

Hail the Halls

Two notable Beloit institutions are celebrating anniversaries this year: The Beloit Hall of Fame is turning 40, and the Sports Hall of Fame is 20 years old. Over the years the two Halls have inducted 351 individuals, representing the best and brightest of Beloit. Let's revisit the Halls and take a look at some of the remarkable people enshrined.

Beloit Hall of Fame

The current City Hall of Fame was actually a resurrection of an idea from the 1930s. After Beloit observed its centennial in 1936, Oscar Nelson, secretary of the Beloit Commercial Club, proposed that a Hall be established "for the purpose of perpetuating the memories of [deceased] men and women, who in life, gave generously of their time, talents and means to the building of our city." So a "Hall of Beloit Builders and Founders" was established, and in 1938 the original inductees were enshrined. Their portraits were painted by the noted local artist E. M. R. Weiner and presented to the public in a ceremony at Grinnell Hall June 16, 1940. These are currently on display at Lincoln Center. Unfortunately, the outbreak of World War II cancelled further inductions.

Then in 1966 the curator of the Beloit Historical Society, M. Walter Dundore, and Bart Swindall, executive director of the Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce, revived the Hall, now called the Beloit Hall of Fame. To make up for the past two and a half decades, 15 new inductees were enshrined in the first two years, and each year since then five more memorable individuals have been inducted. The list of notable Beloiters includes administrators, artists, athletes, aviators, bankers, businessmen, doctors, explorers, farmers, founders, historians, homemakers, inventors, journalists, lawyers, ministers, musicians, pioneers, soldiers, teachers, technicians, thespians, & volunteers. Following are a few excerpts from the Hall of Fame biographies.

Father Joseph Hanz (1880-1950) was ordained in 1903 at St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee, and started his first pastorate in Beloit at St. Thomas under Father Ward. In 1908 a directive came that a second Catholic parish be established in Beloit, and Father Hanz was assigned to organize St. Jude's on the city's west side. In 1926 he founded Beloit's first parochial school, Brother Dutton. Father Hanz' greatest priestly honor came in 1955 when he was elevated to the rank of monsignor.



Sadie Bell

Sadie Bell (1910-1992) was born in Pontotoc, Mississippi, and as a young child moved with her family to Beloit where she graduated from Beloit High School. She was president of the Beloit chapter of the NAACP for eight years, and with her cousin Rubie Bond was involved in Beloit's first sit-in by African-Americans, protesting Kresge's segregated restaurant. Sadie volunteered at the Salvation Army, Beloit Council of Churches, Beloit Historical Society, and the Visiting Nurses Association; she was also a member of the Beloit Business and Professional Women's Club, and in 1980 was recognized by the Beloit Daily News as Volunteer of the Month.



Father Joseph Hanz

Beloit Historical Society

Founded 1910

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Date of Next Board Meeting:

July 20, 2006

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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 beloiths@ticon.net.

Newsletter edited by

Scott Reichard

Other contributors to this issue:

Loretta Hatch.

Paul Kerr

UPCOMING EVENTS



Wednesday, July 19 - Sports Hall of Fame Induction

Lincoln Center. 6:00 p.m. Annual dinner and induction ceremony. Speaker: Ed DeGeorge.

Saturday, September 9 - Heritage Days

Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead. Noon to 4:00 p.m. Open house, food and Civil War Reenactors. Free admission.

Sunday, September 17 - Beloit Hall of Fame Induction

Lincoln Center. 2:00 p.m. Annual induction ceremony. Free admission.

Saturday, October 28 - Gala Auction

La Casa Grande. 6:00 p.m. Annual fund raiser. Dinner and auction.

Friday, November 17 - Annual Membership Dinner/Meeting

Lincoln Center. 6:00 p.m. Annual meeting. Dinner and program: Bruce Burnside presents the Brand New Four Stories of the Civil War.

Contact Beloit Historical Society for further information (608) 365-7835



Have a Great Summer

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From The Director

Since the last issue

The Volunteer Brunch of 20 April was a well attended affair. Jane Threinen gave a memorable program about the death of the TV Sitcom, presenting famous film clips of some of the most popular comedies spanning the 1950s and 1970s. Our sincere thanks to Jane and to all of you Volunteers who keep the Society going.

Quilting classes of February and March are over and once again were successful. We thank Bobbie Fiske for teaching an interesting variety of styles and methods of quilting, and you can count on her and the quilters to be back here next year to do the same.

