

JUNE 2018

VOLUME II #53



ARTIFACTS



Cover: 1971 *Daily Tribune* photo, unidentified;
President's message, p. 2; Website update, 2;
Goldamer, 3; Museum gardens, 4-5; Aqua Skiers by
Barry Jens, 6-11; Lincoln High School, 12-18; Sabetta
pix, 19; Radio Days by Jim Schuh, 20-21; Ancient
History by Naylor, 22-23; Lottie Lynn by Alison
Bruener, 24-27; Brehm by Scott Brehm, 28-31; Ski
pix, 32.

Phil Brown
President, SWCHC

A Continuing Effort

As we prepare to open the South Wood County Historical Museum for another season, I reflect back on all the research that has recently been done for our exhibits at the Museum, starting with the upgrade of the Doctor's Office. Longtime local physician and SWCHC board member Dr. Leland Pomainville was in charge of creating this exhibit when we opened the South Wood County Historical Museum in 1972. This winter, board member Barry Jens (featured elsewhere in this issue) with the help of Uncle Dave and Lori Brost, took on the task of revitalizing the exhibit, first by repairing the walls and ceiling.

Putting the exhibit back together has included some enhancements, such as photos of Riverview Hospital and biographies of local physicians. With the help of Dr. Timothy Huebner and Dr. Robert Johnson, some of the old medical tools and equipment were identified. A few medical tools left our panel of researchers stumped.

For exhibit purposes, we have also researched the Wood County courthouses, Grand Rapids brewery, Lincoln High School and the cranberry industry. Besides those mentioned, Kathy Engel and Alison Bruener have contributed to our efforts.

And don't forget our website, coordinated by Angelica Engel, working in coordination with *Artifacts* and bringing new material on a regular basis.

If you haven't been to the Museum lately, please make an effort to visit us this summer. We are open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. or call 715-423-1580 for an appointment.



Angelica Engel,
Website Coordinator

First 40 issues available on Website

Readers can now access back issues of *Artifacts*, Volume II, on the Museum's website! The first issue of Volume II goes back 14 years to May 2004.

The following make appearances in early issues: photographs by Rapids' local, Don Krohn; the "History at McMillan" column by Don Litzer; and many colorful stories by Joan Haasl. Included is the "Our 20th Century" column, which includes transcripts of interviews by Dave Engel with John and Mae Natwick (relatives of Betty Boop creator Grim Natwick), Larry and Helen Murtfeldt (of Consolidated Paper Co.), and Ray Sampson (of Sampson Canning Co.), among others.

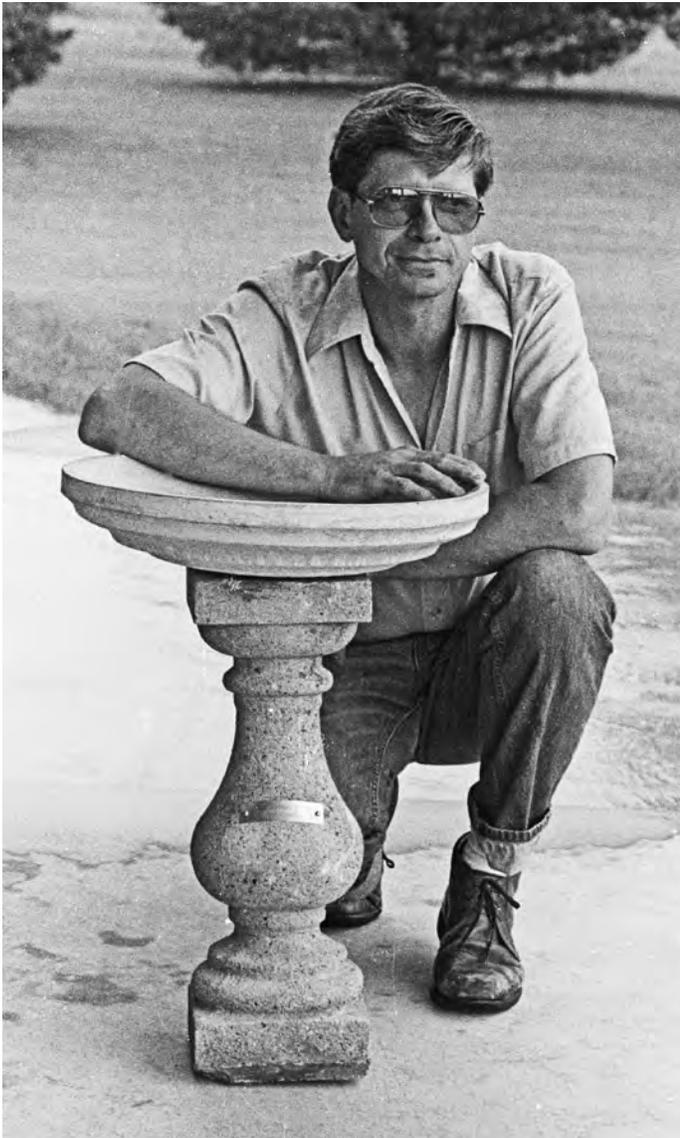
To reach this wealth of material, go to our website at southwoodcountyhistory.org. Then, hover your cursor over the "Publications" tab at the top of the page. A menu will appear that says, "Back Issues of Artifacts." Click those words, and you're there.

An alternative route to the *Artifacts* web page: type into your browser, "southwoodcountyhistory.org/publications/back-issues-of-artifacts."

Feel free to send questions and commentary about the publication to dave@southwoodcountyhistory.org.

Most Artifacts are also available for purchase at the Museum.

Photo by UD, 1987



How I (almost) killed Dick Goldamer

With regret, I read that Dick Goldamer, 73, died March 21, 2018, due to “multiple medical complications.” But I was glad I hadn’t killed him when he was a much younger man with a lot of life left.

In my brief acquaintance with him, Dick was a dynamic original. His obituary rightly said he was blessed with an analytical and inventive mind and had many interests, including history and archaeology. He was a member of the Clock and Bell Tower Committee and had raised funds in 1987 by building birdbaths from balusters salvaged from the demolition of the old Grand Avenue Bridge.

That is where our paths crossed. Dick asked me if I could get the bridge “pillars” from the city, which I was able to accomplish through my position at the Museum. He would make and market the birdbaths, proceeds going to the Clock and Bell Tower.

Dick also helped Bart Weiland, my dad, Don Engel and me, install the bridge railing that still stands behind the Museum. We had attached the hook end of a heavy steel cable to something and something snapped off, the potentially-lethal metal chunk streaking by within what looked like inches of Dick’s head. My dad and I shared a glance that said, “Praise the Lord!”

Uncle Dave



Corrections from Ancient times

From *Artifacts* #32, February 2012: names were misspelled from taped interviews. Interviewee Paul Gross later supplied the corrections. Page 9: “Who did you work with in the lab? Bill Kohnen and Randal Weaver.” Randal is “Granville” Weaver. Page 10, “He took over after Bill Yeager left.” Should be Ben “Heger.”



Cover taken from website, as described on opposite page. The soldier is Paul Gross.



Calling all friends of the Museum gardens

The Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers have maintained the Museum gardens since 1996, donating their time and effort.

Now, we would like to extend an opportunity to join the effort, keeping these two-plus acres a community showpiece and destination. “Shadowlawn,” as it was called by its owner, Charlotte Witter, is a popular photo spot for bridal parties, high school graduations and other special events.

