

Artifacts

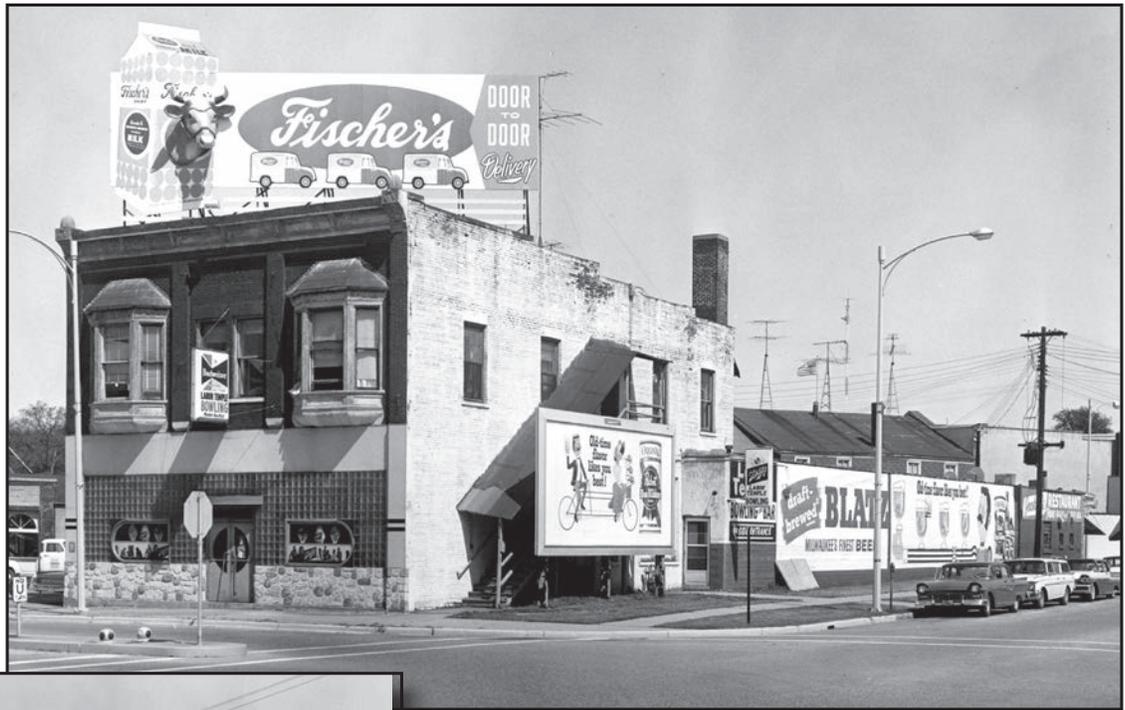


Cover: Cal's Bowling Lanes, 1944, later Bowlmor (Billmeyer collection); More Cal's Bowling Lanes, page 2; Labor Temple, p. 3; President's Message by Phil Brown, 4; Wood County National Bank by Phil Brown, 5-9; Billmeyer Collection by Lori Brost, 10; Website, 11; Paul Gross, 11; SWCHC Museum blueprints, 12-15; Montgomery Ward, 16-17; 50-Year Class Reunion with James Mason, 18-27; God-Speed Abner Atwood by David Laspa, 28-29; Campfire Stories by Billy Parker, 30; Camp Randall by Billy Parker, 31; Elvis & the Zakons, 32.



Plans by A.F. Billmeyer & Sons were drawn up in August 1940 for Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Calvi, formerly of Montreal, Wis., who wanted a tavern and bowling alleys on Highway 73 in the town of Grand Rapids, now 8th Street in Wisconsin Rapids. In 1945 Cal's Alleys (or Bowling Lanes) were purchased by the Bowlmor Recreation company, president Lloyd Franson. Other Bowlmor members were John Kuenn, vice president; Ray Burchell, secretary-treasurer; and L.M. Dun, director and alley manager. *Photos from the Billmeyer Collection, SWCHC*





Lloyd Franson, who, with others, purchased Cal's Bowling Lanes in 1945, also operated a bowling alley in what was the Labor Temple, First Street North. *Photos from Billmeyer collection, SWCHC*



SWCHC President Phil Brown

Shiloh to Gettysburg

About a year ago, in commemoration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, Uncle Dave, Holly Knoll, Billy Parker, Dave Laspa and other volunteers began putting together a great exhibit that featured local connections to the Battle of Shiloh. In 2013, volunteer Parker and others will be helping update our current exhibit to examine the Battle of Gettysburg.

A few highlights from the 2012 SWCHC Annual Meeting, Sept. 17, 2012:

- Membership numbers remain strong at 347. Financial donations above the basic membership level for 2012 have also been reasonably good. Thank you for your continued support.

- We have once again seen tangible donations of historical materials increase. As you can imagine, with more items coming in, the board has started to discuss storage issues. We will keep you posted as we begin to address this situation.

- As one of the first local history groups to embrace technology, we are nearing the completion of our fifth year of organizing and copying (through digital technology) our extensive photo and negative collection.

- We are currently working on our new website and sometime in the near future, hope to have many more images available online.

After long terms on the Board of Directors, (Uncle) Dave Engel and Francis “Bud” Daly have decided to step down. On behalf of the Board, I extend them thanks for their service. Dave also resigned as Museum Director, but has agreed to continue as editor of *Artifacts* and SWCHC historian.

Andrew Barnett, McMillan Memorial Library Assistant Director, will be joining the board in 2013. Welcome aboard Andy!

Other board members are Richard Bender, Nicholas J. Brazeau Sr., Philip Brown, J. Marshall Buehler, Page Casey Clark, Kathy Daly, Robert Detlefsen, Barry Jens, Sarah Sigler, Peter Smart, Jack Wesley and Robert Zimmerman.

Officers for 2013 are Philip Brown, President; J. Marshall Buehler, Vice President; Sarah Sigler, Secretary; Jack Wesley, Treasurer.



SWCHC president Phil Brown with wife Mary Brazeau Brown at their historic Glacial Lake Cranberries marsh in Cranmoor township.

Phil Brown's Den of Antiquities

Wood County National Bank

In the August 2012 *Artifacts*, I shared photographs of the southwest corner of what is now East Grand Avenue and Second Street South. Now, I would like to focus on the northwest and northeast corners of that intersection.

The Aug. 22, 1891, *Centralia Enterprise & Tribune* announced the founding of a financial institution named Twin City National Bank, serving Grand Rapids and Centralia. One week later, the *Enterprise & Tribune* reported that, "It was decided to name it the Wood County National Bank."

According to the Nov. 7, 1891, *Enterprise & Tribune*, the Wood County National Bank opened for business on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 1891. The first location was on the northwest "bridge" corner of East Grand and Second Street South in what is now Veterans Memorial Park.

The work of veneering the new building was done by W.E. and Louis Ule of Stevens Point, using St. Louis red-pressed brick, called the finest ever used in this part of the country.

The bank installed a fire-proof vault and employed the latest burglar-proofing devices.

Members of the Board of Directors were: Frank Garrison, Thomas E. Nash, Lewis M. Alexander, Edmund Roenius and Franklin J. Wood.

Officers were: Frank Garrison, President; Lewis M. Alexander, Vice President; and Franklin J. Wood, Cashier.

Wood had held a similar position at the First National Bank of Grand Rapids.

Other original incorporators and principal stockholders were Charles B. Clark, of Kimberly, Clark & Co., Neenah, Wis. and William F. Vilas, Madison, U.S. Senator from Wisconsin and friend of Thomas E. Nash. Vilas and Nash were in the process of founding Nekoosa Paper Co.

The Ules were also replacing the facade of the adjacent St. Amour general store building with St. Louis brick to match the bank. It was said that when the work was completed, "this will no doubt make the handsomest corner in either city [Grand Rapids and Centralia]."

GRAND RAPIDS, Wis.
On the left side of this postcard image, you can glimpse the edge of the Wood County National Bank. Next to the bank was J.T. Schumacher's general store, later the Sugar Bowl restaurant. The bank's location on the corner later became Gleue Shoe Store.





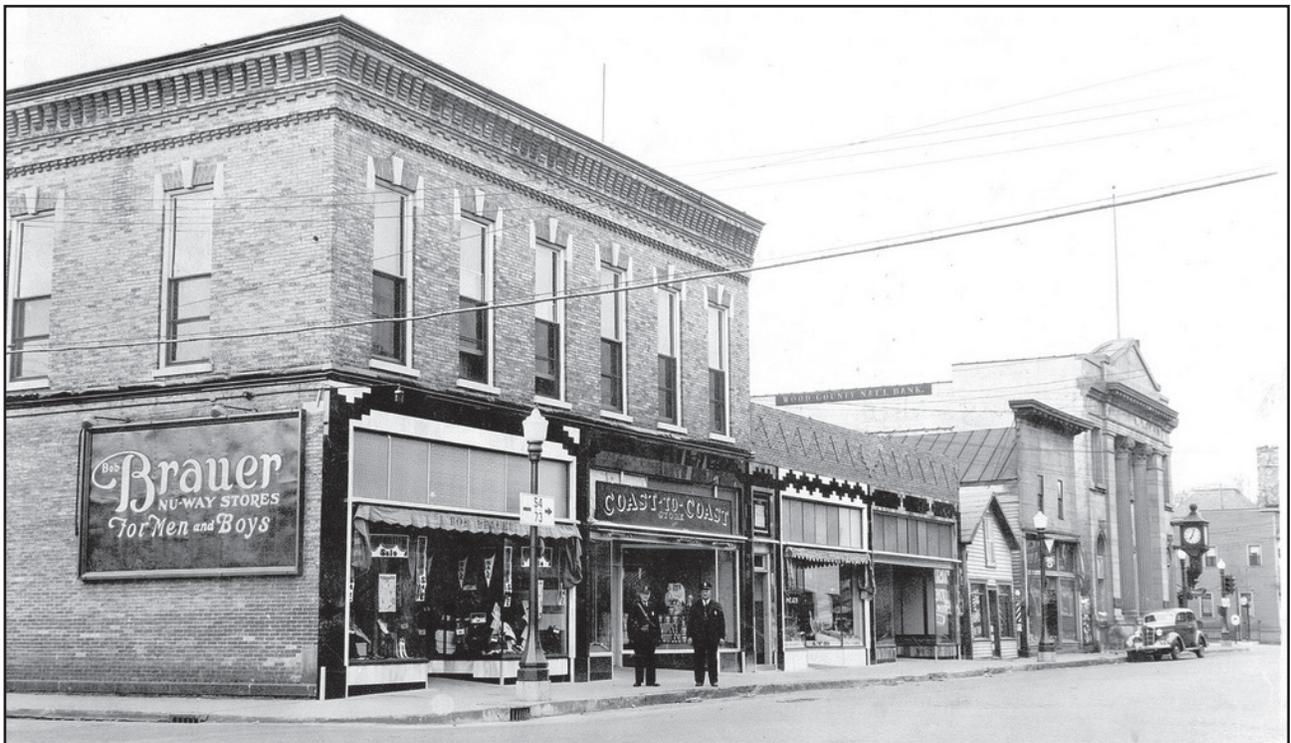
West side of Second Street between Oak and Grand, c. 1905, John E. Daly Drug & Jewelry, right. Proceeding left were L. Fournier barber shop; Charles Gougas' saloon; a two-story building once Ben Silber's men's store; a sometimes saloon; J.T. Schumacher's Lady's Ready Wear and Dry Goods, formally St. Amour's general store; and, on the corner of East Grand and Second Street, the original Wood County National Bank.



