



[www.monticellohistoricalsociety.org](http://www.monticellohistoricalsociety.org)

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- Newsletter - Jules Cappelle

**Collection Archivist**

Jules Cappelle  
[Jules.cappelle@gmail.com](mailto: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 2019, No. 1

## Steinmann—Two little houses

Dear Friends,

Just when you think the snow will be here forever; it thaws and we have water issues that make snow seem like the better choice! I hope you are managing with all that Mother Nature has blessed us with. The weather has slowed our elevator project also. We are expecting to start removal of the old elevator during the week of March 25<sup>th</sup>; and then construction and installation of our new elevator can begin. Patience is not my best virtue!

With Spring, comes new ideas, projects and opportunities to get

involved in our museum. We will be needing volunteers in the following areas: Docents, Cleaning & Refreshing exhibits, Sorting our vast collections, and Serving on our Board of Directors. A few hours a month can make a huge difference and you will be proud of what our historical society and museum has to offer to our community.

We hope to share more of our news on social media; hope you "Like" us!

Mary Davis

President MAHS



Thursday, March 14th, 2019

The following history of Monticello was researched by Karen Brugger

**July 30, 1931 Messenger "Jimtown News"**

The interior of James Lobbs Midway is being fixed over this week by our carpenters, consisting of rearrangement, new shelving and 5 double booths with tables where James can serve his trade to better advantage. These changes together with new floor linoleum and plenty of fresh paint go to make an inviting "stop in."

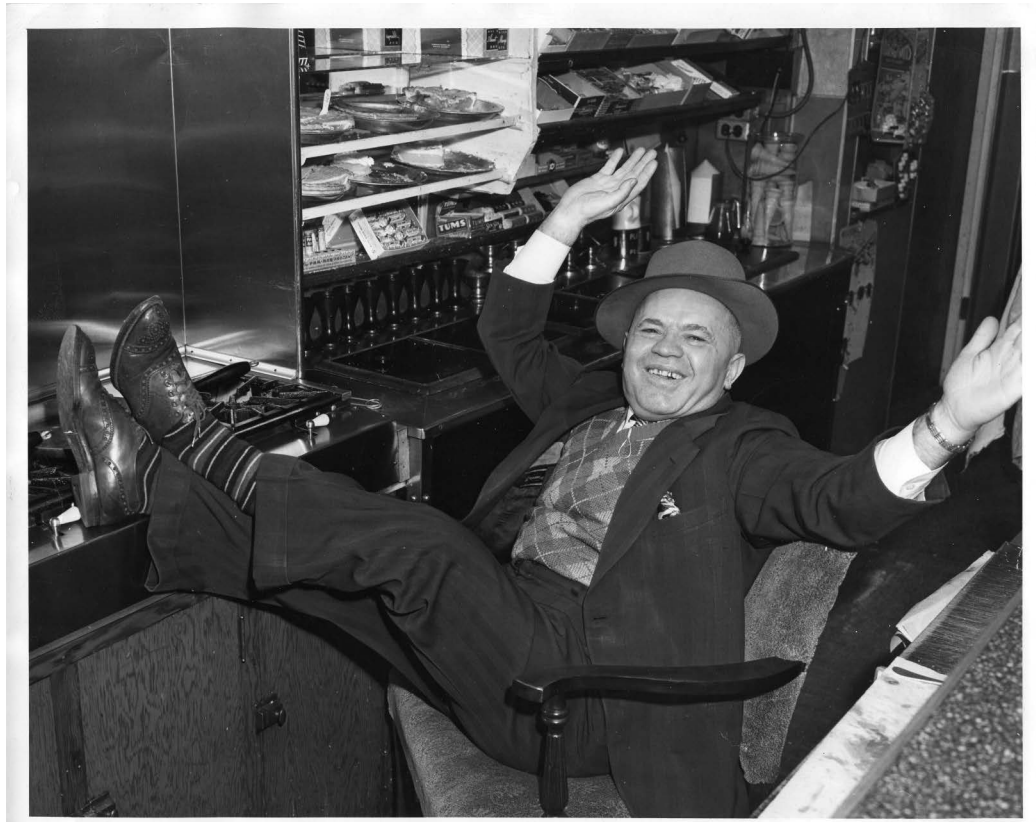
**1947 Monticello Messenger**

"James Lobbs, aged 60, Hamburger King of Village Expires"

