



RECOLLECTIONS

OCTOBER 2013

www.monticellohistoricalsociety.org

MAHS Museum

P.O. Box 463
204 N. Main St.
Monticello, WI, 53570
(608) 938-4216
MAHS@tds.net

Hours of Operation

Saturday 10 AM – 2 PM
or by appointment
Closed for the season
November – April

Board Members

President – Mary Davis
Vice-Pres. – Donald Kubly
Secretary – May Burgy
Treas. – Karen Brugger
Member - John Casey
Member - Michael Wayland
Member - Hans Sulzer

Collection Manager

Collection Archivist

Karen Gempeler

Volunteer Coordinators

Docents - Bill & Kay Dickson
Programs - Donna Ferguson
Membership - Carol Schultz
Newsletter - Roger Dooley

Museum news

Our October meeting entertainment will be provided by Donna Douglas, Director of Monroe's National Historic Cheesemaking Center. Along with a slide show, she will present a short documentary, *Eine kleine Käserei*, for our enjoyment.

Results of this year's garage sale are in. Total of sales \$798.40 on day 1 and \$421.05 on day 2. The unsold saddles from last year finally sold for \$400 and we cleaned out \$17.50 worth of scrap metal from the basement. Our total profit from this year's sale was \$1,589.45.

We are so thankful to the generous people who donated items for the sale and the volunteers who gave their time and energy to make it happen. Just a little reminder. We are accepting donations for next year's sale throughout the year, so please keep us in mind..

Our MAHS web site visits have increased from 182 unique visitors last January to 427 unique visitors this August. Most frequently visited pages were the Photographs and Obituary pages.

William Zimmerman has compiled a listing of 2479 Monticello high school graduates from 1892 through 2013. It's available on our MAHS web site. If anyone has been left off, please email us with the name and graduation date.

We acquired two new members this quarter. Gene Lynn donated a life membership on behalf of Mrs. Sharon Briggs, Monticello Librarian, and Eugene Crouch became an annual member.

Donations

Ernest Beutel, Jr. – Painting of the Chalet Cheese Factory done by Cal Drafahl. Given in memory of their son Tracy Beutel.

Deb Krattiger – Pearl Loeffel's wedding ensemble and miscellaneous clippings.

Barbara Green – Veryl Adamson's wedding dress and miscellaneous clippings.

JoAnn Weatherly - Dick family photo albums

Dreams Fade as Heirs Get Share in Swiss Estate

The rosy dreams four Monticello residents may have dreamed about what they'd do with their share of a distant relative's 28,000 franc estate were pretty badly shattered today. Months ago Fred Roethlisberger, Mrs. Simon Roethlisberger, Carl Roethlisberger, and Mrs. Conrad Stauffacher, Jr. were notified that they were heirs to the estate of Hans Jacobi who died intestate in Switzerland. Today they, along with 399 other relatives in the United States, had a money order for 70 cents apiece, their share of the estate. (Submitted by Robert Elmer)

—*WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL FEB. 16, 1935*

Marshland West of Village Feels Force Of Terrific Blasts

Extensive dynamiting operations of marshland on farms just west of Monticello have provided local residents with a new source of interest the past few days.

Blasting operations are now centered on farm land situated just below the cross roads beyond the head of Lake Staedtler. The land is owned by Henry C. Klassy, Anton Baumgartner, and Ernest Wenger. J. J. Elmer, who also has marshland nearby, is also expected to have similar work done on his property.

Plans to Co-operate

Henry C. Elmer, who owns land above the cross roads and bridge, plans to cooperate with the above farmers in straightening the course of Lake Staedtler's headwaters by blasting a stretch fully a quarter of a mile long above the bridge. By dynamiting a new and straight course for the stream, which was formerly carried around many bends and curves and was therefore so slow in moving that the marshlands have been badly flooded with water nearly every spring, the farmers plan to eliminate this condition and build these tracts up into valuable, workable soil.

