

# ARTIFACTS



Cover: Candidate for the Republican presidential nomination George Romney in Rapids, p. 2. Walter John Chilsen, WSAU newscaster and politician, to Romney's right, sporting similarly slick hair. E.P. Arpin's Indian Jeff by Phil Brown, 3; Jeff Davis by UD, 4; Missing the Boat by Helen Zimmerman, 5; Hiawatha Bar by Bill Cwiklo, 6-13; Thunder Bay, 14-15; Decoration Day, 16-18, Wynette/Jones, 19-25; Cranmoor pix, 26; Aldorf, 27; Liberace, 28-30; Daily Tribune, 31; George Jones photo, 32.



## The Nominee 1968

Gov. George Romney's appearance in Wisconsin Rapids, Feb. 9, 1968, as guest speaker at the annual Lincoln Day dinner of the Wood County Republican party, "should not be construed as an endorsement of the Michigan governor for the GOP presidential nomination," insisted Ray Lecy, Wisconsin Rapids, chairman of the county party organization. (Lecy, a teacher and coach at Grove school during Uncle Dave's studentship, later recruited Dave's brother, Gary, to leaflet for Nixon.)

"Mr. Romney is one of several nationally prominent Republicans we contacted in an effort to secure an eminent speaker for our Lincoln Day dinner," said Lecy. "We invited him before he announced his candidacy and his was the first acceptance."

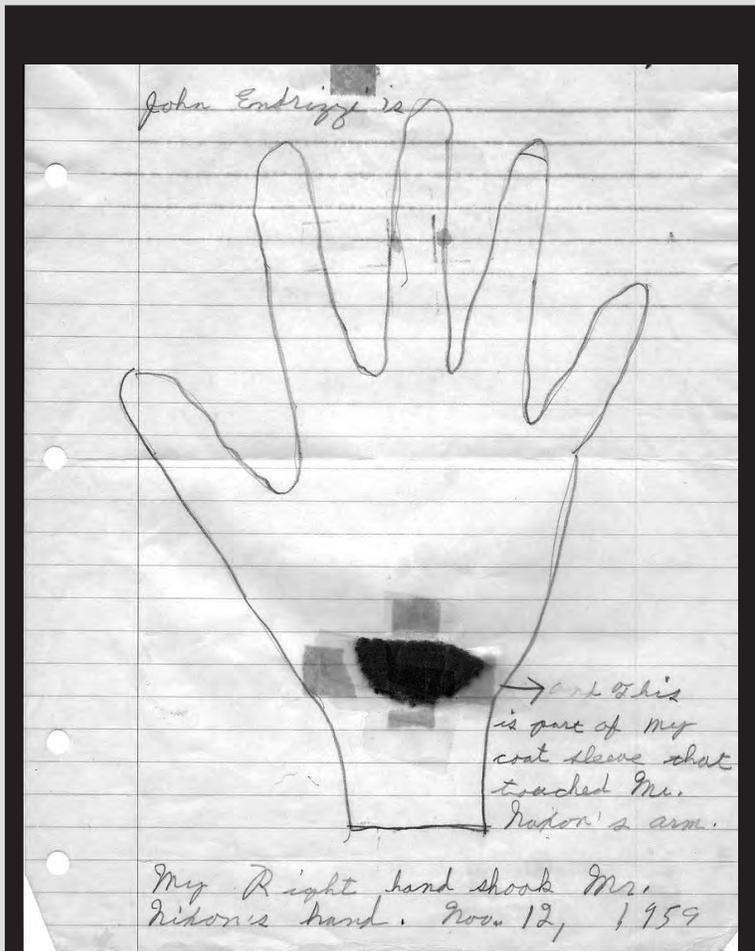
After a day of "stumping" in southeast Wisconsin, Romney flew into Wisconsin Rapids about 6:30 p.m. for a press conference at the Mead Inn. "Despite an attempt by two radio newsmen to monopolize the conference (twice Romney rebuked them for asking new questions before he had finished answering previous ones), the candidate forcefully presented his foreign and domestic programs."

After the 7 p.m. dinner and speech at Assumption high school, Romney departed, presumably from the Tri-City Airport/Alexander Field featured in *Artifacts* 57.

Near the end of February, Romney abruptly dropped out of the race, leaving former Vice President Richard M. Nixon the lone serious contender on the Republican side. Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York was considered a possibility. Other candidates tentatively on the ballot were perennial candidate former Minnesota Gov. Harold Stassen and Gov. Ronald Reagan of California.

Romney had dropped out due to lack of support in the polls, maybe because of his "doveish" attitude on the Viet Nam war, criticizing Democratic President Lyndon Johnson and the hawkish Richard Nixon, who won the nomination and narrowly defeated Democratic Vice President Hubert Humphrey in the election and later resigned from office rather than be impeached.

George Romney, an auto industry executive, is the father of Utah Senator Mitt Romney, himself the 2012 Republican nominee for president.



1959

"a part of my coat sleeve that touched Mr. Nixon's arm"

Phil Brown  
SWCHC President

## Arpin's Close Call

*Outstanding Native woodsman saved life of lumber family scion*

Descendants of pioneer lumberman John Baptiste Arpin recently stayed at the home he built in 1889, now Le Chateau B&B, 840 1st. St. N., Wisconsin Rapids. Polly Arpin Jackson, great-granddaughter of Arpin and her son, Ken, were also guests of my wife, Mary, and myself at Glacial Lake Cranberries, Cranmoor, a marsh established in 1873 by the same John B. Arpin.

Polly and Ken wanted to learn as much about the Arpins as possible, so I consulted the Arpin family file at the South Wood County Historical Museum. There, I found a letter sent from his Neenah home by Edmund P. Arpin, Jr., a grandson of John B., dated July 6, 1956. It was addressed to Dr. Clifford L. Lord, then the Director of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, who was looking for information regarding "Indian" Jeff Davis.

Edmund Jr. says he was about nine years old when he met the much-older Davis. "Indian Jeff" came into the back yard and was greeted by Arpin's father, Edmund Arpin Sr., "through some strange ceremony of patting each other on the shoulder and calling each other 'brother.'"

Edmund Sr. and Davis then "retired to the back end of the yard to have a quiet and lengthy visit seated on some four foot maple cordwood, of which a carload or so was usually piled up in that location for firing the furnace in the wintertime. They visited for half an hour or so and then shook hands and 'Indian Jeff' left."

Arpin judged Davis at age 70 or more, as the tall man was "considerably" deaf and crippled from rheumatism. "From then on I saw him occasionally every year or two for the next four or five years and then he stopped coming." Perhaps, Edmund Jr. said, Davis had become too disabled or had died.

Over time, the younger Arpin had frequently been asked about "Indian Jeff," a legend among survivors of the river rafting era. In fact, Arpin said, several old river men "stated emphatically that there was little doubt that he was a son of Jefferson Davis."

According to *Artifacts* editor Uncle Dave, the president of the Confederacy had served parts of 1828-32 in Wisconsin, where he met his first wife, the daughter of Gen. Zachary Taylor, future president of the U.S.



*Polly Arpin Jackson and Ken Jackson*

Arpin said "Indian Jeff" had made his home "in the neighborhood of Portage or Mauston" and did not associate much "with the [unidentified] Indian tribe in which he was born."

"In his early life he was a powerfully well-built man with a reputation of being the best man on the River in the entire region. He had great ability in the art of building a raft of lumber so that it would ride well and handle well and hang together."

"My grandfather, John B. Arpin, Sr., had a saw mill at Germantown across from Necedah on the Wisconsin River..."

"In the early days pine timber from as far away as Lake St. Germain, which is near Rhinelander, was driven down in log form to Germantown and was cut up into lumber. It was then cured and finished and in the spring and summer made into rafts and floated down the river to as far as St. Louis and even towed up the Illinois River..."

"My father accompanied several of these rafts down River, although he was just a lad at the time. It seems that on one of these trips in some way he was hit by the arm of a sweep with which the raft was steered and kicked off into the fast water. This is where 'Indian Jeff' came in, as he saved his life, being a strong swimmer and happened to be right on hand."

"In addition to being an exceptionally good pilot and all-around man on the River, Jeff also was extremely honest and very proud. He would borrow money occasionally from my father; but invariably paid him back in time."

## Uncle Dave

## Our Jeff Davis

Edmund Arpin Jr. said he couldn't think of anyone still living who had known Davis, concluding, "I will try to round up more information if I can; but meanwhile, I thought possibly this might be of some value to you, or to anybody who might want to try to do some research on this subject."

That "anybody" has done some "research" in the digital cloud to answer two questions:

1. Is it possible that Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, fathered children in Wisconsin with one or more Native American women?

Yes.