By about 1930, Daly Drug has expanded into space that was once a barber shop. J.C. Penney store occupies the next building to the left. Continuing toward E. Grand Ave.: Gamble's Hardware, a radio shop, a barber shop, Sugar Bowl Café and finally, Gleue Shoe in the space of the original Wood County National Bank.



About 1930, looking north on Second Street from East Grand Avenue. From left: Gleue Shoe; Sugar Bowl Café; barber shop; radio shop; Gamble Hardware; J.C. Penney and Daly Drug. The Flatiron building, once the First National Bank, comes into view at left center. On the east side (right) of Second Street is the Wood County National Bank. *Many images of downtown Wisconsin Rapids on this page and others from the Tom Taylor photo collection can also be viewed on the McMillan Memorial Library website.*

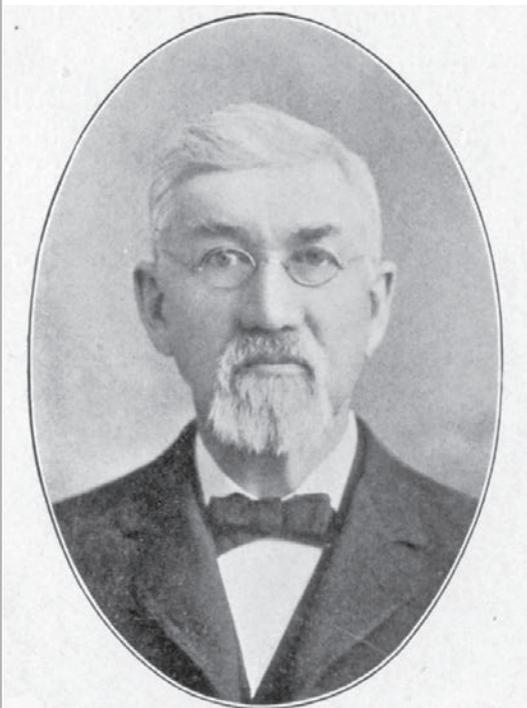


About 1930, looking south from the intersection of Oak Street and Second Street. At the left corner is Brauer's clothing and at right, on the corner of East Grand Avenue and Second Street is the Wood County National Bank.



Pete Pavloski

It appears that Robert Farrish (shown below) is pictured on the left above in front of his store.



ROBERT FARRISH.

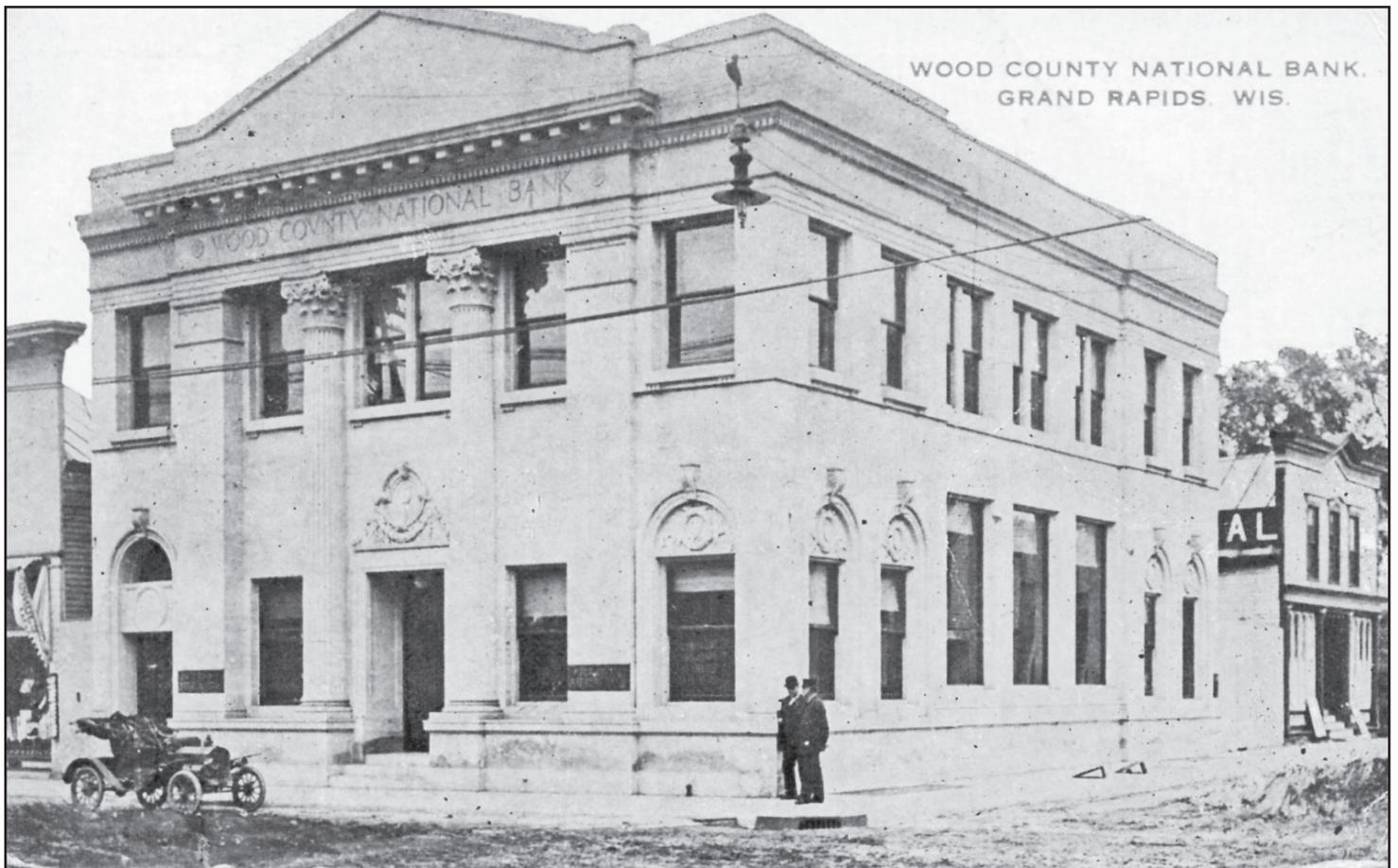
A. Decker, Along the Wisconsin River 1907

The northeast corner of what is now East Grand Avenue and Second Street South, was the location of R. Farrish & Bro. general store before it became the site of Wood County National Bank, now WoodTrust Bank.

By May 1911, the imposing new structure shown on the next page was built across Second Street from the bank's original location.

To clear the lot for the new bank building, the old Farrish store was moved around the corner so it faced Vine Street, now East Grand Avenue, where it became home to the Ideal Theatre, one of our first "Moving Picture" houses, operated by Sam Smart and brother.

The Farrish site was believed to have been a traditional trading place for Indians. The store had been built by Joseph Homier, a hardware and grocery merchant.

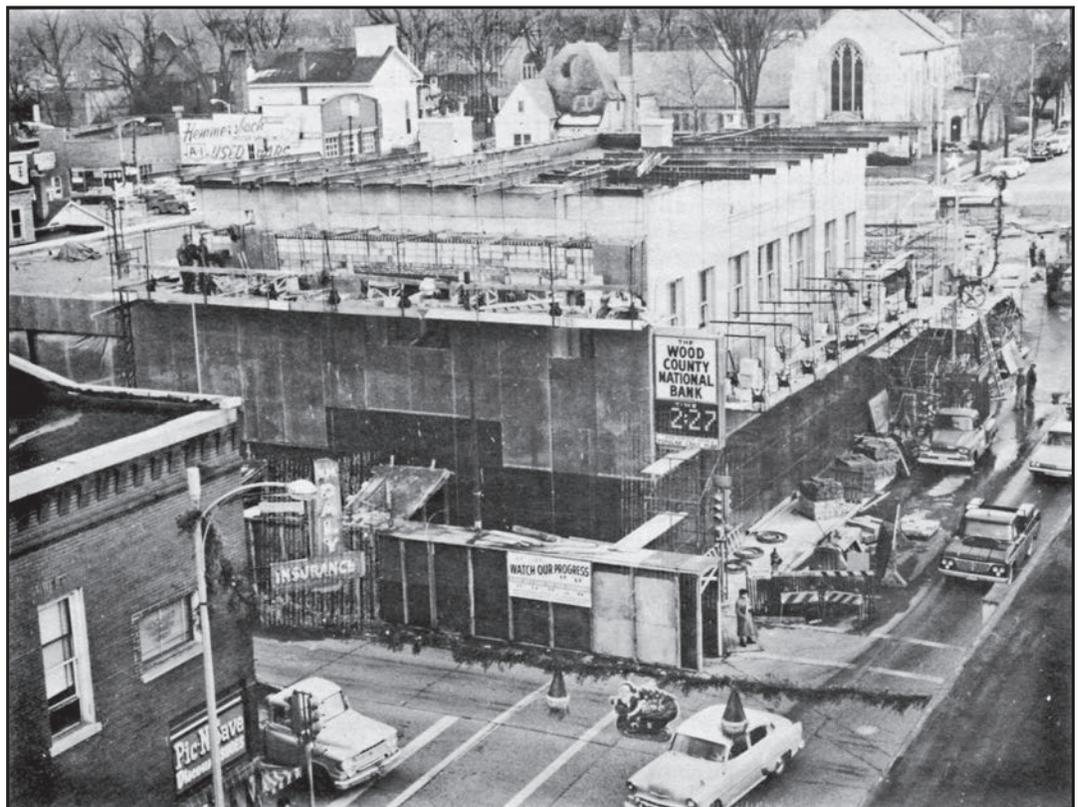


The Ideal Theatre at right is the former Farrish and Bro. store building, moved to the east.

**1963
Remodeling**

Wood County
National
Bank

From
*River City
Memoirs II*



Lori Brost, Museum Administrator

Billmeyer Collection

Recently the Museum received numerous gifts: a pinball machine, yearbooks, a Cranboree t-shirt and scrapbooks from the Business and Professional Women. These donations ranged from a single piece to a group of 60 and did not require a lot of time to document, inventory and photograph.

But from time to time we receive larger collections, such as the Don Krohn *Daily Tribune* photos or the Farrish family photographs, letters and documents. These require more time and effort to process; but they pale in comparison to the latest—the accumulated documents of the Billmeyer architectural firm.

In 1869, German-born Anton Billmeyer, a stone mason, and his wife, arrived in Grand Rapids.

Their son, Anton Francis Billmeyer, was born in 1873 and developed an early fondness for sketching the neighbor's homes. At 16, he worked in Milwaukee as a carpenter and took night drawing classes from a civil engineer.

Anton, known in business as "A.F." and often called "Tony," returned to Grand Rapids in 1895 to work as a contractor, builder and architect. He installed his practice in 1908 across from attorney J.W. Cochran in the Wood County National Bank building described elsewhere in this publication.

Around 1923, the business became A.F. Billmeyer & Son, Architects-Contractors, with the addition of Anton's oldest son, Carl, who had graduated from Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh, Penn. The two would only be in business together the short time until Tony's 1927 death.

Carl maintained the status of architect, general contractor and builder until the 1950s when he

moved out of construction to focus on the designing and drawing he truly enjoyed. Carl changed the name to Billmeyer & Son, Architects in 1958 when his oldest son, David, graduated from Notre Dame University and joined him. When the business closed in 1985, David assumed the position of Wisconsin Rapids building inspector.

