



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

# RECOLLECTIONS

*Monticello Area Historical Society News*

Year 2021, No. 1

Inside:

## Service Garage Burns,

### MAHS Board of Directors

President - Mary Davis

Vice-Pres. - Nancy Rufener

Secretary - Sue Rieder

Treas. - Karen Brugger

Member - John Casey

Member - Don Kubly

Member - Hans Sulzer

### Coordinators

Docents - Kay & Bill Dickson

Programs - Paul Rieder

Newsletter - Jules Cappelle

Window Display—May Burgy

Membership - Carol Schultz

### Collection Archivist

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.

Dear Members and Friends,

The environment is cautiously changing. The median age of our membership translates to a high vaccine rate. Perhaps we can begin to develop ways to resume our museum operation. The board of directors will be meeting soon to discuss and evaluate our options and restrictions. I'm optimistic we can again be a presence on Main Street, Monticello.

Thank you, May Burgy – throughout this pandemic you kept our windows decorated and up-to-date.

Thank you, Karen Brugger for maintaining our financial reports; though the income column is nearly empty.

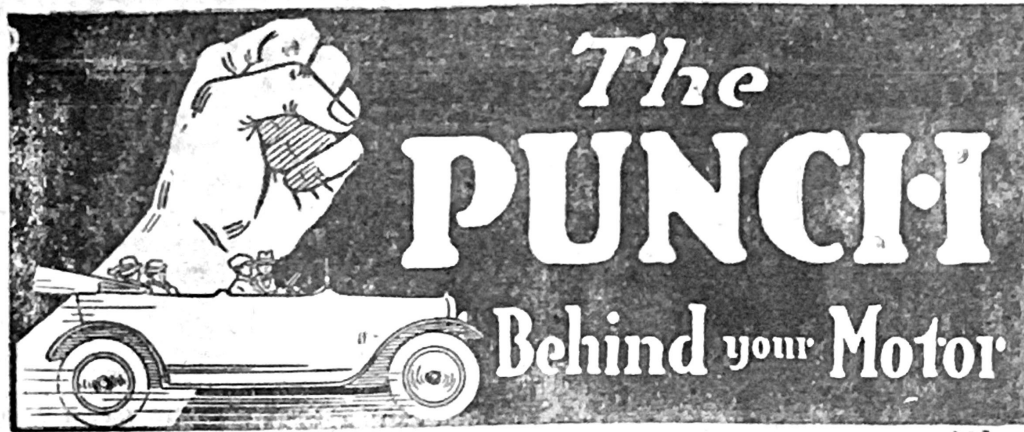
Thank you, Jules Cappelle for occasional building checks, elevator operations, and quarterly newsletters.

We are nearly 2 years past our annual meeting. Hopefully, we can organize one this year to get our board of directors on track again. There are vacancies to fill; please consider serving the museum as a board member, docent, or volunteer.

Happy Easter!

Mary Davis

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



Monticello Messenger April 7, 1921

**P**ERFECT PERFORMANCE means that you must have a real PUNCH behind your motor. This PUNCH is POWER. And power is the very first essential in ANY automobile.

Your motor CAN'T DELIVER the punch unless all of its many parts are working in perfect harmony.

The improper co-ordination of one small part will destroy the performance of the entire motor.

**EVERYTHING** must be RIGHT.

Right there is where the great value of FREQUENT INSPECTION comes in.

Form the good habit of consulting us OFTEN. It will pay you in BETTER PERFORMANCE, and in actual money saved.

**WE ARE AT YOUR SERVICE—ALWAYS.**

## The Service Garage

HOESLY, KRIEG & LEGLER

Machine Work

Oxy-Acetylen Welding

### 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.

# Monticello Area Historical Society News

The following history of Monticello was researched  
by Karen Brugger

## Service Garage Burns, Cars Destroyed

September 7, 1928 Filling the heavens with a veritable mountain of fiery light which could be seen for miles around Monticello, a spectacular blaze at midnight Thursday reduced the service garage to a smoldering mass of charred ruins, wreaking a damage of nearly \$15,000 while the Monticello Fire Department battled the flames valiantly but ineffectively.

The garage was owned by Wilbert S. Hoesly and George W. Armstrong and situated at the corner of the Village where the highway from Madison enters the business section (now Northside Cheese Factory site). The frame building was the former Northside school erected about 1888 for the lower grades.

The fire was discovered at 12 midnight by Traugott Senn, Jr. who was returning home from the other side of town. He immediately turned in an alarm and with prompt service at the switchboard by Mrs. P.J. Aultman, members of the fire truck squad were quickly aroused and arrived at the scene in short order. Hoesly, part owner who lives nearby noticed the fire and rushed to the building as Senn was on his way to put in the alarm. He tried to make his way into the garage to drive out some cars but was driven back by the oily and suffocating smoke which poured out in gigantic puffs. When the fire peaked huge rolls of black, murky smoke poured out of the building, fiery teeth flashing across the smudgy background as dense clouds of smoke on the upward flight. The deafening explosions of acetylene tanks and barrels of oil made the scene even more spectacular. One loud explosion blew out the top of an oil barrel sending the container up in the air several hundred feet to be found the next day 300 feet from the garage. This explosion sent frenzied onlook-

ers scurrying to safer zones.

