

# Confluence

Articles of the last three issues of Confluence dealt with subjects spanning the history of the Beloit Historical Society, its 100 years. In this edition we look at the High School's publication of *The Beloit*, name of the school's yearbook which made its debut in 1916. The focus is on the 1930's through the 1960's. After we take a look at the debut year we will focus on that expanse of years in five year increments.

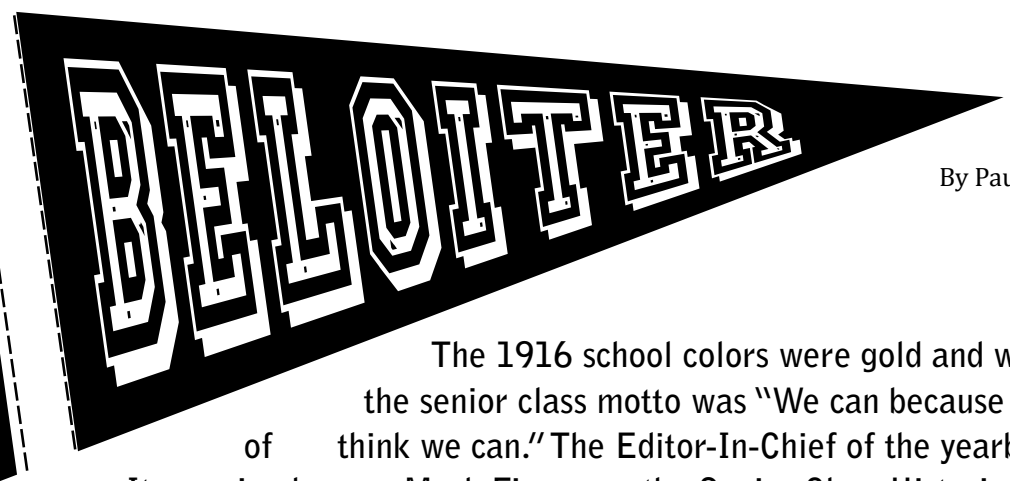
## BELOIT'S

The first high school was built on elevated land on the south side West Grand Avenue in 1870. It remained at this location through 1950 before a new one was built on Fourth Street in 1951. But while



The 1916 issue was titled *The Beloit* and from it we learn it was intended as a "Senior Annual"—a class book for seniors. This yearbook, however, discusses all classes from the lowly freshman to the aspiring junior and informs us that sophomore is from the Greek meaning wise fool.

This first publication is dedicated to James McNeel who was Principal of the high school at the time.



By Paul Kerr

of It remained before a new one was built on Fourth Street in 1951. But while on West Grand it gave birth to a most enduring product that is still published today and is only six years younger than the Beloit Historical Society.

The 1916 school colors were gold and white, the senior class motto was "We can because we think we can." The Editor-In-Chief of the yearbook was Mark Finnegan, the Senior Class Historian was Sam Lans and Writer of the Class Will, at the time a popular feature of the yearbook, was Mabel Stiles. Graduating that year were 78 seniors.



THE BELOITER STAFF

Top Row—Mabel Stiles, Writer of Class Will; Hazel Ross, Joke Editor; James Ternan, Athletics; Louise Ritscher, Activities; Sam Lans, Historian.  
Second Row—Jesse Allan, Joke Editor; Lucille Rau, Dramatic Editor; Dorothy Sayre, Prophetess; Frank Lathers, Cartoonist; Dorothy Merriman, Joke Editor; Laura Mathewson, Historian.  
Bottom Row—Melvin Hammond, Asst. Business Mgr.; Phil Hall, Business Mgr.; Mark Finnegan, Editor-in-Chief; Harlow Nielsen, Asst. Editor; Dewey Rosenthal, Basketball Editor; Forest Bassett, Photographer, Not in Picture.

This first publication, along with all the others are filled with signatures, photographs of students from all grades, of teams, activities and teachers and each yearbook reflects the style of the period. *The*

*Continued on page 3*

## Beloit Historical Society

Founded 1910

### Officers

Craig Mellem, President  
Nancy Alseth, Vice President  
Maggie Janke, Treasurer  
William Bolgrien, Secretary

### Board of Directors

David Collins  
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Martin Kades  
Terry Karow  
Sue Kurth  
Cathy Piazza

### Lincoln Center Staff:

Paul Kerr,  
Executive Director  
Dwight Alton,  
Facilities Manager

### Newsletter Contributors:

Paul Kerr, Dwight Alton,  
and Ann Martin; layout by  
Jen Scott.

Board meetings are the  
third Thursday of every  
month at 4 p.m. and are  
held at Lincoln Center, 845  
Hackett Street.

