



MONTICELLO

*Past
and
Present*

Preface

For most of us, there is a great satisfaction in looking back at our heritage.

Then, it was a treat to cross a covered bridge, walk down a shady lane or celebrate the Fourth of July with a picnic. So many events (like threshing bees and barn raisings) meant sweat and hard work, and so many were worth the effort. For one thing, they have helped give us the affluent life style we have come to take for granted.

The Bicentennial Year 1976 did make us pause and think: What are we doing for those who gave us that heritage...and who will keep the records for posterity?

In the beginning, one member from nearly all area organizations was delegated to form a Bicentennial Committee. Their immediate objectives were completed, but the group had collected a great deal of historical material. It would be a shame, they felt, to have this material once more hidden by the dust of time.

It seemed inevitable that all this material they'd gathered be formed into something permanent. Four Monticello people took the initial move to see what other towns were doing in this area of putting their history in book form.

After the first organizational meeting, interest and support in the community grew to a gratifying level.

By the portrayals and depictions in this book, the committee wishes to repay the community for its interest and support.

Thomas Brusveen
July, 1977



Monticello's Bicentennial observance included an ecumenical religious service on the shore of Lake Montesian...1976.



Message from the Mayor

It is appropriate that the Monticello Historical Committee should be formed at this time, and produce this publication.

1976, a Bicentennial year, brought many reflections of our past history throughout the nation.

Past reflections on our local history were inspired by the Monticello Bicentennial Committee. Through the dedicated efforts of this committee, Monticello was recognized as a Bicentennial Community on the national and state level. Through these efforts, we have for the first time an accurate record of the past 133 years of Monticello history.

I am sure future generations will value this publication, and it is hoped that they will preserve and add their history to it.

The individuals who served on both of these committees are to be commended for their fine efforts.

To the Bicentennial Committee, the Historical Committee and other individuals who participated or contributed, I wish to express on behalf of all the people of the community our gratitude and sincere appreciation.

John Stenbrotten
VILLAGE OF MONTICELLO

Village Presidents

Edward Blumer	1910 to March, 1930
W.E. Blum	March 20, 1930 to April, 1934
E.J. Blum	April, 1934 to April, 1935
CM. Stauffer	April, 1935 to April, 1951
R.A. Woodruff	April, 1951 to June 6, 1953
Louis Wyss	June 6, 1953 to April, 1959
Emil Voegeli	April, 1959 to April, 1961
Karl Freitag	April 1961 to April, 1963.
John Stenbrotten.....	April, 1963 to present

Monticello Bicentennial Committee



Accepting the Bicentennial flag from George Cutliep, (right) Bicentennial Public Information Director, were members of the Monticello Bicentennial Committee (left to right): Mrs. Monty Chesebro, Burnell Green and John Stenbrotten.

Mayor John Stenbrotten asked for a representative from all area organizations to attend a meeting at the Village Hall on June 23, 1975, to establish a Bicentennial Steering Committee. Mrs. Monty (Dorothy) Chesebro was elected President, Mrs. Leon (Margaret) Gempeler, Secretary, and Burnell Green, Treasurer. In April of 1976, Monticello was officially recognized as a qualified Bicentennial Village and was presented with a Bicentennial flag and certificate.

information to get a history compiled for our local library. Thomas Brusveen was instrumental in getting pictures for the history. After the Homecoming celebration, a Monticello Historical Book committee was appointed by the Bicentennial President, with Ruth Abley, Edna Babler, Thomas Brusveen, Jake Wittenwyler and Fred and Mary Burgy taking the responsibility of compiling the "Monticello History Book."

—Dorothy Chesebro

Barbara and Burnell Green began collecting

Monticello Historical Committee



THE MONTICELLO HISTORICAL COMMITTEE: (left to right) Last row, Bonnie Smith, Walt Haddinger, Fred Burgy, Thomas Brusveen. Front row, Mary Burgy, Edna Babler, Ruth Abley and Jake Wittenwyler.

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This has been truly a community project. So many people have contributed in so many ways. Financial support, contributions of material, ideas and interest by the residents of Monticello. It would have been impossible to have done it without encouragement and guidance from so many people. It means so much to bring it to a successful conclusion.

The Committee

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LOOKING BACK

History of Monticello



View of Monticello in 1907. Most of the houses were white frame, spacious and built for large families.

The history of Monticello begins with the colonists. During the Revolutionary War, the colonists were united against a common enemy, England. But their government was no more than a rope of sand. However, their common ownership of the lands both east and west of the Mississippi bound the states more firmly into a single nation than any formal paper would have done.

The Organization of the Southwest territory was haphazard and disorderly. However, in the Northwest territory, as the area above the Ohio River was to be called, the Yankee traditions of orderly survey and purchase came to dominate. Congress made the rules and decided that the territory be formed into states having the same rights as the existing states. Thomas Jefferson was the head of the committee to decide what kind of government this Northwest territory should have. The result of the work of this committee was the Northwest Ordinance of 1784. It was the first document to outline procedures for the establishment of territorial government and orderly transition to statehood. This was the basis of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 of which Daniel Webster said, "I

doubt whether one single law of any law-giver, ancient or modern, has produced effects of more distinct marked and lasting character than the Ordinance of 1787."

Before this ordinance was put into effect, Congress adopted the Ordinance of 1785 under which the last of the northwest lands were apportioned and sold. The ordinance required that the territory be surveyed into townships of 36 sections. Each section was 640 acres or 1 (one) square mile. Four sections of each township were to be kept for the U.S. Government and one section was to be used for the support of local education. The rest was to be auctioned off through land offices set up at convenient locations. The minimum purchase was to be one 640 acre section and the minimum price, one dollar per acre. Later on, the sections were to be divided into halves, quarters and other combinations.

The village of Monticello is located in Sections 7, 8, 17 and 18, with the greater part being in Section 7 of Mt. Pleasant township. The village is built along the banks of the Little Sugar River. The Little Sugar River was joined by a smaller stream from the north. This stream is now non-existent.

Indian activity, especially that of Chief Blackhawk, did not affect the history of the Monticello area except that settlers were kept out of the locality by the Indians. It was not until after the Blackhawk War, lasting about three months in 1832, and following the arrest of Blackhawk, that pioneers felt free to come into the Little Sugar River area, working first the mines in Exeter and then establishing settlements.

The first white man to see possibilities in the site was Robert Witter. Very little is known of his early years, but he registered this land in the Mineral Point Land Office as an agent for his brother, Chester, in 1843. If two people wanted to register "or enter" the same parcel of land, a race to Mineral Point or any other land office could result.

The land that Witter entered is the W 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of



The only three people now living who were listed in the first census of Monticello in 1891. (Left to right) Anna K. Babler, Albert Knobel, and Mrs. Stillmon (Nellie) Huntley.

Section 7, consisting of 80 acres, on which the village was built. Witter stayed in this area long enough to build a saw mill. From Monticello he went to Exeter, where he was elected to the board of supervisors and served as a Justice of the Peace in 1879. He was the last postmaster of Exeter in the year 1871.

Between 1843 and 1850, the property changed hands many times. In 1846, A.F. Steadman purchased the property and platted the village. In 1847, Hugh McClintock purchased a half interest; but in 1848 Mr. Turman became sole proprietor of the property. He, however, owned it only a few months before selling to Jacob and Mathias Marty. These two men divided the property, Jacob taking the part lying on the north side of the river, and Mathias the land on the south. Mathias sold his part to Jacob, who in 1850 gave one lot to Peter Wilson on condition that he at once build a frame dwelling. Mr. Wilson did erect a structure 16 by 24 feet in size, one story high, and this was the first building in the village. The exact site of this building is unknown.

At one time, Monticello was seriously making a bid to become the Green County seat. A school teacher here offered a 10-acre plot and to raise \$65,000 by popular subscription, but the community lost the bid despite his enthusiasm.

The first store building was erected in 1851 by Sylvester Hills who became the first merchant in the village. He carried a general stock of goods.

The Grange store was established in 1875 with F.K. Studley as agent and general manager. This business was owned and conducted exclusively by members of the Patrons of Husbandry. General merchandise and hardware were handled. It is thought that the Garland family operated it at one time. Reading materials were available, and the children in the area loved to go there as it was the only place in town where books could be enjoyed. It was Monticello's first library.

Businesses relating to the agricultural background of the village were begun. The first hardware and tin shop was started by David and S.S. Hills, and L.B. Conant. The first blacksmith was George Bowes, who had his shop on the south side of the river. In 1849, George Rolland built a shop on the north side of the river.

The first shoemaker was Frank Drake, who came in 1853. The first harnessmaker was William Jordan, who began his business in 1862. Thomas Mitchell, blacksmith and wagonmaker, began business in Monticello in 1877. A.E. Dunbar ran a general store.

Many of the early settlers were born in New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Ohio, New Jersey, and Maine. These were "Yankees" and many of them had origins in the British Isles. Many of our early settlers were of English descent. The Swiss from New Glarus followed the Yankees into the area.

Many of the Swiss came directly from their homeland. Several reasons for emigration were given by residents of the village. Mrs. Rosa Waelti Babler, of Canton Berne, came to America because she had three brothers in the "new country" and they sent for her to "tend baby." It was easier for her to make a living here.

Alois Wyss said that adventure prompted him to leave the home country. Martha Weibel Kistler from

Grossaffoltern, Berne, said she had a great desire to come to America. She was a worker in the Swiss passport office and the urge to leave the homeland was great.

Adolph Kistler, a tailor in his home, Burgdorf, Berne, came to this locality because of the influence of a friend who had preceded him to Green county. Mrs. Jacob Legler — "reise lustig" (adventure) — wanted to see America.

Mrs. Anna Messerli and family came to America because of economic distress in the dairy industry in the home country. The family had their trunks addressed to Illinois, but someone told the family that the state was too warm for the dairy industry. Consequently, they changed their plans and came to Wisconsin.

Mrs. Thomas Zimmerman said that her family in Switzerland was so large, it was extremely difficult to make a living.

There were a few families from Holland who were excellent carpenters, and were employed by local lumber and construction firms. These families came early in the 1900's.

In 1886, the possibility of a railroad coming to Monticello created activity in the area. The railroad surveyors had nearly reached Monticello on the way to Madison. In 1887, the building of the railroad began. The village thought "the railroad will come to the town," and the I.C. officials said, "The town will come to us." The railroad won — it did not go through the heart of the village, but on the eastern periphery.

The completion of the railroad brought a lot of building activity to the area. Milo Barney built a new warehouse for storage of hay, seed and beef by the quarter. Cellars were built along the railroad lines for the storage of cheese. New walks were needed to the depot and were subsequently built. A side track to the woolen mill was put in. Real estate boomed. An office of the Western Union Telegraph Company was established in the I.C. depot, and telegraph instruments were also placed in the St. Paul depot. Express offices were established. The growing need for a bank became acute, and one was subsequently built.

The hotels were community centers. They were replaced for this purpose by Karlen's Hall and that, in turn, was replaced by the high school gymnasium.

Local government followed the township plan of New England, with a county organization based upon the town plan. After petitioning the legislature in 1836, Green county was organized and granted full power to transact business and elect officers. Early village officers were the chairman, supervisors, clerk, treasurer, justice of the peace and assessor. One supervisor was to serve on the county board. As the school system started throughout the county, it was necessary to elect a superintendent of schools.

An observation made by H.W. Pickford, early resident of the village, and quoted in the March 13, 1889, issue of the Monroe Sentinel is as follows: "Great changes have taken place all around us. Our population has almost changed its nationality, and by the advent of two lines of railroad our little village has been transformed from a quiet rural habitation, to a bustling, booming center of trade. Real estate has more than doubled its value in the business and residence portion of Monticello, and it is quite evident that the end is not yet."

Railroads

by Fred T. Burgy

Interest in the village began to come alive during 1886 when the railway surveyors had nearly reached Monticello on the way to Madison. It was generally believed that the road would run about one-half mile east of the village. Real estate began to change hands, businesses were begun, improvements were made in the village and the general activity was stimulated.

Through the courtesy of Engineer Wilder, the following is a condensed version of the profile of C.M.&N.R.R., later the Illinois Central, as of January 26, 1887, from Monroe to Belleville, a distance of 20 miles.

"Leaving Monroe, the line at once strikes out on a nearly maximum upgrade, which is fifty feet to the mile, for three miles, when it has attained an elevation of 125 feet above Monroe. This place is known as "The Summit" and is just east of Round Grove. The next 3 miles is a broken grade, being principally on the ridge. Going north on the Matt Geigel Farm, there will be a trestle 400 feet long. The next two miles is easier grade and brings the line at a point just east of Monticello where the depot will be located. This point is 164 feet below Monroe and is the lowest point between Monroe and Belleville. From Monticello north, there will be several bridges, the longest being 700 feet just north of the Woolen Mill. South of the tunnel, about 1/4 mile, the grade starts to increase to a point 235 feet above the Sugar River Valley and penetrates the hill 100 feet below the Summit. The length of the tunnel is 1/4 mile and after it is finished it must be 21 feet high and 14 feet wide. The tunnel goes through the hill on a curve which requires considerable engineering."

March 23, 1887: In and around "Tunnel City" there are about 124 men at work, principally Italians and blacks and are paid \$1.50 per day. A boarding house for men with a capacity of feeding and lodging 100 workers has recently been put up — the price for board and lodging is \$3.50 per week. The sleeping apartment contains fifty bunks arranged in double tiers and two men are assigned to each bunk. The bedding consists of an armful of marsh hay or a blanket, which are furnished by the house. In the Italian headquarters, there is a room with sleeping accommodations for 16 persons, a cook stove for preparing their meals and all in a room 16 feet square; one small window and a door being the only chance for light and air. There are several of these shanties.

In striking contrast to the quarters previously described, the residence of the engineers stands out in bold relief on the summit, almost directly over the tunnel — neat, commodious, attractive, warmed by a base burning coal stove.

"The Great Tunnel" - the long-looked for event occurred on Thursday, December 1, 1887, at 6:50 a.m. at which time the two headings came together. The headings met with only a variation of an inch one way and not quite 3/8 inch the other way. The total variation was less than one inch. There is 930 feet of completed tunnel.

Dec. 28, 1887: A large number of Italians left for Chicago Monday p.m., having finished their work here.

Dec. 28, 1887: The C.M.&N. depot is painted in

Motor Car



The Illinois Central "Motor Car," nicknamed "the Scooter" was in operation about two years. This picture was taken in 1914.

Two views of the Motor Car which made one round trip daily from Freeport, Ill., to Madison, Wis., making its first trip January 13, 1908. It was nicknamed "The Scooter" and was run by gasoline. It was in operation about two years, was often out of commission, and carried mail as well as passengers. While the Motor Car was used, the regular Illinois Central train made one less round trip daily.

The one picture was taken in summer on its way to Freeport. The horse drawn bus (10 cents a ride) carried passengers to and from the depot.

In the picture taken in the winter, the horse drawn bus has its side curtains down to protect the passengers from the cold. The horses used on the bus were rented from the livery stable. During the years 1913 through 1918, the livery business was owned and operated in partnership by Henry J. Elmer and Walter Wittenwyler (both living to date) who at that time owned 28 horses. Often all the horses were in use, being used for other purposes as by village doctors, travelling salesmen and other travellers.

Among the earliest bus drivers were George and Andy Legler, Emil Voegeli, John Lynn and Walter Wittenwyler.



The horse drawn bus (10 cents a ride) carried passengers to and from the depot.



This 1913 wreck on the Monticello line caused quite a stir in town.

good style and is now ready for business.

The subscription method was used by the Chicago, Milwaukee and Northern Railroad with the village to furnish \$5,000 to help build the Monticello-Monroe line. The village agreed to this, provided the road came within 3/4 of a mile of the business district.

The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul people decided to build their line into Monticello through the

same area and thought they should have part of this financial arrangement. The village rejected this because the C.M.&N. had kept their part of the agreement and felt that it should do the same. However, the C. M. and St. Paul and New Glarus made their own arrangement. *Taken from material in the Wisconsin State Historical Library and the Monroe Sentinel as compiled by Dr. J. H. Burgy.*



The Illinois Central train.

Meet Early Pioneers

by Edna Babler

William H. Coates came from Pennsylvania in 1862 and erected a commodious frame house; had a family of eight children.

Richard Barlow, a native of England, came in 1859, lived in several other states, went back to England for 24 years, was in the Battle of New Orleans.

Milo L. Barney came to America in 1855, taught school in Clarno and Adams, was a farmer for a while, then moved to Monticello in 1879.

Ralsey Knight, the first wagon maker in Monticello, was a native of New York. He had lived in several other states and later became a farmer in the Monticello area.

Peter Wilson, a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1818, lived in Ohio and Indiana before coming to the Territory of Wisconsin. In 1845, he moved to Monticello and in 1850 he built the first house ever erected on the present site of Monticello, which he occupied eight years.

The John H. Trogner family came from New York in 1877 and engaged in a flour mill. He was a deacon of the Baptist Church.

Charles H. Baxter came with his parents in 1853, received his education in a district school, planned to teach school, changed his mind and enlisted in the Civil War.

Ira T. Humiston, coming from New York, established himself in business in the village in 1856.

Isaiah Baebler came to this area in 1854 from Switzerland, bought 40 acres of land just south of the village, built a log house, bought more land, in about 1868, he owned 259 acres, then built a frame house and two barns. He was married to Annie Rhyner. They had nine children.

Thomas Mitchell, a native of Bohemia, started a blacksmith and wagon maker business in 1877. Prior to that, he had a shop at the Junction House, west of Monroe.

John U. Elmer, third son of John U. and Verna Elmer, born in Switzerland and attended schools in America. He was a teacher, preacher and a farmer.

August Milbrandt, a farmer, engaged in raising stock and grain. He was a native of Prussia. He was the owner of 421 acres of land.

Theodore Z. Buck, a native of Canada, came in 1856; was a farmer, enlisted in the war, went back to Canada, later returned to the U.S.

John Richard, native of England, grew up in Iowa, farmed in Wisconsin; became manager of the Grange Store in Monticello until 1884. Later he was a traveling salesman in Milwaukee and Chicago.

F.J. Breylinger, native of Austria, lived in Pennsylvania, Illinois and Wisconsin. In Juda, he had a tin shop, later opened a tin shop in Monticello.

Hanford M. Selleck, from Long Island Sound, came to Green County in 1856, was a carpenter, a farmer, moving to the village in 1870.

J.C. Steinmann, born in Switzerland, came to America at age 6, worked on farms, purchased a farm, later began the mercantile business in Monticello in partnership with Fredolin Knoble.

Fredolin Knoble, native of Switzerland, lived with

his parents in New Glarus. His father died in the war. In 1882, he came to the village.

Peter Jenny, born in Switzerland in 1811, was a wood engraver and followed that trade in America. He was the father of thirteen children, three by his first marriage and ten by the second.

Wm. Clark, born in Illinois, three years old when he came to Green County, and was reared on a farm. He was married to Hannah Barlow, then moved to Iowa, later back to Mt. Pleasant.

Anton Stauffacher came from Switzerland, reared on a farm and was married to Annie Stauffacher. In 1845, they came to Green County and purchased a farm in Mt. Pleasant township.

Richard McGoon, born in New York in 1826 and came to Mt. Pleasant in 1848, enlisting in the war and in 1856 returned home and resumed farming. Later moved to the village.

Jacob Marty, born in Switzerland, was reared to agricultural pursuits. He was married to Barbara Stauffacher. They were the parents of nine children.

Sweting C. Taft located in Monticello in 1854, helped build a grist mill and a saw mill; enlisted in the war in 1864.

Franklin Pierce came from New York with his parents, the Josiah Pierces, in about 1840, lived on farms and in 1869 moved to the village.

Among other early pioneers of this area and who served in the Civil War were: Erastus Hulbert who died on board a steamer between New Orleans and Vicksburg; Richard McGoon, who served in several minor engagements; John Stauffacher, whose health failed and was discharged; Michael Kealey, who was with a regiment that engaged in fighting bushwhackers; and John F. Annis, who joined Sherman's march at Chattanooga and was one of the soldiers who re-enlisted several times.

Other pioneers who settled in the Monticello area and engaged in farming most of their life were: Asakel Wilcox, John Blumer, James Whitcomb, Benjamin Lewis, Adrian Berryman, Jabez Clark, Anthony Carroll, L.W.P. Morton, Charles Parkin, Theodore Chamberlain, Charles St. John and George Baker.



Casper Becker, who farmed in Washington Township in the late 1800's, later moved to Monticello.

Jimtown

by Mrs. Mary Peterson

The area known as "Jimtown" starts where Route 39 leaves Lake Avenue and continues on west. The early home owners were Mrs. Barbara Schilts, Ed Frautschy, Clarence McKenzie, Milo Barney, Ora Prisk and Laves Wallom.

At one time, Milo Barney owned a store built in 1891 where the Ora Prisk home now stands. He catered to farmers and carried seeds and feeds and bought chickens and eggs.

The two railroads, Illinois Central and Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, made two trips daily — the former from Madison to Freeport and the latter from Brodhead to New Glarus. Mondays were very busy for these lines due to stock day and shipping livestock.

Other times, carloads of cheese were shipped and many carloads of lumber and feed were brought in to the two lumber yards.

Mrs. Schilt's home was built for \$435.00 in the early nineties by Studley and Humiston and the price of the land on which it was built was very cheap.

Helman O. Atherton built the Charles Clark house and Mr. Atherton was then the Illinois Central depot agent. Arthur Wright was the depot agent for Milwaukee Road for many years.

A walk was built over marshland from the Wallom residence to the bridge after Monticello became a village. Paul Marty, who owned adjacent land, helped to build it.

In 1900, Herman L. Karlen went into partnership with F.K. Studley in the lumber and feed business. Also in 1900, Charles and William V. Rolph entered the lumber and feed business. William V. handled the lumber yard and Charles the building contracting and carpenter work until retirement.

In 1904, J.C. Steinmann and son, Fred, acquired the interest of F. K. Studley. In 1912, Jack Steinmann, an architect, joined the firm and in 1944 his sons, John and Howard, both architects, joined the firm which was always known as Karlen & Steinmann Lumber Co. until it was recently sold and is now operating under the name of Karlen Building and Supply Co.

The Borden Co. built a condensed milk factory in 1915 and was managed by Mr. Romaine. In 1918, Charles Youngreen took over as plant manager for many years until it was sold to Pet Milk Co. in New Glarus. The building is now owned by Aeberhard and is used as a warehouse for mink supplies.

In the past years, the Prisk family was busy making cords of wood to serve customers. On the premises were also steam engines, shredders and threshing machines which Ora and Ella Prisk operated.

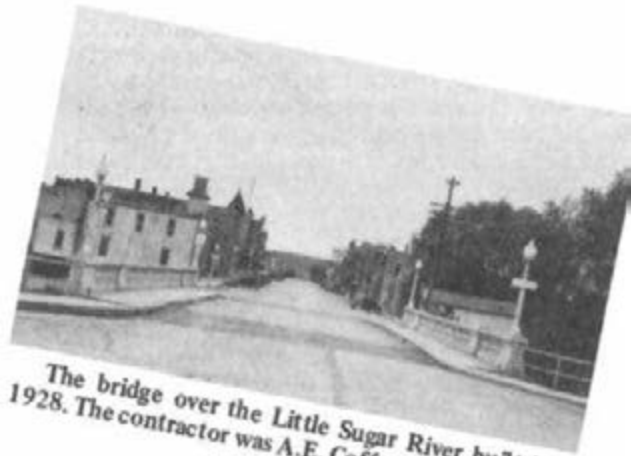
Two businesses now occupy part of the Jimtown area. Monroe Cheese Corporation employs about fifty people and takes care of a big volume of cheese.

Walnut Grove employs about 24 people and manufactures and sells all types of animal feed.

Another industry in this area is the cold storage plant.



Market Day in Monticello on January 15, 1913. It must have been nip and tuck for anything but one-way traffic.



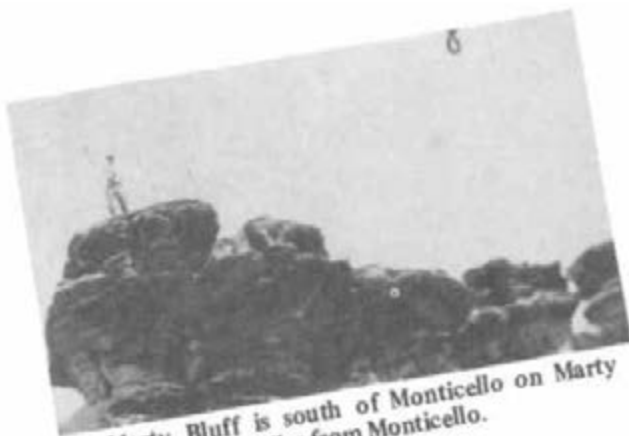
The bridge over the Little Sugar River built in 1928. The contractor was A.E. Coffee.



Early Road gang.



Market Day in summer - Main St. One-way traffic was a problem in the good old days.



Marty Bluff is south of Monticello on Marty Road, about 3½ miles from Monticello.



Marshall Bluff - a popular picnic spot near Monticello.

Livery Stable

by Henry J. Elmer

With the coming of the railroad it was necessary to have bus and dray service, or freight lines, to and from the depot. Consequently, a livery stable was built about 1890 by either George Legler or Emil Voegeli. Other owners were John J. Voegeli, Emil Blumer, Henry F. Freitag, Walter Wittenwyler, Henry J. Elmer, Charles Clark and Emil Zentner. All freight including coal was shipped in by rail and hauled to town. Two buses met the passenger trains. According to Henry J. Elmer, past owner and operator, they met six or eight trains each day. At one time the stable had eighteen horses and would rent teams to salesmen who came to town to tour the country. The driver of the team would usually see that the salesman met with only two or three good paying customers during the day—the idea was to keep him in town as long as possible. The stable was located across the street from the North Side Cheese Factory and was a very busy place until the coming of the automobile.

Library

by Mrs. Henry V. Baebler

In 1947 a meeting was called inviting anyone interested in starting a library in Monticello to attend. Few attended and a second meeting was called with better attendance.

John Streiff, president of the Community Club presided. He appointed Mrs. J. W. Barlow, Mrs. Arnold Elmer and Mrs. Henry V. Baebler as a committee to get information on starting a library. The Traveling Library in Madison was very helpful and said that books could be borrowed from there and that some would be available for a permanent loan. The village board gave permission to use the east room for a library and the council room as a reading room when it was not in use otherwise.

Books, magazines, labor for fixing up the rooms and

money were donated. A desk was donated by C. M. Stauffer which had been a teacher's desk in the North school. On July 17, 1948 the library was opened to the public. When the new fire station was built in 1960 the village hall was remodeled to include a library facility. The 1977 library board is composed of Mrs. Hazel Becker, Mrs. Arnold Elmer and Mr. David Seeholzer. Mrs. Henry V. Baebler is still librarian and Miss Lora Dick helps out with the work at times.

Sugar River State Trail

by Mrs. Walter (Elva) Tryon

The 100-foot wide right-of-way of 23.8 miles Milwaukee Road roadbed, which extended from New Glarus through Monticello and Albany to Brodhead was purchased by the State Department of Natural Resources for \$74,000 in 1972.

Work crews were soon busy removing the tracks and ties sending the rails to Tomah while the ties were dispatched wherever needed in re-tie jobs.

The railroad bed was covered with crushed rock while the bridges and trestles were planked and railings were placed at the sides.

The first part of the trail from New Glarus to Monticello was completed by August 1973. Work continued, and by May of 1974 the complete trail was opened to the public for hikers, bicyclists and to snowmobiles in season.

The official dedication of the trail as a State Trail, with the participation of the four communities, was September 28, 1974. It was immediately given Federal Recognition as a National Recreation Trail.

During the first season of operation, over 35,000 visitors used the Trail.

The Sugar River Trail along with the many bike trails leading out from each of the four communities make up part of the famous Wisconsin Bikeway.

Basic improvements are now being made along the Trail.



Shook's Prairie lead mine lies 80 rods south of County Trunk C about eight miles west of Monticello. This mine was in operation from 1833 to 1866. The building and entrance to the mine shaft are in very good condition, the stone masonry being outstanding, considering the tools they had to work with at the time.

The Old Jail

by Walter Haddinger

The old stone structure in the picture, was the jail in Monticello supposedly from the date on the top which is 1891 until it was taken down in late 1916, although it appears to be much older.

It was located on the extreme NE corner of the lot now occupied by Brusveen's Barber Shop. The reason it was taken down was Fred Gerber bought the lot and Mrs. Gerber wanted it removed from the property.

It was acquired by Jacob Voegeli, Sr., who removed it and hauled it to his farm where it was used in the stone wall of the large barn on the present Voegeli Brown Swiss Farm. The squared stones were mostly used for the corners being well suited for that purpose. The barn was erected in 1917.

The jail was then moved to quarters in the old Electric Light Building where the present fire station now stands.

The Old Jail was heated by a small stove which was often knocked over when a drunk would fall against it. A good many of the occupants were there for being drunk and disorderly. Also many of the occupants were hobos who arrived on the trains and asked for a nights lodging, and something to eat. They were locked in and given something to eat by the Village Marshall, who was the custodian of the jail along with his many other duties, then turned loose the following morning and went on their merry way on the next freight train



Tommy Brusveen's Barber Shop (formerly Karlen & Sons) stands on the site where the old jail once stood.

headed in the right direction. Older residents of the village speak now of how afraid they were to walk close to the building and in passing would stay in the middle of the street.

This latter class of people are an almost extinct species as there are very few, if any, left.

The second jail in the old electric building was condemned some time after World War II and the prisoners are now taken to the County Jail in Monroe.



The old jail as it was being torn down.

Post Office

by Miss Ruth Abley

Mr. A.F. Steadman kept the first post office in his farm house between 1846-1848.

Mr. Steadman named the post office, "Monticello," because of the surface of the land in that part of the country. The mounds bordering a long hollow and a long valley which extends from Mt. Pleasant into Washington townships. In reference to these mounds or bluffs he named it, "Monticello," meaning little mountains.

Mt. Steadman's farm home was located on the Janesville-Mineral Point road between Monroe and Madison. The location of his house would probably be where the Ray Luchsinger farm home is today.

