-drying system was also erected. Conservation practices were also expanded, including the construction of terraces on hillsides, development of grass waterways, and establishment of wildlife habitat and marshes. The dairy herd has recently been moved to the more rural setting of Grant County. Andy Buttles is now managing and expanding the herd.

Elam and Barbara Buttles



In 1983, Hoppe Homestead Farm was honored as a century farm, as being a continuously working farm since 1866.

It's more than just a working farm. Visitors, especially children, are invited to visit the family dairy farm and experience first hand what a farm is all about. It's a popular place for field trips where kids from the city can try their hand at milking or feeding small animals. Pony rides are popular and so is a horse drawn hayride or in snowtime, a sleighride.

During October the youngsters can choose a pumpkin out of the pumpkin patch and take it home with them.

Reservations can be made for parties complete with hayrides, a heated party barn and a campfire.

Sunday morning breakfasts are a taste treat in the family style dining room where one finds many repeaters.

Eileen Albright



The German name of Heimbach changed somewhat through the years to what is now Himebauch, and Towns of both spellings can be found near the Rhine in Germany today.

Philip Himebauch, a native of Columbia County, Pennsylvania, born in 1793, married Eva Gigar. With their family of eleven, they moved to New York, where he died in 1833 at the age of forty-five. When public land for homesteading became available in Wisconsin, around 1843, the widow Eva traveled in a covered wagon to their destination in the Waterford Township, Racine County. There, she raised her family and lived to be ninety-six years and died in 1889.

This family of eleven was to become the first generation of the Himebauch family that made Waterford Township their home.

Benjamin, the fourth in the family, came to Wisconsin in 1843 with fifty cents in his pocket. With hard work and thrift, he became the owner of seven hundred acres of fine farmland. His marriage in 1841 to Mary Ann Leshner took place in New York. Their voyage from New York to

Wisconsin took them through the Great Lakes to Racine. The trip time totaled six weeks. Their marriage produced seventeen children. Each child received land and money equal to \$2,200, a great deal of wealth at the time.

Delbert, the second son of Enos bought the homestead. At one time eight farms within four miles were owned by the Himebauchs in Waterford and East Troy Townships. Delbert married Martha Walbrek in 1905. He died at eighty-six, leaving six boys and two girls. The youngest of the boys, Arnold, purchased his mother's half of the farm in 1947. Later he bought his father's half. He then bought his Uncle Vern's farm which joins their homestead. On August 2, 1961, the barn burned to the ground. They built a new one only to have that one burn on their son's wedding night, October 25, 1977. On July 18, 1992, lightning struck the barn on the other farm and burned it to the ground. The only original building left on the homestead is the two-story part of the house.



**Sugar Creek
Mutual
Insurance Co.**
Elkhorn, WI



Poultry is my Heritage which developed into a life career. My grandfather, Herman (H.W.) Halbach, started our strain of large White Rocks back in 1873. He was a Charter Member of the APA. Then, my father William, who was one of the youngest licensed judges in his time, took the interest and passed it on to me and I have passed the love of our feathered friends on to my children.

Prior to my retirement, I had the largest purebred poultry farm in the USA, possibly in the world. Having 250 different breeds/varieties of large fowl, bantams, ducks, geese and for a while, turkeys (thanks to Norman Kardosh). I have shipped birds all over the world - I was the first to ship into South Africa - doing so was quite complicated.

To accomplish the above was only possible

because of the enthusiastic support of my wife Vi and all four of our children - Jeff, Chris, Pat, and Laura. Without them it would not have been possible.

I am a General Licensed APA/ABA Judge and have judged across the USA and Canada. One of my favorite things to do when judging is to work with youngsters. In a one-on-one situation, a judge can reach and teach a youngster at whatever level he/she is at with their project.

I have lived all my life on or next to the "Homestead" in Waterford, Wisconsin and have never been without poultry. I surely did more than my share of winning with 318 show Championships (Large Fowl, Bantam and Waterfowl). I get more of a thrill out of seeing customers win big with stock purchased from me. One thing that sticks out

in my mind was when I was 10 years old, I won a Championship on a registered Holstein Heifer in a class of 125 at our State Fair. I still have that picture.

I was President of the APA from 1982 to 1986 and was instrumental in getting the first colored Standard of Perfection published. I have been a Life Member since 1959 and am Master Exhibitor #4. I am also Grand Master Breeder of both large and bantam White Rocks.

I want to say "Thank You" to the APA and its membership for honoring me at their 1996 National Convention at Hutchinson, Minnesota. I am happy and proud to have been of service to you.

Harold & Vi Halbach



The primitive Americana hickory skein winder purchased in Canada was an important possession of Patrick and Mary Kelly Bennett when they settled in Racine County and located on Section 36; they sold out there and moved to the Village of Waterford and Patrick went to work at his trade, carpenter and stone mason.

Eventually Patrick and Mary purchased a farm one mile west of Waterford. Captain Patrick Bennett joined a regiment and raised a full company, being named their Captain. The regiment went into service in Virginia and Patrick was killed October 27, 1864 at the battle of Fair Oaks during the Civil War. One of his sons, John Bennett, age 14, assisted his mother Mary, in operating the farm. Mary died of a broken heart

on January 17, 1875. She missed her husband a great deal. Russell Bennett left "Fairview Farm" to his son, Richard Bennett and eventually Richard bought four hundred acres across the road, at the intersection of Highway 83 and 20 and farmed it, calling it Fairview II. Years after his death, Fairview II was sold to the present owners. It has now been developed as a subdivision and the dairy barn has been remodeled into "The Barn", a unique restaurant and banquet hall. The cow barn of Fairview II has become a fine, southeastern Wisconsin attraction, "The Silo Dining Room and The Milking Room Party facility."

*Helen Bennett Lavin
(sister of Richard Bennett)*



State Financial Bank
Where small business grows.



Ole and Anna Evenson came to Racine County in the 1840's and bought land from the government along the Fox River in the Tichigan area. They built a cabin out of white oak logs on their farm. By 1910, Merandy, one of their two children, had married Andrew Halverson and was living in the cabin with their seven children, Annie, Mandy, Etta, Elmer, Arthur, John and Clarence. Mr. Halverson decided the time had come to build a new home for his family. He hired a German-American carpenter builder from Mukwonago and started work on what was to become a very beautiful house. Mr. Halverson and three of his sons,

Clarence, John and Elmer, using their own steam powered saw rig, cut the beams, joists and rafters out of logs from the farm. John Halverson and Elmer Halverson left the home farm to go farming on their own on nearby farms. Clarence, together with Roland Drought (Etta's husband), ran the farm and they had a fine herd of Hosteins, quite a few brood sows and a large flock of chickens. So the farm produced milk, eggs and pork chops for many years. The grandson of Mandy Halverson Apple is now the proud owner of this very well cared for and beautifully maintained farm and home.

Wendell E. Earle



In 1863, Jocham Weltzien purchased a ten-acre parcel on the shores of Lake Tish-Ar-Gon. He continued the dairy farming tradition of a long line of German dairy farmers. The farm grew to 145 acres with a herd of 70 Holsteins.

In 1933, the original barn was replaced with quality work by a family of masons. The interior of the barn was remodeled four times and the foundation has been declared as strong today as it was then. The farmstead was owned by Roy Weltzien.

A developer for a Near Retirement community on the site said, "Once we saw the quality and character that went into the barn, we didn't have the heart to tear it down".

With creative planning, the barn was transformed into five luxury condominiums with the lower level a community center. It is part of Golden Bay development built with lots of space and a desire to live in harmony with the land as the first native settlers did.

Liz Noble



In May of 1844, Neil's and Maren Narum landed in the USA with their six daughters and one son. They homesteaded the State of Wisconsin, Town of Norway, in Racine County. Each of their daughters married and moved, their one son, Hans Narum, took over the farm. Hans married Bertha Marie Guttormsen in 1869. To this union eight children were born. As the children grew and left home, Nels stayed on and eventually took over the farm, when his father, Hans, died in 1924. Nels and his brother, John, farmed until 1950 when Nels daughter, Nell Marie, married Lloyd Johnson, and they took over the farm. Lloyd and Nell Marie have been farming ever since. Lloyd and Nell Marie have two sons, Eugene and Carl, who are planning to keep the farm in the family.

Lloyd & Nell Marie Johnson

**Sponsored by
S & J BUS
SERVICE**



When Hans and Tone (Steinarsdatter) Helgesen came to America from Kvietseid, Telemark, Norway in 1851, they left behind an incredibly beautiful country. They came in search of land where they might make a living and raise their family. Hans acquired land in section 27 in the Town of Norway in 1856, the first parcel of the 139 acre Hanson home farm on East Wind Lake road.

Thomas Hanson and his wife Louise (Larson), the second generation, had five sons. Thomas was town treasurer and served on the school board. Their son Howard, who married Mary Skarie, continued to farm. They had six children. Howard expanded the operation. He started several milk routes, hauled cattle, and did custom baling. He raised cabbage and other vegetable crops in addition to more ordinary crops of corn, oats, and hay. Mary had three hired men and the family of eight at her table every day. No McDonalds or Culvers those days! She also had extensive gardens and was a good seamstress.

Milk cows, hogs, beef cattle, and chickens

have been raised on the farm through the years. Now only beef cattle remain. Crops include corn, beans, and wheat. Today there are three houses on the farm. Donald and Donna (Malchine) Hanson live in the old farmhouse. The smaller house next door is home for their recently married son James and his wife Susan (Strehlow). James farms with his father, but also works off the farm as a rural mail carrier. Their son David is a builder. His new home is across the road in the farm woods where he lives with his family, his wife Deanna (Conrad) and sons Alexander (6) and Erik (4) who are the sixth generation on this Wisconsin Century Farm. Their daughter Karen is a chaplain in Minneapolis and enjoys writing.

All six generations have been active members of Norway Lutheran Church. Donald is president of the Racine County Farm Bureau. Donna has learned Norwegian Hardanger embroidery and rosemaling, continuing the heritage.

Donna M. Hanson



In the late 1830's, Wisconsin Territory was opening up for settlement. The climate and topography reminded the Norwegians of their homeland with its woods and lakes. They came by way of the Great Lakes, traveling by canal boat and steamship to Milwaukee, then by ox cart to the Muskego area. Some chose to settle here, purchasing land for \$1.25 per acre. A high priority of these early immigrants was to establish a church. They initially met in homes and in the large barn that Even Heg had built. In September 1843 sixty-nine men signed their names to a letter requesting that Claus Clausen be ordained as their pastor, setting in motion the birth of the oldest Norwegian Lutheran Church in America.

The first church was built of oak logs by the members under the direction of master craftsman Halvor Nelson Lohner. The log church stands today on the campus of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. Members of Norway Lutheran Church have made three pilgrimages there in recent years to work on preservation efforts and to worship and commune in the church of their ancestors.