Ghosts and Haunted Places of Wisconsin were the topic of our Spring Program this past 19 May. Chad Lewis, an expert in the field, presented a lively and entertaining program of the eerie and the incredible to a full crowd of intensely interested people. It was a wonderful evening and we hope all of you who came, and those of you who were unable to come, will join us next year for another Springtime program at the Historical Society.



Coming Up

Though the February and March quilting classes are over, one Saturday a month is now being offered starting in June and running through November. The first of these quilting classes started on the 17th of June and ran from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost for each class will be \$12 for non-members and \$11 for members. An itinerary of the other Saturday classes will be available at the Society as well as a list of needed supplies and materials.

Our Sports Hall of Fame dinner and induction ceremonies are scheduled for 19 July 2006 starting at 6:00 p.m. The event is held at the Beloit Historical Society's Lincoln Center. Guest speaker for the evening is Ed DeGeorge, former football coach at Beloit College.

Heritage Days for the Beloit Historical Society is going to be on the 9th of September this year. Tentatively we have arranged for a Civil War reenactment group to enlighten the public about a Civil War camp. They will set up camp on Friday and will mix with the public on Saturday. Food will be available—barbecued ribs and potato salad for sure, but the menu is not yet finalized.

Paul K. Kerr

Hail the Halls (Continued from page 1)



Russell Van Galder

Russell Van Galder (1907-1979) was known locally as one of the early proponents of aviation. He became a barnstormer and was the originator of the "Van Galder Flying Circus." In his early days of flying he navigated with road maps, and he landed at night by the headlights of an automobile. Van Galder held a Commercial Pilot's license with ratings for multi-engine, seaplane, and instrument; was a certified instrument instructor and flight instructor; held an Aircraft and Engine Mechanics license; and was a designated FAA Inspector. He operated Beloit Airways, and over the years taught thousands of students to fly, many of whom went on to become military and airline pilots. Van Galder and his wife, Marge, selected and recommended the site of the present Southern Wisconsin Regional (Rock County) Airport, and he assisted in the creation of the Blackhawk Tech A & P Mechanics School.



Roy Mielke

Roy C. Mielke (1906-1977) started working for the Beloit Iron Works in 1933 where he filled many positions, retiring as executive office manager and the coordinator of the paper machinery division policies and procedures. Mr. Mielke was a past president of the Boy Scouts and the first chairman of the Red Cross blood program, a member of the Board of Directors of the United Givers Fund, the Visiting Nurse Association and the Children's Service Society. He served as secretary of the Beloit Police and Fire Commission and as vice chairman of the Board of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education District Five for Rock and Green Counties. He served as a Rock County supervisor from 1972 to 1977, and served four years on the Board of Directors of the Greater Beloit Association of Commerce. Roy Mielke was an active member of the First Congregational Church and the Beloit Country Club, was a member and past president of the Beloit Corporation Quarter Century Club, and received the Man of the Year award in 1958.



Jackson Bushnell

Jackson Bushnell (1815-1873) was the first full professor appointed to the Beloit College faculty in October 1849. As a student at Yale in 1841 he worked his way through college, in part by ringing the college bell. Appointed professor of mathematics, Bushnell frequently found that his services also included financing. For a time he was treasurer of the college. Mr. Bushnell, as a collegian and business man, had a keen realization that town and college shared a mutual interest. He was convinced that the fortunes of the college and this young city were interwoven. He built Bushnell House in order to make the city of Beloit a better center for business and to afford the College better hospitality for its guests; at the time it was considered the finest hostelry outside Milwaukee. His home in South Beloit still stands as a monument to his community spirit and his love of walking to and from school.

Sports Hall of Fame

The Beloit Historical Society's *Ted Perring Sports Hall of Fame* was established in 1986. E.L. "Ted" Perring, a popular Beloit golfer, donated the money necessary for creation of the hall and did so to honor his father George, as well as to commemorate sports and sports figures of Beloit. George was a professional baseball player of the early 1900s and one of the original inductees into the Hall. Each year an induction ceremony is held at the Beloit Historical Society to induct individuals who have made significant contributions to athletics, and to recognize an outstanding team in the area of sports. To mark the occasion we have chosen a selection of individual sports figures to highlight.

(Continued on page 5)

Hail the Halls (Continued from page 4)



Johnny Watts

Johnny Watts, considered one of the best basketball players to play for Beloit Memorial, had the distinction of playing on three high school basketball state championship teams (1932-1934.) Johnny also had the distinction of being named to the All-State first-string basketball team for the same three years. Johnny also starred in football as halfback, in the dashes and 440 in track, and in baseball at shortstop. At the end of his sophomore year at LaCrosse Johnny became a member of the Harlem Globetrotters.

