

www.monticellohistoricalsociety.org

#### **MAHS Board of Directors**

President - Mary Davis Vice-Pres. - Nancy Rufener Secretary - Sue Rieder Treas. - Karen Brugger Member - John Casey Member - Dave Gietzel Member - Hans Sulzer

#### Coordinators

Docents - Kay & Bill Dickson Programs - Paul Rieder Window Display—May Burgy Membership - Carol Schultz Newsletter - Jules Cappelle

#### **Collection Archivist**

Jules Cappelle Jules.cappelle@gmail.com

## Museum Open

Saturdays May thru October from 10 am - 2 pm

#### **Our docent coordinators**

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

# RECOLLECTIONS

Monticello Area Historical Society News

Year 2018, No. 4

### Happy Holidays

Dear Friends,

It's so encouraging to look back at this last year with the Museum and our organization. The new exhibit, "Monticello of Yesteryear" is in place and has been enthusiastically received. The Stein- moval and installation. Now man section of the exhibit has gained a lot of interest. And the other displays inspire I'm tempted to comment on lots of discussion and reminiscing.

More recently, November 11, we commemorated the end of World War I with an open house, re-enactors, lots of noise and donuts! We welcomed over 100 visitors to the museum and even gained several new members in the process. It truly was a fitting tribute to that event.

Both our new exhibit and the Veteran's Day celebration would not have been successful without the imagination, encouragement and hard work of our Collections

Manager, Jules Cappelle. Thank you so much for pushing us forward!

As most of you know, we are in the process of replacing our 'vintage' elevator. We have approved bids for rewe are waiting for the necessary permit from the State. the 'state' of the State right now, but hope the "elevator permits" office is still functioning. We will start the process as soon as the paper work arrives. Stay tuned.

The Monticello Area Historical Society welcomes any year-end contributions you would like to give. The generosity of many has given our Museum a head start on being a viable place in the community. A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you.

Mary Davis

**President MAHS** 

#### Monticello Area Historical Society News

## The following history of Monticello was researched by Karen Brugger

From World War II

World War II found women replacing men in factories or joining women's branches of armed forces. Ration books appeared in March 1942. Bacon grease and other cooking fats were pored into tins and used in making aluminum. Victory gardens grew in backyards to satisfy produce needs. Recipes were modified due to rationing. The following is an example.

#### "War Cake"

1 cup brown sugar 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg

1 cup water 2 cups flour

1/3 cup lard 1/2 teaspoon baking powder

1 cup seedless raisins 1/2 teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon cinnamon 1/2 teaspoon salt

Combine brown sugar, water, lard, raisins, cinnamon and nutmeg in a saucepan. Bring to a boil and boil 3 minutes. Cool thoroughly. Stir and sift together the remaining ingredients and blend into the cooled raisin mixture. Place in greased 8 inch pan and bake 350 degree oven 35 minutes. Needs no icing. Makes 9 servings.

#### Calendars

In the days before TV and radio, a calendar provided an excellent way to advertise as it still does today. For at least a year you looked at an advertisement and beautified your home at the same time. Calendars were often elaborate and eye catching.

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#### **Christmas Wish List**

- ♦ Your continued involvement and membership.
- Elevator donations.
- \$\$\$ to put first 100 years of the Monticello Messenger online (\$500 in fund, but cost is \$15,000).

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Monticello Area Historical Society is the acquisition, documentation, preservation and exhibition of artifacts 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.

#### Webpage updates for 2018

#### www.monticellohistoricalsociety.org

- 1. Added new Video page with following clips: 1950 Monticello Homecoming Parade; 1948 Ora Prisk's steam engine and threshing machine; Ed Riese's miniature steam engine; Monroe vs. Monticello 1927 football game; 1928 Cheese days and Green County Fair; 1928 Monroe air show; Clarence covered bridge; Monroe excavation and sewer plant.
- 2. Added new Audio page with the following: Interview with Mrs. Hazel Kundert with comments about her early years as a Monticello school teacher.
- Three interviews with Dr. Manuel Elmer, author of Rudy's Hill and Legends of Dutch Hollow, commenting on his youth growing up in Dutch Hollow, south of Monticello.
- 3. New Slideshows: Monticello Electrical Upgrade; Legion Post 256; Monticello Livestock sales Barn; Monticello High School Fashion Shows-1965 through 1972; Bo Woelffer at Camp Leonard Wood, 1937; Monroe Cheese Corp.; Laidlaw Corp.
- 4. New Publications: WW-1 Scrapbook in two versions, one containing scans of the original

pages, the second has the clippings transcribed into normal page mode, making them much easier to read; History of Loveland School; Planting of New Bilten.