Striking suddenly and unexpectedly, death claimed James Lobbs, aged about 60, well known and prominent Monticello businessman for many years at about 2:30 Friday morning in Mercy Hospital, Janesville. Mr. Lobbs

whose health had failed somewhat in recent years, although not seriously, was reported to have suffered a stroke while driving his car on the streets of Janesville at about 10:30 Thursday night. He was taken to the hospital where he never regained consciousness. He

had motored to Janesville Thursday afternoon accompanied by Gerrit Kooreman, also of Monticello. When Mr. Lobbs failed to appear at an arranged meeting place Mr. Kooreman began a search for his friend but was unable to locate him so he returned to Monticello with a friend and only then learned of his death. "Jimmie" as he was familiarly referred to by his many friends



both here and elsewhere was born in Greece. He came to America in 1905 landing in New Orleans. A year later he came to Monticello and spent two years working with a railroad section crew. For the next three years he was employed with a county road gang. In 1911 he purchased a shoe repair shop from the

**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.

## Two little houses in Wisconsin



522 South Main, Monticello

late David Klassy. He added a small confectionery department and soon gave up the cobbling trade entirely giving all his attention to making hamburgers for which he became famous throughout the entire southern part of the state. "Jimmie" recalled that 27 competitors came and went during the years he was in business here. As much a part of the village as his Midway lunch room, Mr. Lobbs became very prosperous in his chosen trade after a meager beginning under difficult circumstances. The original Midway was moved a number of years ago and in its place Mr. Lobbs erected a modern sandwich shop. He had been on the "retired list" more or less since 1945 and in the past year the Midway was operated by partners, active management now being in the hands of Mr. and Mrs. Max Schuett.

Although he "murdered" the English language, "Jimmie" enjoyed conversation and the Midway never saw a dull moment while he was present. His place became the stopping center for countless numbers of friends and his many acquaintances always made it a point to stop in as they passed through the village. He possessed the rare faculty of being able to absorb jests and jibes which were directed to him with a good-natured dignity and it was often said that he actually enjoyed being the target for jokes immensely. Part of the swimming pool is on property donated to the village by Mr. Lobbs. He has no known relatives in this country.

Funeral services were held at 2 P.M. Sunday in the Voegeli Funeral Home here. The Rev. A.R. Achtemeier, pastor of Zwingli Evangelical & Reformed church officiated and burial was in Highland cemetery. Pallbearers were: Max Schuett, L.R. Pease, Gerrit Kooreman, Joseph Legler of Monticello and Kenneth Schmid of Monroe and Warren Murphy of Brainerd, MN.

In the pretty little town of Monticello, located on a river which winds through Wisconsin farm country, is this small red-cedar home of the young Howard Steinmanns, shown above. Only 18 X 48 feet, architect brother, John had to do a little finagling as to plan, but it was worked out with a resulting simple rectangle, both attractive and economical. A future addition is planned so that the house can grow at the rear to take advantage of the rolling meadow view, give privacy for outdoor living. Red-cedar siding was used for exterior, the soffit of the overhang painted chartreuse for a note of color, the little "front" porch of red brick. An extruded window in the living room set at an angle to deflect light, and prevent glare or reflection, opens to the street side. Dining -area, bedroom windows are mere strips of transoms for privacy.

One steps into a little hall, formed by a good storage wall on the right and a partition topped with plants on the left which shelters dining area. Living room is thus sheltered from entry door, yet hall, dining and living rooms are actually one big area without separating walls. There is no door between kitchen and dining area. The Steinmanns say they like the combination of the two areas because both the diminutive kitchen and small dining area borrow

space from each other and give an amazing sense of openness. The eating counter is a natural for messy little boys and Mrs. Steinmann can be feeding her son lunch, doing the laundry and setting the table for dinner for four without taking more than a few steps in any direction.

Living-dining area has walls of natural fir plywood except for wall backing the couch where there are open shelves and the plywood has been painted a deep leaf-green. Ceilings are of 16-inch square white insulation tiles. Over the attractive angled window in living room is a lighting trough where the siding of the exterior has been repeated to give interesting detail to the indirect lighting.

Chartreuse draperies, a club chair of the same tone, a couch covered in tropical-patterned chintz in coral, green, yellow, and gray add their notes of color to the pleasantly woody room. Howard made the modern web chair, his clever wife the yellow seat and back.