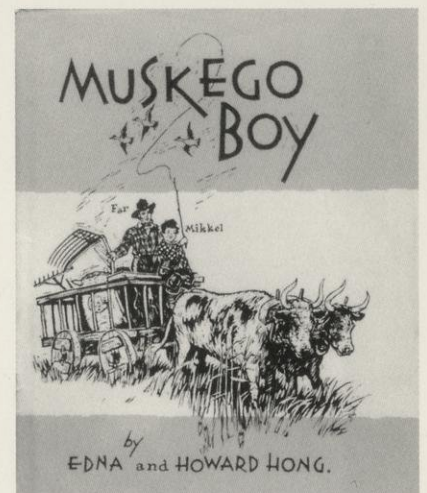
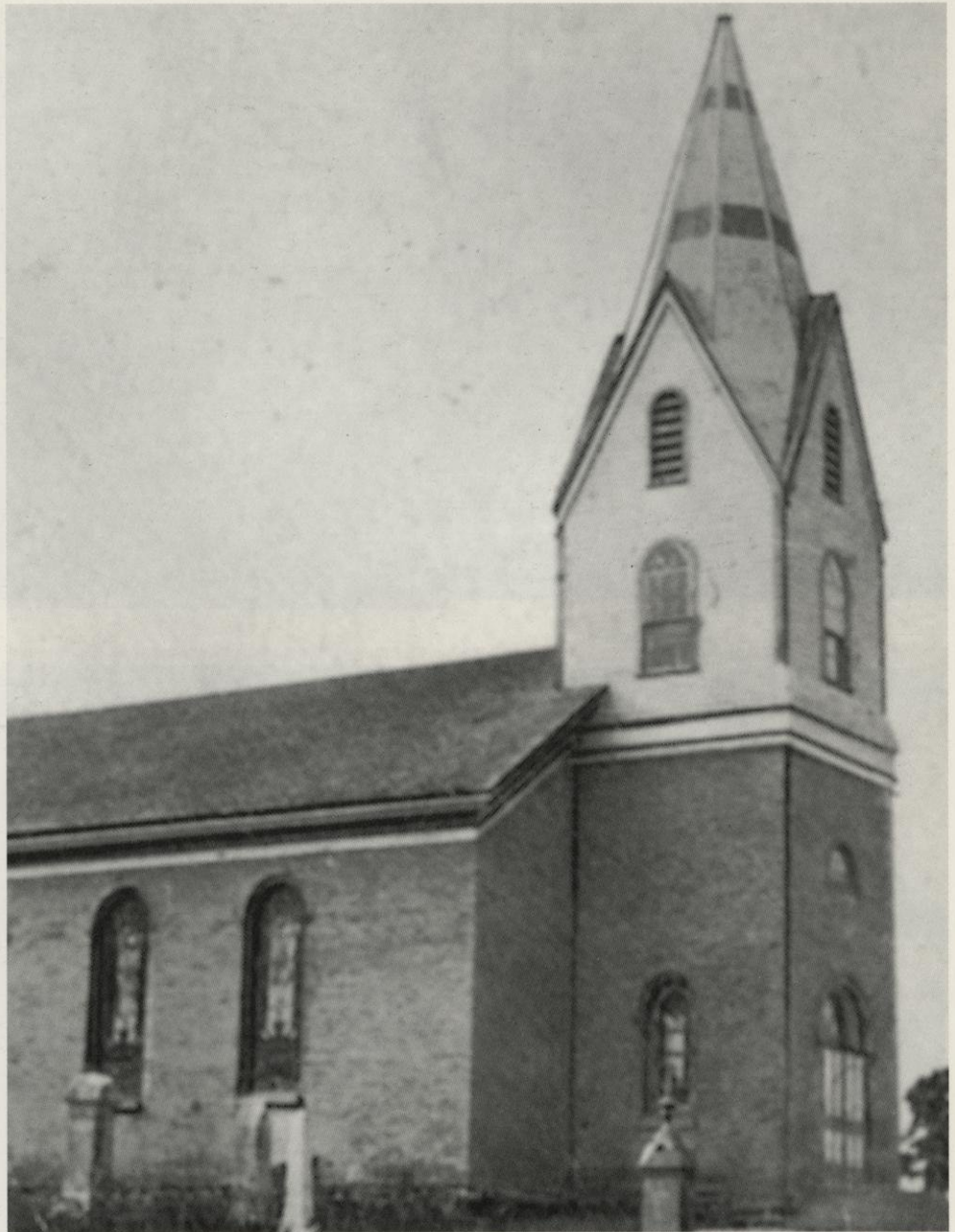
The present church on the hill, built of cream city brick and dedicated in 1870, was the second church of a growing flock and was used until 1954 when the new church below the hill was built. This church is used for worship on Saturday evenings in the summer as well as special services, weddings and funerals. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The cemetery surrounding the church is the final resting place for the pioneers and church members since then, perhaps the most notable being Col. Hans C. Heg, who led a regiment of Scandinavians in the Civil War. He was mortally wounded in the battle of Chickamauga, the highest ranking Wisconsin officer to die in the War.

Norway Lutheran Church's sesquicentennial celebration ended with a festival focusing on the ethnic diversity of the congregation today. An annual lutefisk and meatball dinner carries on the Norwegian heritage.

A 1992 history of the church In Jesus Name Shall All Our Work be Done, written by Pastor Karen Hanson, is available at the church.

Norway Evangelical Lutheran Church 6321 Heg Park Rd., Wind Lake, Wisconsin 53185, 414-895-2281.

Donna Hanson



**BAKKE
ELECTRIC**



The lovely red brick home set back from the road off Highway 20 in Dover Township was built by Charles Mead, a native of either England or Scotland, on land that he purchased from the government in 1843. He first built the small log cabin on the property, and lived in it while completing the ten-room brick and fieldstone house. The bricks were hauled from Milwaukee by oxcart. According to legend, the home was built, with a twelve by eighteen foot chapel on the second floor, so that he and his bride-to-be could be married there. She never arrived. Some say that she married another man; others, that she died en route from England.

Mead then turned his attention to planting a variety of trees on his land, many not native to Wisconsin. One that remains is a beautiful *Magnolia Acuminata*, the state record tree of this variety. It is also known as a "Cucumber Tree" or "Northern Magnolia".

The Mead homestead was purchased in the early 1970's by Marv McCray and Lory Anderson, who were married there in the chapel on the second floor.

Liz Noble

DON VANDER LEESE



GAIL KETTERHAGEN



On September 16, 1847, Franz Hettermann and Henry Essmann came from Westphalia, Germany and together purchased 80 acres of land located in the English Settlement of Racine County. Included in the purchase price of \$820 was a dwelling, various farm tools and livestock. In 1854 the Essmann family sold their interest in the property to Franz Hettermann and moved into Waterford. Franz and his wife continued farming the property, making barn additions and improvements as money and time permitted. During the Civil War a two story addition was added to the front of the stone dwelling, providing additional living space for the growing family.

The Reesman name became associated with the property when Franz Hettermann's granddaughter married Henry G. Reesman in 1896. Henry G. Reesman and Mary Hettermann Reesman remained on the farm and in 1917 built a three story brick home several hundred feet from the original fieldstone house.

Today, thirteen acres of the original farm property still remain in the Reesman family. Six generations of the family have lived on and worked the land, originally purchased 151 years ago.



The Lavin Farm, "Lakeside Homestead", was established in 1842. Martin Lavin was born in 1807 in the parish of Aughamore, County Mayo, Ireland. He married Nancy Cunningham in 1830. Their first children, Bridget and John, were born in Ireland. Their third child, Bernard, was born in Buffalo, New York in 1842 shortly after they arrived in America. Martin worked on the Erie Canal to pay their travel expenses and to save money to purchase land. It is said that they walked from New York to Chicago. They came to the Township of Dover and settled near Eagle Lake. A log cabin was their first residence in 1842.

Nancy passed away in 1847. The Potawatomi Indians still lived along the shores of Eagle Lake and were considered helpful neighbors. Martin built a farmhouse and barns in 1850. The farmhouse is still the family residence and has been home to six generations so far. Martin originally home-

steaded eighty acres. His son, Bernard, joined him in farming. He and his wife, Mary Cunningham had nine children, including Bernard, Jr. Together they ran six hundred acres. They also established a resort called "The Island" on Eagle Lake. This started out in the 1860's with hunting and fishing cabins. Gradually a hotel, music store, livery stable and boat rental were added. They had dancing every night but Sunday. Families came out from the cities to spend the summers. The resort closed in 1926 or 1927.

Bernard Jr. had two children, Eugene Bernard and Kathleen. Eugene married Helen Bennett of Waterford in 1943. They raised six children, Eugenie, Helen, Barney, Greg, Mary Bridget and Maureen.

Gene and his son, Barney continue to run the family farm, Lakeside Homestead. They raise cattle, hogs, soybeans and corn.

Mary Bridget Lavin Flynn



Ann Beecher gives loyal customer Pepper Peiffer a haircut at Beecher's Barber Shop in Kansasville. Beecher, who ran the shop for many years with her late husband, Jim, became Wisconsin's first woman master barber in 1952.



The Kansasville barber shop triggers memories of an earlier day when the "complex" was owned and operated by Elmer and Helena Brainerd. A stroke at age 31 put an end to his Kenosha County farming, hence their purchase of the house and barber shop building at the turn of the century.

The house was connected by a passwalk to the saloon, remembered today with a bar stool and pottery urchin that stood on the bar to hold pennies for a hard-boiled egg that just naturally went with a beer or Cincinnati (beer/white soda). The Brainerds constructed an ice-house for Eagle Lake's winter cuttings and a cement-floored, gambrel-roofed barn for two horses, feed and four coaches. Their daughter, Florence Brainerd Cook, was livery driver, and with her beloved mare, Queen, met the trains to

take passengers arriving from Chicago to Eagle Lake. Families frequently spent their summers at the lake with fathers arriving Friday night.

In 1928 with the coming of prohibition, Grandpa Brainerd turned the key in the door, retired, and in 1932 rented it to Peter Kortendick where the White Elephant first appeared as the winnings of a Brighton raffle. Later he moved across the street to accommodate his growing family and Ross and Gertrude Beecher bought the property. They operated it as a tavern and barber shop until their son, Jim, recently deceased, and his wife, Ann Robers Beecher, took over to become Kansasville's legendary scissor-wizzards.

Vivian George

**Sponsored by
VIVIAN &
FLOYD GEORGE**

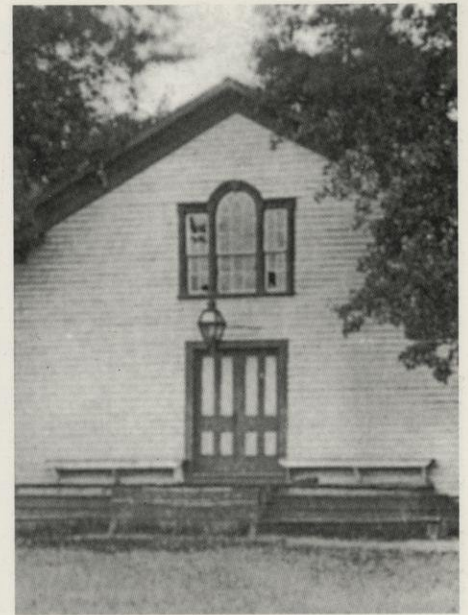
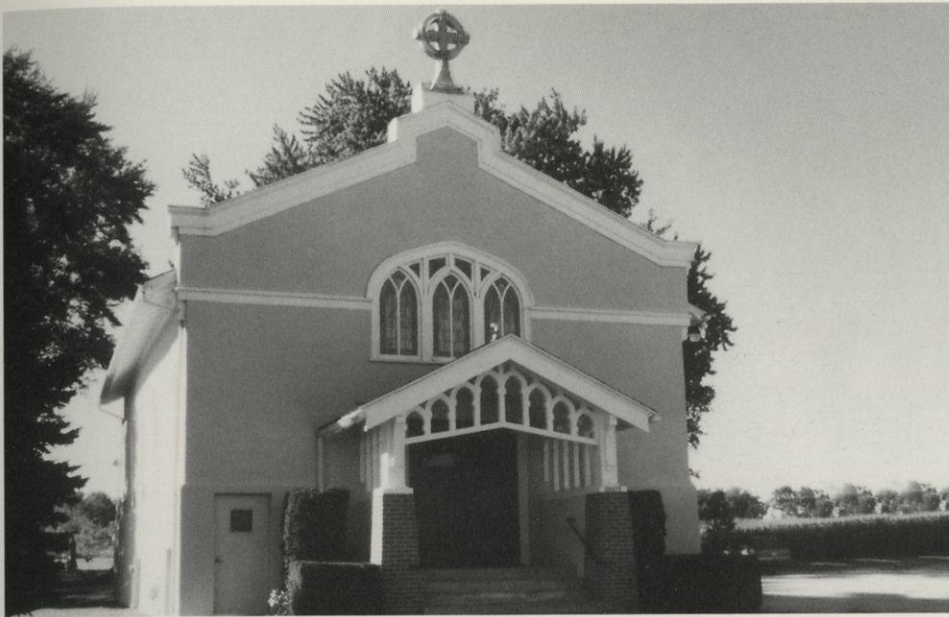


This large white farmhouse sits on land purchased from the government in 1841 by Alexander Stenhouse. Built by his grandson, John Stenhouse, about 1900, it is of a simplified Victorian style, trimmed with beautiful scrollwork and finished with a beautiful wide wraparound verandah. When completed, it was the largest house in English Settlement and was the talk of the community at the time. It was painted dark red with white trim, and to set it off, the barn was painted white. Such a thing was unheard of in the area. After a few years, however, the barn was painted red and the house white, and it has been white ever since.

The second photo shows how haying was done in 1912 on the Stenhouse farm. Note that the ladies are pitching hay while wearing long dresses; and yet they're smiling!

Only two families have owned the house in almost one hundred years. Len and Celia Bork purchased it in 1959 from the Stenhouse family, after living there for a number of years. Their family still farms the land and raises Hereford cattle.

Liz Noble



The congregation of English Settlement United Methodist Church was founded in the summer of 1842, when the area around present highways A and J was settled by about twenty families from Huddersfield, Yorkshire in the north of England. Some of their names, still familiar in the community, were Noble, Sheard, Squire, Bottomley and Gooder. Services were held in members' homes until the building was completed in 1848 on land purchased from Alexander Stenhouse, the first settler in the area.