The fire roused well over a hundred Monticello residents from their downy beds to see one of the village landmarks completely ruined. Many of the sleepy and slightly clothed onlookers had learned their A, B, C's as a youth in the flaming structure. However, many more town folks were undisturbed by the outbreak.

The fire is thought to have originated in the area where batteries were recharged. Mr. Hoesly and a few others left the garage shortly after 10 P. M. and reported everything normal. Shortly after discovery of the fire Mrs. Oswald Babler who resides next to the garage and is somewhat incapacitated was carried out of the house to safety. Chief C. M. Stauffer and his men directed chemicals on the Babler home which was imperiled by the tremendous heat and flames.

Four vehicles perished in the fire. An International truck owned by Vincent Babler in for repair work was destroyed, as well as a Chevrolet coupe property of Glenn Zimmerman. Also Mr. Hoesly's Oakland sedan and a Buick made-over truck belonging to the garage. Complete sets of auto repair tools ruined and a lathing machine valued at \$2000, one of the devices that made the garage the best equipped "small town" auto hospital in southern Wisconsin. New cars were stored in another structure saving the firm a larger loss. As the fire was dying down, old Sam, a dog owned by Mr. Hoesly made his appearance from its "home" under the garage floor as if nothing at all had happened. Sam looked around, shook himself and trotted down the street as astonished but amused firemen looked on bewilderingly.

The owners have no definite plans for the future. Insurance of \$700 carried on the structure and \$7000 carried on stock and equipment. No insurance settlement has been made.

MAHS has no pictures of the Service Garage. If you are aware of any, please donate and/or allow museum to scan photo.

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





Clothespin bag from Karlen and Steinmann. As it was announced recently that all phone numbers dialed will require 10 numbers within a year from now, think how simple it was to just dial “3” to talk to someone at the lumber company. Perhaps you may have wanted a load of coal to be delivered before the next cold spell?

## Our Favorite Recipes

### Escalloped Asparagus

Arrange stalks of asparagus from a large can alternately with slices of hard boiled egg, (3 eggs to a large can), in a casserole. Make a cream sauce using liquid from can. Pour over asparagus and egg. Cover with buttered bread or cracker crumbs. Bake 30 minutes. Hazel Becker

### Sweet Potato Casserole

Slice cooked sweet potatoes, and slice apples. First a layer of potatoes, then a layer of apples. Sprinkle with brown sugar and dot with butter. Fill casserole layer after layer, then cover with sliced bacon and bake about 35 minutes. Mata Lynn

### Banana Waffles

Sift together 1 cup flour, 1/4 teaspoon salt, 2 teaspoons baking powder. Add 3 egg yolks and 1/2 cup rich milk, beating thoroughly. Stir in 2 tablespoons melted shortening and 2 finely chopped ripe bananas. Fold in stiffly beaten egg whites. Bake in hot waffle iron. Alda Arn

Our Favorite Recipes Compiled by The Young Peoples Society 1940

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

# A HALF CENTURY OF PROGRESS

## Then and Now

Back in the days before the turn of the century Monticello was a small town, invigorated by the extension of two railroads through the village. Main street in 1896 looked little like it does today. Most of the business buildings were of wood. The unpaved streets were deep with dust in the heat of summer or greased with mud in the spring or wet seasons. Board walks flanked the street and they were lighted with kerosene lamps set on posts on the street corners. These were lighted by the official lamp lighter at dusk and were extinguished in the morning by thrifty minded citizens who first chanced by.

Monticello was fast becoming an important shipping center with its excellent railroad facilities. Livestock and cheeses were the major products of the vicinity. Most of the business in those days was of necessity done with cash instead of checks. In 1889 John Trogner and John Sears opened a private bank in a small brick building near the mill pond. Livestock buyers began paying for stock by check instead of cash and soon business men in general began using the facilities of banking, meagre as they were in those days.

In a few years the need was felt for a stock bank, incorporated under the laws of the state, and operated under the supervision of the State Banking Commission. The community was growing. On March 16th, 1896, a group of enterprising citizens started procedure to make it a reality. Mr. Trogner and Mr. Sears, who were operating the private bank, were interested in the forming of a state bank. In addition to them at that first meeting were Edward Wittwer, Fred W. Humiston, Jacob Marty, Christ Bontly, John Bontly, Albert Fulton, Henry Holdrich,

J.C. Steinmann and Fred Knobel. At an adjourned meeting held a week later they were joined by Dietrich Stauffacher, Jacob Wittenwyler, Edgar F. Wright, Dietrich Freitag, David Zimmerman, Oscar J. Persons, Dr. Dwight Flowers and Fred Breylinger. A committee was selected to negotiate with Trogner and Sears for the purchase of their building and equipment.

The investors met again on March 31st, when pledges for stock were signed. Articles of incorporation were drawn and a set of by-laws were enacted. The capital of the bank was set at \$25,000.00 and April 16th, 1896, was set as the day the new bank would be opened for business.