The Newsletter, *Confluence*, is published quarterly for the membership of the Beloit Historical Society to inform readers of Society activities as well as educate them on the history of Beloit. The Beloit Historical Society manages two sites, Lincoln Center Museum with main offices at 845 Hackett St. and Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead, 2149 St. Lawrence Ave. For further information please call (608) 365-7835 or e-mail us at [Pkerr@beloithistoricalsociety.com](mailto:Pkerr@beloithistoricalsociety.com). Or see our new web site which can be found on the web at [beloithistoricalsociety.com](http://beloithistoricalsociety.com).

# NEW MEMBERS

The Society has signed up nine new members since the last issue and they are:

Guy Bucciferro

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Green II

Kris & Thomas Sanderson

Eric Jaworski

Susan Hangiandreou

Lois Ann Zeek family

We welcome these new members and thank them for their support.

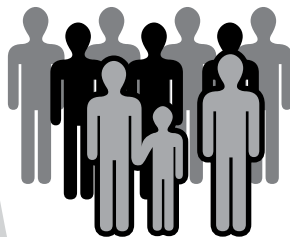
*"The single biggest problem of communication is the illusion that it has taken place."*

*George Bernard Shaw*

## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

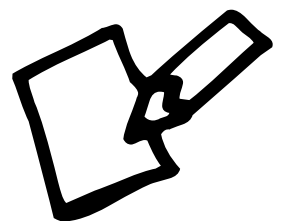
The Beloit Historical Society pursues a few projects related to its Centennial Year.

The **Heritage Cookbook** which will be made available to the public 1 September for the affordable cost of \$10 per copy. But if you buy early, before the City's Heritage Days celebrations (10, 11 & 12 September), you can have it for \$8 per issue. The cookbook features comments, photographs of the Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead, and 175 family recipes.



**Centennial Families** is a collection of the history of families who have lived in the Beloit area for 100 years. We would love to hear from you, to receive your family history, and whatever photographs you'd be willing to share.

A **Centennial Calendar** featuring scenes from Beloit is in the works. But, unlike the usual calendar, it will also allow you to record your remembrances and activities. Plans for this aren't as far along as those of the Cookbook but the committee is working hard for its release in October. We'll keep you posted on our progress.



# BELOIT'S BELOITER

Continued

*Beloiter* is quite an historical document celebrating its 94th year.

Thousands upon thousands of seniors have passed through the doors of Beloit's high school and gone off in many directions and all of the yearbooks from

1916 on have documented most of their faces. From only the yearbooks

we look at in this

article

2,864

students from the graduating classes are photographed for class pictures and, in a lot of cases, pictured in a variety of sports and other activities. Each yearbook has a collection of autographs from friends and classmates who left witty, or not so witty, comments to the departing Senior and each

book has a list of sponsors which grew with each publication.

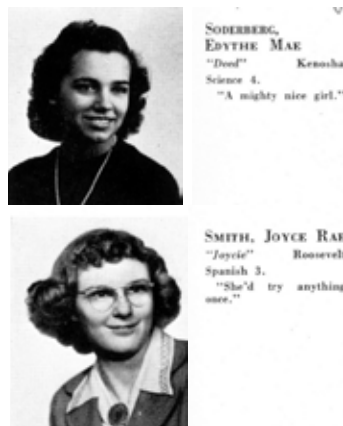
Dedicated to Miss Erma Jones the 1930 *Beloiter* shows a graduating class of 192 students (62 less than the class of 1935), F. E. Converse as

Superintendent and James McNeel as Principal of the high school.

