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# RECOLLECTIONS

*Monticello Area Historical Society News*

Winter 2015

## *From the President:*

Greetings of the New Year! And hopefully, we are going to enjoy warmer weather soon.

The Board of Directors is making plans for our 2015-2017 exhibit: "Slate Boards to Smart Boards." We hope to focus on learning materials from one-room schools to the present. We still need a lot of help from all of you. Please contact any board member if you have ideas, items or time to contribute to this project.

Early, one-room school information is pretty well covered in our collections. Our biggest gap is in the learning materials from mid-century, i.e., 1950s-1980s. We could use a lot of things from that era, which we never consider *historical*. Let's work together to make a display worthy of our museum and our community.

The annual meeting and dinner will be Thursday, May 21, at Barnaby's in Monticello. Our speaker will be Susan Apps-Bodilly, a teacher and author of "One Room Schools," which ties in nicely with our new display. And, yes, she is Jerry Apps daughter. We will have reservation information available in April.

Remember our Fall Garage Sale when you spring clean. No clothing, please. And be sure to label things, "Garage Sale." You may bring your items to a meeting or contact any board member if you need something picked up.

*Mary Davis*

### MAHS

#### Board of Directors

President - Mary Davis  
 Vice-Pres. - Donald Kubly  
 Secretary - May Burgy  
 Treas. - Karen Brugger  
 Member - John Casey  
 Member - Michael Wayland  
 Member - Hans Sulzer

#### Collection Manager

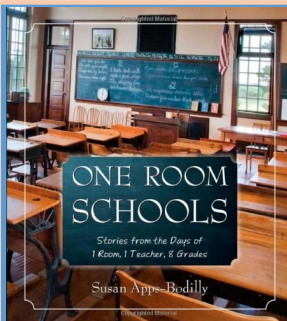
#### Collection Archivist

Karen Gempeler

#### Coordinators

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

I dedicate this issue to the memory of Diane Blum.  
 -tld



Susan Apps-Bodilly, author of "One Room Schools: Stories from the Days of 1 Room, 1 Teacher, 8 Grades," is scheduled to

speak at the MAHS annual meeting in May. She holds a reading teacher license and has a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the UW-Madison. "One Room Schools" is published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press.

## *What's in your closet?*

### Monticello Seniors Take Chicago Trip

MONTICELLO (Times Special) —Members of the senior class of Monticello high school toured Chicago Friday, going by chartered bus.

Mrs. William Drukenmiller, Mrs. Nancy Kundert and Ray Miles chaperoned.

Those going were Beverly Babler, Elaine Beckwith, James Beutel, Jean Bidlingmaier, C a r l a

Blum, Kathryn Blum, Caroline Carroll, Eugene Crouch, Leon Elmer, Mabel Elmer, Shirley Escher, Emilie Gempeler, Carol Grunder, Leon Hauri, Donald Karlen, Judith Karlen.

Robert Klassy, Donna Koller, Gareth Kundert, Nathan Marty, Robert Meier, Helen Meyer, Edward Riese, Donald R o b e r t, Ardyce Rosen, John Schmid, Alfred Schumacher, Doris Stauffacher, Barbara Studer, Glorianne Thoman, Charles Williams, Marjorie Zentner and Zane Zurbuchen.

Monroe Evening Times, 24 May 1955, pg. 8.

## Memories of Karlen Hall

Written by Warren Schesser

*His recollections of State Line Conference basketball, 1942-1952.*

We load up the bus and head for Monticello, prepared to perform in a Ford agency attic. The Karlen Hall floor deserved a letter grade of D+ for being "lively." The speed at which one could advance the basketball by dribbling was dictated to by the life in the floor itself, and Karlen Hall was not a totally dead floor but definitely on life support. Karlen Hall had many, most memorable features, the most significant of which was a very large chimney that protruded well out into the playing area on the northeast side of the floor. Monticello Hall of Fame coach, John Ponyicsanyi, used that chimney as a permanent screen for left-handed forwards driving out of the northeast corner of the gym to the basket. Of course, advantaging Monticello.

A second notable feature of the Karlen Hall arena would be the backgrounds into which were set the rebounding boards and baskets. On the north end there was the crow's nest where one or two students manually updated the scoreboard, and on the south end there was a small balcony that was dark and usually occupied by a few spectators. Going north to south on the floor was going from 60-watt lighting to 40-watt lighting in terms of lighting itself.

A third outstanding feature of Karlen Hall was the surface of the floor, which was not only the floor for basketball games but also frequently a dance floor. It was always a subtly sticky floor that slowed one down. It was also a dimly marked floor, one might suppose, to coincide with the overall level of brightness in Karlen Hall.

The showers were trickles of lukewarm to cold water supplied by what appeared to be a couple of large tin cans with holes punched in them. The naked bodies from both schools were crammed into a shower space much in the manner that the Jews were placed into the gas chambers by the German military during World War II. Only the taller players were able to receive water from the large tin cans, as due to the crowding the only shower water the shorter players could enjoy was whatever ran off the taller people. It was necessary to shower with the opposition. Showering with the opposition could be compared to "sleeping with the enemy." Every school obviously had athletes who not only recorded mental images of their opponents unclothed but also felt compelled to inform all who would listen regarding the mental images recorded – in detail and often with

embellishment.