The April 26, 1866, *Dodgeville Chronicle* said, "The former 'Indian wife' of Jeff. Davis is living at Kenosha in Wisconsin. She is said to have lived with him when he was stationed at [Fort] Winnebago."

An historical series in the *La Crosse Tribune* referred on Jan. 31, 1937, to "the half-breed Indian boy, Jeff Davis, Jr." who had lived at Prairie du Chien since the Fort Crawford days, and died there at an advanced age.

1900: The Appleton *Post-Crescent* quoted the Fennimore, Wis., *Times* that one of the Indians on the Green Bay reservation had been recorded as "Joe Davis," the son of Jefferson Davis.

Claimed currently (2019) by a member of the Langlade family is that, during Jefferson Davis' time serving in the U.S. Army in what is now Wisconsin, he fathered two Métis (mixed race) children, "a son named Joseph J. Davis by a Menominee Indian girl named Wa Ne Ne Me Quaw, and a daughter Louise with Phoebe Ducharme."

Second question: Is the "Indian Jeff" known by Edmund Arpin Jr. the son of Confederate president Jefferson Davis? Probably not.

The 1870 federal census lists in the town of Seneca, "Jeff Davis," an Indian farm worker born in Kansas, age unknown.

On Christmas day, 1876, Jeff Davis, quiet and gentlemanly "for an Indian" came into town from Gerard and Drake's mill, with men named McLaughlin

and Andrews. The three proceeded to drink "unlimited quantities" of liquor.

As they returned toward the mill, crossing the "Tomah railroad," a scuffle ensued between McLaughlin and Davis. Later, Davis was found with a five-inch wound in the abdomen.

A Mr. Craney left Davis at "Kings" where he was cared for by Dr. Whitney. "The wounded man could give no intelligence relative to the manner, or by whom he received his injury. It is thought that he will die."

A 1876 *Wood County Reporter* said, "The Indian, Jeff Davis who was so badly wounded the day before Christmas has been taken to Mr. Smith's boarding house and is getting along nicely."

The 1910 federal census lists Jeff Davis,

"Ind[ian]," born in Kansas, 52 years old, living in Dexter, an illiterate farm laborer whose mother and father were also born in Kansas. If Davis were born in 1858, he would be too young to be Jefferson Davis' son.

A 1912 newspaper said Indian Jeff was in the Wood county jail, charged with robbery.

"He freely admits that he has adopted some of the white man's ways and next week will be brought before Judge Park

for trial. Indian Jeff is well known over Pittsville way where in the early days he was known to be about as handy with an ax as a man ever becomes."

In 1914, Davis was picked up in a drunken condition by Rapids Chief of Police Jim Gibson and taken before Judge John Roberts where he was sentenced to ten days in the county jail.

On July 2, 1921, Davis died and was buried in the Wood County Cemetery at age 71.

If that age is correct, our Jeff Davis was born in 1850, well after the years 1828-32 in which Confederate president Jefferson Davis was stationed at Fort Crawford, Prairie du Chien, Wis. and Fort Winnebago at Portage, Wis.



Jefferson Davis and second wife, Varina



“Dad” Halvor, Richard and Helen Morland

*Helen Zimmerman says she and husband Bob are in the familiar position of trying to talk their children and grandchildren into taking some of the objects they have accumulated over the years.*

*“My granddaughter, Ellie Zimmerman, always wanted my dad's old trunk so one weekend we took it to her in Green Bay. I wrote the story, put it in a pretty envelope and told her to always leave it in the bottom of the trunk.”*

## Missing the Boat Can Be a Good Thing

By (Grandma) Helen Morland Zimmerman

Dear Ellie,

Halvor J. Morland, my father and your great grandfather, was born in Arendal, Norway, in 1891. He came to the United States in 1907, at the age of 17. There were no work opportunities in Norway and Norwegians were immigrating to the United States. He was “sponsored” by Chester Simonson at Scandinavia, Wis., to live and work on his large farms. In 1933, Halvor moved to Wisconsin Rapids to marry my mother, Ilene Virum, working at Preway and raising my older brother Dick (1938-2019) and myself. The Simonsons continued to be a big part of our American family.

In 1915, at age 25, Halvor packed the trunk you now have, to return to Norway to visit parents, brothers and sisters. His trip to Liverpool was booked on the “RMS Lusitania.” Upon his arrival at New York for the voyage, he was informed that the Lusitania had been oversold and he would need to seek passage on another ship.

On May 7, 1915, the Lusitania was targeted by a German U-boat off the southern coast of Ireland, sinking in 18 minutes. Of the 1,959 passengers and crew, 1,198 were drowned in the 52-degree water. Almost all the passengers in “steerage” accommodation were lost. My dad had a ticket for this area.

Dad didn't make another trip back to Norway and, after the age of 25, never saw another relative of his. Because I was so young when he died, we didn't discuss this tragic event, but I wonder if it was a factor in his not returning to his homeland.

Love Ya,

Grandma

**Cwiklo**

Résumé for Bill Cwiklo: Born in Wisconsin Rapids and educated at Assumption High School. As an undergraduate at Georgetown University, majored in Economics, History and Diplomacy. Attended the University of Dijon, France, and American University, Washington, D.C., earning a masters degree in public administration. A principal consultant, lecturer, editor and author for an international corporation in the area of complex litigation and information management systems.

Between 1993 and 1995, served as historian and curator for the Queen Mary ocean liner museum in Long Beach, California. Member of the board and of the executive committee of the Historical Society of Long Beach and of the Long Beach Heritage Coalition.

Now retired in Wisconsin Rapids.



Photo by UD

Cwiklo

1959



**Hiawatha Bar**

*Good times at a West Side historical landmark*



## The Hiawatha

Prior to construction of Rapids Mall in the mid-1970s, the downtown of Wisconsin Rapids extended several blocks west on Grand Avenue to the Milwaukee Road tracks and beyond. To make way for the mall project, several blocks of buildings were destroyed, including the Hiawatha Bar. Named for the famous Hiawatha train, the bar, built in 1909, was located at 671 W. Grand Avenue on the corner of West Grand Avenue and 7th Avenue South.





Bill's father, Frank Cwiklo Jr., bartending to assist his brother-in-law, Leo Kleppin. Cwiklo married Stella Wozniak; Kleppin (Bill's godfather) married Stella's sister, Sophie.



Leo Kleppin, Hiawatha co-owner (with Van Kubisiak) from 1946-1966.

Photos provided by James Kleppin, son of Leo.

# 1951

**Fun  
AND  
Favors**

Galore For  
Your Celebration



Come in and Join the Fun on New Year's Eve! We'll Have . . . Hats — Horns — Confetti. We Serve All Your Favorite Drinks.

**HIAWATHA BAR**

Leo Kleppin and Van Kubisiak—Props.

671 West Grand Ave. Wisconsin Rapids

Dec. 29, 1950  
*Daily Tribune*



June 1974



A mural of the Hiawatha train moving through the countryside was destroyed along with the building in the 1970s.





*The Hiawatha's most famous customer*



Jacqueline Kennedy visited Rapids, campaigning for her husband. John, prior to the 1960 presidential primary election. She stopped at the Hiawatha bar alone and requested and was served an orange soda by my uncle, Leo Kleppin. The story was related to me by his son and my cousin, Jim Kleppin. Here is a photo of Mrs. Kennedy taken in Wisconsin at another location while she was campaigning in 1960.

*Bill Cwiklo*

## Last Call

In 1974, the City of Wisconsin Rapids decided to rebuild the western edge of downtown for Rapids Mall, an indoor shopping center. The city hall and business buildings on both sides of West Grand Avenue from 4th Avenue west to the railroad tracks were targeted for demolition. In addition to the mall, an expressway that skirted it and the traditional downtown were also envisioned and built. The impact on the vitality of the historic city center was not a major consideration.



The owners bowed to what seemed inevitable and progress and, in 1974, many regulars of the Hiawatha Bar with their friends and families gathered for one last visit.

## Back Bar

A notable feature of the Hiawatha, according to reporter David Kauffman in the June 8, 1974, *Daily Tribune*, was the 45-foot-long bar that was auctioned by the Redevelopment Authority prior to the demolition of the building.

The quarter-sawed oak and curly-birch bar with mahogany top, said the auction catalog, was built locally at the old G.J. Kaudy Manufacturing Co. where the Preway, Inc. complex and the Green Bay & Western Railway depot were later located. It was bought by auctioneer Jack Barrett for \$400 and destined for a home in Texas.



