

## **volume THREE**

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### The 1940's

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## Republicans Flocked to Baraboo in 1941

### Tales from Earlier Days

By Bob Dewel

James Adams of Baraboo is a collector of historical papers and items. Recently he sent me a picture of a blue ribbon which puzzled him, for it was for a delegate to a state Republican Convention in 1941. On the bottom was printed "Ringling Farm". I had no clue as to the meaning, though an attached pin testified that it belonged to one George Weiler, a delegate.

Coincidences are usually pleasant surprises, and this proved to be, for that evening I casually mentioned the ribbon to Judge James Karch. To my astonishment he immediately replied "I was there!" It seems that the state convention of that party was indeed at the Ringling Farm off County A in 1941, and Karch and some other young boys were hired as pages and errand boys.

The association of an affluent Ringling name, presumably Henry, with the Republican Party is hardly a surprise. However, the possibility of a state convention on a Sauk County farm seemed most unlikely, but research with the old newspapers confirmed Judge Karch's recollection. A huge banner at 8<sup>th</sup> and East Streets provided directions to the delegates, plus orange and black arrows along the highway.

A large circus tent provided protection from whatever elements Mother Nature chose to inflict on the Republicans, and it was reported that the delegates sweltered during the afternoon hours. There was no talk of global warming in those days to challenge that Party's ambitions, but sprinklers from the county and city helped keep the dust down. County A was oiled for the occasion, also for purposes of dust control.

As might be expected, the News-Republic reported the convention

in great detail, noting that a few thousand guests were in attendance. Part of the barn had been converted into a press gallery, with telegraph and telephone facilities for the reporters. Henry Ringling was awarded the temporary title of Colonel for the event. Food was provided by the ladies of St. John Lutheran church, with 300 pounds of roast beef and 200 dozen buns, plus potato salad. The American Legion also had a food stand.

The convention concerned itself with some especially perplexing problems. It will be remembered that in 1941 we were still at peace with Germany and Japan, although it was obvious to most that we would be drawn in somehow—no one imagined a Pearl Harbor, however. By this time Germany had overrun Holland, Belgium, Austria, and France, and the German-Italian-Japanese Axis was very formidable.

Japan was ravishing most of its far Eastern neighbors, aided by the puppet government of conquered France, with Britain and the U.S. imposing sanctions on Japan as punishment. This was a matter to which the Japanese did not take kindly, as we learned later on December 7. They had apologized profusely for the accidental bombing of an American gunship in Chunking, while meanwhile threatening the Burma Road. A U.P. story was headlined "Japan will not abandon her ambitions without a fight."

The American Army of the 30's had hardly deserved the name, but a draft in 1940 promised only one year of service. For thousands of young draftees, (including two of my brothers), the Dec. 7 attack meant that their draft would last for five years. Sauk County's first draftee was reported to be Gordon Raymond of La Valle.

Against this national background of events, the Republican Party had a problem. Prominent among their adherents was the American First organization, a significant one-issue

national group which refused participation in any war until it reached our very shoreline. This created a rift on the Republican ranks, Gov. Heil, though a frequent critic of President Roosevelt, felt that the America Firsters lacked vision in those perilous times. He advocated only a constructive criticism and loyal opposition to the government in its dealing with international affairs. The state's five Republican U.S. Representatives felt otherwise.

In an attempt at harmony, the state party chairman Dr. F.L. Gullitson, and the entire finance committee offered their resignations. As a compromise, the Convention allowed the America Firsters to remain in the party, but barred any reference to American foreign policy, either for or against, in the platform. One thing that the Republicans united on was a fear of a Roosevelt dictatorship, even though, unlike today's leadership, he had included members of the opposition party in his cabinet.

A very deep Depression was predicted following the impending war. The Republicans felt we would find ourselves with a "vast debt, weighing heavily on the country." Little could they conceive of the massive debt of the country in 2006, or the multiple post-war military conflicts such as Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq in which the country would participate, often under Republican leadership.

One speaker, Rep. Joe Martin of Mass., said "We haven't seen anything yet", He predicted Fascist and Communist infiltration into the U.S., threats of debt repudiation, and abolition of the Constitution by former soldiers "walking the streets and rioting for bread."

In Baraboo, the Elks sponsored a "Keep 'em Flying" campaign chaired by Dr. C.F. Stekl, and young schoolteacher Severn Rinkob spearheaded the U.S.O. fund drive, Baraboo's goal being \$1024. Though we were not yet at war, the Ringling Theatre was showing three war

movies, "Forced Landing" with Eva Gabor, "Three Sons o Guns", and "Caught in the Draft" starring Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour. The Warner Memorial Road was to be widened, and the Ordnance Plant was undreamed of.

A huge block of cheese arrived at the convention, perhaps from Monroe, with the proviso that it be divided and half sent to the Democrats in their convention near Waukesha. Wonder if they ever got it!



# 2,000 ATTEND CONVENTION HERE TODAY

7 35-41  
Says Republicans Face  
Greatest Task In  
Their History

## BULLETIN

Baraboo, Wis. — (UP) — Leadership of the Wisconsin Republican party resigned at a midsummer convention and left wrangling elements of the party free to reorganize for the 1932 campaign and against the dangers of dictatorship which Rep. Joseph W. Martin, Jr., R., Mass., warned them are destined to follow war's end.

Dr. F. L. Gullickson, Republican state chairman, surprised the convention by resigning, and the party's finance committee went out with him.

The committee included Thomas Coleman, Madison; Cyrus Philipp, Milwaukee; Howard Green, Oshkosh; Depot; Pierpont J. Wood, Janesville; Horace Freeman, Beloit; and Dio Dunham, Neenah.

The party faced a situation of considerable confusion when its convention assembled. Gov. Julius P. Heil had asked that the convention avoid opposing President Roosevelt's foreign policy in this time of emergency. Wisconsin Republican congressional delegation was present seeking endorsement of their stand against the lend lease bill. Groups of "America First" advocates were trying to put the GOP on record as an "anti war" party. Long standing rivalry between the statutory state central committee and the so-called voluntary committee which carries on the campaigns still existed.

In the face of all this, the resigning leaders revealed that they considered the present a proper time for them to pull out and give the party ample opportunity to rebuild its leadership for the next campaign, by announcing that they would not accept re-election.

The governor gave an accounting of his administration, asked for "peace and harmony among the Republican party," and indicated that he might be a candidate for a third term by declaring that he was "too young to die" politically.

By WILLARD R. SMITH  
United Press Staff Correspondent  
Baraboo, Wis. — (UP) — Dangers of dictatorship here in the dark days destined to follow the World wars were emphasized today by Rep. Joseph W. Martin, Jr., R., Mass., keynote of a midsummer state convention of Wisconsin Republicans.

The Republican National chairman and house minority leader addressed more than 2,000 sweltering party workers in a circus tent on the farm of Henry Ringling.

Other speakers included Gov. Julius P. Heil, Rep. J. William Ditter, R., Pa., chairman of the Republican congressional committee, and Dr. F. L. Gullickson, state GOP chairman.

Republicans face the greatest task in their history to prepare for the day when the wars cease, the preparatory effort ends, with "a vast debt weighing heavily on the country, and the work of soldiers and civilians in war activities or defense efforts comes to a sudden termination," Martin warned.

## "One of Two Things"

"The reaction from all this will do one of two things," he said. "It will either cause the people to go back to sound Republican principles—in which case we will have a vast task to perform to save the nation—or they will go to some form of dictatorship—which is what those who have brought about the present conditions will have to try to do."

"We haven't seen anything yet," Martin said. If we believe we have witnessed agitation by Communist and Fascist enemies of the American form of government. The post war period of the future will give them "fertile fields to plant their propaganda for debt repudiation, property confiscation, abolition of the constitution, and establishment of a dictatorship," he explained.

Republicans must begin now to plan what to do when this time comes, Martin told them. He said they must have "a strong agricultural program ready, for agriculture will be our national mainstay," and "a strong industrial and

commercial confidence because industry and commerce must furnish management and the jobs to keep discharged soldiers and civilians whose war work has ended from walking the streets and rioting for bread."

## "Government of Men"

"In that time of peril to the nation," he said, "the great test will come for us in trying to maintain our American way of bi-party government. Make no mistake about it, there are those who today would like to see a political monopoly set up in this country. There are those who are blind enough and selfish enough to want to see constitutional government by laws superseded by a political government of men."

Ditter warned the present administration to "cease edging this country into the present European war without seeking in advance approval for its actions from the congress," which he pointed out has the sole authority to declare war.

"Action by the administration with the consent and approval of congress will not only strengthen and bolster representative constitutional government in America, but it will mean that the war will be won," Ditter said "for when congress declares war, the American people will be behind that war with their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor."

## Gullickson's Recommendations

Gullickson recommended to the party in Wisconsin that in future campaign years Republican conventions support the candidacy of one man for each office in state government; that in presidential election years the delegates to the state GOP convention endorse a candidate for national committeeman and national committeewoman; that the state central committee continue to fill vacancies while the so-called voluntary committee determine policy and carry on the campaign.

The state chairman reminded his workers that women's suffrage was born Aug. 26, 1920, and comes of age this year.

"I would not do justice to Wisconsin if I did not remind you that it was the first state in the union to adopt the women's suffrage amendment on June 19, 1912," Gullickson said. "I would not do justice to the Republican party if I did not remind you that this amendment was adopted under our Republican governor."

# Respective Merits of Political Rallies Argued

A verbal duel over the respective merits of the G.O.P. convention at Baraboo next Monday and the Democratic picnic at Muskego Beach next Sunday was precipitated when Democratic State Chairman, Thomas R. King, Oconomowoc, wrote E. P. McFetridge, leading Baraboo manufacturer, asking the latter for a donation to his show.

Wrote King to McFetridge in part:

"The Democratic party in Wisconsin is trying to organize a group of liberal people to work together for a constructive program for the state. This state has been considered an isolationist state. We want to convince the administration at Washington that we deserve its help. We feel that Wisconsin has not received its fair share of defense contracts."

"An administration in Wisconsin built on sane lines, with a constructive program, will win the support of the national administration. The help that they can give us will benefit every industry in the state."

"To keep alive the interest in organizing the liberal forces in the state, we are holding a state-wide barbecue picnic at Muskego Beach

on Sunday, July 27. Every bit of this will be free and we hope to have fifteen thousand people present. This costs money."

"Feeling that you are vitally interested in any program of good government, we are setting aside all political affiliations, and are appealing to you for a donation to help defray expenses."

Said McFetridge to King:

"In reply to your circular letter of July 17, if you will send us a check for our Republican rally on July 28, we will be glad to consider matching it with one for your Democratic rally on July 27."

"Why spend your time and donations from others in the effort to organize that which already exists? There is now a 'group of liberal people' working together for a constructive program for the state."

"If you don't believe it, come over to Baraboo July 28."

"But they are not doing it under the banner of the party that gave birth to, and is now supporting, the administration which, according to our own confession, is giving our good loyal state a kick-in-the-pants."

## Incidents Of Big Convention At Baraboo

Despite the fact that there was heavy traffic to be handled yesterday on County Trunk A, and side road leading off it, with more than a thousand cars to be parked at the GOP convention, not a single accident was reported to Traffic Officer D. B. Brandt and his aides.

The convention was given every cooperation by the traffic department, augmented by four state department cars, and this added materially to the smoothness with which the convention went off. Men were stationed at the turn-off into the grounds, and at the gate by which the Ringling farm is entered, while inside a large group directed the parking of automobiles in hundred-car long rows in a field between the gate and tent.

Besides the four state men who assisted, Officer Brandt, Sheriff Charles Mattice was on hand together with Deputies and Special Deputies Martin, Warr, Sweeney, Wilms, Osborne, and Burch.

Republican County Chairman Clifford M. LaMar of Baraboo gave the address of welcome to the large group of delegates. In looking after the many details of the convention, Mr. LaMar mislaid his notes on what he had planned to say but his substitute speech was enthusiastically received by the group, which in various ways indicated its appreciation of what Mr. LaMar has done to keep the convention "wheels" running smoothly.

The sprinkling wagon was one of the busiest vehicles on the grounds yesterday—and added materially to the comfort of all by keeping the dust well under control. Along toward afternoon the sprinkler broke down, however, and an S. O. S. call was sent into Baraboo. The city's Gunnison-made flusher can be converted into double-duty equipment as the street committee (politics, mixed) cooperated by permitting the conversion of the flusher into sprinkler and Street Commissioner S. H. Burton gave his services as driver so that the visitors departed in the same dustless manner in which they drove into the grounds.

### Convention Sidelights

Good old-fashioned palm leaf fans, which appeared in the window of one enterprising Baraboo merchant this morning were quickly purchased by some of the convention-goers. The temperature today was quite in keeping with that usually encountered under the "big top", so these delegates left for Delton armed with the logical weapons.

"Colonel" was a title much heard at today's convention, for from the host, Colonel Henry Ringling, on down many of those present have been given that honorary title by Governor Heil.

Potato salad by the bushel was prepared by the ladies of the St. John's Lutheran church for the big luncheon this noon. Ingredients for the mammoth salad were 14 bushels of potatoes, 30 dozen eggs, 1 peck of green peppers, four large boxes of celery, 1 peck of onions and mayonnaise, cream, vinegar, etc., in proportion. These ladies also prepared the coffee—gallon after gallon—while there were 300 pounds of roast beef for the barbecued sandwiches and 200 dozen buns. The luncheon, too, included generous portions of the huge cheese shipped here.

The big stone barn, which came in for its share of attention, carried a huge "Press" card informing the many reporters present that herein were typewriters and telephone and telegraph facilities to aid them in getting their stories in to their various editors and press associations. Overhead in the large second-story apartment, Governor Heil entertained the many visiting dignitaries, the host, Henry Ringling, having thoughtfully placed these accommodations at the governor's disposal.

The road to the convention site was a busy thoroughfare on Sunday when many Barabooites and others, unable to attend today, motored out to see the big tent. However, it wasn't a pleasure trip for all these motorists since many of the cars contained local Leksomnais and others who had

\* My how times change. McFetridge proudly calls the GOP LIBERAL here---in 1988 Bush derided the Democrats for being "Liberal".

## Over 3000 Attend Convention On Ringling Farm 7-29-41

By WILLARD R. SMITH  
United Press Staff Correspondent  
Madison, Wis. —(UP)—A reorganization of Republican party leadership in Wisconsin was in process today along lines sought by Gov. Julius P. Hell.