In the dining area there is simple natural wood furniture with pink, chartreuse, and wine cotton upholstery and repeated for draperies. Again the booted red-cedar siding is laid up between wall and ceiling to create interesting detail. The partition which shuts off front door, topped by plants, serves as storage shelves for dishes and silver on the dining side.

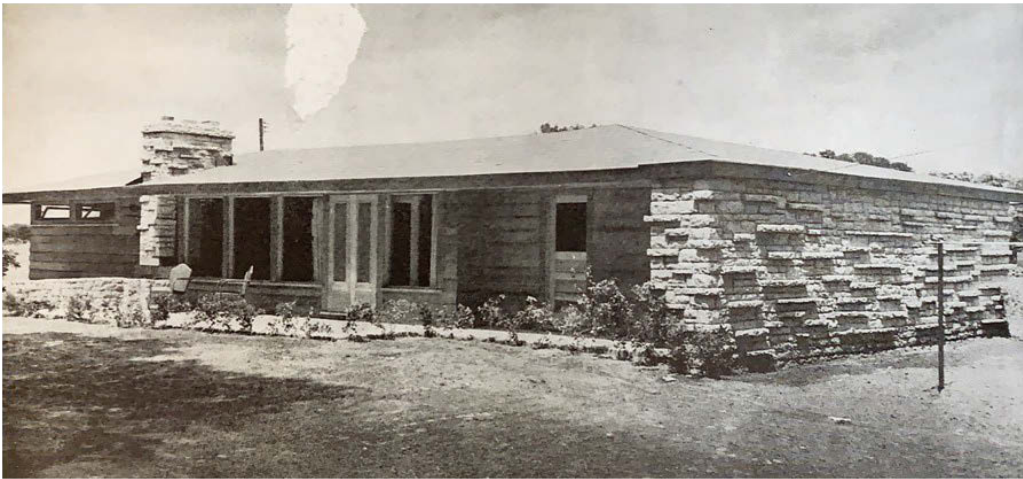
But modern-minded Steinmanns' *piece de resistance* is the handy and handsome open counter between kitchen and dining area where family meals are served and which is perfect for informal buffet suppers. Gay red linoleum tops this counter which is a continuation of kitchen drainboard and work surfaces, and the floor is of the same tone. With a



light blue ceiling in the kitchen and yellow siding above the light trough, it is a joy to look into this efficient little kitchen. A Bendix sets right next the kitchen stove to eliminate service area.

At the end of the living room is a modest little hall, with a very convenient door to the back garden (later to be used to connect the new wing to present dwelling), from which open two bedrooms and the bath. The nursery, in yellow and white, is beautifully planned for the activities of a lively little boy. There are low cases for books and stuffed animals, and ample space for play.

Certainly, the young Steinmanns have everything in a first house that they need for pleasant, informal family living. Despite the limitations of size, their first home has given them plenty of good living and offers excellent expansion possibilities for the future.



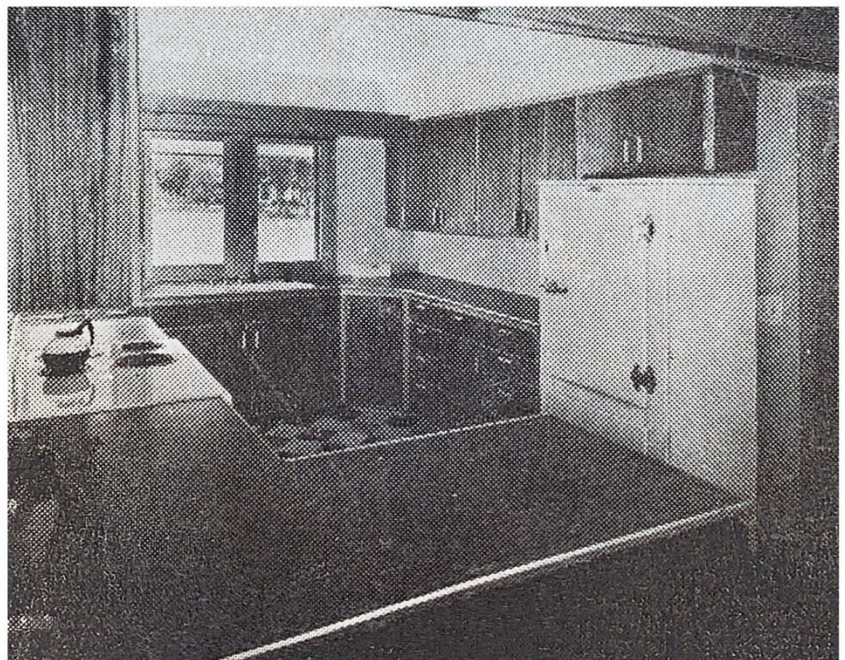
glass opens to the south, the Beger home gains heat in the winter months from the sun, but because of the different position, during the summer, of the sun in the sky, the overhang shields glass area from excessive heat. All this adds up to careful planning for the conditions of the Middle-Western climate. The