This year the grounds will be featured in the Wood County Master Gardeners’ Garden Walk on July 21. We will be setting up workdays and evenings to prepare the grounds for this important day.

If you would like to help, please use the following contact information:

Micky Erickson at 715-435-3616 or garymicky@charter.net

Christine Griffith at 715-424-3609 or cgriffith@solarus.net



Micky Erickson

**Photos by
Lori Brost**
Museum Administrator



Christine Griffith



2017



Bill Lukes, Jack Lukes and Dick Albert, 1962

AQUA SKIERS

Greatest Show On Water (For Over 50 Years)

By Barry Jens

Correspondent at Large

In the month of July, the community of Wisconsin Rapids and visitors from near and far enjoy a wonderful weekend at Lake Wazeecha, viewing some of the greatest water skiing talent in the Midwest. These are the Wisconsin State Water Ski Show Championships, sponsored by the local Aqua Skiers Inc. water ski club since 1967.



John "Jack" Lukes (1930-2015)

The LHS grad and 43-year Consolidated employee was founder, charter president and life-time member of the Aqua Skiers, first chairman of the Wisconsin Water Ski Federation, member of the Wisconsin Water Ski Federation Hall of Fame and recipient of the Award of Distinction of the USA Water Ski Association. He was active in the Wisconsin Rapids Amateur Radio Club and emergency coordinator of the Wood County Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

Circa 1960. George Dana standing, Dick Albert (probably) tending the rope. Near the Wisconsin river south shore Aqua Skier area—jumping ramp upper left, and boats parked at the Boat Club on the island, upper right. Note two engines on the rear of the boat.



According to the National Show Ski Assoc., tournament show skiing came into being in 1967, the year Jack Lukes, Aqua Skiers president, wrote the first rules and procedures for competitive show skiing and organized the first State Show Tournament, to be held at Wisconsin Rapids.

Former Aqua Skier standout Lenore Crothers Haferman recalled that Jack sat down at her kitchen table and the two of them wrote up a couple pages of guidelines. Haferman said she, like several other young members, had been prompted to join by Aqua Skier representatives at Lincoln High School.

“I did all the acts that girls did, including jumping. I was the only one that did the doubles act. Jim Haferman, who later became my husband, was very active in the club. He did all the acts including barefooting, and was the first to get a barefooting patch from the Wisconsin skiing association.”

The sport of water skiing had begun in the 1920s, and received national attention in the 1930s through Cypress Gardens, Florida. “Show skiing” began on the coasts but, according to the National Ski Show Assoc., “blossomed in the 1950s and 1960s in the Midwest.” Led by the 1950 Min-Aqua Bats of Minocqua, Wisconsin took the lead and today is home to more show ski clubs than any other state.

Local interest emerged in 1947 through the “Central Boaters Club,” based on an island in Lake Biron above the Biron dam. One of the members was 16-year-old Jack Lukes, who, along with other teenagers, decided to try water skiing in front of the island.

In 1958, the Boaters Club kids’ first official water ski show made \$150.

In 1959, the skiers moved to 360 feet of frontage leased from Consolidated Papers Inc. on the south side of Lake Biron and started a club. The original members were Jack Lukes, president and, at 29, oldest; George Dana, vice president; Connie Jacob, secretary-treasurer; Bill Lukes, Dick Wermerson, Marie Wermerson, Fred Miller, Bob Hyland, Barbara Hyland, Sue Hyland and Duaine Jacob.

“The first Aqua Skiers meeting was in our basement,” said Duaine Jacob and his wife, Connie Jacob, who was the first secretary-treasurer, 1960-61. Duaine and George Dana bought 75 horsepower motors to tow skiers.

Said Duaine, “We started having shows on Sunday afternoons. People came along the river bank and set up chairs to watch. Fred Miller, George Dana, Bill Looock, Tom Looock and I all used the jump. Nobody had ever seen anything like the jump.”



Dave Engel of *River City Memoirs* wrote, in 1990: “For shows, it was customary that a tavern or civic group pay \$50 for a performance at or near their grounds. Later, this price escalated to \$100 per show. Operating funds also were derived from membership dues, car washes, bingo at the Eagles Club and ‘begging from store to store’ for advertising in program booklets.”

Ray Morse adds, “This basically paid all of our expenses except the cost of the boats. The main boat that we used was Fred Miller’s. George Dana and Jack Lukes also had boats.”

“Early productions were at Wautoma, Ephraim, Petenwell, Lake Biron, Monroe Center, Castle Rock, the Nekoosa Civic Picnic site, Lake Du Bay, Neenah-Menasha, Lake Nepco and Coloma,” wrote Engel. “At first, no power was available or power came from a 12-volt car battery.

“Volunteer efforts of donated gasoline, loaned boats, scrimping, saving, scavenging parts and

rebuilding outboard motors kept the club afloat. The first boat owned by the Aqua Skiers was a catamaran designed for two motors but used with only one. Skis were homemade.”

Mary Kruger Weaver joined in 1961 after Jack Lukes and Dick Albert came to Lincoln High School to recruit skiers. She said the group traveled to Wisconsin Dells to see the Tommy Bartlett show, witnessing ski jumping, tricks, pyramids, ski kite flying, and announcing.

Ray Morse also recalled visiting the Bartlett show. “We learned about clowns. Bill [Lukes] and I were clowns and horsed around on the jump. We jumped, did pyramids, had a girls’ line, and did some trick skiing. I used to ride on a round disc and do tricks. I would get a small step ladder and do 360s until I crashed.”

In 1960, the Wisconsin Water Ski Federation formed in Appleton. The Aqua Skiers, then with 38 members, joined in 1962.

Mary Weaver was involved for about three years. “That’s probably when they also got Judy Jezwinski, Martha Pomainville, Louisa Anderson, Janet Mead,” she said. About that time, Ray Morse enlisted Jon Mullen of the Zakons rock band as announcer.

“The local water ski club took two giant steps this summer towards its goal of holding a sanctioned water ski tournament here,” reported a 1963 *Daily Tribune*. “The first was becoming affiliated with the American Water Ski Association, the sanctioning body for state and national tournaments, and the second was the purchase of a 14-foot boat and trailer.”

A novice tournament was held in 1963 in preparation for Aqua Skier sponsorship of the three-event Wisconsin Water Ski Tournament in August 1964. The event, to which admission was free, was held at the Lake Wazeecha campground and produced a net profit of \$482.93.

The 1965 “Heart of Wisconsin Open” water ski tournament attracted skiers from 13 states.

A new idea originated in the winter of 1966 as the Aqua Skiers became the first to initiate rules for a “show” tournament rather than the traditional three-event slalom, jumping and tricks competition. Credit for this innovation is given to Jack Lukes, “Father of Tournament Show Skiing.”

Sam Casey contributed to the July 18, 1991, Wisconsin Rapids *Daily Tribune*, Aqua Skiers 25th anniversary issue, that the inaugural Wisconsin State

Water Ski Show Tournament was held June 24-25, 1967, on Lake Biron in front of Riverside Bar.

(The club boat was stored in Riverside owner Clarence Molepske’s town of Rudolph barn.)

In 1971, the tournament moved across Lake Biron to 360 feet of frontage leased from Consolidated Water Power and Paper Co.

1972: back to Riverside Bar on the north shore.

1973-77: Lake Camelot Lodge on Lake Camelot.

