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RECOLLECTIONS

Monticello Area Historical Society News

Year 2020, No. 2

Inside

Covid 19

How is Monticello Affected by the Virus

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Programs - Paul Rieder

Newsletter - Jules Cappelle

Window Display—May Burgy

Membership - Carol Schultz

Collection Archivist

Jules Cappelle

jules.cappelle@gmail.com

Presidential Pandemic Ponderings----

I miss all of you and the visitors discovering our museum and our collections. The lingering and re-occurring unknowns of this health crisis continue to make us cautious and reluctant to open the museum or hold any meetings. Fortunately our existence is not dependent on a busy summer season. For the time being, we will not have any meetings, open the building to the public, begin doing oral histories or re-arrange any of our current displays. The possibility of jeopardizing the health of any of our members/ volunteers is too risky.

In the meantime, we are witnessing and living through a historic period that will be highlighted in years to come.

Generations of young people will have a lot of questions about this pandemic. And to further disrupt our complacency, a long overdue call for justice and equality for all citizens has erupted around the country and the world. It's difficult to determine how these two crises will impact each other and play out in our history.. The health and civil impacts in Green County are not as dramatic as in other areas of the country; but they will impact us and we need to prepare for that. As I said, **History** is being made.

I wish all of you to stay healthy, safe and sane in this new life-style we are trying to accept. Wash your hands, wear a mask, stay home if you can, and don't despair, our museum and organization will be operational as soon as we can.

Be patient and be well,
Mary Davis

Due to Covid

Museum

Closed

For The Season

Our docent coordinators

Bill & Kay Dickson welcome all volunteers. Call them at 938-4315.

Monticello Area Historical Society is celebrating 25 years.

Monticello Area Historical Society News

The following history of Monticello was researched by Karen Brugger .

July 30, 1953 From Madison Newspaper column by "Jaunts with Jamie"

"Gemeutlichkeit in a Small Town"

Monticello, WI--A century or two ago English essayists appropriately began calling taverns "clubs." Especially those of the neighborhood variety where friends gathered in good fellowship. Monticello, with a population of 792 has eight such clubs, but then men also come from nearby farms and this town is a convenient stop between New Glarus and Monroe, especially when the sun is trying to drive the quicksilver out through the tops of thermometers.

Charles Taft, a West coast boyhood friend visiting here with his wife's people took me to his favorite spot, the Boar's Nest. This bit of Switzerland is presided over by Matt Zentner. "Zentner" in Swiss means 100 pounds, but the boys have interpreted it to mean "100 per cent." You can appreciate this liberal translation when you know that Matt buys every third drink, and that while beer is by far the most popular beverage, schnapps is only 25 cents a jigger.

Matt was born in Monticello and has a grip that was acquired by milking a dozen cows twice a day. His son is just back from Korea. There is a gentle dignity about the patrons of the Boar's Nest. Their geniality never approaches the boisterous and they have an old world respect for one another. Friendly glasses are lifted in warm and polite "gesundheits."

In the evening a few Monticellans drop in a for a

quiet game of euchre or the Swiss national game of Yass. Five is a popular hour in the afternoon. Men stop by for a before-supper glass of beer and to exchange pleasantries. It is surprising how few "third" drinks Matt has to buy because most of the customers stop at one or two.

Of an afternoon there will be Paul Veenji from the lumber company. Christ Stauffer, the blacksmith. A World War I veteran, he looks just as a blacksmith should, 225 pounds of health and stature. He bears out the statement of a former Milwaukee blacksmith, Art Bellman, that blacksmithing gentles a man. Christ teaches Sunday School at the Swiss Reformed Church and hasn't missed a Sunday in 32 years. When someone said that was a wonderful attendance record he replied "it's a wonderful health record too." Sometimes Mr. Dooley, janitor at the local school drops in as does John Richards, assistant postmaster. Richards is pretty pale alongside his out-of-doors compatriots and if anyone remarks about it he just smiles and says "it's my post office pallor." A World War I veteran, he taught high school in Green County for 25 years. Ernie Holz, a carpenter, stops by. Ernie is 6 foot 2 and 190 pounds of rippling muscles, a natural athlete. You wonder how the baseball scouts ever passed him up. Six years with the Marines in World War II might be the answer. He has a stalwart son who is a chip off the not-so-old block. Christ Yaussi, my friend's father-in-law tells an amusing story about Ernie. Ernie was hunting squirrels out in the woods. He saw two and shot one, dropping his red