In 1849, Mr. Turman became postmaster; Mathias Marty 1855-56; James Butts 1858; Addison Garland 1861; and Francis Drake 1867.

In 1872, the post office was located in the house now (1977) occupied by Dr. Wm. Baebler. L.B. Aldrich was postmaster.

The next location was in the house of E.F. Wright, who was postmaster in 1882. This house today is occupied by Mrs. Louise Blum.

The post office was situated in several other places on Main Street before it moved into a new and modern building on North Main Street. In 1966, Mrs. Wilbert

(Viola) Stauffer became the first to occupy the new building as postmistress.

The assistant clerks are Mrs. George Grenzow and John Casey, both of Monticello. Mrs. Delmar Disch, New Glarus, serves as a part-time clerk.

Monticello Post Office

The first rural routes were established in 1904. At one time, there were five rural routes, today there are just two with Gordon Schultz serving on route 1 and Francis Beers on route 2.



Old Post Office.



A January thaw caused by an ice jam below the dam made the foam.



Flooding was apparently a big problem in 1913 -as this old Frautschy photo shows.

Swimming Pool

by Edna Babler

Monticello's swimming pool was dedicated Sunday, July 26, 1942. Many people attended.

The Monticello school band under the direction of Bandmaster J.A. Hughes favored the audience with a group of tunes preceding the dedicatory ceremonies.

Mayor CM. Stauffer gave the opening address which



was followed by a series of swimming and diving exhibitions by a group of Monroe swimmers, a nightgown relay and a demonstration of the methods of rescuing a drowning person by James Manion, life guard at the Monroe pool.

Monticello Cemetery

by Mrs. Henry V. Baebler

The land for the cemetery was donated by Mathias Marty and Robert Bridges. On January 10, 1852 an association was formed to take care of the cemetery.

Money was raised by taxation to fence the land. Lots sold for \$7.50 each.

The association failed to meet according to law so it lost its charter. A new association was formed in 1881. They fixed everything and kept it in order.

Highland Cemetery

by Walter Haddinger

The plot of land containing the original part of Highland Cemetery was purchased on June 10, 1907, from Pierce Brothers, Ira and Frank, for the sum of \$1600.00 containing four acres. The village was to build and maintain all fences. The first burial was in December 1907, being Mrs. Nic (Kathrine) Stauffer followed by Mrs. Ed (Maud) Wittwer in January 1908.

In October 1952 an adjoining space on the south was purchased from Ray Luchsinger containing about 2 1/2 acres. The north half has had quite a few occupied plots but the south is still open. The cemetery contains about six and one half acres.



South Main Street in the early 1900's.

Monticello Lake

by Edna Babler

The Little Sugar River, which flowed through the area now Monticello village, was the only source of power for the early settlers. Two streams of water, one from the west and one from the north, joined and were dammed to form the pond. This was done some time before 1854 because in 1854 the Monticello grist mill was built.

The stream of water, Little Sugar River, received its name from the Indian word "Tonasooharah" which means sugar and also the "Old Timers" say from the sugar maple trees grown along shores of the river which sweetened the water as the sap dripped into it.

The lake provided work for the villagers during the winter months as the harvesting of ice took place. The ice was cut into blocks, stored between layers of sawdust in the ice house which was on the shores of the lake and was sold by the iceman in the summer.

The mill pond or lake, about 38 acres in size, provided many forms of enjoyment or recreation in summer and winter. There was fishing, swimming and boating in summer and ice skating and ice boating in winter. At the far western end of the mill pond was an area of land known as Blackbird's Point which was reached by boat, and was often the scene of picnics, fishing and other good times.

As years passed, eroding soil gradually filled the pond, forming a marsh, the lake slowly disappearing. The pond from the beginning was known as Lake Staedtler. It received that name from the two



Monticello Bridge - 1902 or 1903.

generations of Staedtlers who operated the mill on the lake for many years. Lake Staedtler was replaced in the 1960's by a man-made lake about 14 acres in size.

In the 1950's the Wisconsin Highway Commission built a new highway across the old mill bed to improve Wisconsin highway 69 and ran through the old Lake Staedtler bed to extend Wisconsin highway 39. The swampy land beside the highways soon filled with grass and weeds and became a mess. Some of the business men became quite concerned and made plans for the improvement of the "once lake region" by planning for a park and a new lake. Work was soon begun and the project continued to develop nicely which in a few years provided a place of beauty and recreation for anyone.

People in the community donated over \$8,000 unsolicited funds for the lake project. A large

"thermometer" was set up at Brusveen's Barber Shop to keep track of the growth of the fund.

On July 24, 1966, at the Monticello Homecoming Celebration the name of the new man made lake was announced "Lake Montesian." Delbert Ott, who resides near the lake shore, was awarded the prize for choosing that title. Since then improvements and changes were made such as placing rocks along its shores, planting trees, sodding areas, building a walk bridge to the island and erecting a unique pylon at the west entrance to the village.

Each year the Homecoming Celebration is held on the shores of our beautiful Lake Montesian.

Cave Discovery

by Mrs. Hazel Kundert

In the spring of 1947, as J.P. Ryan Construction Company was blasting on the Henry C. Elmer farm west of Monticello, a cave was uncovered. The blast opened two rooms under Indian Hill. They contained stalactites and stalagmites rivaling those of the Cave of the Mounds according to the report. Dripping water had left limestone patterns hanging from the roof and built up formations from the floor. Successive blasts at the Elmer quarry closed up the opening and no one knows how far the various rooms extended into the hillside.

Muralt Prairie

by Mrs. Ernest Roberts

As taken from the Monroe Evening Times, July 9, 1976

The Muralt Prairie is an area unique to Wisconsin. Rarely in the state is an area of such large size (62.4 acres), found containing diverse native plants of Wisconsin dating back 20 thousand years.

Plants that once dominated the region are now found only in scattered spots of the midwest, including the Green County prairie which contains almost no weeds.

The explanation was offered by Gary Eldred, Albany, of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), who was instrumental in preserving the prairie habitat, located in Mt. Pleasant Township, four miles west of Albany.

Eldred describes a walk through the quiet area as, "realizing, feeling what Green County was like at one time, thousands of years ago. . . It's like a little island because the rest of the land is so limited in plant species. The Muralt Prairie has probably 60 different species growing."

The area is open to the public, but no picnicking, camping, hiking trails and especially snowmobiles will be allowed in the area that is meant solely for educational purposes. Access to the site shall be from Wisconsin 39, near Albany and shall include a long, up hill walk to reach the secluded area, which is likely to discourage all but the ardent plant observers.

The last was purchased from Aaron Muralt, Rt., Albany, who bought the farm from Mrs. Joe Blumer and the late Mr. Blumer.

The DNR man was assisted in his efforts to gain recognition of the prairie's significance by Reynold Zeller of the DNR in Green County.

The prairie includes small wooded areas, which shall be maintained as a wildlife refuge area.

Monticello...Through the Years

The chronology is material taken from the Monticello Messenger by Edna Babler and from the Monroe Sentinel and the Wisconsin State Historical Library by Dr. J. H. Burgy.

1763 -The territory known as Green County passed from French control to English control. This was the close of the French and Indian War.

1843 - The land now occupied by Monticello was entered by Robert Witter.

1843 - Exeter was platted, and became the proudest of all little villages, hoping to become the metropolis of the county.

1846 - "Chill fever" hit the residents of the Sugar River Valley and many succumbed to the disease.

1846 - First cows were brought from Ohio and sold for \$12 per head. These were Durhams.

1850 - Monticello Prairie Church, or Gap Church, several miles southeast of Monticello, was founded.

1850 - 130 of the 579 population in Mt. Pleasant Township came from New York.

1851 - The first store building was erected by Sylvester Hills and handled general merchandise.

1851 - The village was platted August 9, and was signed by Jacob Marty and Electa Marty in the presence of H. Adams and James L. Powell.

1852 - A cemetery association was formed.

1854-Orrin Bacon built a grist mill.

1855 - Land was sold by George and Susan Campbell to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the Monticello Mission.

1855 - Monticello Free Will Baptist Church was organized December 1.

1855 - Bacon's Mill is the best finished mill of any in the county.

1855 - Long drought has interfered with Mr. Bacon's prospect in the mill, but ordinarily there is plenty of water.

1863 - What was later to be Highway 69 south of Monticello in Washington Township was designated as a military highway.

1867 - Cheese making started when wheat prices fell and chinch bugs ate the crop.

1875 - A grange store was one of the principal business establishments.

1876 - Rural school district No. 2, Silver, was established. Term 6 months. Teacher's salary, \$23.00.

1878 - Union Cheese company formed.

1886 - August 12, Railroad surveyors have nearly reached Monticello on the way to Madison.

1886 - Emmet Drake was perhaps the first Monticelloite who graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

1887 - Both Illinois Central and Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroads came to Monticello.

1887 - Monticello needs a bank. An institution of this kind would be a great convenience to our merchants and stockmen.

1887 - A good ice house located here would be a good investment. The crop is handy and the railroads and the village people need a supply of ice.

1887 - The two headings of the Illinois Central railroad came together at the tunnel on December 1.

1888 - January 25, temperatures range from 36 to 54 below zero.

1888 - February 15, temperatures range from 34 to 40 degrees below zero.

1888 - April. As a result of last year's drouth, the C.M. and St. Paul Company has brought in 63 loads of baled hay, 24 cars of corn, and 12 cars of oats. The I.C. brought in 11 cars of hay, 6 cars of corn and 12 cars of oats. The price of hay was \$11 per ton, corn 50c per bushel and oats 34c per bushel.

1888 - May. The new road from the village to the depot has been in terrible condition for 2 weeks. In many places the ruts are so deep that the axles of the wagons drag on the ground.

1888 - Some new crossings are needed on Main Street. The old ones are altogether too far apart for comfort this muddy weather. May 16.

1888 - June. Work on the road from the village to the depot has been done. It will be graded and covered with stone and cinders furnished by the St. Paul Railroad.

1888 - July 4. First passenger train on the Illinois Central went to Madison. A.E. Edwards was a passenger.

1888 - Side track on the I.C. at the Woolen Mill is completed. The weavers are working night and day and the output reaches over 2000 yards of flannel a day.

1888 - Both railroads built stockyards.

1888 - Western Union telegraph company established an office at the St. Paul depot.

1888 - A sidewalk to the depot is a pressing need of the hour. Everyone would appreciate it except the bus man.

1888 - Milo Barney has moved his merchandise into his new warehouse near the depot. Baled hay, clover and timothy seed, plus beef by the quarter constitute the main articles.

1888 - Postmaster Wright has decided to refurnish the office with a new set of boxes of approved style. A number of lock boxes shall be put in.

1888 - Monticello is to have a newspaper.

1888 - Boom in real estate. R. Barlow sold 6 lots in the last week in the south part of town.

1888 - Tuesday was a big cheese day for both railroad companies, reaching 30,000 pounds, about equally divided between the two roads.

1888 - A street lamp has been put up at the post office. Several more are ordered and are to be put on Main Street.

1888 - Stone storage cellars were built along both railroads for cheese.

1888 - Fred Gerber has erected a building especially for his coffins and caskets to go along with his furniture business.

1888 - I.C. sold 30 tickets to Monroe on Saturday, November 28. This made a total of 130 tickets sold during the week.

1890 - William Lemon started to buy livestock and was soon joined by Jacob Burgy.

1901 - Twenty-six telephones in town.

1907 - July. The Busy Farmers Telephone Co. got permission to build a telephone line from Monticello in a southeasterly direction.

1908 - September. The Monticello planing mill was converted into a cheese factory by E. J. Dehne.

1910 - Population of Mt. Pleasant, 699. Population of Monticello, 671.

1911 - A new firm, Crouch and Co., started in business in the livestock line. Messrs. Bert and Josiah Crouch and Roscoe Smith comprised the firm.

1911 - The present waterworks and sewer system was installed.

1912 - February. Silver-Lewis cheese factory was destroyed by fire. Insured for \$700. Origin of fire was a mystery.

1915 - April. Freitag and Benkert had a grand "Chevrolet Party" at Figi's Hall. 700 tickets sold. Winner of the lucky number received a five-passenger car.

1915 - May. Monticello Auto Co. held a grand "Ford Touring Party" at Figi's Hall. 700 tickets sold. Winner of the Ford Model T five passenger car was Fred Hoesly, New Glarus.

1915 - October. E. W. Van Norman sold his drug store to R. W. Woelffer. Van Norman had been here 16 years.

1915 - Fire destroyed the cheese cellar at the Illinois yard with \$4000 worth of cheese stored by Ed Wittwer and brother.

1916 - Dan Wichser becomes sole owner of the implement business having acquired the interest of his partner, Charles Marty.

1917 - A combination of dirt and oil was used for the first paved street in Monticello.

1917 - Lester Barlow invented a torpedo for use in aerial warfare which is said to be the greatest and most effective bit of mechanism of the kind ever invented.

1916 - May. Borden's Condensed Milk Company paid local patrons \$1.48 for milk testing 3.6 per cent butter fat.

1916 - November. The Milwaukee depot and stockyards were piped for city water.

1918 - Sergeant Fred Amstutz, Co. H. 127th Infantry was killed in action July 24, the first Monticello boy to make the supreme sacrifice on the battlefields of France.

1920 - April. The printing presses in the Monticello Messenger office changed from the gasoline engine to an electric motor.

1920 - Pierce Brothers, of the Hillside Dairy, are out with a milk wagon that is attracting considerable attention. It was purchased through H. Babler and is certainly a beauty.

1924 - Ogden G. Taft, Monticello pioneer and oldest native of the village, died in May. He was the son of Sweting G. Taft, who located in the village in 1854.

1924 - The handsome new bus running between Madison and Monroe was completely destroyed by fire about 3 miles north of New Glarus. Cause of the fire is not known. Miss Fannie Babler was a passenger.

1924 - July. The first meeting of the Ku Klux Klan in this vicinity was held midway between Monticello and New Glarus. Seven hundred persons attended. A Monroe minister was the principal speaker.

1924 - A. Wuilleumier, who for the past 16 years had a jewelry and music store in Monticello held a closing out sale in August and then moved to Madison. In April 1925, he came back and reopened the jewelry store.

1924 - Chief J. P. Zweifel and his local fire fighters made the best showing of any of the six departments at the Fireman's tournament at East Dubuque.

1925 - Clarence Freitag, number of Roger Wolf Kohn's celebrated New York orchestra played for the inaugural ball at Washington, D.C.

1926 - John H. Trogner, early pioneer here and Civil War veteran who was severely wounded died in Beloit and was buried in Monticello.

1927 - The first community Christmas tree in the history of the village was displayed this year.

1928 - C M . Stauffer, proprietor of the Stauffer Blacksmith and Wagon Shop, was elected chief of the Monticello Fire Department. He succeeds J. E. Blum, retiring chief who held that position the past year.

1928 - The new bridge was dedicated.

1930 - May. Monticello's population has declined 33, during the past 10 years. The population is now 644.

1931 - Exactly \$11,546.27 was paid out during the past year (1930) by the Mt. Pleasant Mutual Fire Insurance Co. for losses sustained by its members.

1933 - Two members of the Monticello school band, Donald Voegeli and Carlton Walters, have qualified as members of the All-State High School band and played with that organization at the Century of Progress exposition in Chicago.

1937 - The old blacksmith shop, one of Monticello's landmarks, east of Main Street, was purchased by William E. Klassy, partly razed and rebuilt for feed storage.

1942 - Herman E. Theiler who was born in the milk and butter state of Wisconsin, village of Monticello, is given a Third Class Mail Specialist rate. He is the first sailor at Banana River, Florida, to wear the new Mail Specialist Rating badge.

1945 - July. Staff Sergeant Karl Freitag, Monticello, was among the Yank troops of the 35th division which guarded Pres. Harry S. Truman upon his arrival in Belgium. (Chicago Tribune).

1946 - May. Attorney Paul E. Voegeli, recently discharged from the army, announces the opening of a law practice in Monticello.

1946 - Monticello's first war bride, Mrs. Joseph Legler, arrived from Manchester, England.

1946 - A picture of W. A. Loveland appeared in a few of the 50th anniversary books which were issued by the Bank of Monticello. Atty. Loveland was then president of the bank. The picture revealed that Bill was a ball player at one time. If a ball player then dared to wear a mitt he was considered a downright sissy. Fancy silk bow ties were a "must" for a well dressed ball player back in those balmy days, before the game was considered a national sport.

1948 - The highlight of the Memorial Day program was the dedication of the Soldier's Monument in the Church Cemetery.

1953 - September. Dr. Lester Weismiller achieved national recognition, when, as head of the Ochsner Foundation, New Orleans, he directed a successful Siamese Twins separation.

1954 - June. The new "White Way" street lights were turned on June 17 in the village.

1960 - November. Monticello changes over to dial telephones.

1963 - The Marshall Bluff Clubhouse was constructed and has served the club in its many activities.

1964 - December. John W. Steinmann, Monticello architect, has been included in the 9th edition of Marquis "Who's Who in the Midwest and Central Canada."

1971 - Herman Babler, rural mail carrier out of the Monticello post office for more than 40 years, retires after November.

1972 - June. Cyclonic type wind storm lashes Monticello at 4:45 p.m., Sunday.

1972 - September. The 16th earthquake felt in Wisconsin since 1804 shook houses and rattled windows in Monticello at 12:22 p.m. and lasted 30 seconds.

1973 - January. The newer water standpipe on the northeast edge of the village was put into service.

1973 - April. Monticello and area are paralyzed by a severe late winter storm. A foot or more of heavy wet snow dumped on the village. All activity was practically at a standstill.

1974 - February. David L. Riese, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Riese, was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y., by Sen. William Proxmire and Congressman Robert Kastenmeier.

1974 - Severe hail and windstorm hit Monticello area around 7:30 p.m., Friday, June 14, doing considerable damage to crops and property. Thick piles of hail stones could still be seen on mid Saturday, June 15.

1974 - Sugar River State Trail in Eastern Green County was officially dedicated as state trail September 28.

1975 - May. Ground was officially broken for the John C. Elmer subdivision on the north edge of Monticello.

1975 - December. Grand opening of Walnut Grover Industries, a modern dry feed production plant.

1976 - March. Severe ice storm hits Monticello and all of southern Wisconsin. Rural areas hardest hit.

1976 - April. Monticello was officially named a bicentennial community in a special flag presentation ceremony held April 6.

1977 - Extremely dry and cold winter, following an extremely dry and hot summer in 1976. Great concern for the 1977 crop year.

MONTICELLO SCHOOLS



Northside School, built in 1855.

by Edna Babler

The first school in the village of Monticello was held in the home of Alex F. Steadman in the summer of 1845. It was a subscription school taught by Orinda Foster.

In 1848 a rude log building was erected for the first public school, which was taught by Marintha Niles. The early schoolhouses were crude affairs and the equipment was meager. They were heated by a box stove or a fireplace, very hot near the fire and about the zero mark near the walls.

A select school was held in 1874 in Herrick's Hall. Zala Church, the teacher, came on horseback. In the same year he taught in the public school. One other select school was held in the village.

An octagon frame school which was built in 1851 in the Northwest quarter of section 8 was moved into the village in 1854 and continued to be used until 1860. Later it was used as an ice house.

Thereafter, a two story frame school was built in 1860. It burned in 1884. Then a one story building was erected at the same site. This was Monticello's Northside School where the third through sixth graders attended. It was later converted into a service garage which burned in 1928. At that time Monticello also had a kindergarten class. That group and the first and

second graders attended classes in the upstairs of the fire house on Main Street for a time.

On May 6, 1892 an acre of land was sold to District No. 3 by George Lewis for \$400. On this land the first red brick building was erected. This was on South Main Street. This building housed kindergarten, primary dept., grades 7 and 8 and the high school.

In 1902, Monticello organized a state graded school of the first class, thereby receiving special State aid amounting to \$300. annually. Under this system the course of study included two years of high school work.

At the annual meeting of July 6, 1910, it was voted to establish a free high school. In the school year of 1910-11, the third year of high school was given, and during 1911-12 the complete four year course was given.

The increasing population of the village demanded that better educational facilities should be provided. There were the two schoolhouses: the one on the north end of town and the one on the south. At a special meeting, December 13, 1912, the district voted to erect a new building for \$15,000. The old red brick building was razed in 1913. Bricks from the old building were re-cycled and used on the new building.

**The first high school,
a red brick building
facing north.**



In 1913 the present red brick three story building was constructed. This was for all grades and high school classes. Today (1977) this building is the Senior High school which has been remodeled several times. Two new additions for grade classes have been added and in 1966 a new Junior high addition was constructed for \$240,000.

The first graduates of the four year high school course in 1912 were: Fannie Benkert, Carrie Freitag-Schuler, Christie Lemon—Voegeli, Lena Marty—Blum, Meta Muehlmeier—Rolph and F. Wm. Schuler.

In 1927 the first High School Yearbook "Monti-Hi" was published.

In 1930, the year of the first Junior prom, the grand march was led by Genevieve Dooley and Harry Klassy.

George E. Marvin, a former assistant principal and science instructor in the 1920's, was the first in the United States to discover yeasts in honey. At the time

of that discovery he was entomologist of the Wisconsin College of Agriculture, Madison. Later he served with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

At the present time (1977) building a new school, consolidation or some method of improving district facilities is being discussed.

Among the graduates of Monticello High school who have doctor's degrees are: Herbert J. Burgy, Fred Hammerly, Otto S. Blum, Lester Weismiller, Walter Urban, Wm. V. Baebler, Harold Youngreen, Paul Achtemeier, Rosanda Richards, Kenneth Kundert, Wm. M. Baebler, Terrance Freitag, Kenneth Woodruff, Edward Marty, Norman Crouch, Gordon Holcomb, Rolland Taylor, Ricky Freitag, Dennis Feller, Robert Woodruff, Robert Wichser.

Also graduates of Monticello High school and of Law school are: Randall Elmer, John Richard, Royal Voegeli, Paul E. Voegeli, Paul W. Voegeli, Gary Zweifel, Thomas Hefty.



Kindergarten, First and Second Grade classes at Monticello School, 1911. Seated on ground (left to right): Luther Lemon, Alta Blum, Helen Karlen, Edna Muehlmeier, Anna Hammerly, Leon Bontly, Theodore Altman, Vivian Bessmeier, Johnny Moser, Fred Burgy, Mavis Marty, Herman Marty, Louis Wuilleumier, Henry Altman, Norene Barlow, Clara Wittenwyler. Second row on chairs: Ethlyn Wright, Florence Kubly, Herman Babler, Jacob Altman, Roswell Richards, Clarence Elmer, Walter Urban, Randall Elmer, Ardys Wallom, Otto Blum, Wilma Jones, Laurence Blum. Third row standing: Herbert Disch, Kenneth Kennedy, —Milbrandt, Delores Blum, Selina Marty, Martha Wuileumier, Ruth Fessenden, Nona Zweifel, Mardell Richards, Maurice Bontly, Selma Wittwer, Norma Feldman, Wohla Muehlmeier, Gerrit Kooreman, Monica Staedtler, Anita Babler, Ruth Abley, Herman Elmer, Vera Hyde.

Rural Schools of Mt. Pleasant

by Ruth Abley

In 1848 the superintendent of schools reported there were 210 scholars. Districts No. 1 and 4 had log houses. Districts No. 2 and 5 had stone houses. District No. 3 was without a school house. The rest of the nine districts were not organized to this date.

District No. 1 Blackhawk

District No. 1 was organized in 1849. A log house was built on the northwest quarter of Section 12. The officers were Thomas Fenton, director; Arantha Thomas, treasurer; Ephraim Moody, clerk. The name is Black Hawk.

Lyman Dexter was the first teacher. The log school house was in use until after the Civil War when a frame building was built on the same site.

The Black Hawk school closed earlier than most rural schools of Green County. The last teacher was Miss Berniece Babler.

District No. 2 Silver

District No. 2 was organized in 1849. A stone school was built on the southwest quarter of section 10. The school was named Silver. The first officers were Amos Perry, director; James Bedell, treasurer; Lyman Wright, clerk. Dr. Adams was the first teacher.

In 1877 a frame school house was built on the site of the old one. Miss Edwards was the first teacher to teach in this new building.

The last teacher was Miss Edna Babler who taught there for twenty-seven years, until it closed in 1962.

The school building has been sold to a local farmer.

District No. 4 Babler

The first school was taught in a log house owned by Gideon McNaught. The teacher was Mandana Newcomb.

In 1850, a log school house was erected on the south one half of the northeast quarter of section 28. The officers were: William Lowe, director; A.P. Jewell, treasurer; William Boyles, clerk. James Powell was employed as teacher.

Later a frame building was erected.

The last teacher there was Mrs. Elmira Root. The school closed in 1962. Today the building has been remodeled into a home.

District No. 5 Fairview

Fairview is located in Section 26. The first school in District No. 5 in 1853 was built of stone. The officers of this school were: Benjamin Rima, director; Joseph Conklin, treasurer; David McKee, clerk. Julia Stevens, daughter of Dr. J.D. Stevens of Monroe, was the first teacher.

Later on the district built a good frame building. The last teacher in the school was Mrs. Grace Edwards when it closed in 1962.

Fairview school was torn down in April, 1977. Previously, each summer a picnic was held for former teachers and pupils, parents and neighbors of the district.

District No. 6 Elmer

Located in Section 30, the land was donated by Henry Elmer for whom the school received its name. History of its early beginning can not be found.

Anna Klassy Babler's first teaching job was at the Elmer school. Mr. Jacob Marty, Irene Marty's grandfather, was clerk and hired her to teach the school. The last two teachers were Miss Ruth Abley and Miss Beatrice Voegeli. The school closed in the early 1940's.

District No. 7 Lincoln

School District No. 7 was organized in 1858 and the first school was taught in a log house owned by John Sutherland. Stella Wheeler was the teacher.

In 1859 a stone school was located on the northwest quarter of Section 35. The first two teachers were Stella Wheeler and Amelia Woodworth.

District No. 8 Zentner

The first school in District No. 8 was taught in a log house owned by Thomas Sears in 1854-1855. The teacher employed was Hannah Noble. In the summer of 1855 land was donated by O.E. Zentner for a new school which was built on a line between sections 4 and 5.

George Ray was the first teacher in the new building. The school was named in honor of Mr. Zentner. The last teacher was Beatrice Burrington. The school closed before 1962. The building was sold to Mr. Fred Zweifel who moved it and made it into a home.



Students and their teacher at the Babler School, May 1929.

District No. 9 Oak Shade

The first school taught within the limits of district No. 9 was a frame house built by John Williams. In 1871, the district was organized and a new building was erected on the northwest quarter of section 21. The first teacher was Hattie Ross.

In early days it was sometimes known as the Barlow school as it was near the Barlow farm. In later years the name was changed to Oak Shade because of a group of oak trees growing in the school yard.

Miss Ruth Abley was the last teacher when it closed in 1962. The Oak Shade school was sold to the New Glarus Historical Society and moved to the Historical Village of New Glarus. It is on display as one of the early rural schools.

More About Rural Schools

By the year 1900 the log and stone school houses had been replaced by frame buildings and nine school districts had been organized. From the turn of the century until the 1950's the rural schools were the center of social activities.

Probably the first event was the Halloween program with games and lunch. Basket socials were held for the purpose of raising money for some much needed equipment.

The Christmas program was perhaps the highlight of the school year. Many grandmothers, parents and children remember the Christmas programs. The room was decorated with red and green streamers with icicles attached, windows and walls were adorned with Christmas decorations, made by the children. A Christmas scene drawn by the pupils adorned the blackboards. At the end of the program somehow Santa always made his appearance much to the surprise of the younger children.

Next came Valentine's Day with its gaily decorated Valentine box. Again the room took on a new appearance with red and colored heart shaped valentines made by the children.

Invitations were carefully made by the children and delivered to parents, grandmothers and all the neighbors who did not have children attending.

The program usually consisted of a patriotic skit, poems and songs of Washington and Lincoln. Ice cream, cake and Valentine cookies followed the program.

After February the children looked more closely at the school fair list from the county deciding if they wanted to take on more projects.

On some Saturday in May the eighth graders would take their county examination in the high school nearest the district.

Most rural schools dosed the third week in May, with a picnic dinner, games and prizes; sometimes a program was given, too.

Today all rural schools in Mt. Pleasant are closed, but many a grandmother and parent will tell their children about the one room rural school.



Picnic Day at a rural school.



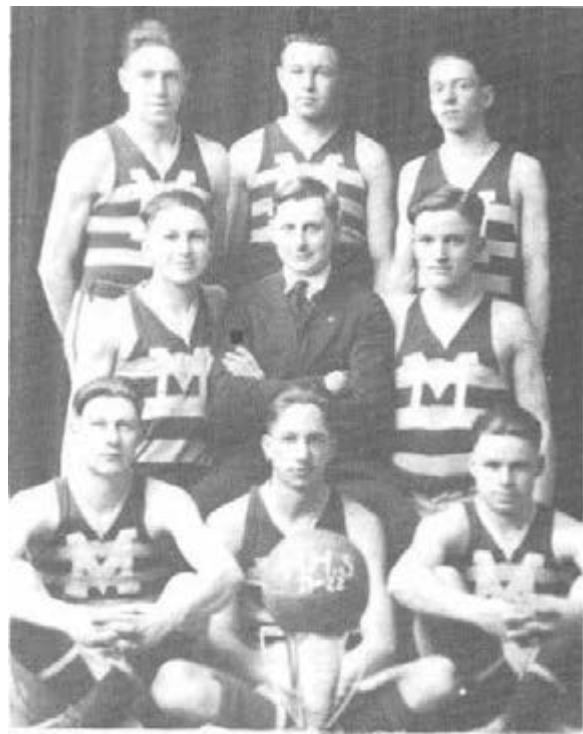
Silver Rural School class in 1953. Back row (left to right) Norman Hansen, Edna Babler, teacher, Jerry Manschein, Billy Atkinson, Daniel Bernet, Mary Ann Minnig, Carol Kubly, Ruth Minnig, Susan and Rita Schwartzlow. Middle Row: Susan Marty, Holly Moore, Earl Miller, — Gempler, Harry Keener, Werner Minnig, Lena Mary Pluss, George Huntley. Front Row: Nathan Strahm, John Meier, Tom Kubly, Tim Meier, Mary Gempeler, Kent Schwartzlow, Gordon, Huntley, Karen Marty, Patty Manschein.



