



RECOLLECTIONS

JANUARY 2012

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. – Karen Brugger
Secretary – May Burgy
Treas. – Jennifer Blumer
Member - John Casey
Member - Michael Wayland
Member - Donald Kubly

Collection Manager

William Zimmerman

Collection Archivist

Karen Gempeler

Volunteer Coordinators

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

Museum News

We hope you had a joyous Christmas and will have a happy New Year!

This year we had **227 visitors** from Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, Oregon, California and Alabama.

Our docents also took several classes of school children through the museum. The smaller school children were stunned and horrified to discover that the museum had once been a....GASP!....DRUG store! Karen Brugger also had to explain to one young boy what shoe polish was used for. 65 years from now, will that kid have to explain to his grandchildren what "sneakers" were? Probably!

A big thank you to **Mr. Cappelle's class** for the Christmas tree decorations they made for our Dec. 3 Open House.

To date, we've officially recorded **2151.95 volunteer hours!** That's 269 8-hour days of labor devoted to the maintenance and operation of our museum! The second floor remodeling was our largest project followed by time spent on planning and fabricating the new sports display. Docent duties and collection cataloging made up the rest of the time.

In a past newsletter I mentioned the average cost of keeping the museum heat and light bills paid. To help offset these costs, it's been suggested that members might like to recognize a family member's birthday by honoring that person with a \$12 utility donation to the historical society. If you really love them a lot, you can pay our utility bill for their whole birth month!!

Remember – Our next general membership meeting will be January 26, 2012 at the north room of the Zwingli church, 7 p.m.

Welcome to our new 2012 members

Life – **Norman & Carol Crouch**, Rosemount, MN
Annual – **Paul & Maria Kollas**, Hood River, OR

The following donations were received this past quarter.

Dean Ferguson – A beautifully crafted oak podium he made for our guest book.

William Escher – 19" flat panel computer monitor for our main floor computer.

Monticello Schools – 2009 – 2010 High School Annual.

Dorothy Halvorson – Account ledger from the Stauffacher farms, circa 1930 -1950

Linda Schiesser – Child's antique wooden folding chair to be used for display purposes.

Gene Lynn – Generous monetary donation.

Donald Kubly – Personal donation with employer's triple matching donation.

Thomas Hefty – Generous monetary donation.

Estate of Hazel Kundert – Monetary donation and one of Hazel's framed oil paintings.



Winter in the Monticello Area

Hans Sulzer's 1978 photo of the Illinois Central train stuck at Schultz Crossing. Single-lane roads with snowbanks higher than a car. Unidentified bicycle rider on Main St., circa 1960. Snowbanks in front of the Woelffer drugstore, undated.



'Homecoming' Plans Being Completed by Local Civic Leaders Saturday, Sept. 11 is Set For Mammoth Local Celebration

Plans are going forward at a rapid pace for one of the greatest days Monticello has ever been host to when on Saturday, Sept. 11, the village will be the scene of the first annual Homecoming Celebration. The schedule calls for one of the greatest events of its kind ever held in Monticello and a record crowd is expected.

The greatest emphasis will be placed on the word, "Celebration" because it will mean just that, with the word "Homecoming" at the head of the line to give it a better balanced meaning.

--MONTICELLO MESSENGER, AUG. 19, 1937

Visit Here Enroute Coast-to-Coast Now Headed For New York to See Lester Barlow, Former Monticello Boy, Now Famous Inventor

Enroute on a coast to coast motor trip, Mrs. Grace Barlow and daughter, Frances, Colton, Calif., were guests of Monticello relatives from Saturday until Monday when they resumed their long journey.

The Californians are headed for New York state where they plan to visit indefinitely at the home of Lester Barlow, famous inventor and a former resident of Monticello, who is a step-son of Mrs. Barlow and a half brother of Miss Barlow.

Gains International Fame

Mr. Barlow, who gained worldwide prominence during the world war through the invention of a highly destructive aerial bomb and who is reputed to have sold his invention for an outright cash payment of \$100,000 with royalties in addition, has for some years been associated with Gutzlem (sic) Borglum, internationally prominent sculptor, some of whose best known work is the carving of a likeness of George Washington on the mountainsides in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

The former Monticelloan, who resided here as

a boy before going to Clear Lake, Iowa, has his laboratory on the Borglum estate which is situated on the banks of the picturesque Hudson river, about 30 miles from New York City. Mr. Barlow also designs all of the tools and equipment used by Borglum in his work as sculptor.