1974 Daily Tribune

**LAST DRINK'S BEEN SERVED**  
The 45-foot-long bar at the Hiawatha Bar, 671 W. Grand Ave., was sold to auctioneer Jack Barrett for \$400 by the Redevelopment Authority. Barrett in turn sold it to a third party who plans to put it in a recreation room of a large house in, naturally, Texas. (Tribune Photo)

**Ornate Hiawatha bar auctioned**

By David Kauffman  
Tribune Staff Writer  
(Lost in a series of related articles)

The massive, ornate back bar of the Hiawatha Bar has been auctioned off to a third party who plans to put it in a recreation room of a large house in, naturally, Texas.

where the Preway, Inc. complex and Green Bay & Western Railway Co. depot are now. Jack Barrett, local auctioneer, bought it for \$400 and sold it to a third party who plans to put it in a recreation room of a large house in, naturally, Texas.

The bar was installed when the building was put up in 1900. The Kaudy firm, manufacturer of the bar, was founded by brothers G. J. and Matt Kaudy in Coffey, Wis., and moved to Green Bay in 1897. They moved to Green Bay in 1897. They moved to Green Bay in 1897. They moved to Green Bay in 1897.

to its products. In a catalog, the Kaudy firm, manufacturer of the bar, was founded by brothers G. J. and Matt Kaudy in Coffey, Wis., and moved to Green Bay in 1897. They moved to Green Bay in 1897. They moved to Green Bay in 1897.

"Nearly every bar in Wisconsin is made by the Kaudy firm," Gerard said. "The most expensive bar in the state is the one in the Grand County Register," the manufacturer said. "we hire only experienced cabinetmakers to make our bars. A quality model was medium priced. Gerard said. A quality model was medium priced. Gerard said. A quality model was medium priced."

<p><b>Cranboree Visitors</b></p> <p>We Welcome You To Our Friendly Bar</p> <p>You'll Like Our Drinks</p> <p><b>JOHN STERNOT'S BAR</b></p> <p>321 W. Grand Ave. On Your Parade Route</p> 	<p><b>On The Town</b> It's Cranboree Time</p> <p>Refresh Yourself at</p>  <p><b>The HIAWATHA BAR</b></p> <p>671 West Grand Ave.</p> <p><b>Fun For All</b></p>	<p><b>Here's To A Stupendous, Colossal and Gigantic Cranboree!</b></p> <p>Enjoy Your Favorite Drink At The</p> <p><b>Grand Ave. Tap</b></p> <p>620 W. Grand</p> <p><b>FOR THE BEST IN WINES - BEER and LIQUOR</b></p> <p>JOIN US FOR FUN</p> 
---	--	--

## Revisiting Thunder Bay

By Uncle Dave

We've been here before. See *River City Memoirs* for that.

Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada: Port Arthur, Fort William, two cities joined into one, like ours.

Take it back to 1920-30 and the excursions of employees of Consolidated Water Power & Paper Co. and their families to the north shore of Lake Superior, thanks to a timber grant from the Canadian government. When the company constructed a newsprint mill in Port Arthur in 1927, our own Clarence E. Jackson was named manager.

Finished paper rolls would be transported to a warehouse on the lake front and transferred to ships during navigation season and to railway cars in winter.

The company bragged up the Thunder Bay mill as an "institution standing proudly" within the Consolidated organization, fulfilling the "governing thought" of the Consolidated ideal, to do all things well. A year after they built the Thunder Bay mill, Consolidated sold it, in December 1928.

In 1929, Jackson, owner of a new moving picture camera presented by Port Arthur employees, returned to Wisconsin Rapids to become mill manager. At the time of his retirement, Jackson was production manager of the company's book mills and Wisconsin Rapids Division manager.



Thunder Bay home of C.E. Jackson, since razed (Consolidated News)

The son of Wood County Normal school principal Merwin H. Jackson, Clarence graduated in 1914 from the University of Chicago and came to Consolidated as employment manager. Later, he was instrumental in helping the Rapids mill make the transition from newsprint to enamel papers that determined its historic niche.

Oct. 15, 2019, my wife, Kathy, SWCHC Librarian, and I, revisited the 1920s "second home" town of Jackson and other Consolidated employees, among them W.F. Thiele, Fred Fisher, Henry Hahner, Otto Mittelsteadt, F.A. Drumb, Earl McCourt and Jack Northern. Though we found the addresses of Jackson, Albert Zager and Albert Cichey, all the houses were gone.

Warren E. Beadle had stayed at the Port Arthur Hotel, in which we savored traditional Canadian delicacies and marveled how our own people had been so prominent in a foreign but temporary home.

Canadian border crossing, Grand Portage-Pigeon River, 1920s



SWCHC

"Thermos Bottle Inspection," Probably due to Prohibition violations

T.B.P.C. = (Consolidated's) Thunder Bay Paper Co.

SWCHC



*Sight seeing with Frank Youngman  
T.B.P. Co.*

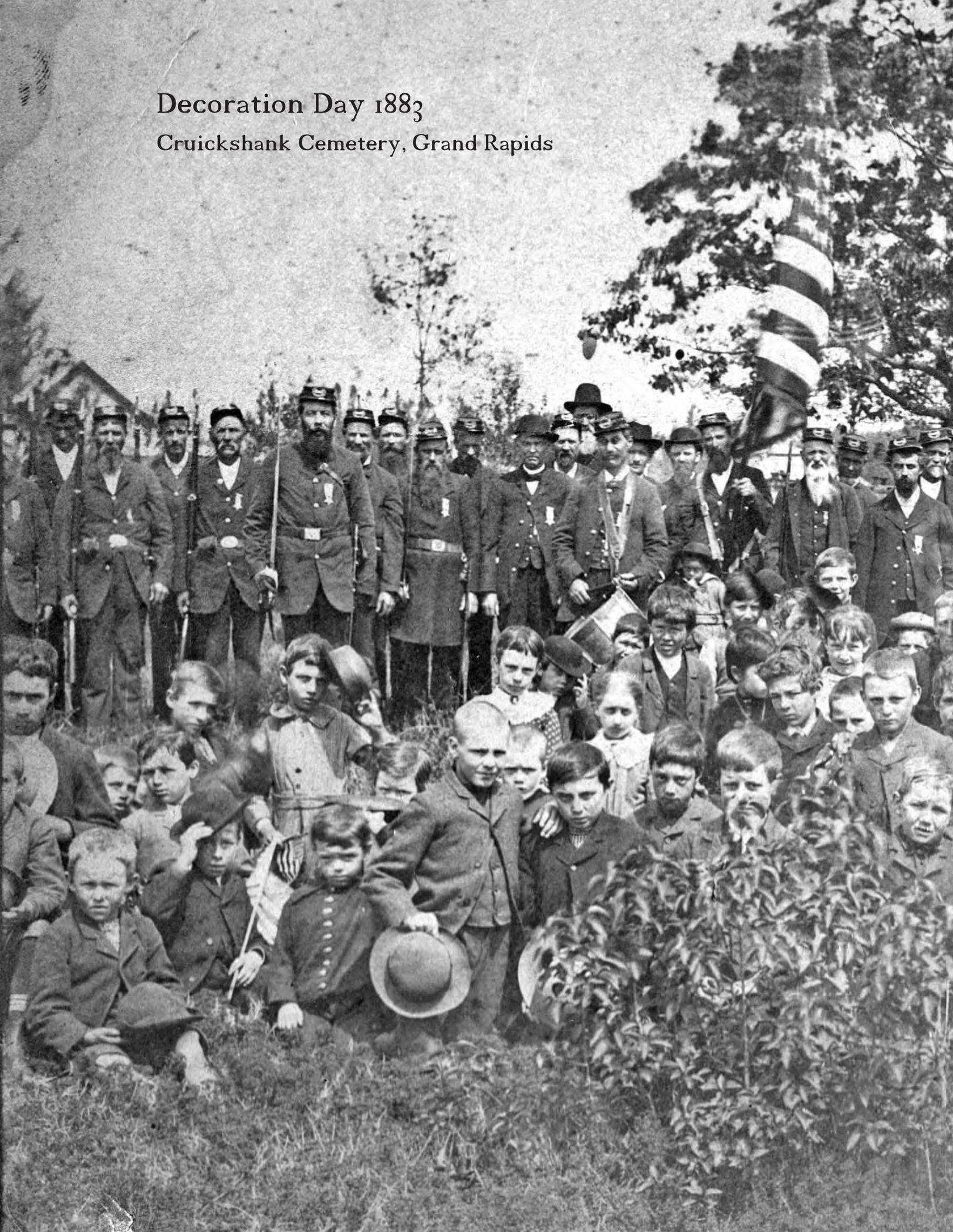
Thunder Bay (Port Arthur), Ontario  
October 2019

