



www.monticellohistoricalsociety.org

MAHS

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Collection Archivist

Karen Gempeler

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- Docents - Kay & Bill Dickson
- Programs - Donna Ferguson
- Membership - Carol Schultz
- Newsletter - Tere Dunlap

RECOLLECTIONS

Monticello Area Historical Society News

Year 2016, No. 01

Inside MAHS Museum:

School Lunch Boxes' Rise to Popularity

Plain, metal lunch kits consisting of a dome-topped box and a matching cylindrical container, later commonly referred to as a thermos¹, were first mass produced in the 19th century. They were used by factory workers and field hands.

Metal lunch kits for children appeared early in the century and eventually replaced the simple, lard pails in which youngsters toted their lunches to school. One of the earliest, a rectangular, tin box painted black or green with a leather handle, was introduced in 1920 by a Norwich, Conn., firm that had been producing dome-top models since 1911.



A glimpse into the future of lunch box production came in 1935 when a Milwaukee, Wis. manufacturer printed Mickey Mouse on the lid of a tin carryall – a lunch box with handles on either side that folded up over the top. The idea of featuring a television or movie character came along. Hopalong Cassidy was pasted onto a standard, metal lunch box kit in 1950. Then along came Roy Rogers and Dale Evans.

In the years that followed, character lunch pails not only chronicled the most popular TV shows but also pop culture icons in music (Beatles, Bee Gees), movies

cont. on page 3

Tell your friends:

Museum opening

Sat. May 7th
and
all Saturdays
thru October
from 10 am - 2 pm

What You Need to Know

**Monticello's Spring Fling
May 21**

We will be open our usual hours and selling popcorn from our vintage popcorn wagon and root beer floats for 25 cents each. We will need a little extra help for this event.

Our May annual meeting

Details are still being worked out. Members will be contacted as soon as finalized.

Our docent coordinators

Bill & Kay Dickson welcome all volunteers. Call them at 938-4315.

New Members

We welcome new lifetime members
RoxAnn (Gempeler) Witkowski, Glenn Burgy
and Jan (Woelffer) Ishida.

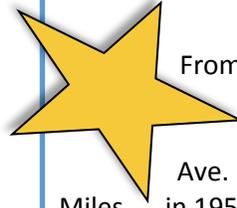
Get Well Wishes

To Donna Ferguson, our program coordinator,
and volunteer Madeleine Dooley.

Memoriam

Lillian Hefty, charter member, passed away March 6, at
age 100 years. She was our "go to" person for so much
Monticello information. Our sympathy to her family. She
will be missed by many.

Recent donations to MAHS



From Harold and Wanda Babler: A water color
painting "Tank Row" of the Wichser
farm equipment store on E. Highland
Ave. (presently owned by Mike Blum) by Ruth
Miles in 1950s. Her husband Raymond taught history
and German at MAHS at the time.

From Don Schneider: furnace filters and office supplies.

Monetary: Sally Stenbroten, Betty Jane Kimura, Robert
Elmer, Tom Hefty & Fidelity, Jan Woelffer & Tribune,
Leon and Margaret Gempeler memorial, Jim Hopkins
memorial, Jan Woelffer Ishida, and Lillian Hefty
memorials.

Speaker donations from Roger Dooley, May Burgy and
Mary Davis who presented programs to several
organizations.

"This and That"

- ◇ May Burgy, Mary Davis and Karen Brugger attended a
seminar at Mt. Horeb last month on "History of Artifacts."
- ◇ Monticello Ford has moved out along the highway; Karlen
building is for sale.
- ◇ The Paul and Josephine Voegeli family home has been sold.
- ◇ John Ponyicsanyi, 1958 MHS grad has published a booklet
on basketball stats and players 1939-2015. It is \$10 and
can be purchased at the high school office or museum.
- ◇ Roger Gempeler kept our storefront and sidewalks snow
free again this winter.
- ◇ Mark's Chemicals donated the water needed for the south
wall repair.
- ◇ Roger Dooley presented a program on MAHS to the local
Lions Club meeting.
- ◇ May Burgy spoke of our "From Slateboards to
Smartboards" to Homemaker's Assn. at Monroe Moose
Lodge.
- ◇ Mary Davis also gave a program on our current display to a
ladies group.



**The Milwaukee Road's "Limburger Special" carried cheese on the
short line between Brodhead and the New Glarus Terminus.**

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Monticello Area Historical Society is the ac-
quisition, documentation, preservation and exhibition of arti-
facts relating to the history and culture of the Monticello area.
This collection will be located in our museum, the former
Woelffer Drug Store on Main Street in Monticello, Wisconsin.