The original thirty by forty-foot structure stood surrounded by the cemetery until 1916, when the building was moved closer to the road and placed on a new foundation. It was then remodeled inside and out and fitted with a portico and new stained

glass windows. The original hand hewn oak and hickory beams that formed the framework of the building are still in place, making it the oldest church building still in use as a church in Racine County.

One of the favorite services held every year is "Christmas in the barn", a nativity play produced by the church as a special Christmas gift to the community. Audience members sit on straw bales and sing carols as the Christmas story is read from the Bible. Live farm animals and a real baby in Mary's arms bring the story to life. Held on the John Squire farm, this Christmas Eve tradition has grown from one service with one hundred people attending in 1969, to nine services with over 1,300 in attendance in 1997.

Liz Noble



One of the oldest houses in English Settlement was built in 1842 by John and Martha Noble (pictured) who emigrated from Huddersfield, England with their family of eight boys, two girls, and a granddaughter. They purchased eight hundred acres on Eagle Creek from the government in order that their grown sons would have land to farm. Six of the sons (pictured) eventually married and farmed their land. Today, much of this land is still owned by their descendants, among them, Scott Squire of Squire's Strawberry Farm, and John and Cindy Squire of Squire's Asparagus Farm. Both farms are on Church Road, formerly known as Noble-Squire Road.

The house itself was built by John Noble Sr.'s sons, James, a carpenter, and Henry. The

frame of the house was made of local oak and hickory. The center section was 19'x22', with 14' posts, and it was flanked by a 16'x16' wing on each side. After several months of construction, the house was completed and occupied on November 5, 1842. It has been owned throughout most of its history by members of the Noble family. The exterior of the house has been altered somewhat. The south wing was removed some years ago, and the number and style of some of the windows has been changed. The interior beams of oak and hickory are as solid as ever.

The house was recently purchased by Trent and Lisa Harris and family.

Liz Noble



**Sponsored by
THE NOBLE FAMILY**



William Bancroft came to America in 1842. He apparently convinced his parents James and Ann to emigrate, for they arrived two years later with their other three children. All were enthusiastic about the new country. James took out papers to become a citizen, and purchased forty acres in the English Settlement on the Burlington to Racine Road (Highway A), with the intention of farming. He had several strikes against him. He had never farmed before (and his land had never been farmed), he was forty-seven years old, and he had insufficient help, as three of his children had married and moved away within a year of their arrival in Wisconsin. Discouraged, and with his wife homesick for her family in England, they returned to

their home in Leeds, Yorkshire. He was able to get back his old job as an apothecary. He offered his farm in Wisconsin to his son, William, who with his wife, Caroline, (pictured with their son George at left), built a house in the 1840's and lived there for at least forty years before retiring to Rochester. Besides farming, William was occupied as a local minister for the English Settlement Church from the early 1850's to 1884. His wife played the melodeon there.

In the 1840's, a company was formed to build a plank road from Rochester to Racine. A main intersection was where the Rochester to Racine Road met the Burlington to Racine Road at the Bancroft Farm. Here tolls were collected from the farmers as they drove their oxcarts full of

wheat to market in Racine. The plank road days were numbered, but the toll booth remained on the farm until the mid 1960's. It was used as a storage building and animal shed, until replaced by a new barn.

The farm, called "Lone Chestnut Farm", for the old horse chestnut tree next to the house, was purchased from William's family by his sister Sarah's son, Alvin Noble. The old house was moved across the road to be used as a garage, and a new house was built on the old foundation in 1924. Alvin's son, Edward and his wife, Cathrine, moved into it in 1926. Today, the farm is still owned by the Noble family and still called "Lone Chestnut Farm".

Liz Noble

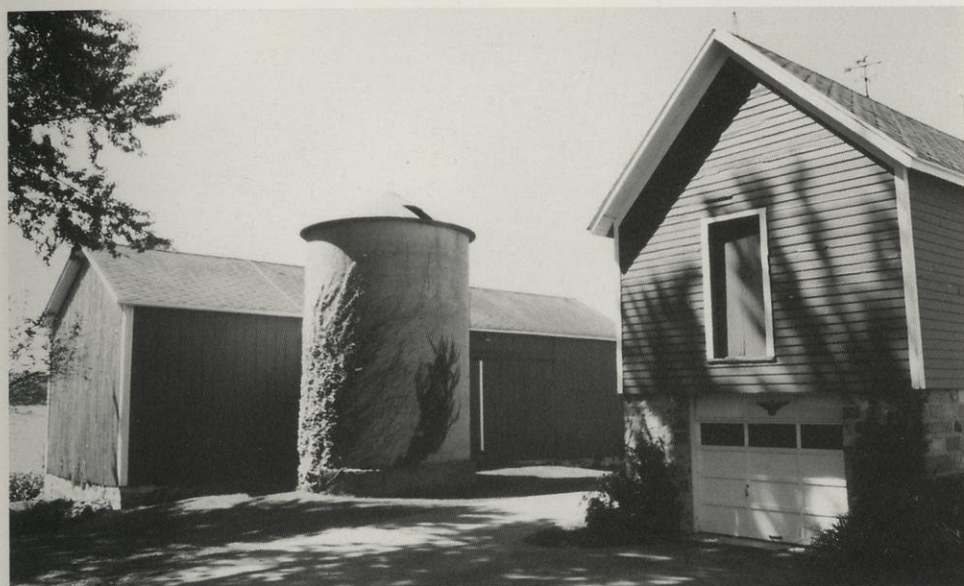


The Federal style house of Linda and Brad Williams is comfortably situated in a grove of trees on land purchased from the government by William H. Dunning and Nelson R. Norton in 1839. The original part of the home was built by 1841, with an addition about a year later. The old house was little changed in the next century until the farm was purchased by Bud Gierahn in 1944. He put on new siding and redid the interior. He also built a stone fireplace in the living room, and finished the outside of it with brick from a very old smokehouse on the property. The Williams' bought the place in 1974, and did even more extensive remodeling. Yet, some of the walls are still from the original farmhouse, judging by the square nails and 1840's era horsehair plaster. They also repaired the barns in order to raise a few horses.

The Williams' have turned their farm into a wildlife sanctuary by returning most of the former cropland to natural prairie grasses and flowers and enlarging four natural spring-fed ponds. Linda, a third generation professional artist, uses the resulting landscape as inspiration for her wildlife paintings. Birds are a favorite subject, and they are abundant, especially in the pond settings. Canada geese, mallards, blue-winged teal, woodducks, mergansers and black ducks occasionally share their space with little green and great blue herons, sandhill cranes and lesser scaump. The property extends back to the river, that is, Honey Creek, and includes a former Indian campsite, judging from the number of arrowheads found at the location over the years.

Liz Noble





One of the prettiest farms in the area belongs to Don and Della Rowntree. The house is framed by lovely trees and well-tended plant borders. The Rowntrees purchased the farm in the 1960's from the Brook family, descendants of the original owners. The land was purchased from the government in 1842 by Joe Brook. The first house may have been built in the 1840's facing the nearby plank road from Rochester. The large barn on the property was built in 1869 according to its cornerstone. A new farmhouse, beautifully crafted of cut stone was built by Joe Brook's son, Jim in 1883. The date is legible high on the front of the house, indicating when it was completed. Jim Brook was a remarkable stonemason, and his craftsmanship is also visible in the little building near the road. Reportedly, Jim said that he was proud of his work and wanted it where people could see it.

Jim's son, Preston, inherited the farm, but had no heirs. A rather eccentric man, he reportedly said that he would leave his farm to someone who had not done him any good or harm. One day, he visited his nephew, Alfred Brook and family, and inquiring as to the children's names, he heard the youngest was Joe, in his teens at the time. "I'm going to will you my farm," he said. "Joe Brook had it to begin with, and when I get done with it, I want Joe Brook to have it back again." According to Roman Brook, Joe's older brother, the family didn't take it seriously; but when Preston Brook died, sure enough, he had left the farm to Joe.

Liz Noble



Above: Mt. Tom Road in 1937.

In loving memory of generations before:
The families that lived on this farm and
worked the land, they will always be here.
John Fallan came to America from County
Longport, Ireland in 1855. Maria
Cunningham arrived in America in 1849.
They were married Feb. 22, 1867, and they
made their home on this farm, raising five
children, Mary Jane, Margaret Ann, James
Henery, Michael Highland, Francis John,
and Kathrine Lousia. Mary Jane Fallan mar-
ried Charles Stallman and their son, Patrick
married Alma Rewald and with their son,
Ronald they farmed the homestead.
Ronald and his wife Sharon farmed this
land until 1993 when Ronald passed away.
The farm is still in the family and all the gen-
erations of work created this legacy.

Sharon Stallman



A new Franciscan seminary and house of philosophy was dedicated May 4, 1931, a complete internal educational system for the friars of the Assumption for the Blessed Virgin Mary Commissariat.

The pioneer group of friars who came from Pulaski, Wisconsin brought 26 students with them. The poverty of their early beginnings echoed a tradition of the followers of St. Francis. Some of the young seminarians came directly from Poland.

Copies of two of the most cherished pictures of the Poles - Our Lady of Czestochawa and Our Lady of Ostrobrama were put in the main chapel. It was not unusual for 20 to 30 buses filled with people from Chicago and Milwaukee to come on pilgrimages. On festival days at least one mass is still said in Polish.

Pilgrims began donating more religious arti-

cles; many statues became the basis of the beautiful devotional setting of the grounds.

To help raise money, a religious articles store was begun and some of the produce from the friary farm was available. In 1948, a model of the Portiuncula, the little church in Italy where St. Francis began the Franciscan movement, was built. The large Pavilion was erected in the 1950's, as the chapel was insufficient for those attending weekend masses.

By the 1960's, vocations had decreased and the seminary was closed. The focus of the friary has shifted to a retreat center. Groups of retreatants or solitary pilgrims are welcomed. Many business groups also use the facility for special company workshops or meetings of quiet meditations.

Eileen Albright





Echo Lake Farm Produce Co., is a far cry today from its beginning in 1939, when Paul Kramer had an egg route and delivered his eggs from the backseat of his car. The business grew rapidly, and soon they were buying eggs wholesale.

Gradually, selling the shell eggs door to door became less important. The shell breaking business, the selling of liquid eggs became more important. The early method was hand-breaking eggs into stainless steel pails.

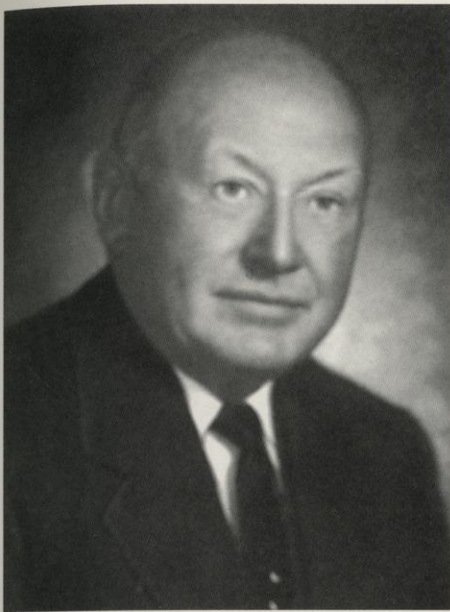
In 1964, egg breaking machines and pasteurization equipment were added, which meant better quality control. Eggs could go anywhere in the country without danger of

spoilage. It made an increased volume of business possible.

After being in business for 42 years, Paul sold Echo Lake Produce to the Archie Meinerz family in 1981.

Today the multi-million dollar business cracks two million eggs a day, and one farm in Iowa has seven hundred fifty thousand chickens laying eggs.

Today, this world-class company sells products throughout the US to industrial food manufacturers as well as institutions of all kinds.



James H. and Lawrence E. Murphy established the Murphy Products Company on Dodge Street in Burlington, Wisconsin in 1922. James attended the University of Wisconsin and was the first country agricultural agent of Walworth County. Lawrence was a teacher in Kewaunee, WI. Century old feeding practices were being changed that held promise of improving livestock and poultry production. Murphy's Minerals and Murphy's Concentrates supplied nutrients not adequately found in farm grains and roughage. In 1947, the Murphys saw the business growing to a highly technical and vital agricultural industry. In the 1970's, the Company and Schlitz Brewing Company developed methods to convert brewery grains to more useful animal feeds. Plants expanded to Texas, Missouri, California and North Carolina. Ultimately, the businesses

were sold and the original plant is now owned by Maple Leaf Farms and is leased to Ralston Purina.