Announcement of Dr. F. L. Gullickson, state Republican chairman, and all members of the party's finance committee that they were relinquishing their posts was, in the words of one of their group, "turning the machine over to the statehouse crowd to see how well they can run things for a while."

The governor pleaded for "peace and harmony within the party" when he addressed the party's mid-summer convention which drew a crowd of over 3,000 persons to a circus tent pitched on the farm of Henry E. Ringling north of Baraboo yesterday.

### \* \* \* \* \*

## \* GOP Convention \* \* Brings Baraboo \* \* Fine Publicity \*

\* As the result of the hold-  
\* ing of the midsummer GOP  
\* state convention in Baraboo  
\* yesterday, this region has re-  
\* ceived some wonderful ad-  
\* vertising throughout the na-  
\* tion. By newspaper, radio  
\* and in pictures metropolitan  
\* papers throughout the coun-  
\* try have carried extensive  
\* stories on the convention,  
\* and publicity is of great im-  
\* portance to a community like  
\* this.

\* Henry Ringling, host, and  
\* the others that were instru-  
\* mental in bringing this con-  
\* vention to Baraboo have  
\* done much to advertise this  
\* section of the state.

\* \* \* \* \*

A situation which had strong possibilities of a first class fight was ironed out in committees and backstage maneuvers and only four resolutions came before the convention and were adopted without debate. These resolutions:

#### Four Resolutions

1. Praised Republican congressmen for "firm adherence to constitutional processes" instead of for opposition to President Roosevelt's foreign policy as the congressmen desired but which Hell opposed.

2. Condemned the New Deal dairy policy as "destructive and uneconomic."

3. Proposed selection of the party's national committeeman and committeewoman by a convention vote.

4. Gave a verbal pat on the back to Hell, Gullickson, the legislature, the state Republican organization, its finance and executive committee, and to host Ringling and his aides.

While the governor spoke for peace, he had his sleeves rolled up for a knockdown and drag-out fight, if necessary, against any move by the "America First" group or any others to commend the congressmen for their opposition to President Roosevelt's foreign policies.

Wisconsin's five Republican congressmen occupied the speaker's platform with the governor, and their bid for support was climaxed by the speech of Rep. Frank B. Keefe, Oshkosh, who promised that they were "going to continue as in the past, despite the pleas of anyone."

#### Avoid Foreign Policy Fight

Hell opposed the plan of a mid-summer convention when it first was planned by the Republican state organization. The governor, a frequent and outspoken critic of Mr. Roosevelt, sounded repeated warnings against taking any opposition which might be interpreted as a refusal to cooperate with the president in a time of emergency. Workers throughout the convention tried to avoid a fight on this issue and as a result the governor had his way.

Whether it was a complete victory for Hell, as some of his followers claimed, or, as other strategists maintained, a move agreeable to all to save the party from a harmful and disrupting battle between Hell and the congressmen on the convention platform, the rules committee report barring resolutions relative to foreign policies of the federal government was adopted without a word of protest.

When this rule, which had been shown previously to the "America

Ringling revealed today that Monroe cheese makers reported they were sending him a 400 pound Swiss cheese for the GOP affair—with a stipulation that he turn half of it over to the Democrats for their state-wide picnic at Muskego Beach in Waukesha county Sunday. Ringling accepted it on those conditions, pointing out that Republicans were entrusted with seeing that the Democrats got their share.

## Band Concert At Devi-Bara

The American Legion band will play a concert starting at 7:15 tomorrow night at Devi-Bara resort, Director P. E. Morry states. The townspeople are invited to join with the summer tourists in enjoying these Devils lake concerts.

## Ukrania Now Being Harvested

Reg. U. S. Pat. Office  
By UNITED PRESS

The German campaign against Russia, the way it has developed, may prove to be the turning point of the war.

It is too early to tell yet, with the issue in western Russia hanging in the balance, but the potentialities are enormous. Every one of the far flung battle fronts encircling the globe would be affected, regardless of the outcome.

That applies to the Near East, the Mediterranean basin, western Europe and the Far East. The opposing forces on those fronts are almost marking time until it becomes apparent how the tide of battle turns in European Russia.

It is a broad canvas, with mighty stakes at issue. The future moves of Japan, Britain and the United States depend to a large extent on the outcome, as do the future moves of Germany.

#### Three Possibilities

There are at least three possibilities. Germany might win before autumn, in accordance with the original objective of the blitzkrieg.

Russia might be able to hold out until fall and perhaps into the winter. Russia might—which at present seems a remote possibility, drive the invaders back across her borders.

In the first instance, a German victory within the next two months would greatly strengthen Hitler's hands. It would remove an enemy from his rear, give him needed resources in oil, minerals and food, and enable him to concentrate against England in western Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East. It would enable Japan to go ahead in Asia, either against Siberia or toward the Dutch East Indies.

## U. S. ON VERGE OF WAR SAYS CHURCHILL

By WALLACE CARROLL

United Press Staff Correspondent  
London —(UP)—Prime Minister Winston Churchill said today that the United States "is advancing in rising wrath and conviction to the very verge of war" but warned neither Russia nor the United States would win the war for Britain.



## Yesteryear Revisited

By Bob Dewel

On December 7 a full 60 years will have passed since the Day of Infamy and Japan's sneak attack on the United States at Pearl Harbor.

There are both similarities and differences between that infamous day and the recent Sept. 11 sneak attack on the Pentagon and the Twin Towers. This article will recall the days of December, 1941, including a review of the headlines in the NewsRepublic then, and make comparisons to today.

The Day Before

Hindsight is wonderful. All you need do is look at the headlines in the News-Republic on December 6, 1941, the day before the attack. The headlines read "Japs renew press attack on U.S.....bitter attacks on U.S. and Russia". The Japanese just seemed miffed that we had cut off their oil supply as punishment for their cruel and rampant aggression in China and the Far East.

In contrast, they coyly praised "hope for agreement", and a peace delegation was actually to meet in conference with us within the hour, when the startling news of the attack at Pearl Harbor was received.

The United States a sleeping giant, had finally realized the futility of its attempts at neutrality. In Baraboo, rumors of plans for an ammunition plant were rampant that fall, and the newspaper was struggling to learn the details. People were swamping the Chamber of Commerce to register for

employment, and "a large increase in population, with its many accompanying problems", was expected. At that time the land had not even been purchased, nor were there options on the land.

In other news that Saturday, December 6, McGanns had opened their new funeral home (now Rago's). The Will of the Herman Grotophorsts revealed a bequest of \$35,000 for improvements at Ochsner and Evans parks. No one expected an attack, even the state department, it seems.

The Day After

Monday's issue of the News-Republic stated, in banner headline, "Congress proclaims state of war", and another story speculated that the draft would be speeded up--it had passed Congress in 1940 by only one vote majority. Another story stated that 736 Japanese Nationals had been rounded up. Germany announced that their relations with the United States were "no longer of any importance", and in a day or so declared war on us, as did Italy. The war was on!

Roosevelt's speech to Congress, with the resounding phrase "A Date That Will Live In Infamy", was only 300 words long and took but 7 minutes to deliver. George Bush used about 40 minutes last week for the same purpose. One lone Republican, Jeanette Rankin of Montana, voted against war in 1941. The Sauk County Board, reversed its previous decision opposing the construction of the Badger Plant, though it still was

but a vague proposal.

The next few days

It was three days before Americans learned that the Pacific Fleet was "hard hit", to say the least. Invasion was feared, with blackouts in California, and air raid sirens sounding. A mob attacked a Seattle store that failed to observe blackout rules.

By December 12 the nation's automobile plants were closed for conversion to military production, and the vociferous America First pacifist group voted to disband and support the war effort. Previously written signatures opposing any type of war were quickly disavowed by college students.

In Baraboo, the newly remodeled Broadway Cafe reopened, featuring "full dinners at 65¢ and up, plate lunch only 35¢". At the Juliar Theatre, Abbot and Costello starred in Keep 'Em Flying, and a double feature Saturday featured Don Wilson, Skinnay Ennis' band, and Frances Langford.

There seemed to be little food stocking or hoarding. Papers told of heroic resistance on Wake and Midway Islands, and there was a full page of instructions on what to do in case of a Japanese air raid. The Rose Bowl was canceled, and the sale of new tires was banned.

It was nine days before the News-Republic and other papers had photos of the Pearl Harbor disaster, in black and white only of course. Contrast that with the Sept. 11 coverage this year! There were only 5 telephone lines to Hawaii in those days, plus limited radio communication.

In the United States only 39% of the homes had telephones.

Life in Baraboo then, like now, seemed little altered in the first few weeks. There was a Cantata at the Methodist Church, and also a musical program at the Catholic Church, while the Congregationalists announced a Yule party. We searched the papers in vain for announcements of public prayer services, so common in 2001, though the Sunday sermons certainly must have touched on the attack. America didn't really realize yet that much of its Pacific Fleet was gone. Pearl Harbor was an attack on our military capability, as compared to the twin towers attack, which was on civilian targets. The Pentagon attack, though tragic, pales militarily compared to Pearl Harbor.

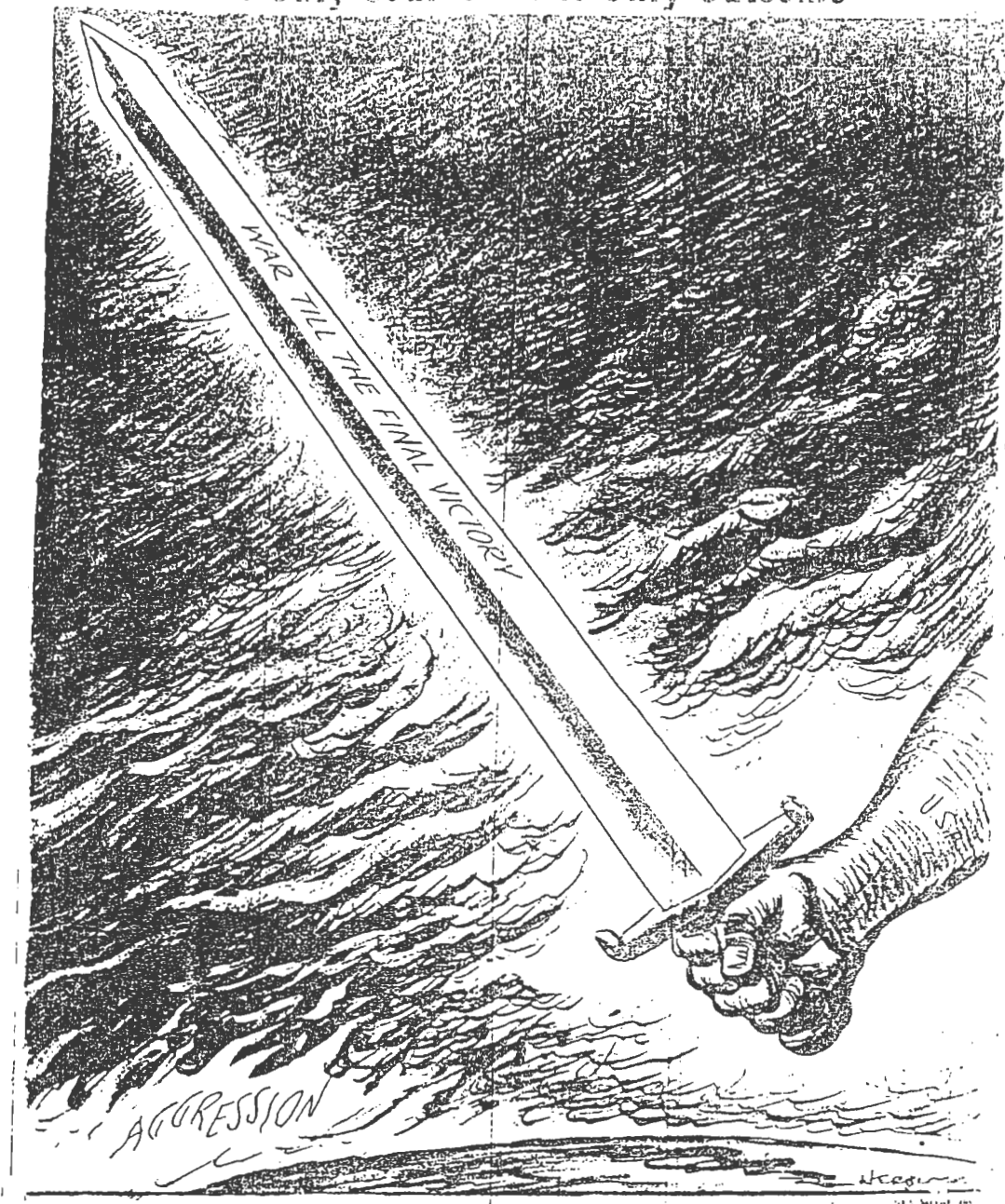
There was, however, a patriotic parade on Dec. 19, featuring school children and the servicemen's organizations from WWI. All in all, however the sense of urgency we feel today is not reflected in the newspaper, though personal remembrance may be otherwise.

Comparisons

What Tom Brokaw likes to call the Greatest Generation seemed calm, determined, and confident. True, every young man knew he might be called on for the supreme sacrifice, and indeed some 400,000 died in the coming years, including 93 from Sauk County. It was the luck of the draw---some, like Ronald Reagan, served their time making movies in Hollywood. Others, like former peacenik Charles Lindberg, flew patrols in the Pacific.

One difference from today





The News-Republic ran this cartoon on  
December 10, 1941

however is that instead of the blood donor sites, it was the recruiting stations that were mobbed in 1941. Our military then was largely unprepared for even conventional warfare, unlike today, when it must prepare for unconventional warfare.

There is another matter of interest, for it was recently reported that the music industry of today was pulling out of circulation

several raunchy, derogatory, and pejorative songs by groups of questionable reputation and patriotism. Not so in 1941. Simple tunes like Remember Pearl Harbor and Praise the Lord and Pass the ammunition, were succeeded by Rosie the Riveter and American Patrol, and eventually the quality evocative tunes one still hears today, cleanly enunciated by singers who did not shout or scream the words.



News-Republic, Sept. 17, 2001

The Star Spangled Banner, sung then and now to an old British drinking tune, had only in 1931 been declared the national anthem, and most people just sang America, to the tune of the British God Save the Queen. God Bless America had been written two decades before, for WWI, with little notice, but was revived by Kate Smith in a recording still heard on occasion.