This year, David and his sister, Rosanne Mehta, visited the Museum to discuss what items from the Billmeyer & Sons archives SWCHC might be interested in. An offer to house the entire collection met with David's approval and it was moved to the Museum prior to David's passing in August.



Billmeyer blueprints, original case

Among the Billmeyer drawings are blueprint plans for the residences of Mrs. J.D. Witter and Isaac P. Witter (current home of the Museum).

Notable landmarks documented are Assumption High School, Nash Hardware, Bethke Chevrolet, Staub Electric and the Joseph Calvi bowling alley.

But the donation didn't end with the drawings. There were specification books, microfilms and files on projects which included great photos, some featured in *Artifacts* 35.

Most of the Billmeyer papers will be available for public view and I am currently working on posting that list on our website. Note that a few are very frail and can be accessed only under special circumstances.

For this unique and magnificent addition to our local history, we extend lasting gratitude to David Billmeyer, his daughter, Lynn Hogan, and his sisters Rosanne Mehta and Mary Bronk.

swch-museum.com

Up and running, but not complete.....

Thanks to Emily Pfotenhauer and Mark Beatty at Wisconsin History Online, we have a new webpage. While it's a work in progress and we will be working to improve and add to the content, it's a nice start. While on the site, you can see photos, including those from the Don Krohn, Lawrence Oliver and Cranberry collections. You will find photos outlining our exhibits and grounds, information regarding how to become a member, Paul Gross videos and more.

—Lori

For Xmas 2012: “Once Upon A Time”

The new Paul Gross history video (#26) will be ready for distribution by Thanksgiving weekend. It will be available at Daly Drug, Gary's Coins, Paul Gross Jewelers, and, of course, at the South Wood County Historical Museum. The 40-minute presentation is still just \$20 (no tax). Proceeds go to the Museum.

The new video takes the viewer back to what we were doing right here in River City when remarkable world events occurred, such as the San Francisco earthquake, Lindbergh's flight to Paris and 1929's “Black Tuesday” when the stock market crashed.

You'll see how we in central Wisconsin “lucked out” as we show the development of the high-speed coater process by Consolidated Papers and the evolution of *Life* magazine in the early 1930s.

You will experience the local events leading up to and including World War II: ration books, local German Prisoners of War, the defeat of Germany and the unconditional

surrender of Japan. The video continues with memorable highlights of the years that followed.

Also included is our visit to the last-of-a-kind stand-alone business, a bakery, that once had six or more local competitors. And then, a special treat as we take you back 55 years and visit the old Johnson & Hill Department Store, just as it was in 1957.

These are just a few of the memories you will relive in the newest Gross Telelloid Production of “Once Upon A Time” and why, like so many folks, you might consider it for a Christmas gift while at the same time lending support to your local South Wood County Historical Corp.

—Paul Gross

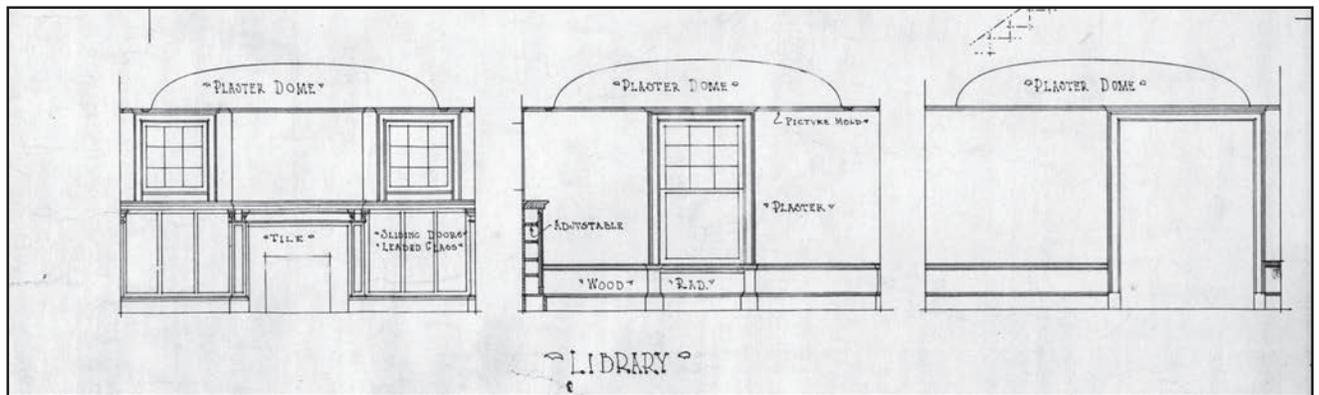
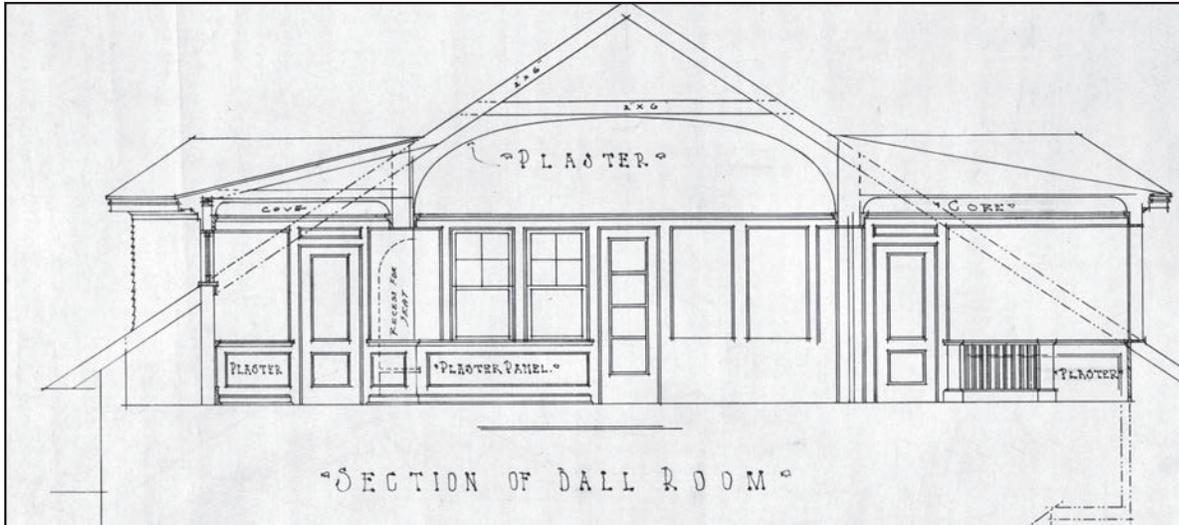
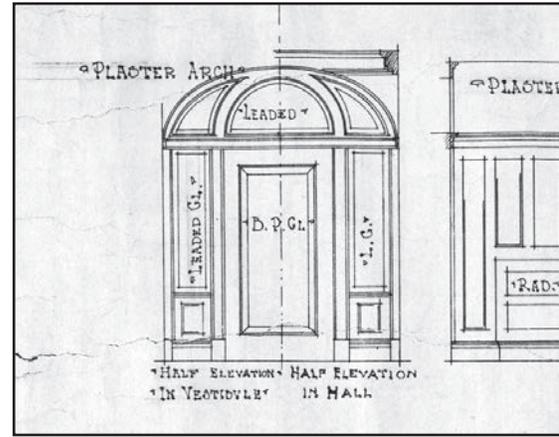