The Murphy Products Company sponsored "The National Barn Dance" from Eighth Street Theatre in Chicago on WLS Radio every Saturday night at 8:00. Before television, this radio show was very popular with not only farmers, but all the people who loved country living. Skyland Scotty, Uncle Ezra, Arky the Arkansas Woodchopper, Dezurich Sisters, LuLuBell and the Three Little Maids were part of the entertainment. Interestingly, Marge, one of the Three Little Maids became Jim's second wife and today lives with one of her children in California.

Dr. Robert R. Spitzer

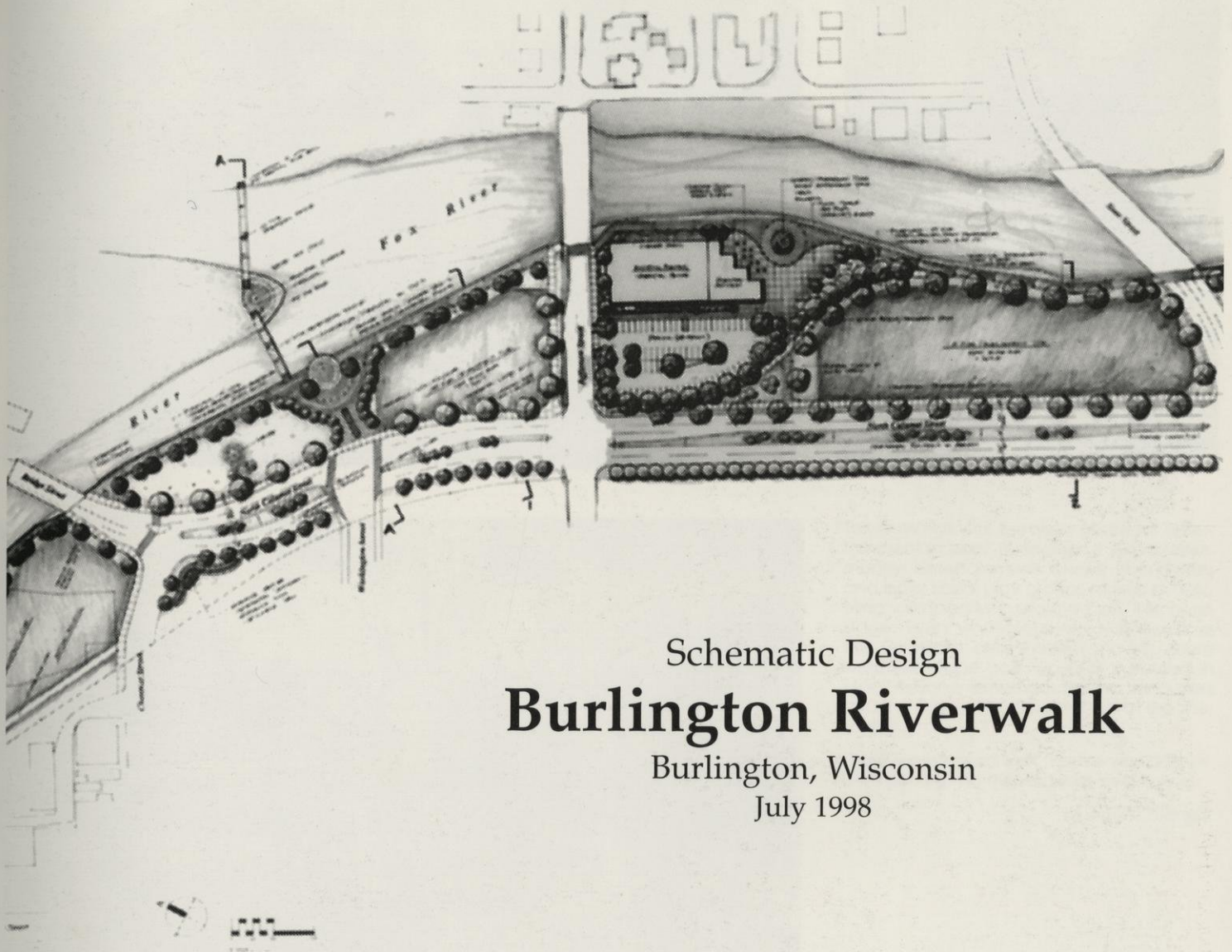
Wisconsin is known for its leadership and taking on the big projects. Robert Spitzer, now retired president of MSOE and Murphy Products and coordinator for Food for Peace in the Ford administration in 1975 is working with Rotary, International to eliminate world hunger. One of the greatest inventions to help with his world problem is the concept of solar cooking with solar ovens, developed in upper Wisconsin and now used throughout developing countries.



Burlington's Historical Downtown, painted by Burlington's artist Gail Ketterhagen, reflects the unique character of this beautiful small town in the late 1900's, now also known as Chocolate City, USA, and its importance of bringing people together. As the heart of the community, Burlington's quality of life evolves and becomes more interesting with historic preservation, antique malls and specialty shopping, intriguing ethnic and family restaurants, banking and insurance services combined with the festival attitude of flowers, flags and fun.

One of Burlington's most significant landmarks was built by C. B. McCanna in 1909. Mr. McCanna was entrepreneurial in thinking and developed Lions Brand, Condensed Milk, processing the farmers milk into a product when no refrigeration existed. Today, May's Insurance anchors the corner of Chestnut and Pine.





Schematic Design

Burlington Riverwalk

Burlington, Wisconsin
July 1998



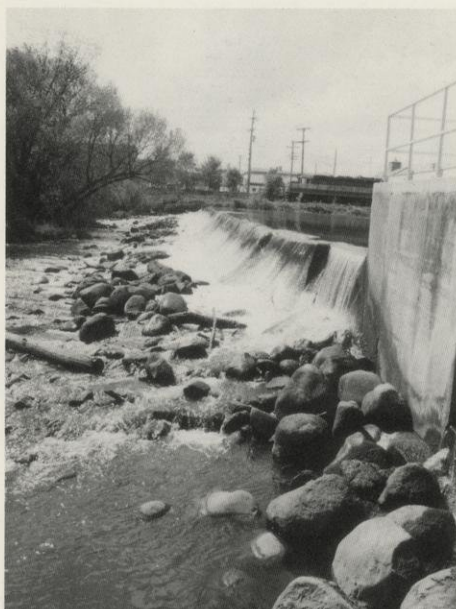
The Burlington Riverfront Development will soon unfold as a dramatic change in our downtown area and as a transformation in the feel of the community.

The development not only will bring beauty to the area, but will also address areas of concern with traffic flow and senior housing needs.

It is an exciting time for Burlington as we move on into the next century with quality development to add to our quality of life.

*Jeannie Hefty, Mayor
City of Burlington*

WANASEK



"100% natural ingredients," is the boast of Jim and Darlene Adrian about the custard sold at their stand across from Echo Lake Veterans Park.

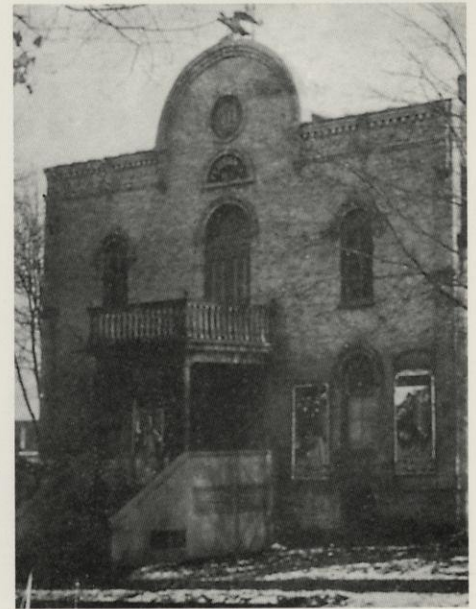
Only the freshest cream, eggs, vanilla, the best money can buy is used to make the custard with no preservatives and no chemicals. That's what makes it ultra smooth and ultra fresh. The custard is a closely guarded secret, perhaps shared with Leon's in Milwaukee. There were only seven like custard stands in the U.S. when the business was started in 1974. Real custard is not a frozen dessert like ice cream, but is basically turned as it is bought. It is

always fresh as it can only be mixed 20-30 minutes before it becomes butter. Jim designed and built his own machinery. Temperature is also very important as it can mean the difference between good and not-so-good custard.

Traditional custard stand fare is vanilla, chocolate, or one other flavor, hot dog and a drink. Special sundaes and flavors are concocted for special Chamber of Commerce events in Echo Park. Jim says it's a great way to meet local people and out-of-towners, and he can hardly wait for the Riverwalk to be built.

Echo Park dates back to 1837 when Pliny Perkins and his father, Ephraim, built two flour mills and one feed mill. The dam, which supplied power to the mill, formed a pond, now known as Echo Lake. Kiwanis Band Concerts, Memorial Day ceremonies, art and craft shows and festival celebrations are a few events in the park that give Burlington its All-American flavor. Today the park is a quiet place to enjoy a few hours with family and watch the ducks and geese swim on the old mill pond.

ADRIAN'S
GENUINE FROZEN CUSTARD



Teutonia Hall was the main place for entertainment in early Burlington. It was a community entertainment center for parties and balls. Local play groups as well as traveling companies performed on the huge stage. Even when Teutonia Hall became the Orpheum and showed movies, there were live stage acts, up until it burned in 1930. Anyone remember the twinkling stars and the Diener Girls Sweet Shop at the theater?

There were rumors that the fire was deliberately set, but no culprits were ever found.

Eileen Albright

The original name of the Town Fryer was Frosty's Grill and started in Milwaukee where it became the typical 50's kids place. The business moved to Waterford in the 50's. Jim and Darlene met as classmates at Waterford High School in 1957. They have been a team ever since.

The younger Adrians took over and in 1971 moved to Burlington where the name was changed to Town Fryer. They are proud of the fact that it is the oldest restaurant in Burlington under the same ownership. Breakfast and lunch are the mainstays. There have been two additions, the last in 1986.

Family orientated, young people hired as high school or college students now have their children working there.

A worthy successor to Teutonia Hall was the Malt House Theatre, founded in 1943 when the Haylofters bought the old Finke-Uhen Brewing Co. malt house at a sheriff's sale. Transformed it into a ninety-nine seat theatre.

The Haylofters was formed as a community theatre group in 1931 with charter members drama teacher Catherine Alvord, Elmer Ebert and Stan Jung. Meetings were held in the hayloft of Howard Newell's barn, hence the name.

The oldest continuing Little Theatre group in the state, it has offered quality theatre for over 60 years, while continually updating the physical aspects.

Eileen Albright

TOWN FRYER



The first school in Burlington was the 1840 Whitman School, now a museum.

Burlington Union School District was incorporated by the Wisconsin Legislature in 1857, and a newer school was needed. That was Lincoln school used for both a primary and high school education. A serious quarrel resulted in two school boards being formed. The school was closed for a full year until a new board finally gained control April, 1861.

Newer schools were gradually built and Lincoln unused. But in 1912 it was rebuilt and reopened as a kindergarten and for first and second grades. It now serves as Burlington Area School District Administrative Offices.