Most men were short haired and clean shaven in 1941, with only a rare mustache on actors like Clark Gable. One could be drafted up to age 38, and it might be noted

that the country's population then was only half of its present number. Despite that, some 86,000 tanks were produced, along with 295,800 planes, 6500 fighting ships, and 5400 cargo ships.

For this writer, then a 21 year old junior dental student, Dec. 7, 1941 meant that he would not be able to call his life his own for four and a half years. As the prophet says, it was the best of all times and the worst of all times. Thomas Paine also wrote, in Revolutionary days, "These are the Times that Try Men's Souls". We seem to be in one of those times---again.

## Baraboo's Co. H and World War II

### Tales of Other Days

By Bob Dewel

It is fortunate that the dwindling ranks of WWII veterans are now telling their story. Memories bottled up in the past are coming forth, as they see other old soldiers pass away without unburdening themselves of those accounts, good and bad.

The Sauk County Historical Society is actively engaged in cataloging such information, with special emphasis on personal experiences as well as the donation of items of interest. Thanks to Dorothy (Carpenter) Schult, eleven interviews with local WWII soldiers have been given to me to review before donation to the Historical Society. Don Behnke of Baraboo and Co H was of help in preparing this article.

It is generally recognized that the young men of that fateful generation have been reluctant to recount combat experiences, partly because it is generally impossible to truly recount the sounds and smells and images of a battle, and partly because some experiences are best forgotten. It is true that veterans sometimes talk among themselves, but usually it is to relate a humorous incident or snafu rather than a life threatening episode.

Henry Alstadt

However, I have been privileged to review some 50 pages of interviews of servicemen from this area who were attached at least part of the time to Baraboo's National Guard Company H, 128<sup>th</sup> infantry, 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. This Depression era local installation was activated into Federal Service on Oct. 15, 1940 as the nation finally began to play catch up in armed capability. Before that time, we had ranked as low as 17th in size of our armed forces in the dangerous world of those years!

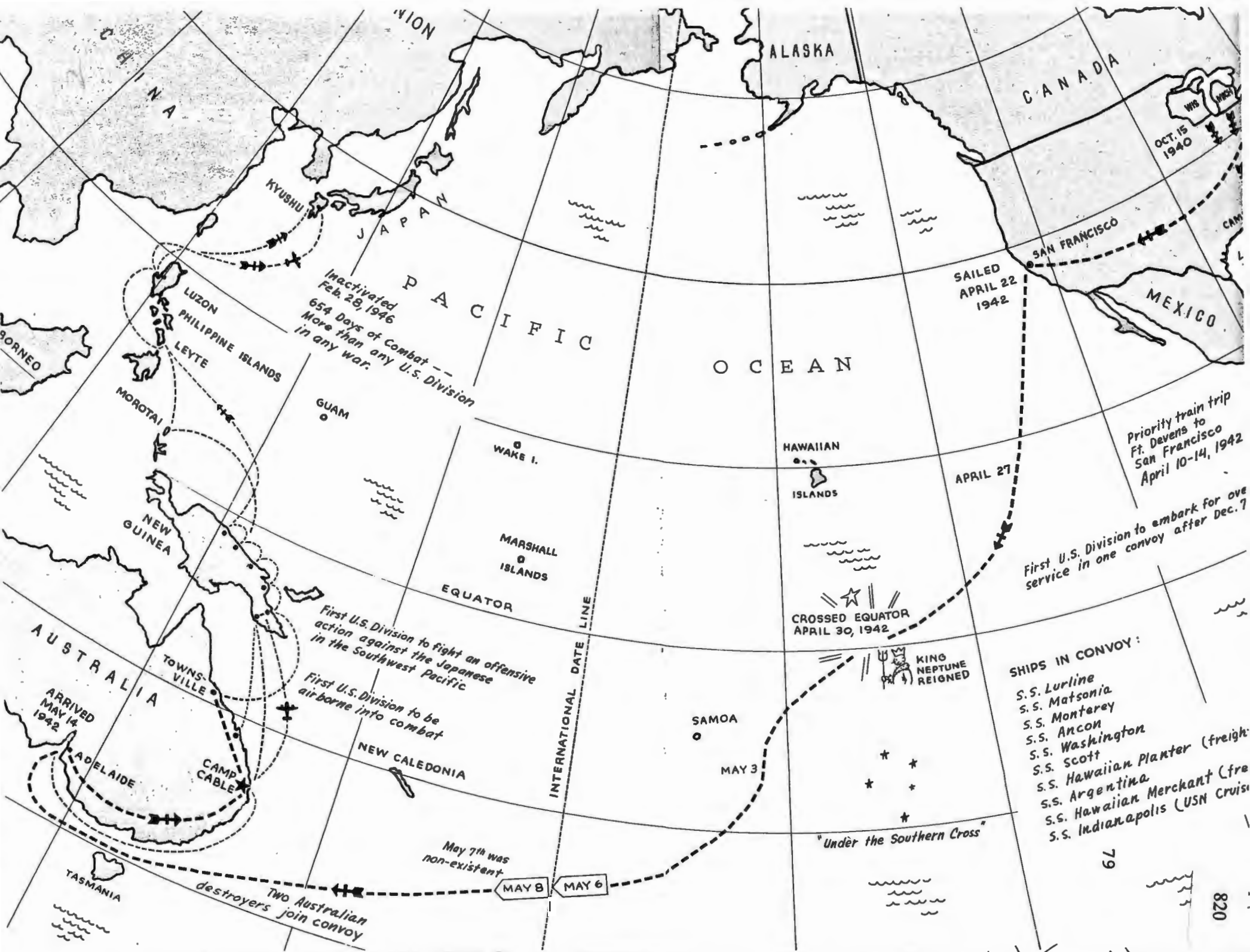
Moreover, the interviews were made in the 1970's and 1980's by a skilled interviewer, Henry W. Alstadt, who had himself been a part of Co H and had been wounded. Thus the men felt free to talk with him. One of the men he interviewed, Bernard Volles, even remarked that he had helped carry Alstadt to safety after he was wounded.

There is not room to recount the combat history of Co H, other than briefly. On April 22 the Division departed from San Francisco on the SS Monterey for a four week voyage to Australia. It was subsequently involved in fighting in several areas of New Guinea, the islands of Morotai, Leyte and other Philippine Islands locations, plus (2½ years later) in the occupation of Japan. This involved 654 days of combat, more than any U.S. division in any war! No leaves home, no e-mail or telephone, and often no mail for weeks for soldiers in that war!

The Interviews

Interviews vary in length, depending on the skill of the interviewer but mostly on the degree of cooperation of the veteran. Nearly all answers are short and precise, without great elaboration or embellishment. Of particular interest to this writer was the presence for a time of at least parts of Co H at Camp Crowder, Mo. while I was laboring in the dental clinics there. In addition, Roland Ziegler was at Epinal, France, when one of my small first line field hospitals was serving that area.

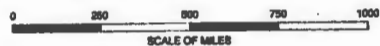
Ziegler had a particularly diverse career. It appears he started out in 1940 in Co. H, but was transferred out to serve both in combat engineer and parachute units in Europe rather than in the Pacific arena. In operations in Anzio, Italy, he was wounded and nearly lost a leg. After service in the Battle of the Bulge, he participated in 2 combat jumps, including Holland.





# BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC JAN 1942 to JAN 1943

+ Allied Merchant Ships sunk by U-boats



Lt. Col. Gerald Seagraves started in Co H as a mess sergeant in 1930. He was 14 at the time, and "told a fib" about his age to get in. Another teller of fibs was Bernard D. Voiles, who signed up at age 16 because "it paid a buck a day, pretty good wages at the time". He was a machine gunner, and was hospitalized 12 times in 6 months for malaria.

In his interview, Paul Rhode recalled the great amounts of mutton they had to eat in Australia. He also recalled that he served under LeMoine Hiller, (whose interview was not included). He became lost in the jungle, alone, three times, and was lucky to have escaped the Japanese, but was wounded later by plane strafing. Robert Luebke recalled having to jump out of a slowly moving plane (on a makeshift grassy landing field), throwing gun and knapsack first. Had the plane stopped it could have been bogged down by mud, or destroyed by a Japanese mortar.

Harold Murphy gave up his machine gun for a moment to an eager recruit who wanted some action, and who was promptly killed before Murphy's eyes. Murphy then took over the machine gun again. He confesses that "I was very mean in the Service, and shot off my mouth", and was amazed when he got a good conduct medal! He credits his survival to a good luck \$2 bill he carried.

Paul Vrieland recalls seeing General Patton reprimand (or worse) a group of soldiers. Paul joined Co H in 1931, and was wounded twice while in the combat engineers, once by shrapnel and once by a rifle shot. Wm. Kubiak's wounds were so severe that he was in a hospital six months before being discharged.

Vincent Volkey served under Bob Schult, but suffered from malaria and elephantiasis, as well as a fall into the hold of the ship. A draftee, Henry W. Carver was wounded both in Leyte and New Guinea, the latter wound being in the critical Achilles tendon of the left foot. Like the others, he had a great loyalty to Co H, saying "Co H made a good record". Another machine gunner and mortar man was Laurel Kramer, a 1940 "one year draftee" who ended up staying in service for 20 years. Pay was \$21 a month when he went in. Yes, a month. But the army provided "room and board" of somewhat varying quality on occasion!

#### Comment

There must be more interviews, but these were all that were given to me. It is frustrating that there is not room for in depth reporting of the sacrifice these men made. Suffice to say that the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division was the first to fight offensive action against Japan, and the first to be airborne into combat. As mentioned above, the Division's 634 days of combat were the most of any U.S. Division.

The neatly typed interviews will be on file at the Historical Society, and are edifying reading. Those were heady but proud times for Americans, in a war that everyone could agree on. Virtually every citizen served in one capacity or another, and an attempt was made to pay for the war with taxes and revenues as we went along, rather than piling up a colossal national debt. The men on the line were the real heroes.

NOTE: Also e-mailed is a map of the Pacific Ocean showing the travels of this outfit.

With the Map :: This Division shipped nearly 4 weeks to Australia, served more days of combat (654) than any US Division in any war, was the first to fight an offensive action against the Japanese, and was the first to be airborne into combat. Sauk County can be proud and grateful!



## Local WWII GI's meet Heads of State

### Tales of Other Days

By Bob Dewel

This article is about two local WWII G.I.'s, Bob Schult and Don Rodewald, who met heads of state because of their tour of service. It is not often that Sauk County citizens cross paths with the rich and famous, though we Wisconsinites seem to get along fine without that experience.

During the Civil War, men of Company A camped on the White House lawn and were served water by President Lincoln. Some locals will recall that both Baraboo and Reedsburg had visits by John F. Kennedy during the 1960 primary. As far as we can determine, the last President to visit was Herbert Hoover who spoke from the observation car platform of a train in 1932.

We do have a picture that shows the faces of awed boys in the crowd during a Dewey campaign train stop. That picture appeared in Life Magazine April 15, 1940, and the faces identified include James Karch, Duaine Hunt, and possibly John Orton.

President Hayes (1876-80) is said to have disembarked from the train and dined at what is now the Old Baraboo Inn, near the station. Like President Bush of today, Hayes lost the popular vote but gained office by electoral votes and a helpful decision, in his case by that of a commission. Other than Hayes and Hoover and others mentioned above, Sauk County has been spared the bombast of other national politicians.

An exception would be Robert LaFollette, perhaps Wisconsin's most famous presidential hopeful, who spoke at the old Grand Theatre. Almost equally famous was his wife, Belle Case LaFollette, a Baraboo girl and schoolteacher.

Bob Schult and Haile Selassie

Thanks to Dorothy Schult of Milwaukee, we have a transcript of the diary of her husband Bob. Both were Baraboo people before WWII, but Lt. Schult had a most unusual assignment in 1943. He was the lone military person on a ship for 83 days, in charge of military vehicles and bombs from Newport News Va. and destined for Egypt.

To avoid German U-Boats, the ship passed West through the Panama Canal, down the Western shores of South America and East past the very southern tip of that continent. The ship crossed the South Atlantic, through the treacherous passage of Cape Horn, (Africa), and on to its destination at Suez, Egypt, a very long voyage indeed.

G.I.'s who grumbled at a weeks passage across the Atlantic, or a couple weeks or so across the Pacific, will admire Schult's perseverance and patience in this 83 day voyage with no other military personnel on board with whom to commiserate! Schult writes "I was very glad to get my feet on terra firma." From Egypt he wrote that "U.S. people were highly respected, almost without exception....British supremacy wasn't as acceptable as the American attitude of equality and democracy" The United States was well regarded internationally in those days.

Schult spent his entire overseas military career in Africa, with the exception of a train ride to Tel Aviv, now Israel. He writes "Bedbugs came out of the seats in the train coaches at night so sleep was difficult." Near Devesoir, Egypt he observed how President Roosevelt was lowered from his plane by a special elevator and placed in a car. FDR had a summit with King Ibn Saud at this location. Saud had come by an American destroyer, pitching his tent on the deck of the ship and slaughtering a goat or two as needed for food!

Lt. Schult's diary is extensive and detailed, but of special interest is his visit to Haile Selassie, the besieged Emperor of Ethiopia. He wrote "Most Americans are not aware of a shipment made by the U.S to Ethiopia in 1944 of Five Million Dollars in silver coins...and



*Emperor Haile Selassie I*



*Lt. Bob Schult*

other supplies and equipment. It was my assignment to deliver five 17-ton armored cars...for only five hundred miles. It took us almost three weeks to make the trip." One bridge collapsed after some but not all of the cars had crossed it.

After many difficulties, they reached Addis Ababa, and were invited to meet the Emperor the next day. At the parade grounds the emperor rode in Schult's armored car, and "it was a thrill to have the Emperor sit beside me in the turret of the T-17 vehicle as we rode around the parade ground. He was extremely interested in all the gadgets on the vehicle." He gave Bob a gold coin, still preserved by the family.

By 1945, with the Wars over, Schult traveled by plane back to the States in a matter of hours, in sharp contrast to his 83 day lonely voyage in 1943. He had dined with and then entertained an Emperor, during a lucky wartime assignment except for the long voyage.