Winning at Karlen Hall during John Ponyicsanyi's tenure as Monticello coach was next to impossible, and therefore this description of the legendary Karlen Hall could be a bit biased. On second thought, no, this is quite realistic.

Though some people of my era recall this, I will once again mention that John Ponyicsanyi was a true Monticello icon, a great teacher of basketball fundamentals, an outstanding developer of individual talent as well as group talent, and, among other things, Coach Ponyicsanyi lives on in the nickname of the Monticello athletic teams (Ponies).

*Warren played for Albany and was inducted into the Albany Athletic Hall of Fame as Coach & Significant Contributor to Comet Athletics on Nov. 30, 2013, at which time this article was written.*

### Recent monetary donations to MAHS provided by:

Thomas Hefty  
Families and friends of Marcella Hammerly  
Helen Loveland  
Leon and Margaret Gempeler

**SKYVu DRIVE-IN**  
HIWAY 69 1 MILE SOUTH OF MONROE

Tonight - Thursday | 50c until 7:00 p. m.  
Friday - Saturday | 65c after

The adventure written a hundred years before its time becomes a motion picture to be remembered forever!

WALTER BRIDGES  
**20,000 Leagues UNDER THE SEA**  
with Technicolor  
CINEMA SCOPE

DR. DOUGLAS  
JAMES MASON  
THE LUKAS  
THE LORRE

**SPECIAL!**  
"Sea" at 7:40 - 10:30  
"Canyonscope" at 9:55  
Added . . . Featurette

PLUS The FIRST DONALD DUCK Cartoon in CinemaScope  
Walt Disney's GRAND CANYONSCOPE  
IN TECHNICOLOR

Also Bugs Bunny Cartoon "Lumber Jerks"

Drive-ins popularity peaked in the late 1950s and early 1960s, particularly in rural areas. The Sky-Vu opened in 1954, and continues yet today. Photo: Monroe Evening Times, 18 May 1955, pg. 8. (Newspapers.com)

### Rural School Recollections

Our newest exhibit will feature schools from long ago to the present.

Richard Smith submitted this history of the Loveland rural school, which he attended:

On April 23, 1849, there was a meeting of qualified electors to establish School District #, Washington Township. Alexander Sires was elected Moderator; Elias Wright, Treasurer; and William Tucker, Director. Resolved the Board be requested and authorized to raise \$100 for a building and furnishing a school house.

One half acre obtained for the site, price \$6. This would be a hewn log house instead of frame.

District members to furnish the logs at a rate of \$1 per long to be applied to their taxes. Resolved the Board hire a male teacher, John Brown (if qualified) to teach for a term of 3 months at \$10 per month, said money to be raised by district taxation.

School to begin on Monday, December 3, 1849. A school month consists of 22 days, excepting holidays. Value of log house \$45. Number of pupils attending in 1850 was 24. None over 20 years of age. Textbooks were Sanders spelling and reading books. Adams arithmetic. At this time, a meeting was held, and the Clerk was ordered to make out a warrant for taxes remaining

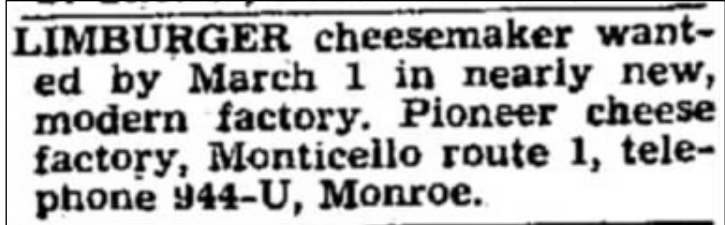
unpaid.

Mary Ann Spencer taught 3 months in winter for \$25, and again in summer for \$25. Next year, her wages were raised \$10. Records show sums received from the town superintendent. At this time, about \$25 applied to teacher's wages. The District raised \$17 or \$18.

No maps or blackboards. In 1850 school tax raised was \$70. Teacher's wages were now \$125 s year. First U.S. map purchased for \$3. Fuel for the year was \$4 to \$7. Number of pupils was now 35-40. Those attending winter term were often 18-20 years of age. Geography and history books were also now added.

The Loveland name now appears in the district; also Baumgartner and ZumBrunnen. There are now 4 months of school, held during the season pupils are least needed at home.

This story will continue in the spring newsletter.



Monroe Evening Times classified ad, 2 Jan 1945 pg. 4.

#### TO BECOME A MAHS MEMBER

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

Membership year: May through April

- ▶  CASH                       CHECK PAYABLE TO MAHS

- ▶ Type of membership:  
 Lifetime membership - \$100  
 Individual annual dues - \$10 /person

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

Saturdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
or by appointment.

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

Closed for the season November—April.

### Did you know?

The Class of 1947 published a year book, revived after a period of 16 years. Nancy Baker, Class of 1947, submitted the name "Mohiscan," which was taken from the first two letters of Monticello High School Annual. It was hoped future graduating classes of MHS would continue to sponsor an annual. Nancy was the oldest daughter of longtime Principal H. A. Becker.

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