Acquisitions over the years, a 1977 publication said, included an 18-foot Hydrodyne Tournament Hull, twin 150-horsepower outboard motors, a 14-by-24-foot regulation jump ramp, tandem equipment trailer, skis, ropes, swimsuits and safety equipment.

Later, Tom Haferman said, “Ron Meyer Marine and Yamaha were sponsors for the club. After we joined, we talked with Mike Galles and they were willing to sponsor us. Several club members took trips to Evinrude Manufacturing and got to know their corporate and grew that sponsorship to where we are today.”

1978: campground at Lake Wazeecha.

1979: Steve Hahner as club representative to the Wisconsin Water Ski Federation was tasked to find a better site.

“Our first tournament was at the park at Wazeecha. We had done two three-event tournaments there. Then we got a permit to do it at the beach and it has been there ever since.”



1970s *Daily Tribune* photo, watching show at Lake Wazeecha Red Beach, unidentified

Mary Kruger Weaver

Lenore Cruthers Haferman

Tom Haferman

Steve Hahner



Unidentified Tribune photos, 1970s



Jon Mullen



Duaine and Connie Jacob



Ray Morse





Class of '91.

- BERNIER, LOUIS A.
 BRAZEAU, THEODORE WALTER
 BRUNDAGE, JOHN NEWTON
 LAVIGNE, EDMUND H.
 PHILLEO, FLOY BELLE
 RABLIN, CLARA MAUD
 WHEELAN, NETTIE BLANCHE
 WHITNEY, EDWARD JOSEPH
 WITTER, ISAAC PHELPS

MOTTO: "Labors Past are Pleasant."

TWELFTH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Howe High School,

Grand Rapids, Friday, June 12th, 1891.

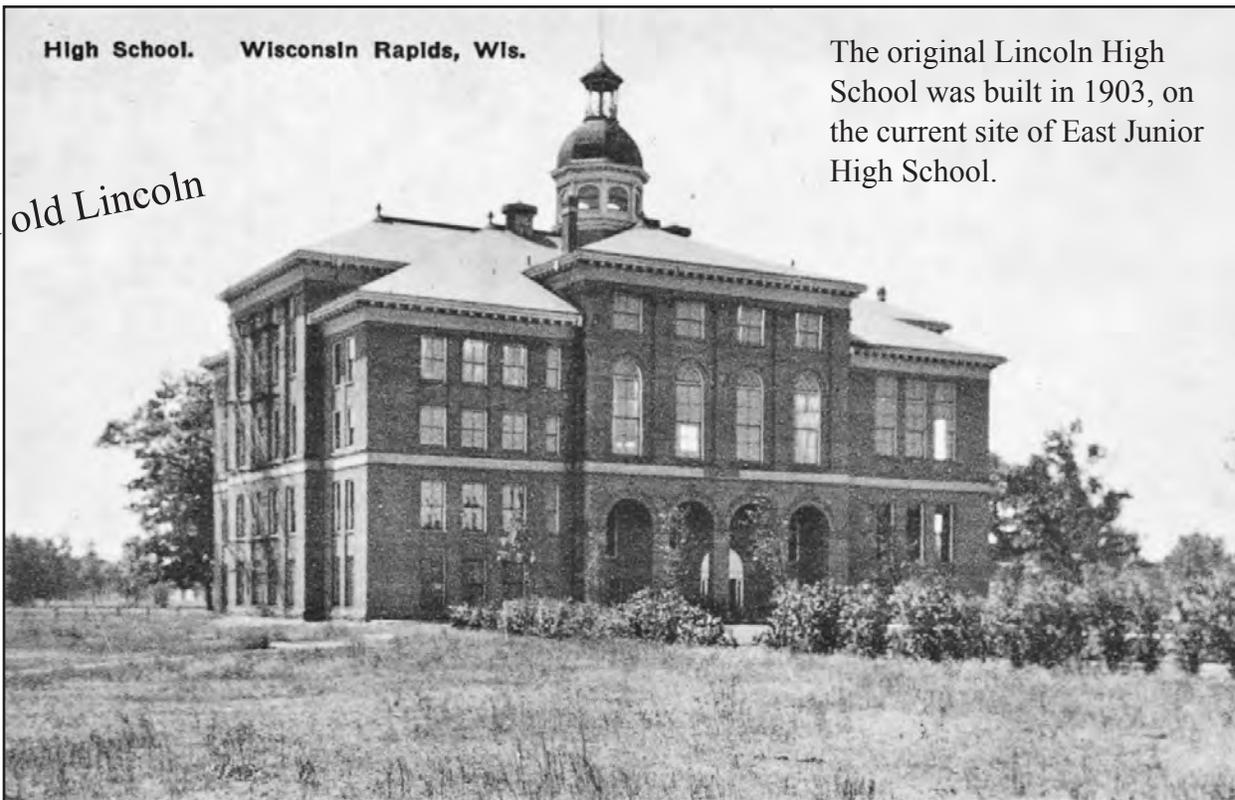
- MUSIC *Twin City Band*
 ORATION..... Daniel O'Connell..... *Louis Bernier*
 ORATION..... Love of Glory..... *Clara Rablin*
 ORATION..... Libraries..... *Eddie Whitney*
 SOLO... "Across the Far Blue Hills, Marie,"... *L. M. Alexander.*
 ORATION..... Magna Charta..... *Isaac Witter*
 ORATION..... Women in the Professions..... *Floy Philleo*
 DUET... "Only Thee,"... *Lottie Lynn and L. M. Alexander.*
 ORATION..... Webster and Slavery..... *Edmund La Vigne*
 ORATION..... International Arbitration..... *John Brundage*
 SOLO..... "Il Bacio" (Kiss Waltz,)..... *Lottie Lynn*
 ORATION..... Patriotism in the U. S..... *Nettie Wheelan*
 VALEDICTORY..... Wendell Phillips..... *Theodore Brazeau*
 CONFERRING OF DIPLOMAS.
 MUSIC..... *Twin City Band.*



Isaac Witter, second row, far right, owner of the house at 540 Third St. S., now the Museum and Theodore Brazeau, front row, left.

Rapids High Schools

The Wisconsin Rapids Public School District will discontinue the use of East Junior High School, formerly Lincoln High School, at the end of this school year.



LHS photos assembled by
Kathy Engel, SWCHC Librarian
(Former librarian of East Jr. High)