The first girls' track team at Monticello High School, 1925. Coach was Edyth R. Blum. Back row (left to right) Ruth Babler, Coach Blum, Margaret Zentner. Middle row: Edna Babler, Sylvia Karlen, Nona Babler, Anna Hammerly, Bernice Babler. Front row: Louise Gempeler, Mildred Zweifel, Gladys Steinmann, Lona Disch, Alma Stauffer.



1923 freshman and sophomore home economics class at the high school.



The 1921-22 basketball team. Back row (left to right) Kenneth Kennedy, Walter Urban, Laurence G. Marty Middle Row: Herman Babler, Coach E.W. Foster, Roswell Richard. Front Row: William Baebler, Otto Blum, Lester Weismiller.



This is the first girls' basketball team in Monticello High School (1913-1914). Back row (left to right), Hilda Babler (deceased), Coyla Jordan Nelson, Zoe Hancock Foster, Mata Steinmann Lynn (deceased), Lorraine Figi Baumgartner (deceased), Helen Freitag Stuessy (deceased), Marie Zimmerman Haddinger, Selma Feldman Bissig (deceased), Coach Mr. Reddy (deceased). Middle row: Bernice Richards Niles, Frieda Benkert, Mildred Keeler, Weltha Babler Theiler, Alma Babler Freitag, Rosa Benkert Roth. Front row: Hilda Dick Karlen, Selma Babler Schoonover.

AREA CHURCHES



Zwingli Church and Parsonage are seen in this 1912 photograph. The parsonage was built in 1910.

Zwingli United Church of Christ

by Edna Babler

The history of Zwingli Church dates back to the early 1880's when several Swiss families settled in the village of Monticello. Before they had their own church, they secured the services of Rev. Hirtz, Monroe, to hold services of worship on alternate Sundays in the Methodist Church in the north part of the village.

In about 1884, Rev. John Knie served the congregation for less than a year. Then came Rev. Heinrich Bruengger, a congregation was formed and a church and a parsonage was built. The congregation elected Dietrich Freitag as president and Jacob Marty as secretary and treasurer. Other consistory members were Henry Freitag, Dietrich Stauffacher and J.C. Steinmann.

Among the early members of Zwingli Church were listed such names as Jacob Altman, Esaias Babler, Fridolin Blum, Fred Gerber, John Jenny, Jacob Marty, Heinrich Rhyner, Jacob Stauffer, Jacob Schlittler, and Hilarius Zentner.

From January, 1891, to the spring of 1898, Rev. Henry Rusterholz served. During his pastorate, the church building debt was liquidated. Rev. Albert Muehlmeier followed and served until 1901. In

October, 1901, Rev. Carl Heyl came and served until 1909. The congregation then extended a call to their former pastor, Rev. A. Muehlmeier to return, he then served until 1938.

In 1910, a new parsonage was built at a cost of \$4,834.10. A telephone was installed, as were electric lights in both the parsonage and church. From 1938 until September, 1959, Rev. Arthur Achtemeier served.

During the first eleven years of the congregation, 131 persons received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, 26 couples were married and 101 young people were confirmed. The first baby baptized was John Fridolin Zwicky. The first confirmation class, 1885, consisted of Jacob Freitag, Euphemia Freitag, Marie Rhiner and Clara Knie. The first wedding was Katrina Knobel and Gottlieb Kung, September 5, 1886. Weddings were usually solemnized on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The other days of the week were not considered as fortunate by the early Swiss.

The year 1913, marked the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the first church, and also the first time a sermon was given in the English language. From 1925 on, English services were held every Sunday. Prior to

that, on alternate Sundays, services were held in the German language to appease a mere handful of oldtimers.

C. M. Stauffer was elected Sunday school superintendent in 1924 to succeed Blasius Elmer. Our present superintendent is Earl Feldt.

In 1937, the church building was extensively remodeled due to the rapid growth of the congregation. This rebuilding resulted in the addition of six Sunday school rooms, a new heating system and an electric organ.

Members of the Albany congregation united with Zwingli Church in 1953. It became apparent that more room was needed, therefore a remodeling project again took place, starting in the spring of 1954. Services were conducted in Karlen's Hall during this project which



Zwingli United Church of Christ was extensively remodeled in 1937, adding several new rooms, a new heating system, and an electric organ.

took about a year. The last service of worship in the old church was held on April 18, Easter Sunday, with Pastor Achtemeier conducting the services.

After June, 1957, Monticello Zwingli Church went by the new name of Zwingli United Church of Christ.

The first issue of a church paper made its appearance September 1, 1960, a monthly news and informal publication which is mailed to all members of the congregation. Issue One was called "Our Church Paper." A plea went out to all members to suggest a name for the paper. The name "Church Chimes" was submitted by Mrs. Merlee Zurbuchen, now deceased, and seemed to be the most appropriate. Up to the present time (March, 1977), 174 issues have been prepared with the help of volunteers.

The construction of an Educational Building was begun in the spring of 1966 and on Sunday, April 9, 1967, some church school departments started moving in.

During the month of August, 1976, the

congregation observed the 80th anniversary of the founding of a Christian congregation in Monticello and also dedicated the new Educational Building.

Since December, 1885, eight pastors have served Zwingli Church. The present pastor is Rev. Charles Workman who succeeded Rev. J. Allen Mittler, who served from February, 1960, until August, 1970. During the interim between Pastors Mittler and Workman, the congregation was served on weekends by Rev. John Oliphant and several guest speakers.

The present congregation president is Alan Bacher who succeeds Jacob Wittenwyler who was president for 15 years. Consistory members, along with Pres. Bacher, are: Earl Feldt, Robert Disrud, Clarence Pluss, Ralph Gempeler, Terry Freitag, Urs Gafner, Hans Schlapbach, Don Halvorsen, Howard Voegeli, Mrs. Roy Bissig and Mrs. John Burgy.

Zwingli Church has three choirs, the Senior Choir which has been directed for many years by F.S. Voegeli, the newly formed Modern Mode Choir under the direction of Arthur Jaehnke and the children's choir conducted by Mrs. Ruth Zentner. The children's choir was organized by Mrs. Clara Achtemeier in the early 1940's.

Organist for the church services and various other occasions are Mary Tryon and Arthur Jaehnke while John Stauffer serves as organist at most funerals. Mrs. Robert Faith has been called to assist on the organ and Mrs. Ronald Hilliard on the piano.



Zwingli Church ministers, 1938 -1977. Rev. and Mrs. Charles G. Workman, 1971-1977; Rev. and Mrs. J. Allan Mittler, 1960-1970; Rev. and Mrs. A.R. Achtemeier.

The first service of worship in Zwingli Church was held in 1887 or 1888. Since then, nearly 5,000 services of worship have been held. Church services have been recorded quite a number of years by Mr. Lyle Sinnett. In this way, the Gospel is carried by volunteers to every member of the congregation and to others who are willing to listen. Mr. Sinnett is being assisted in the recording of the services by Jacob Wittenwyler.

The membership reported as of January, 1977, was 768 members.



The German Reformed Church celebrated its 25th anniversary and dedicates a new pipe organ on August 10, 1913.

Friendship Circle

by Mrs. Willis Babler

Friendship Circle meets the second Wednesday of the month, ten months of the year in the Church Lounge.

The name Friendship was given the Circle in 1965. It was formerly known as the Washington Aid, which was formed in the year 1904 by Rev. Carl Heyl. They first met in the homes, then at the Washington Church, later at the former Parish House and now in Zwingli church lounge.

The Washington Ladies Aid were famous for their annual chicken noodle soup dinner given each fall to raise funds. This has been discontinued. Mrs. Anna Elmer was one of the first members. We now have many faithful members that have been in the Circle over sixty years. At the present time, there are thirty-seven members. The present officers are: Mrs. Willis Babler and Mrs. Marvin Freitag, co-presidents; Mrs. Herman Pluss, vice-president; Mrs. Dean Hilliard, secretary, and Mrs. Merlyn Rufer, treasurer.

Mrs. Clara Achtemeier serves as a pianist. At each meeting, there are two hostesses and two program chairmen.

Ruth Circle of Zwingli United Church of Christ

by Hilda Bissig

Rev. and Mrs. Achtemeier felt a need to reach the younger women of the church. His remarks were, "I just can't preach everything over the pulpit on Sunday mornings." The pastor then started calling on all the younger women personally, and the interest grew, and in the fall of 1950, the first meeting was held at the former Parish House. With about 40 young women present, the Ruth Circle was formed, with Mrs. Willis (Lucille) Elmer the first President. The charter members are Mrs. John (Marion) Zimmerman, Mrs. Lyle (Marion) Sinnett and Mrs. Roy (Hilda) Bissig.

At the present time, there are 24 members in the Ruth Circle, with meetings held the 4th Wednesday night of each month, with the exception of July and August. Along with devotional time, the Circle works out their monthly programs with an interest to the local group or county wide.

The Circle serves at weddings, funerals and they have a yearly bake sale; they help support their Missionary, Dr. Joyce Baker, in Honduras for her medical clinic; save coupons for Southern Colony. The Circle also has charge of the Church Volunteer service at the Beauty Shop at the New Glarus Home; and provide entertainment at the December Birthday Party at the New Glarus Home. Since 1960, they have furnished cup cakes at Easter time for all county nursing homes.

The Ruth Circle welcomes any age to become a member and serve in Christian Fellowship!

Women's Missionary Society

by Mrs. William V. Baebler

The Women's Missionary Society of Zwingli German Reformed Church was organized in June, 1919.

The purpose of the organization was to aid in the work of the church around the world. The group met once a month in the homes of the members.

Beginning in March, 1932, their meetings were held in a home close to the church, which had been recently purchased by the Ladies Aid Society of the church. This building was later known as the Parish House.

The members organized two other groups. The children's group, known as the Mission Band, was started in March, 1922. The group for teenage girls, called the Girl's Missionary Guild, was organized in April, 1926.

Since May, 1967, the group has been meeting in the Memorial Lounge of the church.

Foreign Missionary Society

by Mrs. Fred T. Burgy

Miss Mary Ann Tschudy, a former teacher in the Monticello school system, organized the Young People's Missionary Society in 1915.

She organized the group before she left for China as a missionary. She felt that she wanted a group behind her and it was sponsored by the Methodist Church in

Monticello. The group helped support the mission work of the church and a scholarship fund.

After the Methodist Church disbanded, the local society became independent, but has continued its charitable work for retarded children, the Children's Service Society and other charitable organizations.

At the time of organizing, there were 10 members who made up the charter group. Mrs. Mary Wallom Peterson, Chicago; Mrs. Marion Burgy Hoesly, a niece of Mary Ann Tschudy, the founder; Mrs. Selma Babler Schoonover, Madison; Mrs. Marie Zimmerman Haddinger, Fort Atkinson; Mrs. Zoe Hancock Foster, Port Washington; Mrs. Bernice Richards Niles, Monroe; Mrs. Hilda Dick Karlen, Monticello; Mrs. Mata Steinmann Lynn, Monticello; Mrs. Rosa Benkert Roth and Miss Frieda Benkert, Monticello.

For obvious reasons, the Young People's group decided to change its name to the Foreign Missionary Society.

About the same time as the Young People's Missionary group was organized, Miss Tschudy's sister, Mrs. Jacob Burgy, found a few friends who met under the auspices of the Methodist Church as the Women's Foreign Missionary Society. This group was in existence until about 1935 and they met regularly and faithfully.

Miss Tschudy met and married Bernard Paddock in China. He, too, was a missionary.

Zwingli Ladies Aid

by Katherine Christen, President

Zwingli Ladies Aid was started in 1902 and was then known as Ladies Aid Society of Zwingli Reformed Church of Monticello.

Rev. A. Muehlmeier wrote up the constitution in 1902 and amendments were made to it in 1932 and again in 1968 and 1973.

The original Ladies Aid met in the homes of members and the business meeting was conducted in the German language. In February, 1932, the home which was later called the Parish House was bought for \$3,300 and in 1940 \$202.70 was spent on remodeling.

Washington Church also used the Parish House as needed and some Sunday School and confirmation classes were held here.

Five members, elected presidents, held office for five years each. These were: Lulu Burgy, Minnie Marty, Lena Karlen, Bessie Younggreen and Anna G. Blum.

Sources of income are dues, bake sales, various suppers, donations and catering for funerals and weddings. Contributions include New Glarus Home, Leprosy Foundation, Winnebago Indian Mission, Church World Service, blankets, school kits and Zwingli Church General Fund. The present membership is fifty-one.

The first church and parsonage in the village was erected during the pastorate of Rev. Heinrich Bruengger in the 1880's on a plot of land purchased from Mrs. A. Pierce for the sum of \$300. The combined cost of the church and parsonage was \$3,320. The lumber was hauled from Albany as the railroad had not yet come to Monticello.

On August 12, 1888, the dedication of the church building took place.

Faith Circle

by Mrs. Earl Feldt

Faith Circle extends back to 1922 which was then organized as Ladies Aid of the Albany Evangelical Reformed church. Mrs. John Burkhalter was the first president. This Ladies Aid was organized before the congregation was established. In 1942, the Aid became an active part of the Swiss Evangelical Reformed Women's Guild in the church.

In 1953, the Albany congregation joined the Monticello Zwingli Church and the Ladies Aid came under the name of Albany Circle. In 1968, the Circle drew up a constitution and in May, 1969, everyone received a copy. In February of 1969, the Circle's name was changed from Albany to Faith and in March of that year, we began using that name.

The present officers are: President, Mrs. Don Halverson; Vice-president, Mrs. Walter Pfeuti; Secretary, Mrs. Harvey Milbrandt; Treasurer, Mrs. Hans Schlapbach.

Methodist Church

by Mrs. Henry V. Baebler

On October 29, 1854, land was sold by George and Susan Campbell to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the Monticello Mission.

The trustees were S.C. Taft, Peter Wilson, James Hair, Benjamin Roby and Peter Parkin. These trustees were to hold the land in trust for the uses and purposes as follows:

"To erect, or cause to be erected a house of worship for the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, according to the rules and discipline of the church. They were to permit ministers and preachers belonging to the church who would be authorized by the General Conference or Annual Conferences to preach and expound God's Holy Word." This was dated October 2, 1861.

On July 14, 1921, the trustees were William Lemon, Sr., Rebecca Lemon, Edward Wittwer and Ada Barlow. They, along with the District Superintendent, deeded the property to the West Wisconsin Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. On July 19, 1921, the deed to the property was turned over to Frank and Rosa Taft. The building has been converted to two apartments and is now owned by Mrs. Hazel Becker and Mr. and Mrs. John Ponyicsanyi, who in 1977 occupy the apartments.

Monticello Free Will Baptist Church

The Monticello Free Will Baptist Church was organized December 1, 1855, by Rev. J.F. Hill. The meetings were held in the Octagon school house until 1861.

A stone church which stood where the Fire Station now stands (in 1977), was dedicated to the Worship of God in May 1862 by Rev. Horace Woodworth, who took for his text "In the name of God we unfurl our banner."

In 1884, there was a membership of about 40.

Washington Reformation

by Edna Babler



The old Washington Church German Reformed built in 1876. It burned to the ground after being struck by lightning October 16, 1965.

Washington Reformation dates back to February, 1875, when a small group of people gathered at the Benedict Mueller home to discuss plans for an Evangelical Reformed congregation and to build a church building. Services and Sunday school were held in homes and school houses before this date. The school house in section nine was the scene of many of the early services, the pulpit being supplied by pastors from Monroe, among whom were Revs. Snell, Smead, Hagemann, Angelberger, Fotsch and Hirtz. From about 1886 on, the pastors up to the present time (October 1976) were Revs. J. Knie, Henry Bruengger, Henry Rusterholz, Albert Muehlmeier, Carl Heyl, A.R. Achtemeier, J. Allen Mittler, Leo L. Duerson, James Johnston and Duane McDonough. Revs. Muehlmeier and Achtemeier served two different times.

The records for the first ten years were lost. From 1886 to 1951, 486 children were baptized, 293 young people were confirmed and 122 funerals were conducted.

The first church building was erected in 1876 on the northwest quarter of section 21, west of Monticello. The cost was about \$1150. Rev. Fotsch (in some records spelled Fatsch) was the first to preach in this church. The 28 foot wide, 40 foot long structure was built mostly of lumber hauled by wagon from Monroe.

On July 4, 1876, a picnic was held on the church grounds to celebrate the United States Centennial. The floor of the church building was completed by this

time, and it was used as a platform on which the celebration program was held. When Washington Reformation church began its existence, 25 family names were designated as members. Today 180 members are listed. There was also a flourishing Sabbath school in connection with this church, of which Christian Isely was superintendent. Through the years, several improvements were made, such as a new organ in 1881, a tower and a bell in 1905 and a hot air furnace in 1914.

Until 1920 services were held in German. In that year, English services were regularly scheduled for the first time. One English service was to be held in alternate months.

The church was redecorated in 1924 and a new roof was put on in preparation for the observance of the 50th anniversary of its dedication. Electric lights were installed in 1940. A new basement was completed in 1958, and in 1961 the sanctuary was redecorated and a room was added on the front. An electric organ was purchased in November, 1964.



Washington Reformation Church at its dedication September 24, 1967.

On October 16, 1965 the church was destroyed by fire caused by lightning. The congregation decided to rebuild and in December, 1966, ground was broken for a new church at the same location. The cost of this building, 30 X 64 feet was less than \$50,000. It has a seating capacity for 120 people and the choir has seating for 18. While this construction was being done, members attended services in Monticello Zwingli and at the Purcell school house.

In 1975, a parsonage was purchased jointly with the Union Presbyterian church of Monroe with whom the church is sharing a pastor, Rev. Duane McDonough.

Other important dates in the history of the church are: September 17, 1961 — the 85th anniversary; May 14, 1967 — First worship service in the new church; September 24, 1967 — Dedication of new church and the 91st anniversary service and September 26, 1976 its 100th anniversary.

Grace Evangelical United Brethren Church

by Mrs. Henry V. Baebler



The E.U.B. Church (Evangelical United Brethren) was purchased by Dr. T.K. Freitag and remodelled into chiropractic offices (lower picture).



The church building recently vacated by the Grace Evangelical United Brethren Church was at one time owned by the Advent Church before the Evangelical Church came here.

For many years, Evangelical Churches were in Dutch Hollow in Sylvester township and in New Glarus. Finally people in Washington and Mt. Pleasant townships asked for church services.

After many years, the services were discontinued because the Evangelical people had moved away and their place was taken by German Reformed church members.

Rev. W. H. Mehn, Evangelical pastor, was successful in getting the Advent Church in Monticello to use for Evangelical services.

The first service was in July, 1916, and continued for nearly two years with services in the afternoon. In 1918, the church was closed to the Evangelical organization. For nearly a year, there were no Evangelical services. The Methodist Church which hadn't been used for some time was offered to them. Then the Advent Church was offered for sale. Rev. Mehn and friends bought the church for \$1,200 with help from the Wisconsin Conference of \$82.00.

Members of the Adventist and Methodist Churches, along with the members of the Evangelical Church living in or near Monticello, became members of Peace Evangelical Church. The name was later changed to Grace Evangelical Church.

In 1930, the church was remodeled and enlarged. In 1927, the church bought a parsonage at a cost of \$5,000 and it was sold in 1962.

On November, 1946, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, the General Conference of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ and the Evangelical Church united to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Later, the membership decided to disband and they joined Zwingli United Church of Christ, some of the members joining that group and some going to the Washington Reformed Church in Washington township.

Grace Mission Circle

by Mrs. Earl Feldt

The Grace Mission Circle had its start as two groups, the Ladies Aid and the Evangelical Missionary Society of the Evangelical United Brethren church. It was during these years that the Circle started supporting a child through World Vision. In 1969, the E.U.B. church was closed and most of the members joined Zwingli Church. The Missionary Society chose to stay together so the name was changed to Grace Circle. The Circle continued to sponsor a child. At the present time, the girl being sponsored is Ana Mirna Del Campos of El Salvador. There are ten members with Mrs. George Grenzow serving as president, Mrs. Burnell Green as vice-president, Mrs. Clarence Dawson as secretary, and Mrs. Earl Feldt as treasurer.

RURAL AREAS

Time Was. ...

by Mary Burgy

1886 — Milk is 65 cents per hundred. Potatoes in good demand at 80 cents per bushel. 1887— Hogs \$5.00 per hundred. 1886, September — It is announced that "Kilbi" will be celebrated here. Wo says Monticello isn't a live town? 1888, March 28 — Several loads of Swiss immigrants have been taken to Monroe recently and put through the process that transforms a foreigner into a citizen of this great republic. 1888 — Monticello used to be a strong Republican town and anti-license was the rule, year after year. The Prohibition party wiped out the Republican majority and the result is: saloons, six of them in full running order. 1888, April — Mt. Pleasant has "gone wet." As a consequence we expect to have 5 saloons next month. 1888, May — With advent of spring comes revival of meetings of L.C.C. (Ladies Conversational Club). The first session at the residence of Mrs. J.H. Trogner on Friday last. Twenty present. 1888, October — The largest yield of oats is reported as threshed for James Pierce, the average being 70 bushels per acre. 1888, October — J.S. Confer will close up his sorghum works for the season, having made nearly 600 gallons. 1888, November — Winter wheat, which was sown several weeks ago is just coming up. It is the general opinion that the plant will not survive the winter, due to its tender growth. (A severe drought in 1887 and 1888.) 1888, February— Stauffacher Brothers, south of here, will build a cheese factory in their neighborhood this summer. Norton, Lemon and Burgi factory also is to be built in the spring. 1888, March — A cheese factory on R. Knight's farm, just west of the village, is pretty strongly talked. R. Knight has sold a strip of land west of his residence to a number of adjoining farmers, who intend to put up a cheese factory as soon as spring opens. A cheese

we are drifting to. Brick cheese has taken the place of Swiss cheese at a good many of the factories. Some of our extensive dairymen are putting tank heaters in their water tanks, thus enabling them to furnish their stock with warm water. Great things are claimed for this innovation.

1888, October — Messrs. Dr. D. Flower, J.C. Steinmann, Anthony Carroll, Michael Fitzgerald and Thomas Conway went to Monroe on Saturday to represent the Democrats of Mt. Pleasant in the County convention at Monroe.

1888, November — The result of the election is a great surprise to the Democrats of this section. In fact, at headquarters it is said that the silence is oppressive, reaching at times an intensity that is almost painful. As one of them puts it, "It seems as though some one was dead." Mt. Pleasant is Democratic by a plurality of 2.

1888 — Dietrich Stauffacher will pay the patrons of his cheese factory 74 cents per hundred pounds of milk for the first four months and 80 cents for the remaining two months. Patrons accepted.

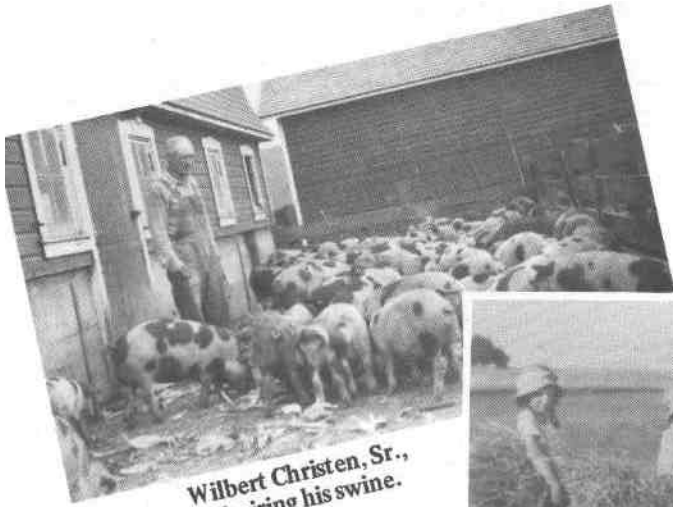
1888, May — Quite a number of loads of cheese have been hauled by teams from New Glarus to Monticello to be shipped to Monroe. The reason for this is that the railroad charges 20 cents per hundred from New Glarus to Monroe while both roads carry from here to Monroe for 5 cents.

1888, May— Butter making in this section will soon be one of the lost arts. Good butter makers can readily make contracts with private families to take all they can make at 20 cents per pound for the season. Most women preferred having the milk go to cheese factories, as women were the main butter makers and they were happy to get rid of the job. They made it for their own family use and some had customers in town during the season which was usually in the winter.

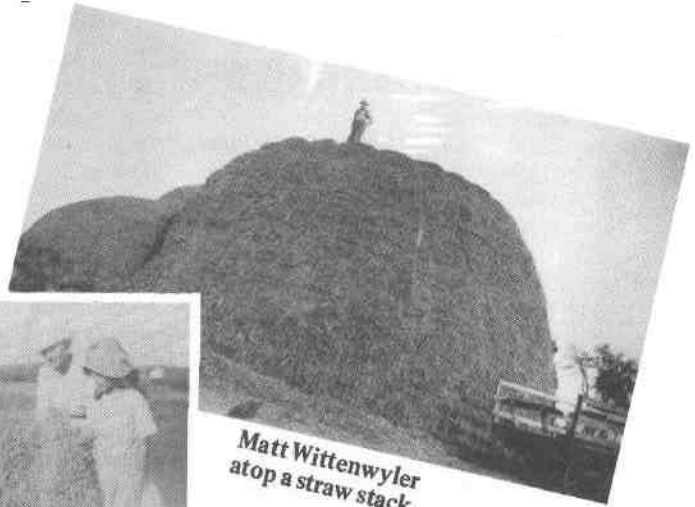
1888 — Mr. Jacob Burgy has sold a half interest in his Norman horse, Humboldt, to Mr. William Lemon. Both gentlemen leave for Dunham, Illinois, to purchase another horse for breeding purposes. They propose to bring back with them as good a Norman horse as can be found in that part of the country.



A threshing crew in the good old days.



*Wilbert Christen, Sr.,
admiring his swine.*



*Matt Wittenwyler
atop a straw stack.*



*One good summer in 1939, Jake and Matt
Wittenwyler dug 32 100-pound sacks
of potatoes before noon.*



*Filling the silo on
the Feldt farm, 1936.*

Farm Scenes...Early 1900's and On



Burgy eight-horse team discing a field in 1930.

Townships

Washington Township

by Mrs. Richard Smith

Josiah Pierce, the first settler in the Town of Washington, was born in New Salem, Massachusetts in 1783. In the spring of 1837, he and his wife came to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he was engaged by Col. Bird, the contractor who was building the state capital building in Madison. He was the second settler in Madison where he operated a rooming house for the accommodation of the workmen.

In the fall of 1837, Mr. Pierce came to Green County where he entered land Section 13 of Township 3 now known as Washington. Although his health was quite poor at this time, he was able to be about and attend to business for several years. He died in 1843. He was a man of good education, intelligent, public spirited and enterprising and in his death, the county lost one of its most useful and respected citizens. Mr. Pierce was one of the first commissioners of Green County. His widow died in 1863. They were the parents of eight children. The Pierces of Brodhead are their direct descendants.

Other early, prominent settlers of Washington Township were: C.J. Simmons, A. Loveland, E. Roby, A. Harper, D. Benkert, J. Crouch, J. Barney, J. Bloomer, J. Wisemiller, P. Purcell and W. Lemon.

"Dutch Road", now called Urban Road, got its name from the fact that in the early days when men from "the old country" came to town they in many instances headed for Washington Township because many of their relatives or friends had settled there and the newcomers there found ready employment. Inez Kilgore Steinmann said she remembered hearing her folks talk about these "foreigners" going west on this road, their only luggage being a few pieces of clothing neatly tied in a large red handkerchief attached to a stick and carried over the shoulder. Many of the early Swiss settlers in Washington Township were from Bilten, Canton Glarus, Switzerland, and as a result the early settlement of Schweizers in a certain valley in the township was called "Bliten Tal." This valley is the area around the Hefty Creek, one of Green County's finest trout streams.

The Irish settled in the southwest corner of the township. People with names such as Shay, Casey, O'Neal, Keegan, Kelly, McGuire and Dolan had an important part in the growth and development of the area.

Farming and cheesemaking have long been the main occupations of the township residents. In 1902, there were twenty-one cheese factories serving the local farmers.

At one time there were three churches within the township boundaries. The Center Methodist Church was built in 1874 on the present Ralph Brunner farm. For many years, Rev. Kinley of Monticello conducted Sunday afternoon services. Active members were residents of the immediate area such as the Harpers, Crouches, Smiths, Blumers, Halloways, Kruegers, Baumgartners, and Chesebros. The unused church building was destroyed by fire in 1930.

A German Methodist Church was built in 1876 just a mile or so up the road from the Center Church on the present Merlyn Loveland farm. The present day Benkert Cemetery located beside the former Loveland School was connected with this church. In 1915, the congregation disbanded and the building was sold. Active member families were the J. Voegelis, J. Baumgartners, E. Zumbrunnens, G. Loertchers, H. Schmerse, and Dittmers.

The third church is the Washington Reformation which was founded in 1875. It is still a very active church and a vital force within the township. See history of Reformation Church under History of Churches.

The first school in the township was built in 1854. It was a stone building and in 1882 it was replaced by a frame building and became known as the Loveland School. In 1922 a new building was erected as a Town Hall to serve the governmental needs of the community.

Washington Township is crossed by two important county trunk roads. County Trunk C, running east and west was constructed in 1930 and County Trunk N, running north and south, in 1940. A busy spot in the township is where these two roads cross — known by some as "Washington Corners". The Town Hall is located here beside the Town Hall Cheese Factory, the only operating factory remaining in the township. It started as a limburger factory in 1936. The present building was built in 1948 at which time production of Swiss cheese was begun.

Also at the intersection is the Washington Mill and Washington Implement. The mill was built by Ever Hanson in 1950. He soon sold out to George Ruch who in turn sold the business to Merlyn Rufer and Otto Graber. In 1956, Graber sold his share to his brother, Peter, who then sold his interest to Rufer making him the sole owner to this day.

When Rufer and Otto Graber were partners in the mill, Graber operated an implement repair shop in the mill basement. In 1956, Rev. A. Achtemeier introduced Graber to a representative of the J.I. Case Company who interested him in handling the Case line of farm implements. Harvey P. Elmer joined Otto Graber as a partner in 1957 and two years later they built the present Washington Implement shop diagonally across the road from the mill. In 1976, Gary Anderson purchased Elmer's share of the dealership.