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Monticello Area Historical Society is the acquisition, documentation, preservation and exhibition of artifacts relating to the history and culture of the Monticello area. This collection will be located in our museum, the former Woelffer Drug Store on Main Street in Monticello, Wisconsin.

VISION STATEMENT

The Monticello Area Historical Society strives to promote an interest in the uniqueness of the Monticello area by collecting and displaying artifacts that tell our community history. We further endeavor to enrich the community by connecting them to the past and saving the present to enhance the future.

hunting cap over it to make it easy to find before taking off for the other one. He came back to retrieve the first one just in time to see his red cap climb a tree and disappear in a hole at the top of the trunk. Yaussi says if the squirrel hadn't been injured it probably would have tipped Ernie's cap before disappearing. Albert Richard, a dairy farmer who's now taking it easy (he and his wife milk only 19 cows twice a day) told us about coon hunting along the Pecatonica River, but that's another story.

Meals for Students

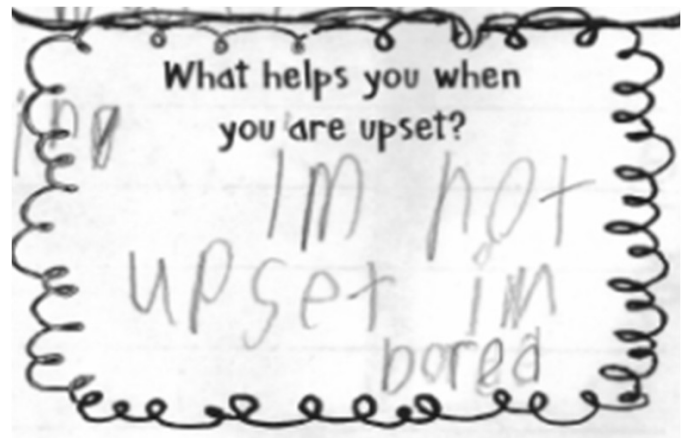


Although it is summer, economic hardships have deemed it necessary to make deliveries of meals from school to students. Delivery is provided by volunteers from the two churches. The day this photo was taken 140 meals were being delivered within our district. This is a first for our district.

Swimming Pool closed for the season due to Covid



Homework Packets were sent to all 2nd graders. Stored in our archives for future generations.



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|---|-------------------------------|--|
| <p>TO BECOME A MAHS MEMBER</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> CASH | <input type="checkbox"/> CHECK PAYABLE TO MAHS |
| <p>Mail this form and payment to the museum address or give them to our membership chairperson.</p> | <p>NAME: _____</p> | |
| <p>Membership year: May—April</p> | <p>ADDRESS: _____</p> | |
| <p>Individual dues - \$20/yr</p> | <p>EMAIL: _____</p> | |
| <p>Family dues - \$30/yr</p> | <p>PHONE: _____</p> | |
| <p>Lifetime dues - \$500</p> | | |