An erroneous report has been circulated to the effect that the blasting operations are partly financed by CCC activities, but this statement is wholly untrue. All of the expenses in connection with the dynamiting are being borne by the above farmers.

Numerous Monticello citizens gathered at the blasting scene Monday afternoon to witness the fireworks when a charge of nearly 600 sticks of high-power dynamite were ignited in two separate blasts which sent chunks of mud flying high in the air in all directions. A big willow tree, which rested on top of one of the charges, was hurled high in the air, twirling end over end in its upward ascent just as though it was a mere toothpick. The dynamite is deadly in its effect, containing approximately 50 per cent nitro-glycerine.

A strip of land nearly 600 feet long was blasted with the two charges Monday afternoon. Two sticks of dynamite are planted to every foot of land, the sticks being placed in two fairly close but separate rows and not directly opposite each other. The sticks are placed opposite open spaces on each side. Each single charge contains a half pound of dynamite and is placed at a depth of 3 1/2 feet.

The force of the blast digs down another 3 1/2 feet, making a ditch approximately seven feet deep and nearly 10 feet wide.

Jack Cathers in Charge

Jack Cathers, Blanchardville, a professional dynamiter, is the generalissimo in charge of "bombardment operations," and what Jack doesn't know about this here blasting business, just simply isn't worth knowing, that's all. He has been engaged in work of this nature for the past 15 years and he spent several years as a blaster along the Chicago lake front.

A good many society butterflies virtually break their necks trying to make the acquaintance of celebrities in various walks of life. And here Jack Cathers has been associating with "big shots"—(of dynamite)—for years and he thinks nothing of it.

There's a trick to all trades. Jack says, and that goes for the dynamiting business, too. Only by knowing exactly how to plant the charges can the most effective work be done. For instance, if the charges are placed directly opposite each other in two rows, the tendency is for the dirt to blow straight up in the air and fall right down into the hole again. But if the charges are placed in zig-zag fashion in two separate lines and planted at correct depths, the dirt will be dug deep and blown off to the sides of the ditch.

—*MONTICELLO MESSENGER, NOV. 14, 1935*

Fire Does Much Damage to Hotel South End of Dance Hall And Upstairs Room Gutted

Fire of an unknown source partially gutted the south end of the ballroom and did considerable damage to one upstairs room of the Monticello House in the early hours yesterday (Wednesday) morning.

The fire, which was discovered at about 1:25 Wednesday morning, started at the west end of the stage in the dance hall. The flames burned through the ceiling and continued up through the walls and partitions to the roof of the building, where the Monticello Fire department and other volunteer villagers battled for a considerable length of time before the stubborn flames could be subdued.

Burned to Ground in 1894

The Monticello House was burned to the ground back in 1894 when the late "Jack" Magoon owned the building. The present structure was built and opened to the public in 1896. A repetition of that unfortunate blaze of 1894 would surely have occurred last night had it not been for the valiant services of the Monticello Firemen who fought to the last ditch to save the structure.

Both fire trucks were pressed into service to fight the flames. After the flames were brought under control the old truck was stopped and the Mt. Pleasant and Washington townships owned truck was used and did a fine job of forcing the water to the flames. A call to the Monroe Fire department brought a truck here from the county seat. It was not put into service, however.

A large hole, about 10 feet square, was burned in the ceiling of the dance hall, after which the flames proceeded up along the west wall of the building up to the roof. Fortunately the building is covered with a tin roof. Firemen point out that had the building been covered with wood and tar alone the fire might have gone out of control.

Roth Apartment Damaged!

A considerable amount of damage was done to the furniture in the Fred Roth apartment where the flames spread through the walls between rooms after reaching the roof. Plaster was strewn everywhere and the furniture was completely soaked with water. A piano, curtains of the stage

and minor other articles were burned in the ballroom.

The Roth, Ogden and Kubly families, who reside in apartments on the second floor of the building, were forced to vacate their rooms.