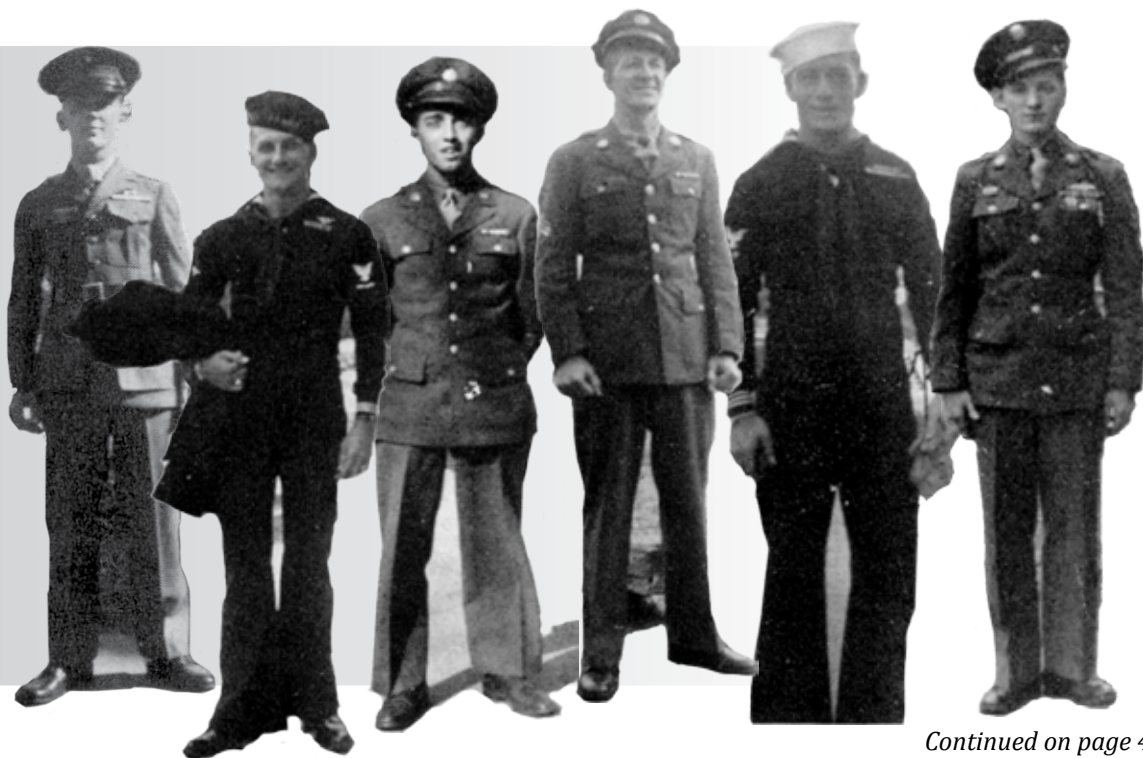
Interestingly there is listed a Girls Council and Boys Council managed by Miss Thompson and Mr. Baron, respectively. There is no other mention of these councils in subsequent issues. And

this 1930 edition is the last issue of yearbook, for the years covered in this article, that includes the freshman class.

The sophomores, juniors and seniors march through the next several volumes of *The Beloiter* with each year seeing more graduates, more activities, and with the 1940-1945 issues, more on European



The 1945 *Beloiter* praises six of its previous graduates for having contributed mightily to the U.S. World War II War efforts and they were (L-R): Carl Swanson, class of 1943; Bill Neitzel, class of 1940; Roger Schwebke, class of 1943; Luverne Belken, class of 1934; B.W. Callahan, class of 1940; and Richard Cox, class of 1943.





# BELOIT'S BELOITER

Continued from page 3

affairs. The 1940 yearbook was the 25th volume and was dedicated to Mr. Seymour Provus. And 1945 was the last year as Principal for James McNeel, soon to be replaced by Roy Everill. The number of graduates was up 19 from the year 1940 to a total of 322 graduates.

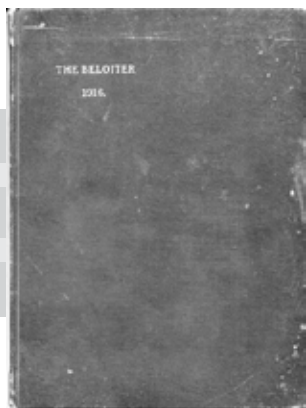
Our 1945 yearbook belonged to Maynard Brant and has on the inside pages a typed commemeration "To the boys to whom we entrust the defense of our United States and who are playing an important role in making our country great."

The high school graduating class of 1950 was the largest in school history with 408 graduating, eighty six more than 1945, and looking ahead, fifty three more seniors than 1955. F. N. Johnston is Superintendent of schools for 1950, not to reappear as such in the 1955 edition. Roy Everill is Principal of the

high school and Ole G. Kvitle is Assistant Principal. In the fifty-five yearbook seniors, juniors and sophomores are referred to respectively as captains, sergeants, and rookies. The distinction of having the largest graduating class in high school history in 1950 lasted a decade.



By the sixties senior class sizes increased dramatically. The decade of the 1960's saw nearly 5,000 graduates with the 1965 year taking honors of having the largest class numbering 597.



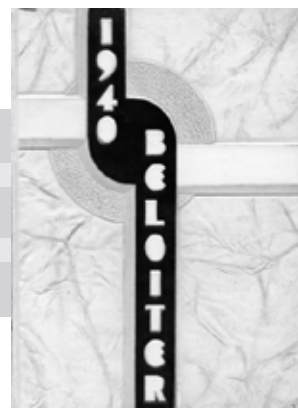
1916



1930



1935



1940

In *The Beloit* has so many elements to it from  
 pres signatures, to photographs, to styles of clothing, to  
 and all the myriad sports, clubs, and activities. One can  
 eating even discern a behavior in each of those volumes from  
 . reading comments and looking at the pictures. In this



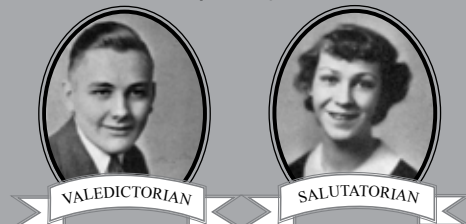
brief article  
 we take  
 a broad  
 look at *The Beloit*  
 knowing  
 we've left  
 out some  
 other  
 interesting  
 points,  
 knowing  
 there's  
 more to be  
 said about  
 them. But  
 one thing  
 that can  
 be said is

ally. that this high school publication is one of the most, if  
 te not *the* most, genuine Beloit productions from, and by,  
 gest Beloit. And we wish the high school many more years  
 of continued publication of Beloit's *Beloiter*.