#### Rodewald and Chiang Kai Shek

Another Baraboo man to meet a world leader was Don Rodewald. From a clipping at the Historical Society, we learn from it that Don was "among the American Volunteer group of flyers under Major General Claire Channault who fought against the Japanese BEFORE (our caps) America entered WWII." This is the famed Flying Tigers group, and Rodewald remained with the group after the war, reaching the rank of Lt. Colonel before retiring due to injury.

He met Chiang Kai Shek, the famed Chinese leader, in a reunion of the group on or about 1965 in Taipei, Formosa. Chiang was grateful for the service rendered the oppressed Chinese by the Flying Tigers, and presented each with a gift. Since preparing this article, a lot of additional information on Don Rodewald has come in. Space does not permit a recounting his outstanding life in this article, and it must wait for some future story.

Schult and Rodewald were classmates in the fated World War II generation. We have no doubt that other enterprising young men and women from Sauk County have spoken with a world leader, but Schult and Rodewald are the ones we know of. Are there others?

# POWDER PLANT DOMINATED LOCAL INDUSTRY FOR 50 YEARS

## Yesteryear Revisited

By Bob Dewel

For many of its 59 years, the Badger Army Ammunition Plant (Powder Plant) has been the dominant industrial giant of the Baraboo region. Thousands of local persons have worked there, and millions of dollars have been poured into the local economy.

This article will make no attempt to document this remarkable episode in our county history. That task is in the capable hands of Adams-Friendship's Michael Goc, author of the Sauk County history, "Many a Fine Harvest". However, through the courtesy of Lorraine (Terbilcox) Cummings of Reedsburg, we were given access to many items, including the plant publication, "Badger World", for a six year period from 1968 to 1973.

A significant observation can be made from a perusal of those papers. One is the vast number of Sauk County and adjacent county residents who were employed there. Second and of more interest, the fact that so many key personell who came from outside our area to work at Badger elected to stay in our attractive place on the planet. Many became competent civic leaders, still active in this their adopted community.

Here is just a sample of familiar names in the plant newspapers I was given, some home-bred folks and some who came from afar and stayed: Ed Tourdot, O.J. Befera, L. Van Lieshout, Lola Huber, Ev Sonsalla, Ray Krubsack, Don Nanson, Don Vethe, Russ Enoch, Alan Brecka, Virgil Wimmer, Elinor DuBois, Eva Weigel, Bill Harder, Ted Church, Lou Hellewell, Darrell Puttkamer, John Troyer, Elmer Johnson, Jim Konicki, Lorraine Cummings, and of course Dave Fordham. There are many others who came and remained, but are not listed in the papers we saw.

According to a plant survey, 50% of the employees were from Sauk County. The average commute was 22 miles. Moreover, in 1968 the plant made over four million dollars in local area



CONTRIBUTED

**Clockwise from bottom left,** A tornado on June 25, 1969, overturns a locomotive and four flat cars. More than a dozen telephone poles were snapped, and lightning struck a loading ramp in the Green Powder area; On Dec. 8, 1971, an explosion and fire at the Paste Breaker and Blender results in one fatality and two disabling injuries;

Dave Fordham (bottom left), joins Badger as top technical advisor to the Plant Commander. He remains in charge today of the munitions plant, so important to our country in World War II, Korea and Vietnam; and the new and final executive officer, Capt. James Konicki, arrives in November 1972. Raised in Michigan, Konicki is currently president of the Baraboo Kiwanis Club and active in the Citizens for Waterfront Revitalization.



purchases that year, that being purchases made within fifty miles of the plant. Contrary to popular belief, the plant was already engaged in soil and water remediation at that time, with active barge dredging operations.

Longest in time of service, at least in the executive category, appears to be Dave Fordham, who arrived at the facility in October, 1971. His thirty years have been marked with professionalism in both good and difficult times, and he has performed his duties with dignity and diligence under the guidelines laid out for him by his employer, our government.

The rest of this article will be devoted to reproductions of some of the pictures in the Badger World paper. Of interest, but not reproduced here, is a cartoon making the rounds at the time. Those were the days of streakers, and the cartoon shows a sketch of a streaker headed south, with the admonition "All streakers must wear safety helmets when streaking in and around these premises, as required by OSHA".



A new dredge continues Badger efforts toward pollution abatement  
in April, 1972



*A common sight in WW II*



## VETERANS DAY AND THE BERYL NEWMAN ATHLETIC PARK

### Yesteryear Revisited

By Bob Dewel

1931 was not the most successful year for football at Baraboo High School. The team lost five of their seven games. Interestingly, though, they played perennial rival Reedsburg twice, and won both of those games.

Baraboo's athletic field then, and for the next six decades, was located at Mary Rountree Evans Park, a gift in 1923 from Judge Evans in memory of his wife. Players jogged from the nearly brand new yellow brick downtown high school to the park, using the path along the river, it being the shortest route. That building, now the civic center, had just become the brand new high school in 1929.

#### High School Days

Leading the team at quarterback, and also as captain, was Beryl Newman, a tall and well built young man of 18. Little did Newman and his teammates imagine that someday a new athletic field would bear his name.

The field would not be named, however, for his valiant efforts during the mostly losing 1931 season. Rather it would be for his even more valiant efforts at another kind of quarterback, namely as Lieutenant (later Captain) of an infantry unit in Cisterna, Italy, in WWII.

The lessons of leadership and perseverance, learned on the South Central Wisconsin gridirons in those golden high school days, would serve him and his country well in little over a decade.

#### Congressional Medal

His name on the Baraboo field is not Beryl Newman's greatest honor, however. Beryl Newman belongs to that rare and elite band of men who are recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. Rare? Only about 15 Wisconsin servicemen received that honor in WWII, and Newman is the only one from Sauk County.

Now, every soldier who has seen combat knows that there are plenty of men who deserved that honor, and we suspect Newman would agree with that. It was the luck of the draw that put a man in the infantry, or in a tank, or in a plane. It was also the luck, or lack of it, that put men in positions of peril and potential heroism. Many men rose to the challenge, and among them was Newman.

If you tarry a moment at the entrance to the High School athletic field, you will note a large brass plaque, mounted on a somewhat larger brick wall. Donated by the class of 1932, the plaque identifies the area as the Beryl Newman field. Listed at length is the Congressional Medal of Honor Citation. It is long, but worth reading.

#### The Citation

Briefly it cites Lt. Newman, 133rd Infantry, 34th Division, Baraboo, WI., while near Cisterno, Italy on May 26 1944, "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty...in the lead of



his platoon...while fired upon by two machine guns...called his platoon (located 100 yards behind him) to advance toward him...opened fire with his tommy gun." The return fire was so intense that the platoon was unable to join him so Newman "in full view of the enemy gunners and in the face of their continuous fire, advanced alone on the enemy nests."

After eliminating those gunners, Newman eliminated three more enemy attempting to reach their machine gun. Then Newman, "boldly attacking by himself...called for the occupants of a house to surrender to him. Gaining the house, he kicked in the door...although armed with rifles and machine pistols, the 11 Germans there, apparently intimidated, surrendered without further resistance.

Thus "Lt. Newman, single-handed, had silenced 3 enemy machine guns, wounded two Germans, killed two more, and took 11 prisoners. This demonstration of sheer courage, bravery, and willingness to close with the enemy even in the face of such heavy odds, instilled in these green troops the confidence of veterans and reflects the highest traditions of the U.S. Armed Forces."

#### Baraboo in 1932

There was little threat of another World War for the Class of 1932, as reported in the News-Republic. True, a German rabble rouser named Hitler had applied for and been refused, then granted, the Chancellorship of Germany.

## OUR CAPTAINS



NEWMAN  
*Football*



JESSOP  
*Basketball*



MOREY  
*Basketball*



THEURER  
*Track*

Gov. F.D. Roosevelt of New York was eyeing the Presidency on the Democratic ticket against Republican President Herbert Hoover. Hoover had come out for states rights as a solution for the failed Prohibition amendment. Charles Lindberg had become the father of a son that year. The subsequent kidnapping gripped the nation a year or so later, but was not predictable in 1932.

In Baraboo, there was speculation as to who had committed a murder in Kilbourn.

Local gossips also wondered why a woman, name not given, had fallen three stories from the fire escape at the rear of the Warren Hotel suffering broken legs. Thieves had broken into Dr. Theurer's office and stolen his dental gold.

Counted among Newman's fellow high school students were Ray and Harold Wickus, Ezra Shaeffer, Margaret Mary McGuan, Ed Alexander, Don Behnke, Ralph Tuttle, John Turner, Bob Greenhalgh, Jack McGann, and Julius Henke, and many other familiar Baraboo names.



NEWMAN, BERYL  
*"He went with speed."*

Football 1, 2, 3, 4 (Captain 4); Track 2, 4;  
Hi-Y 3, 4; Hesperia 1, 2, 3; Band 1, 2,  
3; Orchestra 1, 2, 3, 4; Class Basketball 1,  
2, 3, 4; Prom Committee 4; Commercial  
Club 3, 4; B-Club 2, 3, 4



Beryl Newman is listed in the annual as playing bass and tuba in the band, and he belonged to the Hesperia (forensics) Boys Club. He is also mentioned as excelling in the 220 yard run, and throwing the discus.

There is a more telling line buried somewhere in the 1932 annual. In speaking of Beryl Newman, it reads "Beryl Newman was always rough and ready and could be depended on to do his part." What a meaningful evaluation that was!

#### Veterans Day Nov. 12

Near the entrance to the high school is another plaque, mounted on a stone. On it are inscribed the names of the eight young men and one woman from the school who lost their lives in another war, that of 1917-18. They would be over 100 years old now, had they lived, with great grandchildren. There appears to be no such plaque for the graduates who served in WWII.

The young men of WWI and WWII served their country very well indeed without legislation requiring the Pledge of Allegiance or the national anthem daily in school. Nor were the words "under God" added to the 1892 verse until 1954, well after both wars. Separation of Church and State was a right greatly treasured in those days. For patriotic music, students sang "America" rather than the musically challenging Star Spangled Banner, only declared the national anthem in 1931.

Beryl Newman's WWII classmates are now in their late 70's or 80's. It is said that 1000 World War II veterans die everyday and the ranks are rapidly thinning. Time to put the flag out on Veteran's Day, Monday, November 12?

## City of Baraboo Flew Recon Over Hiroshima in 1945

Yesteryear Revisited  
By Bob Dewel

It is one thing to read about two restaurants, a sailing vessel, and even a fictional space ship to be named after our home city, Baraboo. All of this was related in the preceding article.

It is an entirely different matter, however, to learn that a WWII B-29 bomber was named the "City of Baraboo." What's more, the plane was named and piloted by a local service man, and flew "shotgun" for the plane that dropped the atom bomb on Hiroshima in 1945. This "City of Baraboo" is not science fiction, it is fact!

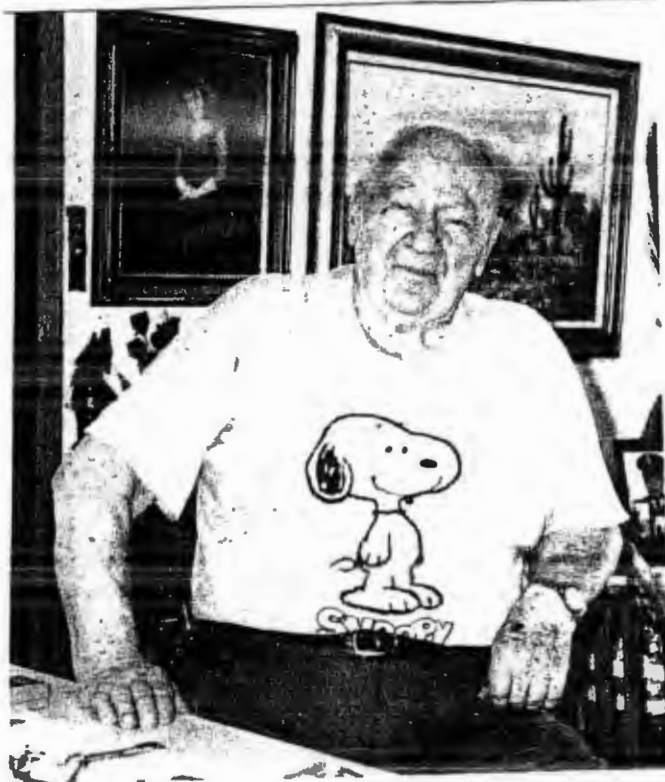
Garvin Kowalke

This story has been told by others, particularly Kristin Gilpatrick in her book "The Hero Next Door", (Badger Books, Oregon WI). It is the saga of Garvin Kowalke, born June 6, 1920 in or near North Freedom. A youth of 20 when Pearl Harbor brought the U S into WWII, Kowalke worked for a time at the Badger Ordnance Plant. Like most youths in those tumultuous days, young men some describe as America's **greatest generation**, he felt the call to defend our country against undeniable threat, and enlisted. Kowalke opted for the Army Air Corps.

He rose rapidly in the ranks, and March, 1945 found Lt. Kowalke the co-pilot of a B-29 bomber, which flew nine successful missions over Japan. Some missions lasted over 20 hours. On the tenth mission, however, the plane was forced to ditch in the ocean, with the loss of some of the crew. Kowalke and others barely survived, and were picked up the next day from their rafts by a destroyer.

The "City of Baraboo"

Kowalke was now assigned as pilot of another B-29, called the



Garvin Kowalke today,  
with friend Snoopy

Renegade. One of his first acts was to rename the plane the "City of Baraboo". Kowalke explains it thusly: "I'm a homeboy and Baraboo was my home city and I'm proud of it. I wanted everybody to know about my home town. This is how I always felt. I'm as proud of that plane as I am of the home town I named her after. She was one great bird."

Kowalke's bird was to fly 15 missions over Japan during the war, two of which were especially significant. The first was on August 4, 1945, two days before the first atomic bomb was dropped, the mission being to ascertain the weather for the planned bombing. This involved a twenty hour flight originating in Guam and flying over China, Manchuria, Iwo Jima, and Japan.



Commander Garvin Kowalke addresses his 10-man crew in front of their B-29 bomber, the City of Baraboo



On August 9 Kowalke again flew over Hiroshima at 25,000 feet to assess the damage caused by the bomb. There was no protection against radiation. Kowalke says the bomb did the work of 300 fire bombers such as had already devastated Tokyo. It convinced the Japanese to surrender, and saved hundreds of thousands of American and Japanese lives. Space is limited, but for more details, see Gilpatrick's book at the library.