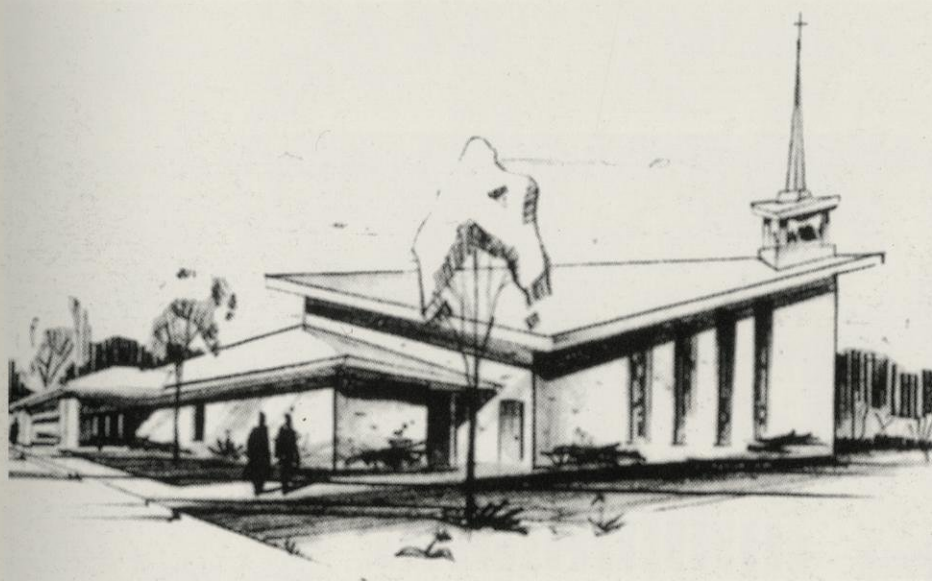
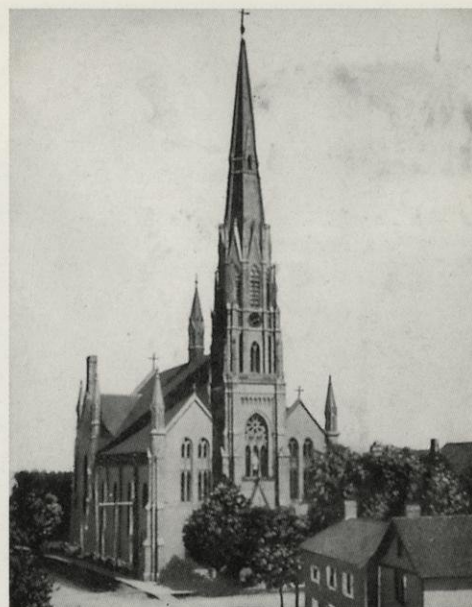


**BURLINGTON
LONGVIEW
ANIMAL
HOSPITAL, INC.**





ST MARY'S church and School - Burlington WI



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

The first mass said in Burlington was in 1838 in Rual Nims Tavern. St. Sebastian's, built in 1847 was the first of three churches built by St. Mary's Parish. The church of the Immaculate Conception, dedicated in 1850 was the second, at which time St. Sebastian's was used as a school.

The present church was dedicated in 1891, and the second church was remodeled as a school. The present church was gutted by fire in 1977, but efforts of parishioners and community brought it back to life and the church steeple is again a looked for landmark.

St. Mary's High School was dedicated in 1926. In 1984 it became Catholic Central High School and is under joint sponsorship of thirteen parishes.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 1858. Church organized.

August 1875. Church dedicated.

1887, Parsonage built.

1895, School built. Total cost \$1,500.

1908, Addition to school built and art glass windows installed in the church.

April 15, 1912. An organ installed. It had 12 ranks of pipes, air supplies by pumping a bellows. Most of these pipes were used on the new organ in the new 1980 church which has 25 ranks, 1,421 speaking pipes and a full 32 note pedalboard. An electric blower supplies the air.

Oct. 7, 1962. New school dedicated on a location on Westridge Avenue.

June 15, 1974. New parsonage dedicated, built at the Westridge Avenue site.

1979, Old church sold.

Feb. 3, 1980. New church dedicated on Westridge Avenue. Membership 600.



What started as a desire to restore an old log cabin has resulted in a new look for Wehmhoff Square, and the Burlington Historical Society has helped save another historic building from destruction. The old log cabin was given to the city and was in Echo Lake Park for many years; the society furnished the building each summer as a tourist attraction. When it began to deteriorate the city decided it must go.

Doug Lind persuaded the Society that the building was worth saving. First with reluctance and then with enthusiasm, the city

allowed a piece of the Square to be used.

Under the guidance of Lind and his crew of restorers the cabin was totally dismantled, the wood treated and restored. It is being reassembled and will be ready sometime in 1999.

Flower gardens, under the direction of the Burlington Area Garden Club, will bloom with pioneer era plants and flowers. A Gazebo has been erected and Wehmhoff Square can again ring with the music of a band.

Rainbow
MOTEL

T. LARUE PAINT CO.



The Society has over two hundred members. Many are descendants of Burlington's earliest residents and many live across the United States. Others are newer to Burlington, but have come to appreciate the uniqueness of the community and its history.

The Society is dedicated to preserving Burlington's rich past through research, collection and storage of items of historical significance and through archiving of Burlington History and to educating and instilling an enthusiasm for its history to young and old.

If you have an interest, join us. We welcome new members, volunteers and those who would like to embark on a journey with us to learn more about our history.

The building that now houses the Museum was built in 1883 as the Holy Cross Lutheran Church. In 1939, when the congregation outgrew this building, it moved its services to the old Union Free Church, one block west, on the opposite side of Jefferson Street, which it had purchased in 1923 and used as a school and social hall. The current museum building was then converted into Luther Hall. Improvements to this building included adding a basement, a furnace, and a kitchen. In 1960, Antoinette Meinhardt Fulton bought the building, and in 1964, she donated it to the Society.

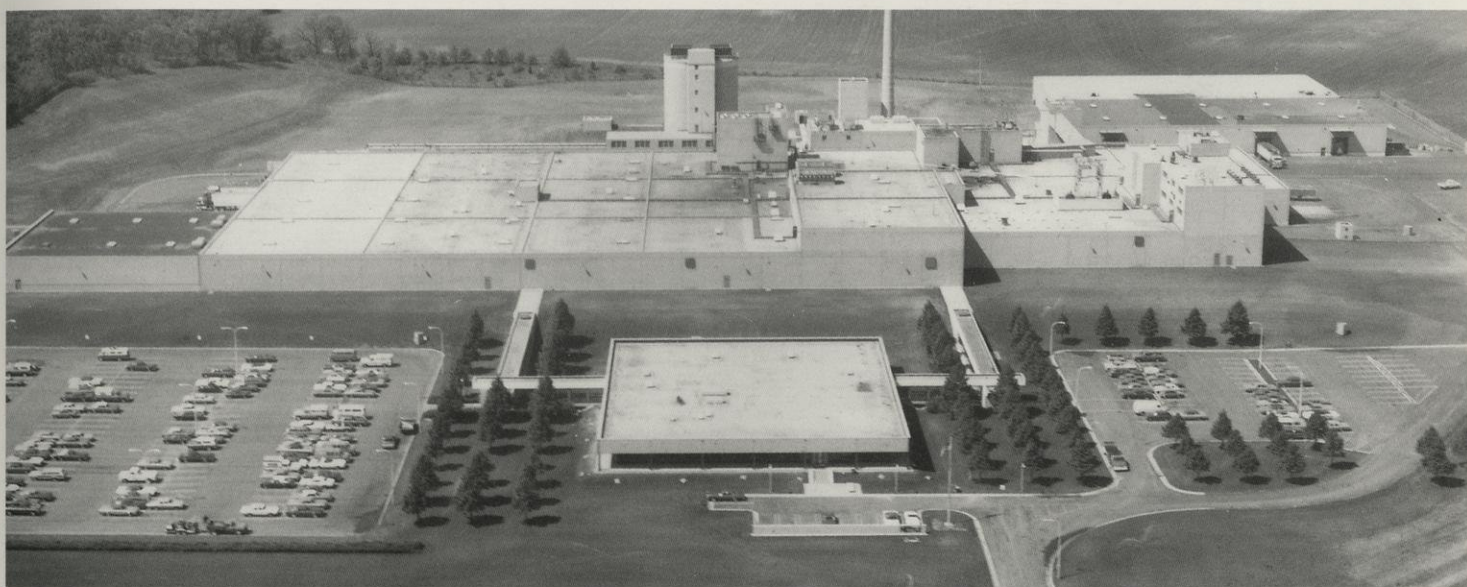
Burlington Historical Society



One of Burlington's world-class industries is Tenneco, known for its sophisticated graphics on packaging and Point-of-Sale merchandising needed in today's retail marketplace. Tenneco has seventy-four plants producing corrugated boxes for industry and its shipping needs. The business was formed in the 50's with three unsuccessful companies from the Upper Midwest creating one successful company, locating in Burlington because of the proximity to Chicago and Milwaukee and need for a reliable labor force. The previous plant was built in 1969 and opened as Packaging Corporation of America, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tenneco, combining plants from Madison, WI and Franklin Park, IL. In 1994, the name changed to Tenneco to bring public awareness to this major pack-

aging corporation, the fourth largest in the USA. Tenneco is ISO 9000 accredited subscribing to the international set of guidelines for quality standards, product quality and a manufacturing process which has been fully developed and documented in order for all major companies throughout the world to effectively conduct and compete in business. The new plant was completed in 1994, investing twelve million in expansion providing the ability to handle sizeable projects with the highest technology. The design team has won awards and the employees are very involved in community activities of Boy Scouts, 4H, Little League, LOVE, Inc., while participating in building this \$40 million annual revenue business in Burlington.

TENNECO
Packaging



Nestlé's Burlington, Wisconsin plant, set on six acres of attractively landscaped grounds, is one-of-four Nestlé Chocolate manufacturing facilities in the United States. California Architects, John A. Blume & Associates, designed the Burlington plant for ease of expansion. Nelson, a general contractor from Racine, Wisconsin, constructed it in 16 months. The grand opening ceremonies were held in August of 1966.

Nestlé's Burlington facility employs approximately 500 employees and produces a variety of chocolate products, including such popular brand names as Nestlé Chocolate Quik®, Toll House® Semi-Sweet Morsels®, Fun-Size Nestlé Crunch®, 100

Grand®, Oh Henry!®, Raisinets®, Goobers®, Nestlé Buncha Crunch® and a variety of Bulk Chocolates and Ice Cream Bar Coatings. The plant is one of the most progressive Nestlé manufacturing facilities in the U.S. and reflects the pride and quality consciousness of its employees.

In addition to producing quality, great tasting chocolate, Nestlé Burlington works with the city each year to plan the Chocolate City Festival. Thousands of people take part in the festivities from throughout Wisconsin and the surrounding states. Together, we all share in one of America's favorite taste bud tantalizers - - CHOCOLATE!

Nestlé.



In 1878, at twenty-one, John Mangold, Sr. came from Germany and in 1892 settled near Slades Corners on Highway 50. His son, James Mangold, born in 1904, was the youngest of thirteen children and moved to Burlington in 1922. He and his wife, Marna, built their new home in 1936. He started at Burlington National Bank, now First Banking Center, at age 18 and rose to become president and chairman of the board. His main thrust was developing loans to help farmers recover from the depression. He also took pride in a small top quality flock of Suffolk sheep. The insurance business he started was purchased by his son Jim and Barb Mangold in 1959.

Serendipitously, Jim received a call on Friday night from a friend suggesting he invest in two bred cows, so Jim requested information. Instead he received a BIG BILL

and was in the buffalo business in 1982 with two bred cows and a bull. His herd, located near Burlington and other sites, has been built up to 100 bison with the Federal Government selecting two bulls for their herd in Batavia, Illinois. Presently Lake Geneva Country Meats handles the marketing of the buffalo meat, preferred by consumers for its taste, low fat and low cholesterol. Nationally, 250,000 buffalo roam with approximately 10,000 in Wisconsin. Buffalo and elk are the two animals appropriate for the rebuilding of prairies and restoring our soil's fertility because the animals break up the thatch, force seeds in the soil, fertilize naturally and can handle the climate. Jim co-founded the Wisconsin Bison Association and has served on the State of Wisconsin, Department of Agriculture Animal Health Advisor Board.



**MANGOLD
INSURANCE**



Indian Chief Seattle writes to the President of the United States on Sept. 12, 1855.

"Dear Mr. President,

"So the Great White Chief in Washington sends word he wishes to buy our land.

"How can you buy or sell the sky, the warmth of the land? The idea is strange to us. We do not own the freshness of the air or the sparkle of the waters. How then can you buy them from us, dear sir?

"Every part of the earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing and humming insect is holy in the memory and experience of my people.

"The air is precious to the Redman, for all things share the same breath — the beasts...the trees...the man. The White Man does not seem to notice the air that he breathes. But, perhaps because I am savage, I do not understand. But one thing we do know, which one day the White Man may discover...our God is the same God.

"When the last Redman has vanished from the earth and the memory is only a shadow of a cloud across the prairie, these shores and forests will still hold the spirits of my people. For they love this earth as the newborn loves his mother's heartbeat.

"If we sell you our land, love it as we have loved it. Care for it as we have cared for it. And with all your strength, treat the beasts of this land as your brothers. For if all the beasts are gone, man would die from a great loneliness of spirit. All things are connected. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. The earth is precious to Him, and to harm the earth is to heap contempt upon his creator."

**Sponsored by:
EILEEN HOWE, "PLAYIN HOOKY"
CHARTERS—CAPTAIN BO,
JAMES STOBBER INSURANCE**



Fidelity Title, Inc. was founded in 1948 by James E. Tully, Jr. of Racine. In this its fiftieth year, it is owned and operated by his son, Dennis Tully and his wife, Betty. The third generation consisting of Vice Presidents, Andrew Tully and Patrick Tully, are also officers of the corporation. Fidelity is this area's agent for First American Title Insurance Company and issues title insurance which guaranteed clear titles for purchasers of real estate.