Another popular area in the township is a small roadside park at the junction of County Trunk C and Center Road. The park was created in 1966 by the Washington Center 4—H Club whose members are in charge of the maintenance of the park.

Washington Township is governed by a town board consisting of a town chairman and two supervisors. A clerk, treasurer, and assessor are also elected positions serving the board. Today, as in the past, road construction and maintenance is the most important part of the town board's job. In 1942, the first snow plow was purchased for use on town roads. By the Fall of 1977, all roads within the township will be blacktopped.

Exeter Township

by Walter Haddinger

The first settlement in Green County started at Old Exeter where the Indians had been working the lead mines and called it New Diggins or Sugar River Mines. Later the name of Exeter mines was taken from the mining town of Exeter in England. The first man who discovered it called it Indian Diggins.

The first settlers to live here were a Mr. Boner and Mr. McNutt together with an Indian interpreter named Van Sickles. It is not known if he was an Indian or a white man who could converse with the Indians. The two men were miners and traders and built a cabin for occupancy.

They soon got possession of the lead ore from the Indians in exchange for whiskey and trinkets. Whether they intended to remain here is not known. In any event, their residence was brought to a tragic end, because of a drunken quarrel after a little over a year. McNutt killed Boner; Van Sickles, their Indian interpreter, was the only man there except themselves. McNutt sobered up enough to reach Blue Mounds, where he was arrested. The next day miners buried Boner. McNutt was tried at Prairie du Chien and was acquitted. The jury, believing that while he might have killed Boner the fact that Van Sickles, who was noted as a champion liar, swore positively to the killing, was sufficient to raise doubt, in accordance with their oaths. They found a verdict of Not Guilty. McNutt left the country.

The first man to make a permanent settlement in Exeter as well as Green County was William Deviese who came soon after the McNutt-Boner tragedy. He was of French-Scottish descent, born in Virginia and became the first permanent settler in Green County in 1828. The next spring he built a smelting furnace and gave employment to others who had since come. In the fall he went to Peoria, Illinois, and bought a drove of hogs. The next spring he broke 16 acres of land and put it in turnips and a sod crop. He never married and in 1884 was still living in Dane County.

The first post office was established in 1841 and Thomas Somers was the first post master. It was discontinued in 1871. Robert Witter was the last postmaster.

By this time the mines had ceased to function and the settlement was beginning to decline, the population having moved elsewhere. All that is left of the old settlement is the cemetery on County Trunk D, astride the Section 35 and 26 line.

Dayton Township

by Walter Haddinger

The decline of Old Exeter, as that settlement was called, heralded the rise of Dayton. Named after Dayton, Ohio, it had waterpower to offer with a sawmill and gristmill. It was platted in 1853 on the adjoining corners of Sections 14 and 12, being in two plats separated by the river. At one time it had 3 churches, 2 schools, 2 cemeteries, a Masonic Lodge, a creamery, a cheese factory and a small business district, as well as a post office established in 1854.

Dayton began to decline after 1888 when the Illinois Central Railroad bypassed it, going about 2

miles to the west to Belleville. At this time, Belleville began to flourish and Dayton to decline, leaving only a small residential district, one church and two taverns, one a supper club. The Exeter Town Hall is located here, where a new building, including a highway equipment garage is now completed.

Exeter is the smallest in area of the 16 townships, containing, according to the government survey, 21,825.81 acres.

Albany Township

by Ruth Abley

The Albany township borders Mt. Pleasant township on the west, Brooklyn on the north, Decatur on the south and Rock on the east.

On April, 1849, the Albany township was organized. The first town officers elected were: Aaron Broughton, chairman; James Campbell and George W. Bagley, supervisors; S.P. Wheeler, assessor; Christopher Meinert, treasurer; and Gilbert McNaught, clerk. The constables were S.T. Bagley, H. Purrington and John Jones.

Many improvements have been made in the township since those early days. Most of the roads are black-topped and named. Year around maintenance of the roads is kept, snow plows and salters are out during the winter. Keeping the roads clean of trash is another duty of the road men.

The present officers today are: Chairman, Woodrow Pryce; Supervisors, John Inabnit and Eugene Krueger; Assessor, Dennis Atkinson; Clerk, Bonnie Zee; Treasurer, Dorothy Dowden; County Supervisor, Edward Schneeberger.

Sylvester Township

by Ruth Abley

In the spring of 1836, Allen and William Woodle, William bringing his family, came to Sylvester and built the first house in the township.

Sylvester lost the characteristics of a wilderness more rapidly than the towns that were settled before it.

In 1842, Amos and Chas. Sylvester and Nelson Hill built a saw mill on the Sugar River section 22. The first town meeting was held at the mill and at this meeting the town was named for Mr. Amos Sylvester.

The first 4th of July celebration was held at Justus Sutherland's home. A man from Monticello delivered the oration.

The first election in the town of Sylvester was held in 1849.

Today, the early settlers would hardly recognize the township they settled, with its modern homes, barns, school, churches and stores.

The well kept up roads, both summer and winter, connect the farmers to all main highways.

The present township officers are: County Supervisors, Ed Kaderly and Wm. Hafen, Jr.; Town Chairman, Chester Pinnow; Supervisors, Jerry Jorden and Russell Bauman all from Juda, Rt. 2; Clerk, Paul Baumgartner, Rt. 4, Monroe; Treasurer, Clifford Prien, Rt. 2, Monroe; and Mrs. Joyce Bender, Rt. 2, Monticello.



Threshing crew in Mt. Pleasant, late 1930's.



Corn on the Walter Tryon farm, Mt. Pleasant, 1948.

Mt. Pleasant Township

by Edna Babler

The town of Mt. Pleasant is congressional township 3 north, range 8 east. The name Mt. Pleasant is well suited to its region of gentle rolling hills and valleys.

The exact date of the first settlement is unknown, but it was made by Henry Mitchell, a native of England, who came to U.S. in 1832, working in the lead mines of Wisconsin for a time. In 1836, he was living in a log cabin in section 9, of Mt. Pleasant. He farmed until his death in 1861.

At about the same time that Mitchell settled on section 9, Elias Lutherell entered, staying only until 1843, then selling out to Wm. Boyles. The first town meeting was held at the Boyle's house in 1843 and after that meetings were held at the stone school house in District No. 2. Also in this school house, church services were held, the sermons given by a traveling preacher.

A.F. Steadman came in 1841 from Ohio, followed soon after by the Whaleys, John Troy, the Rima brothers and Michael McNutt. The year 1845, saw the arrival of Pliny Cotton, Christopher Silver, Artemus Silver, Daniel Tree, Thomas Stewart, Stephen Wood and George Wood, with their families, all coming from Pennsylvania.

The first death in the township occurred in 1841, Samantha, daughter of the A.F. Steadmans, who was buried on the Steadman farm. Six other bodies were also interred on their farm.

In July, 1844, the first murder was discovered in the township, which caused great excitement, and remained a mystery ever since. The murdered man was Arthur Smith, whose remains are in Church Cemetery, Monticello.

The town of Mt. Pleasant was organized in April, 1849. The first town clerk was James L. Powell:

At the first general election, 49 electors were present. The total amount of tax levied for the year 1849, including state, county and town, was \$820.16.

In 1850, there were 102 dwelling houses in the township and 100 families. The total population was 579.

In the annual report ending Mar. 26, 1861, W. E. Noble, clerk, reported that the sum necessary to be raised by the town for the ensuing year was \$100 for

incidental purposes, \$400 for support of schools and \$100 for bridge funds.

From 1849 to 1860, each township took care of its own poor. In 1860, \$2,000 was appropriated to buy a county poor house and farm. The first county poor farm was in Mt. Pleasant in 1861. It was used about 16 years, contained 130 acres and cost \$2,900. The poor house building, 27x33 feet, two stories high, was furnished with ten beds, five stoves and dishes to feed 20 persons. During the year ending Nov. 15, 1876, the average number of inmates was 50. The average cost to the county of each week's maintenance was \$1.46. The main buildings on the farm were destroyed by fire May 31, 1877. In 1878, the farm was sold for \$4,000 to Simon Brown. This farm today (1977) is the Arthur Studer, Jr., farm.

In the spring of 1877, the Chicago papers gave Mt. Pleasant the credit of selling the most sheep to Chicago, numbering about 1800.

The assessed valuation of the land in the township in 1882 was \$411,270. In 1912, it was \$1,493,142, and today (1977) it is \$4,442,345.

The population of the town in 1918 was 700, today it is 603.

In the township there is only one cheese factory — The Silver-Lewis factory east of Monticello.

Roads in Mt. Pleasant differ greatly from roads in pioneer days. Hard surfaced roads did not exist, they were dusty or muddy depending on the weather. By 1910, there was a need for road improvement as some automobiles were then on the roads. In 1913, Green county spent \$69,000 for macadam roads, some of which was used in Mt. Pleasant. Today, all but 6 miles of roads, are black-topped. About ten years ago, the roads were all named but this was not made official until December 1976.

Two snowplows are owned by the town and when not in use are kept in the new township garage at the east edge of Monticello.

Green county's first corn husking contest was held in Mt. Pleasant, October, 1937, on a 20 acre plot of hybrid corn on the Ben F. Feldt farm, now operated by the Wallace Feldt family.

The present town officers are: Clerk, Mrs. Albert Pfeuti; Chairman, Frederick Rieder; Treasurer, Mrs. Paul Witt; Supervisors, Edward Riese and Lawrence Karlen; Assessor, John Stauffer.

CENTURY FARMS

Washington and Mt. Pleasant Townships:

Hefty-Blum

Luther Lemon

Burgy Farm

Voegeli Farm, Inc.

Ralph A. Zimmerman

Dooley Farm

John Schuler Est.

Chesebro Farm

Jacob Marty

H. M. Marty

Nic Freitag, Est.

Silver Brothers

Rudolph Karlen

Charles Purrinton

Chester Dillon

Albany

Alfred Pasco

Albertson Farm

D. T. Price

Farms Held 99 Years:

Holloway Farm

Holcomb-Hess



Voegeli Farm on Hwy. 69, north of Monticello.



Holsteins on the Freitag estate farm.

BUSINESSES

past and present

Blacksmiths

by Mrs. Selma Schoonover and Mrs. Ellen Stauffer

Thomas Mitchell, blacksmith and wagonmaker, began business in Monticello in 1877. He built a building in which he manufactured carriages and wagons. He also did horse shoeing and other general blacksmith work.

The first wagon shop opened on the south side of the river, the owners being Robert and George Bridges with their father.

Henry L. Babler who learned the blacksmith trade by working in Schindler's blacksmith in New Glarus, purchased the blacksmith shop of the late Thomas Mitchell in 1884. The site of the Mitchell shop was located where the Ed Wittwer cheese office was. Mr. Babler moved the shop to the place where Voegeli Chevrolet-Buick Inc. is today.

Mr. Babler added to his shop and Christ Stauffer was

employed as a wagon maker. Sometimes five men were employed shoeing horses, especially in winter when special shoes were needed for icy roads and ice harvesting.

Mr. Babler and his brother, Otto, worked at this trade for 35 years. In 1918 he sold the business to Christ Stauffer.

During the twenties the shop was a busy place, farmers brought their horses and as many as 127 shoes were put on in a single day.

In the late twenties and early thirties, a small car was equipped with an anvil and horse shoeing equipment, so that the farm horses could be shod at the farms.

Welding became popular in the 1930's and much of that was done both at the shop and on the farm.

The blacksmith shop operated until 1956.

In addition to his service at the Blacksmith Shop, Mr. Stauffer was active in civic and church affairs:



The planing mill and blacksmith shop.

...serving as village president from 1935-1951, president of the school board 1930-1943, and fire chief 1928-1948. For two years he was on the Selective Service Board and Green Co. School Committee, president of the local Business Men's club, Past Commander of the Local American Legion, past master of Monticello Masonic Lodge and a past patron of Local Eastern Star Chapter. In 1956, he was elected to the Wisconsin Legislature as Green County assemblyman and served until his death. Mr. Stauffer was married to the former Ellen Ott.



Blacksmith shop.

**Christ Stauffer
Blacksmith**



Hotels

by Ruth Abley

J. H. Berkley began a sort of hotel for transients between 1877-1878. This early hotel came in possession of John Legler and Casper Knobel, it was called the "Central Hotel". Later it was sold to Gottfried and Albert Wittwer.

In 1902 the Wittwer brothers built a new hotel on the site of the old one.

Albert Edwards suggested calling the new hotel, "Grand Central Hotel. That name was adopted and still remains.

When the Wittwer brothers died their widows Mary and Ella Wittwer rented the hotel to George Butterfield. Later it was sold to Sam Amstutz.

Kerosene lamps lighted the hotel and each night a person would light the lamps in the guest rooms.

The large dining room served meals three times a day, to workers, traveling salesmen, traveling shows and other guests.

The large dance hall accommodated the traveling shows, dances, masquerade balls, wedding and anniversary dances, the high light of the time was the high school plays, Memorial Day Exercises and children's operettas.

Sam Amstutz sold it to Jacob Widmer, then to Casper Blum.

In 1920 Alois Wyss became the owner. Silent movies, dances and wrestling were still the main attractions.

After Mr. Wyss died his son Louis took over the hotel management, but most of the attractions were now held in the new Karlen Hall.

Louis Wyss runs the bar "The House of Spirits" in the old hotel building today.



The Grand Central Hotel

Jacob Marty built a hotel around 1851. In 1872, Peter Wilson and his son bought the hotel and called it the "Monticello House." In 1883, Ira Wilson became the owner. The hotel burned in 1895.

When Jacob Figi moved to Monticello he bought it, and with the help of his father constructed the new "Monticello House."

The early hotel had large dining rooms, a bar, sleeping quarters and a large dance hall. The dance hall was called the "Opera House."

Jacob Figi was the landlord for twenty-three years when he sold it to J.H. Heeren, who leased it to Otto Wyss. The next owners were Herman Schlittler, Clare Puttkamer and Colonel William and Belle Elliot.

Bill and Mary Gibbons bought the hotel from the Elliots in November 1954.

In 1956, Dick and Sue Wong made the old dance hall into a dining room. Chinese food was the specialty, although American foods were on the menu also.

In 1965, Don and Judy Hoesly bought the dining facilities from the Wongs. In 1970, the Hoeslys bought the building from Bill and Mary Gibbons.

In December of 1974, the "Blue Chip Lounge" was added. This lovely bar is known all over southern Wisconsin.

The building consists of two bars, dining room, dance floor, kitchen and five apartments.



The west side of Main Street, showing the Casino to the far left. On the right is a former Bank of Monticello building, which now is owned by Attorney Paul Voegeli.

Old Businesses

by Edna Babler

In 1845, John Williams from Pennsylvania began a grist mill on Little Sugar River near the central part of Mt. Pleasant township. The building was erected. Two granite millstones (one in the picture), shipped from Pennsylvania, were in place for grinding. All was completed except for the flooding of the land.

The next year was the "sickly year" when nearly all the inhabitants of the Sugar River valley were the victims of the "chill fever." All of Mr. Williams' family were sick and he died in August 1846 and the mill work was never completed.

All that remains is this one millstone which now rests on the lawn of a home on East Lake Ave. This stone was brought to its present location by a farmer, Jacob Schlittler. The second millstone is thought to be in the river bed today. The stones each weigh about a ton and measure more than 43 inches in diameter.



The granite millstone.

Stockyards

by Fred T. Burgy

It is believed that shortly after the coming of the railroads into the village, in 1888, that both railroads built stockyards. Humiston and Persons operated the I.C. yards. Shortly after they began, they had an argument with the I.C. people and they then drove their stock to the St. Paul yards. Scott Brothers from Belleville then shipped from the I.C. yards occasionally. Shortly after 1890, William Lemon took over the St. Paul yards and Mr. Persons went back to the I.C. Jacob Burgy joined Mr. Lemon as a partner and they operated together until Jess Lemon replaced his father and this partnership continued until 1925. Market reports were received by telegraph from the depot agent daily if they were available from Chicago. Reports were also received by mail through the Chicago Daily Drivers Journal. Later on, these reports were available by radio through WLS and Jim Poole. Crouch Brothers, took over the I.C. yards and Mr. Persons joined Lemon and Burgy.

In 1925, a shipping association was formed to take over the buying duties. The association was managed by Adam Duerst, Jake Legler, James Dooley, Willis Babler and Willis Elmer. In 1959, the present stock yards facility was built by James Dooley and Harry Haddinger. They operated for several years and then sold to Willis Elmer and Glen Flannery. They later sold to Ernest Rufener and he sold to Midwest Livestock Association with James McNeill, now manager.

People's Supply Company Co.

by Lora Dick

A Monticello mercantile business worthy of mention is the People's Supply Co. This enterprise was incorporated in 1906 when the firm of Dick and Staedtler merged with E.J. Blum and J.C. Steinmann. The incorporators were E.J. Blum, Fred Blum, Jr., J.C. Steinmann, George C. Steinmann and John Dick, Jr. They were incorporated for \$30,000.00.

At first the store was operated from two locations. The grocery and dry goods departments were on the east side of Main Street where Woelffer's Drug Store now is, while the men's clothing and shoe departments were on the west side, in the building now occupied by the Dickson Grocery.

In 1922, the business consolidated all departments in one building on the west side of Main Street. The building was enlarged and improved and offered ladies ready-to-wear, a millinery shop, a tailor shop, men's clothing, a large shoe department, an extensive dry goods department and a big grocery store, all under one roof.

The tailor, Mr. Adolph Kistler, altered and also made custom tailored suits for men. His wife, Martha, assisted him and made alterations for the ladies ready-to-wear. They also did dry cleaning for a time. This store was in reality a one-stop shopping center.

About this time, Mr. J.C. Steinmann retired, as did Mr. Fred Blum and Mr. E.J. Blum. W.E. Blum, son of Fred Blum, came into the company and the business continued with three partners, John Dick, George Steinmann and W.E. (Bill) Blum. After the retirement of Mr. Dick in 1937 and the death of Mr. Steinmann, the business became known as Blum's Store. In 1967, the store was sold to Bill Dickson, who is now sole owner.

The People's Supply Co. filled an important niche in the community beyond the mere mercantile service. People gathered there in a social way. One often heard, "I'll meet you at People's." One came to shop and lingered to visit with friends and acquaintances, a pleasant aspect of small town life, which is now largely a thing of the past.

Rolph Brothers Contractors and Builders

by Mrs. Charles M. (Meta) Rolph

Conspicuous among the leading enterprises of Monticello that have contributed largely to the growth of the town and added to its reputation as one of the important business and industrial centers of Green county was the firm of Rolph Bros. This firm was organized for the purpose of supplying the building material for its own contracts, but as the business grew, the demand on the part of other contractors as well as the general public became so great that the Rolph Brothers established a lumber yard in Monticello and began dealing in all things in their line upon a more extensive scale.

This business was established by Charles F. Rolph and Wm. V. Rolph in about 1897, both natives of Green county and among the leading businessmen of Southern Wisconsin. They started in life without means aside from which nature provided in the way of firm

wills, strong arms, well balanced judgment and courage born of a determination to surmount difficulties and to create opportunities when and where they did not present themselves. In their young manhood, they learned carpentry and in due time both became skillful workmen and by reason of their proficiency there was soon a wide demand for their services. Their success as mechanics led them in the course of a few years to engage in contracting, and to this they added many other things. The yard was situated near the depot, and was stocked with various kinds of soft and hard wood lumber, building materials including doors, sashes, shingles, glass, finished lumber, cement, etc. Additional to their contracting and mercantile business, the Rolph Bros. dealt extensively in coal and grain. They also had a large and growing patronage in other parts of Green county and adjoining counties.

The Rolph Bros. were craftsmen, and everything built by them was well done. They used only the best lumber for all their buildings including houses and barns which have stood the test of time — still functional and beautiful today. Examples of this are the Voegeli Bros. barn, now known as Voegeli Farm Breeders of the famous Brown Swiss cattle. This was built in 1917 and was at that time the biggest barn in Green county. They also built the Voegeli farm home, the parsonage of Zwingli Church in Monticello and many other houses and barns in Albany and Dutch Hollow.

In the year 1926, William Rolph died, and the son of Charles F., Charles M., took over his share of the business. He attended public schools and later took the full course at a commercial college at Sheboygan, Wis. At 17 years of age, he became the manager of the firm until he assumed partnership with his father in 1926. Charles M. Rolph was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Oddfellows Lodges in Monticello.



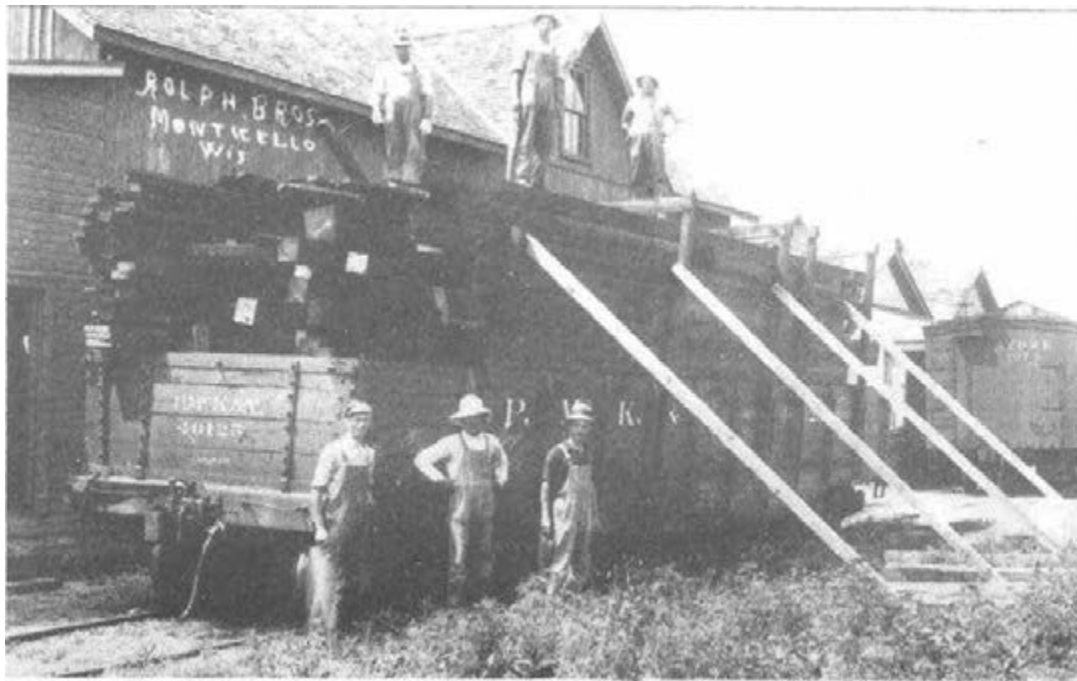
In the early 1900's, ladies took pride in their lovely hats.

Millinery

by Mrs. Cloyance Karlen

Frieda and Hulda Karlen acquired the millinery business from Ina Schuler in 1904 and continued in this business in a couple of rooms above the People's Supply Co. in the building that is now the Woelffer drugstore.

They continued the operation until Frieda was married in 1920. Hulda continued to operate the store for a few more years and then quit the operation.



A Rolph Brothers crew.

Banks and Banking

by Edna Babler

In 1889 banking had its beginnings in Monticello and was done with cash instead of checks. John Trogner and John Sears opened a private bank in a small brick building at the south end of Main Street near the mill pond in 1896.

Monticello was fast becoming an important shipping center with its excellent railroad facilities. Livestock buyers began paying for stock by check and businessmen in general began using the facilities of banking.

In a short time there came the need for a stock bank as the community was growing. This would be incorporated under the laws of the state and operated under the supervision of the State Banking Commission. In March, 1896 meetings were held by a group of people and a committee was selected to



The bank of Monticello is located in this building constructed in 1959.

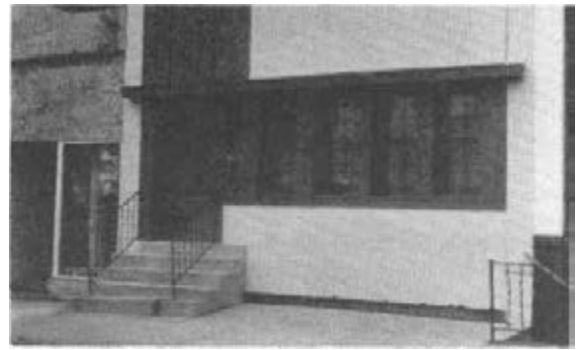
negotiate with Messrs. Trogner and Sears for the purchase of their building and equipment. At the first meeting in addition to Trogan and Sears were Edward Wittwer, Fred W. Humiston, Jacob Marty, Christ Bontly, John Bontly, Albert Fulton, Henry Holdrich, J.C. Steinmann and Fred Knobel. At a meeting held a week later others who were present were Dietrich Stauffacher, Jacob Wittenwyler, Edgar F. Wright, Dietrich Freitag, David Zimmerman, O.J. Persons, Dr. Dwight Flowers and Fred Breylinger.

On March 31st the investors met again, when pledges for stock were signed. Articles of incorporation were drawn and by-laws were enacted. The date for opening the new bank for business was set for April 16, 1896 with capital set at \$25,000.

Also in April the organizers met, paid in their stock pledges and elected a board of directors. Jacob Marty was elected the first president and John Sears the first cashier. Actually all that they used to keep their banking records were a few books, a bottle of ink and a pen.

During the 80 years of its corporate existence the bank has had six presidents: Jacob Marty, 1896-1908; John C. Freitag, 1908-1940; Wm. A. Loveland, 1940-1953; Wm. E. Blum, 1953-1971; Laurence G. Marty, 1971-1975; George M. Grenzow, 1976-.

The cashiers: John Sears, 1896-1901; Leon J. Breylinger, 1901-1915; Henry O. Babler, 1915-1927;



A former bank building now serves as Attorney Randal Elmer's law offices.

Joseph W. Barlow, 1927-1953; Laurence G. Marty, 1953-1971; George M. Grenzow, 1971-1976; Ronald J. Tschudy, 1976-.

In 1910 a new building was erected and in 1925 and in 1930 the bank building was remodeled and again some years later a need for more space was required so additional work was done.

A new brick structure was erected in 1959, designed by Steinmann architects, this being the third bank building.

The present officers (1977) are: President—George M. Grenzow; Vice-president — Frederick S. Voegeli; Cashier — Ronald J. Tschudy; Assistant Cashier — Maynard Hefty.

Growth of deposits is as follows:

1896-\$27,204.60

1946-\$2,225,328.65

1976— (mid year) over 11 million dollars.

On October 22, 1976 the bank observed its 80th Anniversary with an open house.



JACOB MARTY

Jacob Marty was born in the Canton of Glarus, Switzerland, in 1850, and came to Green County with his parents at the age of fourteen. They farmed in Mt. Pleasant township. Mr. Marty attended the Evansville Seminary, and later took up farming. In 1904, he moved to Monticello. He served on the County Board of Supervisors for many years, was the first president of the Bank of Monticello, and was one of the founders of the Zwingli Reformed Church. He died in 1910.

Mills in Monticello

by Ruth Abley

In 1854 Orrin Bacon began construction on a flour mill. The mill was 30x40 and 3 1/2 stories high. Jacob Abley, a carpenter by trade, was employed in the construction of the mill. The mill had two runs of stone. Mr. Bacon established a Geo. T. Smith elevator holding machine made for the purpose of bolting rye and buckwheat flour. The mill, having the latest improved machinery, ranked with any in the state.

In 1895, J. Henry Staedtler purchased the roller milling business from Orrin Bacon and F.K. Studley. Mr. Staedtler, a miller by trade from Milwaukee, had a liking for this modern equipped milling plant. He continued in the milling business until 1912 when he sold to his son, Henry Staedtler.

In later years, the mill no longer made flour, but ground feed for the farmers for livestock. Henry Staedtler continued this line of grinding feed until 1920 when the mill equipment and land was sold to Ben Disch.

In 1924, Ben Disch sold it to the South Western Power Company of Harrison and Smith. They built the present building of the Monticello Village Hall. The South Western Power Co. continued with the grist mill until 1934. In 1935, the village of Monticello bought the building, land and water rights. The building at one time housed the fire department until they built a new building on East Coates Avenue. The building now houses the village hall, library, police office department and the village clerk's office.

Jacob Abley and J. Henry Staedtler mentioned in this write-up were both grandfathers of Ruth Abley. Mr. Staedtler was also the grandfather of Monica and Paul Staedtler, Madison, and Mrs. Bert (Stauffacher) Whitney, Bismarck, North Dakota.



Sacks used by the J. H. Staedtler flour mill.



J. Henry Staedtler, the miller, is standing in the doorway of his mill which served the village for many years.

Monticello Messenger History

by Mrs. Clarence (Hilda) Wittenwyler

The first newspaper in Monticello, The Monticello News, was founded in 1888 by J.A. Smith, who managed the publication until Otto J. Reick, a Milwaukeean, took over the business early in 1908.

On May 22, 1896, John Richards, then owner of the Grange store here, founded The Monticello Messenger for his son, S. Earle Richards, who transferred his publishing business here in July from Lone Rock. He had established The Lone Rock Hustler there in



CLARENCE WITTENWYLER
at the keyboard of the old linotype.

October of 1895 and also printed the Messenger there until coming to Monticello to assume active management of the paper.

As a lad of 12, Earle became interested in the printing business and later installed a little hand press in a corner of his father's store and called his business the Climax Card Company, printing calling cards. At the age of 17, he enlarged his press facilities and specialized in printing for breeders of pure-bred poultry and pet stock. It was known as "The S. E. Richards Printing House" and he kept that mail order business as a separate entity until 1918.

With two weekly newspapers in a community of 500 people, competition was keen and in 1908 S. Earle Richards purchased The Monticello News from the former publisher and incorporated that enterprise with the Messenger. He continued as editor and publisher until 1926, when his son, Roswell S. Richards, then a journalism student at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, took over the editorial duties. The Monticello Messenger subsequently became known as one of the best small town weekly newspapers in the country, having been entered in national contests.