Photo by UD,  
taken from window of former courthouse, now a B&B

**Landmark**  
Whalen Building 1923 and 2019



Decoration Day 1883  
Cruickshank Cemetery, Grand Rapids





Walter P. Canning

Walter P. Canning

About the centerfold, pages 16, 17

## Decoration Day 1883

May 31 Wood County Reporter via Library of Congress

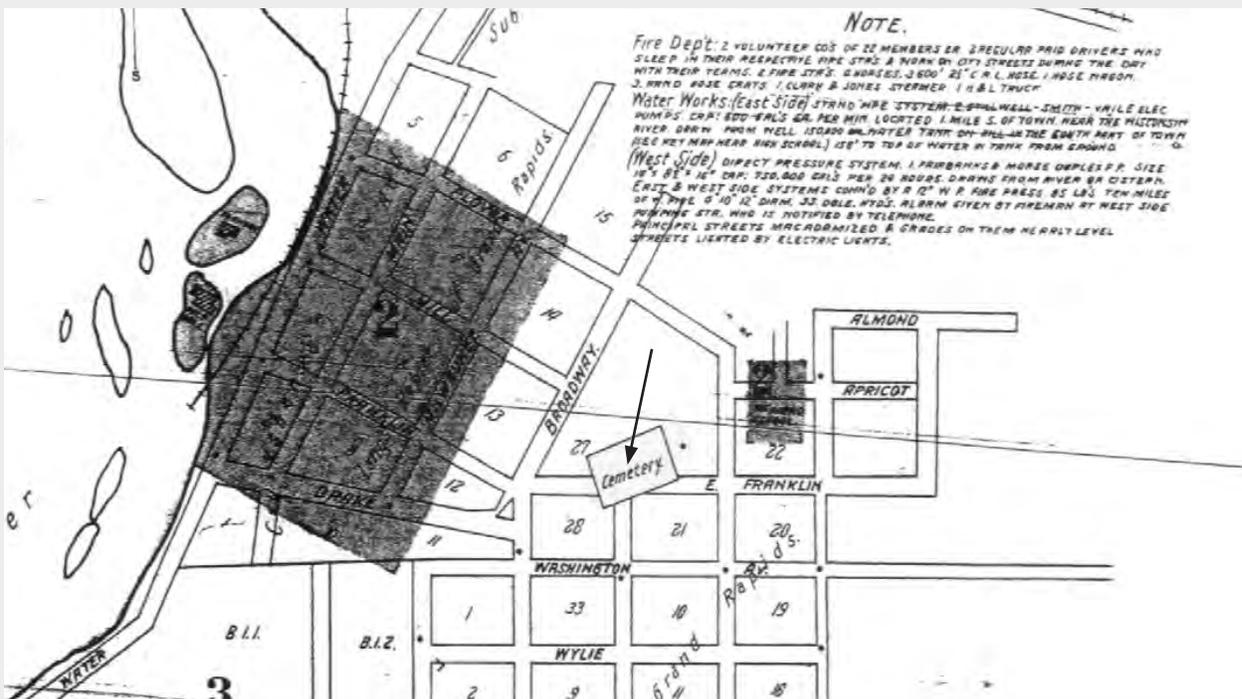
*The exercises on decoration day, the 30th of May, were appropriately observed in this city. The Grand Army of the Republic had taken pains to arrange matters prior to the day and everything passed off pleasantly. The procession was made up of the G. A. R. boys, Grand Rapids and Centralia school children, also a large number of citizens. The ceremony at the cemetery was carried out according to the G. A. R. ritual. The speeches at the M. E. Church by C.O. Baker and J. W. Cochran were reported good.*

In 1899, French-Canadian pioneer J.L. Cotey described old Grand Rapids as he had seen it in its early days, the 1840s and '50s. "Now, returning south and to the east of the present Arpin homestead, there was a road running east to a ravine..."

"Going up the hill on the right ascending were two graves; one was Mr. Leslond's, and the other that of a man employed as canoeist by the Rev. Bishop Lavenchey, who was ascending the Wisconsin River from Prairie du Chien on his way to Apostle Island in Lake Superior. The Bishop also consecrated that piece or point of land where those graves stood, for a future burying ground, and it was used for that purpose for many years; in fact until 1849, when J. J. Cruikshank [early mill owner here from Galena, Ill.] donated to the town one acre of land [in the same area] for the purpose of a burial ground, which is situated north and joining F. J. Wood's residence. The first person buried in this cemetery was a Mr. [Hibbard F. ] Johnson, who fell by the hand of an enemy on February 6, 1850."

The contents of the cemetery shown in pages 16 and 17 and on the map below were moved to the Forest Hill cemetery after its dedication in 1874, especially in the 1940s when the water tower was built.

Yes, there are boys in the tree.



*Negatives scanned by C. Henry Bruse*

*In Circuit Court  
Wood County Courthouse  
Wisconsin Rapids*

→  
**Defendant  
No Show Jones  
of Nashville**

Famous country and western singer, husband  
and partner of Tammy Wynette

*Versus*



←  
**Plaintiff:  
Yogi Pongratz  
of Blenker**

Francis LeRoy "Yogi" Pongratz, born 1932 in Marshfield, spent 10 years in the Air Force and continued in the Army National Guard; married Patricia Dustin in 1956; operated Pat and Roy's Bar, "the Nashville of the North," at Blenker, Wis.

*Negatives scanned by C.H. Bruse*

**PAT and ROY'S BAR**  
 "The Little Nashville of the North"  
 BLENKER, WIS. PHONE 652-2830

FREE COUNTRY WESTERN MUSIC TONIGHT —  
 THE COUNTRY COUSINS  
 featuring Dave Cook

\*\*\*\*\*  
 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26  
 WEDDING DANCE  
 In honor of  
 Delores Smazel and Dick Raab  
 Music by "Frankie and his Helicon"  
 Dancing from 8 to 12  
 DINING ROOM RESERVED FOR WEDDING PARTY  
 Saturday, Oct. 26, from 4:30 to 7

\*\*\*\*\*  
 COMING FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1  
 THE TAMMY WYNETTE SHOW  
 Tammy voted No. 1 Female Country and Western  
 Vocalist of the year.  
 TICKETS NOW ON SALE, \$2.00 per person.  
 Write or call PAT and ROY'S, BLENKER,  
 PHONE 652-2830

TUESDAY NIGHT SPECIAL  
 12 oz. Strip Sirloin  
 Sided bar included ..... **\$1.89**



**CONTRACT BLANK**

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS  
 OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

**HUBERT LONG TALENT AGENCY**  
 806 16TH AVENUE, S.  
 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

615-244-2424

LOCAL NUMBER 257



B \_\_\_\_\_  
 A \_\_\_\_\_  
 U \_\_\_\_\_

Contract for the personal services of musicians, made this 3rd day of September, 1968, between the  
 (hereinafter called the "employer") and 5 musicians (hereinafter called "employees").  
 (Including the Leader)

WITNESSETH, That the employer hires the employees as musicians severally on the terms and conditions below. The leader represents that the employees already designated have agreed to be bound by said terms and conditions. Each employee yet to be chosen shall be so bound by said terms and conditions upon agreeing to accept his employment. Each employee may enforce this agreement. The employees severally agree to render collectively to the employer services as musicians in the orchestra under the leadership of Tammy Wynette

Name and Address of Place of Engagement Pat and Roy's Club -- Blenker, Wisc.

Date (s) of Employment Friday, November 1, 1968

Hours of Employment 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Type of Engagement (specify whether dance, stage show, banquet, etc.) show and dance

WAGE AGREED UPON IN U. S. DOLLARS \$ 1000.00 guarantee

(Terms and Amount)

EXHIBIT NO. 58  
 WOOD COUNTY, WIS.  
 JASPER C. JOHNSON  
 CLERK OF COURTS

This wage includes expenses agreed to be reimbursed by the employer in accordance with the attached schedule, or a schedule to be furnished the employer on or before the date of engagement.  
 To be paid in U.S. DOLLARS

*Instead of just singin' my songs, my whereabouts are unknown  
 They call me no show Jones*