On April 16th the organizers met at the bank, paid in their stock pledges, and elected a board of directors. They in turn elected Jacob Marty as their first president, a position he held with ability until July 1st, 1908. John Sears was elected the first cashier and served until he resigned in 1901.

From that small beginning, when a few books and a bottle of ink were all the requirements needed to keep the banking records of those days, has grown our present institution, using modern methods and bookkeeping machines to handle million dollars in checks alone each month as they pass through the bank.

In 1910 the bank had outgrown its first quarters and a new building was erected on the present site. In 1925 this building was remodeled. The recessed front with arched entrance was removed in order to make more room for the lobby and to provide for a small office room. In 1930 the fixtures were remodeled. Bullet proof glass was used to enclose the working area and make holdups a near impossibility. Again need of greater space is felt and additional building and remodeling is contemplated in the near future.

Conservation has always been the watchword



at the bank and those principles laid down by the founders have proven a sound vehicle in which the bank has traveled through good years and depression years without mishap.

At the close of the first year of business the bank paid a dividend to its stockholders. Not one year has passed since then without the payment of a dividend. This is a record held by few banks and speaks well for the manner in which the bank has been managed.

In 1914 the capital stock was increased to \$40,000.00 by the sale of \$15,000.00 additional stock. The total capital investment of the stockholders as of December 31st, 1945, amounted to \$151,694.96.



Insist on  
Dodd's

Three  
Days in  
Name

**DODD'S  
KIDNEY  
PILLS**

BEST FOR KIDNEY

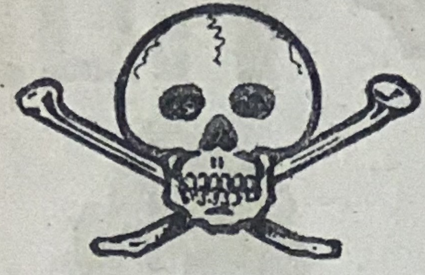
FOR - RHEUMATISM  
URINARY AND  
BLADDER TRUB

"My Mother, 75 years old, used **DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS** for her back. She could hardly stand up straight. Three days' use brought a big change. Upon finishing the whole box she is well again; feels as young as a lady fifty years old.

**WM. F. BOETTCHER,**  
137 W. George Street,  
St. Paul, Minn.

Ask your druggist or order direct from **Dodd's Medicine Co.,** Buffalo, N. Y. Only 60c and Guaranteed.

**Diamond Dinner Pills**  
For Constipation Never Gripe



**Ansbacher's  
Arsenate of Lead**

is

**A Poison Label  
On Your Trees**

It spells "Quick Death" to insect pests. It gets 'em as soon as they start to nibble.

It's poor policy to kill pests slowly and let them eat up half the foliage before they die.

**SPRAY WITH  
ANSBACHER'S**  
"The First and Best Insecticides"

FOR SALE BY

**R. W. WOELFFER**



# Save Money on These Saturday Specials

Veal Stew, per pound.....	<b>13c</b>
Veal chops, per pound.....	<b>20c</b>
Veal Roasts, per pound.....	<b>20c</b>
Beef Roasts, per pound.....	<b>18c</b>
Lard, per pound.....	<b>18c</b>
Good Luck Oleomargerine, lb.....	<b>30c</b>
Home Cured Bacon, by piece, lb.....	<b>25c</b>

**MONTICELLO MEAT MARKET**  
ALFRED VOEGELI, Proprietor

Monticello Messenger April 7, 1921

## LARGE VOTE IN VILLAGE

### County Supt. Contest Results In Vote Above Average

Monticello figured rather strong in the voting in Tuesday's election, a total of 167 ballots having been cast during the day. Business with the election officials was not overly brisk during the early hours but in the afternoon the scene was transformed to one of unusual activity about the polling place. Many women were included among the voters. Inasmuch as there was no contest for any of the village offices, the heavy vote was no doubt due to interest in the contest for county superintendent of schools. For this office the present incumbent, John N. Burns, received 84 votes, while his opponent, Miss Ruegsegger, received 78.

The result of the vote for county superintendent in other precincts of the county appears elsewhere in this issue.

The following village officials were elected to succeed themselves:  
 President—Edw. Blumer.  
 Trustees—Henry F. Freitag, Dan Wichser and Albert Knobel.  
 Clerk—S. E. Richards.  
 Assessor—Chas. Clark.  
 Treasurer—W. A. Loveland.  
 Supervisor—J. H. Figi.  
 Constable—Fred Jordan.

### Town Election Results

In the towns of Mt. Pleasant and Washington all of the old officials were elected to succeed themselves, as follows:

Mt. Pleasant—Chairman, T. O. Silver; clerk, C. D. Kennedy; assessor, Silas Lewis; treasurer, J. Jacob Hefty.  
 Washington—Chairman, Fred K. Hefty; treasurer, John Moritz; assessor, J. B. Purcell; justice, Wm. Karlen; constable, Otto Loveland.

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  
26,  
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