Paul at work in his Museum studio

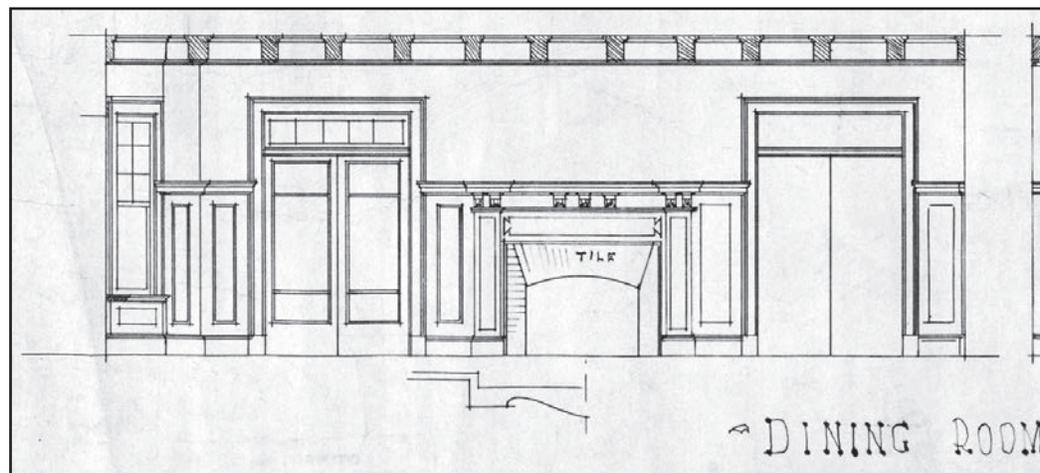
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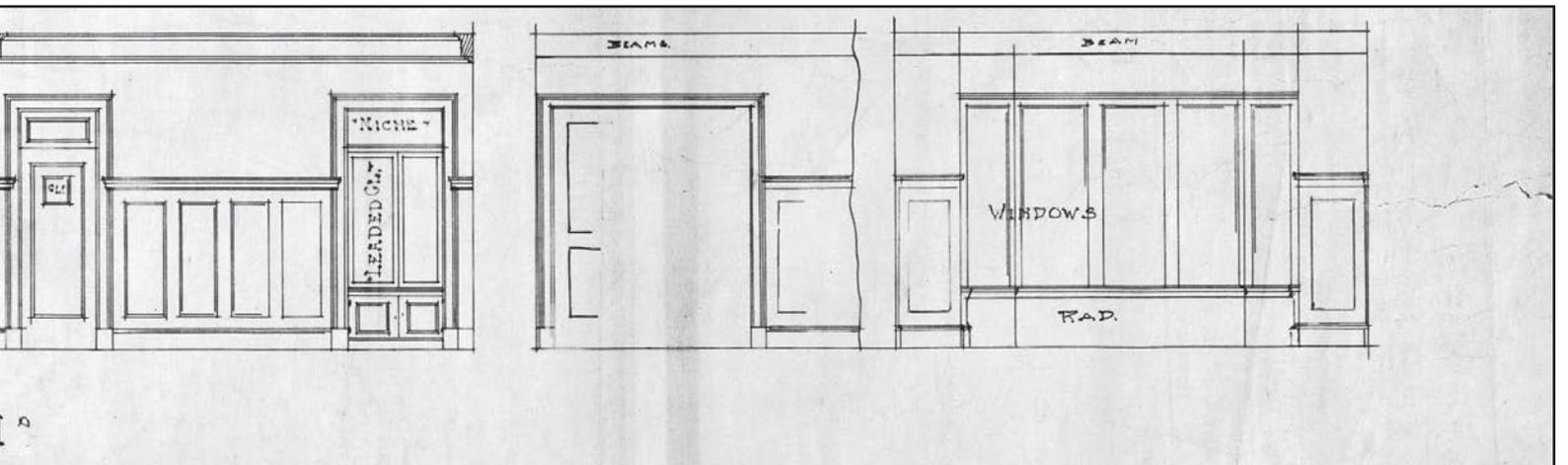
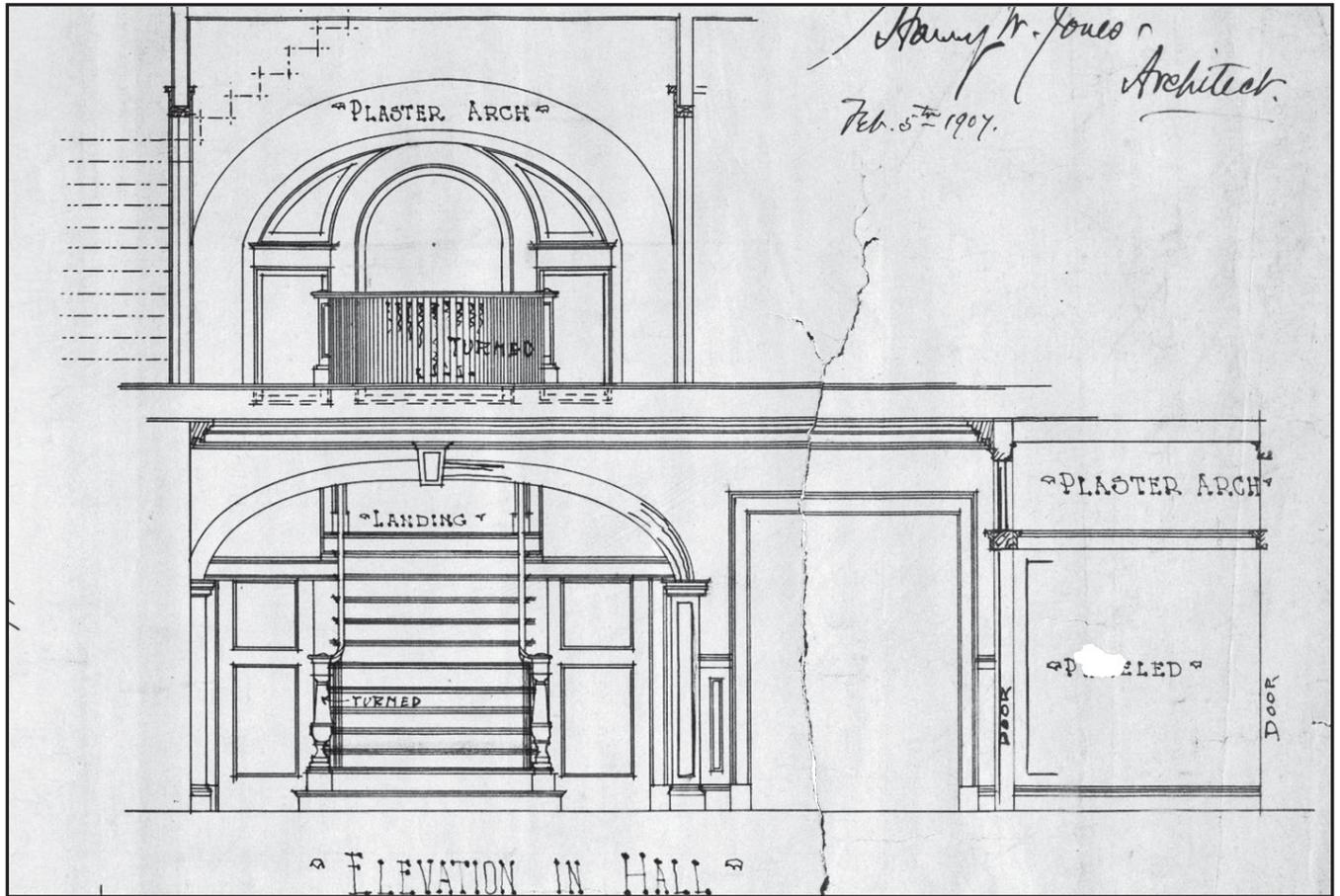
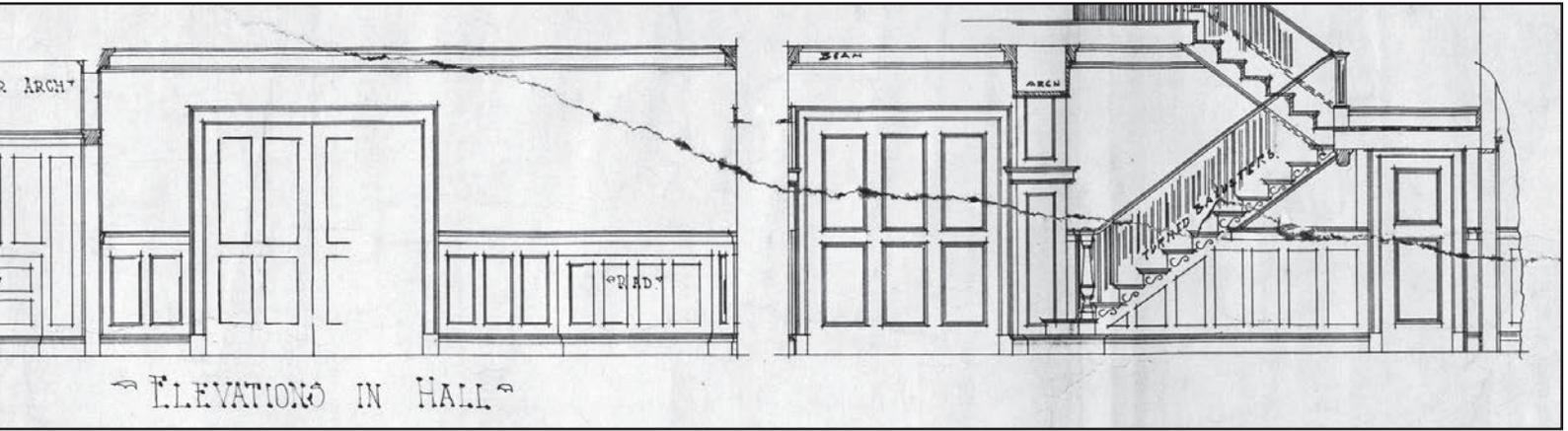
The Billmeyer collection contains blueprints of our own South Wood County Historical Museum.

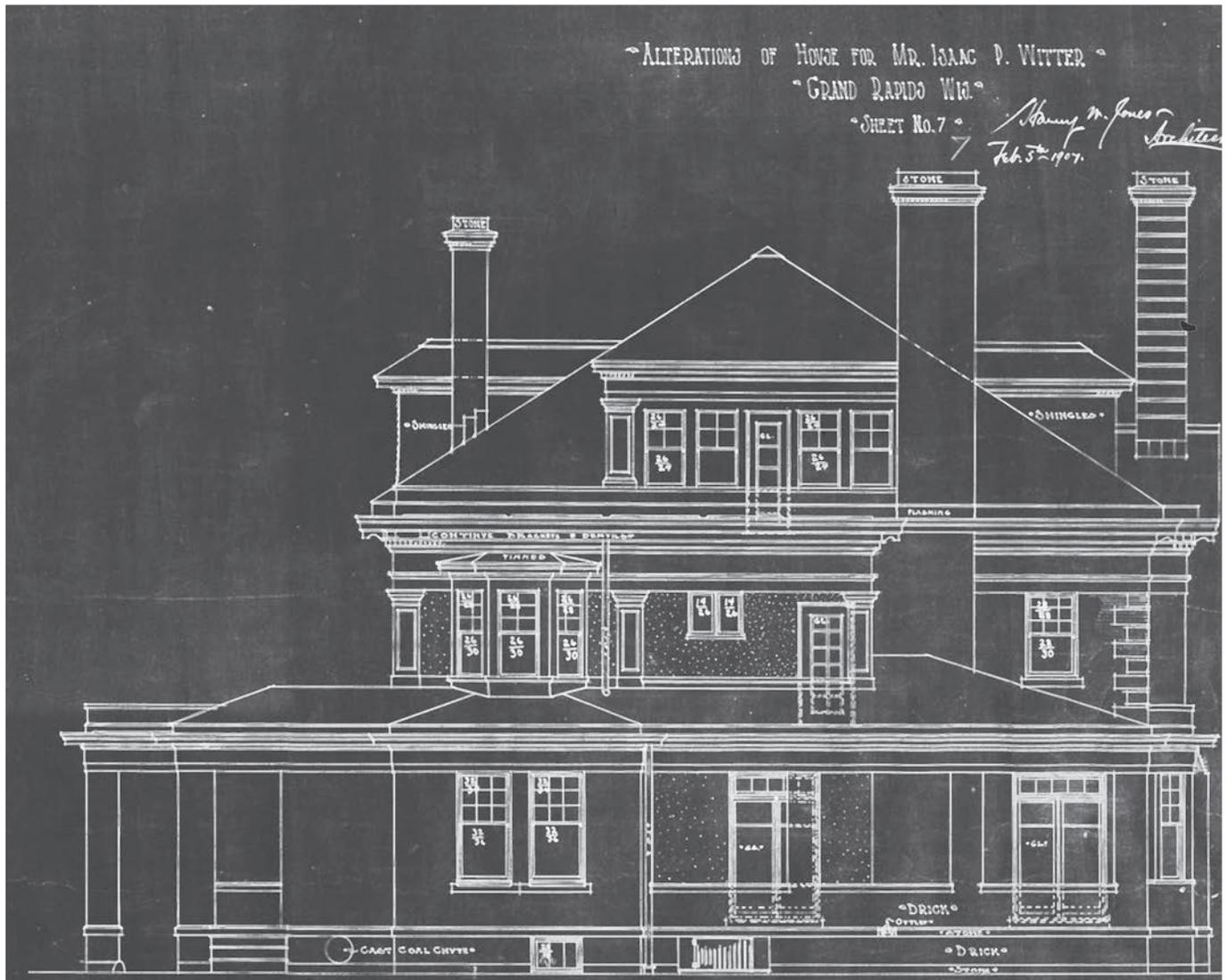
The Ballroom is now archives workroom and storage, the Library is Lori's office and the Dining Room is the J. Marshall Buehler Gallery. The main stairway is still the centerpiece of the building. Most of the features appear over a century later much the same as shown.



Museum plans are signed by Harry W. Jones, a prominent Minneapolis architect.







Side view of Isaac Witter house, now SWCHC Museum, looking south.
 (A.F Billmeyer blueprint by Harry Jones, architect.)

The Mall

Besides the Woolworth “dime store” were two mall-like department stores on West Grand Avenue: Ward’s, below, and Johnson Hill’s.

At least three persons can be seen in this photo.

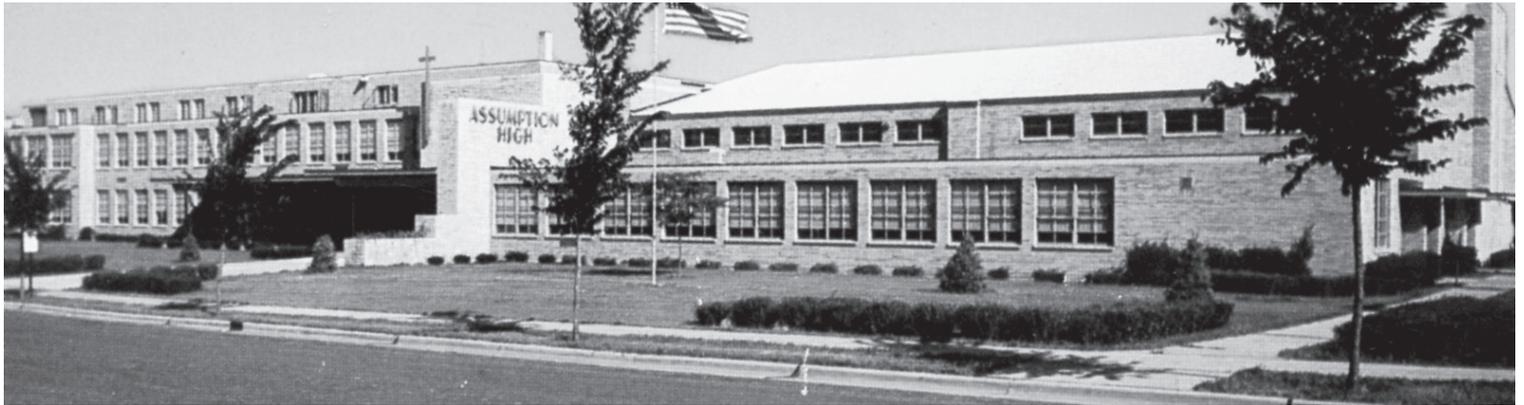
Billmeyer Collection





Before: Nash Hardware



*Billmeyer Collection: SWCHC*

Reminiscing

James Mason with Uncle Dave
August 2012

Assumption High School alumnus (1962) James M. Mason retired as Circuit Court Judge for Wood County June 14, 2011.