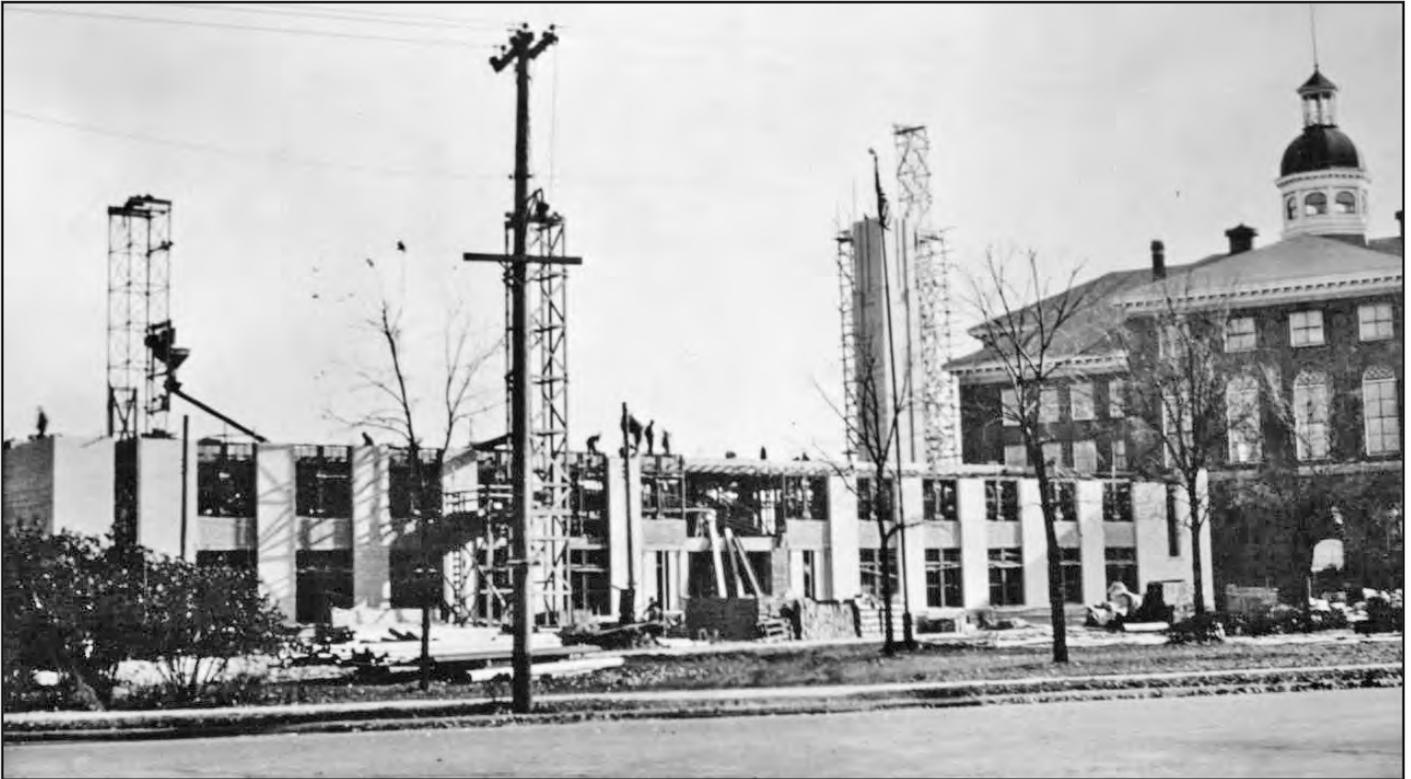
This Lincoln High School was new in 1931.



Then-Lincoln High School with the 1957 “vocational” addition, right, but not the 1962 “school board” addition. This is as it appeared when Uncle Dave matriculated in 1959: stately, well-equipped, historic yet modern, with a lawn shaded by what look like elm trees.

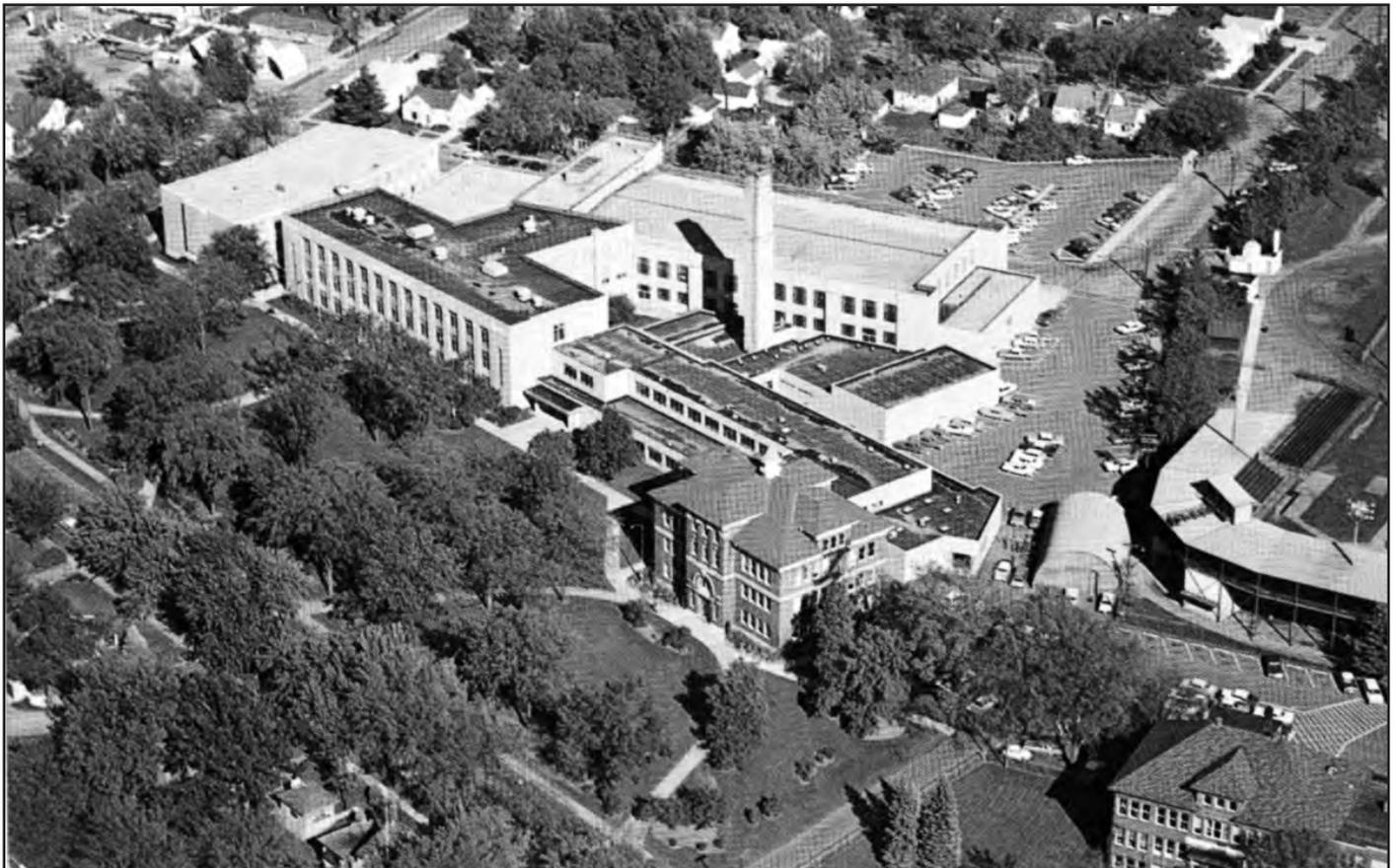


LHS building became East Junior High in the fall of 1979. It was a high school from 1931-79, or 48 years, and East Jr. High for 39 years



SWCHC

The vocational section of Lincoln High School was added in 1957, connecting at right to the Witter building.



About 1970. Vocational addition center and board of education addition to upper left.



6th Street S.