#### After the War

This was not to be the end of Kowalke's military service. Following service in occupied Japan, he served as a flight instructor during the Korean conflict. As if this was not enough, he flew 12 missions in the Vietnam conflict. Upon retirement as a Colonel in 1970, he returned to Baraboo, the town for which his plane had been named, and served as Director of Emergency Management. An Elk, Mason, Optimist, and Lutheran, Garvin quickly moved into the fabric of the community. Needless to say, Kowalke was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Purple Heart, and various air medals.

Due to the illness of his wife, Roberta (Harpold), they moved in 1985 to Texas for two years. Roberta passed away in 1989. Garvin Kowalke now lives in the new Mueller Apartments, funding for which was provided by Mrs. Mueller of Rock Springs, whom Garvin knew. He lives there surrounded by countless memorabilia of an active and significant life, including his beloved Snoopy characters, and with a magnificent view of part of the city he admired enough to name his "bird" after.

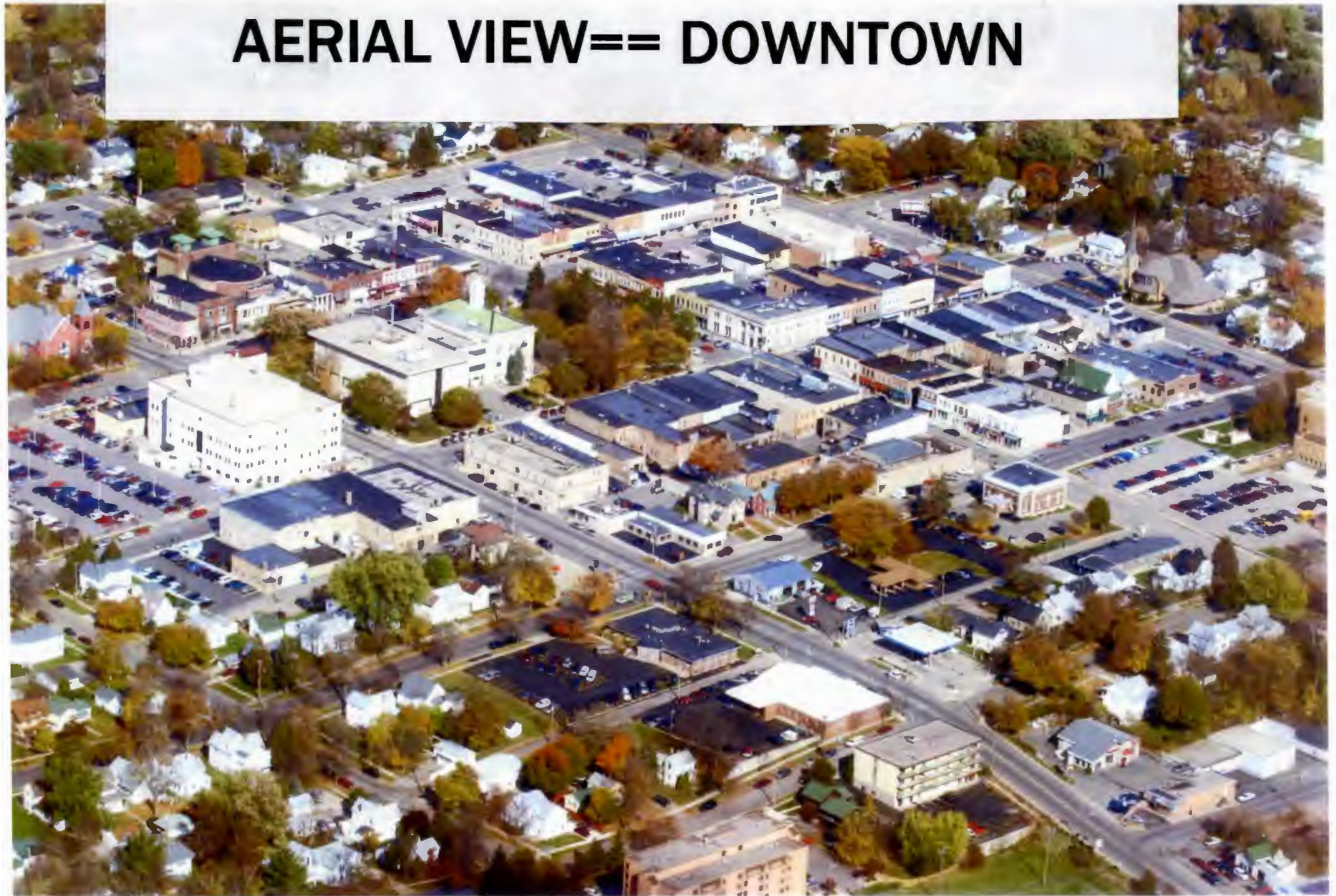
And where is that bird now? He last saw her after a crash landing that could have been fatal had the plane rolled much further. Kowalke believes the plane was refitted, and may now be in moth balls in Arizona. "It was like leaving a dear friend, not knowing if you would ever meet again" says Kowalke.

#### Observations

So, in this and the previous article we have seen that Baraboo, odd name though it may be to strangers, has an appeal that transcends the names of most cities, and has been used as the name for a sailing vessel, two restaurants, a mythical space ship, and most importantly, a B29 bomber with a most unusual and significant mission of international importance.

There are a couple other interesting points about Baraboo: It was named as 54th best city in the United States recently. In 1999 it was voted Wisconsin's friendliest town by Wisconsin Trails. Moreover, the downtown and its courthouse square were voted the "Third Best Town Square" by Wisconsin Trails in 1997. Some think we should be first in all of those categories! Yes, we also have our detractors, but we are a lucky citizenry, and can be proud to say we're from Baraboo.

# AERIAL VIEW== DOWNTOWN



Kowalke Named his Plane after his Home Town

836 Tom Micho  
Photo



## Support, Shotgun, and Wartime Baraboo Yesteryear Revisited

By Bob Dewel

Newspaper columnists deal with words, and the English language is replete with multiple word choices for many situations. Each choice has its own nuance, and also presents a potential booby trap for the writer.

Such was the case with our recent use of the word shotgun to describe the wartime mission of Garvin Kowalke and his B-29, the "City of Baraboo". It made an exploratory flight over Hiroshima 2 days before another B-29, the Enola Gay, dropped the atomic bomb, and this seemed to this writer to be an appropriate place for the word shotgun. As youths, for example, the front guy in a toboggan was said to be riding shotgun. In a war lasting nearly 4 years, a plane preceding another by only two days seemed somewhat comparable.

Not so with the air force! There, shotgun seems to mean providing protection, in this case, for a bomber at the exact time of an event, and the Kowalke mission is more properly called support, not shotgun. There has been a small flurry of letters on the matter. Please note that the choice of words was mine, not Garvin's.

As far as I can learn from the Enola Gay web site, only two planes accompanied the Enola Gay, and they are said to have followed, not led, with cameras and scientific equipment to record the damage. Since the term riding shotgun originally referred to the man who sat beside the stage coach driver, with shotgun at the ready, it sounds like the only person qualified to remotely fill that position in this case is the co-pilot.

### Support

Garvin Kowalke himself agrees that the term shotgun is misleading, and that support would be a more proper

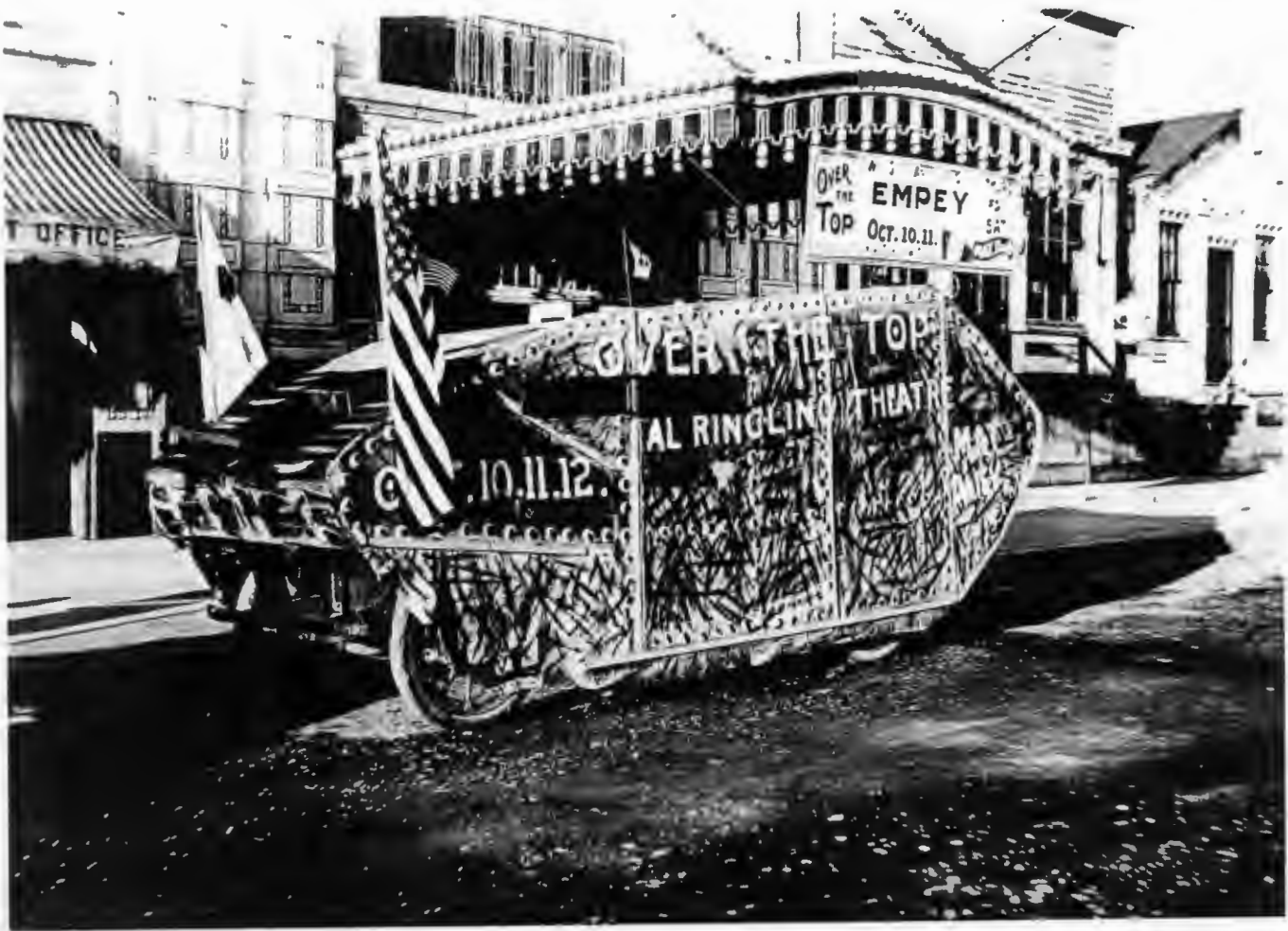
designation, a word which we shall use if we ever write on this matter again. As a mud and snow veteran of the European Theatre of operation of the same war, this writer was pleased in 1945 to hear the news of the atomic bomb. We had already taken care of business in Europe in our share of the war effort.

We can't but call to mind, however, the famous Shakespearean quote from Romeo and Juliet: "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." The question of words does not diminish our pride in Garvin's decision to name his plane the "City of Baraboo", or his 27 missions and overnight dunking in the Pacific Ocean. Please note also that we have mercifully avoided pursuit in this article of other uses of the word shotgun, as in weddings or gun control.

### Wartime Baraboo

Wars are won, ultimately, not by ships or planes or artillery but by the foot soldier in his personal interaction with the enemy and with the affected population, especially after hostilities cease. We are re-learning that lesson in the unfortunate adventure in Iraq today. But there is another factor in every conflict that must be considered, namely the role of the population back home, their "support" being essential. Baraboo and Sauk County were an especially integral part of the war effort due to the presence of Badger, commonly called the powder plant. We do not write much on this subject, since the Badger History Group does it so well, but the civilian effort at Badger was essential.

We have already written about local support for the Blue Spaders during Viet Nam, and there are also other tales of local wartime activity and support for both of the World Wars. For example, the brand new Al Ringling Theatre not only showed propaganda films such as "The Kaiser and the Beast of Berlin", but had a life size cardboard cutout of Kaiser Bill displayed in the fountain area of the outer lobby. There also were



Sauk County Historical Society—Wm Schuette  
 The Al Ringling Theatre used this facsimile of a WWI tank to promote  
 A bond drive in WWII

numerous war bond drives with rallies at the theatre.

Wartime fever reached a peak on June 5, 1918, with the burning, in the small hours of the night, of German textbooks from the High School. The WWI Armistice later that year was celebrated with a huge arch on Oak and Third streets, reaching across the intersection from the corner of each bank. This was hardly a block from where the German textbooks had been burned the previous spring by persons still unidentified to this day. Wartime vegetable gardens were popular as a means of dealing with rationing of food.

The contrast between civilian participation in those wars as compared to that of today is stark. Then young men flocked to the recruiting stations at the outbreak of hostilities, while civilians began the task of collecting iron and copper and aluminum, even tin foil, in a concerted effort to aid in defense. Today it is suggested that we pursue our normal daily routine, including shopping, and little sacrifice seems to be expected. Each war has its own characteristics. All wars are unfortunate, a failure of diplomacy.

## A Brief Trilogy for Veteran's Day

### Tales of Other Days

By Bob Dewel

This story is about three airmen from World War II. One was a Baraboo High School graduate. One was brother to a local lady. One has only slight collection to Baraboo. All have something in common, service to their country in whatever capacity they were assigned, during that genuine emergency called WW II. Their stories are worth knowing.

All of them would say, as one did, "I was just doing my job." None would claim the label, rare in those days, of "hero". Let's briefly examine their jobs, and how they handled them.

Joe Ostrander

Joe's only connection to Baraboo is that he married Jan Haugh, daughter of Joe and Marie (Carpenter) Hough. His story is related in "Village Victories", an Illinois newsletter made available to me by his cousin, Dorothy (Carpenter) Schult.

Joe was a navigator for a B-241 bomber in the 455<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group. It was his good fortune to be in the back of the plane, rather than in the nose, when it was hit over Blysberg, Austria in October 1944. Five of the crew, including Joe, parachuted out of the doomed plane, but four were immediately captured and executed by the enemy. Joe escaped detection, and spent several days wandering in the cold and desolate Alps, searching for sanctuary in Switzerland.