The location of the flames hampered the Firemen to a great extent as it was difficult to play the water in the walls. The Firemen worked until about 5 o'clock in the morning before giving up their work of cleaning out water after the flames had been extinguished.

The fire brought a large crowd of spectators to the scene, many of whom assisted in the work of moving out furniture, etc.

—*MONTICELLO MESSENGER, MARCH 31, 1938*

Local Citizens Hurt In Home 'Accident'

Fruit Jar Goes 'Boom' in Face of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Walters

A household accident which might have been very dangerous or even fatal occurred at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Walters Saturday evening when a one-quart fruit jar exploded and caused considerable pain and excitement for a moment.

Mrs. Walters was busily engaged in packing raspberry jam for the family when the accident occurred. It is thought that this particular jar that exploded had become damaged in such a way that the pressure of the hot jam forced the whole vessel to explode. Mr. Walters was in the room at the time of the accident and he was severely burned about the face and received a laceration above one eye.

The jar was broken into hundreds of tiny pieces of glass and the jam was splattered all about the kitchen walls. Mrs. Walters received burns on both arms as the hot jam struck her and for several days they were swathed in bandages. One stitch was required to close the gash above Mr. Walters' eye. Mr. Walters was fortunate, however, that he was wearing his spectacles at the time. His glasses were completely covered with the jam and had he not been wearing them at the time his eyes would no doubt have been burned also.

—*MONTICELLO MESSENGER, JULY 1938*

L. A. Voegeli Buys Stauffer Building

A landmark which has been a part of the village for nearly 80 years will be razed April 1 to become the site of a new and modern garage.

In a deal completed late last week, L. A. Voegeli, owner of the Voegeli Chevrolet Sales and a veteran Monticello automobile dealer, purchased the blacksmith shop building and real estate.

The blacksmith shop site joins the garage building which has been operated by Mr. Voegeli for many years. Mr. Voegeli will erect a new, modern building, embracing a spacious showroom and the many other modern automobile agency features where the "old smithy" now stands.

Smithy 37 Years



Mr. Stauffer has been the village blacksmith for 37 years. In disposing of the landmark, Monticello is left without a blacksmith shop for the first time since this settlement was founded, we would suppose.

The present smithy building was erected nearly 80 years ago by the late H. L. Babler, a blacksmith here for many years. The old wagon shop, a section of the west side of the blacksmith shop, was moved to its present location from the corner of West and Water streets, where the Karlen & Sons Ford garage is located.

Old Dobbin played an integral part in a smithy's activities in the old days, but "he just doesn't live here anymore," Mr. Stauffer said as he recalled the start of his career in the blacksmith business. His assistant for many years was Otto

H. Babler, who resides on Coates street, and who previously had worked with his brother, founder of the shop. Sam Pierce has presided as chief mechanic for the past number of years at the shop.

-MONTICELLO MESSENGER, FEBRUARY 23, 1956



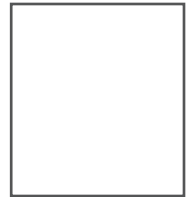


1924 - Anton Wulleumier, who for the past 16 years had a jewelry and music store in Monticello held a closing out sale in August and then moved to Madison. In April 1925, he came back and reopened the jewelry store. The new block has been replaced by Gempelers Supermarket.

--MONTICELLO PAST AND PRESENT, 1976



Monticello Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 463
204 N. Main St.
Monticello, WI, 53570



To:

You are invited to join the Monticello Area Historical Society

Membership year: May through April
Individual annual dues: \$10.00 per person
Lifetime membership: \$100.00

Meetings are held in the north room of the Zwingli Church annex the 4th Thursday of every month EXCEPT July, November and December

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____
Type of membership:
 Life - \$100.00
 Individual annual - \$10.00

Please include this form and cash or check made payable to MAHS and mail to the museum address or give to our membership chairperson.