If you live long enough there comes a time for the big one

50 year Class Reunion

Uncle Dave: What does it mean, 50 years?

Jim Mason: It means you've lived a lot and maybe there isn't so long left to live. It means you get to thinking about schoolmates and activities that might have seemed meaningless as you went through school—that seem to have a meaning now.

Wannabe

It strikes me that I always wanted to be an athlete but never was.

I admired the Assumption High School coaches and wanted to play for them: Gordy Lewison in basketball and Don Penza in football and the kids playing well for them.

I remember trying out for freshman basketball and being hurt by getting cut. Then I went out as a sophomore for varsity. I went to one practice and was awful so I didn't reappear there.

That established the fact that I'm an athletic wannabe.

I was playing basketball at the Y until last year because I wanted to be an athlete. I'll never be one, but it's really had a good effect

on me. It's caused me to stay in shape as if my next golf game is going to be my best.

UD: Penza, one of our very important persons.

JM: Yeah, he was the Mayor; he was a guy who established so much going on in town.

UD: He did the urban renewal.

JM: Sure he did. That meant the loss of the railroad bridge, the removal of the train tracks, the establishment of the West Side Mall. All of those things were Penza items, after he retired from being the coach.

Gordy Lewison liked to be coach and he was a great coach. He had what I thought was one of the greatest moves in basketball.

They used to have the separate tournament for private schools or Catholic schools and then there was a public tournament in Madison. I remember watching the Assumption tournament games. Like when I was a freshman and they were playing up in Marshfield for the regional conference championship in order to go down to Milwaukee.

Faculty

JM: We had a lot of priests as teachers back then.

Like Father O'Connell, the principal: great guy, people loved him. Tough, but he always seemed to be fair and direct. He had a nickname, Duke, and I think the kids even appreciated his nickname and recognized him and would call him Duke behind his back.

UD: First name?

JM: "Father" was Father O'Connell's first name.

There was Father Doyle, famous at St. Mary's later on, Father McKillip. Father Klimek. Father Finucan was a teacher too.

There were nuns. Probably the one I recall best was Sister Caroline whom I had for three years of Latin.

Nuns in habits and in their clerical robe, the priests in collar.

Dances

JM: We had dances at the school occasionally and kids from Lincoln would attend too.

I went to the dances with guys I knew, like Billy Mengel, Tom Mader, Will Slattery, Dave Ebsen, Jim Houston and Jim Rayome.

I guess I would try to hang around somehow or another with most of the kids in my class—at school, at the dances, down at Art's Restaurant.

I learned the dances. Well, nobody would actually ever accuse me of learning the dances but I went out on the floor and I made motions like I knew what I was doing and nobody said "Mason you're ugly, go sit down."

Yes, I attempted to do something I would have called the Twist.

I attempted to do something I was told was the jitterbug, yeah. Oh, but that would have almost been my sister's generation, seven years ahead of me. She was trying to teach me the jitterbug at home. I thought, "Oh my God just let me be."

Going Out

J.M. I turned 18 in December and I think the girl I was dating did at approximately that same time. We would go to dances at Assumption, we would go to movies, we might double-date.

You could go to Buzz's but you probably wouldn't take your date. It would be a thing where you might congregate with your buddies. Pete Pavloski was a good friend and we might meet at Buzz's and go someplace else after that.

I guess my girlfriend and I would go to places like Riverside. It was an 18-year-old bar, yes sir. They had a big dance room near the bar. The owners, Helen and Clarence Molepske, would be there.

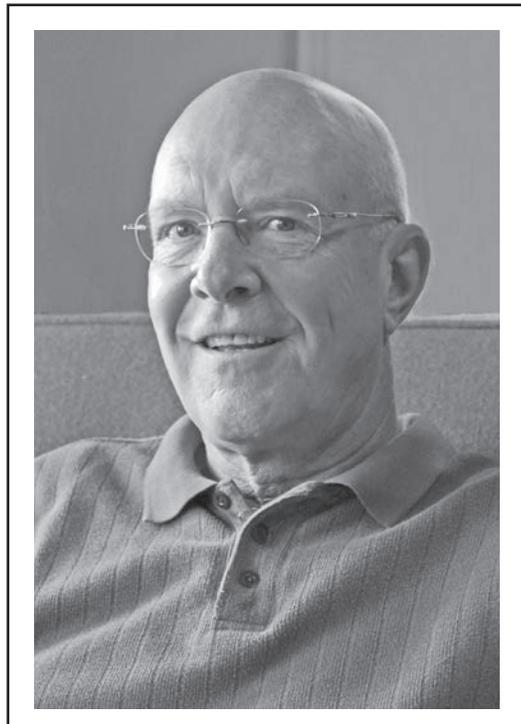
UD: Did you start drinking before you were 18?

JM: Oh, I think so. I think that I had beer occasionally with some of my buddies. Somebody might pick up a case of shorties at a liquor store. And we might drink it at a place like the island off the little white bridge out at Lake Wazeecha. Or you might go out to the quarry on the

west side of town.

UD: That was fun.

JM: Yeah, kind of. Actually, I guess I wasn't that curious about beer. I didn't enjoy the flavor and I didn't want to embarrass my folks by getting busted so I didn't do it a lot.



Jim Mason

Golden Eagle

J.M. If you had a date, you might do something a little more special, rather than just go to Art's. You might go out to Golden Eagle out on Highway 54, when it was a two lane highway. They had barbecues and a barbecue sauce that was spicy and hot and good long before spicy and hot and good was prominent. That would put a bite on your lips and your tongue. There are certain restaurants or bars around that say that they specialize in that same recipe for Golden Eagle barbecue.

You go up to the Golden Eagle; there is a bar there but you can't go in there because it's a 21-year-old bar but you go to the shack and you say, "I want a couple barbecues," and then you go out and sit in your car and eat them. Big white pines up above you and you thought you were in a special place.

UD: Somebody told me this week that nobody really knows that recipe.

JM: Yeah, I don't think I've had one with that same kind of bite to it.

East Side

JM: I could take you for the walk that I might do after school.

We'd walk down Hill Street then down 4th Street and then turn left and there were paths through some of the lots and you could walk your way back behind the post office and down to the Friendly Fountain, where you could sit and have a Coke and cigarette with your buddies, play the pinball machine a little bit. Great malted milks by the way there. Bob Luzenski owned it.

Next to the Friendly Fountain, Perry's Sport Shop had some great items in it. I can remember buying my Alvin Dark Spalding baseball glove and my Mickey Mantle baseball bat.

But if you hung out in there, you'd get roused out in no time by Blackie, John Lepinski's dad.

Back when I was a little kid, I used to go down there and get an armful of Milwaukee *Journals* or *Sentinels* and stand on the corner by

the post office on Third Street and Grand and sell them to cars driving by.

So, then, of course, the Sugar Bowl was on Second Street across from the Wood County bank. I guess I didn't go in there in those days. Probably an older persons place.

When Sammy Sampson was playing basketball for Lincoln in the late 50s, there was this incursion of hipsters from Stevens Point who came down here to watch the Point-Rapids game and somehow they ended up at the Sugar Bowl; and there was a Davis's restaurant where Michael's Bar [Hollyrock's] was. It was owned by Art Davis who owned Art's across the river then. And I think there was a fracas that occurred at those places.

Penney's was in that same area across from the bank—Daly Drug and across the street there was Brauer's Clothing that you might go to once a year.

West Grand

JM: You might even want to walk across the bridge then to go over to Wilpolt's, where the girls used to hang out.

Across the river, you encountered Montgomery Ward's on one side of the street and Heilman's on the other side.

There was the road that went into Consolidated past that pretty little bridge where Jackson Street Bridge crosses now.

You would go to Art's Restaurant across the street from Wilpolt's, especially on at the end of an evening. And you would go to the Friendly on Sundays to talk about what happened at Art's on Saturday, right?

UD: I don't know, I was at church.

JM: Yeah, okay. All right. So we were all at church then.

UD: What did you get at Art's?

JM: Well, you got a Cherry Coke or something like that and French fries.

UD: Did you ever get chili there? Because that was a big thing later for drunks.

JM: Oh well, then I would never have chili.

Gridders Show Promise

With the return of 14 lettermen, 9 of whom started last year, the outlook for this year's varsity football team looks very good.

Looming in Coach Penza's gridgers path are two big obstacles. The "shoe-filling" of such key personnel as Pat Daly, all CWCC and all-state quarterback; Jim Neuberger, Mike Gamroth, Jerry Bach, and Bill Davis, all of whom won all-conference honors and the fact that the Royals toughest schedule in the sch...

This is due to the adding of St. Catherine and Chippewa Falls. Donell to a schedule which includes such powerhouses as Menasha, Edgewood, and Menasha Mary's.

Last year's problem was the experience of the line; this year's backfield is inexperienced, but the linemen are veterans.

Linemen include tackles — Slattery, Jim Rayome, Maurice M... and Jack Hesterman; guards — ... and Bob Sciacca; centers — Greg ... way and Pete Pavloski; ends — Steve Rolzin, Mike Jennings, and Bill Re...

Directing the team are Pat Dan... and Nick Couse, two capable quart... backs. Bob Gilson plays halfba... and another letter winner, Dick We... mersen, adds still more depth. Backe... by 30 other candidates, the squa... looks hard to beat.

If the backfield jells and the line... men can make the holes, look for... ward to another successful year.



Royal Quintet Places Grid Champs Conclude Record-Breaking Year On All-CWCC Squad

This year's gridgers not only won the CWCC championship as they did a year ago but also duplicated last year's feat of placing five gridgers on the All-Conference team.

The Royals compiled the best record (7-1) in the history of the school in knocking off Columbus (27-20), Pacelli (27-7), Chippewa Falls (7-0), and Newman (33-7) to cap the conference crown.

On the basis of his running and passing talents, quarterback Pat Danno, '62, has earned a berth on the 1961 All-Conference football team. Pat, along with Pat Daly, last year's All-State quarterback, are the only two AHS gridgers to gain over 1,000 yards rushing.

Sharp running ability and a talented pair of hands entitled halfback Steve Rolzin, '62, to a place in the CWCC honor team.

Hard-nosed defensive line play and good downfield blocking enabled guard Dick Sciacca, '62, to land a spot on the honor squad.

Alert defensive plan and good blocking granted tackle Will Slattery, '62, a spot on the All-Conference team.