After 40 years as publisher of The Monticello Messenger, S. Earle Richards sold the business to Clarence M. Wittenwyler, who took over as publisher and editor in May of 1936. Upon completion of a course in printing at Dunwoody Industrial Institute in Minneapolis, Minn., the new owner had been employed by Mr. Richards the past two years.

Mrs. Wittenwyler assisted her husband with the news and he continued to serve the community with the newspaper until ill health forced him to retire in

May of 1974, after 38 years at the helm. He sold the Messenger to David Enerson who at that time was also publishing The New Glarus Post. Mr. and Mrs. William Capellaro, Marquette University journalism graduates, were employed as editor-managers of the two weeklies and they purchased the business from Mr. Enerson in May of 1976.

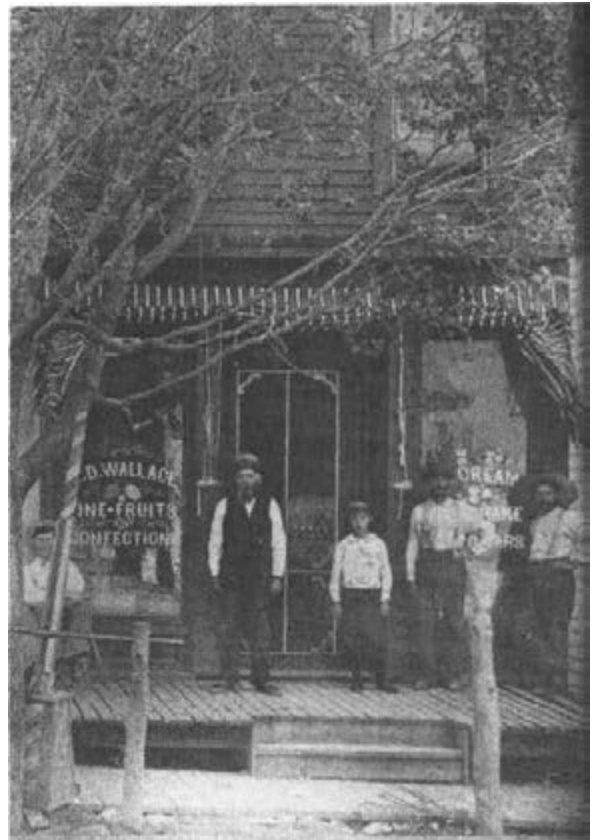
Veterinarians

by Edna Babler

Dr. B.L. Clarke began his practice in the Monticello area following his graduation from Chicago Veterinary college in May 1895. He was the son of Jabez and Julie Dawson Clarke. He practiced his profession for 51 years retiring in 1946. Prior to attending the Veterinary college he taught rural schools. He passed away at the age of 83 in May 1952.

Dr. Raymond A. Woodruff, after being discharged from the U.S. Army, located in Monticello to practice veterinary medicine and surgery in May 1946. His office was in the Monticello Auto Co. garage but he resided in Albany until suitable living quarters were found. He is still practicing his profession in the Monticello area.

Dr. Clarence J. Klooster purchased the Veterinary practice and residence from Dr. B.L. Clarke. He began practice June 1, 1946. Dr. Clarke was associated with him for a few weeks. Dr. Klooster still serves a large number of farmers in the Monticello area.



An old-time view of Main Street when sidewalks were wooden and men had time for a leisurely chat outside the ice cream parlor.

Monticello Woolen Mill

The Monticello Woolen Mills, nestled quietly beside the Little Sugar River northeast of Monticello, was probably the last historic mill in Green County to operate.

The Monticello woolen mill dates to 1886 and men named Taft, Wilson and Bacon. Commercial cheesemaking which bailed farmers out of the disaster of the chinch bug destroying wheat, did not begin here until a year or so later.

The business originally was Monticello Lumber and Woolen Co. and shared Little Sugar River water power with a sawmill built 10 years earlier, in 1856.

Dominic Kennedy of Ireland worked in New York and Janesville woolen mills before coming here about 1885 to run the mill for new owners, Chenoweth and Brown.

Then, Kennedy bought the mill in 1892 and ran it with his sons Tom and Charles.

Monticello Woolens became known in Chicago stores like Marshall Field, Carson's and Sears.

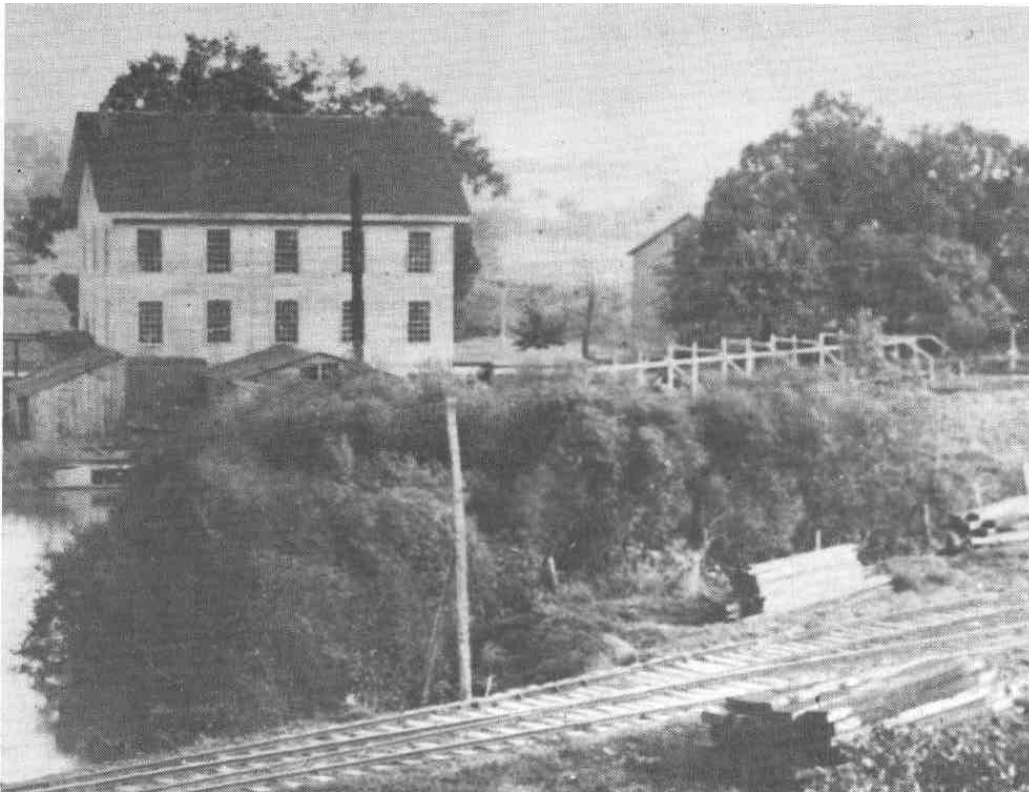
But around 1911, low tariffs brought foreign

competition and this remained a problem all during the war years. Also, the mill was relatively small, as were many other mills in the country at that time, but competition from larger manufacturers was stiff.

The Monticello Woolens' answer to competition was to offer custom work to sheep raisers who supplied wool in exchange for blankets, batting for quilts and garments. The price of the finished goods was deducted from the value of the raw wool. In 1950, with the introduction of synthetic fibers, the bottom fell out of the wool market.

That same year the Monticello mill, a three-story building in which as many as 20 people were employed, was destroyed by fire. Electricity had replaced water power by then and it was blamed for the blaze.

Howard Kennedy, a grandson of D. Kennedy, one of the original operators, had managed the mill for the last 7 or 8 years of its operation. He recently retired after working for the local post office 20 years, but still receives wool from farmers and sends back Monticello Woolens which are made up in northern mills.





Tavern owned by William Voegeli in late 1800's.



Dry goods and grocery store on Main Street.



Interior of an early hardware store. This is believed to be the Otis Breylinger store which was located on the site of the present Chateau Tavern.

Drug Stores in Monticello

by Edna Babler

Dr. Dwight Flower operated a drug store in the 1870's until he left in 1906.

E.W. Van Norman operated the drug store in the village on the west side of Main Street beginning in the early 1900's.

In 1915, R.W. Woelffer, Sr., purchased the drug store from Mr. Van Norman and operated the business until 1949 when he sold the business to his son, R. W. Woelffer, Jr. In 1915, Mr. Woelffer, Sr., graduated from the University of Illinois School of Pharmacy. Mr. Woelffer, Jr., also a licensed pharmacist, graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

The Monticello Pharmacy, a recent addition to the village, opened for business in December, 1976. It is the newest Pharmacy in Green County and is located at 209 N. Main St.

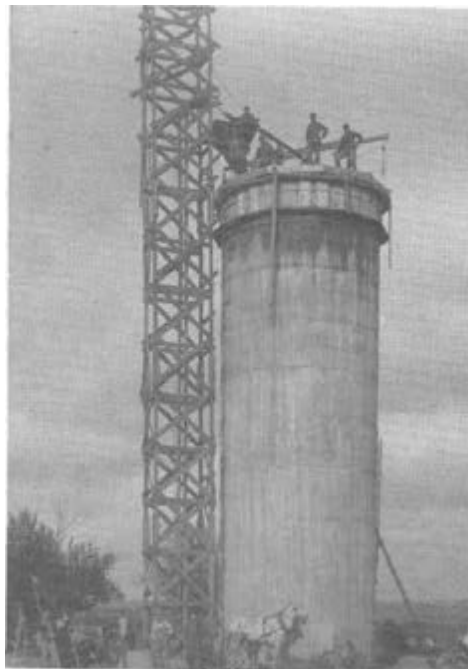
Ice Making

by Fred T. Burgy

The railroads needed ice for their refrigerator cars and they suggested and encouraged Monticello to build an ice house because a good supply would be available from the mill pond each winter. The building used was located on the north side of the pond in the area of the present Zimmerman Plumbing and heating building. It is said that it had been moved in and was at one time part of an old school house.

Henry Stettler employed about a dozen men to do this work. This was all hand sawed in blocks about 2 (two) feet square and was moved through the water with long "pike" poles where it was pulled up a long incline into the ice house and packed with sawdust to keep it frozen during the summer. Moving the ice up this incline was done by using a team of horses hitched to a rope and pulley arrangement.

Mr. Stettler used two of his men to deliver ice with a team and wagon during the warm weather to individuals in the village and to supply the railroad cars when cheese was shipped.



The first water tower was built in Monticello in 1911. Cement and materials were hoisted by means of pulleys and ropes with the aid of a team of horses. It was torn down in 1949 and replaced by another tower with a capacity of 50,000 gallons. In January of 1973, a third water storage facility, at the northeast edge of the village, was put in service with a capacity of 150,000 gallons. The goal of the two towers is to make a circulatory system which will provide more pressure for the entire village.



This is an ice harvest on Lake Staedler Monticello, about 1910. The lake, now gone, covered nearly 30 acres. Ira (Bum) Pierce had charge of the ice harvest for many years. During a winter thaw, the ice blocks began to melt, became honeycombed and were no good -- thus became known as "Bum's Bum Ice." Ice crops were stored in the ice house to the far left - to be used the following summers in ice boxes in the community.

Cheese Making in Green County

by Jacob Wittenwyler

In the first years that the Swiss families came to Green County, they raised wheat as there were no cows on the scene yet. In 1846, the first cows were brought from Ohio and sold for \$12.00 per head. These were Durham cattle. The Holsteins were brought here later. Cheese making got started in 1867 when wheat prices dropped and chinch bugs ate the crop. Farmers had to look for other means of income. That year, Rudolph Benkert started to make limburger cheese on the Martin Zumbrunnen farm in a small building and cured the cheese in the home cellar.

In 1868, Nick Gerber started the first limburger factory in New Glarus township on the then Albert Babler farm. In 1869, Nick Gerber started the first Swiss cheese factory on the Nick Freitag farm about 2 miles northwest of Monticello. The place is marked with a large stone and brass plate.

In 1869, Nick Gerber started the Becker-Wittenwyler factory in Washington township. Casper Becker and Mathias Wittenwyler were both my great-grandparents. So began the cheese capital of the U.S.A.

In 1933, the Pure Milk Cheese Co. was formed in Monticello. The directors were Conrad Stauffacher, Ira B. Pierce, Ernest Strahm, Jacob Voegeli and John Zeller. This factory is in full operation today, the makers being Robert Durtschi and Fritz Minder.

Union Cheese Co.

The Monticello Union cheese manufacturing company was organized in 1878. The charter members were L.W. Wright, C.H. Baxter, Peter Wilson, S.C. Taft, W.P. Clement and C.W. Whittier. The first officers were as follows: president, Peter Wilson; secretary, C.H. Baxter; treasurer, David Sears; trustees, S.C. Taft and Amos Clement. The association purchased a lot on which they erected a building which, when furnished, cost \$2,000. The first year they leased this property to parties who bought the milk. Afterwards the patrons hired the building and paid 30 cts. per 100 lbs. of cheese as rental. A good grade of cheese was manufactured and sold to Chicago markets. The successors of this company have continued in the

Many of the old photographs in this book were taken by a photographer long active in the area, E. D. Frautschy.

Mr. Frautschy first worked with his brother Jacob in his Albany studio. He would take the train in the morning to Monticello and return later by train to Albany. Later Ed set up a studio in his home in Monticello. Following his marriage, he set up a studio above the Ed Wittwer Cheese Co. (now Dickson's Grocery) which he purchased from photographer, Will Karlen. Mr. Frautschy also had a branch office in New Glarus, which he attended on Thursdays.

In 1919, Mr. Frautschy closed his studio here and went to Monroe where he operated a studio until he passed away in December, 1937.

manufacture of cheese. The factory closed in

1959.

Edward Wittwer, prominent Monticello man, began buying and selling cheese at the age of 16 years. About 40 years ago, he joined with his brother, Gottlieb Wittwer, and established a business in the village in the rear of the building now occupied by the People's Supply Company where this business was continued by Wittwer & Co. until eleven years ago, when the cold storage was built. This building is 50 by 100 ft. and three stories high. Mr. Wittwer was at the head of this concern until something over six years ago when the business was sold to Adolph Arn, John J. Zweifel and Albert Knobel, the present owners. Before the cold storage was erected, all cheese purchased was stored in the I.C. and CM. and St. Paul cellars, at this place. Adolph Arn, the senior member of the Arn and Zweifel Company, has been engaged in the cheese business for 20 years.

To the dairying industry, this village owes more than to any other industry for her prosperity. Farming is the chief enterprise of Monticello. Farmers use the best modern machinery and have large modern and well equipped dwellings and barns.

The village is progressive, prosperous and up-to-date in everyway.

-taken from the Wisconsin State Journal



At one time, Fred Deppler (pictured with his wife) was the oldest limburger cheesemaker in Green County, and he operated the county's smallest limburger factory (pictured left). The Depplers are now deceased.



Jake Voegli and one of his prize Brown Swiss



The Sherman Farm, north of Monticello.



This plaque marks the founding of Green County's first Swiss cheese



An old view of the Lemon Cheese Factory.



Northside Cheese Factory, Monticello.



The office of the Ed Wittwer and Bros. Cheese Company. Seated with hat on by desk, George Kooreman; seated on opposite desk, Fred Knoble; seated by typewriter, Rose Stauffer, and standing, Rosa Benkert.

John Casper Steinmann

John Casper Steinmann, native of Switzerland, came to America (Green County) in 1861 at the age of 7 with his mother and his grandparents.

The village of New Glarus attracted him and in 1870 he learned harness making there. Except for a few months in 1876, he spent most of his life in the vicinity of New Glarus and Monticello. Upon coming to Monticello in 1883 he became a partner of Fred Knobel in conducting a general merchandise store. In 1889 Mr. Steinmann built the first brick building in Monticello.

In 1885 he was elected chairman of Mt. Pleasant township. He served on the Green Co. board as supervisor from Monticello for 13 years. In 1904, he acquired the interest of F.K. Studley in the Studley & Karlen Lumber Co. In 1906, E.J. Blum, John Dick and Mr. Steinmann merged their three stores into a corporation known as the Peoples Supply Co.

Mr. Steinmann was a charter member of Zwingli Reformed church also a director of the Bank of Monticello. He passed away at the age of 88.



Doctors Then and Now

by Edna Babler

In pioneer times doctors were usually not called except in extreme cases. Treatment of diseases was performed by the mother, grandmother or some older person in the community who had a good reputation for such skills. Most families had a supply of roots and herbs which were frequently used along with other home remedies.

The most common diseases were colds, pneumonia, malaria and diphtheria. Colds were treated with hot drinks. If pneumonia followed a doctor was usually called. Diphtheria was treated as a sore throat. A piece of fat pork, sprinkled with pepper and bound around the throat was considered a good remedy, also a brown paper bag saturated with vinegar or kerosene was nearly as good.

Every spring when colds and sore throat were over, came the time for purifying the blood. One way was to take doses of molasses and sulphur for three days, then miss three days, take three days and so on until it had been taken nine days.

Medicine peddlers were common in early times, walking in the country from house to house with herbs and potions to sell. Every spring they appeared often asking to remain overnight, then giving a small amount of one of their wares in payment.

Following is a list of the first physicians in Monticello: E.S. Knapp, J. Wilcox, T.F. Stairs, M.F. Merritt, Dwight Flower, Lovesee, Baird, Mills, Helgeson, Kleiner, Bradshaw, Doblén and Winkler.

The first resident physician locating in Monticello was Dr. E.S. Knapp in 1854.

Dr. Dwight Flower came to Monticello from Arena, Dane Co. in 1875 and left in 1906. He was health officer in Mt. Pleasant township from 1894 to 1906.

Dr. Edward Blumer, who served Monticello and vicinity more years than any other physician, was born in Adams township, Green Co. in 1873. He graduated from Monroe High School, U.W. at Madison and Rush Medical College, Chicago in 1903. He served the community until March 1930 when he died of pneumonia, at the age of 57. He was health officer in Mt. Pleasant for many years, president of the village board 20 years, head of the local board of education for 20 years and president of Green Co. Beekeepers' Association.

Dr. E.R. Boyer, who served Monticello in 1915, left for St. Croix to practice.

Dr. H.J. Duff, chiropractor, located here in 1916 then left for Ohio where he expected to "hang out his shingle."

Dr. E.R. Lovesee, one of the earliest doctors here, left and returned again in June 1920.

Dr. L.O. Helmes first practiced in Monroe, then came to Monticello. He discontinued practice here in April 1926, then went to St. Louis Barnes Hospital, later to Rhinelander, Wis. He and his wife were both killed in a plane crash.

Dr. T.M. Slemmons practiced in 1925 and 1926 here, coming from Mendota state hospital.

Dr. M.P. Ohlsen moved here in the early 1930's and was here until the late 1940's. He served as health officer in Mt. Pleasant several years.



Dr. Edward Blumer who practiced in Monticello from 1904 to 1930.

Dr. Otto S. Blum purchased the practice, office equipment and supplies of the late Dr. Edward Blumer. He assumed practice, in July 1930 after completing his internship in Nebraska. In the meantime his practice here was conducted by Dr. Clarence A. Hefty, Los Angeles, California who came for the funeral of Dr. Edward Blumer. Dr. Blum died August 1961, age 55 in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Dr. John Harden was here between 1939-1960, but was gone between 1948-50, when Dr. George Diver was practicing here.

Dr. C. Benkendorf came here in March 1948 and practiced until Sept. 1953 when he went on active duty with the U.S. Navy.

Drs. Charles O. Miller and Paul M. Lucas acquired the practice of Dr. C. Benkendorf, July 1953. Dr. Lucas left January 1, 1955 to specialize in orthopedic surgery at Wood Veteran's Hospital. Dr. Miller remained here until July 1955, then joined the Medical Center, Monroe.

Dr. Wm. Stovall came to Monticello in March 1957 from Brodhead. He was in Monticello about 6 years. He was killed in an auto crash in Illinois in October 1964. After he left, Monticello was without a doctor for more than four years.

Dr. E. C. Aquino opened his office in Monticello in October 1967. He came from the Philippines. He graduated from Santo Tomas University medical school in 1960. After a year of internship and two years in surgical residency he went to Creighton University Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. Before coming to Monticello he worked at a Milwaukee hospital. He is our doctor at present, 1977. His wife is the former Nancy Durtschi.

On October 5, 1970, Dr. T.K. Freitag, D.C., opened his chiropractic office here. Prior to coming to Monticello he was associated with Reich Chiropractic Clinic in South Beloit, Illinois.

Monticello Dentists

by Mrs. Wm. V. Baebler

Dr. Harry J. Horne practiced dentistry in Monticello, Wisconsin from 1915 to 1957.

Dr. John P. Zentner practiced here from 1917 to 1927. He was a graduate of Marquette University College of Dentistry.

Dr. William V. Baebler graduated from Marquette University College of Dentistry in 1927. He has been practicing in Monticello since that time.

Monticello Machinery Dealers

1888-1977

In 1888, Harper and Streiff of Monroe leased a lot (the present Woelffer property) on Main Street and built an implement warehouse for the machinery business. This was probably used until the early 1900's when Sam Luchsinger moved the building to the present Farm Bureau property. Mr. Luchsinger used half of this building for his business and John Zweifel used the other half for his blacksmith shop.

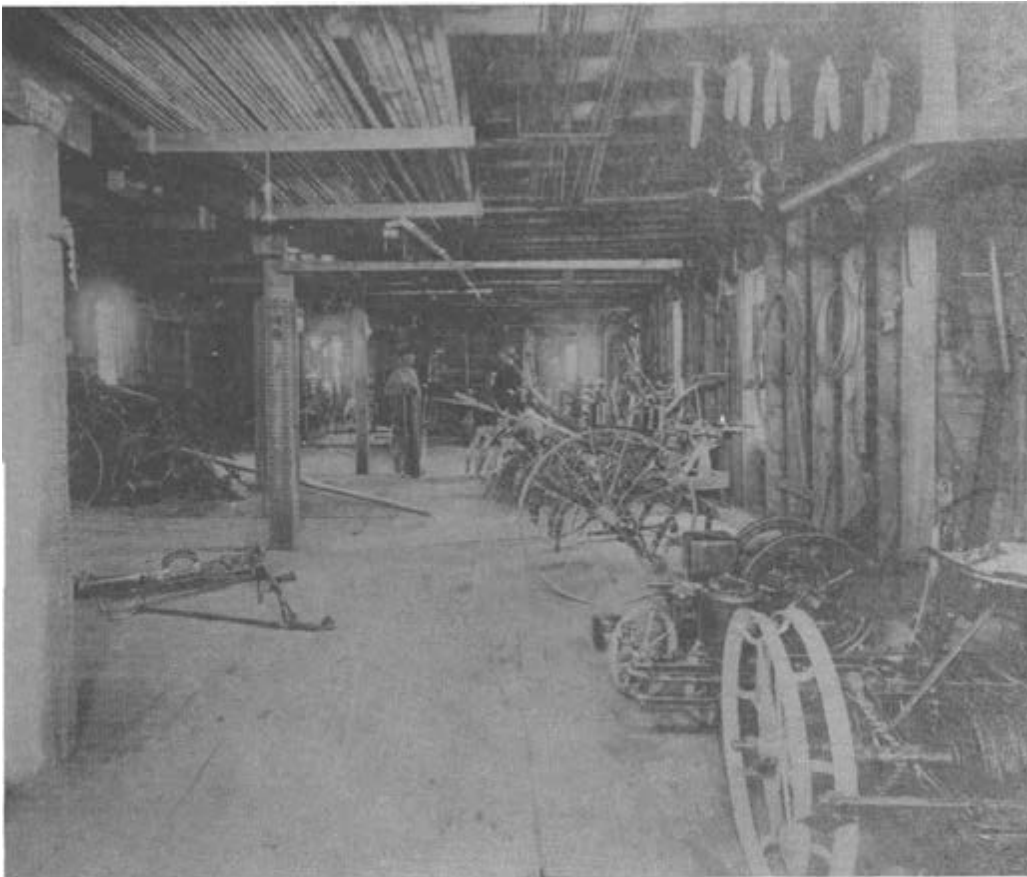
In 1893, Dan Wichser started a machine shop on Coates Street. Early partners were Fred Zweifel and Ezra Babler until Wichser became sole owner. In 1920, he sold to his son, W.L. Wichser, who operated this business until his death in 1969.

At one time, Karlen & Sons handled Ford Farm equipment which has recently been taken over by Krieg and Zurbuchen. Washington Implement dealers are located a few miles west of the village.

Today (1977), Riese Pump Sales & Service does work for this area.



Dan Wichser's pump and windmill business (left), stood next to Matt Schmid's stone cutting and granite works.



The machine shop.

Mt. Pleasant - Perry Mutual Insurance Company Co.

On the 27th day of May, 1876, twenty-six residents of the Town of Mt. Pleasant, County of Green, State of Wisconsin, and surrounding area did mutually bind and obligate themselves in writing as charter members of a town mutual insurance company for the purpose of indemnifying each other for loss to their property by fire. The name chosen was the Mt. Pleasant Mutual Fire Insurance Company. The territory was the north part of Green County, namely, the townships of Adams, Albany, Exeter, Brooklyn, Mt. Pleasant, New Glarus, Washington and York. These 26 men were farmers, bankers, lumber men, business men, etc.

The names of the charter members were:

David Sears	Joseph Hilton
F.K. Studley	A.A. Pierce
Sears Brothers	C.C. Bacon
H.A. Wilcox	W.W. Truax
R. Knight	Orrin Bacon
Thomas Sears	B.M. Roby
William A. Coates	E. Roby
Harris Hewitt	E. Lamson
G.A. Herrick	Ira Baxter
Melchoir Schlittler	T.Z. Buck
Charles H. Baxter	G.W. Baler
F. Swickey	F. Bloom
Sidney Jennison	Ira T. Humiston

Each of these members paid in \$250.00 to start the company.

The first records available are from 1889. The biggest policy at that time was for \$3,700. In 1890 it was \$4,750 and in 1900 was \$6,600 and 1903 was \$7,200. Cows were worth \$35.00, horses \$70.00, and calves \$5.00 at that time.

In 1976, the company celebrated its 100th anniversary. A luncheon and program was held for all members at the Casino Supper Club in Monticello. Gifts were given to all attending, special prizes were drawn and given out and special awards were given to the oldest policies turned in from both the former Mt. Pleasant company and the former Perry company as it had been, before merging the two companies.

100 years of business have seen many changes. Valuations are at an all time high with the biggest increase taking place in the past ten years.

The cost of insurance protection has been kept low with a policyholder owned company, governed by a Board of Directors elected by the policyholders. A two mill and three mill assessment were the rule in the early days of the company. From 1904 through 1945, it was two mills. From 1946 through 1976, it has been held at 1 1/2 mills for 30 years.

The Board of Directors and Officers in 1977 are as follows:

Wayne Albertson, Sr.	Frank E. Ryan
Harland Arneson	Artemas Silver, V. Pres.
Albert J. Daley	Richard R. Smith
Morris Marty, Pres.	Lorena Moen (Mrs. Jonathan),
Jonathan S. Moen, Sec.	Assn't Secretary Elmon G.
Ott, Treas.	



John Dick

by Lora Dick

John Dick was born December 13, 1865. He died November 28, 1949 at the age of 83.

He lived a full and useful life and held many positions of public trust. He served on the county board from 1899 to 1914; he served as county poor commissioner for 23 years and also as county farm commissioner.

An active member of Zwingli church, he was a member of the consistory for forty years and president for thirty-three years. He served on the school board as a member and also as president. He was a vice-president and director of the Bank of Monticello. He served as a member of the Green County Old Age Pension committee for three years. He was an active partner in the People's Supply Co. from 1906 until his retirement in 1937.

He earned the respect of his many associates because of his dedication and fair minded execution of his many duties.

Jimmy the Greek

by Walter Haddinger

In 1905, a young man left Greece for the United States and found his way to Monticello. Born Demetrius Giannekas in 1887, he arrived in New Orleans and worked his way north. Communication with the native Swiss people was difficult and his name was shortened to Jimmy Lobbs, Jimmy the Greek.

He worked on the Illinois Central Railroad and then on the road construction which was underway in this area. He was unhappy with this kind of work and he soon became the owner of a shoe repair shop purchased from Dave Klassy. This shop stood on wooden posts, or stilts, midway between the bridge and the business section and Jimmy later named it "The Midway."

To this business, he added a small confectionary selling pop, cigars, gum, candy in bulk, as well as sandwiches. He claimed he originated the hamburger of which he sold many at 10 cents each. This business soon replaced his shoe repair business and he stayed open for long hours. His baby beef hamburgers, as well as his congenial nature, became famous and people stopped in often for both.

Not knowing how to either read or write English, he had to rely on his friends to conduct his business but he was such a good judge of character that he was rarely fooled in business matters. His customers thought his

business did not amount to much until in the mid 20's he changed his Model T. for a Lincoln coupe, which changed his image.

At one point, he went to Madison for about 2 1/2 years during which time his business, which he had rented during his absence, changed hands several times. He then returned and began operating the place with several helpers. During the year of his marriage, the building was expanded. When the marriage was dissolved, he said he was happy to be single again.

He died in 1947 of a stroke while in Janesville, and is buried in Monticello.

M and M

Max's Story:

"We came here in 1946. We bought the place in 1947. Been here ever since."

Max Schuett and Ronnie Schuett

"The M & M Lunch was formerly Jimmy's owned by Jimmy Lobbs. Max Schuett was a diesel locomotive machinist in Chicago, looking for a reason to get out of that line of work which he describes as dirty and hard. He and his wife, the former Mavis Blum, of Monticello, took over managing the luncheonette and within a short time bought it. Mavis passed away in 1976 but Max and his son, Ronnie, run it as before."

—Monticello Messenger



Jimmy the Greek, a colorful local character.

Karlen & Sons

by Cloyance W. Karlen

On June 6, 1918, the firm of H. L. Karlen & Sons, a partnership, was formed by Herman L. Karlen and his sons, Royal W. Karlen and Cloyance W. Karlen to purchase the Ford dealership from Leon A. Voegeli and Ray (Pat) Schoonover, who had both been inducted into the army.

The dealership was then located in a small building at 110 E. Highland Avenue. Half of this building is still standing on this site when this is written, February 28, 1977.