VISION STATEMENT

The Monticello Area Historical Society strives to promote an
interest in the uniqueness of the Monticello area by collecting
and displaying artifacts that tell our community history. We
further endeavor to enrich the community by connecting them
to the past and saving the present to enhance the future.

Lunch boxes, cont.

(Mary Poppins, Star Wars), toys (Barbie, GI Joe), food (Cracker Jack, Tony the Tiger), even fashion models (Twiggy).



Vinyl lunch boxes appeared in mid-1950s, made of stiff cardboard wrapped in waterproof vinyl. The new boxes proved less vulnerable to rust and dents than their counterparts but had other problems, such as seams that split and corners that crushed easily.

Both metal and vinyl boxes were produced until the 1980s when hard plastic models took their place.

Many people began collecting after getting settled into their careers and



homes. Suddenly they had the desire and money to buy back their youth. Later models in fair condition sell for \$25 to \$50. Prices of \$2,000 and up are common when Mickey Mouse memorabilia collectors compete for a 1935 carryall.

Stop by and see old lunch boxes in our current School Display.

¹ **Origin of thermos**, (from *Thermos*, a trademark; First Known Use: 1907; or 1905-10; formerly a trademark.) n. trademark registered in Britain 1907, invented by Sir James Dewar (patented 1904 but not named then), from Greek *thermos* "hot" (see *thermal*). Dewar built the first one in 1892, but it was first manufactured commercially in Germany in 1904, when two glass blowers formed Thermos GmbH. Supposedly the company sponsored a contest to name the thing, and a Munich resident won with a submission of Thermos.



When J.C. Steinmann moved to Monticello in 1883 he entered into a partnership with Fred Knobel and became involved in the mercantile business. In 1889 they erected this building, the first solid brick structure in the village, to house their goods. Later, Steinmann merged his interests with those of E.J. Blum and John Dick and formed the Peoples Supply Company which also occupied this building. (Steinmann is also associated with his residences on Highland Ave., site 5, and 330 Monroe St. The building now houses a quilt/ sewing supplies store. (Google maps)

81 cents per hour minimum wage proposed

Report via Monroe Evening Times, June 10, 1960 (Pg. 4)

Morse Suggests Cut For Pay in Congress

WASHINGTON, Pa. — Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore) has proposed a pay cut for Congress members—to a rate of 53 cents an hour. They now get \$22,500 a year plus extras.

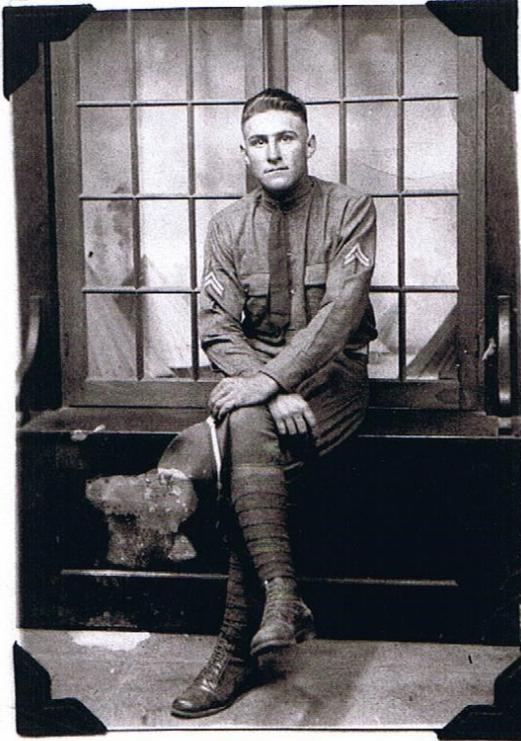
Morse told the Senate he was introducing the pay cut bill because the Senate labor committee hasn't approved a 31-an-hour minimum wage for laundry workers. He said thousands of laundry workers are paid as little as 53 cents an hour.

Sen. Wayne Morse, U. S. Senator (Oregon) from 1945 to 1969, was often called "The Tiger of the Senate," according to the U.S. Senate website. He got this nickname from relishing in government controversy and never backing down against his enemies. In addition to filibustering, Morse was memorable for changing his party affiliations twice. He left the Republican party to become an Independent, and then decided he wanted to be a Democrat. (ABCNEWS, Top 5 Senate Filibusters)

Wayne Lyman Morse was born on October 20, 1900, in Verona, Wisconsin, and grew up on his family's farm. He received a degree in labor economics from the University of Wisconsin in 1923, and was awarded a masters degree from the university in 1924.