Center Pete Pavloski, '62, is another Royal member on the honor team. Aggressive defensive and offensive lineplay along with excellent centerlineplay along with excellent centerlineplay assured "Big Pete" a berth on the honor squad.

Missing positions on the All-Conference first team by narrow margins were halfback Bob Gilson, '62, and guard Bob Sciacca, '62. The play of these two boys earned them a position on the second honor team.

Receiving honorable mention were Bill Reitz, junior end, and Bill Rayome, sophomore fullback.

Earning major letters were Pat Dan...

no, Steve Rolzin, Bob Gilson, Pete Pavloski, Greg Conway, Bob Sciacca, Dick Sciacca, Will Slattery, Jim Rayome, Mike Jennings, Maurice Mic-Royake, Bill Reitz, Nick Couse, Jack Hesterman, Don Kubisiak, Jim Higgins, Gary...



Grid Champs Conclude Record-Breaking Year

Hanging up the spikes for another year, the gridgers can look back on another great season. The record of seven victories and one loss is the best in the school's history. The lone loss came at the final game as Royals for twelve seniors.

The Royals opened the season with a 46-25 trouncing of Racine St. Catherine. With this win, a string of seven consecutive victories followed.

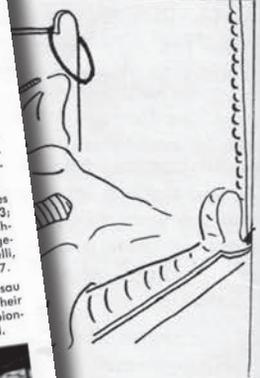
The results of the remaining games were: Menasha St. Mary's, 33-13; Chippewa Falls, 7-0; Marshfield Columbus, 27-20; Madison Edgewood, 20-13; Stevens Point Pacelli, 27-7; and Wausau Newman, 33-7.

With the 33-7 victory over Wausau Newman, the Royals nailed down their third consecutive CWCC championship, this year with a 4-0 record.



A familiar sight in this year's successful season was Pat Danno running around end for long yardage. In the act of laying blocks are Steve Rolzin (60) and Mike Jennings (64). This action took place in the Royals' homecoming game against Stevens Point Pacelli.

za's Royals came back in... after the Angels hit... only 5 plays. Never... the game were the... reign over the Royals,... able Pat Danno, Steve... z, Don Kubisiak, and... scored touchdowns to... yal" victory.



Basics

Jim Whitrock, Paul School. include: quar... and Dave... and fullbacks —... acher, Pat Sul... and John Nel... land, Laverne... Gary Stoner, F... ait, and Pat...

— Roger Esser, John Higgins, Frank Amundson, Fred Romanski, Don Molepske, Ed Martinson, Ron Ashbeck, Dick Jacunski, and Tom Sparhawk; guards — Wayne Dupuis, Joe Passineau, Bill Bean, Peter Vandebrook, Harold Clark, Dan Martinson, and Mike Shannon; centers — Chuck Reiman, Mike Judge, and Tom Poenschel.

Assumption's "A" squad cheerleaders pose in their new cheering skirts and show the new shakers they will be using this year: Mary Ann Cwiklo, Jean Lieble, Kathy Getzin, Barb Hyland, Gerry Hentges, and Diane Cummings.



I can remember one night being outside of Art's with my friend, Tom Mader.

Mel Laird was running for election and he walked up to us and said, "I'm Mel Laird."

I thought, "Okay this is good."

But Tom actually knew him because Tom was interested in politics going back to when we were kids. Of course, that was in 1960 when Kennedy and Nixon were running against each other. Nixon, I guess, came to Rapids; Kennedy went to Marshfield. Somehow there is a picture of Tom Mader with Nixon at the Labor Temple.

Just west of Art's is the Wisconsin Theatre which we frequented. I think the Wisconsin was considered the better quality at the time.

Quick Lunch is right past that. And then Church's Drugs.

Across the street was Woolworth's.

Kitty-corner from Church's and across the street from Woolworth's was Johnson Hill's, which was the emporium. That was a neat place to go and they even had an elevator you could use. And a mezzanine which was cute and a downstairs sport shop run by Bob Hyland, the father of our classmate, Barb Hyland Pavloski. There was a grocery store down there too.

Then First National Bank was across the street.

That was Third Avenue and if you turned right on Third Avenue, that got you out north of town and if you took Third Avenue going south, you know you would run right into Port Edwards. You knew you could take that all the way down to the YMCA.

The Palace Theatre would be on Third Avenue, south of Grand. I knew it as a dance hall. When I was a freshman, sophomore, junior, even senior, I might have been showing up at dances at the Palace or going downstairs to play pool if I wasn't an acceptable dance companion upstairs. They had a little restaurant downstairs and pool tables.

If we went further west, after we crossed Fourth Avenue, of course, there was Guarantee Hardware on the right which was owned by the parents of my classmate Ray Woznick.

But right next door to that and right across from the police department was Buzz's Bar. I might have snuck in there when I was 17 a couple of times.

UD: Buzz was kind of stickler though.

JM: Yeah, I don't think I tried that often. I'm thinking I might have done that once or twice. Wasn't about to offend him, wasn't about to offend my folks.

Cruising

JM: So if you were on a cruise on a Friday night, you would drive to the Milwaukee Road depot and make the turnaround at the triangle down there and come back and drive up to the Hotel Mead and you would make the turn right to go toward Lincoln High School and go up to Lincoln Street and make the turnaround at the triangle there and come back down across the bridge on Grand Avenue and do the same thing over.

UD: They built the Board of Education addition on top of that one turnaround, at the high school.

JM: Somehow there was an apartment building or something like that in that triangle kind of where the library is now.

Remember, the Midthun house was there. It actually got run into a couple of times by some kids drag racing up Grand Avenue and one of them missing the turn at Grand Avenue and Lincoln Street and running smack into the Midthun house.

Remember there was a Clark Station there? I remember Polansky's Gas Station on the corner of 8th and Grand.

UD: On your cruise, you went up to the depot. Did you ever venture past that or was that the end of the world?

JM: Well, pretty much that was the end.

Although the Chatterbox was down there on West Grand Avenue a little bit further that some of my friends would tell me about. I know that right behind the Chatterbox was my friend Will Slattery's dad's welding shop. I knew where St. Lawrence church was and St. Mary's Church and Pete Pavloski's house over on Rosecrans.



WE SQUEEK OUT



IF YOU WERE IN PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S SHOES, WHAT WOULD YOU DO ABOUT NUCLEAR TESTING?

I think that President Kennedy has the right to continue nuclear testing in order to keep ahead of the Russians. We cannot lie idle and still keep ahead of the Russians.

Bill Rayome '64

If I were in Kennedy's shoes, I would certainly start our own nuclear testing if our scientists would be sure that the amount of fallout would not be harmful to our country and its people.

Susan Fait '65

If I had the responsibility President Kennedy has over testing, I would continue our testing program and begin to detonate bombs again. I would also seek to perfect an anti-missile missile since this might turn out to be more important in the long-run.

Pat Hartman '63

Stardust

New Belles Add Southern Touch

A. H. S. opened its doors for two new students, Vicki and Connie Isle, who hail from Moberly, Missouri. Vicki is a junior and Connie a Freshman. Their father is the new Sports Editor at the *Tribune*.

Has Assumption become a school for parents as well as their offspring? No, it was just the "day of reckoning" when the parents came to get the good or bad news of their child's grades for the first quarter.

Christmas cards, wrapping paper, tape or corsages, anyone? These words echoed throughout the city during October, as students sold items for the coming Yuletide Season. Under the direction of Sister Thecla, the event was numbered a huge success.

Taking first place for the second year was Joseph Trader, '64. Other top salesmen were Barb Schroeder '65, Barb Judnick '65, and Judy Olds '65.

Scientists in the making? This could be one outcome of the General Electric science demonstration given on Nov. 17th. Who knows, maybe there will be more such electrifying events.

Mr. Trumbull, State Employment representative, has given aid to those seniors who don't know which shoulder to put to which wheel. Employment tests which estimated the abilities and interests of the students were given on October 12. Mr. Trumbull interviewed the students individually on November 9 and 14 concerning the test results.

A la model Mrs. A. Seegers from the Marvel Beauty School in Milwaukee, who was the commentator at a style show here about two years ago, returned on November 15 to interview senior girls interested in beauty culture.

Kennedy is one of our most competent and brilliant leaders, and I think any decision he makes will be with the interests of America in mind. I would commence nuclear testing, as Kennedy has decided, "If it is absolutely necessary for the good of our country."

Barb Cwiklo '62

I'm grateful I'm not in Kennedy's shoes, but if I were, I would continue testing if I felt it was necessary so that, in case of a nuclear war, we would be on the same level with or ahead of the Soviets.

Carol Simkowski '63

I would promote an alert government with stress on preparedness. Preparedness assures peace and security. This means I am 100% for con-

tinuing United States nuclear testing, if it means protecting our futures, if it means advancing science and culture, if it means a ruin to Communism. Then I say carry on nuclear testing without injury to mankind. Keep power supremacy in the U.S. Keep peace by keeping prepared.

Jim Mader '65

I would continue nuclear testing. It seems that the United States has yielded to the Russians in so many things. If we continue to do this, Russia will have little problem in gaining world domination. I feel that if U.S. nuclear testing is discontinued, the Russians will have another victory because we have yielded to them. That's why I say continue the nuclear blasts.

Jim Mason '62

I would keep up nuclear testing so that we are prepared to retaliate if the U.S.S.R. should attack, but I would also get a program started for fallout shelters, etc.

Yvonne Ott '63

Now that the Russians have finished their current series of approximately twenty explosions in the atmosphere, they wish to ban nuclear testing. If I were J. F. Kennedy, I would not stop U.S. explosions because our underground blasts do not cause radioactive fallout. Also, our testing is for peacetime uses of the atom, not just bombs.

Ken Karlen '62

"DAY OF RECKONING." Sister Laurita hands Mr. and Mrs. Chester Helminiak their daughter's report card. They talk about Carol's grades and where improvements can be made.

"Swing and Sway with Sammy Kaye." So read posters informing the public about the dance featuring one of the country's most famous orchestras. The dance, sponsored by the Parents' Guild, took place here November 5, from 9 until 1 o'clock. A stage show and a contest in leading the band were added attractions.

It seems that the 50 megaton bomb has the freshmen worried. Karen Crotteau is reported to have asked Sr. Francis de Sales if fallout shots were included in the Immunization Program.

A small, timid, black and white cocker spaniel caused quite a commotion when he entered the Junior girls third period religion class. Father Stashek proclaimed it the class's new foreign exchange student, but then dismissed him as he didn't think he would enjoy the curriculum.

"Oops!" was the reply of dumb-founded Jerry Stada '64, when he accidentally walked into a junior girl's religion class. Next time he will have to remember to write down his room numbers.

Ingenuity was the word at the Costume Dance held on Halloween night. Winning prizes for best costumes were David Briselden, '62, Mary Manion, '65, and Bob Sciacca, '62. Bob, a guard on the varsity football team, proved how utterly feminine he can look just by donning a little make-up and a muu-muu. Mary looked as though she stepped straight out of "The Nutcracker Suite" in her rag doll costume. Dave went hunting for mermaids attired in his skin diving outfit. Any luck Dave?



Zakons

JM: I don't know if I ever saw the Zakons at the Palace but I saw the Zakons, sure. The lead singer was a classmate, "Babes," Larry Krekowski [1943-2012]. He eventually graduated from Lincoln. Fellow Zakon Ron Pagel was a year ahead and he was also at Lincoln.