Finally he sought shelter in an Austrian cottage, where he was fed, but immediately turned in. He escaped the grisly fate of his fellow crewmen, spending much of the rest of the war in a POW camp. He was liberated by General Patton and the 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division.

Sixty years later Joe's son, Jerry, flew a plane over the Austrian village of Blysberg, tipping the wings to the Austrian family assembled below. Joe, however, has not flown in any plane, even as a commercial passenger, since that fatal day in 1944. Some things sear a military man's soul.

Melvin M. Dare

Melvin Dare probably never heard of Baraboo, nor could he imagine that his little sister, now Dolores (Kieffer) Mossman, would spend much of her life there.

Melvin Dare's job, like that of most of the young men of that fateful generation, was to help defeat the Nazi-Nippon alliance in WWII. As such, he found himself in England in 1953, a gunner in the 427<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squad.

Like many servicemen, Dare kept a diary, neatly penned in a manly and very readable script, covering in some detail each bombing raid in which he participated. His eagerness to help is shown in the account of bomb raid number one. After days of delays, he writes "each time we ere disappointed, but this time it (a raid) seemed certain, and it was."

The write-up of his first mission is accurate and detailed, and he includes his observation of another bomber being hit, with only two men parachuting out of the stricken ship, but then he "had to turn my attention to a (German) fighter". He calmly relates damage to his own ship, which was able to return to base in need of major repairs.

It would take several pages, or even a book, for this writer to print the well composed account of the raids that followed. Dare's emotions run from "eager" to scared". He briefly mentions a letter of commendation after recounting a large raid in which "46 of our plane were lost." There was also an air medal award after raid number five, which he casually mentioned

In the account of raid number six he writes "I was doing a lot of thinking on

and a half over due.

The only damage to the ship was a leak hole in the right wing and one in the nose. The piece that came through the nose missed the Navigator by about four inches. He remarked, "Someone threw a Purple Heart at me and missed by four inches!"

We used our own ship on this raid, Mizpah.



Americanism consists in utterly believing in the principles of America.

—Woodrow Wilson

RAID NO. FOURTEEN 12/24/43

### SECRET CONSTRUCTIONS IN FRANCE

Our target was just inside of the coast of France where the Jeries are erecting some concrete constructions believed to be a new weapon. Either rocket impacements or pilotless planes.

The altitude was 12,000 ft. We went right over the target but the lead bombardier didn't see it. Consequently we didn't drop our bombs. We just returned to our base.

They never sought in vain that sought the Lord aright!

—R. Burns



the way over. Flak is the biggest enemy of the gunner, and I expected that this time we would get it. (Then) I began to think of the Jerries on the receiving end of all these bombs, and it made me feel much better." Later: "Boy, was my heart in my mouth" during a raid.

It is notable that as the raids continued, most of Dale's diary entries are shorter, the action becoming hardly routine but yet too similar to report. "I have come to the conclusion that I am not superstitious about the number thirteen", he wrote after the raid having that number. The shortest entry of all is for raid number fourteen, when they missed the target and didn't drop their bombs and just relaxed.

It is said that bomber personnel are retired to other duty after they have participated in twenty five raids. I am sorry to write that there are no additional accounts of raids after number fourteen, which had occurred the day before Christmas in 1943. It was Dare's last Christmas and somewhere an army historian has coldly listed that Dare's bomber crashed in the English Channel in the ensuing days. Somewhere nearby is the watery grave of his brother, Daniel Dare, whose plane also crashed into the sea at some time during the war. Both were killed in the line of duty.

We are fortunate that some airman found and returned the diary to Melvin's family. I felt honored to read it.

Don Rodewald

We've written before about Don Rodewald, the 1937 Baraboo High School graduate who went to war before the rest of the country did. He flew with volunteers under General Chennault in the Burma Road area in 1941, before the U.S. entered the war.

As a youth he worked at the local airport, did poorly in school, and said "I almost didn't graduate from high school." Later he failed the Air Cadet School entry exam, so he took a job with Chennault's Flying Tigers, aiding China in their defense from Japan. After we entered the war in Dec. 1941, he flew for

the U.S. Air Corps, serving as armament office for the Chinese Air Force. Later he flew in the Korean conflict, and in later years rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel. This is the man who failed the Air Cadet exam!

Dolores Luce of Baraboo wrote to me concerning a library book about Rodewald, called Tiger Tenacity. It is a gripping story of his life, and tenacity was certainly one of his attributes. Disaster struck in a 1954 crash landing at Andres Air Force Base in Maryland. Don escaped with his life but not his legs, and was now a paraplegic in a wheel chair.

There was no stopping Don Rodewald. He resumed flying, and in 1969 bought a single engine Comanche 268. With it, as a paraplegic, he made an around the world flight, setting a new world record for handicapped flying. The trip covered 31,500 miles. A specially designed rig lifted him in and out of the plane, which made stops in 24 countries. Don's significant contributions ended in 2002, and his life was celebrated in a special burial ceremony in the Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C. The boy who nearly failed high school had turned his life around. He made something of it for all of us.

A Suggestion

This writer is not a flag waver, and we can't get excited about amending the Constitution with a clause against defacing the flag. However, the flag is a symbol of our nation, and particularly of the service personnel who have defended us.

Dare, Ostrander and Rodewald were "just doing their job". Is it too much to ask that we display the flag outside our homes on Veteran's Day November 11? We can vigorously disagree on the cause and merit of the current war on Iraq. We can still support our troops by donating to the USO and Disabled Vet groups, etc., and flying the flag in their honor.

## More Football Champions, 1943, 1904

### Yesteryear Revisited

By Bob Dewel

The previous article told about the undefeated and unscored upon Baraboo football team of 1937. That hardy gang must share honors, however, with at least two other teams in school history,

#### The 1943 team

Also undefeated and unscored upon in conference play was the 1943 team. They played eight games, compared to the six played in 1937. The only score against them was a lone touchdown in non-conference play with Edgewood, though Baraboo won the game 20-7. Huge scores marked the rest of the games, with 61-0 against Portage, 55-0 against Sparta, 42-0 against Reedsburg, etc.

The 1943 team set new conference records, scoring 232 points to wipe out the previous record by Portage. Individual scoring by the legendary Nick Holmes also set a new conference record, with 95 points.

#### The 1904 team

You have to go back to 1904, however, to find a Baraboo team claiming the state championship! Sports were not tightly organized then, but a Baraboo team, shown in the attached picture owned by Frank Terbilcox, makes that claim. Frank's Dad is in the picture, but never spoke about it, according to Frank.

Uniforms were largely homemade, with shin guards simply tucked under heavy socks. Heavy sweaters and vests were often home made, and the players do not appear to have numbers. State playoffs were unknown, so how the team makes the claim to state championship is unknown. Several old newspapers failed to mention the event.

#### The Thunderbird Name

Thanks to research by Curt Page, John Imray, Jim Bohl and Glenn Quale, we learn that Baraboo was not always known as the Thunderbirds. The 1947 school annual refers to the football team as the Circus City Eleven, with the basketball team called the Cagers, a sort of generic term for basketball players in general. Curt Page believes the name Thunderbirds first appeared in about 1952, but according to Quale (who played on the 1943 team) the term T-Birds first appeared in the 1949-50 school annuals.

#### Sports Philosophy

In a previous sports article, we made the following comments, which we believe are still applicable today: "Perhaps there are two ways to view athletic efforts. Some adhere to the Vince Lombardi axiom, that 'Winning is everything'. Others support a time-honored saying, which reads 'For when the one great scorer comes to write against your name, he writes not if you won or lost, but how you played the game'. It is cool when a team can claim both victory and honor."

#### Roster of 1943 Baraboo Football Team

BOTTOM ROW: Ken Lemoine, Herb. Cady, Duane Harmel,

O. Baumgarten, Dick Arndt, Bob Weiske, Harold Holt, George Howard, Ted Baumgarten, Louis Borck, Nick Holmes

CENTER ROW Don Fellows, E. Hewitt, L. Larabie, Mark Stone, Glenn Quale, Jerry Donahue, Dave Holaday, Oscar Thompson, LeRoy Shaw, Herb LeMoine, Coach Paul Krueger

TOP ROW: M. Pydynkowski, L. Whitley, Bob Hess, Doug Lehman, R. Fraser, G. Beulow, Jerome Mistele, F. Terbilcox manager.

# Baraboo High School Foot Ball Team

UNSCORED ON IN CONFERENCE COMPETITION



Members of the team are: bottom row, left to right—Ken Lemoine, Herb. Cady, Duane Harmel, O. Baumgarten, Dick Arndt, Bob Weiske, Harold Hoff, George Howard, Ted Baumgarten, Louis Borck, Nick Holmes; center row, left to right—Don Fellows, E. Hewitt, L. Larabie, Mark Stone, Glen Quale, Jerry Donahue, Dave Holaday, Oscar Thompson, LeRoy Shaw, Herb LeMolne, Coach Paul Krueger; top row, left to right—M. Pydynkowski, L. Whitley, Bob Hess, Doug Lehman, R. Fraser, G. Beulow, Jerome Misteis, F. Terbilcox, manager.  
Missing from the picture is Assistant Coach Garber Smith, who has aided Coach Krueger throughout the history-making season.

## 1943 South Central Wisconsin Conference Champions 1943

New conference scoring record—232 points—old record set by Portage in 1942

New individual scoring record for season by "Nick" Holmes—95 points—old record, 84, by Portage in 1942

New conference defensive record—0—old record set by Portage in 1942

Individual scoring record for single game, by "Herb" Cady—32 points

### CONFERENCE GAMES

BARABOO	OPPOSITION	
35	Stoughton	0
33	Wis. High	0
34	Wis. Dells	0
27	Rich. Center	0
42	Reedsburg	0
61	Portage	0
232		0

Osborne Printing Co. "Printing that Satisfies" (Opp. Hotel) Baraboo, Wis.

1944	8TH MONTH	AUGUST					9TH MONTH	1944
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
		1	2	3	4	5		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
27	28	29	30	31				

### NON-CONFERENCE GAMES

BARABOO	OPPOSITION	
20	Edgewood (Madison)	7
55	Sparta	0

Credit man Lange



The 1904 Baraboo Football team:

FRONT ROW: Frank Terbilcox, Dell Stewart, mascot Earl Bartz, Ray Messinger, Aldon Potter, Nels Sanberg

MIDDLE ROW: Perry Goetchall, Fred Stewart, Carroll Hook, Lawrence Reynolds, Burl Williams, Lawrence Stilson, and McRaeth.

TOP ROW Supt. Gerrard, Hank Drener, (unnamed), Coach Rudy Sanders, Bob Langdon, John Sneathen (with hat).

## Yesteryear Revisited Column gets Letters, Pictures

Yesteryear Revisited

By Bob Dewel

The Yesteryear Revisited column in the News-Republic has inspired several persons to send historical items or clippings to us. Some are of great interest, but have so little associated documentation that they don't warrant a full column. They do, however deserve some recognition, and this article will mention a few.

Betty Carr

For example, some time ago Betty Carr sent photo clippings from old newspapers about two Baraboo baseball teams. One is of the Sauk County championship team of 1966, as shown with this article, with many familiar names.

The other clipping is of the Red Devil's team which won the 1949 pennant of the South Central Wisconsin League with 11 wins and 3 defeats. This faded print is hopefully reproduced on this page, but if not it can be seen at the Historical Society. That's Chuck Marking in the lower left front line.



56

It's been ~~just~~ years since this Baraboo Merchant's baseball team captured their first and only Sauk County baseball championship. The 1946 baseball club included: from left 1st row: Kert Weiland, Pat Stefler, Cocky Cottril, ~~Agassed~~, John Dombroski, Mgr., Herb Boehmer, ~~dec.~~, Walter Ruda, Billy Hott. 2nd row: Harry Rolhopp, Mel Marquardt, Harlen Lambert, Marv Lauver, Bob Fitzgerald, Al John, ~~dec.~~, Leo Martin, Art Onlaski. Fr. row: Ray Samson, Lefty Faye, ~~dec.~~, Bob Young, Jim Carroll, Herb Coday, Bill Ware Bat Boy.



# Baraboo Red Devils Cop Scenic Loop Pennant

courtesy Wisconsin State Journal

—Photo by E. G. Gregory, Redsb



The Baraboo Red Devils baseball team pictured above ended the two-year championship reign of the Sauk City Red Devils by winning the 1949 pennant with a record of 11 wins and three defeats.

Members of the championship Baraboo team are:

Back row, left to right: Mel Marquardt, Ralph Cass, Ted Baumgarten, Jack Meyer, Bill Crossett, E. J. Housen, business manager.

Front row: Chuck Marking, Donnie Kasten, Playing Manager Doug Carr, Al Jahn, Floyd Leve, and Herb Cady.

Her Ronnie Plietz was on his honeymoon in Northern Wisconsin when the picture was taken. Plietz, Leve and Kasten are the team's hurlers.

## Targe Mandt

Some time ago former resident Targe Mandt, now of the Phoenix area, sent a reproduction of the front page of the Baraboo Republic of March 1882. It reports the incorporation of Baraboo under its new mayor, a railroad man named Swineford. The previous village board had contributed its balance of funds to the new city, in the grand amount of \$179.57.

On the same page is an advertisement for Henry Moeller's Carriage and Wagon Works. Moeller and his sons would soon be building circus wagons for their cousins, the Ringling boys. The Ringlings were talented entertainers who were about to start a circus!

#### Nola Sprecher

Some time ago Nola Sprecher showed us the following framed certificates. One was a diploma issued to Harriet Ellen Harp, who would graduate on June 17, 1892. It was signed by John True and E.C. Wiesensed (sp?). The other was a 1917 certificate attesting that George M. Hood was the principal musician for the National Guard.

Nola also had a 1916 playbill, apparently to be performed at the Baraboo High School. This was the old red brick building, new then, but with only an assembly study hall for an auditorium. One wonders when the school started using the Al Ringling Theatre, magnificent for plays.

#### Allan and Nancy Schmid

It has been over a year since Allan and Nancy gave me an article about the Duncan Yo-yo, now a trademark of Flambeau. Published in 1974 in Wisconsin Trails, the yearly sales, at that time at least, were said to be 15 million of the familiar double discs. Charles Kuralt had featured them on his CBS "On the Road" series. Bill Sauey was reported as being able to skillfully "walk the dog", a yo-yo trick.