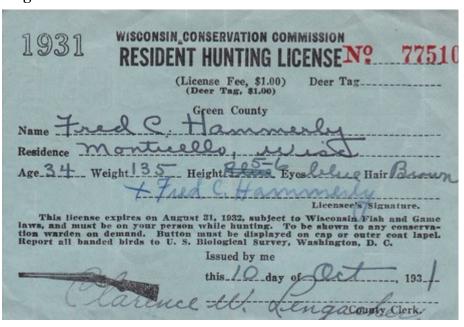
5. Quarterly newsletters are posted. If there are any color pictures in newsletter, this is a great spot to see pictures in color.

Some other Publications and Slideshows have been updated to reflect corrected name spellings, etc. There are still many unidenti-

etc. There are still many unidentified people, especially in the High School Fashion Show program that could be forwarded to us for inclusion.



Bob Getman pointing to his name as architect for Steinmann on current display.



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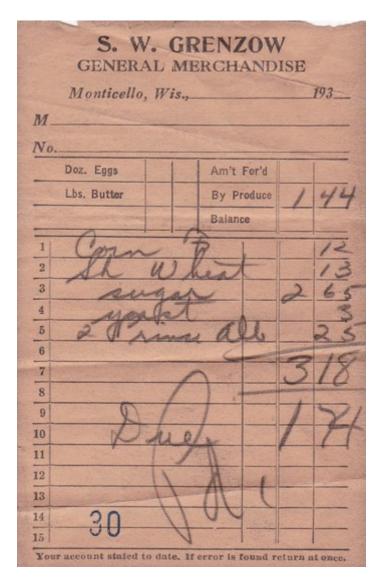
## **Christmas Tree Trivia**

#### by Karen Brugger

A century ago homes across the southern part of the state celebrated the holidays with an artificial tree made from goose feathers. Goose feathers were the preferred material for fake trees from the 1880's through the 1940's. Many were home made by families as a mid-winter project and construction was time consuming. The trunks of young tamaracks were used for the center pole. Feathers were dyed green and attached to stiff wired limbs inserted into the center pole. Most were fewer than three foot tall intended to fit on a tabletop since they required so much labor. Some were passed down through families for several generations. Goose feather trees were also somewhat rare because only one type of feather from a goose wing was sturdy enough to use. A tree with many branches required many geese. The popularity of goose feather trees waned after World War II. A few survive in historical societies. The popularity of the aluminum Christmas tree introduced to the mass market in 1959 by the Aluminum Specialty Company took a nosedive when A Charlie Brown Christmas first aired in 1965. In the show, Charlie Brown and Linus choose a humble real tree over a flashy aluminum model. Some featuring rotating color wheels that change hues of light on the branches have made a comeback.

Glass Christmas ornaments were introduced

to America by F.W. Woolworth in 1880, whose five and dime stores populated Main Streets across the country. Skeptical of their appeal at first, Woolworth later estimated that he had made \$25 million just on the sale of inexpensive glass Christmas ornaments for American homes. Germany dominated glass ornament production until 1939 when the Second World War closed the country's glass factories. By the time Europe's glassblowers recovered America's manufacturers captured the domestic market.





# School Visits



Mr. Butzler (middle school social studies) instructs a student how the Ford garage was built as a one story structure and then the upstairs was added two years later. Design was by Steinmann. All Monticello middle school and HS history students visited the museum this fall.



Kay Dickson and Jan Woelffer talking to the second graders who were learning what a museum is in there classroom. After learning the concept, they then came to visit us to see an actual museum.

## End of WWI



Chris Seitz dressed in WWI uniform complete with a table display of personal soldier equipment from WWI on November 11 at the museum.



Monticello, Wis., 194

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IN ACCOUNT WITH

Standard Service Station

Ivan Wichser, Prop.

Gas Oil Grease Polish

Tires and Batteries Washing

Phone 185

5 gal gas

Special thanks to May Burgy for your wonderful window displays all year long!

TO BECOME	A MAHS	MEMBER
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Mail this form and payment to the museum address or give them to our membership chairperson.

Membership year: May—April

Individual dues - \$20/yr

Family dues - \$30/yr

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□ C HECK PAYABLE TO MAHS

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:

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PHONE : \_\_\_\_\_

#### YOU ARE IN VITED TO JOIN

#### THE MONTICELLO AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEETINGS ARE HELD THE  $4\,\text{TH}$  Thursday of every month, except July, N ovember and D ecember , in the north room of Zwingli C hurch at  $7:00\,$  pm in M onticello ,

#### **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 4 until October 26, 2019
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.

**MAHS Museum** 

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

Please consider including the Monticello Area Historical Society in your will.

A guided tour of the museum can be arranged for all groups anytime.

P.O. Box 463	
204 N. Main St.	
Monticello, WI 53570	
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