In the spring of 1919 land was purchased at 120 W. North Avenue and the house located on this land was razed and a modern reinforced concrete and brick building was constructed and was completed in October 1919 as a one story building.

In the fall of 1918 Karlen and Sons signed up to handle the Fordson Tractor and implements.

In the spring of 1920 the decision was made to build a second story to the present building to be used as a recreation center for Monticello and the community.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Karlen took over the management of the Karlen Hall which was soon known far and wide for its movies, dances and as a basketball center.

At this time there was not a better basketball court for a good many miles around and the Karlen Hall soon became known for its fine dance bands and entertainment of all kinds. The Moser Brothers and the Frauenfelder family, both of Switzerland, were some of the world famous entertainers to show in Karlen Hall.

In the year 1947 a 60 by 66 foot addition was added to the present building. The new building housed an up to date repair shop with six repair stalls and other repair space.

In 1941 Royal W. Karlen Sr. acquired a share in the Karlen and Steinmann Lumber Co. and proceeded to take over the management of Karlen & Sons. In 1952 Royal W. Karlen Jr. joined the Karlen & Sons firm as a full time sales man.

In the spring of 1973 the Karlen & Sons firm sold their business to Royal W. Karlen Jr. and Dennis Wold of Milwaukee. The business operated under the name of Karlen Wold Ford, Inc. In the fall of 1976 Royal W. Karlen Jr. acquired full ownership and it is now operated under the name of Karlen-Ford, Inc.

Voegeli Chevrolet and Buick, Inc.

by Mrs. John Stenbrotten

Leon A. Voegeli first entered into business in 1916, selling Ford cars. At this time the Ford touring car sold for \$380.00

In the spring of 1918, he was called into military service, and the business was then sold to Mr. H.L. Karlen and Sons of Monticello. After a short period of time spent in camps in the U.S. Mr. Voegeli was sent overseas with the Motor Transport Division. After VA years, he returned in the fall of 1919, and again entered into the automobile business selling the Nash line of cars with R. H. (Pat) Schoonover as a partner. In 1922 they added the Chevrolet franchise.

In 1928 Chevrolet Motor Division initiated a new bookkeeping system, and Marie Zimmerman Haddinger, now of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, was the first bookkeeper.

In 1934 the Nash agency was discontinued. The same year they acquired the Buick agency. In 1940 Mr. Schoonover became the Sheriff of Green County. In 1946 Mr. Voegeli purchased Mr. Schoonover's interest in the business. Shortly after this, Schoonover was appointed a U.S. Marshall.

In 1954 John Stenbrotten, son-in-law of Mr. Voegeli, entered the business with him. In 1956 the firm purchased the CM. Stauffer blacksmith property, and erected a new modern building. In 1973 the business was incorporated. In 1974 Mr. Voegeli was awarded a plaque from Chevrolet Motor Division for 50 years of service. In 1975 the former W.L. Wichser property was purchased for a new and used car lot. At the same time a section of property was purchased from Glen Siegenthaler for additional parking space for new and used cars.



This is a view of Buicks which have just arrived for the Monticello Auto Co. The owner, John J. (Jack) Voegeli is a brother of Leon Voegeli. His garage on Main Street today (1977) is occupied by Krieg and Zurbuchen Ford Tractors, Inc. John J. started in the automobile business after disposing of the livery stable. This picture dates back to 1914-1915.

Steinmann Architects

1912-1976

by John C. Steinmann

John Clarence Steinmann, Jr. born February 28, 1889, youngest son of John Casper and Barbara Legler Steinmann was a young architectural designer working in Ashland, Wisconsin, in 1911. In 1912 he returned to Monticello to affiliate with the Karlen and Steinmann Lumber Company located at the east edge of Monticello, as "Architect" and Builder. This was actually the founding of what was to become three generations of Steinmann Architects, that have prevailed through this bicentennial year of 1976.

The laws of the State of Wisconsin requiring registration and licensing of Architects were passed during 1918, and John C. Steinmann, Jr. became a licensed Architect on November 18, 1932.

During the years 1912 through 1944, he was responsible for the design and construction of hundreds of buildings of all kinds, including farm



A portion of the Wisconsin State Pavilion at the 1964-65 New York World's Fair designed by Steinmann Architects.

buildings, residences, cheese factories, and civic buildings, in Green County, Madison and elsewhere.

Many of the finest residences in Monticello were designed and built by him.

He passed away in the fall of 1944 at the age of 55.

John W. Steinmann, son of John Clarence and Martha Linehan Steinmann, was born January 29, 1914, received his Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Illinois in 1936. After graduation he worked as an architectural designer in various places and returned to Monticello to work in the architectural department of the Karlen and Steinmann Lumber Company under the direction of his father, until 1941. During 1941 and part of 1942 he worked as an Architect-Engineer on design and construction of the Truax Military Air Base in Madison. He was drafted into the Corps of Engineers during the fall of 1942 and separated from service 38 months later, January 1946.

The architectural department of Karlen and Steinmann was re-activated under his direction, and gradually expanded over the years until 1960, and

became known as John W. Steinmann and Associates, Architects and Engineers. In 1960, interests in the Karlen and Steinmann Lumber Co. were sold to the Karlen members of the firm, and John and Howard moved to the present office at 311 Urban Road, and the name became Steinmann Architects.

Howard Steinmann, born June 15, 1929, is a graduate of Marquette University and was made Office Manager and Specification Writer, in which capacity he remained until 1974, when he left the firm to work with a much larger firm in Madison.

During the past 29 years the Architectural Firm has employed more than 30 architects, draftsmen, and clerical help, maintaining an average professional staff of 5 to 7.

During the years the firm served as architect for more than 100 million dollars of buildings, and during the past 17 years has designed buildings in 12 states, including California, Texas, Michigan and New York.

Projects designed by the firm include schools in Monticello, Monroe, Lancaster, Beloit, Darlington, Gratiot, South Wayne, New Glarus, Durand and River Falls. Churches in Monticello, and Evansville, the Wisconsin State Pavilion at the New York World's Fair, New York. The Saint Joseph Geriatric Hospital in River Falls and the Karmenta Nursing Home in Madison, the Karakahl Inn and its companion building, the Gonstead Clinic in Mount Horeb, the Timbers Supper Club, Platteville, The Voyageur at Reedsburg, and the Casino Lounge, Monticello; Banks in Monticello, Lodi, Sparta, Wonewoc, Portage, and Stoughton:

John Colburn Steinmann, the third generation of Architects graduated from the University of Illinois in 1963, spent 24 months in Viet Nam, and returned to Monticello to work with Steinmann Architects in 1972. In 1973 he left the firm to accept a position as Assistant State Architect of the State of Alaska.

Both John W. and son John C. are certified by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards for registration to practice their profession in most of the United States. Current registrations held by John W. are Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Ohio and Texas, and by John C. in Wisconsin, Illinois, Washington and Alaska.

The work of Steinmann Architects has been noted by many authorities, and has been published in numerous nation-wide publications as innovative and noteworthy. Their philosophy has been and continues to be, "Leave something better than you found."

— In January 1977 Steinmann Architects closed their business. The first week in February Mr. and Mrs. John W. Steinmann left for Bellevue, Washington, where they shall make their future home and Mr. Steinmann shall engage in business.

Lawyers

by William Loveland

William A. Loveland was the first practicing attorney in the village, starting in 1910. He kept this until his death in June 1953 when it was taken over by Royal Voegeli. Voegeli sold to Randal J. Elmer in 1959 who has stayed in the same location.

Paul E. Voegeli is Monticello's other practicing attorney.

Telephone Company

by Edna Babler

The chief operator of the Monticello United Telephone Exchange for many years was Mrs. Paul Aultman who ended her career in 1944. Among her assistants were: Alma Babler, Klara Thoman, Hulda Hancock, Whola and Gertrude Muehlmeier, and Ardys Wallom.

The switchboard was located on the second floor of a building on North Main Street.

Mrs. Ray Root became operator following Mrs. Aultman's resignation in November, 1944, and served for the Monticello Exchange sixteen years until the changeover to the dial system. Mrs. Ardys Wallom Riese continued to be employed by Mrs. Root. Mrs. Albert Strasser was another veteran operator at the old switchboard. Others who served at the switchboard were Mrs. Willard (Erma) Prisk and the Root daughters, Joanne, Shirley and Nancy.

For many years, The Busy Farmers Telephone existed with a range of 4 to 10 or more on the same line. Neighbors would often hear the latest news by eavesdropping in on a conversation. In the village, there were mostly private telephones.

The present Dial Telephone Company is located in a new building on Main Street. Every home in the village

as well as in the country has a private dial telephone.

In case of an emergency, we dial direct for help or assistance but in the good old days one had to crank the handle and an operator at Central Exchange would answer and assist in completing the call.

Walnut Grove

by Edna Babler

Walnut Grove Products, a modern dry feed production plant at Monticello, celebrated its plant completion with a Grand Opening on December 16 and 17, 1975. It is located on a five acre tract of land southeast of downtown Monticello. The plant is geared to produce 60,000 tons of pelleted wafer and meal for livestock.

Walnut Grove, known by its customers as the "4 X 4" people, is headquartered in Atlantic, Iowa. The plant manager in Monticello is Ken Risley. This is Walnut Grove's first manufacturing facility in Wisconsin. Both bagged and bulk feed are hauled directly to farms in a 25-county area by six delivery trucks.

Although the plant is currently operating smoothly, a possible railroad abandonment could jar the company. The railroad line from Freeport, Ill., to Madison is currently up for abandonment.



The Walnut Grove (4x4) plant in Monticello.

Karlen & Steinmann Lumber Co.

by Cloyance W. Karlen

In October of 1900, Herman L. Karlen acquired the interest of Fred Hummiston in the lumber yard and joined with F.K. Studley to operate as a partnership. In the year 1904, J.C. Steinmann, Sr., and son, Fred H. Steinmann, purchased the Studley interests and the Karlen and Steinmann Lumber Co. was formed. They sold feed and building supplies. In 1912, J.C. Steinmann, Jr., an architect, became a partner.

In 1941, R.W. Karlen, Sr., joined the firm and in 1945 acquired a share. In 1944, J.C. Steinmann, Jr., passed away and his interest was taken over by his sons, John W. and Howard Steinmann. In 1945, Fred H. Steinmann retired, as did his son, Frederick, and their interests were acquired by the remaining partners.

In 1951, the firm moved into a new and modern office building designed by John W. Steinmann. The feed mill and feed warehouse burned down and were replaced with a new and modern feed mill.

Following the death of Herman L. Karlen, the firm continued to operate under the name of Karlen and Steinmann Lumber Co. until July of 1961 when the Karlen interests bought the shares of John and Howard Steinmann. The firm then became known as the Karlen



The original lumber yard office.

Feed and Lumber Co. A few years later the feed mill was sold and the firm became The Karlen Lumber Co. In September of 1976, Karl R. Wellman of Madison purchased the firm's holdings and is operating the business under the name of Karlen Building and Supply Inc.



Karlen & Steinmann's new office, 1951.

Mink Farming in Monticello

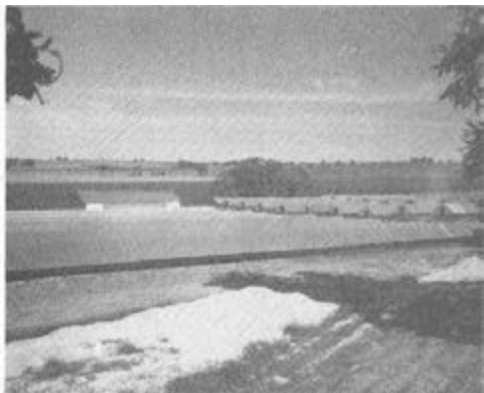
by Leora Aeberhard

It is believed mink raising started in Monticello in the early 30's by Cecil Jordan who raised them in his backyard as a hobby or part time job. He was joined by Wilbert D. (Dude) Elmer who also started on a part time basis and in later years went full time with his mink farm, which is on the west edge of Monticello today. It is still operated by his wife, Lucille.

Monticello's largest mink farm operation was also started on a part time basis by Alfred Aeberhard in 1936, who at that time was a butcher in the Tanner and Aeberhard Meat Market. He started with five mink. This operation grew, and in 1946 or thereabouts, Mr. Aeberhard decided to go into the fur raising business on a full time basis. This operation grew to become one of Monticello's largest employers, having as many as 27 or 28 extra employees at pelting time which is in late November and most of December. At that time the mink were killed, and dressed out, and all furs had to be cleaned and scraped by hand. This process has been improved and most of the hand work has now been replaced by the machine.

In the early days of mink raising, the primary mink food was horse meat. The horse on the farm most often ended up being slaughtered for mink feed after it had outlived its usefulness. This also was all hand work from the butchering to the boning and grinding of the meats. That eventually ended up in the food tray for the mink. Change, too, has done away with this. Products are purchased from the meat packing plants by Aeberhard Mink Ranch and ground and mixed in their own mink food processing plant here in Monticello.

The operation continues today with six to eight full time employees under the management of Alfred Aeberhard, Jr., who joined his father in the operation of the mink farm in the early 1950's. Alfred, Jr., is now being joined by his three sons. The Aeberhard Mink Ranch is well known in the fur industry for its color and quality of fur that has been developed through the many years of mink breeding and raising. All the mink pelts that are raised are sold to Hudson's Bay Company in New York.



Aeberhard Mink Ranch in the 1950's.

Monroe Cheese Corporation

by Edna Babler

The Monroe Cheese Corporation was started in 1959 by Edwin Rufenacht of Monroe. Since the founding of this privately owned company it has experienced steady growth. Construction of this new plant was started in June of 1971 on a 4.7 acre site. The 10,000 square foot steel and concrete building was completed and plant operations started November 22, 1971. Open House was held March 4, 1972 with more than 500 persons attending.



Monroe Cheese Corporation.

Green-Rock F.S. Cooperative

by Mrs. Walter Tryon

Green County Farm Bureau was organized January 1923 by a group of farmers for the purpose of developing agriculture. After being organized for a few years, they saw the need to give service to the new members: therefore a feed warehouse was built in Monroe in 1929.

Through the years the association has grown now serving Farm Bureau members and farmers in Green, Lafayette and Rock Counties, having built or purchased warehouses in a number of surrounding communities, Monticello being one of them.

The Monticello warehouse was purchased from Klassy Milling company in 1942. Later when more storage space was needed the adjacent cheese factory was purchased. Kermit Kammerer was the first manager in Monticello, serving as long as his health permitted. He was then replaced by John Matzke, who is now serving.

The name of the cooperative was changed several times due to mergers or expansions, now being called Green-Rock F.S. Cooperative.

The Monticello Green-Rock F. S. Cooperative serves area farmers through the handling of seed, feed, fertilizer, salt, herbicides, insecticides and other items too numerous to mention. It also has a mill for grinding and mixing feed and a fanning mill to clean oats.

In recent years the office was remodeled and anew method of bookkeeping used.

Elmer Subdivision

Edna Babler

Maurice Satrang and several business associates, who investigated the area of the John C. Elmer farm, decided to purchase it as the site for a subdivision. They appeared before the village board several times in 1974, explained and outlined their plans for creating a subdivision of 200 or more homes on that property at the northwest edge of the village. They were given the go-ahead.

In May 1975 the Elmer barn was demolished and the other out buildings were soon removed.

On Saturday, May 31, 1975 ground-breaking ceremonies, marking the start of the subdivision, were held. More than 100 people attended. Among those were: Mayor John Stenbrotten, Mrs. Lorraine Elmer, F.S. Voegeli, Mr. Satrang and Bruce and William Schumann, his nephews and other business associates,

who all turned up a shovelful of earth with a "golden" shovel. Construction was very soon begun and by Homecoming in July, work was well underway. Mr. Satrang in his address noted the significance of such a large project commencing during the bicentennial year.

The subdivision grew rapidly in size and by the end of 1975, ten new homes were completed and several more under construction.

On January 24 and 25, 1976 open house was held whereby many people toured several of the houses despite the cold weather.

By March 1, 1977, 24 one family homes and 6 duplexes were completed and occupied. Thirteen more homes will be constructed this year.



The John Elmer Brown Swiss Dairy Farm supplied milk to Monticello residents for many years. This is the site of the present John C. Elmer subdivision.

Cigar Making

by Dorothy Loveland (Mrs. Clarence)

At one time, there were two cigar makers in Monticello, Charles Jordan and Peter Babler.

Jordan had his operation in his home on South Main St., and Babler was in the building now occupied by the post office. Jordan made Court House brand cigars with the aid of two or

three helpers. But it was mainly a family operation of husband and wife, Emily, Juingst: everyone helped with the making and delivering.

Babler made the "8 Brothers" brand, the name being taken from the 8 Voegeli brothers. His business operated about the same time as the Jordan operation, that being from the early 1900's to about 1935.

Freitag-Atkinson Insurance Agency

by Karl Freitag

Insurance in early years in Monticello was sold by Wm. Loveland on a part-time basis assisted in his office by Fannie G. Benkert.

Charles Clark sold insurance on a full-time basis many years ago. At Mr. Clark's retirement, Mr. Adam Schuler took over the insurance business and combined it with what he had.

In 1956, Karl H. Freitag started selling insurance and purchased what was the original Wm. Loveland business. In 1962 Mr. Freitag also purchased the Insurance Agency that Mr. Schuler had built up in his 30 years or so in the insurance business.

In 1974, Mr. Karl Freitag was joined in his business by Mr. Ray P. Atkinson of New Glarus as his partner; it was then that the Freitag-Atkinson Agency was formed and incorporated. The Agency continues today and has two employees, Mrs. Gary Kuebli and Mrs. Roland Buchholz.

Zimmerman Oil Co.

by John D. Zimmerman

John D. Zimmerman started in the oil business, July 1947, when he bought out Albert Moritz who was with Midcontinent Oil company. Mr. Zimmerman was agent for Midcontinent until December 1950 when he joined Marty Oil company. April 1952 was sold to Cities Service Oil Co. and Zimmerman was Consignee for the company until 1970 at which time he purchased the bulk plant and equipment and formed Zimmerman Oil Co. In 1973 Zimmerman sold his business to Francois Bros. of Belleville. This company is in operation today

and known as Francois Oil Company and John's nephew, Joseph A. Frick is Consignee in the Monticello area.

Cold Storage

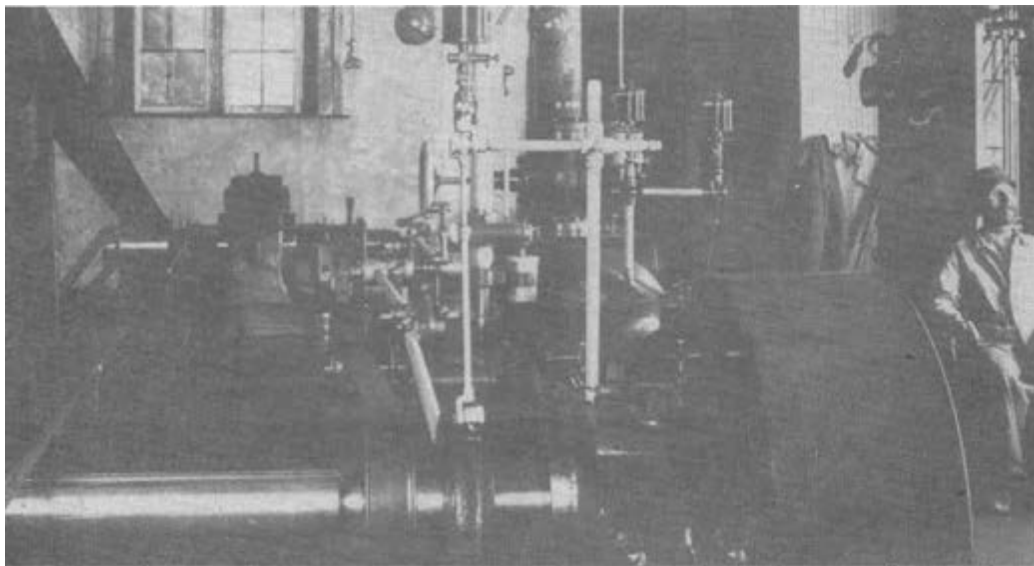
by Jacob Wittenwyler

The Monticello Cold Storage was built in 1916 for a cost of \$50,000. The stockholders were Ed Wittwer, John Urben, Gottlieb Wittwer, J.P. Zweifel, Jr., Adolph Arn, Fred and Albert Knobel and George Kooreman. Albert Knobel is the only one living at this time. The cold storage still is in full operation to this day. The name of the Monticello Cold Storage was changed to Arn and Zweifel Cold Storage in 1920.

A Brief History of the Monticello Industrial Development

by Frederick S. Voegeli

The Monticello Industrial Development Corporation was formed in 1959 by twenty-five individuals interested in Monticello. This non-profit group has worked hard to promote the industrial growth in Monticello. It has been the contact group for out of town industrial prospects interested in potential industrial sites that are available. To date it has been largely responsible for the following new plant locations: Monroe Cheese Corporation in 1971; Laidlaw Corporation in 1972; and the Walnut Grove Products Co., a division of W.R. Grace Co., NYC in 1975.



This was a view of the Monticello Light Plant in 1907, with Ezra Babler, operator. He was assisted by his brother, Fred. The engine was started every morning at 5 a.m. and all lights were turned off at 11 p.m. The Monticello plant was eventually purchased by Wisconsin Power & Light.



Monticello was the site for a Borden Condensed Milk plant from 1914 on into the 1920's. Farmers from the area hauled their milk to the plant which did not produce the finished product. Large cans were taken from the plant by dray wagon to the Illinois Central depot for shipment to Monroe. The plant was bought out by Pet Milk Co. and is no longer in existence.

Badger Petroleum Company

by Ernie Spring

On October 16, 1934 Ernie Spring hauled into Monticello the first load of gasoline from Badger Petroleum Company's home office and bulk plant at McFarland, Wisconsin.

At that time regular gasoline sold at sixteen cents a gallon. Monticello had only a small storage, so many trips were made to McFarland for additional supplies. Sometimes as many as three trips a day were required to supply customers along the way, as well as the Belleville and New Glarus stations and Dick Zentner's garage outlet.

In 1971, the Sun Oil Company of Philadelphia purchased the total operation of Badger Petroleum Company. This was responsible for the introduction of Sunoco petroleum products into northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. The Monticello bulk plant was closed, and the Monticello area was serviced out of New Glarus.

Laidlaw Corporation

by Barbara Green

Laidlaw Corporation started manufacturing hangers in the Monticello area in June of 1972. The plant held its open house on October 28, 1972. The 48,000 sq. ft. building is located on a five acre site on the northeast corner of the village of Monticello on Pratt Road. The coat hanger plant which is one out of five plants operating in the United States and one in Toronto, Canada employs an average of 45 people and operates three eight hour shifts a day. Around three million hangers are manufactured a week at the Monticello plant. There are about twelve different types of hangers made here which are shipped mostly to the Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis and St. Paul areas.

A railroad spur was put in for receiving raw materials in 1974.

Monticello was chosen as the site for the location of the plant because of the community looking for new industry and because it was close to Laidlaw's marketing regions. Also because of the Swiss work ethic and the availability of workers in the area.

John S. Mueller is Chairman of the board of Laidlaw Corporation and Ralph Edwards is President. Richard Plattner was Plant Manager of the plant when it opened. Later Roderick Nelson was Plant Manager. In August of 1976 Burnell Green was made Manager.

Laidlaw Corporation broke ground on November 3, 1971, moved their equipment here from Peoria, Ill., and began production on June 26, 1972.

Laidlaw operates seven plants nationally.



Laidlaw plant.

IN PEACE & WAR



IN ABOUT 1883, the Monticello Coronet band was organized and played for Memorial Day programs and other special occasions, until about 1892. The first leader was Jake Confer. Early members pictured here are: Henry Babler, H. L. Babler, John Baebler, Peter Babler, Bill, George and Joe Barlow, Rob Barney, A. E. Edwards, Fred Gerber, Henry Kubly, Jim Pratt, and leader Jake Confer. John Baebler, (back row, second from left) the youngest member joined after 1886, following his arrival from Switzerland. It is said he walked 5 miles from his farm home at night for band practice, which he never missed. After this band discontinued, a new band was organized, the Monticello Messenger Band.

A Resume of the Civil War Part Played by this Area Civil War

by Thomas Brusveen

Wisconsin had not been a state very long when it plunged into its first emergency — to enlist, equip and train the number of men expected by President Lincoln and his military people in order to preserve the unity of the United States. A number of states had seceded from the Union and many borderline states were considering doing the same. The best military mind we had — General Robert E. Lee — had left the Army to join his native state of Virginia and the other states who had renounced the United States. Of course he would lead them in their efforts to sustain themselves as a separate country called the "Confederate States of America." Fortunately for President Lincoln, a wave of patriotic fervor swept across the people of the states who had remained loyal and most of the able bodied men of the North rallied to the cause and President Lincoln just as they did in the south to back Jefferson Davis and General Lee.

Wisconsin was no exception. Our State Government responded immediately. Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for volunteers to force the rebels back into the Union. Our State Legislature was about to adjourn but now they stayed on to raise money and pass some laws regarding the status of any who joined the Army, and their dependents.

Green County, likewise, was no exception. Her first Company to join was Company C of the "Third Wisconsin Volunteer Regiments — Infantry." By December, there were 229 men serving and in August of 1862, Green County had 708 soldiers in the Army. The records list a total of 1864 names of men from this county who saw military service in the Civil War and, by admission of statisticians, there were a lot more we do not know of because of sloppy bookkeeping or because records were destroyed by fires, floods, negligence, etc.

From the records, the count of 34 who gave their residence as Monticello: 93 from Mt. Pleasant township, 92 from Exeter and 56 from Washington — in all 274 names. One hundred and ninety-seven men who enlisted did not give a place of residence. This area share of that group would be about 32 men so that would give us a total of well over 300 who served.

Since the Infantry Regiments of that time consisted of ten Companies of about 100 enlisted men and a few officers, it is estimated that the soldiers of Green County, had they all been in the same units, would have filled up two full strength Infantry Regiments. Again, Monticello and the surrounding area was no exception. Monticello area would have furnished three Companies.

Civil War

The following men from Mt. Pleasant township served the union in the 1861-65 Civil War:

George H. Richardson, George W. Baker, John J. Cosat, Jacob L. Scroggins, Francis Seymour, Joachim Marty, F. Norder, Anton Staffaucher, Walling Taxton, Elijah Hancock, Alonzo Bennett, Ward S. Hutchins, James R. Patrick, John Snell and Percy Walling;

Also Emmet A. Webster, George Crooks, Thomas Proesher, Gottlieb Zumbunnen, Conrad Elmer, Isaiiah Staffaucher, Rudolph Staffaucher, Richard Barlow, Olando H. Bark, Elijah Jordan, Leonard Jordan, Ralsey Knight, William Lemon, James Lemon, and Stephen Palmer;

Also John C. Jordan, A.B. Baxter, C. Blanchard, J.J. Booher, M. Jewett, A.W. Patterson, Frank Small, E.D. Wonderly, Edwin Berry, Allen Edwards, Gilbert A. Herrick, Richard McGoon, Frederick C. Law and John Elmer.

Also John A. Stauffacher, Eldridge W. Chesbro, George W. Miller, Thomas H. O'Neil, Nelson A. Peckham, George H. Rolfe, Thomas H. Skillings, William H. Titus, Saxton N. Walling, Ira W. Wilson, George Chapman, Joseph Harris, Henry I. Phelps, Lewis S. Daniels, and John O. Fox.

Also Seth Edson, Peter Reiser, John R. Lake, James Perkins, Sampson Turner, Elijah A. Webber, Samuel W. Smith, Charles H. Grimes, Wallace Palmer, Clarence E. Adams, Howard Adams, Charles W. Barnes, Elisha M. Coates, Hamilton B. Coates and Nathan H. Havens.

Also Charles B. Hicks, Samuel W. Hutchins, Volney L. Johnson, Albert I. Marshal, Edward McBride, David W. Pratt, Oliver P. Pratt, Joseph W. Ross, Charles A. Rutledge and Leonard W. Small.

Also Ira W. Stiff, John W. Stiff, Daniel Titus, George Titus, Louis Titus, William H. Titus, Daniel Lewis, Andros Wood and William J. Ostrander.

The following men from Monticello served the union in the 1861-65 Civil War:

Volney L. Johnson, Eugene L. Wright, Forest H. Carnwell, David Bluebaugh, William T. Hopkins, Lewis C. Robertson, David Slothower, Elmer J. Meighells, Franklin M. Ross, George L. Payson, Benjamin F. Hickman and Allen Sears.

Also Thurston C. Scott, Warren Jones, John C. Jordon, William H. Booker, C.W. Bradshaw, Nelson A. Drake, Gould Snyder, Alonzo Jackson, Hazzard Roby, William H. Slater, Joseph D. Hoskins and Alonzo Wilson.

Also Thomas T. Blanchard, Edgar Wright, Alfred Sellick, H.N. Bradshaw, Theodore J. Buck, Otis S. Bridges, Washington B. Coates, John White, F.F. Wright and Walter Buck.

The following men from Exeter township served the union in the 1861-65 Civil War:

Frederick Hamberly, Martin Flood, Charles C. Smith, James Collins, Allen Oliver, Zeb Birmingham, Jesse Collins, Benjamin Leonard, Edgar Ross, Junot Wilcox, Isaac C. Winans and Joseph Brayton.

Also Sidney Brayton, Elijah E. Cooper, John Robb, Charles A. Douglas, Calvin P. Day, Calvin Morse, Albert

W. Heal, Ben B. Brownell, Patrick Martin, Charles Brown and Charles Brayton.

Also Wm. M. Jacobs, Austin W. Allen, Isaac Brooks, George Burt, John Dick, Robert Fletcher, Peter Greidenweier, Levi Hall, Horace B. Jones, Alonzo P. Jordan, John W.D. Kirkpatrick, Montgomery Kirkpatrick and Albert Leonard.

Also George Lozier, George McCarinon, Henry McCoy, Isaac Nooris, John Patterson, Washinton Potter, Jerome L. Ruddy, Samuel L. Ruddy, Lafayette Simmons, Benj. B. White, Charles Wilder and Justin W. Allen.