Lincoln Field House

Lincoln High School

Witter Vocational School

Lincoln Street

Apple Street

LHS Track and Witter Field

Witter Field Stadium

Wood County Teachers College

Circa 1954

Uncle Dave and Lincoln High School

Honor roll of graduates

Graduated from 1931 building, now East Jr. High

- 1963: Uncle Dave
- 1964: UD's sister, Kathryn, co-valedictorian
- 1968: Brother, Gary
- 1973: Brother, Kenneth

From 1978 "New Lincoln"

- 1991: Daughter, Jessica, (after attending East Jr. High)
- 1994: Daughter, Elissa (after East Jr. High) also attended Assumption
- 2008: Daughter, Angelica
- 2008-2014: UD's wife, SWCHC Librarian Kathy Engel, was librarian at "old Lincoln," East Jr. High

The School Bell Tolls for Thee

Timely Observations

- Old Lincoln (East Jr. High) was high school 1931-1979 or 48 years
- Old Lincoln was East Jr. High 1979-2018 or 39 years
- New Lincoln has been a high school for 39 years

What happened to public school buildings in the city of Wisconsin Rapids after closing?

East Side

- Original Grand Rapids public school: demolished
- Old Howe grade and high school: demolished
- 1903 Lincoln High School: demolished
- Witter Vocational School: demolished
- Wood County Teachers College: demolished
- Two Mile School: demolished

West Side

- Original Centralia elementary schools: demolished
- Centralia High School: demolished
- Edison elementary: demolished
- Emerson elementary: demolished
- Lowell elementary: demolished

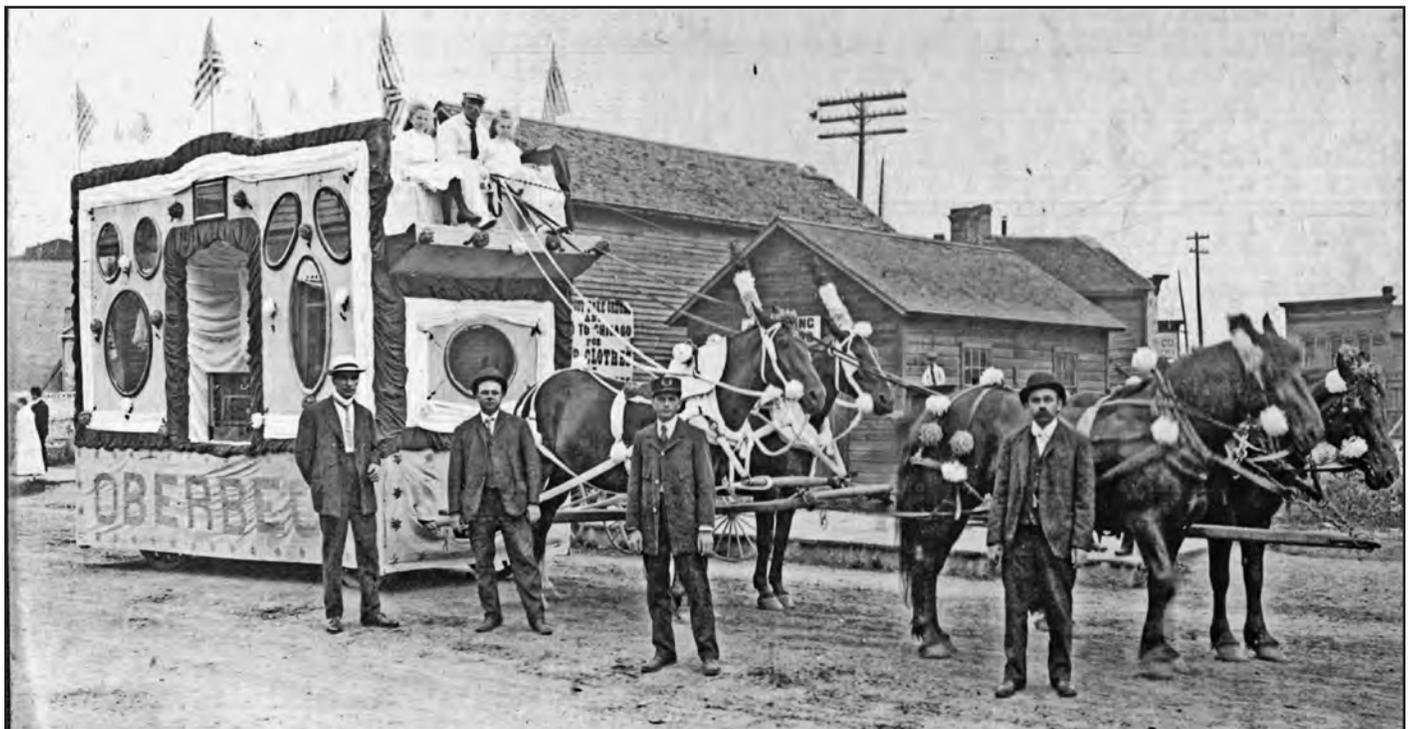
- On the East Side, Irving, in private hands...is still standing!**
- Pitsch elementary is still used for non-school purposes**

Background from 1957 Ahdawagam



Negatives scanned by C. Henry Bruze

Lost and found: a 1982 *Tribune* negative shows LHS grad Ellen Sabetta (1925-2013) about to do serious harm to the foliage at the Museum.



From Mary Brabhy, St. Paul

Former SWCHC curator Sabetta (at top) was fascinated by any reference to her forebears, the Oberbecks of the eponymous West Side furniture company. Image of “Turn of century” parade is a recent find.



At a time when local radio station WFHR was stuck in an old timey rut of easy listening, polkas and coffee klatsches, the favorite station for teenage transistor radio devotees of the late 1950s and early 1960s was WSPT of Stevens Point. Unfortunately, according to critics, pop music had devolved into sweet and sticky bubble gum until along came the advance guard of the British Invasion...

Radio Days

How WSPT became the first in the area to play the Beatles

By JIM SCHUH

One thing that old people enjoy perhaps more than their younger counterparts is memories, because they have more of them. They're one of the few positive things about growing old.

I was reflecting about a few memories going back to my radio days that started in the early 1960s and ended in 1999. A program on PBS about the history of the Beatles sparked a memory about the first big hit.

At the time—1964—the Liverpool rock group hit the U.S. top pop music charts with their hit, “I Want to Hold Your Hand.” Lots of people were showing interest in the mop-haired quartet, which had first become popular in Great Britain.

The rock song debuted the Billboard charts in January of '64 and led to an appearance by John, Paul, George and Ringo the following month on the Ed Sullivan show on CBS. The history books tell us 73 million people watched the performance.

Back in those days, smaller markets like Stevens Point normally had to wait a week or more for the record companies to send copies of their songs to radio stations. The companies first serviced larger market stations, where airplay could drive substantial record sales.

I was working at WSPT as a DJ/news director at the time, and my brother-in-law, Pat Shanahan, worked at WRIT in Milwaukee. His station received the Beatles' hit soon after its release and Pat quickly made a copy on tape and shipped it off to me. It allowed our station to be the first one outside Milwaukee in Wisconsin to broadcast the record.

As soon as it arrived, we put the record on the air, ballyhooing the fact that we were the first station in the area to broadcast the hit. We had some competition in those days, namely WRIG in Wausau.

As we hyped the record on the air and played it frequently, we wanted to make sure our exclusivity lasted as long as possible. So we always had our disk jockeys talk over the intro—the open-

ing notes to the record, using the station call letters. We also dropped in a verbal notice about halfway through the record that it was a station “exclusive” so the competition couldn't make an off-the-air recording of the song and play it. We knew it would be at least a week before they got their copy. It worked and established us as “The Beatles' station” in central Wisconsin.



I don't recall the names of other records Pat's Milwaukee station received before we did, but he made us taped copies, so we could put them on the air before any other area station.

