



[www.monticellohistoricalsociety.org](http://www.monticellohistoricalsociety.org)

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Jules Cappelle

[jules.cappelle@gmail.com](mailto:jules.cappelle@gmail.com)

## Due to Covid Museum Closed

### Our docent coordinators

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

# RECOLLECTIONS

*Monticello Area Historical Society News*

Year 2020, No. 4

## Inside: 11-11-11 Cyclone Victims Buried in Monticello

Dear Friends,

A recent cartoon stated “I’m not counting this year in my age – I didn’t use it!” That sort of sums up 2020. Monticello Area Historical Society passed its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in quiet quarantine.

Roger Dooley is totally, firmly retiring from his task of submitting a monthly picture to the Monroe Times history page. We are urgently seeking a volunteer to take over this job. We can provide the pictures and information for this brief once-a-month opportunity to help us. Jules Cappelle and Roger will be available for coaching. And a BIG thank-you to Roger for this project and so many other areas you are always there with answers and assistance.

And another appreciation note to Dan Frietag for donating his snow shoveling services of last winter to the Museum – Thank-you, Dan!

The museum is alive and well; waiting to share its stories and treasures next year. I hope you, our members and supporters, are eagerly anxious to get back to volunteering and assisting us any way you can. In the meantime, be kind, patient, and safe.

Happy Holidays,

Mary

**M.A.H.S.  
is 25!**

# Monticello Area Historical Society News

*The following history of Monticello was researched by Karen Brugger*

## **11-11-11 CYCLONE VICTIMS BURIED IN MONTICELLO**

Saturday, November 11, 1911 will go down in history as the most destructive storm in central Rock County claiming ten human lives and thousands of dollars in property damage at the onset of a harsh winter destroying farm homes and buildings as well as the products of the years harvest. The day dawned exceedingly hot, mercury climbing to 74 degrees, a marked change from the chill of the days preceding. Many felt this foreboded no good and shortly after 1 P.M. rain set in accompanied by high wind which increased in velocity until about 2 P.M. when there was evidently a meeting of wind currents in the upper atmosphere, producing a "twister." Huge black clouds gathered bearing in an easterly direction and at the same time swooping down towards earth. It was reported that horses on the road refused to step further. Some made haste for cellars and places of safety.

The Anton Schmid family had recently moved from the Monticello area to a farm near Hanover. Anton saw the storm approaching and went to the barn with his 13 year old son Albert to close doors and try to calm the livestock. At this time a "tramp" walking down the road sought shelter in the barn with the Schmid's. The storm hit the barn, blowing Anton ten rods into the hog pasture, killing him instantly. His neck was broken. The tramp and Albert were buried under several tons of hay in the ruins of the barn. The house was completely demolished and the two

Schmid girls were blown across the road into a plowed field, found lying eight feet apart, stripped of clothing and half buried in the mud. The older girl Elise (18) had a broken neck and skull fracture. Regina (9) also broken neck and ruptured abdomen. The tramp crawled out of the debris and ran to the outskirts of Hanover to seek help. A rescue party, one of whom was Samuel Schmid, brother of the dead children and who still lived at home but worked in Hanover went to the Schmid farm. They found the body of Anton first, then the girls and all were taken to the E.C. Brown home and laid out. Then they sought to look for Albert Schmid and after a two hour search he was located under 15 feet of hay in the ruins of the barn, a heavy timber lay across his legs pinning him down. He died of injuries two days later.

The person referred to as a "tramp" was a 51 year old laborer who had just finished work at a local farm that day. He was able to free himself from the hay and timbers that had fallen on him and was shocked to discover all the farm buildings gone as he emerged. It took a few minutes to get his bearings with no landmarks to be seen as he set out for help.

It was reported chickens had their feathers ripped from their bodies by the fierce winds that day and froze to death that night. Winter reportedly set in that night with snow and sub-zero temperatures. A 19 acre field covered in standing corn shocks totally bare after the storm, not an ear of corn to be found anywhere. Fortunately the storm hit on a Saturday as three rural school houses were totally destroyed, if children had been present the death toll would have

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### **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.

been much higher. As it was there were ten lives lost. Artifacts of the cyclone as it was then called were donated to the Milwaukee museum such as straw, nails, and shingles embedded in trees and fence posts.

The Schmid family had a sad history. The mother died in 1904. Five other brothers and sisters died earlier. A sixth sibling, Frieda (10) died of typhoid in October the year before the storm. Ironically, Samuel died 7 years later, killed in action in France World War I. Anton (52), Elise (18), Regina (9) and Albert (13) are buried in Monticello's Highland Cemetery. Elise (mother) and Rosa (9) buried in the Church Cemetery at Monticello. Newspaper accounts list 24 pallbearers carried the Schmid caskets from Hanover to the train which transported the bodies to Monticello.

Two brothers not home when the cyclone hit lived to old age. John (97) and Tony (93) both died at the New Glarus Home and are buried in Highland Cemetery. John was married to the former Grace Legler, daughter of Andrew and Emily (Schlittler) Legler of Monticello. The brothers changed their name from Schmid to Schmidt.