1930 Valedictorian, Anna Armstrong;  
 Salutatorian, Genevieve Austin



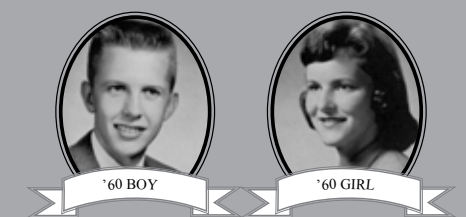
1935 Valedictorian, Victor Riggs;  
 Salutatorian, Betty Heebink



1940 Valedictorian, Robert Charn;  
 Salutatorian, Lois Lipman



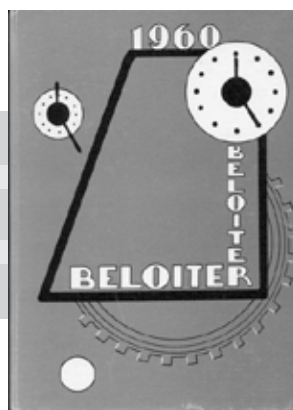
1960 New section of the Yearbook  
 called "Boy & Girl of 1960." John  
 Johnson and Carol McCarville



1950



1955



1960



1965

# Ads of Old



Everything  
for the  
Bride and  
her  
Attendants  
Also  
Formals  
and  
Cocktail  
Dresses

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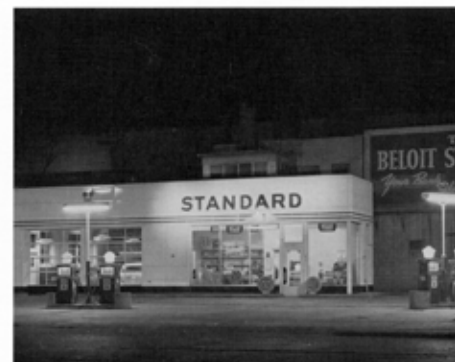


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have the class of '65  
represented on our  
sales force. These  
intelligent aggressive  
young men are typical  
of the fine class grad-  
uating in June.

Barry Mallow & Tim Chapman

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# Past Events

## 100th Annual Dinner

16 April 2010

The Annual Dinner of 16 April attracted one of the largest Society crowds of the year. Over 80 people attended. Geoffrey Gyrisco gave an enlightening presentation of the Wisconsin Dairy Industry and of the architectural history of the Wisconsin Dairy barn. He covered 200 years of history bringing us up to present day. The Society also conducted business and presented the Treasurer's Report for the past year.

## Volunteer Brunch

22 April 2010

The following week, 22 April, Traci Nathan Kelly spoke to 30 loyal Volunteers at the Society's Annual Volunteer Bruch about the historical significance of cookbooks. This was another pleasant event enjoyed by all.

## Quilting Classes

Saturdays.

Quilting Classes concluded the last Saturday of March. They ran every Saturday from 9-3:00p.m. through the months of February and March. Once again they were taught by the inimitable Bobbie Fiske who has been teaching these classes over a decade and once again the Society made a good profit.

# Upcoming Events

We have some dates of events coming up but not with details because we're still working on them. We hope you will give us a call here at the Historical Society to find out more about each event as we progress through the year. Some of our up-coming events are:

- **A birthday celebration of Dr. Mary Bartlett** 11 July at the Homestead
- **Heritage Days** celebration at the Homestead 12 September
- **Trivia Game Night** at Lincoln Center 1 October
- **Business After Five** at Lincoln Center and the Opening of the Society's Exhibit "**When We Were Kids**" 10 November



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*To win without risk is to triumph without glory.*

*Pierre Corneille*

# beloithistoricalsociety.com



We've given the Society's website a new look, more photos, and value-added content to better serve our members. We invite you to explore our pages, read past issues of this newsletter, learn about the rich history of Beloit, and even your own family tree.

The Vision of the Beloit Historical Society is to make history a focal point of community pride and to serve as a constant reminder to the community of its great and diverse heritage. Visit our website at [beloithistoricalsociety.com](http://beloithistoricalsociety.com)

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