Also Michael Kennedy, John W. Boylan, Thomas Perkins, Elijah Ace, Henry Domey, William Wallace, Nelson Heal, Lewis N. Bryant, Almond M.M. Doty, William H. Dick, William Ham and John Haskin.

Also Albert P. Havens, Joseph Lawber, John Markham, James H. Morgan, Enos Ross, Dennis M. Spencer, Jeremiah S. Staley, Marty C. Webber, Frank Edwards, George Scharpf, Max Nonweiler and Daniel Lentz.

Also Christopher Niebahn, Truman Webber, George W. Morse, Niles Van Duren, John Akin, A.J. Campbell, J. C. Davis, D.C. Day, J. Denman, Samuel Fall, Peter Hamilton, Levi Hart, S.P. Hoffman, R. Kirkpatrick, Joseph Norris, William F. Robinson, M. Shoemaker, William M. Smart, Wheeler and P. Witherell.

The following men from Washington township served the union in the 1861-65 Civil War:

Dwight Pierce, George Gay, John Becker, Frank Loveland, Robert W. McFarland, John Parks, George H. Richardson, Albion Thurlow, Abner Webb, Dunn, Elliott N. Fessenden, and John C. McFarland.

Also David Tschabold, Caspar Blum, Fridolin Blum, Jacob Blum, John Blum, Rudolph Blum, Franz Brunner, John Blummer, Sumner W. Wiggins, George Crooks, Thomas Proesher and Gottlieb Zumbunnen.

Also John Schuler, Thomas Klassy, Joseph Seavy, Luther T. Rowe, George L. Ballard, Edwin E. Forsythe, George W. Forsythe, Daniel German, Gottlieb German, James McDonald, Pliny D. Muzzy and David Slonager.

Also Francis Smith, John Stalder, Ulrich Stoller, Jeremiah Thurlow, Sam Wincenviele, Samuel Wittwer, Casper Baker, Peter Bloom, Aaron A. Boylan, Adam Hefty, Fredolin Oprecht and John R. Parks.

Also William Parks, Thomas Streife, Jost Vogel, Jacob Zweifel, Fridolin Elmer, F. Streife, Harrison Loveland and Joseph D. Hilton.

Women's Relief Corps

by Mrs. Bessie Youngreen

In 1865 during the Civil War, women went out on the battlefields to care for the wounded soldiers. From this grew that national organization known as the Woman's Relief Corps, Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic. In Monticello on January 23, 1904, the John Ross Relief Corps No. 83 was organized with Mrs. Kate Flowers the first president. The following are included as past presidents of the local corps: Mrs. Elizabeth Stout, Mrs. Nettie Schuler, Mrs. Minnie Edwards, Mrs. Amelia Crouch, Mrs. Anna Elmer, Mrs.

World War I

Lena Klassy Zweifel, Mrs. Delia Blum, Mrs. Rosa Taft, Mrs. Lydia Wittenwyler, Mrs. Musetta Clark, Mrs. Dorothy Barlow, Mrs. Anna Aultman, Mrs. Louise Am, Mrs. Charline Wichser, Mrs. Fanny Loveland, Mrs. Bessie Youngreen, who served in this capacity for 30 years. Mrs. Mary Peterson is the present president.

The work of the organization is patriotic. Funds are contributed to the Veteran Hospitals of Wisconsin. For many years in the past the members marched in the Memorial Day parade. All patriotic days are observed with programs.

Fred Amstutz	O.D.Curtis	Cecil F.Jordan
Sam Schmid	Adolph Ammon	Orville T. Slagel
Emil Wichser	J.W. Barlow	Otto E.Bontly
Leonard Rhyner	Arthur Staedtler	CM. Stauffer
Otto J. Keller	Jacob C. Speich	R.H. Schoonover
Walter Lewis	Harry J. Home	M.E. Lynn
Talmadge Niffenegger	Fred J.Elmer	J. Herbert Burgy
Sam Amstutz	Daniel Kubly	Wilbert D. Elmer
Walter E. Voegeli	John S. Richards	Royal W. Karlen
William Feldman	Paulus A. Roth	Ray L. Zimmerman
Arthur Block	Herbert J. Lehman	Alfred Wettach
Herman Feenje	Carl Siegenthaler	Frederick W. Schuler
James Dooley		

War of 1812

The War of 1812 (which gave birth to our National Anthem, the Stars and Stripes Forever by Francis Scott Key) was declared June 18, 1812. Treaty was ratified February 17, 1815.

As far as we know, there were three men from this area that took part.

Ira Foster Ira Baxter Abraham Pratt

Civil War

John Ross	Franklin Loveland	Charles S. Baxter
Alfred Lewis	Jacob Freitag	Alpheus Laird
William H. Booher	William Lemon	Ira R. Humiston
Ward S. Hutchins	Jacob Wittenwyler	William Wallace
Theodore Z. Buck	Sidney Brayton	Fridolin Elmer
Sweeting C. Taft	Gilbert A. Herrick	Edwin R. Lovesee
Jacob Warner	Henry Jordan	Oswald Babler
Samuel Wittwer	Erasmus M. Kilgore	Leonard Jordan
Edgar F. Wright	Ralsay Knight	Harrison Loveland
Richard McGoon	Richard Barlow	Casper Schlittler

Spanish American War

In February, 1898, when tensions with Spain seemed to be improving, the U.S. battleship Maine was hit with a terrific explosion in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, in which 260 American seamen were killed. The cause of the ship's destruction was never learned. Peace treaty was signed December 10, 1898.

These men took part in that war.

Appleton Taft	Charles Gerber	Matt C. Duerst
Ezra Babler	Casper Rhyner	George Meythaler
Samuel Walters	Jacob Kubly	Casper Blum
George Knight	LeRoy Ogden	Frank Pierce
Archie Fessenden	Gred Youssi	

World War II

Some volunteered. Reservists were called. Many were drafted in the first American peace time draft act which had become law Sept. 16, 1940.

Most returned unharmed; some were decorated with the Purple Heart.

Two inductees called March 16, 1941, from this area were Melvin A. Marty, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Marty, who was the first to make the supreme sacrifice for his country. He landed in Normandy D-Day; and was killed in action on the approaches to Aachen in the Hurtgen Forest of Germany, Sept. 20th, 1944. Emil Weigert was inducted at the same time. After the war, Marty's name was chosen by the local American Legion to be assigned as part of the unit designation, Amstutz-Marty Post No. 256. His body was brought back to Monticello for internment.

Paul Derendinger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Derendinger, was killed in a truck accident in Italy on July, 1944. His body was also brought back here to Monticello for internment.

Robert L. Amons, Rt. 1, Monticello, was killed April 12, 1945, leading a patrol on a Japanese position in the Pacific Theater of war.

W W II Deceased

Melvin Marty	Armin F. Loeffel	Norman F. Trumpy
Paul Derendinger	Otto S. Blum	Joseph R. Legler
William G. Elliott	Emil Weigert	Fred G. Haldiman
Carl Stauffer	Joseph Bloxham	U.G. Hill
John V. Baebler	Orville A. Anderson	Rufus Freitag
Robert L. Amon	Edward Quade	

Korean Conflict

(Deceased)

Harvey Earle Elmer, Jr. Edward J. Benkert

Vietnam Conflict

(Deceased)

Leon J. Gerber, Randy C. Halversen, Marvin Pederson, Rickey A. Dearth, Roger L. Ritschard, James F. Pierce



MILITARY FUNERAL - This is the funeral procession for Sgt. Fred Amstutz, Co. H. 127th Infantry, killed in World War I action August 5, 1918. He was the first Monticello soldier killed in that war and was buried in Europe. Four years later, his body was returned for re-burial in Highland Cemetery in Monticello. Rev. A. Muehlmeir conducted the services. The funeral caisson, formerly an ammunition wagon, was drawn by a double team of heavy dapple greys ridden by their owners.

History of Amstutz-Marty American Legion Auxiliary

In the year 1919 a group of eligible and interested women met to organize a local Auxiliary Unit to the Amstutz American Legion Post No. 256. The work of an Auxiliary was outlined and explained and the group chartered. They held their first meetings in the back of Blums' Grocery store for a time. Later, they held them in the basement of the Casino Building. In about 1940 the Unit disbanded and dissolved their charter. Many of the remaining Unit members joined the Auxiliary in Monroe, Wis.

In 1949 a new charter was received and the Amstutz-Marty American Legion Auxiliary was again organized. Mrs. Belle Elliott was the first President of this newly organized Unit. The Unit met in the homes of members. Twenty-five members signed the Charter.

The Unit held bake sales; gave stage plays for some of their money making projects. At one time they had to loan the Legion some money to continue to operate. The legion paid the Unit back as soon as they could.

The Auxiliary is the largest patriotic organization there is. The Auxiliary sponsors Youth Essay contests; a pro-democracy/anti-communist seminar for teachers at Valley Forge, Pa.; 25 or more college and technical school scholarships valued at \$10,000 for children and wives of Veterans; sponsors Badger Girls State, a practice in democratic citizenship for Junior high school girls; they also take care of the Wood V.A. Hospital Poppy Shop where patients are paid for each flower they produce. This is also a wonderful rehabilitation for many patients. The red poppies are sold prior to Memorial Day to be worn in tribute to war dead. Profits from the sales are used to benefit Veterans and their families and the funds are used in the individual communities. The Units donate many volunteer hours to the V.A. Hospitals to "bring physical comfort and mental cheer" to patients. They help the handicapped learn to earn money to support themselves and their families and help them re-establish themselves in society once their disabilities have been arrested or cured.

Membership at the present in our local Unit is 51 senior members and 19 Junior members. The Juniors meet the first Monday of the Month and the Senior members meet the first Thursday of the month, at the Monticello Legion Clubhouse. We meet every month except August.

Unit members go to Madison Veterans Hospital to assist in hosting a Bingo Party in July each year. Money, clothing or help in other various ways is given to our local Veterans or their families whenever we can help. Christmas gifts are gathered up in November each year to give the hospital patients a chance to shop at no cost to them for their families who otherwise probably would not have a very happy Christmas.

The Poppy sale money is spent entirely right here in our Monticello area.

The Unit has five Gold Star Mothers of Sisters.

Each year the Unit sponsors one local girl to Badger Girls State for one week. Mrs. Hazel Becker of Monticello has been a counselor for many years at this event and is still participating as of 1977.

Armistice Day is observed each year on November 11 at a dinner for the Legionnaires. A Pot-luck supper is given and another for the March American Legion Birthday.

There have been 17 Past Presidents of the Unit as of 1977.

Mrs. Ernie Strause has served two years as Third District Chaplain and is now serving two years as Third District Historian. The local officers now are: President, Mrs. Wilbert Blumer (Patty); 1st Vice-president, Mrs. Harold Lehnherr (Thelma); 2nd Vice-president, Mrs. Elsie King; Secretary, Mrs. Merlyn Boley (Lorna); Treasurer, Mrs. Russell Baker (Byrdene); Chaplain, Mrs. James Dooley (Kathryn) and Sgt. at Arms, Mrs. Calvin Drafahl (Virginia) and Mrs. Otis Hermanson (Mardell).



The Monticello Legion Home.

History of the Amstutz-Marty American Legion Post

by Thomas Brusveen

This history is written by Harold Lehnherr. As Vice-Commander of this Legion Post in 1976, I have access to all the minutes of meetings held from its origin in 1919, up to the present time. I also had access to the original charter. From these two sources, from Department of Wisconsin records and from conversations with the five surviving charter members, I compiled this account of the activities of this Post.

After each war in which this country was involved, it seems that a number of patriotic organizations spring up but usually they do not last long. World War I was no exception to this rule. The one outstanding organization of this period was the American Legion. In this area, there were enough groups who had been directly involved, that a Post of the National Organization was formed in Monticello. Several other Posts were formed in Green County at about the same time. The original charter members of this Post follow — listed alphabetically.

Amstutz, Sam	Eagen, Frank	Marty, Walter
Ammon, Adolph	Feenje, Herman	Petersen, Julius
Barlow, J.W.	Foster, Earle	Richards, John
Blum, William E.	Feldman, William	Steadier, Arnold
Blum, Fred G.	Horne, H.J.	Schiesser, Emil
Bontly, Otto	Jauri, John	Schoonover, Ray
Burgy, Herbert	Jordan, Cecil	Voegeli, Leon
Bridges, Dan	Karlen, Royal	Walters, Harry
Dick, Waldo	Keller, Otto	Zenter, J.U.
Dick, Wilbert	Legler, George	Zwickey, Earle
Dooley, James	Lynn, Melvin	Woelffer, R.W.
Elmer, Wilbert	Lewis, Lloyd	Zimmerman, Ray

According to all accounts, including the opinions of the five surviving charter members, this Post was activated in 1919. The original charter carries no date but on the back someone has penned the date 8 Sept. 1920. In my opinion, the Post was organized in 1919 but the fancy charter was not made up until later — in 1920. I assume that regular meetings of this new organization took place and perhaps minutes were kept also, but, if so, they were lost. The earliest record I have of a meeting is dated 6 July, 1926. Listed at the end of this history are all the Commanders of this Post but this information came from State records — not from the Post minutes.

I now list the officers of Post 256 in 1926.

Commander—R.W. Woelffer
 Adjutant—Otto Bontly
 Historian—J.W. Barlow
 Vice Comm. —E.W. Foster
 Chaplain — Christ Stauffer Service
 Officer—John Kerwin

In 1930, the Post "vacated a room above the bakery as a meeting place." The big attraction that year was the sharing of "\$1,500.00 given to the Legion as a tree fund." Where the money came from is not mentioned but it seems that it was shared with the other Posts in Green County. Reference was made to sponsorship of a junior baseball league which apparently had been done the previous year. Arrangements again were made for a "poultry raffle." Reference also to "obtain Commander Burkhalter of Monroe on Nov. 11 as speaker." A county wide meeting was held in Karlen Hall in October.

The preceding format was roughly followed up through the years with meetings held at Woelffer's Drug store, Grenow's basement, the electric company and at any of the various taverns. As early as 1932, building of a permanent Legion Home was discussed. They also argued about payment of veteran's bonus and where to put their artillery piece and how to properly care for it. Several athletic teams were sponsored — basketball, softball, baseball, and even a horseshoe pitching team. The best source of revenue for the Post seemed to be the annual get-together in the fall where games of chance were played with prizes given; usually in the form of hams or turkeys. This event was variously called a poultry raffle, poultry show, Halloween party or feather party. It was held at various taverns in Monticello, Karlen's Hall, Disch Hall and even in old cheese factories and schoolhouses in the area. Other money raising events were potluck suppers, pancake suppers, dances, rope pulling contests, and even plays or minstrel shows. Some dances were held with big name bands such as Lawrence Duchow and Wayne King. Other dances were tried with local talent but some of them lost money. One of the major events which took place was the Memorial Service held at the Casino Hall 1 APR 40, wherein the body of Fred Amstutz was returned from overseas and placed in the local cemetery. The local Legion Post at this time was named the "Fred Amstutz Post No. 256." Many local celebrities of World War I were present including "13 Co. H. members and about 100 members and their families.



SNOWMOBILES NOT NEW - This is a 1930 snowmobile used by Herman Babler, Monticello, in delivering mail on a rural route out of Monticello. This was a model A Ford converted by Babler and W. Prisk into a snowmobile. At this time, Babler's route was only 32 miles and when he retired in November 1971 he was traveling 92 miles a day and delivering mail to 236 families. These pictures were taken during the winter of 1935-36.

During the World War II years, the Post had the added responsibility of keeping tabs on the local boys who were in service and doing what they could to help them. For example, in 1941, 15 cartons of cigarettes and two boxes of candy were sent to service men from the local areas. Also they finally got rid of "the cannon." After trying, unsuccessfully to give it to the government to melt down for the metals to use in war arms, it was finally sold to a junk dealer.

The first indication of a change in the name of the Post in the minutes is in the record of a meeting on 10 MAY 49 when the heading for the minutes was written as "Amstutz-Marty Post No. 256." A Memorial Monument was built by the Post soon after World War II at the lower cemetery near the church. This is where the present day memorial services on Memorial Day take place.

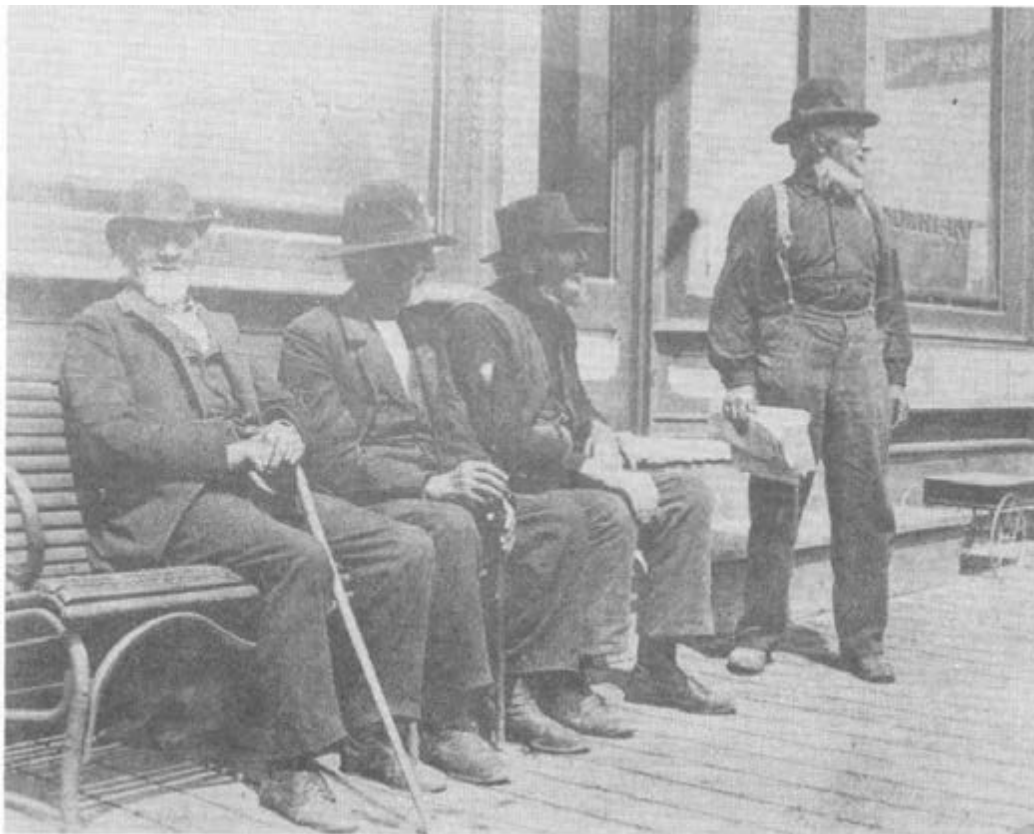
A notation was made at a meeting to check with the higher Legion echelons to see if our local Post had not set a record — namely that Otto Bontly and William Blum had carried the colors in Memorial Day observances for forty-three consecutive years. No mention was made of an answer to their letter.

After all these years of meeting here and there, the urge to have a home of their own finally got the best of the members of the local Post and they bought a large old house known as the Zimmerman property. However, after a few years of constant repairs and no large meeting room, they decided to tear it down and in its place build a modern building — which they did. They began in 1938 and finished the next year. The cost of covering for winter was the only labor cost of putting up this whole building. Of course this involved going into debt and so, for the last eight or ten years much of the energy of the Post members has been aimed at the reduction of this indebtedness and we are now at a point where we can foresee the discharge of our debt in the near future. At the same time, we have also found ways to do the good turns that are expected of Legionnaires all over the world. Each year this Post has sponsored a boy selected by the school system as

outstanding and sent him to a camp run by State Headquarters of the American Legion. It is located near Minoqua. Last spring we opened our doors to any who were without heat, etc., due to the emergency brought on by icing which pulled down many power lines in this area. Many of our services have been around so long that they are almost automatic. Everyone knows that whenever there is a real need for a wheelchair, they can have one brought to their door just by contacting a Legionnaire. We conduct Memorial Day services and memorial services for any who are eligible for these military honors. Of course we are now helped in all these activities by the Legion Auxiliary, many of whom are the wives of Legion members. We stand ready to do all we can to help in any worthy cause and to cooperate with other organizations who are engaged in worthwhile community projects. Groups of young people such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts know they can depend on the Legion for a helping hand.

Now, in closing this history of the Monticello area Legion Post, I think it appropriate to list the Post Commanders. The picture of most of them is on the wall in our Legion Home in Monticello.

1920 + 1921 Dr. J.P. Zentner and Earl G. Foster	1947 Wallace Barlow
1922 Earl G. Foster	1948 John B. Hoskins
1923 Dan Bridges	1949 Frank Noessen
1924 John Hauri	1950 Karl Freitag
1925 George Armstrong	1951 Howard Steinmann
1926 R.H. Schoonover	1952 Harold Schultz
1927 + 1928 R.W. Woelffer Sr.	1953 John Smith
1929 John Kerwin	1954 William Elliot
1930 Otto E. Bontly	1955 Raymond Miles
1931 + 1932 William O. Snoddy	1956 Orville Anderson
1933 J.W. Barlow and Harry Walters	1957 Raymond Woodruff
1934 + 1935 Harry Walters	1958 Edward Quade
1936 George Griffy	1959 Harold Babler
1937 M.E. Lynn	1960 Ronald Larson
1938+ 1939 O.D. Curtis	1961 to 1964 Harold Schultz
1940 Christ Stauffer	1965 Roy Dickson
1941 J.F. Dahnke	1966+ 1967 Harold Schultz
1942 Dr. H.J. Home	1968 + 1969 Thomas Brusveen
1943 James Dooley	1970 +1971 Clarence Blumer
1944 + 1945 John Richards	1972 + 1973 Ernie Strause
1946 J.W. Barlow	1974 + 1975 Russell Baker
	1976+ 1977 Otis Hermanson



Old-timers discussing the day's events.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS



On September 19, 1892 a group of young men met in Wittwer Hall (now Wyss building) for the purpose of organizing a Fire Engine Company, to be called Monticello Fire Company. In 1939 the name was changed to Monticello Fire Department.

Fireman's tournament, July 30, 1908.
Monticello Fire Department

by Adam Schuler

The first officers were president, A. R. Wilkinson; vice-president, George Barlow; treasurer, H. L. Babler; secretary, Albert Stoller and Fire Chief, Fred Knobel.

Mr. Wilkinson presided at the meetings the first year. Chief Knobel appointed the following assistants: Assistant Chief, Captain and Lieutenant of Hose Co., Captain and Lieutenant of Hook and Ladder Co., Captain and Lieutenant of Chemical Co., treasurer, three trustees and committees as needed. The first by-laws, rules and regulations were dated September

19, 1892 and were used until February 6, 1939 when they were revised.

Chief Knobel served one year and then refused re-nomination.

James Moore was elected chief. He then presided at all meetings and nothing was heard any more of the original slate of officers. After two years Chief Moore resigned and was followed by John Snow for one year until 1896.

Other chiefs were: Fred Gerber to 1906, H. J. Juingst to 1916, John Zweifel to 1926, Jacob Blum to 1928, C.M. Stauffer to 1947, Jacob Krieg to 1951, E. Broge to 1962, Fred Durtschi to 1965. Deane Zimmerman to 1970, Jack Krieg to 1974. Gene Flesher took over after Jack Krieg and is the present chief. (1977)

A new fire house was built in 1960.



Fire department members going through a training exercise

Monticello Community Club

by Mrs. Richard (Bonnie) Smith

The Monticello Commercial Club was formed in the early 1920's by village business people. It functioned in a casual manner until 1937 when Articles of Organization were filed showing the following purpose of the Club:

To advertise and promote the general welfare of the Village of Monticello, Green County, Wisconsin. To provide entertainment for the residents of Monticello and surrounding community. To promote a general feeling of good will between town(ship) and village residents of this community, to assist in the protection of health and welfare of the children of the community and such other public service as may be rendered for the good of the community. Signed by C. W. Karlen, C. M. Wittenwyler, J. W. Barlow, Adam Schuler, R. W. Woelffer.

The first Homecoming celebration sponsored by the Commercial Club was held in 1937. The weekend affair was held at the School Park (the area where the present grade and junior high school wings stand). There was a big parade, a large tent where bingo was played and amateur talent and vaudeville acts were presented, a carnival, band concert and an all-star baseball game. Because of the war, Homecoming was discontinued after the 1941 celebration.

During this period, the Commercial Club also sponsored the Farmer's Institute at Karlen's Hall. This program was discontinued in the mid 1960's. Free movies shown at Karlen's Hall in the winter and beside the swimming pool in the summer were enjoyed by village residents for many years. Another Commercial Club activity at Karlen's Hall was the Christmas Party for area children. For the past several years, the treats and the visit of Santa Claus at the grade school Christmas program has replaced the Karlen's Hall party. A Halloween costume party for community youngsters was also held at Karlen's Hall and is now held in the school gym.

Homecoming was returned to Monticello by the Commercial Club in 1949, and also celebrated in the summers of 1950 and 1951.

At the February 26, 1952 meeting, club members voted to open membership to all village and area residents and to rename the organization the Monticello Community Club.

The Community Club has always had a deep interest in sports, sponsoring kitten ball games, donating money for ball diamond lights, honoring high school athletes, and paying fees for the home talent basketball team.

At a Community Club meeting in the late 1950's, a loosely formed committee was selected to look into the creation of a lake in the swampy area on the east side of the new by-pass highway that was soon to be completed. After much planning and work by this committee and other interested citizens, the lake was completed in 1966 and the Community Club took over the job of maintaining the lake and the surrounding park area.

Homecoming returned once more as a Community club sponsored project in 1964. It was now held in the

downtown parking lot-ball park area. For the entertainment of the large crowds there were tractor pulls, slow pitch games, a carnival, a band concert, an art show, water fights, chicken barbecue, outdoor church services and fireworks. It is now an annual event.

Today the Community Club spends much time and money on lake upkeep projects. In 1975, the club voted to establish two \$100 scholarships for Monticello High School graduates. An important improvement to the ball park area will soon be made with the installation of public rest-room's by the Community Club.

The club sponsored the recognition banquet for Mrs. Henry V. Baebler (Nona) on May 28, 1974. Nona has done so much for the community in so many ways and with so many projects that the club wanted to recognize her and thank her for all she had done.

The club also sponsors Dairy Day which is on a rotation basis with other towns and the last one in Monticello was in 1972. The host town for the dairy breakfasts is also rotated and the last one was in 1974.



In this photo, Past Oracle Ette Babler is receiving her 50-year gold pin from Oracle Ruth Abley. Next is Marshall Anna Wittenwyler and Vice Oracle Louise Karlen.

Royal Neighbors

by Ruth Abley

The Royal Neighbor Charter of America was given to Monticello on February 7, 1911. The name given to Monticello was called Perseverance Camp No. 6782. There were 30 charter members. When Edyth R. (Blum) Stoll passed away she was the last regular attending member of the original charter members.

The Royal Neighbors met at various uptown places. The camp was very active with nearly 100 members. Perseverance Camp celebrated its 50th year in 1961 with a special celebration.

Today the meetings are held in the homes and membership has dropped considerably. Many of the members who joined have received their 50 year gold pins.

Monticello-Montello Feud - 1951

by Mrs. Clarence Wittenwyler and Thomas Brusveen

Monticello and the community of Montello, Marquette county, gained a great deal of publicity from scores of newspapers, including an AP release, and from radio stations in July and August of 1951 concerning the "friendly feud" between the two communities at that time.

The following account of the memorable event is taken from excerpts from the Monticello Messenger and the Montello Tribune as reported by them.

R.T. Wright, editor of the Montello Tribune, a weekly newspaper published in Marquette county, has demanded in an editorial that Monticello, Green county, change its name. Reason given is the similarity in the sound and spelling of the two names is confusing to everyone, including the U.S. postal department.

In a recent editorial, Editor Wright goes on to say, "At least 20 times a week we receive overdue letters marked 'Missent to Monticello, Wis.' Now we have conducted a private investigation of this place, Monticello. As far as we can determine, it is a little jerkwater place down in Green county inhabited by a few cows and some quasi-humans of a little-known tribe smelling mostly of Limburger cheese.

"Our duty is clear. We must immediately sign petitions to have Monticello change its present plagiaristic lyrical name to something more suitable. Like Dismal Seepage or Possum Gur or Lower Forlornia or East Limburger or something.

"Monticello hasn't the physical blessing of Montello. There are no lakes and rivers, no forests, no deer, no partridge. Just cows and cheese. No wonder they want to bathe in Montello's reflected glory."

Editor Wittenwyler counters with, "Cows and cheese, we feel, are mighty handy items to have around as a comparison of bank deposit figures will clearly show. The Bank of Monticello shows assets of \$2,606,126.94 and Montello's bank has approximately a million dollars less. It can also be disclosed that Monticello has 470 telephone subscribers as compared to 451 at Montello. The latest census gives Monticello's population as 791, while Montello has a population of more than 1,100 people. Thus it appears that we are doing better with our cows and cheese than they are with their vacationland idea. Their chief claim to fame seems to be the fine quality granite produced for monuments.

"We are convinced that Mr. Wright and his fellow townspeople would hold a much greater respect for our cows and cheese if a delegation of Monticello people were to go to Montello with a liberal quantity of our widely known products and 'make 'em eat 'em.' We challenge Wright and his fellow business men to a cheese party and fun fest."

As a result, the following invitation was forthcoming:

"Know all Ye men, as a lawyer would say, that on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 12, the proud citizens of Montello will be on hand at the local Rod and Gun club grounds complete with plenty of brown bottles and

pumpnickel to welcome members of the 'little known tribe' from East Limburger."

Thus plans have been made for the local group to travel in caravan style, assembling at 9:30 in the morning at the high school for the 90 mile trip to Montello. Everyone is invited and a clown band will accompany them in a truck. Former Mayor CM. Stauffer will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

In the following week's issue of the Messenger:

"A caravan of almost 100 cars left here on Sunday morning, Aug. 12, for 'Tombstone Gulch,' escorted by Green County Undersheriff Wilbur E. Deininger, with Village Marshal L.M. Schwitz bringing up the rear. Dane county highway police led the caravan through Madison, Columbia county traffic officers took over at their county line and the Marquette county officials escorted us from their county line to Montello.