I remember first hearing Babes sing when we were in high school and I think he was a sophomore and he stood on stage and actually sang some song that was popular and I thought "Babes is that you? Is that you?"

He was Babes before rock and roll, before he became popular.

I thought the Zakons were very skillful and I guess they had hopes that they were going to enlarge their sphere and talked about going to Philadelphia or Chicago or things like that.

Buick

JM: Well that used to be something, Felker's Gas Station was at the southwest corner of Fourth Avenue and West Grand Avenue and I could remember stopping there at the end of the evening if I had my folk's car or if I had my own car, a '53 Buick which I had for a couple years—until my dad got smart and got rid of it for me. Sold it. Smart guy. The title was in his name. He said, "You're spending too much money on this thing. Say goodbye to your car."

I said "Okay." It was smart because, by the time I had finished high school and finished the summer employment at Super Valu, I had enough money for my first year of college. After that, and subsequent summers, I had a very nice job and I was able to save just the money to cover the next year.

Super Valu

JM: It wasn't long after that I turned 16 and I got a job at Super Valu [8th Street supermarket].

At first I didn't like being drawn away from my idle time but after a month or so, I began to

really really enjoy working. I had money to do things and I had a great boss, Bob Heuer, who was the owner of the store. He used to give me a lot of projects to work on, a lot of authority. I came to know other kids there who were working who became very good friends. One that you might be familiar with is Dave Andraska. Donny Flick was a friend; he worked there too.

Once a week we would have to scrub the floors at the supermarket and so that would be something we would do on Monday nights after 9 o'clock. Well, it took a couple hours; and we're juniors and seniors in high school and I've got third year Latin coming up too and you got to stay awake in that at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. So at any rate, we used to make a point of leaving there and going over to Freiman's Charcoal Grill and having a brat at 11 o'clock or 12 o'clock at night.

Next to Super Valu was Neipp Hardware and next to that was Manion's Ben Franklin and next to that was Lewis Shoes and across the street kind of kitty-corner was Johnny's Rapids Inn which had just been established, probably 1960.

So, Gail [Vleeshouwers] from Johnny's, (I wonder whether Gail used to work at Super Valu) —I got to know them because they would come over to Super Valu and buy the ingredients for their sandwiches and stuff that they were selling at the Johnny's Rapids Inn.

8th Street

I remember taking a prom date to Wilbern's. That was a big deal. That was the great place to go, good food and they treated us nicely in there as prom kids.

Pasquale's was here in a different form, but I never went there.

Portesi had recently arrived. I say that only because Portesi bought from Super Valu and Sil's father would come in there as a relatively slender looking old distinguished silver-haired gentleman. He used to come in there and buy the ingredients for whatever they were cooking at Portesi's. That was probably in 1960-61.



With Quill and Scroll membership as their goal, Donna Kobza, Joyce Abler, and Francis Krupka chalk up printed inches while working on the junior issue.



MEMORIES (Cont'd)

Getzin and Pat Danno. Learning from last year's mistakes, we built a float that (we thought) would withstand almost any kind of weather — except wind, rain, sleet, or snow.

Hula-hoops came in with a "swing." Mike Jennings demonstrated his hidden talent by winning the Hula contest at the Mardi Gras.

Proving that every penny county, we again pushed our Penny Princess candidate, Belle Bengert, to the throne.

Kathy Simonis and Tom Mader practiced their p's and q's, and were chosen as representatives to the Courtesy Court.

Latin Scholars

Medals were awarded to Kathy Sullivan and Doris Allen for their outstanding Latin achievements. Showing promise of budding into a second Caruso, Tom Mader received the scholarship to Music Clinic in Madison for the summer.

Spring cleaning of lockers revealed many biological specimens, and with the smell of formaldehyde still fresh in our nostrils, summer vacation began.

The "new regime," headed by Father Landy, seized the school our junior year. Class officers were President Maynard Witt, Ken Karlen, Jean Lambert, and Gerry Hentges.

We blazed with the excitement of building the bonfire and leading the snakedance. Representing our class on the Homecoming court were Gerry Hentges and Pete Pavloski.

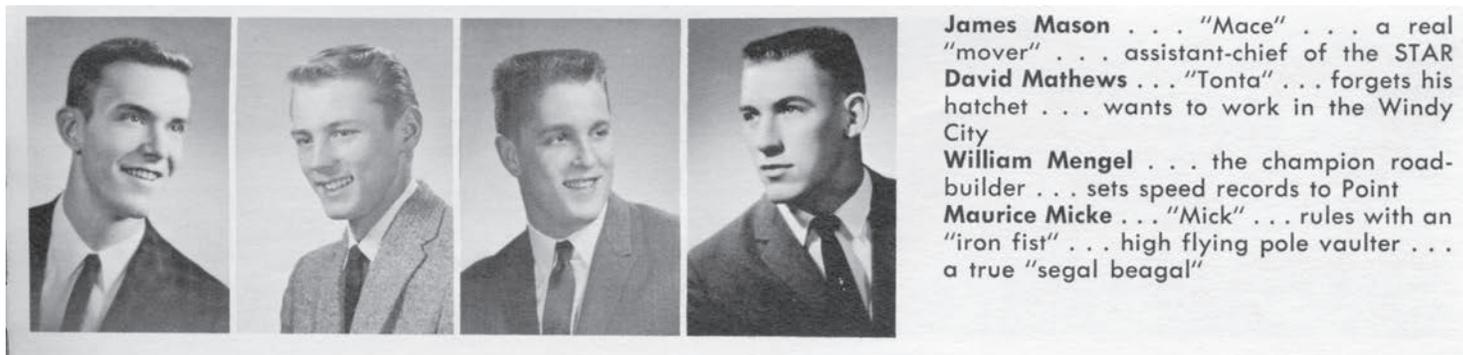
Junior Rings

One of the highlights of our junior year was Ring Night followed by a party, which was the first of many.

As the weeks of painting bricks and

(cont'd on Page 11)

How do farmers and sergeants practice physical fitness? They jump paper-clip ropes at Mardi Gras, so it seems, as Linda Peters and Katie Stout hit their mark of 6'11". Hang on to that rope, Dorie!



Nepco

J.M. I knew Nepco Lake in two regards: one is that I knew the Alexander family lived there and I caddied for the Alexander family. The other thing was that Ques Gross had a beautiful cottage there. My aunt had worked at Gross and occasionally she would arrange the use of those facilities for our family get-together. It was nice to go out there and to enjoy the beautiful location.

River City Memories

JM: I was proud to be from Wisconsin Rapids, I thought it was the greatest city in Wisconsin to be from. It was busy, it was on the ball, my dad had a job, he was enjoying his job, the people around town all had jobs. People were out and about and ambitious and hopeful I guess, and hoping that their kids were going to live better than they did themselves.

UD: What was going on then that made that possible?

JM: Well, the mill was one. But not only that mill, but the mill down the river, you know the Nekoosa and Port Edwards mills. It was Nekoosa Papers then and Nekoosa Papers was a strong business too and they, like Consolidat-

ed, were good people and they donated to the community and the community benefited very strongly from that.

We had a good newspaper, we had ambitious goings-on. We saw the kinds of things in photos where the kids looked healthy and handsome and ambitious. The newspaper would promote somebody, like a picture of Jim Mason, for instance, going off to the scholarship that the newspaper was providing and Jim thinks, "I'll be able to do this" and the newspaper is in support of this and your whole community wants you to do this well and you think, "Yes, Wisconsin Rapids is a great place to be from and it's beautiful besides."

Take a walk along the river and tell anybody that this a place that you'd love to be from and are proud to be from—and you are. Those kinds of things just made me happy. It was commercially busy, trains, automobiles, trucking companies. I worked for one; I worked for Gross after graduation from high school.

Those kinds of things were going on and you used to think they were going to go on forever.

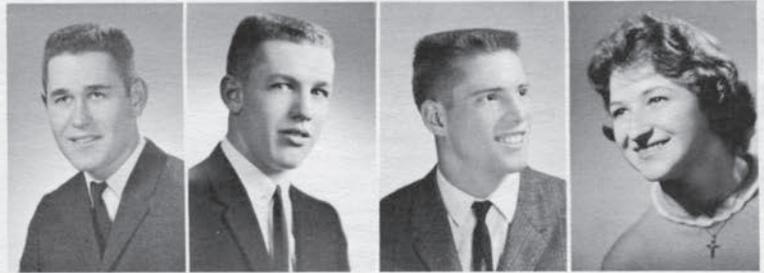


Queen Star yearbook courtesy classmate Rita (Van de Loop) Janz.



Joseph Ponczoch . . . car for every day of the week . . . plans mechanical work
James Rayome . . . "Bear" . . . a good-natured fellow . . . likes to use Fr. Doyle's car after school . . . famous for Columbus run
Claudia Reinarz . . . ever so mischievous . . . me and my pick-up truck
Jenifer Rodeghier . . . always good for a laugh . . . can't pass up a dare . . . future medical tech

Ralph Roginski . . . likes to hunt and fish . . . favorite TV show — Huckleberry Hound . . . where are the beans, Rogue?
Roger Rokus . . . "Archie" . . . a true Cavalier — "Carpe diem" . . . the Wisconsin hunter . . . a most attentive student!
Stephen Rolzin . . . "Red Squirrel" . . . quiet and shy . . . all-around athlete . . . Homecoming king . . . takes long way home
Carolyn Rosenthal . . . "Butchie" . . . her picnic parties lead her to believe that Noah had more than two ants in the ark



Elizabeth Sanford . . . "Libby" . . . Governor Nelson's dinner guest . . . active in young Dem's
Karen Schiebler . . . music star . . . makes a success of anything she undertakes . . . well-liked by all
Barbara Schill . . . everything she does she does well and she does everything . . . smile that would warm a polar "bear"
Richard Sciacca . . . "Icewater" . . . enjoys swimming, football, and girls . . . great track star . . . craze for weight-lifting

Robert Sciacca . . . "Cassius" . . . great class leader . . . always willing to help . . . youngest of the "bambinoes"
Karen Seifert . . . "Sy" . . . faithful member of BBD's . . . should be a beautician . . . Ellsworth's loss — Assumption's gain
Kathleen Simonis . . . future Betty Crocker . . . was never considered a bird brain . . . always friendly to everyone
Wilfred Slattery . . . "Slats" . . . the IBM of the class . . . enjoys sports . . . likes to bomb the Wasp . . . keeps Clarence busy



Thomas Spranger . . . was chief pizza-flipper at Moon — now working at Joe's . . . trying to put another business on the rocks?
Michael Stashek . . . bound for religious life . . . "Slave"-more carry-out boy
William Steckbauer . . . custodian at St. Vincent . . . bridges keep jumping in front of his car
Catherine Stout . . . "Stick" . . . gives unusual May baskets . . . Coach Penza's No. 1 headache . . . petite prom queen

Civil War Sesquicentennial

God-Speed Abner Atwood

By David Laspa

Shortly after the fall of Fort Sumter, S.C., Wisconsin Governor Randall called for a regiment of militia to help the Union put down the southern rebellion. A Wood County company quickly formed and called itself the Grand Rapids Union Guards.

When the mustering officer came to town on Aug. 15, 1861, one of the first to enlist was Lawrence, Penn., native Abner M. Atwood, 32, a barber who had arrived here in 1857.

On Aug. 26, 1861, the Grand Rapids Union Guards left for the railhead at New Lisbon amid shouts of “God-speed” and arrived at Camp Randall in Madison for training.