In 1978, Fidelity Title purchased the former home and doctor's office at 731 Main Street in Racine for its main office. It is believed to be the oldest existing building built as a house in the City of Racine. The building was built in 1843 by Isaac Ullman, a wheat dealer who had emigrated from Germany. Originally built in the Greek

Revival style popular at the time, it was enlarged and renovated in Italianate style in 1865 by the second owner, James E. Lyon. The Fazen family purchased it in 1918 and used it as a family home, and as offices for two generations of doctors in the family. James E. Tully purchased it from the Fazen family.

The house has been carefully restored, and the exterior colors were chosen after a careful analysis of the siding indicated that they were colors probably used in the 1860's. The interior of the building retains much of its character in original moldings, fireplace mantels, ceiling medallions, and staircase. The owner has been careful to preserve the integrity of the building, while making it useful and comfortable as a modern office.

**FIDELITY
TITLE INC.**



Just west of the Perkins-McCanna house is the house that Ceb McCanna grew up in. In July 1916, C. Roy McCanna bought the two lots on the corner of Kane and State Streets from H.R. DeLaplain. He also bought from Mrs. Andrew Schaad and Miss Nellie Mather, the five lots on Kane street adjoining the DeLaplain property. In early 1917, McCanna bought the Dr. Edward G. Dyer homestead which adjoined the DeLaplain property on State Street and had plans drawn up for a new residence.

Dr. Dyer, Burlington's first doctor, was an ardent abolitionist, who gave Liberty Street (now part of State Street) its name. His

house was one where a fugitive slave could always find refuge. The house, which later lodged foreign laborers employed here, was moved off the property around the end of 1915.

In 1876, the Dyer house was home to deputy sheriff John Pennington Mather and his family. Mather had earlier been proprietor of the Exchange Hotel on Pine Street where the Burlington Hotel was later built. Mr. Mather, who went broke in a circus venture, died in 1879. His widow, Maria, died in 1908. In 1910, the Mather estate platted the land, laying out eight lots facing Kane Street with an alley at the rear. As

is evident from the length of the property on Kane Street, that plan was never fully carried out.

After C. Roy McCanna's death in 1975, the property was acquired by the McCarthy-Koenig Funeral Home, which added a chapel and installed restrooms in what had been the kitchen and pantry. The basement, which contained a cistern and coal bin in 1920, has walls 16 inches thick, which made upgrading of the plumbing and heating system difficult.

The property was later sold to Schuette-Daniels and is now the site of their furniture store called The Leather Mansion.

**Schuette
Daniels**
Quality Furniture and Flooring
One Vision of Quality Furnishings

**The LEATHER
Mansion**
Fine Quality Furniture
LTD.



*Gardner-Patterson-Waller House
Pickett Court, Shiloh Hills*

The Waller house, the major portion of which was moved in April 1996 to the Shiloh Hills Subdivision on the western edge of Burlington, sat on a large lot on the north-west corner of Kane Street and Gardner Avenue (next to the Wheaton house). It was built about 1871 by Palmer Gardner, a pioneer settler, and came to be known as Gardner's Prairie, just outside Burlington in Walworth County - not far from Shiloh Hills. Gardner's country home still stands off Highway DD. It is currently the Scott Wilson home.

The original Gardner house on Kane Street was a large, square, two-story house, with a long, columned porch. The house commanded a lovely view of the village of Burlington and the surrounding country side, which at the time consisted mainly of farmland and orchards.

The house was later owned by the Andrew Patterson family, and the third story and a Victorian tower were added. In April 1920, attorney George W. Waller bought the residence as a home for himself, his mother Harriet, and his sister Annie.

Inside the house was an impressive amount of woodwork, including a parquet floor, a

circular staircase, which contained no rails, sliding parlor doors, and intricately carved moldings.

Prior to the move to Shiloh Hills, the house was slated to be razed to make way for an educational center. But after an auction of many of the furnishings, the house was bought and moved. Several of the auctioned furnishings were bought back from the purchasers and reinstalled in the house. The house is now owned and has been restored by the Scott Beatse family.

Burlington Historical Society



The Meinhardt house, considered the showplace of Burlington, originally was surrounded by 15 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds, an orchard, a pasture, a dense pine grove, fountains, and tennis courts. Completed in 1883 by Anthony Meinhardt, founder of the Meinhardt Bank and former grocer and postmaster, and his wife, Elisa Riel, the house was designed by the firm of Edward Townsend Mix, Milwaukee's most influential architect.

The eclectic Victorian design is executed in limestone trimmed with buff sandstone. According to one of the daughters, Mrs. Antoinette Meinhardt Fulton, the limestone came from the excavation of the huge basement, as well as from an old garden next to the Charles G. Foltz house, which stood where the Masonic Temple is now, and many loads from the Van Rosenberg farm at Norton's Lake (now Rockland Lake). Mrs. Fulton said that the solid masonry walls were 28 inches thick in the basement, 24 inches in the first floor, and 22 inches at the top of the house.

She also remembered watching with wonder, the placing of the huge 12-by-12 inch center beam, running the length of the house. The carpenter, Fred Itzin, was such a perfectionist that one out of three loads of lumber was sent back because of knotholes or other imperfections.

On the exterior corners are unusual, soothed, vertical stones which are not true quoins, but which frame each wall surface as neat panels. In 1914, the original front porch was moved around to the side, and the large combination porch and porte cochere, extending over the driveway and used to shelter those getting in and out of carriages and automobiles, was added.

The mantel on one of the fireplaces was designed and carved by one of the sons, Francis, who became a dentist. Francis painstakingly carved the mantel from the "hard-as-bone" black walnut counter planks once used in his grandfather's grocery store at the southeast corner of Pine and Chestnut Streets - the corner later occupied by Jacob Wien's clothing store, Kessler's variety store, Rogan's Shoes, and more recently, J. Robert's Men's Apparel. According to Mrs. Fulton, the mantel was Francis's evenings' work for two years, with one panel, on which he carved a trumpet vine, taking three months. The whole was put together with pins and could be moved. Francis's mantel is currently owned by and in the home of one of the heirs.

Anthony Meinhardt died in 1891 and his wife, Elisa, in 1923. Mrs. Fulton, the last of the Meinhardt's to live in the house, died in 1967. She was one of the founders of the Burlington Historical Society and the donor of the society's museum building. The Meinhardt sons, Francis and Albert, never married, so no one in Burlington carries on the family name. Even the bank, which was sold to the Marine Corporation in 1969 and then to Bank One in 1988, no longer carries the Meinhardt name.

In 1963, the house was sold to Donald and Dorothy Johnston, and in November of that year, the Meinhardt Trust auctioned off the house's furnishings. The Johnston family restored some of the house, but also made some changes.

The third owners, in 1971 restored much of the house, furnishing it with antiques and preserving many original or older pieces to maintain a Victorian flavor.

Burlington Historical Society

BANK ONE



The little village of Springfield owes its existence to the building of the Racine and Mississippi Railroad which passed through that area in the year 1855. In 1839, Edward Warren came from the East with his family, shortly thereafter was William B. Rose from New York, Arnold Weeks, John Neild, Peter Orell and Joseph Dykeman.

Charles F. Schinke, born 1874, came to America in 1888 from an area near Berlin, Germany. In 1894, he managed the creamery at Bowers, Wisconsin and in September 1905, he purchased the "Farmers Creamery" in Springfield, Wisconsin. The new creamery, built in 1917, was the first creamery in the state to use

both steam and electric power. His sons, Vernon, Walter, and Warren were part of the family venture. Walter C. Schinke, born in 1913, graduated from UW-Madison in 1942, returned from WWII in 1945 and worked at the creamery unit until it closed in 1959. He returned to college, taught for twenty-three years and was active in the community as a lay leader and Sunday School teacher in the United Methodist Church and sexton in the Springfield Union Cemetery for over fifty years until his passing on May 22, 1997.

St. John's Mission Chapel was organized by the Episcopalians in 1861 with this quaint church built in 1865. Kym and Steve

Davidson and Barb Moyer, well known in the antique and garden business are renovating the "Little Church" with intentions of residing there and opening "Pray For More Stuff" Antiques and "The Pastor's Posies" in 1999.

Also near Springfield is Northwinds Perennial Farm. Well known for creativity in the garden using plants, garden ornaments, planters and unique gifts, antiques and garden tools, it is open mid-April through October.

Helen E. Schinke

"...my happiest moments have been spent in my garden."

Tasha Tudor



MORMON HOUSE - VOREE

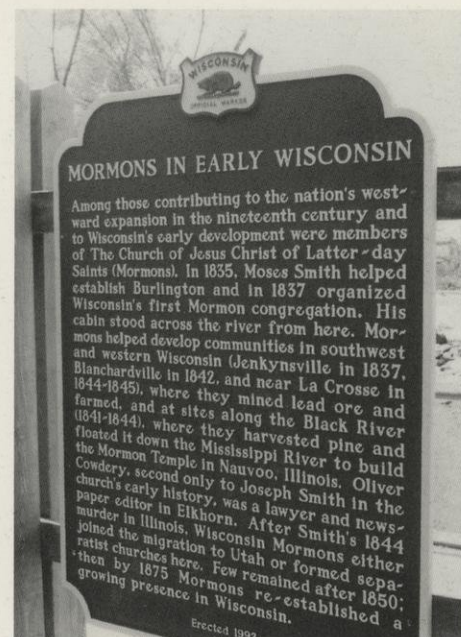
The Strangite Mormon Church had its genesis in June 1844 when James J. Strang claimed he had been appointed by Joseph Smith, Jr. and ordained at the hands of Angels to head the Mormon Church. At Smith's death, the majority of the Mormons followed Brigham Young to Utah, but approximately 2,000 joined Strang at the site of Voree on the outskirts of present day Burlington, Wisconsin.

Under Strang's leadership, a frontier community was developed near the White River on the border of Racine and Walworth Counties as land was cleared and tents and crude shelters transitioned into more substantial log and stone homes and land was purchased and farms were developed by the Communitarian Order of Enoch. A limestone quarry was mined, a newspaper was published and a school was built.

Strang's settlement reached its peak by 1848 and schisms and incursions by rival

Mormon groups depleted the settlement. By mid-1851, Strang called many of the Mormons to Beaver Island in Lake Michigan, but Voree remained in Mormon hands and new lands were even purchased.

When Strang was assassinated in 1856, his Church seriously declined as the destitute Mormons were robbed of their property and were driven from Beaver Island. The Voree properties eventually were sold for back taxes and the Mormons were dispersed throughout the western states. At the turn of the century, several Mormon families pooled their money to purchase 105 acres of the most historical and sacred part of Voree and the Wingfield Watson family made their home at what was once the place where Strang retrieved "hidden" records, made plans to build a temple, conducted the ordinance of baptism for the dead and functioned (according to the belief of his followers) as a Prophet of God.



The Mormons became a diminished force after Strang's death and gradually diminished in numbers as many united with the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints which was headed by Joseph Smith, III, the son of the Mormon founder.

The Strangite Mormons were in a continuing struggle to survive as their numbers dwindled to approximately 200 by 1900 and have further diminished in recent years.

Today, about 50 Strangite Mormons live in the Burlington area and hold services at their Church on Spring Valley Road. Voree is largely a memory at the present time, but is represented by the Hill of Promise, the Voree Cemetery, an 1848 stone house, and several monuments.

William Shepard



Reprinted with permission of Ginny Hall, author of "Meandering Around Walworth County"

On Highway NN, east of Elkhorn, the first driveway you come to is the Highway Shop and UW-Extension Research Demonstration Sludge Plots.

Across the road is the newly built, WALWORTH COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER, OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF.

The next building to your right is the COUNSELING CENTER AND SENIOR CENTER, which is now a part of the Department of Human Services. The building began its use in October, 1971. The County Board created this counseling service in 1959, the clinic began offering its services in 1960.

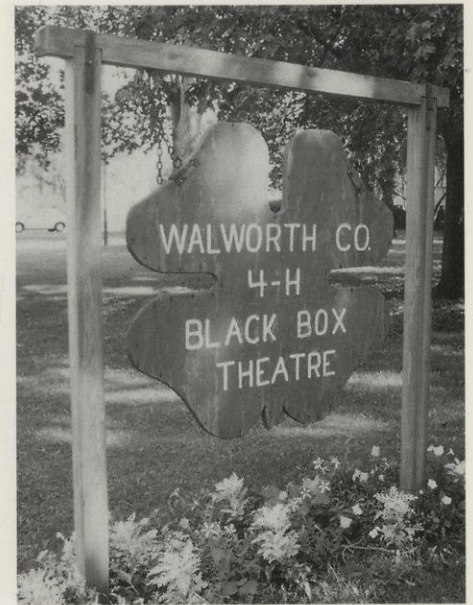
The Commission on Aging was established by the County Board on February 12, 1974. Over the years this has included the

Federal Nutrition Program sites, retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), van drivers, outreach services, senior discount program, County Housing Authority, Senior Aide program, Senior Center, and benefits specialist.