(Later, in 1990 when we built WIZD, we had Shanahan join us as our program director and morning DJ.)

I've told what follows in a previous column, but perhaps it bears repeating. In 1963, I spent the summer filling in at WRIT in Milwaukee. Pat was a full-time DJ there at the time.

One day, the two of us were sitting around the music library when a new song hit the air. It was "Sugar Shack" by a new group, Jimmy Gilmer and the Fireballs. I said I thought it would become a number one hit.

For reasons that still escape me, we took a copy to our alma mater, Marquette University, and went into the radio studios where we went through a collection of sound effects recordings. We picked the sound of crickets chirping, and on another tape, mixed the Gilmer hit with cricket sounds. At two points in our recording, the cricket sounds overpowered the song.

Then we put our creation onto a tape cartridge just like the ones WRIT used. I carefully hand-wrote the label to look like the one on the station's cart. Pat and I went to the station and he distracted the engineer (who played all the music for the DJs) while I switched our cartridge of "Sugar Shack" with the station's cart.

The song did, in fact, become a number one hit and remained on the Billboard chart for 15 weeks.

WRIT played our version with the cricket sounds, while the competition, WOKY, broadcast the song as originally recorded (without crickets). Apparently, nobody ever noticed the difference. We had a chuckle every time the cricket version hit the air, and refrained from telling anyone about the prank until some years later.

In Stevens Point, we did one thing that was useful for the DJs, and listeners were never the wiser for it. Sometimes while a DJ was on the air, nature might call, but records weren't long enough for DJs to

make a trip to the toilet. So we recorded a 15-minute tape cartridge with three or four songs, interspersed with station jingles. Then if necessary, the DJ could simply play that cartridge while he or she took care of business. It was a life-saver more than once.

WSPT

Top 40

One other memory comes to mind, a memory I love to tell about. About 7:15 one morning, lightning knocked the transmitter off the air.

I answered the telephone, and at the other end was a woman who asked, "Are you off the air?" I told her that we were, because of the lightning strike. Then came her perplexing question, "Why don't you make an announcement?" I hung up dumbfounded.

Everyone who's been in broadcasting has stories like these to tell. It's fun to pull up these recollections and pass them along.



Jim Schuh

Milwaukee native and Marquette graduate Jim Schuh began his radio career in 1957 with six years as an announcer and news reporter for Milwaukee area radio and television stations. He worked at WSPT/WXYQ, Stevens Point, from 1963-88, as an air personality, news director, program director and for 15 years, general manager.

He also served as general manager of WBIZ/WJJK, Eau Claire and WNAM/WUSW, Neenah-Oshkosh, 1986-1989. From 1990-1999, when he retired from active broadcasting, he was the president and managing partner of WIZD-FM, Plover.

His column appears regularly in the *Portage County Gazette*.

Shavings & Slabs

From Uncle Dave's archives

“Back in the Forties”

*W.B. [William Byron 1826-1908] Naylor, of Tomah, Tells
of his Early Experiences in Grand Rapids, 1842-1851*

“It was in 1842 when I made my first trip to what is now known as Grand Rapids,” W.B. Naylor wrote to a newspaper here. “It was in the fall just at the time when the corn and prairie chickens were plentiful that father and I left Quincy, Ill., with two wagons loaded with dry goods, groceries and flour to trade with the Indians and lumbermen in Wisconsin.

“At that time roads were in poor condition and ten barrels of flour was considered a good load. Our road took us through Galena, Ill., and thence to Point Bausse, where we disposed of our goods, wagons, teams and all. For these we received lumber and wooden dollars, which were bunches of shingles, put up in half thousands, in those days.

“After receiving our lumber and shingles we returned home on the river, floating down on our lumber which was built into rafts. Our food on our trip to Point Bausse consisted mainly of crackers, corn and wild chickens brought down by a trusty shot gun and a keen eye as we traveled on.

“Upon arriving at Point Bausse we put up at Wakely's, a stopping place for lumbermen and where meals were to be had. It was here that we did our trading.

“We traded under Mr. Wakely's license for in those days every one could not trade with the Indians without licenses. Here one meal was served a day, beginning at 3 a.m. and ending at 11 p.m. Mrs. Wakely was a strong woman, ever willing to help where she was needed.

“From Point Bausse we traveled on foot up the river to Port Edwards or Frenchtown where we crossed the Wisconsin river to the west side and thence to the mill site run by George Kline Jr.

“Nelson Strong and Sam McCartney built the first hotel in Grand Rapids, of hewed logs. While the hotel was being built, Nelson Strong and family lived in a board shanty sixteen feet square. It was here that E.S. Minor, the first post-master of Grand Rapids, boarded and his goods at that time would probably fill a wheel barrow. He afterwards kept a store.

“At the Strong home many lumbermen were fed. Domestic help was not as plentiful then as now, so it required a good deal of strength and patience on the part of Mrs. Strong to prepare meals for these men.

“Mr. Naylor's trip from Illinois to Grand Rapids was largely through an unsettled country. This territory was all through Dane county at that time. Portage city was one of the principal stopping places till they reached Grand Rapids. Sixteen miles this side of Portage, Jared Waulswarth had settled on a homestead, married an Indian woman, kept travelers and did some hunting and fishing. This Indian woman was known over large scope of country especially by the French as being an excellent nurse and quite skillful as a doctor.

“The first jail and court house to be located in this northern country was at Plover, and it was one of the most economical established in a new country as a man confined in this jail seldom remained there long enough to require a single meal, as he would dig out through the sand underneath the building.”

Said the editor, “This was in 1845, but at Mr. Naylor's first visit at Grand Rapids in 1842 there was about ten or twelve people located on the Centralia side occupying two log houses.

“They were operating a saw mill driven by water power with an up and down saw that could average about 2000 feet of lumber per day. At this time Indians were plenty along the Wisconsin river but entirely peaceable. Game of all kind was found in great abundance, and the Hudson Bay Fur company agents were frequently seen trading with Indians.

“Mr. Naylor made several of these visits and trips until 1851 when he permanently located here. In 1849 he was married, and in 1850 he started a store which was located where the present city hall and library stands on the east side, but it was not until 1851 that he brought his wife here. The size of the store was 12 x 24 feet and therefore would not compare

very favorable with that of Spafford, Cole & Co.’s of today.

“Mr. and Mrs. Naylor are at present visiting with Mrs. M.J. Warren and [he] enjoys good health. He recalls his boyhood days as well as his manhood with great pleasure and delights in seeing the progress being made today in the country which was very heavily timbered and sparsely inhabited when he first entered it. Mr. Naylor has lived to see the Indian and the pine forests disappear together. The railroads have crowded out the Indian trail, while thrifty cities with happy homes and rich farms make [up] the course of the Wisconsin River.”



Found on the Internet: Look hard in the items below for Robert Wakely’s name. H.K. Fay may have been the original owner of the Biron sawmill, known later as “Widow Fay’s.” Wakely’s property is the site of Historic Point Basse historic park.