--MONTICELLO MESSENGER, JULY 11, 1935

INVENTOR THE GOAT AS THEORY BLOWS UP

WASHINGTON, Sunday. (A.A.P.) - Publicized as the most deadly explosive of the age, Lester Barlow's "liquid oxygen" failed to injure any of 84 goats tethered within 1,000 ft. when a 1,000 lb. bomb was exploded yesterday.

"I was the goat," was the comment of Inventor Barlow.

Some weeks ago he blew up a sandbag emplacement and tree trunks with small quantities. The record of his evidence before a Congressional committee was destroyed because of fears that it might fall into unfriendly hands. His experiment with goats was opposed by animal protection societies and some explosives experts, the latter on the ground that goats were not susceptible to concussion.

--MELBOURNE ARGUS, MAY 27, 1940

Conduct Last Rites For Former Citizen Of Monticello Area E. D. Frautschy, Aged 67, Called; Washington Native

Funeral services for Edward D. Frautschy, widely known and highly esteemed life-long Green county resident, who passed away at the age of 67 years at his home 2002 Eleventh street, Monroe, Friday night following an illness of only 24 hours, were held at the Shriner-Neuenschwander funeral home in Monroe, at 2 Monday afternoon. Rev. Alvin C. Rabehl, of the Immanuel Evangelical church, officiated and interment was in Greenwood cemetery, Monroe.

Striking with sudden and unexpected force Mr. Frautschy was overtaken with a cerebral hemorrhage while at work in his studio Thursday evening. Mrs. Frautschy was with him in the studio at the time of the unfortunate incident; which was believed to have been brought about

by the long hours Mr. Frautschy had been spending with his holiday work.

He was taken to his home by the Monroe Legion ambulance that evening and he continued unconscious until the end came the following evening.

Native of Washington Twp.

Edward D. Frautschy was a native of Washington township, having been born March 27, 1870, the son of John and Mary Isely Frautschy. On Dec. 4, 1894, he was united in marriage to Elvira Tone, who passed away Nov. 1, 1914. This union was blessed by three children, one daughter and two sons. On July 1, 1916, he was married to Marie Zumkehr, the ceremony taking place in Rockford, Ill.

Mr. Frautschy first became interested in his profession by outdoor camera work while on the farm where he was born, having had particularly good luck taking shots of cattle and objects about the farm. For a number of years he was located in Monticello where he maintained studios in the home now owned by S. W. Grenzow, and later on the second floor of Peoples Supply Company store.

For some time he farmed just west of town on the farm now owned by Herman G. Karlen. His fine work in Monticello brought people from all parts of the county and he eventually moved his studio to Monroe. He was a familiar figure at community gatherings in all parts of the county and took snap shots of countless community functions.

In recent years Mr. Frautschy gained professional recognition by election as president of the South Central Photographers' association, having been elevated to that office in 1933 after serving for a year as association treasurer.

Highly Esteemed Citizen

Mr. Frautschy was widely known throughout this part of the state, people coming to his studio from miles around to pose for photographs. His passing from our midst occasioned sincere regret among his large number of friends and acquaintances. Always of a jovial disposition, Mr. Frautschy had established himself as one of the best liked men in the communities in which he lived. He was known for his unquestioned honesty and indelible character.

Survivors, besides the bereaved widow, are one daughter, Mrs. Harold W. Gordon, Monroe, one son, Merle Frautschy, Albany, one grandchild, two brothers, John Frautschy, Clarno, and Christ, Orangeville, two sisters, Mrs. John U. Kubly and Mrs. Fred Trumpy, both of Monroe. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Fred and Jacob, and one son, Leland, who passed away in infancy.

—MONTICELLO MESSENGER, DEC. 9, 1935

Nearly 86, But You'd Never Know It

A. W. Stout Boasts Colorful Career; Punched Cows on Texas Ranch For Over Four Years

A. W. Stout, one of Monticello's best known citizens, is nearly 86 years old, but you'd never know it! Not if you gauge his years by his unusual vigor and enthusiasm which would flatter many much younger men.