"Henry Elmer, Jr., Monticello pilot, flew his plane to Montello and dropped 2,000 pamphlets over the city to notify the citizens there of the approaching arrival of our caravan.

"Acting mayor William Bucholz welcomed the Monticello guests and presented the keys to the city to Monticello village president R.A. Woodruff. Following this, a sumptuous meal was served at the fire station, including potato salad, beans, soft drinks and 2,000 bottles of beer, along with nearly 700 pounds of our Swiss and Limburger cheese.

"The Monticello water fighting team, composed of Ervin Broge, Karl Freitag, John Zimmerman and Jacob Huber, defeated their opponents, the local softball team trimmed the Montello team, and the Washington Huskies, under the direction of their cagey coach, Fred Grossen, had a snap in pulling the Montello team twice.

"Monticello's only competitive loss was suffered when Montello Postmaster, Ed. McAfee, won a duel over H.A. Walters, Monticello's postmaster, to see who could stamp letters 'Missent' the fastest.

"Mr. Stauffer, Monticello MC, reminded Editor Wright that 'Monticello earned its reputation and good name by hard work, good management and fine judgment.' Wright countered with, 'This is a healthy place to live. Why, we had to shoot a man just to get a cemetery started, though they've been dying to get in ever since.'

"The Montello Granite Company presented to Monticello, on behalf of Montello, an attractive granite marker, which had inscribed upon it the words, 'Monticello — From Montello, The City With The Hardest Granite In The World, 1951.'

"On behalf of Monticello, President Woodruff presented Montello with a giant replica of a Thomas Jefferson nickel, which bears the name Monticello.

"Other numbers included the burial of East Limburger, music and songs by Mrs. Leo Gempler, Ed Buehl and our clown band.

"Fine fellowship prevailed throughout the day and 'We will no longer refer to Montello as Tombstone Gulch, but as the Friendliest Community in the State.'"

East Limburger Invaded by Tombstone Gulch

August 17, 1952

by Mrs. Clarence Wittenwyler

"An invading force of approximately 800 Tombstone Gulchers were subdued by that most potent of all weapons — Limburger cheese—along with golden mellow Swiss cheese Sunday afternoon as East Limburger (Monticello) and Tombstone Gulch (Montello) resumed their 'feud' here. This was Monticello's opportunity to return the hospitality of their neighbors from nearly 100 miles to the north, in Marquette county, and renew friendships that were begun there a year ago.

"A caravan of 142 Montello cars arrived here at 2 p.m. and were welcomed by Mayor R.A. Woodruff. An estimated crowd of 3,000 to 4,000 people were present from the two communities.

"The Rev. A.R. Achtemeier addressed the group and informed them that we are separatists. The cows separate the grass from the roots; the farmer separates the milk from the cows; the cheesemaker separates the whey from the curd, and the businessmen separate the money from the farmers. I understand you people are sort of chiselers. But I'm assured you chisel for a good honest living.'

"The Tombstone Gulchers gave East Limburger a huge cake of ice holding a five and one-half pound black bass caught at Montello. They in turn were

presented with an imitation loaf of Swiss cheese, along with 10 pounds of the real McCoy, and several pounds of Limburger as a 'chaser.' Plans are to have the fish mounted and placed in the village hall.

"Musical numbers were presented by the visitors in addition to some by John Aeschliman and Herman Klassy, Mrs. Leo Gempler and daughters, Barbara and Linda, Mrs. Ingwell, the Elmer sisters and Nancy Kubly. Editor Wittenwyler lost the feature swimming race to Editor Wright. The Washington Huskies won their tug-o-war, the local fire department lost the water fight, and the visiting softball team defeated the locals. "The program was interrupted briefly when a mail truck drove up to the speakers platform to load up several sacks of missent mail, including a huge letter addressed to Editor Wright from the 'Collector of Internal Revenue,' and delivered them to the Tombstone Gulch post office marked by a sign on a building nearby."

Everyone had lots of fun as they consumed 160 loaves of bread, over 80 cakes, about 15 bushels of potatoes in the form of salad, a million beans, almost 1,000 pounds of cheese, 600 cups of coffee, 1,872 bottles of beer and 20 cases of pop. The pop and beer were furnished by the good people from Montello.



A Fourth of July celebration on Main Street, Monticello, 1913.

Monticello Jaycees

by Mrs. Paul Hefty

The Monticello Jaycees were formed in December 1972. The first president was Tom Zuhlke and the current president is Larry Strause.

Jaycee members are made up of young men between the age of 18 to 35. The main purpose of the Jaycees is to learn how to accept responsibility, to make decisions, become effective speakers, learn management techniques to be better employers, employees and citizens, to have the desire for community involvement and the desire for fellowship, to meet progressive young people in their own age bracket with similar interests and similar goals. The friendships made are not confined solely to the local community, but extend nationally and internationally as well.

Second president was Milton Sherman; the third, Tom Kubly; fourth, Paul Hefty and the current president Larry Strause.

Monticello Area Jaycettes

by Mrs. Thomas Kubly

Jaycettes of Wisconsin organized at Oshkosh in 1937 with 5 chapters compared to the present 129 chapters and about 1275 members.

A Jaycette chapter is started only when at least five interested Jaycee wives from the ages of 18 to 36 join a local chapter. Dues of \$4. to the State Jaycette organization and \$1. local dues incorporate a member into the Jaycette movement. Nationally, Jaycettes have been organized since 1974, but they have made great strides in the Health, Safety, Personal Growth areas and Project Concern and Cystic Fibrosis concerns.

The Monticello Area Jaycettes were sponsored by the New Glarus Jaycettes, a recognized State requirement for "extending the hand of friendship." In Sept of 1973, 18 possible Jaycee wives were invited to an organizational meeting which explained the Jaycee-Jaycette philosophies and beliefs. Of these 18, 10 wives were installed as charter members of the Monticello Area Jaycettes, at a January 31, 1974 banquet at the Casino. Charter members included: President — Mrs. Thomas Kubly, Internal Vice-president — Mrs. Kent Schwartzlow, External Vice-president — Mrs. Paul Hefty, State Director— Mrs. Terry Freitag, Secretary — Mrs. Ruth Sherman, Treasurer— Mrs. Edwin Gerner, Parliamentarian — Mrs. Jon Lehnherr. Mrs. Judy Johnson, Mrs. Keith Garfoot and Mrs. Donna Crouch complete our chartered membership.

Jaycette's membership means that we "give generously of our friendship to each other; our enthusiastic support to the Wisconsin Jaycees; our talents, ideas, labors and contributions to the betterment of our communities; our hearts and assistance to the unfortunate and our attention to the great responsibility that is ours as wives of America's young leaders and mothers of those who will inherit that leadership."

Membership meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at Members' homes, village hall or Zwingli United Church of Christ.

The members currently sponsor a local Girl Scout troop and assist their Jaycees in their projects and those of their own including such areas as mental health, safety, physical handicaps, etc.

Membership at present is ten with Mrs. Ruth Sherman as president, Mrs. Roger Zurfluh as Internal vice president, Mrs. Charles Anderson as secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Scott Cairy as State director. Other members are: Mrs. Larry Strause, Mrs. Ken Risley, Mrs. Jerry Wettach, Mrs. Kent Schwartzlow, Mrs. Judy Johnson and Mrs. Thomas Kubly.

As part of the Jaycee creed states "Faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life and service to humanity is the best work of life", so do the Jaycettes give of their time and contributions for "humanity and community."



Mrs. E.C. Soper displayed her collection of dolls at the Monticello bicentennial celebration held during the annual Homecoming festivities in 1976.

Adult Fellowship

by Edna Babler

In the fall of 1973 the suggestion that Monticello have a monthly fellowship meal and fun time for the men and women who are not at work was discussed by a group of interested persons.

The first meeting, an organizational meeting, was held October 18, 1973 in Zwingli United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall. The officers elected were President — Mrs. Merlee Zurbuchen, now deceased; Vice-president — Mrs. Ivan Grunder; Secretary— Mrs. Edyth R. Stoll, now deceased; Treasurer— Mrs. Arthur Boss, also deceased. Mrs. Velma Updike served as chairman at the first meeting.

The present officers are: President — Miss Edna Babler; Vice-President—Mrs. Bertha Blumer; Secretary — Miss Ruth Abley; Treasurer—Mrs. Hazel Becker.

The purpose of the organization—to unite or join in fellowship. Any resident of the village and surrounding community is welcome to attend regardless of church affiliations, if any.

It was decided to hold the meetings the third Tuesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall of Zwingli United Church of Christ. The business meetings are followed by a program and games.

Monticello Girl Scouts

by Mrs. Hazel Kundert

The Monticello Girl Scouts were organized in about the year 1927. The Misses Vera Babcock and Elsie Drebrow, both faculty members of the Monticello Public School, were leaders of the organization. During the year, there were many learning experiences and in the summer the girls enjoyed camping at various lakes.

Later on the Campfire Girls were organized.

Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts



The Monticello Boy Scout Troop 106 was chartered in about the year 1939 with the Monticello Community Club as the original sponsor. George M. Grenzow was elected the first scout master. Meetings were originally held at the Monticello School House District No. 3 and later in a hall above the present Gempler Grocery.

Shortly after the Wisconsin Power & Light Co. took over the Monticello utility, Irving Eichorst Sr., their representative in the community, took over Boy Scout Troop 106 as scoutmaster and at the same time a Cub Scout Pack 306 was established with George M. Grenzow as its first cubmaster.

Scoutmasters included: George Grenzow, Irving Eichorst, Sr., Ray Gessler, Dewey Dwyer, Eldon Taylor, Don Hurst and Lyle Sinnett.

Scouters who attained Eagle rank were: Kenneth Kundert, Jack Ponyicsanyi, John Steinmann, William Escher, Gene Gessler, Bill Baebler, Jack Kreig and Irving Eichorst, Jr.

Monticello Chapter No. 217 Eastern Star

by Nona Baebler

On Wednesday evening January 17, 1917, a meeting was held in the Masonic Hall in Monticello to institute an Eastern Star Chapter.

Several grand officers attended and installed the following officers: Worthy Matron, Lonah Wittwer; Worthy Patron, William Loveland; Associate Matron, Delia Blum. Albany Chapter No. 86 initiated the following that evening: Mrs. Mary Breylinger, Mrs. Nellie Zweifel, Mrs. Vola Jordan, Mrs. Clara Voegeli, Miss Coyla Jordan, Otis Breylinger.

The Worthy Matron appointed the following officers: Secretary, Edwin Barlow; Treasurer, Joe Barlow; Conductress, Vola Jordan; Associate Conductress, Clara Voegeli; Chaplain, Ada Barlow; Adah, Sylvia Breylinger; Ruth, Anna Stuessy; Esther, Nellie Zweifel; Martha, Coyla Jordan; Electa, Mary Breylinger; Warder, Musetta Clark; Sentinel, W.E. Bontly; Organist, Nellie Bontly.

Some of these people had joined in Albany and when the chapter was formed here they transferred.

On October 25, 1917, the instituted chapter became

a regularly constituted chapter and was given the charter by order of the grand chapter.

The chapter grew year by year. Some members moved away and some passed away but others joined.

On June 3, 1966 the Easter Star entertained the members of the Masonic Lodge in honor of the 100th anniversary of the latter. During the years the chapter had a Grand Officer and several Grand Pages. One of the members took part in the opening ceremony at General Grand Chapter when it was held in Milwaukee. In 1970 Monticello Chapter No. 217 consolidated with New Glarus Chapter No. 225.

Monticello Music Parents Club

by Mrs. Kenneth (Hazel) Kundert

The Monticello Music Parents Club was organized on May 22, 1951. It was decided that each family pay dues of \$1. annually. Officers elected were: President, Frank Noesen; Vice-president, Norman Rosen; Secretary, Mrs. John Harden; and Treasurer Mrs. Clarence Wittenwyler. Chairmen of the committees were: Publicity Committee — Clarence Wittenwyler, Ways and Means Committee — Mrs. Werner Hefty, and Program and Refreshment Committee — Mrs. Hazel Kundert. The Band Instructor was John Page. The purpose of the club was to raise money for the needs of the music department.

It was decided to have a lunch stand at the Green County Fair from Wednesday through Sunday, August 1 through 5. They planned to serve homemade pies and cakes, barbecue, Swiss cheese, and weiner sandwiches, pop, coffee, and milk.

John Page, Mrs. Herman Babler, and Mrs. Hazel Kundert opened the stand on the morning of August first. They soon discovered that the location next to the race track was very undesirable due to the great amount of dust.

This money raising project, which started on a shoestring, has developed into a very profitable and worthwhile undertaking. Not only members of the club, but people of the community have worked together to assure a successful enterprise.

AREME

by Mrs. Henry V. Baebler

Areme is an organization composed of Past Worthy Matrons of Monticello Chapter No. 217, Order of Eastern Star.

The name takes the first letter of the name of each star point — Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha and Electa.

The first officers were Lonah Wittwer, president, and Edyth R. Blum, historian or secretary and treasurer.

It was decided to meet once a month in the evening for a social time with card playing and light refreshments.

The president was to be selected in succession as each served as Worthy Matron.

In 1940 it was decided that meetings would be held quarterly. No meetings were held from October 1941 to October 1946 as no social gatherings were held during the war.

Areme continues to meet once a year even though Monticello Chapter No. 217 consolidated with New Glarus.

Monticello Christian Women's Club

by Mrs. Harold Babler

Monticello Christian Women's Club was organized in 1972. Meetings are held monthly and include teen night, men's night and dairy queen night. There are no dues, no membership and everyone is welcome to attend.

Chairmen thus far have included: Mrs. Richard (Barbara) Plattner, Mrs. Paul (Doris) Klassy, Mrs. Rollin (Barbara) Ager and Mrs. Clarence (Nancy) Dawson.

Jana Wacker, Lake Forest, Illinois and David Kobleish, St. Paul, Minnesota have been two of the popular speakers at the meetings. Each meeting includes special musical entertainment and another special feature.



Marshall Bluff Bowhunters clubhouse, built in 1955, serves the needs of the club's members.

Marshall Bluff Bowhunters

by Hilda Bissig

Interest in bow and arrow among sportsmen from Monticello started in 1942. In 1954 plans to construct a 14-target field archery range were under way. In 1955, the dream came true at the Walter Zeller farm northeast of Monticello. The range was laid out among the sandstone bluffs that bear the same name as the Club, and except for some slight modifications has remained much the same over the years as its original concept.

Persons from all areas of Wisconsin and neighboring states have shot the range and very few have been able to meet the challenge. It is considered one of the finest, and the 65 yard shot from a jutting sandstone bluff is a

favorite with everyone even though it has cheated many out of an expected trophy.

The charter members who shared their time in this venture were Reynold Zeller, Lawrence F. Marty, George Taylor, Roy Bissig, Alfred Aeberhard, Jr., and Doran (Buzz) Blum.

In the early 60's the Club was instrumental in forming the Southwestern Wisconsin Field Archery League. Of the original 13 in the league, only Janesville, Beloit and Marshall Bluff Clubs have survived the changing times. The numerous activities available to the average person these days has reduced the interest in archery.

In 1963 plans were made to build a club house. At that time they became known as the Marshall Bluff Bowhunters.

In competitive archery the club has had many champions over the years at local and state levels. The club sponsors the Marshall Bluff Bowling Team and has always had a strong interest in youth participation and conducted numerous archery clinics on the safe use of the bow and arrow. The club has also had keen interest in conservation and has donated funds to a number of conservation projects. The present membership is 33.

The First 100 Years of Monticello Union Lodge No. 155 F.&A.M.

by Walter Haddinger

It is assumed the name of the Monticello Lodge was taken from that period in our national history immediately following the Civil War. Very little is known of the early history of Monticello Union Lodge because of a disastrous fire on December 8, 1896 which destroyed the original lodge hall located over a general store. From the December 9th, 1896 issue of the Monroe Sentinel we learn: "The Masonic Block on the south side burned last night at 11:00 p.m. J.L. Hirsig had a stock of "Gents Furnishings and Goods" in the building. Nothing saved. Building insured for \$1,200. Contents were also insured, do not know the amount. L.W. Wilson's residence nearby was saved but badly damaged. F.W. Humistons residence had a narrow escape. By keeping it well covered with water it was kept from burning." The building belonging to the lodge was located on the present site of the Mrs. Meta Grunder residence, 103 South Main Street. All lodge records and furnishings were lost except the Tyler's sword. The handle was burned away and had to be replaced.

From a county history published in 1884 we get this information. "Monticello Union Lodge No. 155 F. & A.M. was organized under dispensation granted October 14, 1865. The charter was granted June 13, 1866. The first officers were James Butts, W.M., Sweiting C. Taft, S.W., Joshua Crowell, J.W., J. Johnson sec. The following have served as past masters: James Butts, S.C. Taft, F.R. Drake, H.M. Barnes. The lodge now has a membership of over 30. Its regular communications are

held the first and third Tuesdays of each month."

This lodge has had three homes. The first which was destroyed by fire. We note that after the fire a resolution was passed on December 7, 1897. "That the Trustees should sell the lot where the hall and store were located for \$250. or more if possible." The second hall was the second story of a commercial building located on Main Street then known as the Wittwer building. The Third and present hall has been in use since 1911. As we learn from the minutes of August 2, 1910, a motion was made that they rent the hall of the new Bank of Monticello building at \$130. per year. At the same time it was voted to raise the dues from \$1 to \$3 per year beginning January 1, 1911. Brother Albert Knobel was the first to be raised in the new building. Since 1959 our present building is owned by Brother Paul E. Voegeli, using the first floor for his legal practice.

It was noted that in the early years of the lodge, minutes of the evenings proceedings were always read for correction and approval just before closing. The following meeting, after opening, the same minutes were again read for information.

In the early days, Grand Lodge dues should not have presented a problem. On June 7, 1898 a motion was carried that an order be drawn on the Treasury for the amount of \$10.90 for Grand Lodge dues.

Modes of transportation today are different for on October 18, 1904 a motion was carried that a team be hired to go to Albany for Monroe night. After the railroads came to Monticello many of the New Glarus members attending lodge would come to Monticello using a railroad hand car. Not only did the New Glarus brethren have to supply their own propulsion, but they would also have to walk up to the lodge hall from the railroad depot, a distance of almost one mile. 1916 was not the year of a "two car family" as on May 2 an order was drawn on the Treasury for \$18.00 for auto hire to attend the Charles Wackman funeral.

April 10, 1914 at a special meeting held the following Monticello members living in New Glarus appeared with a petition requesting the establishment of a lodge in New Glarus: Nicolus C. Duerst, Ernest Becker, M.E. Solbraa, E. J. Helgeson, Fred Marty, Clarence H. Hefty, Charles Dahlman, Henry M. Schmid, William Engler, Herman J. Zweifel, Paul E. Jackson, George L. Spaulding, Fred A. Stuessy, together with Robert Bartlett of Albany 36, 14 in all. A motion was carried without any dissenting vote that we recommend to the Grand Master the granting of the dispensation prayed for in the petition in so much as it contribute to the good of the order.

During World War I the brethren evidently wanted to add to the food supply on the home front as a motion was made on March 5, 1918 for Bro. Fred H. Steinmann to see James Pratt to get price on land for a Masonic garden. Before the days of the water fountain, Bro. Lora Pease submitted a bill to the lodge on May 7, 1929 for a dipper and a pail, \$1.00.

One of the faithful secretaries to serve the lodge was our late Brother Henry Holdrich. On November 19, 1918 a motion was carried that Brother Holdrich's picture be enlarged and hung over the Secretary's desk in honor of his long years of service to the fraternity. Another of our faithful secretaries was our late

Brother, Otto E. Bontly. He served for almost 36 years and was honored by a special evening in 1960.

Sometimes large events were held outside of our regular meeting rooms. On October 28, 1921 a special meeting was held at Karlen's Hall. Dr. Harry J. Horne was the Master. Harry A. Walters now living in Monroe, North Carolina was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. 145 visiting brethren were present. The secretary was unable to get the names of the local members attending. The work was followed by a luncheon and "smoker". (Cigars always furnished by the lodge) Several members of the Monticello Orchestra played selections. This was followed by a 2-reel comedy furnished by Brother Karlen. Again on April 29, 1926 a special meeting was held in Karlen's Hall, well attended by 203 visitors and 48 local members. Wilbert S. Hoesly was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. Emil Rabe was the W. M. The New Glarus Master Mason team put on the work. In 1928 Bro. L.G. Marty was raised. Making the current membership 100. J.P. Zweifel was Master.

Thru the years the names of the membership have changed. Names of the original charter members are no longer familiar in this area. As the West was developed many of the names with the Yankee and New England origin moved on to become a part of that part of American History. Since the turn of the century we find the names on our membership rolls reflecting the great immigration patterns that started about 20 years before from countries in central and northern Europe.

The heritage of this lodge was born of men who embraced the teachings of Masonry in less perilous times, when our country emerged as a nation from the bloody Civil War, when travel was long and tedious. Communications were primitive, when man depended on his neighbor for all of his community and social needs.

Today we are living in an age of instant communication, a nation faced with great national and international problems.

Our challenge is to continue the practice and teachings of the craft in this great era of social and world change.

The Lodge celebrated its 100th Anniversary on June 25, 1966 with a banquet at the Casino. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Lecturer of the State of Wisconsin were present along with 66 members and guests. There were 7 lodges represented. Also there were 13 Past Masters of the Monticello Lodge in attendance. Grand Master Doyan Imman gave a very inspiring talk on Masonry. Walter Haddinger was the Worshipful Master and Frederick S. Voegeli, Secretary of the Monticello Lodge during the 100th year of our existence.

The Lodge has not been too active the last ten years. It seems people have so many more forms of entertainment, but monthly meetings do continue. Fifty year certificates are presented, Masonic funerals are conducted when requested and new members are taken in.

Meetings are held in the lodge rooms in the Paul Voegeli building, the present home for 65 years. There are presently 54 members.

Edward C. Soper is the present Worshipful Master. Frederick S. Voegeli the Secretary. Meetings are the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Stories of By-Gone Days

by Edna Babler

The winter of 1842-43 was very severe. Food for livestock was scarce, corn especially so. Men came from a hundred miles away to Green County to buy corn. It was sold for 25 cents a bushel. After a time, only three men in the county had corn to sell. Then one of them said, "Let's charge 50 cents a bushel." One of the others said, "No, that may do for you, as for me I have a soul to save, and shall charge only 25 cents."

Pupils in Green county school relate how their teacher sat most of the time with his feet perched upon the hearth and at frequent intervals flooded it with a deluge of tobacco juice. He had two classes, "Big Class" and "Little Class".

The old swimming hole out at a gravel pit where Monticello's youth for many years have stroked through muddy waters to their heart's content, came within an eyelash of claiming the life of a little boy, when he stepped off into a deep hole. He could not swim. After he had gone under three times an Elmer boy dove in and rescued him, and with the help of a friend set to work with what little they knew about artificial respiration. Within a few minutes he showed signs of life.

Monticello and vicinity experienced a blizzard of the real blown-in-the bottle Dakota type of blizzard February 1912 hailing in from the northeast. The storm was the worst to visit the area since 1881.

At the time Dr. Edward Blumer was village president and Pete Zimmerman was street commissioner, Pete was repairing a leak on Main Street when Dr. Blumer, village president came along and asked Pete, "Didn't you make a mistake?" Pete looked up at Dr. Blumer and jokingly said, "I covered up a few of your mistakes in the cemetery."

More than fifty years ago the Monticello band of about eleven pieces played with the New Glarus band. Neither village had enough musicians for a worth-while band and the consolidation of the two resulted. The Thursday night concerts were played in New Glarus to avail the musicians there, of the \$500. which had been appropriated by the village for concerts, providing that the concerts be given weekly.

A number of local residents went to Madison to get a glimpse of Charles Lindberg, famous conqueror of the Atlantic airlines, who favored the capital city with a visit, with his air craft, "The Spirit of St. Louis."

Captured from the Germans during World War I and shipped to Monticello at a cost of \$86., the cannon owned by the Fred Amstutz post American Legion, was erected upon the triangle formed by the conjunction of South Main Street and Highway 69.

The cannon again went to war, this time (1942) against the original owners and their Axis partners in the form of scrap metal. The cannon tipped the scale at 2,760 pounds and netted the post \$12.

Mrs. Anna K. Babler remembers when the first auto came to Monticello. Rumors were spread around town that Henry Ford was coming to town.

A man who had lived on the Moser road was coming to the village one day and naturally had to cross the tracks at the Woolen Mill site. He was hit by the train and the cheese was scattered in all directions (also the odor). The train stopped. The man in a rage picked himself up and shook his fist at the engineer and replied "I was here first". From that time on the train went by the name of "Limburger Special."

Fences in the mid 1880's were regarded as a luxury. Most of the farmers had but a few rail fences, often around the house only.

Life and property have long been endangered. A man tells how he once entered land and was put through a hole in the ice in a mill pond, and held there until he promised to give up the deed to the land.

Basket socials were prominent in the early 1900's in rural districts. The ladies were requested to bring baskets and the gentlemen their pocketbooks.

Dayton and Exeter at one time each had their own basketball team. When they met in a contest, they always attracted a large crowd.

When H.A. Becker was principal of the Monticello school district, he was chief registrar of the sugar rationing, accepting canning sugar applications. The federal allowance was one pound of sugar for every four quarts of finished canned fruit and another one pound a year for each person for use in preparing preserves, jams and jellies.

A total of 793 persons registered for ration books at the school, a total of 154 persons had more than the allotted supply (16 lb. per person) on hand, therefore did not get ration books.

The Shooting Park range, three miles outside of Monticello, was a popular picnic spot in the early 1900's.

Gypsies often camped near farm houses for several days. They always came asking for milk at milking time and for chickens and eggs. Farmers usually gave them some because if they didn't they would appear after dark and help themselves, then, of course, the farmer and his wife would miss the opportunity of having their fortunes told.

Two men, while returning home from a little "joy ride" to Dayton one Sunday figured in a batch of excitement as the buggy in which they were riding was destroyed by fire. They had passed a party who told them that their rig was on fire, but they considered the information a joke. They drove on until the flames shot out from under the seat. Immediately they separated the horses from the buggy with little time to spare.

Bringing a price of less than \$10.00 an acre, a farm east of Monticello was disposed of. This took place about 45 years ago, the farm going to the highest bidder.

Clarence Loveland and his everpleasing Bandonia orchestra furnished music for old time dances in Karlen's Hall. At one occasion his band was strengthened by a violin player from Monroe.

When school was dismissed one day by the principal, Mr. Sommers, a Canadian, two people got in the car and drove up and down Main Street. At the time when Mr. Sommers was hired everyone wanted to take a look — no one knew what a Canadian looked like.

Mrs. Wm. McClintock, who lived in this vicinity in the 1870's, returned for a visit in 1914. She stated that the old mill pond and the mill were about the only objects that were familiar to her.

Boys and girls, mostly from rural schools, collected milkweed pods to supply the waterproof floss used in making life preservers for the protection of American soldiers going overseas.

A Mr. "Monticello" put on a little vaudeville performance on Main Street which entertained several bystanders for the time being. He made the error of cranking his auto when it was in gear, and the "critter" started off across the street minus the driver. He grabbed hold and yelled "whoa" for all he was worth, but the consarned thing refused to stop until it collided with the curb on the opposite side of the street.

Homemakers - Monticello Center

From material contributed by

Mrs. Henry V. Baebler and

Mrs. Montgomery Chesebro

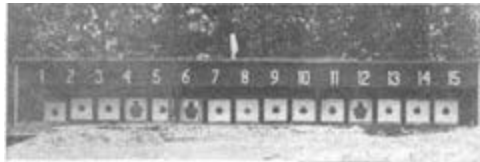
Extension Homemakers is an organization which involves individual women in identifying and solving family and community problems through an educational program. In 1936 thirty one women in Green County laid the foundation.

The Monticello Center is made up of 7 clubs. Washington and Mt. Pleasant were organized in 1936. Dutch Hollow followed in 1937, Wallace in 1947, East Mt. Pleasant in 1951, Modern Makers in 1956. Neat Achievers was created through the merger of two clubs, Sweet 'N Neat and Achieve-at-Eve, in 1972.

The clubs have participated fully with county extension programs which relate to homemaking, health, personality, government, family relationships, gardening, communications and other special interest programs which are offered frequently. The clubs have individual interests which include generous citizenship projects.

The clubs in existence during the World War II years, Dutch Hollow, Mt. Pleasant and Washington, contributed generously during that time with clothing to the Red Cross. The work was done during meeting hours and at home by the members. In 1941, eleven members from the Washington Club went to Madison to give blood for the Red Cross. On the way home one of the members, Mrs. Goldie Seeholzer and another area donor, Mrs. Wilbert Zweifel, ran off the road into a flooded creek and drowned.

The recently organized clubs as East Mt. Pleasant, Neat Achievers, Modern Makers and Wallace, have citizenship projects such as sponsoring a Brownie Troop, serving nursing home during the year, donating trees to Lake Montesian, decorating Christmas trees at the New Glarus Home, and contributions to the pediatric ward at St. Clare Hospital in Monroe.



Young brothers in a horse-drawn buggy.

The following businesses and individuals contributed financial support to the printing of this historical book.

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Corrections/Updates

The following items are corrections that should be inserted into and kept as part of the Monticello Historical book "Monticello — Past and Present."

Page 2: In the list of Village Presidents, Karl Freitag was omitted. He served from 1961 to April, 1963. Entered into text.

Page 13: The old jail was taken down about 1916, not 1961. Entered into text.

Page 14: The new post office was built in 1966, not 1961. Entered into text.

Page 23: Dr. Robert Wichser should be added to list of those with Doctor's degrees from Monticello schools. Entered into text.

Page 52: Dr. Aquino opened an office in 1967, not 1976. Dr. John Harden was here between 1939-1960, but was gone between 1948-50, when Dr. George Diver was practicing here. Entered into text.

Page 66: Edward Quade should be added to the list of World War II deceased. The entire Civil War section is redundant, repeating the names of civil war veterans from the previous page. James Dooley should be listed as a WW-I veteran. Entered into text.

Page 67: In the list of charter members of the Legion Post, the second name in the second column should be Herman Feenje. Entered into text.

Page 80: The first advertiser should be listed as Feldt Beef Farms, Wally, Betty and Scott. Entered into text.



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