#### Harley Vodak

A couple years ago, when some of the downtown streets were repaved, there was considerable interest in the old paving bricks being uprooted. Pictures after the turn of the century show the brick streets, at least as late as 1917. At about the same time as the recent downtown paving, Harley obtained a number of bricks made by the L. Moore brick Company, in business from about 1860 to 1924, he says.

These bricks came from the old red brick high school mentioned above. The brick yard was located at the old athletic field on Second Avenue, which became Mary Rountree Evans Park in 1923. Another brick yard, for which I have only the name, was that of Charles Stecker, as reported in the March 1, 1913 issue of the News or Republic.

There are more things that have come my way, to be featured in some future article. All will be turned over to the Sauk County Historical Society.

#### ADDENDA

Allen Paschen called to tell me he played on the Red Devils team in the 1950's, and that they won the pennant six years in a row. He said they sometimes played at Badger Ordnance, but always had to leave by the time it was dark, even at the end of five innings. The reason was that all of the plant was darkened at night for fear of Russian bombers during the cold war.

#### ALSO

Joe Ward believes that the brick for the red high school were made by the Menomonie Brick Co. (MB CO). not by the Moore Brick Company)(MBCO) of Baraboo. The Menomone bricks were of much higher quality,

# Old Map Features Special Places Tales From Earlier Days By Bob Dewel

O.K. you Baraboo old timers, you know all about Devils Lake. Can you identify the Xaline Rock? How about a location called Pin-ups Here, or perhaps Nymphs Bathing and Amazons Hiking? One spot is marked "softies resting", and where was the refreshment stand formerly on the top of the West Bluff?

Well, shown with this article is an unusual map of Devils Lake, preserved by the Sauk County Historical Society. It reveals long forgotten special places in the park, and their nicknames, as recorded by J.E. Halsted in 1949.

There is a problem in our presentation of this map, for the original map is larger than we can use, yet the hand printing is so small that a magnifying Glass is helpful. Therefore, we present only half of the map, somewhat enlarged. It shows the North half of Devil's Lake.

Several familiar landmarks are remembered today, such as Terminal Moraine, Elephant Rock, Old Quarry location, and Look out Ledge, as well as the bath house, and the Chateau. The former locations of the railroad platform and the Cliff House location are shown. New to this writer, at least, are the locations of the Cambrian Cave, and the Amazons hiking trail. Prominently located is Blackhawk Lookout on the West Bluff.

Of special meaning to Halstead must have been his special locations named above. In addition to "Take her picture here", "Nymphs Bathing" and "Pin-ups Tanning", we find "lovers canoeing". Featured but no longer extant are the post office, the diving stand, ski tow, and motor boating.

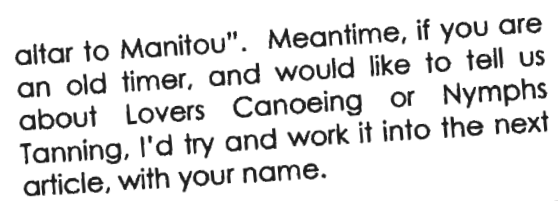
It is obvious that the map is not accurate, though he has done a good job of free-hand illustration. To his credit, he indicates location of owls, fox, and raccoons. One area is marked deer yard.

Of special interest and discussion is his representation of the Babbling Brook in the Northeast corner. Halsted shows it entering the lake just east of the bathhouse and does not show that there is a diversion point higher where the creek water can be shunted into the lake, as desired, or off to the north via the ditch formed by the railroad embankment.

Controversy rages today as to whether there also was a drainage system controlling the surface level, so as to prevent the lake from overflowing and randomly damaging the railroad tracks and developments to the north. This system, mostly a large tube, is said by many old timers as originating just west of the bathhouse. It had nothing to do with the babbling brook inflow pipe or ditch.

It only came into play if the lake reached unnecessarily high levels, it would maintain the level of that body of water so it could absorb 5 to 10 inch rains without overflowing. We all know how the railroad and golf course were ravaged in 1993 and again this very year, 2008, by an already overfilled lake accompanied by multi-inch rains. We apparently did not learn a lesson in 1993, but I hear that reason may finally prevail and provide a system of control of excessive fullness of the lake, before the arrival of a heavy rainfall.

Another article will show Halsted's locations of his favorite spots on the South Shore, including "Indian



# South Shore of Devils Lake, 1949

## Tales of Earlier Days

By Bob Dewel

The previous story, with a map, showed the names of many long-forgotten places around the North Shore of Devils Lake, such as Nymphs Bathing and Lovers Canoeing. The map was hand drawn, and we suspect that some of the locations were secret places known only in the imagination of the artist, J.E.Halsted.

Because of space limitations, only the North end was shown last week. Now we present the South Shore as conceived by Halsted. It soon becomes apparent that Halsted's romantic view of the lake is limited to the north shore, for here we find no nymphs or lovers canoeing. Rather, there are cautions such as "Watch your step here, Take it easy here", and "Very wild down here". The latter refers to the still mostly remote South Bluff.

Many rock formations, some of which are new to this writer at least, are named Indian Alter, Alpine Chambers, Leaning Tower of Pisa, Sea Shells, Indian Face, Indian Alter to Manitou, Pearline Rock, and Alaskan Grotto. How many Baraboo natives can identify all of those locations?

Halsted also locates several areas associated with more recent occupants in the 1800's. The Southeast shore is called Kirkland Shore, due to the location of a hotel by the same name. Also noted is Hopkins Hotel, a new one to this writer. On the same shore, where the railroad approaches the lake, is "Wine Cellar", and further east his arrows point in the direction of the Italian Village and CCC camp.

In the southwest corner one expects to find the Messenger Hotel, but does anyone remember the "site of

hermit" or "Site (of) Sanitarium?" Nearby is State Well. A note at the bottom of the map tells us "site means former location of", leaving us in the dark as to the story of these locations.

Halsted pays attention to the needs of hunters, showing the locations of deer, raccoon, Owls, and fox. Apparently a keen observer, even groups of tree species are located.

Most intriguing is a note found in the middle of the lake reading "Old Fighter" Northern. Many lakes have their alleged old and crafty fish, and that appears to be the case here. Did any one ever catch this elusive and legendary creature? I guess it doesn't compare to the Loch Ness monster in Scotland, however.

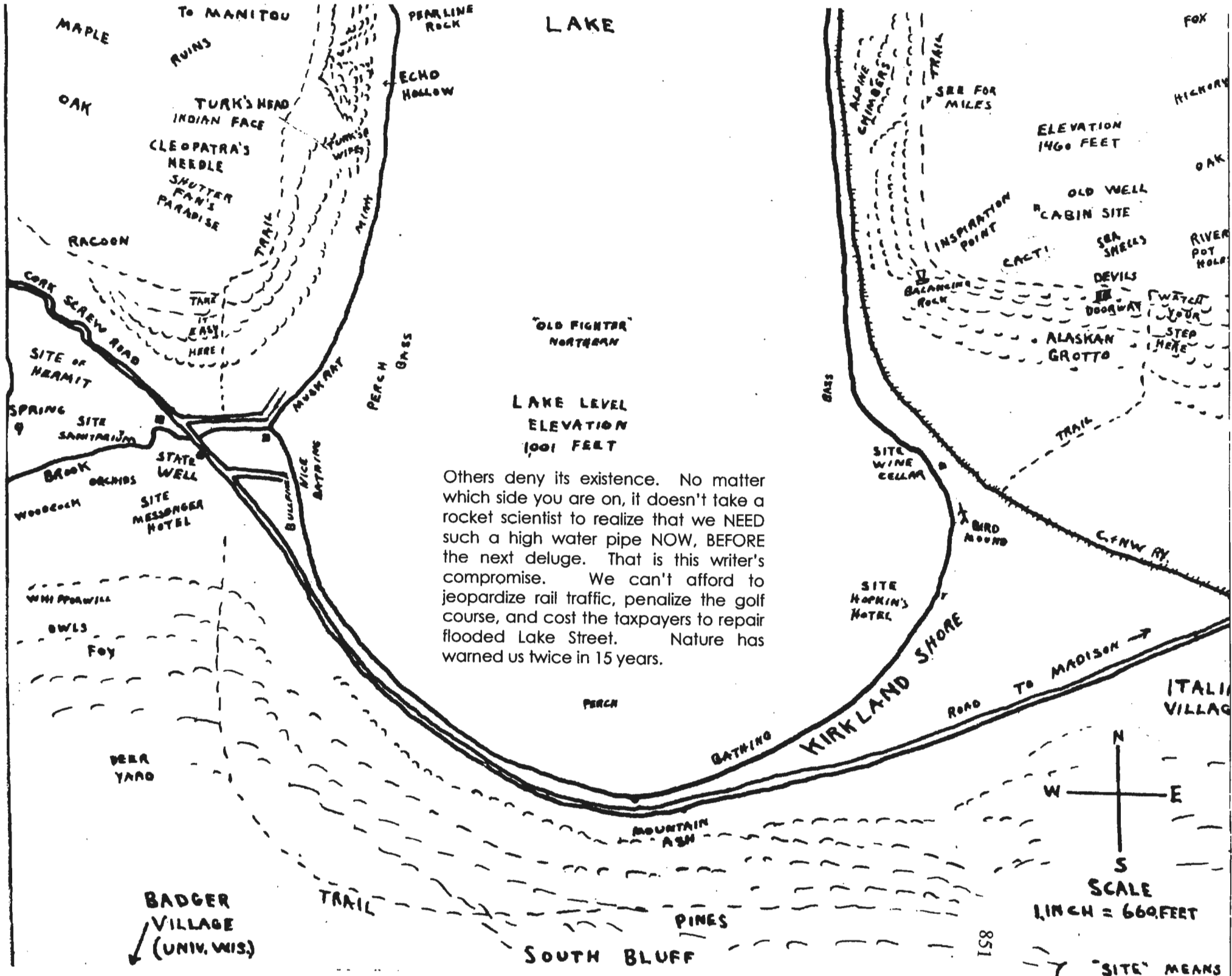
We don't know if Halsted's figures are correct, but he indicates that the elevation at the water level in the lake is 1001 feet, and that of the top of the East Bluff as 1460, making that bluff 459 feet above lake level. It is believed that the West Bluff is higher, perhaps as great as 500 feet. It is said that the level of the lake corresponds to the level of the roof of the courthouse, more or less, and that the railroad descends slightly as it passes from the lake to the station in Baraboo.

With regard to creeks, note on the left side of the map the word creek. This is Messenger Creek. Unlike Babbling Brook on the north end of the lake, this creek cannot be diverted, and that area of the lake was flooded much of the summer. It is said to originate in a spring further up the valley.

Our previous article offered to let any viewers confess to voyeuring at the "Nymphs Bathing" or Lovers canoeing". Our offer to print your confession, with your name, still holds.

Meantime arguments rage regarding the existence of an outlet pipe to control the surface level of the lake BEFORE heavy rains cause a destructive surge down the valley. Some claim special memories of such a leveling pipe, and its exact location.





# A COUNTY CENTENNIAL BASH IN 1948

## Yesteryear Revisited

By Bob Dewel

It was billed to be "the biggest thing that Sauk County and Baraboo have ever experienced." It happened in 1948, and it was the centennial celebration of Sauk County, and also of the State.

That hyperbolic gushing is found in the August 9, 1948 issue of the News-Republic, lent to us by Tom and Glennis Luck, who lived then in an upstairs apartment downtown. The front page of the paper also contains a serious article on the growth dilemma facing Baraboo then. More on that in a moment.

### The Plans

It may or may not have been the biggest thing ever to happen in the county, but it certainly ranks as the largest and longest-running pageant in local history. It featured a cast of hundreds, appearing as mound builders, Native Americans, explorers, settlers, farmers, circus performers, and many others. It ran for three nights at, curiously, the Mary Rountree Evans athletic park. Why the Al. Ringling was not used is not clear, but they gambled on the weather and the mosquitos. No report on the bugs, but the weather was perfect, and a total of 13,000 people saw the spectacle.

Authored by Sandra Stekl, Portia Bohn, Ethel Rodwell, Karl Ganzlin, John Kelly, and August Derleth, the credits list includes three directors, five readers, seven sound and light and stage managers, eight assistant managers, a dozen make-up people, two

dozen costume sewers, four bands, a chorus of three dozen-----plus one to three dozen each of old settlers, pioneers, soldiers, square dancers, statehouse actors, raftsmen, minors, circus performers--the printed list of participants alone was twice as long as this article! One wonders who was left to sit in the audience.

Amazingly, the News-Republic printed the entire text of the pageant. It appears to cover all bases in county history. Tedious to a reader,, it must have been a delight to sit and watch, unless you were among the hundreds in the play.

It featured the ubiquitous Wm. Canfield, early local historian and surveyor, as being in a story-telling mood. His yarns are interspersed on one stage or another (there were three stages) by scenes of the Native Americans, explorers, settlers, soldiers, and all of the groups mentioned above and more, as the narrative proceeded.

Included was a complicated tale of Thunder Birds at Devil's Lake. Was this the origin of the Thunderbird nickname in Baraboo school sports, which did not use that appellation in 1947, but did sometime after the pageant?

They really knew how to throw a celebration in those days---our 1998 sesquicentennial observance pales in comparison. There was a beauty contest at the swimming pool, and a complete list of the pulchritudinous

contestants was printed. There was a baby contest (Charlene Tetiva won), though the qualifications for a winner were not announced, at least not in the newspaper.

A four-mile parade was promised, to be reviewed by Governor Rennebohn. John Kelly appeared as P.T. Barnum. There was a special feature, a public wedding, bride and groom to be a surprise (to the public, not to the bride and groom hopefully. They were Leo Zimmerman and Marjorie Klemm). The nationwide "Queen for a Day" show was broadcast from Devi-Bara.

On the more frivolous side, a picnic at Devil's Lake was to include a greased pig and greased pole contest. This was an era when men preferred to be cleanly shaven and neatly shorn, but in 1948 men grew beards, as of old, for the centennial. Even the Baraboo police department got into the act, adopting domed helmets, large shiny stars, and a bearded appearance.