Monticello residents have always been surprised at A. W.'s hustling step and industrious disposition, considering his advanced age, but they received a real surprise a few days ago when "Al," as he is affectionately known to old and young folks alike, clambered onto a high scaffold while completely shingling the west side of his business building on Main street. And he "took to the job" just like Lindy takes to the skylanes.

For many years "Al" was engaged in the carpentry trade, a fact which is very well known to many residents of the community, but there are many local citizens who really know extremely little about the colorful past history of this unassuming "young man" of Monticello.

Believe it or not, but in his younger days, "Al" Stout, then a strapping young man of 22, who was richly imbued with the churning spirit of adventure, left the state of Missouri with three other youths in a covered wagon, drawn by a mule team, and headed down into Texas where he "punched" cattle for more than four years.

Enacting the role of a real cowboy in those days was no job for a cake-eater or a wrist-slapper because Indians, regular old redskins, roamed the plains with blood in their eyes and scalping knives on their hips. One of the three cowboys with whom the Monticelloan went to Texas was found dead one day with a fatal wound inflicted

by Indians. He had driven a bunch of thirsty cattle to a water hole out on the plains and had been ambushed by the redskins.

During his stay on the Texas ranch, Mr. Stout participated in the big cattle drives every fall into the north toward Kansas and Nebraska, to Ellsworth and Ft. Hayes and up along the Platte river, crossing the wilderness then known as the Indian territory and later to become the state of Oklahoma. From 15 to 25 cowboys took part in the "drives," which numbered as high as 10,000 cattle. The animals were sold by the ranchers at market places along the way.

Mr. Stout recalls with interest how nearly 10 different herds, each numbering 1,000 head and driven at well spaced intervals along the northern trail, were stampeded by a heavy storm and ran together in a huge milling herd of nearly 10,000 frightened, bellowing steers. It required nearly three weeks' time before the different ranchers finally succeeded in dividing the animals into the original herds.

Buffalo and other wild game were abundant in the Texas territory in those rugged pioneer days and Mr. Stout has many thrilling stories to relate concerning his experience as a hunter in the old southwest. Born Dec. 20 1849 at Oneco, just a few miles across the Illinois state line, "Al" Stout remained there until he was 14 years old and then spent a year as a drug store employee in Monroe. Then he went to Ohio where he resided a year with an uncle and aunt while attending school in the Buckeye state.

The call of adventure again lured the Oneco youth and he went to Lexington, Mo., where he obtained employment in the hemp fields along the Missouri river. Then he spent a year in Colorado, employed by a company engaged in floating railroad tie lumber and other similar materials down the Colorado river. His colorful career as a cowboy was his next experience after a brief return to Missouri. After receiving his "fill"

of ranch life, Mr. Stout headed north into the Indian territory and was employed for more than a year as fireman on a 157-mile railroad line from Muscoga to Dennison. A whirl at the carpentry trade, which had more lasting appeal to him than any other previous occupations, next engulfed Mr. Stout and he spent two years working on the new state capitol building at Austin, Texas. Later he went to Chicago to attend the world's fair in 1893, coming to Monticello from the Windy City.

Soon after his arrival here, Mr. Stout built the Advent church and has since built or assisted in

the erection of more than 20 residences in Monticello. He also constructed the Stout building, situated on the corner of Main street and Railroad avenue, and for three years he operated a restaurant and ice cream parlor on the first floor, which was remodeled several years ago and has practically ever since been occupied by the Voegeli Tire & Service building. Mr.

Stout also served as rural mail carrier out of the Monticello post office for two or three years.

-MONTICELLO MESSENGER, AUG. 1, 1935



THE BEAUTY PARLOR

I sat and watched them enter
As they all hurried in,
The slim and pale and tall ones
And those with double chin.
No trace of youthful freshness
Or beauty could I see —
But as they hurried homeward
All beauties seemed to be.
And I who play with letters
And let the figure be —
Began to hope and wonder —
Could she do that to me?

-EXCERPT FROM BITTERSWEET, A BOOK OF
POEMS BY LEA KILGORE-NOTTINGHAM