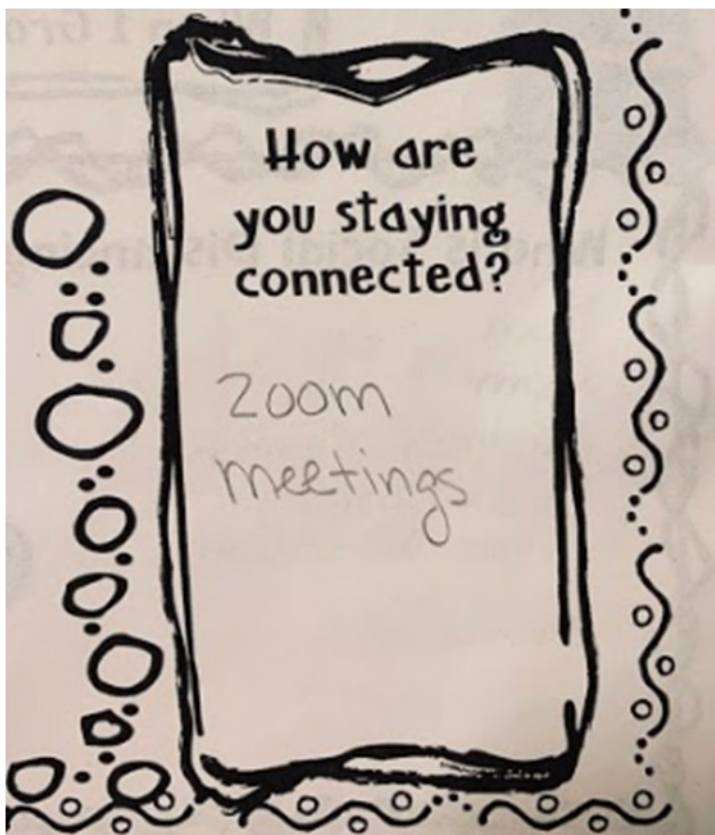
Date May 18th 2020

I Can See cars on the
highway, my neighbors, birds, My
Dog and the mailman. I can
touch Dad, Mom, Star, and me.
I can hear Mom, Dad, and
me. I can smell Pizza and
oranges. I can taste
pizza! I Grandma and
I painted. we worked
in angel garden. I flew
a plane and it got stuck
in a tree. The wind blew
it out! We went for
rides in Grandpa's 1936
Chevy hotrod. we worked on
a puzzle! I read lots
of books on eric!

Fast Internet for Monticello

In January, I thought the big story of the year for Monticello would be high speed internet for Monticello. Man was I wrong. TDS buried fiber optic to all of Monticello and Spectrum tore down all old cable wires and started over putting new coax cable on telephone poles. Both companies brought high speed internet to homes and businesses. Many residents did connect, but it was to work from home and to allow their kids to do schoolwork as the state shut down due to Covid. Video messages made work and school possible. Entertainment was still a use, but not as important as we expected.

When I retired from teaching, little did I think I would be helping a grandson use a computer to connect to his classroom. Here in Monticello all students were taught using the internet and stayed connected with their classmates and teachers. Many parents developed a true appreciation for teachers as they shouldered the responsibility of helping their children learn from home. End of school year activities were missed by all grade levels, but especially by seniors. Jules Cappelle



If you would like to be included in the "Covid 2020" file, write your experiences / feelings of this historical time and mail or e-mail to Jules.



Zwingli Church worship services were held in their parking lot monthly. Parish members stayed safe by remaining in their vehicle. Other weekly services were streamed on an internet service (You Tube).

Newsletters can be viewed on our website in color.

My life in Monticello has changed. Why, you may ask? In the spring of 2020, there was a virus outbreak all over the world. This virus, called the coronavirus, first started in China and being that it was not here at that time, no one really thought it was a big deal. But soon, it started spreading to many other countries, and before you knew it, nearby towns. The United States and many other countries started to lock down. In lock down, you have to stay home and practice social distancing where you have to stay 6 feet away from people that don't live in your home.

This was very difficult for me because my friends and I are very close. In fact, one of my best friends, Ella, had her birthday during this time which was very hard, but our community came together. The fire department got together and drove by with lights and sirens to say happy birthday, and our good friends all got together virtually to celebrate with her. I feel like it's very important to stick together during hard times like these.

Even though I feel like it is getting harder to be home and away from the world, I believe things can only get better from here. The reason I believe this is because things get worse, but then they eventually get even better. I have been through some hard times in my life and looking back, I can see how strong they made me and how I came out on top. I believe we will all grow and become stronger from these challenges.