### Stores to Close

Our respective stores will close at 11 o'clock a. m. on Christmas day and remain closed for the balance of the day. Deliveries will be made all day Friday, but no deliveries will be made Saturday forenoon.  
 People's Supply Co.  
 W. E. Bontly & Co.

## NEW GLARUS IS COMING!

Strongly entrenched for the third big battle of the season, with former stars now home for the holiday vacation, the New Glarus basketball team will launch a super-offensive against the Monticello Legion team at

### Karlen's Hall-Christmas Afternoon

The New Glarus warriors fully realize that they've got to get away with the bacon in this Christmas Day Event, or else the five-game series will be finished right and there. The Monticello team has won two straight victories over New Glarus. Will the series end on Christmas Day, or will there be another chapter or two? Come and see the problem worked out. It will be worth your while.

Christmas Afternoon at 2:30.

25c and 35c

#### MEMBERSHIP

Mail this form and payment to the museum address or give them to our membership chairperson.

Membership year: May—April

**Individual dues - \$20/yr**

**Family dues - \$30/yr**

**Lifetime dues - \$500**

CASH

CHECK PAYABLE TO MAHS

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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Oxy-Acetylen Welding



# High School Notes

HOWARD KENNEDY, Editor

The New Glarus high school team met with a disastrous defeat on Tuesday evening of this week, when the Monticello high school team invaded that village.

A question asked in the Junior biology class on Tuesday by Otto Blum was: "If cows have horns, why is it that human beings have none considering that both are mammals?" The answer was: "Human beings use their tongues in self defense and have no use for horns."

The following were visitors at the high school on Monday: Hollis and Harvey Elmer, Gladys Freitag, Marian and Herbert Burgy; on Tuesday: James Dooly, Albert Blum, Hollis Elmer, Irving Ramein, Leo Regez and Ray Edwards.

The Juniors are having a general review of the work already done in the course of biology. Each member of the class is assigned a chapter on which to report and a great number of things are discovered which were not learned at the first reading. For instance, one thing they never knew before this week was that the copper head snake was formerly used as a food by the Sioux Indians and the Mexicans, and that it was called Baicone DeLuxe. Its author is Otto Blum.

The Misses Cathryn Clark and Tonetta Olson, teachers in the elementary grades, and the Misses Cecelia Herreid and Irene Welch, teachers in the high school, are going to their respective homes on Friday to spend the Christmas recess.

Miss Herreid's classes in English are preparing to entertain the community with a series of five dramatic presentation. The first production, a play,

"The Arrival of Kitty," is scheduled for January 21, at the Grand Central hall. Hurrah for home talent. Watch for announcements.

Principal Paul Bergen leaves at the week-end for Madison, Chicago and New York, where he will spend the holidays.

To Miss Winter, fair and lovely in her winter flurries, who came on Tuesday to stay with us for some brief months, we salute and-

Welcome Winter Maiden  
 In thy robe of white;  
 Welcome to our darkness  
 With thy showering light;  
 Welcome to our sunny days  
 With their flood of gold;  
 Stay with us till springtime  
 Comes, and your story's told.

There will be a gathering of children and teachers, too, in the high school assembly room on Thursday evening when a hot chocolate tete-a-tete will be served under the radiant light of a Christmas tree. Christmas carols, appropriate instrumental music and choice declamatory selections will be tendered. Presents? No. We are just rehearsing before coming home.

**EDWARD BLUMER, M. D.**  
 Physician and Surgeon  
 OFFICE AT RESIDENCE  
 Hours: 11 to 12 a. m. 2 to 3 and 7 to  
 p. m. Sunday by appointment.  
 Telephone 45.

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**H. J. HORNE**  
 DENTIST  
 Second floor of the new Legler Block.  
 Phone 103.  
 Office hours, 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.

**Newsletters can be viewed on our website in color.**

**FIRE AT VOEGELI HARDWARE**

**Ugly Looking Fire Nipped In Bud Via Chemical Route**


The Voegeli hardware store was threatened with destruction by fire shortly after 8 o'clock Monday morning as the result of a blaze which started from a gasoline water heating outfit in the basement of the store building. The fire was discovered when Postmaster Ira Pierce entered the store and Mr. Voegeli came from the rear room to wait upon him. Smoke was noticed coming through a hole in the floor through which a gas pipe had formerly run. Mr. Voegeli was convinced that something was wrong in the basement and immediately started to investigate. He found the entire northeast corner of the basement to be a mass of flames and the room rapidly filling with smoke.

The fire was raging so fiercely that he thought there was a slim chance of checking it and ran back upstairs to give the alarm and get the books out of the safe. Mr. Pierce ran across the street to turn in the alarm and at the same time Lora Pease, assistant at the store, descended the stairs and advanced upon the conflagration with a combination composed of a cool head and a couple of fire extinguishers. In a few minutes he "wirelessly" up from the basement the comforting news that he believed a few pails of water would bring the fight to a finish. It proved to be plenty. Wherefore the fire was be said that the fire apparatus was on the scene within a mighty short space of time after the alarm had been turned in.