Lyrics by Merle Haggard and George Jones



**20** George Jones, left, Tammy Wynette, right at Wood County Courthouse



1450 ON YOUR DIAL  
WDLB-FM STEREO

WDLB BROADCASTING COMPANY

MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN  
AREA CODE 715-384-2191



MAY I HAVE ##### YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE.....(PAUSE)  
 TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS AND TO ALL OF OUR RADIO FRIENDS.....(PAUSE)  
 PAT AND I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR EFFORTS  
 TO MAKE COUNTRY WESTERN MUSIC POPULAR HERE IN CENTRAL WISCONSIN.....(PAUSE)  
 MANY OF YOU WILL RECALL THAT LAST YEAR WE HAD TAMMY WYNETTE HERE AT PAT AND ROY'S.....  
 NOW WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE OF YOU WHO COULD NOT GET TICKETS THEN....  
TAMMY IS COMING BACK.....(PAUSE) YES, TAMMY WHO WAS NAMED THE NUMBER ONE FEMALE  
 COUNTRY WESTERN STAR OF ~~1968~~ <sup>1968</sup> ~~ALONG~~ WITH GEORGE JONES AND THE JONES BOYS, HAROLD  
 MORRISON, ~~FRANK KERRY~~ THAT FUNNY FUNNY MAN, AND THE FABULOUS YOUNGSTERS <sup>DULWAYNE PHILLIPS</sup> WILL BE HERE  
 ON FRIDAY APRIL 18, 1969, AT THE BEAUTIFUL NEW MARSHFIELD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL FIELDHOUSE,  
 INCIDENTALLY IT'S AIR CONDITIONED AND ACCOUSTICALLY DESIGNED.....(PAUSE)  
 AS ~~HAS ALWAYS~~ <sup>BEEN</sup> OUR POLICY ... TICKETS WILL BE SOLD ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS,  
 NO TICKETS WILL BE HELD BACK.... PRICES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS....FLOOR CHAIRS, FRONT  
 AND CENTER, \$3.00.... RESERVED BLEACHERS, \$2.25....AND UNRESERVED BLEACHERS, \$1.50.....  
 TICKETS ARE GOING ON SALE ~~HERE~~ THIS AFTERNOON AND YOU MAY STOP IN ANYTIME TO PICK UP  
 YOUR TICKETS....OR YOU MAY ORDER BY MAIL, SIMPLY SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO.....  
 TAMMY WYNETTE SHOW, BLENKER, 54415, WISCONSIN. THOSE PRICES AGAIN, CHAIR SEATS, \$3.00.....  
 RESERVED SEATS, \$2.25 and UNRESERVED BLEACHERS, ~~\$1.50~~ <sup>1.50</sup>, DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED, GET YOUR TICKETS  
 TODAY.....THANK YOU

FILED  
FEB 11 1970

JASPER C. JOHNSON  
CLERK OF COURTS  
WOOD COUNTY, WIS.

EXHIBIT NO. 5  
WOOD COUNTY, WIS.  
JASPER C. JOHNSON  
CLERK OF COURTS

Radio script promoting the Wynette/Jones concert features the voice and words of Francis Pongratz and says Tammy Wynette performed at Pat and Roy's Bar, Blenker, in 1968, as shown at top of page 20

### Civil trial of CW stars opens here

The Circuit Court trial of George Jones and Tammy Wynette, well known country western singers who are defendants in a \$45,000 damage suit, went into its second day today at the Wood County Courthouse.

The husband and wife team is being sued by Francis (Yogi) L. Pongratz, Blenker, who seeks compensation for losses he claims to have incurred as a result of the singers' failure to appear for a concert date in Marshfield April 18, 1969.

Pongratz, who has been on the stand during the first day-and-a-half of the trial, owns and operates Pat & Roy's Little Nashville of the North nightclub in Blenker.

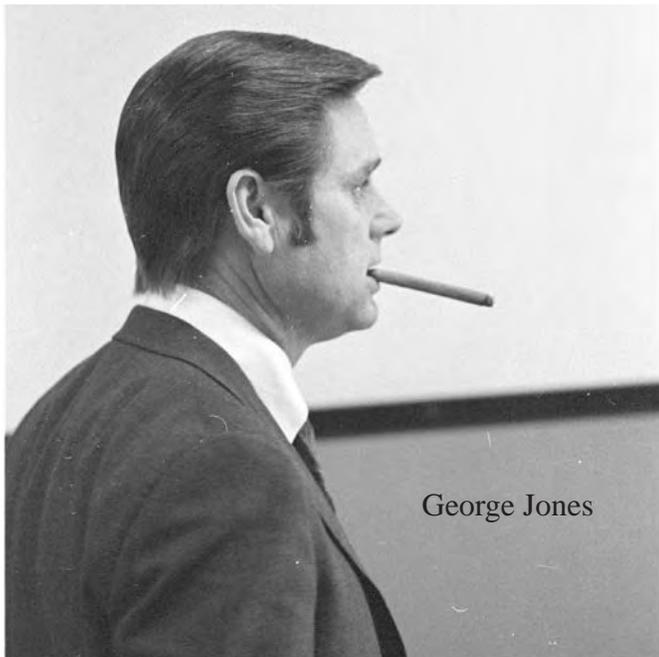
His complaint alleges that his bar business has suffered as a result of the concert fiasco. This morning he testified that he now has his nightclub up for sale as a result of what he calls a "declining business since last April."

Most of the first two days' testimony has been concerned with the details of the promotion event in Marshfield, including the losses Pongratz allegedly suffered because of the failure



### The Original

Altered photo above as it appeared in print with actual photo from a Feb. 10, 1970, *Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune* negative



George Jones

Marshfield News Herald September 1969

**PAT AND ROY'S BAR**  
 "The Little Nashville Of The North"  
 BLENKER, WIS. ★ TEL. 652-2830  
 Central Wisconsin's Largest Country & Western Nite Club

---

**FRI. NITE, SAT. NITE, SUN. AFT.**  
 FREE MUSIC AND COMEDY SHOW by  
**Freddy Karr And The Karr-Tunes**  
 8:30 to 12:30 Nitely and Sun. Aft. 2:00-7:00

---

**SUN. NITE, SEPT. 21st—7:00 to 11:00 P.M.**  
 (After The Freddy Karr Show)  
**Jimmy Green & The Country Trio**

---

**STARTING TUES. NITE, SEPT. 23rd**  
**THRU SUN., SEPT. 28th, 9:00-1:00**  
 Free Country Music By  
**DON AND DONNA CHAPEL**  
**"THE NASHVILLE CHAPERONES"**  
 FROM THE TAMMY WYNETTE SHOW

Don Chapel was married to Wynette when she met George Jones. Donna Chapel was Chapel's daughter.



Photo by UD

## Attorney for the Plaintiff

Francis J. Podvin

Fran Podvin, a '59 Assumption grad who continues to practice law here represented Francis Pongratz against the Wynette/Jones duo.

"Filing the lawsuit was the easy part of it," he told *Artifacts* editor Uncle Dave in December 2019. "Getting them to sit down for a deposition took months.

"Any time they showed up near this area, we would send out a process server. When we finally did catch them some place in the Fox River Valley, we set up deposition dates and they did not appear and we set up contempt motions.

"Finally the judge said to them, 'You either show up or we are going to have a judgment against you for \$45,000.' That kind of got their attention so they did show up and we took their depositions. It was hours of questions and they didn't have a lot of memory of the event."

Podvin said he and his partner, Larry Nash, checked the records of Delta airlines and found Wynette and Jones had flown to Cincinnati from which there were two empty seats to Chicago, a detail they did not recall. From Chicago, the two could have taken Roy Shwery's Midstate airlines to Marshfield, had they not been distracted at the Cincinnati airport bar by a couple other country western singers, including Henson Cargill.

While here for the Feb. 9, 1970, trial, Wynette and Jones stayed at the Mead hotel, sparking a rumor that their daughter Tamala Georgette Jones was conceived at that time. The trial was Feb. 9, 1970, and she was born in Lakeland, Fla., Oct. 5, 1970.

"Their lawyer flew up from Tennessee and demonstrated that they were broke and couldn't pay the entire \$45,000. Their band was in the back of the courtroom twiddling their thumbs. He had to get them down to Dallas or they were going to have the next no show. That's when the lawyer said he would pay \$13,000 out of his own pocket.

"He was a prominent lawyer. One of his clients was Johnny Cash.

"Pongratz was a long time client of our law firm. He and I went over to Marshfield the night they were not showing up. I told him, if they don't show you are going to have to refund the money.

"He was just a nice guy trying to do something to benefit himself and the community. He was a great country western fan and his bar had a lot of groups that he brought in."

The settlement Pongratz received from Wynette/Jones proved inadequate and in the end, he sold the bar and moved to Kansas, the homeland of his wife, Patricia. He died in 2011 at Topeka.



Francis "Yogi" Pongratz, probably with his wife, Patricia, at the Wood County Courthouse

## “Country and Western Show Canceled Here”

It was a small headline for a small story in the *Marshfield Herald*, when Tammy Wynette and George Jones failed to show up for a performance in the Marshfield Senior High School fieldhouse, an event sponsored by Pat and Roy’s Bar in Blenker, Francis Leroy “Yogi” Pongratz, impresario.

The first of the two shows on April 18, 1969, had been canceled as soon as it was learned the stars would be late. A large crowd had been seated when the second show was called off. Bad weather that disrupted air travel from Cincinnati was blamed.

A 2019 public television series celebrating country and western music provided a rationale to bring out court records acquired 33 years ago. The PBS documentary repeatedly referred to Jones’ failure to appear at concerts due to excessive alcohol consumption.