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Beger, tired of constant moving during the war years, decided to settle in Spring Green, a charming little Wisconsin village, and asked their young architect, John Steinmann, to design them an unpretentious, small house which would fit their informal way of living and the rural setting of their property. Less than 1,000 square feet in area, it is placed sidewise on the land in relation to the street. The masonry wall of the garage, skillfully incorporated within the structure of the home itself, is all that is visible to the passer-by. Planned for the climate, it is low to the ground, out of the wind, with a forced-air oil burning furnace and adequate insulation keeping the Begers snug during the long, cold winters, yet provided with circulating air ducts to make the house cool during hot summer weather. Refuting the erroneous belief that a wall of glass is impractical in Wisconsin climate, where winters are severe, is the treatment of window area in the Beger house. Across the entire length of living and dining area are fixed walls of glass with French doors to the terrace. This glass, going within eighteen inches of the floor to the ceiling, is of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch double paned plate glass. Condensation is eliminated by the use of Silica-Gel ( a moisture-absorbing material) placed in perforated copper tubes between the two panes of glass. Because the wall of

red-cedar siding was also handled with weather in mind; to avoid constant painting, the wood was left natural and simply given three coats of preservative to seal it against wind, rain, sun, and snow.

The wide overhanging roof on the front gives good weather protection to garage doors and front entrance as well as a covered passage from car to house. The soffit of the overhang is of corrugated aluminum with a screened ventilating strip giving excellent circulation to roof area for summer cooling. On the rear terrace, the overhang shelters the living-dining room glass area and gives shade for outdoor living.

From the entrance door, one steps into a small



small hall area with adjacent coat closet on the right and kitchen on the left. On the east wall of the living room a low built-in mahogany case with oak top provides open shelves for magazines and closed storage cupboards. Beyond this is the living area with furniture grouped around a spacious natural fieldstone fireplace and the wall of glass to the garden. The jog in the living room at the entry provides good circulation to kitchen or bedroom wing without crossing main living or dining area – good planning for so compact a house. This arrangement, also, gives privacy to the dining corner and its adjoining quick-meal counter which is the only separation between kitchen and dining space.

Over the window-wall is an indirect lighting trough of mahogany which gives a soft, diffused light to the sea-green plaster ceiling and walls of the living room. Floors throughout the house are of

white oak; doors are birch and casework is of mahogany with oak tops except in the kitchen where green linoleum tops the counters.

The fieldstone fireplace is equipped with four metal grilles in order that the heat of the wood fire may be circulated to the room. Simple open shelves for books and a recessed spot for the radio with a closed case for wood storage make the end of the living room effective.

Since Spring Green, the Begers' village is also the home town of the famous Frank Lloyd Wright, long a pioneer in the field of modern architecture, it is interesting to note that he came to see this little house because he was pleased to find that the young architect, John Steinmann, was demonstrating that good modern design is not restricted to any one part of the country or any particular climate.

**From the bedroom hall looking into living room, with its natural fir plywood walls, to concealed entrance and partial partition, topped by plants, which gives privacy to dining area**



**April 1929 Messenger**

Six airplanes pass over Monticello Monday. Two went over in the morning, one at noon and three later in the day.

Dr. Walter Kuhn opens practice in apartment above Woelffer's Drug Store, now have two doctors. Dr. Otto Blum purchased the practice of the late Dr. Edward Blumer. His physician and surgeon office at his residence on Highland Street.

**June 1928 Messenger**

Jim Pratt "mayor of Jimtown" is building a sheep barn on his farm on the edge of the village. Jim says "got to keep Jimtown booming somehow."

Photograph below donated last month by Tom Mitchell of Monroe from the estate of Harold and Karla Snively.



MONROE DIS.  
White

**TO BECOME A MAHS MEMBER**

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

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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 AT 7:00 PM IN MONTICELLO,

### 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.

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.

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