The chemical extinguishers used by Mr. Pease had been in the store for perhaps twenty years. They were known a "Fire King" and were manufactured and put on the market by Fred Knobel, a former Monticello boy, now living at West Butte, Mont., while he was a student at the University of Wisconsin.



Marianne Elmer Lederman and Jenny Elmer have provided a replacement plaque at monument which was /is in memory of their dad, Harvey E. Elmer. December 18, 2020



# GIFTS of DISTINCTION

**CHRISTMAS PERFUMES**  
**PERFUME ATOMIZERS**  
**MANICURE SETS**  
**WHITE IVORY**

**SAFETY RAZORS**  
**SHAVING SETS**  
**MILITARY BRUSHES**  
**SHAVING MIRRORS**  
**MIRRORS**

**GIFT STATIONARY**  
**FOUNTAIN PENS**  
**EVER SHARP PENCILS**  
**TOURIST TABLETS**

**CAMERAS**  
**PHOTO ALBUMS**  
**CHRISTMAS FOLDERS**  
**GIFT BOOKS**

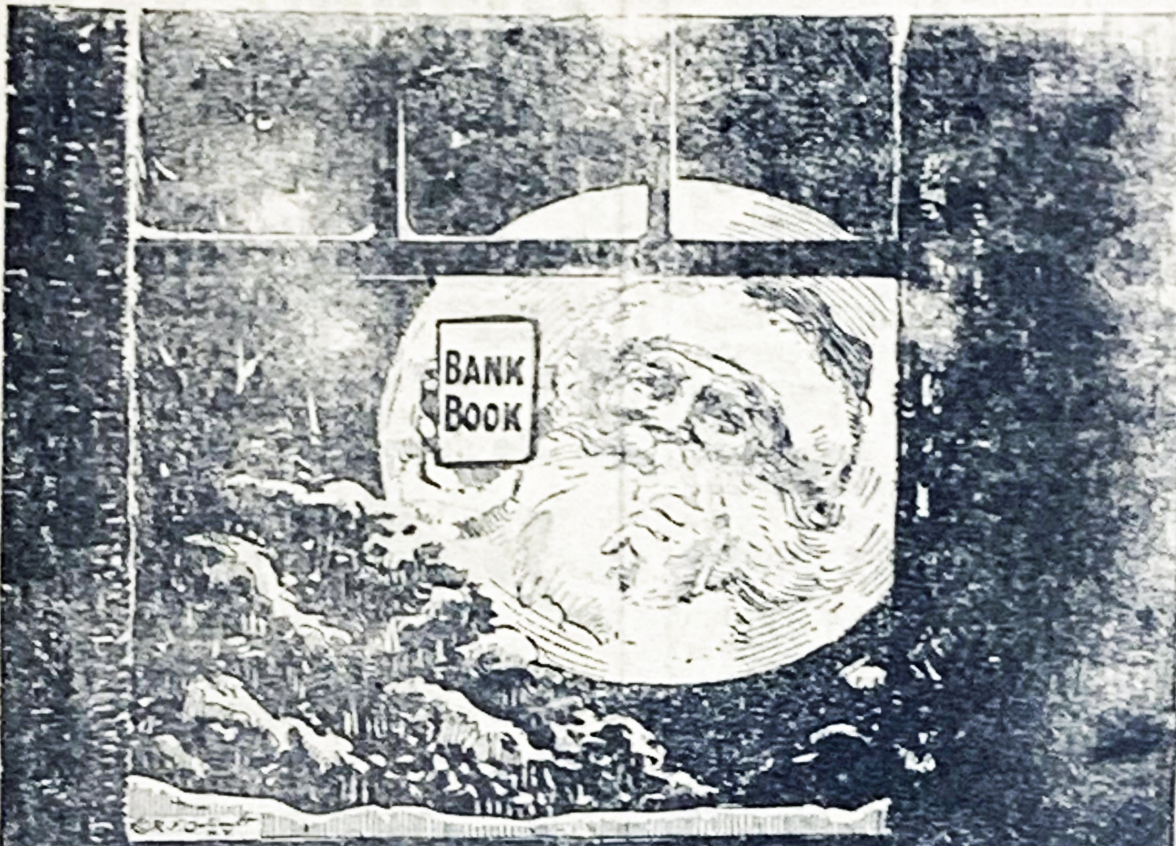
**BOX CANDY**  
**BOOKS**  
**PURSES**  
**CARD CASES**

**OTHER LEATHER GOODS**

## R. W. WOELFFER

*The Rexall Store*





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Merry Christmas*

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JACOB WITTENWYLER, Vice-President

J. W. BARLOW, Assistant Cashier.



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

### MAHS Museum

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

### Hours of Operation

The museum will be open  
May 4 until October  
2019  
but  
be  
ap-  
yone or  
Museum closed for tours during Covid.  
Call Mary Davis (608) 558-7387  
can  
open by  
pointment for an-  
a group wishing to stop by.

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