In 1970, he and Wynette found themselves in the Wood County courthouse, Wisconsin Rapids, defending themselves from a \$45,000 lawsuit for exactly that.

The “defendants’ brief” for “Francis L. Pongratz vs. George Jones and Tammy Jones, his wife,” stated that the plaintiff and defendants contracted on Feb. 12, 1969, to perform two shows on April 18, 1969, at the new senior high school gym, Marshfield, Wis.

The plaintiff wanted damages for expenses, loss of value of services, loss of profits, damage to the plaintiff’s reputation and loss of future profits.

Jones and Wynette denied they breached the contract and claimed that their non-appearance was due to the grounding of their commercial airlines flight at Cincinnati, Ohio, and the transportation difficulties that ensued, also claiming an “escape clause” existed.

Missing concerts was a habit with the two big stars. A clipping enclosed in the court files described an incident in Maryland in which, several hours prior to the opening set, Wynette had suffered a nervous breakdown and supposedly had been flown to a Nashville hospital, accompanied by Jones. However, the promoter checked their motel and found Jones still present but incapacitated. For incidents like this, he was nicknamed “No Show Jones” and the song, “No Show Jones,” became his anthem.

Wynette had arrived in Nashville from Mississippi a couple years earlier and almost immediately became a

success. After Jones interceded in an argument between her and her second husband, songwriter Don Chapel, Jones followed up with a drunken profession of love.

Wynette’s “Stand By Your Man,” presumably dedicated to Jones, went to number one, and George responded with, “I’ll Share My World With You.” They took the road together. On Feb. 16, 1969, two months before their failed date in Marshfield, they married.

On Nov. 19, 1969, Wynette was examined at the law office of Lawrence R. Nash and Francis Podvin, 170 Third St. N. Wisconsin Rapids, by Francis Podvin. She said her name was Virginia Wynette Jones and her stage name was Tammy Wynette. She and Jones lived in Lakeland, Fla.

...

*You are by occupation a musician and entertainer?*

Yes.

*How long have you been so occupied?*

Three years.

*What was your occupation prior to that?*

I was a hair dresser...

*You are employed with your husband, George Jones?*

Yes, I am.

*And the two of you operate the George Jones - Tammy Wynette show?*

Yes.

*How long have you been in such operation?*

A year.

...

Wynette claimed she and Jones had left the Tampa airport for Chicago by way of Cincinnati where they were delayed due to bad weather and tried to get charter service but failed.

...

“George Glen Jones” said he was 38 and had lived at Lakeland eight or ten months, having been in Nashville six months and at “Viader” (Vidor), Texas, since about 1950. He had no occupation other than musician and entertainer.

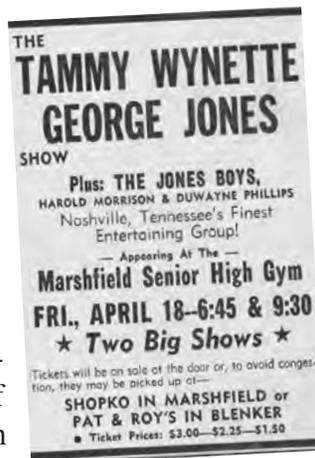
...

*Does the name George Jones appear on the contract?*

Yes.

*And that appears at the bottom of the first page of the exhibit and is that your signature?*

No, sir.



*What is that?*

*That's my agent.*

*What is his name?*

*Shorty Lavender.*

*And he has the authority to sign your name.*

*Right.*

...

*You stated you were home taking care of business. What business? Were you recording?*

*Oh, no. I record in Nashville. We had a couple days at home. I have business to take care of when I'm home same as anybody else, personal business.*

...

*Did you have any difficulty getting accommodations in Cincinnati in the evening for the night?*

*No, got a cab and went straight to the motel and got a room, made a couple more calls to see what was going on, watched television and went to sleep. I did contact my boys from there that night at the Holiday Inn. ...he said no they didn't play, that the man [Pongratz] wouldn't let them play at all.*

...

Podvin attempted to get Jones to say how many dates he had missed. He couldn't remember. Maybe a dozen or so in his career.

...

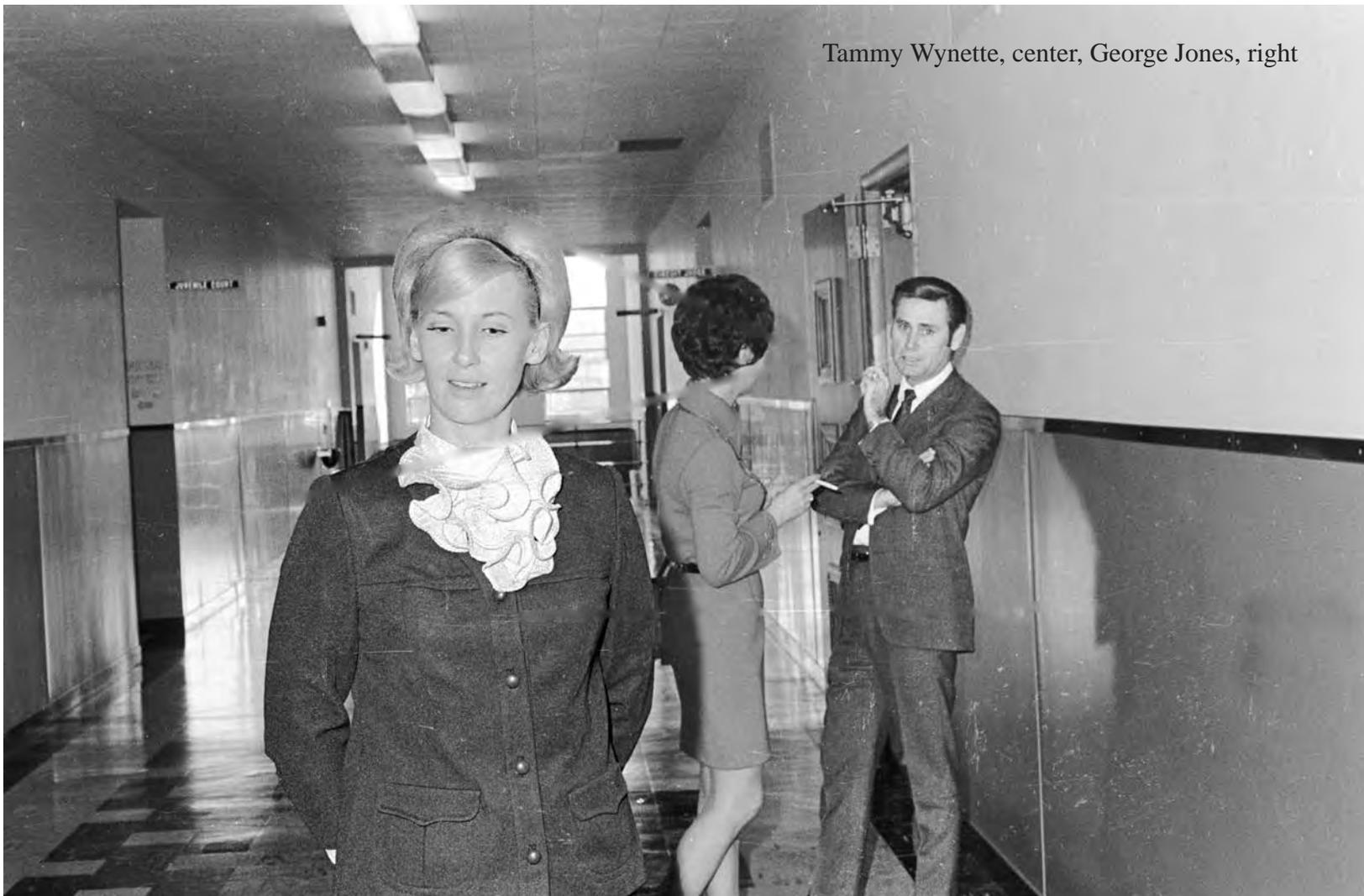
*As far as Tammy and myself, we always try to leave ourselves three hours or so by flying which gives us plenty of time to get to the town, check in our motel and freshen up and then go on to the date.*

...

Jones claimed he had no personal knowledge whether a room had been booked that night for him in the Marshfield area by the band of six "boys" who had driven to the site.

...

In the end, Wynette and Jones, represented by James Cassidy, Madison, Wis., and a Tennessee attorney, said Pongratz accepted a settlement of \$13,000 rather than the \$45,000 he had sued for.



Tammy Wynette, center, George Jones, right



**Cranmoor Classics**

Good version of oft-published photos show that the pickers above are women and children (with a supervisor who seems to be standing on a crate). Below, adult men raked rather than picked, their tools visible left and right. Cranberry work was common for residents of nearby Altdorf, Wis.