Being stuck at home isn't all bad; it helps you and your family have more time together and appreciate each other. My friends and I have been having virtual sleepovers on Saturday nights. Our moms deliver goodie bags to all our friends, and then we go online to Google Hangouts, and we call each other. While we're on a call, we watch movies, play games, paint our nails, giggle and just enjoy each other's company. We also go to school online, and it's getting easier every day. I think this all will come to an end and go back to normal.

The Truth About COVID-19

If you are reading this, you are probably looking back on the events of the COVID pandemic. I am able to tell you some interesting information that you might not find in history textbooks. First here are the basics: coronavirus is a respiratory infection that was first documented in China, and COVID is short for coronavirus. It was in the news so much they thought they should shorten the name. When it first started, no one thought it would get this bad. It was December, and my class and I were enjoying our Christmas vacation. Of course we had heard on the news that they discovered a new type of virus in Wuhan, China but no one thought it would ever affect us....oh were we wrong.

There have been many significant changes in all of our lives. My home life is different in many ways. We have been on lockdown in our houses for almost 2 months, but it feels like years! My mom is working from home on her laptop, and my dad was laid off, but is now back to work. I have braces, and they even shut down the orthodontist clinic where I get them tightened! I haven't had an appointment since March! This could set me back, which means I might have to have my braces on even longer. Either my dad or my mom do the grocery shopping now. If I come, I have to wait in the car. I can still go take care of my grandmother or go to the chiropractor, but that is my only time I can go out of the house. Since I am stuck at home a lot, I try to keep myself busy by doing projects around the house, or playing with my pets. My home life changed drastically since the pandemic began.

As for school, everything is online. On our last day of in-person school, the teachers told us to clean out our lockers because we could be out of school for a while. Little did anyone know that "little while" could be the remainder of the school year! Teachers are worried about us not being able to do our assignments, and failing classes. We live in 2020, so not everybody has super fast internet, and some of us have no internet at all. As for me, since my mom is working from home using the Wifi, my brother and I have to wait until after she is done working to do our school assignments. Other than the slow Wifi, school has been going

pretty good. My school life has changed a lot since this pandemic began.

As for changes in the community, I haven't really been out that much, but I can tell you what I have heard. My parents have been doing all the grocery shopping lately, and they said that the shelves have been pretty empty. There was also a massive toilet paper shortage, so there was a couple weeks when you couldn't find toilet paper anywhere! The stores even had to take massive precautions. WalMart put out caution tape to make a line for people to stand six feet apart outside their store. They did this because they could only let a certain amount of people in the store at once. As for other civilians in the community, they should be staying home. Although, there has been a LOT of controversy on the news of people protesting. They are protesting about reopening the economy. President Trump and all of the state governors are also fighting about when to reopen the economy. With the economy closed, there are a lot of businesses at stake. The government handed out checks to families in the U.S.A. to boost the stock market/economy. Before they decided to close the economy and hand out "stimulus" checks, the stock market plummeted dramatically. There have also been many people who have organized specials on tv and things on the internet to boost people's spirits. The community has changed quite a bit since the pandemic began.

I hope this letter has helped you better understand the pandemic and how it affected so many aspects of so many people's lives. One thing I learned from this experience was to never take anyone for granted, and always make sure they know you are grateful to have them in your life.



Many other homes and businesses were decorated to help us thru the Covid. Thank you May Burgy for the museum decorations

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN

THE MONTICELLO AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 4TH THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH, **EXCEPT** JULY, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, IN THE NORTH ROOM OF ZWINGLI CHURCH AT 7:00 PM IN MONTICELLO,

MAHS Museum

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

Hours of Operation

Closed due to Covid 19.

Admission to the museum is free and a quarterly newsletter from your home town is included with your membership.

Please consider including the Monticello Area Historical Society in your will.

A guided tour of the museum can be arranged for all groups anytime.

MAHS Museum
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Monticello, WI 53570