Estate of David Shellman.
THE undersigned having been appointed by the Hon. Charles C. P. Arndt, Judge of Probate of Brown County, commissioners to receive and examine claims against the estate of David Shellman, deceased, give notice that they will meet on the 19th and 20th days of August next and 13th day of December next, at the house of Robert Wakely, Point Basse, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon, to receive and examine all claims against the said estate, which may be presented on or before the 14th day of December next, on which day report of our commissioners will be made.
H. K. FAY,
ROBERT WAKELY,
Commissioners
 Dated July 6, 1841. 22-w6

J. H. LOCKWOOD, *Att. per se.* 12W-1
SHERIFF'S SALE.
 R. Frasier, } Territory of Wisconsin, Dis-
 vs. } trict Court of Dane County,
 Alexis Barker & } November term, A. D.
 P. S. Kelly. } 1842.
By virtue of a writ of Fi. Fa. to me directed, issued out of the clerk's office of said court, against the lands and tenements of Alexis Barker and P. S. Kelly, in favor of Robert Frasier, I have this day levied on all the right title and interest of the said Barker and Kelly, in and to the following described tract of land, situated in the southeast quarter of section No. 26 in township No. 29 of Range 7 east. Also the undivided interest, right and title, in and to the N. E. quarter of section 35 range and town above mentioned. Also all their interest, right and title, in and to a double saw-mill erected on the same. I shall, on the seventeenth day of April, A. D. 1843, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at the house of Moore and Berry at Big Bull Falls, expose at public sale to the highest and best bidder, the above described property, to satisfy said writ and costs. A. A. BIRD, Sheriff D. C.
 9:6w By R. WAKELY, Deputy.
 Dated Feb. 4th, 1843.

Lottie Lynn

Soprano

By Alison Bruener
Museum Assistant

At the end of the 19th Century and into the 20th, the names most recognizable in South Wood County were those who ventured into lumber, paper or banking. Known as “pioneers,” they transformed their surrounding landscape into what was for them the modern era. In their homes, music came from their own instruments and voices.

Individuals who would become accomplished musicians and singers were more often found on the East coast. Famous names of musical talents are seldom thought of as hailing from small communities in central Wisconsin. I had never heard of her until the Museum’s own Uncle Dave handed over an article on “Miss Lottie Lynn.”

The Musical Lynn Family

Miss Lottie’s father, Marvin Hiram Lynn, and his family moved here when he was just two years old. Later, with the coming of the War Between the States, Marvin was so small the army wouldn’t take him, that is, until they heard his drumming and he became known as “the drummer boy of the Iron Brigade.”

After the War, Marvin returned home and began trying his hand at numerous jobs. He started a family mercantile business, worked at cranberry growing on a marsh in Nekoosa, and eventually became an incorporator of the Citizens National Bank, Wisconsin Rapids. He served as Post Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic for several terms.

Marvin and his wife, Ida, had three boys and three girls who would be involved with music through their lives.

Miss Lottie Lynn

Charlotte was the second of Marvin and Ida’s six children. Born in 1874 in Port Edwards, she took her first steps into the world of music with her father and the local orchestra. In 1887, when Lottie was thirteen, she spent some months in St. Paul, Minn., with a ma-

ternal uncle. It was during that time Lottie was first reported on for her musical capabilities, as a student at the Minneapolis Conservatory. In a report from the *Saint Paul Globe*, she was described as, “possessed of a voice that gives promise of future wonders. It is a pure, clear soprano, of wonderful volume, compass and flexibility, though still in the early stages of development. With proper care and training there is reason to believe the owner will one-day rank with the leading singers of the world, though it is the opinion of the leading musical experts of the city that the child should permit the voice to rest for three years, or risk its complete loss.”

Indeed it was four years later, in August 1891, that the *Centralia Enterprise and Tribune* announced that, “Mrs. Frances Edwards [industrialist’s wife and mother of Mrs. L.M. (Lida) Alexander of Port Edwards] accompanied by Miss Lottie Lynn, of Grand Rapids, departed for Chautauqua, N.Y., during the past week. We understand Miss Lynn will be afforded exceptional facilities for the study of vocal music and voice culture, which she will industriously pursue in her present absence, and possibly continue next winter under the tuition of competent Chicago instructors.”

Miss Lottie seemed to be well connected locally, acting as a delegate for the Epworth League of the Port Edwards Methodist church. In Chicago, she was a soloist at the newly-constructed Pilgrim Congregational Church under the tutelage of J. Harvey Wheeler. But, for her name to reach grander stages, Charlotte would need to make the jump to the East Coast.

In 1894, a letter was received by Ellis Kromer along with a copy of the *Boston Sunday Post*, detailing what Lottie had been performing. At 20, she



left central Wisconsin to continue her musical education at the New England Conservatory in Boston, Mass., where she “studied piano theory, elocution and voice” according to the 1901 *Musical Record and Review*. In her first two years in Boston, she performed in some of the largest churches the city had to offer.

During the summer season of her fourth year away from Wisconsin, Lottie performed the music of Frank E. Sawyer’s, “Shine On, Oh Stars” and “All for You” by W. L. Bluemenschein. At the end of July 1899, the *Wood County Reporter* announced that for the first time in four years Marvin and Ida would have their daughter home to visit.

After learning her first music from her father, performing for the residents of Wood County, traveling to cities in the Midwest to appearing with orchestras in the East, Charlotte Lynn was ready to take the stage as a professional singer. In a November 1901 issue of the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, reports of multiple offers came in, including the opportunity to study opera in Paris. Within one month of her departure, Lottie elected to stay on in Boston for her church work and to perform with the Fadette Ladies Orchestra in their tour of Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota.

Finally, before the move to Europe, Charlotte was asked to take on a role in the play of “Ben Hur.”

In a story headlined, “Singers Forsake Church Choirs for Ranks of Stage Choruses,” the April 6, 1902, *Boston Post* said, “It was that of Miss Charlotte Lynn, who has been for several years one of Boston’s best-known singers in church and oratorio and late soprano of the Park Street Church. The manager of the company heard Miss Lynn sing last year and tried to secure her for the last production of the play, but she would not give up her church work. However, she has finally consented to do so, and her exquisite voice adds much to the effect of the choral singing.

“Miss Lynn has received several flattering offers from different managers, but will probably, at the ex-



piration of her contract with the company, go abroad to study for grand opera.”

London Stages

In the soprano section, the *Boston Sunday Post* noted the following on Miss Lynn:

“Another Boston girl who is singing in London is Miss Charlotte Lynn, formerly soprano of the Park Street Church. Miss Lynn went to England last October for a two years’ stay, and is studying under West Brun, one of the great German masters, who prophesies a great career in grand opera for the young singer.



1. Celia Emmons; 2. Carrie Pomainville; 3. Pearl St. Amour; 4. Ruth Mead; 5. Lottie Lynn; 6. (?) Nash; 7. (?) Balderston; 8. Anna Farrish; 9. (?) Nash. 10. not named; 11. Floy Philleo; 12. not named; 13. Mabel Gardner

“Miss Lynn is living at 56 Torrington square, near the British Museum in London, and has been engaged to sing at a number of drawing rooms and receptions during the season,” said the *Boston Sunday Post*, May 29, 1904.

It was during one of these receptions that she met Dr. William Campbell, a London physician. In August 1904, it was announced they were to be married. The *Grand Rapids Tribune*, reported she was contemplating leaving her singing career to take on home duties.

It wouldn’t be long before Charlotte’s life would change once again. In the autumn of 1905, her husband suddenly died. It was reported in *Grand Rapids* that nobody in the States knew of any illness Dr. Campbell was afflicted with.

The Path Back to Music

After this life altering event, Charlotte Lynn-Campbell returned to Wisconsin and, after some weeks, decided to spend the winter with a friend in

Montgomery, Ala., to teach music. During a reception hosted by Charlotte’s friend, she gave an intimate performance, resulting in a glowing review in a November 1906 *Stevens Point Journal*.