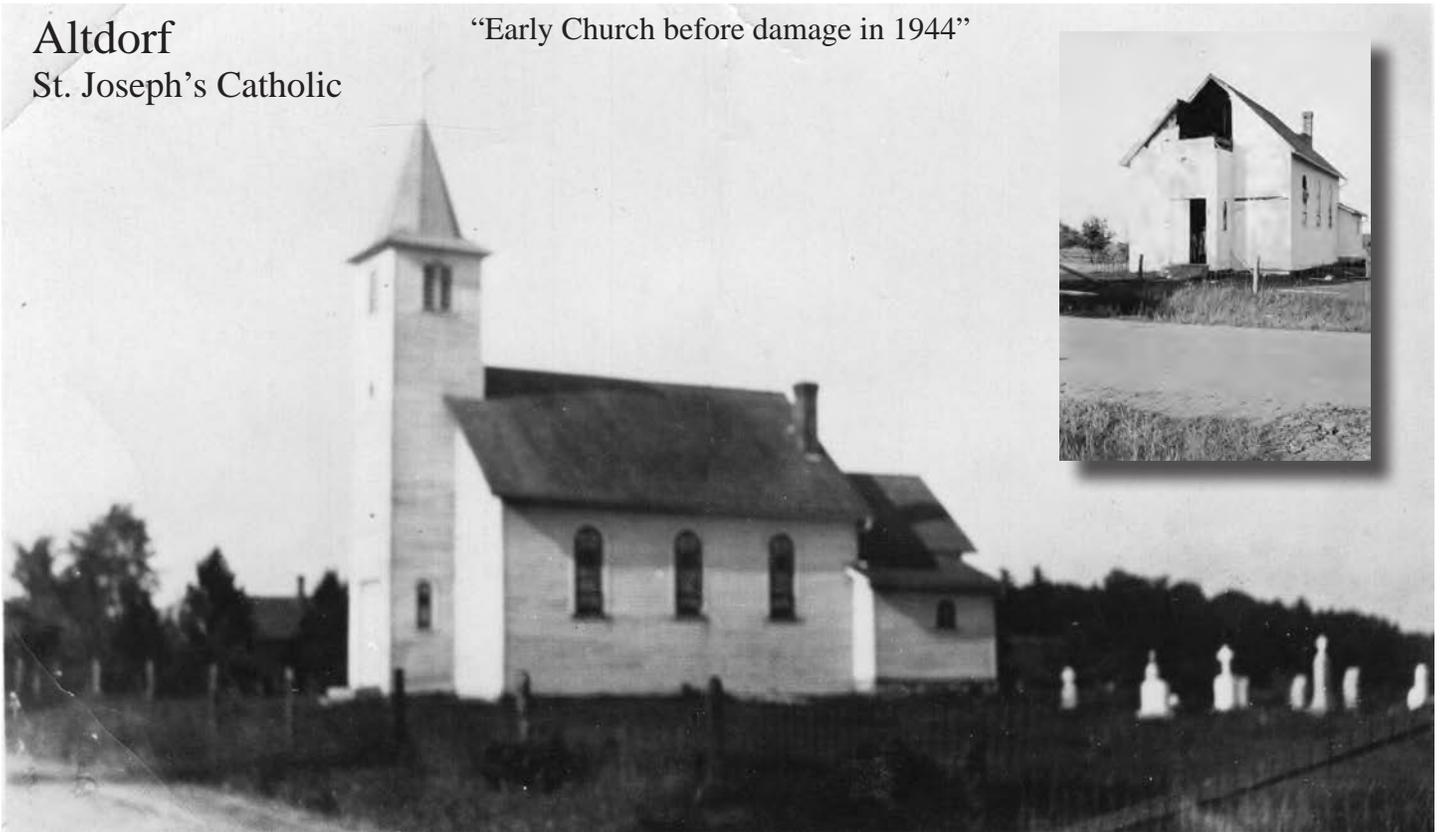


**Altdorf Connection**

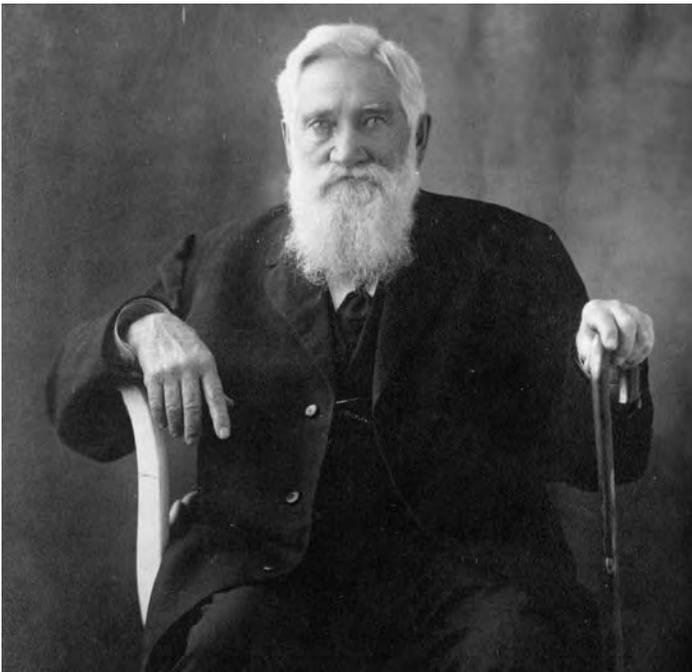
Photos on p. 26 and 27 from Cheryl Brayer Panter were inherited from her father, Joseph Brayer who died Feb. 24, 2019, at 101. In 1941, Joe married Cheryl's mother, Rosalyn Huser, at St. Joseph's Catholic church, Altdorf, the site now of his grave.

**Aldorf**  
St. Joseph's Catholic

"Early Church before damage in 1944"



*Photos from Cheryl Panter*



**ACQUIT ZANTER ON  
ASSAULT CHARGE**

William Zanter, a saloon keeper of St. Joseph Ridge, was not guilty of assaulting Emil Fraling, father of Rev. Father Theodore Fraling of St. Joseph Ridge, according to the verdict returned by a jury in county court yesterday afternoon.

According to the testimony Zanter's pigs wandered into the garden of the priest and Emil Fraling, who resides with his son, went to see Zanter. A quarrel followed during which blows were struck. Fraling and another witness testified that Zanter had struck the old man but another witness for the prosecution testified that Fraling had been the assailant. After thirty minutes the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

Emil Fraling, formerly of Aldorf, died Nov. 7, 1927, at the home of his son, Father Theodore Fraling, Cazenovia. Emil, born 1845 in Westphalia, Germany, in 1881 came with his family to Chicago, Milwaukee and then Aldorf. The Fralings moved to Marshfield the year after that city's 1887 fire. As a contractor, he, in 1888, helped build St. John the Baptist Catholic school. Besides Theodore, he was survived by a second son in the priesthood, Father Joseph Fraling, Bemidji, Minn., also two daughters and a granddaughter who was a nun in Springfield, Ill. Two grandsons were studying for the priesthood in Columbus, Ohio. Last rites for Fraling took place in St. Joseph's Catholic church, Aldorf, and were attended by a panoply of priests from the area and abroad.

## Altdorf area couple no average farm family



[Career in jeopardy!]

BOYS THROWING ICE CAKES BREAK LITTLE GIRL'S ARM

“Chunks of ice thrown by Wisconsin Rapids boys at passing pedestrians on the street struck Zona Leau, little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O.J. Leau of that city, severely fracturing her arm. Police are investigating and expect to prefer charges against the culprits.”

*Stevens Point Journal, Feb. 7, 1923*

**Photo at left from Cheryl Panter**

Identified on back as O.J. Leu and his wife [Edith Bradshaw Leu] and [Edith's] daughter [Zona, b. 1904], who married “Liberchi,” the renowned pianist. Zona married the father of Liberace. More likely than Zona, the “daughter” is Zona's half-sister, Madeline, b. 1916.

See May 9, 1987, *Daily Tribune* or the book, *Fat Memoirs*, for more about Zona Liberace.

### Otto

The 1923 *History of Wood County* says Otto J. Leu, of Wisconsin Rapids, was then engaged in real estate, insurance, farming and stock breeding. He had been born in Seneca Township, Sept. 19, 1872, son of John and Louisa (Griesbach) Leu, who came to Milwaukee from Germany in 1867. John Leu served on the township and county school boards.

Otto attended Grand Rapids high school and normal schools (teachers colleges) at River Falls and Stevens Point going on to teach at Alma Center, Merrillan and Nekoosa. In 1898, he was elected county superintendent of schools for Wood County and served four years.

In 1903, Otto bought a farm in Seneca Township which he added to and improved over the years, meanwhile taking up real estate and insurance. He

served ten years on the county board from Seneca Township, and was a member of the district school board.