Dorie Stankewitz attended Turner High School and starred in volleyball, basketball and softball. As a senior pitcher, Dori allowed 29 hits and 9 earned runs in 68 regular season innings, struck out 119 batters with an ERA of 0.96, batted .520, knocked in 33 runs and stole 14 bases. Dori was awarded an athletic scholarship by Florida Southern University where she was named to the All-American

Softball team twice. She was the first Southern female athlete of the year. She holds four NCAA Division 11 records including 20 strikeouts in one game, 64 consecutive scoreless innings pitched, 11.5 strikeouts per seven innings in a season and 10.3 strikeouts per seven innings for her career. She also holds 23 Florida Southern school records and finished her career with an 81-15 record and a 0.70 career earned run average. In 1993 Dori was inducted into the Sunshine State Conference Hall of Fame as a member of its third class of inductees.



Dorie Stankewitz

Harold "Dutch" Witte was a star in three sports: Football as a shifty, speedy halfback, basketball as a guard and baseball as a catcher, although he also pitched and played first base. He had a distinguished athletic career at Beloit High School from 1913 to 1916 and was elected captain in all three sports. Dutch attended Beloit College in 1917-1918 and played on the college football team that upset a strong contingent from Fort Grand. He played with the Beloit Fairies from 1919 until 1922 and played on the football team that defeated the Green Bay Packers. He also played on the Fairies basketball team that defeated the world champion Boston Celtics. From 1923 until 1925 he played baseball for Birmingham in the Southern Association and then the Tulsa Oilers in the Western League. He then joined the House of David football team as a player and organized the House of David basketball team. He played as well as managed until 1932. He managed after that but still suited up and played until 1938.



Dutch Witte

Vince Lamia competed in football, wrestling and track at Beloit Memorial High School. Vince was a full time performer for the football team as a kicker, a hard hitting fullback and a harder hitting linebacker. In Vince's senior year the football team was undefeated. For his efforts Vince was chosen as the Big Eight Player of the Year and named to the Wisconsin All State Team. He went to UW-Madison and made the football team as a walk-on, both as a field goal kicker and a linebacker. Coach Jardine allowed Vince to play linebacker until he injured his arm in a game; the realization that it could have been Vince's right leg caused the coach to limit him to kicking. Vince is the fifth highest scorer in football at the University of Wisconsin.



Vince Lamia

(Continued on page 9)

Loretta's Volunteer News

A spring clean-up day was held at the Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead on April 7, 2006. We thank those who participated on clean-up day by sweeping, dusting, cleaning windows, doing outdoor tasks and much more!

Thanks again to all of you for helping to keep the Homestead and grounds beautiful:

Cathy Piazza, Wilma Reimer, Jan Johnson, Dollie Barber, Jeanette Goecks, Cheryl Jackson, Carol Klein, Ron Klein, Lois Roen and Sue Drevdahl.



Summer Sensations!!

Colorful Tossed Salad

The grape juice in the dressing perfectly complements this salad while strawberries and kiwi add a splash of color to the greens.

INGREDIENTS:

DRESSING

- 1 cup white grape juice concentrate
- 3 tablespoons white wine vinegar or cider vinegar
- 2 teaspoons canola oil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon onion powder

SALAD

- 10 cups torn mixed salad greens
- 8 large fresh strawberries, quartered
- 1 kiwi, peeled and sliced
- 2 tablespoons sliced scallion
- 2 tablespoons chopped macadamia nuts, toasted

DIRECTIONS:

1. Make dressing: Combine all ingredients in a jar with a tight-fitting lid; shake well. Refrigerate until ready to serve.
2. Make salad: Set aside 2 tablespoons dressing. Place greens in a salad bowl and drizzle with remaining dressing. Top with strawberries, kiwi, and scallion; drizzle with reserved dressing. Sprinkle with nuts. (time 15 minutes, makes 8 servings)

Beloit Historical Society

Quilt Classes

Saturdays in 2006

9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Lincoln Center

845 Hackett St.; Beloit

July 15th

August 26th

September 16th

October 21st

November 4th



Accessioners Needed

Lincoln Center

Are you a hands-on type of person? Do you love antiques, old documents and historic photographs? If so, this volunteer opportunity is a great way to have fun working directly with artifacts and with people who share your interest.

Accessioners catalog artifact donations, organize collection storage, improve current artifact records and do research. Interested persons may contact Lincoln Center for further information. (608) 365-7835.

Loretta's Volunteer News

Homestead School Tours

The Society thanks our Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead docents for another fine year of keeping the Homestead open for elementary school tours. Over 560 children and adults visited the homestead during the month of May and early June. Thanks to all of you; your help is greatly appreciated:

Lynda Moon, Ron Klein, Virginia Knutson, Lois MacGowan, Bonnie Kretsos, Barb Blackman, LaVaughn Kunny and Betty Lowrey.