The September 21 issue of the *Wood County Reporter* noted that the Grand Rapids Union Guard was now Company G, 7th Regiment.

Abner left Camp Randall with the regiment September 21 and headed to Arlington, Va., where the 7th Regiment was brigaded with the 6th Regiment and 2nd Regiment from Wisconsin and 19th Regiment from Indiana.

A November 10 letter from a soldier of Co. G of the 5th Wisconsin at Camp Griffith in northern Virginia referred to a visit from Capt. Sam Stevens and others, including Abner Atwood (alias) “Towhead.”

“They are located at Arlington Heights,” he said.

In the November 11 *Wood County Reporter*, a letter from a soldier in the 5th Wisconsin said, “Towhead [who] had been put on two hours extra duty—watching a stump—concluded by asking wasn’t it a good joke on the stump.”

On Aug. 28, 1862, Co. G of the 7th Regiment had its first battle action, leading up to the Second Battle of Manassas (Bull Run). Over a third of the brigade were casualties but Abner went unscathed.

In the main battle of Second Manassas, when Union forces of General Pope were forced to retreat, Co. G and their brigade provided the rear guard.

On Sept. 14, 1862, the 7th Regiment, as part General Gibbon’s brigade, were ordered to attack the rebels at Turner’s Gap in South Mountain, Md.. Under tremendous fire, they held their ground.

When General McClellan, the commanding general, witnessed their action, he is reported to have said, “Those men fight like iron.” After this engagement, Abner’s 7th Regiment became part of the famous Iron Brigade.

Their next engagement was at Antietam, Md., September 17. The Iron Brigade was part of General Hooker’s Corps that fought in the cornfield as shown in a life size diorama at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, Madison, Wis.

The 24th Michigan regiment joined the Iron Brigade on Oct. 8, 1862.

In the October 11 *Wood County Reporter*, a letter from Lt. Fred Warner stated that Co. G had been through six battles. He said further that “Towhead was unhurt and the same Towhead as always.” The Iron Brigade also participated in the battle of Fredericksburg from December 10 to 14, 1862.

Towhead sent a letter dated Jan. 15, 1863, from “Belle Plane,” stating that, “We had heard that Sam’s wife has presented him with a young Captain. Bully!”

The Iron Brigade fought at Chancellorsville, Va., April 2 to May 1, 1863, and in McPherson’s Woods at Gettysburg, Pa., July 1. They were forced to retreat to Culp’s Hill later in the day and remained there July 2 and 3, until the battle ended.

The Oct. 23, 1863, *Wood County Reporter* said soldiers from the 7th Regiment were coming home. On Dec. 10, 1863, “Towhead returns to recruit.”

It was unusual for a regiment to send a private such as Abner M. Atwood to recruit, an activity usually done by an officer. The December 17 issue reported that “Towhead is recruiting with Capt. Botkin of the 12th.” Again on December 31, “Col. Towhead” was “recruiting.”

Abner went on to fight with Co. G at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House and Cold Harbor. In a June 5, 1864, letter to the *Wood County Reporter* from Cold Harbor, Va., it was noted that, "Towhead around again same as always."

Co. G started the siege of Petersburg, Va., June 18, 1864.

Abner was 37 years old when he left the army after General Lee's surrender April 9, 1865.

He had completed his three-year enlistment and was mustered out Sept. 1, 1864.

On September 15, it was reported that, "Towhead back in Town at Four-Mile Creek."

The *History of Wood County* lists him as a charter member, Dec. 9, 1881, of Grand Army of the Republic Post No. 22, a Civil War veterans organization.

Abner passed away at the home of his son, Fred, in Grand Rapids, June 13, 1913. He was 84.

His obituary said Abner had married Miss Alice Smith in 1864, in Grand Rapids, where they had resided since.

Besides Fred, Abner left four sons: Chester and Edward of Biron; George, Town of Grand Rapids; and Abner M. Jr., Beloit, Wis. and two daughters, Mrs. Fred Horton, Biron, and Mrs. Guy Thompson, Dawson, N.D.

The obituary recalled that Atwood, or Towhead, "was a born story teller and a jovial character whom everybody liked. The latter years of his life were spent on a nice little farm just without the city limits, and old friends will be glad to know that they were years of peace, plenty and contentment."

<i>Second Lieutenant.</i>		<i>From Co. G, Roster of Wisconsin Volunteers</i>	
Lemuel Kromer.....	Grand Rapids,	Aug. 17, '61..	Res. Jan. 30, '62.
ENLISTED MEN.		<i>Enlisted.</i>	
Allen, Seeley	Grand Rapids.	Aug. 17, '61..	Disch. May 8, '62, disability.
Allen, George	Patch Grove...	Sept. 13, '61..	Wnd. 2nd Bull Run; disch. Oct. 30, '62, wnds.
Altenburgh, Isaiah ...	Plover.....	Aug. 13, '61..	Wnd. Wilderness; M. O. Sept. 1, '64, term exp.
Armstrong, William J.	Madison.....	Aug. 18, '61..	From Co. A; Corp.; wnd. South Mountain; disch. Nov. 30, '62, wnds.
Atwood, Abner M	Grand Rapids.	Aug. 15, '61..	M. O. Sept. 1, '64, term exp.
Babcock, Patten F	Germantown ..	Sept. 9, '61..	Wnd. Gettysburg; trans. to V. R. C., Jan. 15, '64.
Bach, Henry	Fredonia	Oct. 14, '64..	Drafted; wnd. Five Forks; absent wnd. at M. O. of Regt.
Bakke, Isaac H.....	Deerfield	Nov. 11, '64..	Wnd. Five Forks; M. O. June 19, '65.
Bamber, Thomas	Centralia	Aug. 13, '61..	Corp.; trans. to V. R. C., July 1, '63.
Barber, Frederick W..	Reedsburg ...	Sept. 16, '61..	Vet.; det. in Batt. B, 4th U. S. Art., from Feb. 9, '63, til Jan., '64; pris. June 21, '64; M. O. May 11, '65.
Barker, Chauncey C...	Grand Rapids ..	Jan. 5, '64..	Died Oct. 6, '64; Portsmouth Grove, R. I., dis-

*Civil War Sesquicentennial***Campfire Stories****By Capt. Billy Parker**

Reenactors love to tell stories around the campfire but there are some stories the public never gets to hear. These stories are of course mostly spiritual in nature. They typically do not happen at events here in Wisconsin but while we are dressed up at places like Shiloh or Gettysburg.

This past spring we had the 150th anniversary of the battle of Shiloh in Tennessee. A Yankee unit that I know had a reenactor come up to him who in his thick Irish accent asked if he could fall in with them for the day.

His uniform was spot-on and his accent was perfect so of course they let him fall in with them. This guy and the unit hit it off really quick. They had a few pictures taken together to commemorate their time at Shiloh and invited him to come up to an event in Illinois. The reenactor said he would try to make it.

Well the guys in the unit went home and had their film developed and, whatever picture that their new friend was in, all that it showed of him was a green streak; and of course he never showed up in Illinois. One of them for fun looked up his name on the original roster for that unit and found out he was killed at Shiloh.

My former unit captain liked to tell a story about his first national event at Perryville, Kentucky when they were out taking part in the battle as Confederate soldiers.

While the Confederacy was losing this battle, my former captain kept thinking that if they had reinforcements maybe they could win.

He looked over to a tree line and swears that he saw a whole company of rebs heading his way. Of course there were none. All reenactors that were there were already in the fight. Did he see a whole ghost company?

My personal stories happened at two different places. Although there were no reenactments going on, I was wearing my uniform.

The first time was at Gettysburg. I was down in the Devil's Den part of the battlefield by myself and I could smell pipe tobacco. There was no one around as far as the eye could see. It was dead silent, no birds chirping and no wind. I could not even hear any traffic.

I know the smell of pipe tobacco very well because my dad smokes a pipe—he was not in Gettysburg but at home.

I think “they” were there with me that day as I walked from Devil's Den to the top of Little Round Top.

My other story happened at Spotsylvania Court House in Virginia. Again there was no event because it got canceled and my unit at the time went out to tour.

It was the end of the day so I took my coat off and decided to see one more monument before we had to leave.

I wandered out to the Mule Shoe by myself in a period shirt and Union blue pants. I took a picture of this monument to South Carolina soldiers and turned around to see a vapory image of a Rebel soldier with a rifle pointed at me. It did not take long and he melted in the ground.

I was scared and ran back to our van. Before we got out of the park I had come down with one of the worst migraines I ever had and was done for the night.

It took two months to tell my unit what I saw and they even said they thought I had seen something because of the running and the migraine and the fact that on the way out my former captain had caught ghost orbs on film in that same field.

Civil War Sesquicentennial

Camp Randall, No Stadium Civil War Training Ground and POW Camp

By Capt. Billy Parker

Before it was a site for our Badger Football games and before the Civil war even started, the grounds for Camp Randall were used for the Wisconsin State Fair. When the war started in the spring of 1861 the state of Wisconsin was in need of a place to train soldiers and looked to Madison.

But calling the place the old state fairgrounds just would not do. The military needed a name for the place to send food and supplies to. Since Alexander Randall was Governor of Wisconsin at the time they named it for him. Eventually 70,000 out of Wisconsin's 92,000 Civil War soldiers would train here.

In the Spring of 1862 many battles broke out along the Mississippi river area that resulted in Union victories. With the wins came a major problem: where to store the massive amounts of Confederate prisoners coming in.

Since Camp Randall had space to house these prisoners, 800 captured from the Confederate stronghold of Island Number 10 were shipped here. Many had been cold and sick with the different diseases that came about from their time in service.

These men were mostly from Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee. Like other POW camps Camp Randall was quite cruel from the start. As the trains rolled in the Madison civilians turned out to gawk at the ragged rebels coming into the camp. Many were so horrified at the sight that they helped bring food and medicine to the hungry sick rebels.

After three months, an inspector from Camp Douglas in Chicago, Major Joseph Potter, came to inspect the camp and was horrified by the thick mud and pestilence. His report signified the end

of Camp Randall as a POW camp, too late for the 140 Confederate soldiers who died there and are still buried far from home in Madison.

Camp Randall might not have been good enough as a POW camp but it was still good enough in the military viewpoint to train our soldiers and remained in use till the end of the war in 1865.

In 1912, long after the war's end, the Grand Army of the Republic wanted to honor the memory of all Wisconsin soldiers who fought in the Civil War and built a memorial arch with a couple of cannons to mark the spot where her soldiers sacrificed so much of her own blood, sweat and tears.

In 2012 The Sons of Union Veterans and some of Wisconsin Civil War Reenactors rededicated the arch in a two-day ceremony, part of the 150th Anniversary of Civil War and the 100th Anniversary of the Original dedications of the Arch.



*1912 Dedication
Camp Randall Arch*

South Wood County Historical Corp.
540 Third Street South
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Artifacts, a local history magazine and newsletter for the South Wood County Historical Corp. welcomes contributions of writings and photographs relevant to the greater Wisconsin Rapids area. For a year's subscription and membership send \$20 to the address above. Questions? Contact Lori Brost, Museum Administrator and Assistant Editor, 715-423-1580. lori@swch-museum.com

**CHRISTMAS DRAG HOP
PALACE BALLROOM
FRIDAY NIGHT, DEC. 23**

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ZAKONS

Dancing 8 to 12

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● Proceeds for the benefit of Club Drag Strip Project

Daily Tribune ads from Dec. 22, 1960. SWCHC archives photo at right, undated, believed to be local. Has Elvis left the building?

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