Otto was involved in building the round barn at the Marshfield fairgrounds and for several years had charge of the Wood County exhibit at the state fair.

Otto married Luella Lewis in 1899. She died in 1913, leaving a son, Earl or Earle.

On June 24, 1914, Otto married Mrs. Edith J. Bradshaw whose maiden name was Edith Mau. Their daughter Madeline was born Aug. 9, 1916.

By her first husband, Irving Bradshaw, Edith had another daughter, Zona Gale Bradshaw, born April 6, 1904, who was adopted by Otto.

The Leus moved to Milwaukee in 1925, where Otto died in 1926.

## Edith

When Edith Leu died at Milwaukee, Wis., in 1959, at age 85, she was identified as the mother of the step-mother of Liberace.

Edith was also survived by: Madeline Kennedy, Milwaukee, Wis., her daughter with Otto Leu; stepson Earle Leu, Marshfield, Wis.; brother Herman Mau; and a sister in Milwaukee.

Edith had come from Germany in 1874 as an infant and in 1893 married the much-older Irving Bradshaw, a glove maker from Gloversville, N.Y. Their daughter, Sylvia Edith, died a day after her birth in 1900.

The 1910 federal census shows Edith Bradshaw, 33, as a boarding house keeper in Milwaukee with her 6-year-old daughter, "Zonagale."

Irvin (Irving) Bradshaw died in 1912 at age 58 and was buried back in Gloversville.

A Dec. 3, 1913, *Daily Tribune* said in its Altdorf notes, "Mrs. Edith Bradshaw of Milwaukee is keeping house for the O.J. Leu family." She married Otto the next year.

Edith Leu, said the *History of Wood County*, "has an excellent reputation as an artist. She studied art in the convent of the Dominican Sisters at Milwaukee and her services as a painter on china and glass are in great demand. She belongs to the Royal Neighbors, and is very active in church work, being secretary of the Ladies' Aid Society."

## Zona

When Zona Gale (after the Portage, Wis., author) Bradshaw Leu Smrz Liberace died in May 1970 at 66 she was the stepmother of a world-famous entertainer "Walter" Liberace. The daughter of Edith Bradshaw was born in Milwaukee April 16, 1904, and moved to Altdorf with her mother, Edith, who married Otto Leu.

Zona was named valedictorian of the Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln high school class of 1923, the year she traveled to Milwaukee to hear the celebrated pianist, Ignace Paderewski.

After high school, Zona attended Milwaukee's Layton School of Art and the Wisconsin College of Music, moving on in 1925 to Prague, where she studied under Alois Smrz. She married him in 1928 and he died four years later.

Zona, a cellist in the Milwaukee Philharmonic, the Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra and the Madison Symphony Orchestra, married French hornist Salvatore ("Sam") Liberace in 1943.

In 1953, Zona was a supervisor at the Ceramic Arts Studio in Madison. A few years later, she and Sam moved to California. Suffering from arthritis, she retired as a musician and turned to painting.

Zona was survived by her stepsons, George and Walter Liberace, and a sister, (Madeline) Mrs. Chester C. Kennedy, Milwaukee.



1928



LHS Junior Class President, 1922

Among Miss Leu's most prized possessions is a small gold medal presented to her by the members of the Gamma Sigma society of the Wisconsin Rapids high school.

Arthur M. Vinje photographer



Wisconsin Historical Society

Photo from the Sept. 27, 1953, *Wisconsin State Journal* with this caption: “Sam Liberace and his wife are content now to play ‘just for our own enjoyment in the home’ with less participation in the well-known musical groups that highlighted their lives up to a few years ago.” Besides the Milwaukee Symphony, he played with the John Philip Sousa band.

“His wife” was Zona Leu Liberace, a prominent cellist whose first husband, the Czech cellist and her mentor, Alois Smrz, had died in 1932, after six years of marriage.

Sam (Salvatore) had moved to Milwaukee from Philadelphia. His oldest son, George, was expected to play a piano that didn’t arrive, an event that helped lead him to the violin. Daughter Angelina at a young age became an accomplished pianist but she went off to be a medical technologist. Then in West Allis,

Wis., Władziu Valentino, also known as Walter or Lee, started playing at age four and became known as “Liberace,” pronounced Lib-er-AH-chiee.

Throughout Walter’s career, George played violin and conducted the orchestra.

Salvatore didn’t appreciate Walter’s pop career and Walter didn’t appreciate his dad divorcing his mother, Frances, and marrying a floozie from central Wisconsin. Nevertheless, in 1953, Sam attended a Liberace concert in Milwaukee.

A 1955 lawsuit was withdrawn as Sam’s former wife and the mother of George and Walter wanted to change her name to Frances (Zuchowski) Liberace from Frances Casadonte. At that time, Sam told a reporter both his sons sent \$50 monthly. George’s 1955 visit at 2638 East Dayton was the first by anyone in the family.

**Brain Drain**

The hours were long and the pay was short. From the times of Uncle Dave, some of the gang now gone were Bob Des Jarlais, Jim Austin, Rosann Arndt, La Verne Keller, Casey Martin, Julie Shroer, Jamie Marks, Christ Worthen, Claude Werder, Ken Osborne, David Gentry, Anna Marie Lux, Melissa Gross, John R. Hart, John Maniaci, Bob Walker, Dave Van Wormer, Henry Silka, Lisa Zwickey, Melissa Gross, Larry Winch, Bob Ashbeck, Allen Hicks, Sandee Gerbers, Mark Treinen, William F. Huffman, Jr., Michael Shepherd, Ralph Gastelum, Joe Karius, Diane Montz, Debra Brehmer, Carl Otto, Craig Felts, Vernon Borth, John Pelton, Mark Sewell, Mark Scarborough, Pete Frank, Nancy Quick, Bruce Leberg, Pearl De Ruiter, Chris North, John Thompson, Joan Mielke, Earl Worm.



Jan. 25, 1962

Above, from the *Tribune*, page includes Don Krohn and Bill Kiefer, photographers, with Henry Fey, brother of *Tribune* publisher, Louise Huffman. Editor Ollie Williams is shown at left in the photo at top right, also charter SWCHC member J. Marshall Buehler, still on the board of directors. Lower photo, center, Arnie Strope, WFHR personality, his studio in then-new *Daily Tribune* building.

Shown below is Oliver "Ollie" Williams, managing editor and columnist for the *Daily Tribune*.

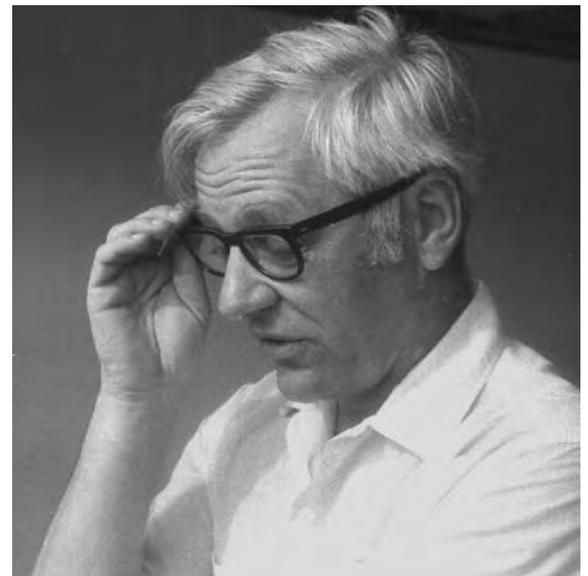
Williams left in 1967 to take a communications job at the Wisconsin Department of Resource Development of resources department. He had been at the *Tribune* for 15 years and managing editor since Jan. 1, 1956.

John Potter, Wisconsin Rapids, was the chairman of the Department board that hired Williams.



Bill Beckmann

William R. "Bee Bee" Beckmann, left, was managing editor. Born 1918, Watertown, Wis., he died om 2003 at Elgin, Ill. Yhr UW-Madison grad served in WWII after which he came here. Post-Rapids he worked for Evinrude motors, banks and, post-retirement, the St. James' Sword and Shield publication.



Ollie Williams

**Photos by Gib**

South Wood County Historical Museum  
540 Third Street South  
Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 31



*Artifacts* is published by the South Wood County Historical Corp., 540 3rd St. S., Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494. For a subscription and SWCHC membership send \$25. Contacts: (Uncle) Dave Engel, editor, [dave@southwoodcountyhistory.org](mailto:dave@southwoodcountyhistory.org); Lori Brost, Museum Administrator, 715-423-1580; or [lori@southwoodcountyhistory.org](mailto:lori@southwoodcountyhistory.org).

Country and western entertainer  
George Jones at the Wood County  
Courthouse, Wisconsin Rapids,  
1970