“Her interpretation of ‘Elsa’s Dream’ was exceptionally artistic and it gave great pleasure to an appreciative audience.”

Over the next year, performances in Grand Rapids were held at Lincoln High School and a First Presbyterian church in the area, but the international stage called, and, in 1908, Charlotte performed for Carl Rosa Opera Company in Ireland, Scotland and Wales, “and while in England she sang before the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland.” Back home, she rejected offers by Moody-Manners, a prominent English company. The following summer, 1909, Charlotte would travel for the last time to Europe to train under “Madame Marchesi, who is considered by many people to be the greatest teacher of vocal music in the world,” according to the *Wood County Reporter*.



Frankie Browne(?), Helen Philleo (Center), Floy Philleo (Nash), Ella Hasbrouck, Lottie Lynn (Campbell), Esther Thorn

Final Teachings

After learning music from others, Charlotte Lynn-Campbell, upon her return from Paris, was ready to become the teacher. In 1914, she moved to Wausau, where she taught select pupils two days a week, and would travel back to Grand Rapids to hold vocal lessons. She continued to live in central Wisconsin and teach music the rest of her life.

In 1955, Charlotte died after a long illness not defined. Throughout her life of constant change, from one teacher to another, moving from city to city, obtaining an illustrious career, enduring the heartbreak of losing her husband, the one constant Charlotte had was her music.

You could even say that through her pupils her music continued to live on. It brings to my memory a song I learned as a Girl Scout, "Music Alone Shall Live."

At Forest Hill Cemetery, Wisconsin Rapids



How did our countryside become populated? The following genealogical account follows the offspring of two immigrants who provided so many of our neighbors. Note how many of the names mentioned are German.

The Progeny of Reinhold Brehm

By **Scott Brehm**
Vesper Correspondent

I have been doing Vesper and family genealogy work for about 10 years but it wasn't until writing for this *Artifacts* that I realized my job had not been completed. Unanswered questions caused me to visit with distant family members I have not talked to since I first started my genealogy.

A big thank you goes out to my "go to" relatives: Linda Jones, who helped me close some holes for the Louise Brehm/William Knuth part of this article and Betty Zuege, who helped me in the Minnie Brehm/Martin Zuege connections. Special thank you to Sharon Kreutzer who spent hours at the Wood County Courthouse checking the details of this story. I am sorry that I haven't found someone in the Anna Brehm/Charles Ristow connection. I hope this article stirs up some discussion with the readers and shows how your family tree really can blossom when you look.

The Daughters of Reinhold and Amelia

Anna



Anna Marie Emilie Brehm was the first born of Reinhold and Amelia Brehm, Nov. 26, 1878, in Prussia. Anna was five years old when she came to America with her parents, Reinhold and Amelia, and two siblings. Anna was confirmed at St. John's Lutheran church April 3, 1892.

Two months after the death of her father, Reinhold, she married a neighbor, **Charles (Carl) Ristow**, July 24, 1900. Anna and Charles had five children.

Lydia L. Ristow was born in 1901 and died in 1967. Lydia married **Roy Fritz**.

Leslie Ristow was born in 1902 and died in 1980. Leslie married **Rose Jensen**.

Viola Ristow was born in 1905 and died in 1983. Viola married **Leon Heiser**.

Roselle Ristow was born in 1910 and died in 1990. Roselle married **Ilo Roeske**.

Mary Ann Ristow was born in 1915 and died in 1986. Mary Ann married **Calvin Bowes**.

In the 1905 Wisconsin State Census, Anna Ristow, age 27, was living with her husband, Carl Ristow, age 30, and her father-in-law, Charles, 61, with three children: Lydia, 4, Leslie, 2 and Viola, 5 months—on the farm in the Town of Sigel. It had been five years of marriage for Anna and Carl.

By 1910, Anna, 31, and Charles, 36, left the farm in Sigel and moved to Grand Rapids along with now four children.

In 1915, Anna died while giving birth. Charles had a very difficult year caring for the children after Anna died and his father's untimely death in 1916.

Louise



Louise Meinna Auguste Brehm was the second child of Reinhold and Amelia Brehm. She was born on Sept. 19, 1881, in Prussia, and came to America at the age of three.

On July 4, 1901, Louise married **William Knuth**, a neighbor. William and Louise (Lizzie) Knuth were married for 57 years and had 12 children:

Esther Lydia Knuth was born in 1902 and died in 1943. Ester married **Jim Bethke**.

Edward August Knuth was born in 1904 and died in 1974. Edward married **Viola Finup**.

Raymond Knuth was born in 1906 and died in 1968. Ray married **Mable Lastofka**.

Ruth Emma Knuth was born in 1908 and died in 1976. Ruth married **Sigurd Wick**.

Lela Marie Knuth was born in 1910 and died in 1996. Lela married **Harold Petersen**.

Clara Knuth was born in 1911 and died in 1997. She married **Walter Benroy**.

Marie Louise Knuth was born in 1914 and died in 2001. Marie married **Harvey Petersen**.

Elizabeth Minnie Knuth was born in 1916 and died in 1970. Elizabeth married **Glen Finup**.

Charlotte Henrietta Knuth was born in 1919 and died in 2009. Charlotte married **Donald Gilman**.

Harold John Knuth was born in 1921 and died in 1987. Harold married **Ruth Jackson**.

Myrtle Lydia Knuth was born in 1923 and died in 2007. Myrtle married **Bob Rosenthal**.

William Reinhold Knuth was born in 1925 and died 2012. William married **Agnes Lemay**.

Louise Brehm Knuth died Dec. 10, 1958. Her husband, William Knuth, died on May 17, 1968.

Meinna



Meinna Bertha Anna Brehm was the last of the seven Brehm children. Meinna was born Sept. 17, 1893, in the Town of Sigel and died in 1961. Meinna married **Martin Karl Zuege**, Dec. 28, 1910.

Meinna and Martin Zuege had eight children:

Delton Victor Zuege was born in 1911 and died in 1914.

Dorothy Lorraine Zuege was born in 1915 and died in 2013. Dorothy married **Walther Manz**.

Lucille Janet Zuege was born in 1918 and died in 1998. Lucille was married to **Florian Ashenberg**.

Elton Martin Zuege was born in 1923 and is living in Wisconsin Rapids. Elton married **Elaine Haas**.

Lynette Jane Zuege was born in 1925 and is living in Wisconsin Rapids. Lynette married **Russell Wilson**.

Joyce Elaine Zuege was born in 1926 and died in 2015. Joyce married **Merlin Marti**.

Beatty Marie Zuege was born in 1929 and is living in Wisconsin Rapids. Beatty married **Delbert Tuxhorn**.

Ronald Allen Zuege was born in 1935 and is living in Wisconsin Rapids. Ronald married **Shirley Spranger**.

My next *Artifacts* article will center around the four sons of Reinhold and Amelia Brehm.



William Knuth and Louise Brehm Knuth



William and Louise Knuth family

Esther, Ruth, Lela, Edward, Raymond, Harold, Clara, Marie
Elizabeth, Charlotte, Louise, William, Myrtle, William R. Jr.



Meinna (Minnie) Brehm and Martin Zuege

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1964: Aqua Skiers Bill Lukes, Annette Smullen and John Hahner at Lake Biron on the Wisconsin river above Wisconsin Rapids