LAKELAND MEDICAL CENTER: This institution evolved from the County Hospital Infirmary which began in the 1920's to care for the residents of the county institutions.

HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATION CENTER: Walworth County had a county pension department which was disbanded in November, 1937 when Public Welfare was established by the County Board. It merged into the Department of Human Services in January, 1988 along with the Lakeland Counseling Center, the Department of Aging, and Developmental Disabilities.

THE WEEK



COUNTY ANNEX-WEST. Note the cupola on the roof. This was the original Walworth County General Hospital. Later it housed the County Poor Farm residents. In 1967, it was remodeled and became the Walworth County Hospital and Home Annex.

UWEX, University of Wisconsin-Extension, was first available in this county when the first county agricultural agent, James Murphy, was hired on February 15, 1915. He worked with farmers' clubs, established a farm employment bureau, did rope splicing, tested soil, started dairy testing programs, and helped control hog cholera. Mr. Murphy later established Murphy Products Co.

Other departments included the ASCS (Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service), Land Conservation and Soil Conservation Service (SCS), County Housing Authority, and the Association for the Prevention of Family Violence.

LAKELAND NURSING HOME. This institution began in 1852 as the Walworth County Poor Farm and the Asylum for the Chronic Insane. In the early days, many residents worked on the county farm to help produce food which they would be eating.

In 1879, a separate institution for the insane and another for the homeless and poor were established. In 1917, a county asylum with infirmary was built.

In 1970, the name Lakeland Nursing Home was initiated for the institution to serve aged, infirmed and the residents from the County Mental Hospital.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES. The first recorded Health Committee meeting was October 29, 1921. A budget of \$4,000 was established to start a County Infant Welfare Association. Miss Bertha Becht, R.N., was the first county nurse.

LAKELAND FARM. With its herd of Holstein dairy cattle, the farm is a research center in cooperation with UW-Extension and UW-Madison. Bi-annually it hosts the Walworth County Dairy Breakfast. More than 3,000 attended this sesquicentennial year.

THE WEEK



As we look out across our fields of corn and soybeans, our thoughts turn to those men and women who farmed this land before us. Benjamin Mead, who settled here in 1840, had a dream of farming. He worked clearing the land and carving out small fields by hand. Years passed, and in the mid-depression and the war years, Jim Brook lived and farmed here. Horses pulled the farm machinery and the farm increased in size. Today our tractors, machinery, and combines glide over our acres smoothly, able to pass over many acres in one day. In fact, in one day on Crane Farms, we can do the job that once took weeks to accomplish. So many changes and constant improvements in agriculture help us improve our methods

every year. So many changes, yet the heart of this farm never changes.

Farming is what we do, it is our way of life, it is who we are. Those before us would have said the same, if asked. The love of the land and the care of the animals is the most honorable of professions, and we are grateful that we can continue in this tradition. Since the 1860's crops have been planted and harvested, children have been raised, clothes have been hung out to dry in the yard, births and deaths have come and gone, but the land and the farm remains.

So, in this sesquicentennial year, Crane Farms, located at 29320 31st St., Burlington, welcomed over 3,000 people to the

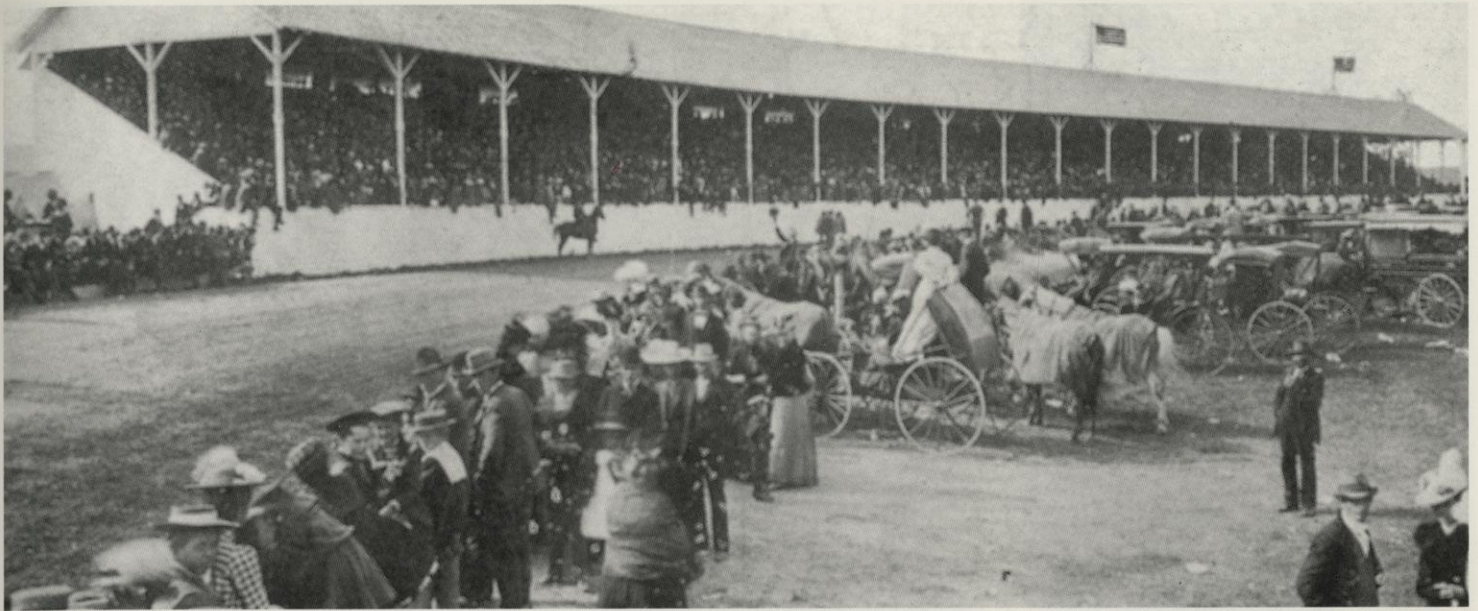
Kenosha County Dairy Breakfast. A celebration of sorts, a mix of the old with the new. They watched our cows being milked in a computerized milking parlor located in the oldest part of the barn. They saw the modern John Deere tractor stand in the shadow of a running threshing machine. And the cows, slow, quiet, and docile, watched from their pasture unaffected by the crowds or by time.

We are Wisconsin...

We are America's Dairyland...

We are Proud to be Farmers.

*Bob & Sue Crane and our 7 children
Crane Farms 1998*



1910 postcard



1915 postcard

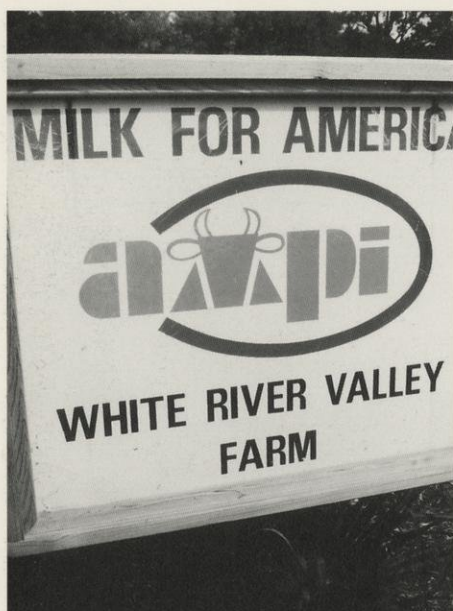
149 years ago when Wisconsin was just a yearling, the first annual fair and cattle show was held in the village of East Troy on October 16, 1850. A total of 35 first premiums, 17 second premiums and 3 third premiums were awarded.

The first county fair held in Elkhorn was in 1851 and again in 1852 in the block southwest of the city park. In 1853 the fair site was moved to Delavan, but returned to Elkhorn in 1854. In 1855, the first purchase of land, from Colonel Edward Elderkin was made, consisting of 6 acres within the village of Elkhorn limits. Many visitors came by train, with 19 special trains unloading daily and leaving again each evening after the races. Today the acreage owned by the Walworth County Agricultural Society, incorporated in 1965, is approximately 90 acres, with land and buildings valued in excess of one million dollars.

With 6 days of near-perfect weather, attendance topped '97 with 177,386 people going through the gates and recognition given to Jeff Gould as the fair's 149,000 visitor. Total dollars spent on animals at the sale was \$249,747, down from \$283,360 in '97. Headliners at the evening shows included Wayne Newton, Tanya Tucker and David Lee Murphy, with the popular Demolition Derby for the Labor Day finale.

A prestigious "Blue Ribbon" award was presented by the U.S. Trotting Horse Association to Elkhorn, as one of only 3 county fairs in the nation to be so recognized for the continuity and quality of their racing program. Standardbred horses have been racing at the Elkhorn track since 1905.

With hundreds of activities, the Walworth County Fair, known as the fair that always makes good, is indeed "your ticket to fun".



As recent owners of White River Valley Farm, located at 6275 Sheridan Springs Road, Town of Lyons, Walworth County, one of the joys has been to learn the history of the farm from the descendants of the original owners who have shared with us photos, memories and love of the place.

The first owner was Hermann Schmidt (later Smith). Born in 1861, he grew up in the Lyons area and eventually developed a threshing as well as a grain mill business in Lyons. He married Theresa Schneider in 1889. They settled on the farm, the house dating from 1892. They had two children, Della, born in 1894 and Andrew, born in 1897. Hermann is remembered as a calm, gentle, hard-working man.

In 1920, Della married Joseph Ahler. Joseph's father, Gerhard, had emigrated from Germany in 1883 and settled in Walworth County. He had married Josephine Eisenbart, and they had 12 children, including Joseph. Della had helped her father on the farm and in 1922, she and Joe bought the farm from her parents for \$13,000. Hermann died in 1929 and his widow continued living with Della and Joe and their 6 children until her death in 1938.

The Ahlers continued working and developing the farm which was eventually taken over by their son, Vincent. In 1985 the Ahlers sold White River Valley Farm to Mr. James Campbell, who in turn rented it to Bob Mathison.

We were lucky enough in 1989 to find this wonderful homestead. The land and the farm have been in production for over 100 years. It has a dairy barn, rebuilt in 1969 after the original barn burned. Members of the Ahler family have given us photos taken circa 1902, showing the parents in horse and buggy outside the wonderful house which was at that time surrounded by orchards and lilacs. We have had fine guidance in restoring the house and truly sense and respect the loving history of White River Valley Farm.

Dr. James & Sally Downey, Owners

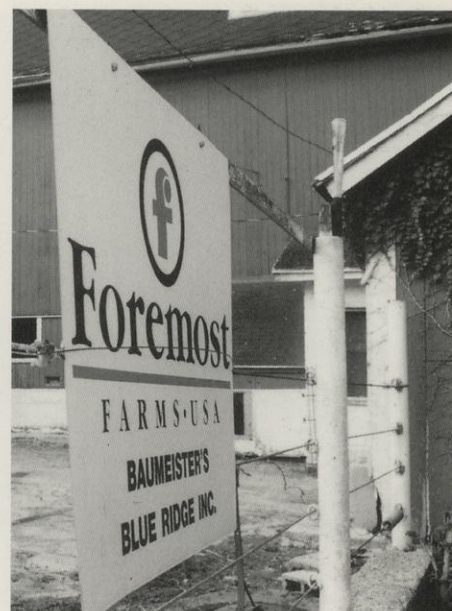


Milking 180 Holsteins and operating 550 acres planted to corn, soybeans, wheat and alfalfa is the life work of Darrell and Kathy Baumeister, owners of Blue Ridge Farm, Inc. in the town of Lyons, Walworth County. Kathy, a UW-LaCrosse graduate majoring in physical education and biology, taught at Kansasville grade school and St. Mary's Burlington. Darrell, certified in welding from Gateway, still does welding repair, as well as custom combining and harvesting. Together they started farming in 1973.

Their oldest son, Kevin, 25, works full-time on the farm. Brian, 15, and Darren, 13, help out after school and on weekends. Francy, 22, helps with milking chores on weekends. Stacy, 26 and Vicki, 24, live off the farm, but frequently return home to be of assistance.