Memorial Day

Rememberance



Fred Amstutz

Fred Amstutz was born the seventeenth of April, 1897, at Argyle, Wisconsin. He attended grade school at Dill, Winslow, Browntown, and Monticello, having moved here in 1910, with his parents.

He enlisted in Co. H in 1916 when only nineteen years of age and was with the boys in Texas during the Mexican trouble. He was a young man who was full of life and action and never lacking in enthusiasm and courage. After he came back from the Mexican border, he was busily engaged in getting new members for Co. H. When our country entered the Great World War, he left for Camp Douglas with his company and remained at this place until September 13, 1917, then was transferred with his company to Waco, Texas for further drilling.



Melvin Marty

Melvin Marty was born in Mt. Pleasant Township, November 26, 1918, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Marty. He was confirmed April 9, 1933, in the Monticello Reformed Church by the late Dr. Muehlmeier. He attended the Monticello High School and graduated with the class of 1936. His interest in athletics, especially baseball and basketball made him very popular in the community.

Melvin assisted his father with the operation of the Marty farm until he answered his country's call to duty. After his induction, he was stationed in Texas and Georgia before leaving for England in January, 1944. On February 6, 1943, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ellen Stoll of Monroe, the ceremony taking place in North Augusta, Georgia, while Sgt. Marty was stationed at Camp Gordon.

Memorial Day cont.

In February, 1918, he was again transferred to Camp Merritt, New Jersey, and shortly after, sailed for France, and soon to the front. He became a Corporal, and on taking a special course in bayonet fighting, he was promoted to a Sergeant. He served in the Alsace sector, Aisne Marne sector, in the great battle of Chatteau Thierry and also at Pimes, France. At the last place he made the supreme sacrifice, giving up his life for the cause of his country, dying the honorable death of a brave soldier, August 5, 1918.

With military honors, his remains were laid to rest in France, but the grave beyond the sea was not to be his final resting place. His remains were brought home, to be buried on Easter Sunday, 1922, in Monticello, Wisconsin, where comrades from Monroe, Juda, and New Glarus, and many other friends and relatives attended.

Rev. Muehlmeier, pastor of the Reformed Church of Monticello gave the address and read the service at the grave. Major A. E. Mitchell, Fred's captain during the war, spoke briefly of the fine qualities and bravery of this soldier. A firing squad saluted this hero, and taps were sounded from a hill, a little removed from the grave, closing the ceremony.

Melvin, who was twenty-five years of age at the time he made the supreme sacrifice was killed near Aachen, Germany, September 20, 1944. He was a member of Lt. General Courtney H. Hodge's First Army, and landed in France on D-day. He was connected with a motorized unit of the 8th Infantry.

Sgt. Marty had been in service for 3½ years and was the first Monticello boy to enter service under the Selective Service system, having been inducted March 16, 1941. He was awarded the Purple Heart posthumously.

Amstutz Marty American Legion Post #256 in Monticello marked 95 years of service this year. The anniversary was celebrated March 20 at the Green County American Legion meeting at the Monticello High School Library.

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, war-time veterans' organization. Since then, the American Legion has evolved into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States, more than 2.4 million strong in 14,000 posts worldwide.

Don't miss seeing
this important piece of
Monticello history
at the museum.

TO BECOME A MAHS MEMBER

Mail this form and payment to the museum address or give them to our membership chairperson.

Membership year:
May through April

Individual annual dues -
\$20 /person

CASH CHECK PAYABLE TO MAHS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN

THE MONTICELLO AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 4TH THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH, **EXCEPT** JULY, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, IN THE NORTH ROOM OF ZWINGLI CHURCH ANNEX IN MONTICELLO, WIS.

MAHS Museum

P.O. Box 463
204 N. Main St.
Monticello, WI 53570
Phone: (608) 938-4216
Email: mahs@tds.net

Hours of Operation

The museum will be open
May 7 until October 31, 2016
but can be open by appointment for anyone or a
group wishing to stop by.

For special group or individual tours,
call the museum at (608) 938-4216 or send your request to
mahs@tds.net.

Are you planning a class reunion? Do you have former classmates who would be interested in joining MAHS?

Admission to the museum is free and a quarterly newsletter from your home town is included.

A guided tour of the museum can be requested on your reunion date.

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