A name orchestra was to play at the Devi-Bara annex, plus a dance at the Eagles Hall. Of interest is the fact that of 20 advertisers supporting the special issue, only six survive today. Gone are such public minded firms as Barrs, Gambles, Western Auto, Fur House, Red Goose, Bar-B-Que, Beer Depot, Hoppe Clothing, Effinger Brewery, Hattle's Cafe, Devi-Bara, Francines, and Schroeder Insurance. Still here are Brittingham and Hixon, The Ritz, First National Bank, J.C. Penney, Pointons, and of course the Al. Ringling Theatre.

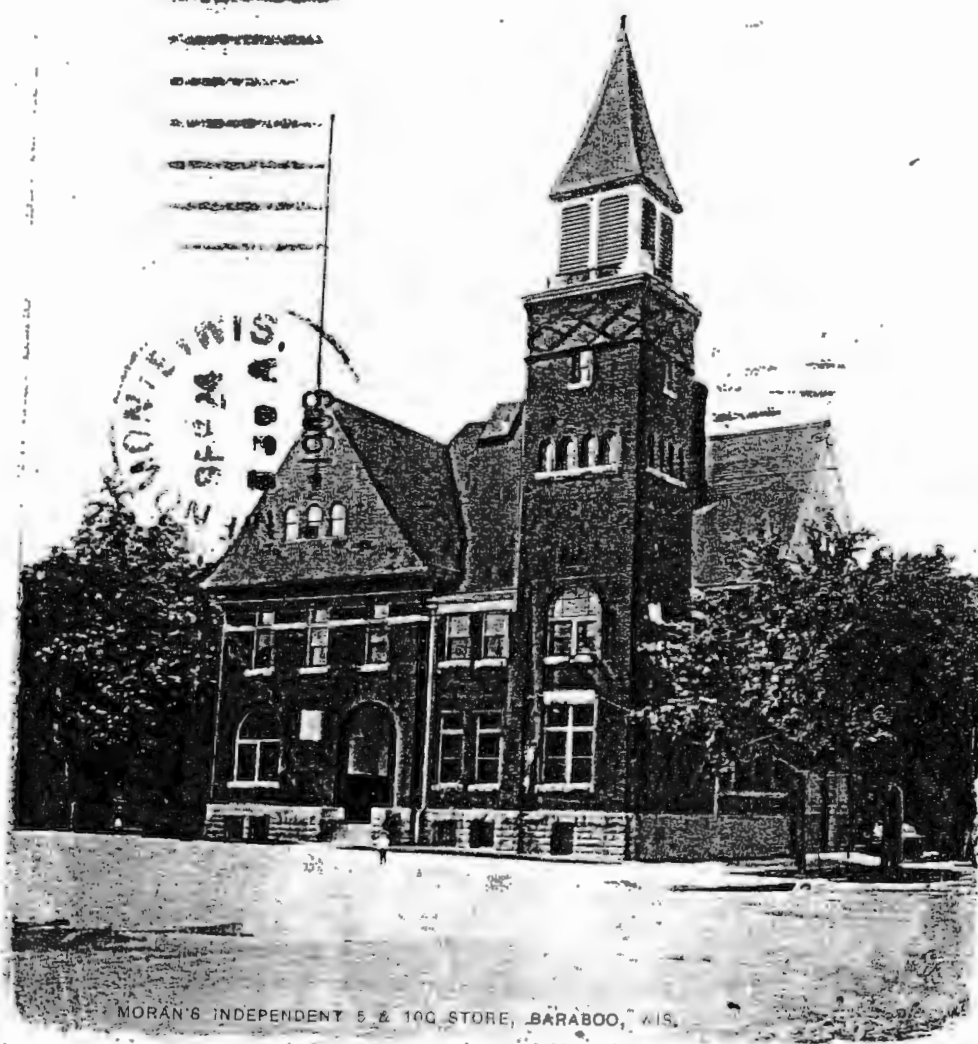
### Baraboo's Problem

The gaiety belied a county seat in some distress. An article on the importance of the Badger Ordnance Plant, which closed after the war, commented that in Baraboo "vague outlines of a ghost town crossed and recrossed their troubled mind. What would happen to their fair city (now that the jobs were gone)?"

The problem was "met squarely by the city, headed by its energetic youthful business men. An industrial expansion corporation was formed WHICH IT IS HOPED (our capitals) will be the answer to Baraboo's peacetime needs." We in 2001 know it was indeed the answer! By Pageant time the first industry, Northern Engineering (now NECO-Hammond) was getting organized, and the Fall would bring the announcement of Industrial Coils arrival.

It is easy to forget Baraboo's dilemma after WWII. There were only 2 or three small industries, a miniscule work force with massive unemployment and few prospects for work, plus a feeble business climate. There were only 250 industrial jobs in the city, and it seemed condemned to stagnation and probable decline, a fate that so many less forward looking midwestern cities were to suffer in the half century ahead.

Baraboo leaders were determined that this would not happen to the Gem City on the Baraboo River. There was no Circus World Museum then, no UW Baraboo-Sauk County campus, no Crane Foundation or Railroad Museum, and Baraboo's only crown jewel



Typical of mid-century Baraboo, the old city hall was hard to heat, and a space waster. It was replaced in the 1960's, along with many other public and private buildings and churches.

was the Al. Ringling. Nevertheless it was a city to be saved.

The story of how the influx of industries provided jobs, which provide wages, which provide a sharing of those wages for the common good in city services--that story has been told many times, and was the salvation of Baraboo.

It is obvious that the Baraboo citizens of 1948 did not have the wherewithal to replace five schools plus two parochial schools, an aged city hall, up to a dozen new or greatly remodeled and enlarged churches, a civic center, ambulance service, an ever-expanding hospital (it was in a wood frame building then), a quality University Center, an ice skating rink and ball parks, and a zoo, to name a few of the changes.

All of this was made possible by jobs, and those wages which were shared through taxes or gifts to create the above improvements, wages that came only with the influx of industries.

So we can be grateful to the folks of 1948 who put on a brave face with their pageant of the past, but also took bold steps to insure a future--the remarkable city we enjoy today.

#### Today's Challenge

So where do we stand? Is Baraboo the ultimate in small cities, with no need to change? or, COULD the future include a real youth center or YMCA, a real senior center, a public art gallery, paid firemen, an expanded and less crowded historical museum, a three-season skating rink, an in-house

rehabilitation center, a business college, adequate police department facilities, and an expanded street replacement program, to name a few needs.

We stand somewhat as they did in 1948 with their pageant, their parade, and their contests. They borrowed from the past, yet took bold measures to ensure the future, with industrial expansion and the benefits that accrue with it.

We don't need a pageant or a greased pig, but like every generation, we face a dilemma. Do we stand still or do we move forward? We can be glad the folks of 1948 could see beyond their parade and their beauty contest, to build the Baraboo and Sauk County we enjoy today.



## A Different Look at the Green Bay Packers Yesteryear Revisited

By Bob Dewel

You may think you know all there is about the Green Bay Packers, but travel back to 1940 with me for a different view. Thanks to a faded 1940 clipping owned by the Leon Braun family, with a reporter's byline of Oliver E. Kuechle, we can explore in depth the early, often troubled, and very humble beginnings of the fabled team of today. Much of this article is based on the Kuechle report of 1940, augmented by the Packers Web Site history.

Talk about humble beginnings! Green Bay High School football player, 17 year old Earl "Curly" Lambeau, feared as the 1916 season closed that it was the end of his football career. He'd starred on the team, and "football was in his blood, there wasn't another game like it", reported Kuechle, but with graduation in 1917, there appeared to be no other alternative than a job with the local Acme Packers, a job he was lucky to have. But he wanted to play more football, perhaps by starting a home town team of which he would be both coach and player.

Lambeau appears to have fretted and schemed as the months passed by and the fall of 1918 high school football season approached. Acting on impulse he enrolled in Notre Dame, with its new coach, Knute Rockne at the helm. He only stayed at Notre Dame one year, but as a freshman he won a varsity letter, that being permitted at that time.

Others on the Notre Dame team, some of whom would be football greats, included Eddie Anderson, George Gipp, Rollie Stein, Chuck Crowley, Fred Larson, Clipper Smith, Len Bahau, Bernie Kirck, Hunk Anderson, Fred Lockhard, Norman Barry, and Bill Mohn. The friendship with Rockne lasted a lifetime.

Lambeau intended to return to Notre Dame, but an Acme Packers Official, Frank Peck, not only took Curly to lunch but offered the 19 year old a job at the unheard sum of \$250 a month. Always thinking, Lambeau reasoned that perhaps he could have his job and play football too. Acme was still flush from wartime orders, so he soon approached Peck for money to buy a few uniforms. As an inducement, he offered to call the fledgling 1919 team the Acme Packers.

Peck mulled it over, and later asked if \$500 would be enough. Lambeau swallowed, stunned, and quickly accepted the offer, thinking it would be enough for two seasons. Only local young men were recruited, and one with only one hand. The players had to supply their own helmets, such as they were in those days, and also their shoes.

Enough for two seasons? How wrong how was. At first, the new Acme Packers didn't even charge admission, but the jerseys and outfitting for the first year exhausted the \$500 stipend from Peck, and the soon to be mighty Packers were forced to pass the hat among the curious onlookers.

They played at first on what was called Hagemeister Field, which had no fences and admission could not be charged. A quarter was considered a good gift, and at the end of the season the newly professional players were paid its players a total of \$16.92 each! By 1920, war orders had ceased and the more impoverished canning company had to withdraw its support.

Times were good, though, for a newly formed team. In the first season they rolled up 565 points in 11 games, allowing their opponents only 18! Other teams in the Wisconsin league included Menomonie, Marinette, Racine, Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Oshkosh, Ishpenning, and Stambaugh. They lost only one game, to a team curiously called the Beloit Fairies, in a game still contested by Packer purists because of officiating.

In 1920 the young team did nearly as well, only losing again to the Fairies, and tying the Chicago Boosters. New managers took over the packing company, and they not only restored support but arranged membership in the newly formed National League. The first League victory for the Packers, incidentally, was over the Minneapolis Marines.

The packing company again fell on bad times, and support was removed. The huge sum of \$250 was needed to retain the franchise, and Lambeau convinced a friend, Don Murphy, to sell his car to pay the bills. A series of crises continued to plague the team, however. The day they played the Duluth Eskimos in 1922 started out as the darkest, with some \$1500 owed some of the players.

Hopes for cash from the attendance were dashed by a heavy downpour, and it appeared the game had to be cancelled and the club disbanded. There is a future, however, for the Packers in this dark hour. There's also more to relate from Kuechle's story in an unnamed newspaper, and there will be a future article in this newspaper in due time!



## Part Two, the 1922 Packers Survive, Thrive Yesteryear Revisited By Bob Dewel

In the previous article we left the 1922 Acme Packers about to disband, with mounting financial difficulties. Pouring rain threatened to cancel the Duluth Eskimos game, the only remaining source of income, and the end seemed near.

Out of this dismal crossroads came the Packers big break. Andy Turnbull, general manager of the Green Bay Press-Gazette, advised them to go ahead with the game, and a few dollars were collected from the soggy fans. Later he organized a corporation which guaranteed \$1000 to pay the players, and within a week he and several other backers organized the Green Bay Football Corporation, signing the papers on Sept. 8, 1922.

Turnball became the first President of the corporation. Stock was issued at \$5 a share, with (get this) one box seat per share as an inducement! It was typical small town America of then and now—citizens rallying to achieve a civic goal, led in this case by the local newspaper.

A little known fact is that Lambeau and Press-Gazette sports editor George Calhoun had now attempted to disassociate the team from the Acme Packers name. They wanted to rename the team the Big Bay Blues, the colors then being blue and gold. Public opinion prevailed, and they continued to be known as the Packers.

As mentioned last week, Lambeau had to get the franchise re-established with the League. According to the Packers Web site, Lambeau had used three college players in a game against the Decatur Staleys in 1922, which was against the rules. The franchise having being revoked, Curly

Lambeau had to go to Ohio and beg. The league relented, and the franchise was awarded again to Green Bay on June 24, 1922.

The 1923 and 1924 seasons saw expansion of the team, and also its removal from Hagenmeister field to Baeumant, an old baseball diamond. It was soon obvious that better facilities were needed, and a forward-looking city council under the leadership of Mayor Wenzel Weisner was persuaded to build a high school football field. Meantime the Packers beat the Chicago Bears in 1924, the beginning of a rivalry which presumably will someday round out a century of bickering.

The games started to draw crowds, and the organization started to flesh out. 1929 began the early golden years for the Packers, winning the league championship. This was repeated in 1930, 1931 and 1936. By 1940 the high school football field, which seated only 6000, had grown to a capacity of 28,870. Lambeau remained as coach and halfback, and games were broadcast throughout the state on radio. Game tickets which were once \$3 rose to \$15 by 1925.

Lambeau remained in charge, and his team had won six NFL crowns by 1944. He resigned on January 31, 1950, closing his football career there after a record of 229-134-22. He served stints with the Chicago Cardinals and the Washington Redskins for a time, and died June 1, 1965. On Sept 11 of that same year, the former City Field was renamed the Lambeau Field in his honor. Appropriately, the name remains today.

As was indicated in the preceding article, much of this material is taken from an old 1940 clipping from an unnamed newspaper by Oliver E. Kuechle, augmented by material from the current web site of the Green Bay Packers. Other than brief mentions of Lambeau after 1950, we have not presumed to pursue the later history of

# Green Bay's Record

Year	W	L	T	P	OP
1921.....	3	2	2	73	55
1922.....	5	4	3	80	50
1923.....	7	2	1	85	34
1924.....	8	4	0	113	38
1925.....	6	5	0	132	110
1926.....	7	3	3	151	60
1927.....	9	2	1	169	50
1928.....	7	4	3	139	92
*1929.....	13	0	1	212	24
*1930.....	5	3	1	227	111
*1931.....	12	2	0	291	74
1932.....	10	3	1	152	63
1933.....	6	7	1	191	107
1934.....	7	6	0	156	112
1935.....	8	4	0	181	96
*1936.....	11	1	1	269	124
1937.....	7	5	0	220	121
†1938.....	8	4	0	240	141
1939.....	9	2	0	233	153
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3,314</b>	<b>1,615</b>

\*National champions.

†Division champions.

the legendary Wisconsin team, much of which is more than well known.

We might remark, however, that we know of a local person who now owns a single share of the Packers Corporation, and wonder if he got a box seat with his rather recent purchase of one share of stock, as did the investors back in 1922.