Historically, the David/Warren/Baumeister farm transfer dates back to 1864. Note that Elizabeth David (Kathy's grandmother, could not claim her farm inheritance until she was 30.)

Darrell & Kathy Baumeister, Owners



July 15, 1864 - Joseph David purchased 120 acres on the north side of Warren Rd. and 20 acres on the south side of Warren Rd. from Wm. Rittman.

Jan. 3, 1882 - Joseph David sold to his son Henry David the same parcels.

July 3, 1885 - Henry David transferred the farm to Joseph Vos, then to Caroline Vos David (Elizabeth Warren's mother).

Nov. 1902 - Caroline David willed her estate to Elizabeth David when Elizabeth reached age 30.

Aug. 1, 1916 - Elizabeth reaches age 30 and becomes owner of the farm. James and Elizabeth build the first barn.

1950 - Built center section of the barn.

Jan., 1958 - James and Elizabeth Warren sell the farm to Julian and Catherine Warren.

1959 - Julian and Catherine built a brick house.

1960-1970 - Put an addition on the barn, built silos and heifer sheds.

1977 - Built the Slurrystore.

1980 - Julian and Catherine Warren hosted the Walworth Co. Dairy Breakfast.

1989 - Rented the farm to Darrell and Kathleen Warren Baumeister with the option to buy.

1991 - Julian and Catherine Warren sold the farm to Darrell and Kathleen Baumeister.

1994 - Heated workshop was built for repair and welding work.

1996 - Freestall barn housing 160 cows was built and the dairy barn was remodeled to a milking parlor and holding area.

1998 - The Baumeisters construct a new, brick house.





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The lakes were named for James Lauderdale. He built the first real home on the lake in 1842.

James was born in New York. He came to this area in 1841 along with his wife's brother and cousin. Each man bought 160 acres of land at the Homestead Act price of \$1.25 per acre. Lauderdale's property covered a lot of the shoreline of Green, Middle and Mill lakes (these comprise the Lauderdale Lakes). Actually the current name was not applied to the area until James' cousin, James Lauderdale, bought the mill and added a Post Office.

James, his wife's brother and cousin returned to New York for their families and returned in September of 1842. While they stayed in a nearby tavern, James built his log cabin on the shoreline. He used roof boards which were sawed at Bigelow's Sawmill.

Mrs. Lauderdale did not like living right next to the lake. In 1855 her husband built a larger, more modern house next to the road, this time the lumber was hauled from Milwaukee.

James served as town supervisor for many years and two terms in the state Assembly.

STERLINGWORTH CONDO. Drive into this area so you can learn more about its

historic site, get a glimpse of the lake and avoid some of the highway traffic. This road formerly led to the Sterlingworth Hotel, the second hotel built on the Lauderdale Lakes.

Mr. John E. Wheeler from Chicago bought the shoreline property and began building in 1893. The original hotel was four stories. Later the top floor was removed. At first it was used only in the summer, there was no heat in the building. Kerosene lamps and candles provided light. After the mill was removed from the area, a hydroelectric generator provided power until public electricity came to the area.

Danny Seymour was the last owner of the Sterlingworth Hotel.



Since 1846, the Cook family homestead has operated as a Walworth County farm, with present owners, Vivian and Floyd George, representing the fourth generation. Much credit must be paid to Anna Cook, who continued to farm after losing her husband, Gerhard, to blood poisoning, in a wood-splitting accident just 7 years after their arrival from Germany. Their son Alex, took over the 227 acre farm and from him it passed to Joe Cook, Mrs. George's father.

Jim Lloyd's painting shows Mrs. George comforting a lamb whose mother was stolen from their front yard when the lamb was just 5 days old.

The stone house, plaster-faced by German standards, housed ghandancers as they built the Mississippi railroad bed prior to 1852, cooking in a cellar fireplace made of sand brick.

The original 100 foot, all stone barn was razed in 1896 because it was believed that moisture condensation on the stone caused tuberculosis in cattle, transmitting it to humans through milk. Less than 2 years later, as the then new frame dairy barn was being completed, the true cause was discovered.

The sheep barn, built in 1885, still functions in that capacity today, where the



Georges, for the past 40 years have raised 250-275 lambs annually from their 135 ewe flock of Suffolk and Dorset sheep. They regularly produce club lambs for 4-H and FFA members with 35 shown at the Walworth County Fair in 1997 by their young owners.

They were recipients of Wisconsin's Master Shepherd award in 1994. In addition, the Georges are marking their 56th year as gladioli growers for the local trade.

*Vivian and Floyd George
1281 Spring Valley Road
Burlington, Wisconsin 53105*



It all began more than 100 years ago in a small Swiss Alpine Village. Henri Nestlé collaborated with a neighbor, Daniel Peter, in the development of the world's first milk chocolate. In 1990, the first American Nestlé manufacturing facility was opened in Fulton, New York near Syracuse. The plant was established to manufacture Nestlé's Sweetened Condensed Milk, but in 1907, management switched to the production of Nestlé Milk Chocolate.

Nestlé's Burlington, Wisconsin plant, set on six acres of attractively landscaped grounds, is one-of-four Nestlé Chocolate manufacturing facilities in the United States. California Architects, John A. Blume & Associates, designed the Burlington plant for ease of expansion. Nelson, a general contractor from Racine, Wisconsin, constructed it in 16 months. The grand opening ceremonies were held in August of 1966.

In 1969, a cocoa bean warehouse was added to hold approximately ten varieties of beans. Over the years, the plant has expanded to meet increased production needs.

Prior to choosing the Burlington site, Nestlé spent two years studying chocolate consumption, distribution and marketing trends to determine how much additional capacity would be needed and where the new facility should be located. The town of Burlington offered abundant resources. Being 65 miles from Chicago, it is centrally located, offers excellent transportation of goods by both rail and truck, and serves as a vital source for the plant's critical fresh milk supply.

Indeed, Burlington and Nestlé enjoyed a special relationship prior to the plant's arrival. For 40 years, until 1959, Nestlé operated a canning factory in the area and produced condensed milk for the community.

Nestlé's Burlington facility employs approximately 500 employees and produces a variety of chocolate products including such popular brand names as Nestlé Chocolate Quik®, Toll House® Semi-Sweet Morsels®, Fun-Size Nestlé Crunch®, 100 Grand®, Oh Henry!®, Raisinets®, Goobers®, Nestlé Buncha Crunch® and a variety of Bulk Chocolates and Ice Cream Bar Coatings. The plant is one of the most progressive Nestlé manufacturing facilities in the U.S. and reflects the pride and quality consciousness of its employees.

In addition to producing quality, great tasting chocolate, Nestlé Burlington works with the city each year to plan the Chocolate City Festival. Thousands of people take part in the festivities from throughout Wisconsin and the surrounding states. Together, we all share in one of America's favorite taste bud tantalizers -- CHOCOLATE!

For well over a century, Nestlé has been making the very best food and beverage products for families around the world. In the U.S., Nestlé's well known brands include: Nestlé®, Carnation®, Stouffer's®, Hills Bros.®, Libby's®, Buitoni®, Contadina®, Nestea®, Taster's Choice®, Ortega®, and Nestlé®Toll House®.

Nestlé is one of the largest chocolate manufacturers in the U.S. with such brands as Nestlé® Crunch®, Nestlé® Baby Ruth®, 100 Grand®, Oh Henry!®, Goobers®, Raisinets®, and more! Nestlé U.S.A., headquartered in Glendale, Calif., employs 19,500 employees around the country. The company boasts more than \$7.8 billion in sales and is part of Swiss-based Nestlé S.A. -- the world's largest food company.

I was asked to share my ideas regarding changes in medicine and some of my experiences since being here, and to comment on causes of death in the 1850's as compared to now. Lastly, how the present Burlington Clinic came about.

In the 1850's, the average length of life was 45 years. Deaths were due to infections, primarily pneumonias, tuberculosis, plague, flu, small pox, cow pox, and many not known then viral infections. In our day and age, deaths are primarily from chronic illnesses, including problems from heart, strokes, lungs, hypertension, diabetes, osteoarthritis, cancer, super infections such as AIDS and other viruses, accidents, violence, and suicide. As you are well aware, many of these are brought on by our change in lifestyle including abuse of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and also from fat, changes in sexual morals, new ideas regarding recreation in the fast lane. The average length of life is now 76; this primarily due to the discovery of vaccines, antibiotics and many new drugs, newer sterilization techniques and better surgical procedures. We are all well aware of the new, higher technologies that continue to appear as the years go by.

I came to Burlington in 1949 to work with the Bennett Clinic off and on, and came to stay in 1950. One of my very first experiences here was a polio epidemic and in those times we went to the homes; did spinal taps, came back to the office, read the smears, and called patients back with the results. I also recall that early November, Highway 83 was closed due to a tremendous snowstorm and I made a house call to New Munster with a horse and cutter. Some of us still make an occasional house call, but of course, that was the only way with a horse and cutter. There were no rescue squad or paramedics, and we used funeral vehicles for ambulances when necessary. In the late 1950's, we started teaching CPR. I personally am eternally grateful for rescue squad personnel and paramedics. I feel that they have added years onto all of our lives.

In 1950, the other physicians here were Dr. Frank Newell, Dr. William Murawski, Dr. Herb Granzau, Dr. Les Mastalir, and Dr. Joe Carroll. I had the privilege of knowing them all reasonably well. Dr. Sroka and Dr. Van Liere had been here until 1948 when they left and returned in about 1953; and they, too, took over a practice from Dr. Mullin, and formed Medical Associates and later added Dr. Bonzelet and Dr. Larmore. Dr. Van Liere had previously been with Dr. Mastalir and after he left, Dr. Baker came to practice with Dr. Mastalir. Dr. Klocker came into the picture about that time and I had the privilege of covering for him a number of times during the week when he would be in Chicago.

In 1952, Dr. Bennett left the clinic to practice strictly as a surgeon and left Burlington not too long after for California. At that

time, I began to operate as the Burlington Clinic and Dr. Kempton came with me just out of the Service, stayed for a period of time, and left for a career in psychiatry. Dr. Laird McNeel from Genoa City moved up to join our group and during the years we had physicians come and go; but at the time of our merger in 1984, the physicians in the clinic were Dr. Krismer, Dr. Ellingstad, Dr. Webber, Dr. Erickson, Jr., Dr. Dussault, Dr. Joe Majewski, Dr. Laird McNeel, and myself. At this time the group known as Burlington Medical Center included Dr. Baker, Dr. Wheaton, Dr. Gander, Dr. Maker, and after many discussions which started at least ten years prior and with help of all of those involved, we merged together as the Burlington Clinic.

This was a major step in the life of the Clinic because we began to recruit as a team and many physicians came and some, of course, have since left for various reasons, but we continue to grow and a year later in 1985, we were joined by Medical Associates including Dr. Van Liere, Dr. Sroka, and Dr. Larmore. This was the final merge that included all previous individual groups into one system that continued to add new ideas, techniques, and technologies that are offered you today in this town, and you are well aware of those facilities, including a Heart Catheterization Lab, etc. right here in our own backyard. There is still one physician who operates an individual practice outside the clinic, namely Dr. Sharon Smith. The clinic now has satellites in Lake Geneva, Wind Lake, Waterford, Paddock Lake, Twin Lakes, and in 1994, we joined Aurora Health Care by a large majority vote of the Clinic's members.

The other changes that I see in medicine is that we as physicians were only taught to treat sickness, and now finally doctors are being taught to treat wellness as well. Interesting enough, however, third party payers, including Medicare, Title 19, Medicaid and insurance carriers never really pay well for advising patients how to stay healthy. This may be one thing that Managed Care might succeed in doing, and I hope it does. I think we have also seen medicine beginning to embrace alternatives such as chiropractics for some things, acupuncture, acupressure, herbal medicines, etc. This represents a distinct change in my nearly 50 years of practice.

I am sure I have made some mistakes in dates and possibly some names, but the overall picture was honestly put together and with some help from some of my associates whose memories also left something to one's imagination.

My best advise; stay healthy and you'll beat the system.

*Lief Erickson, Sr., M.D.
Family Physician*

Incidentally, when I started, the postage stamp was 2 cents and an office call was \$2.00; guess we finally outran the stamp.



CREDITS

Eileen Albright, Rochester, Waterford, Burlington Editor, Historian and Writer

Photo of William Albright on page 87 by Eileen Albright

Samuel Henry Avery, Cover Artist of Rochester Mill

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Burlington Historical Society

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THE WEEK, Editorial, Photography, all costs for film and processing for HISTORIC PLACES AND PEOPLE

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