Thanks also to Ron Klein for stepping up to the plate to keep the Homestead open during summer hours. Any docents willing to help Ron, please contact Loretta at (608) 365-7835.



Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead

Summer Hours
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Fridays, Saturdays



Thank You...
Marcia Minter
for planting
and weeding
at Lincoln center

Congratulations on your Marriage!!

Beloit Historical Society
Volunteers
Tom Jones & Betty Dilworth



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Heritage Days Celebration
Saturday, September 9th

- ⇒ Docents (Tour Guides)
- ⇒ Food Servers
- ⇒ Food Donors (baked goods etc.)
- ⇒ Demonstrators

Contact: Loretta Hatch
at (608) 365-7835 for Information

UNIQUE GRADUATION GIFTS

Beloit Historical Society Afghans
\$40.00 ea.

Book Selections

Pioneer Beloit, History of the Beloit Fire Department, Century of a City, Take an Idea and Make it Go: Regal Beloit Corporation, Sparks From the Flaming Wheel, Book of Beloit and many more!!

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Sitting: Ann Dougan, announcer; John Rhodes, announcer; Bob Scholz, announcer; Joe Moen, sports announcer; Christie Thomsen, announcer.

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We currently have 686 members on our rolls. The following people have renewed their membership or have become new members between March 8 and June 23, 2006. A big Thank You for supporting the Beloit Historical Society! (Underlined indicates new member; numbers next to names refer to multi-year renewals.)

Lorie Adams Victor & Sandra Adamsky (2) Marlys Ambler Mary Lou Armstrong <u>Dan Baroni</u> Darlene Beadle (2) Buzz & Fran Beckman Jan Betz Charles & Joy Boardman <u>Jodi Boxrud</u> Roger & Shirley Brendemuehl Mark Bretzmann (2) Eugene & Dorothy Brill William Brown (2) Robert & Glenda Burdick Ralph & Edith Carlson Ray & Virginia Carlson Mike Chamberlin Herbert & Grace Christiansen Ione & Myron Clark	Sara Collins & Craig Howes (2) Robert & Donna Darling Charles & Irene Davis Arthur & Karen Donaldson (3) Dick & Val Dunagan <u>Diane & Robert Dunbar (2)</u> Beatrice & Roger Dutcher (2) Elsa Fabiszak Jim Finnegan Jeanne Fischer (2) Joe & Mary Fox Fran & Marilyn Fruzen Dave & Shirley Geffers <u>T. J. Gonfiantini</u> Curt Gonstead (3) Jean Goodwin Daniel & Cornelia Green Barbara Gunderson Dorothy Gustrowsky	Larry & Carolyn Hamilton Mary Alice Harris (3) Susan Hartman Jim Hartwig Clair Helom Gerald & Gloria Hereford Caryl Hines (2) Andrew & Maggie Janke Charles Jones Tom Jones <u>Ellen Joyce</u> Roger & Shirley Kemman Merlin Kenitzer (3) Virginia Knutson Ida Kolak Nick & Bonnie Kretsos (3) LaVaughn Kunny Sue Kurth Bob & Pauline Lawhorn (2)	Arnold & Marcia Lee Gloria & Dave Mason Fred Mathews (2) Mary McKie Richard & Lynda Moon Chuck & Joan Mueller Richard Newsome Lloyd & Peggy Page Ann Perry Truett & Leila Pittner Irene Popp <u>Jeff Rath</u> Bev Reichard (2) Louise Reidenbach <u>Jim Reseburg</u> Tom Roehl Joyce Ronan Carolyn & Noble Rose (2) Terry & Tricia Russell (3) Harry & Liz Schermerhorn Nancy Schultz	Phyllis Schultz (2) Margaret Schweder Tom Scott <u>Jennifer Scott (3)</u> Alan Sorenson Kim Story Ronald & Janet Tilley (3) Kaaren Torkelson (2) <u>Brad & Diana Updike</u> Barbara Vester (3) Shirley von Allmen Robert & Geri Wallis <u>Tim Weeden</u> Eugene & Jackie Weeden
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Hail the Halls (Continued from page 5)

Merle Nickles Pierson began her very successful golfing career at age 14 when she was runner-up in the Wisconsin Junior Championship and won the Monona Golf Club Woman's Championship. She was the Wisconsin State Junior Golf champion in 1929 and 1930, and in 1932 and 1933 was Wisconsin's State Amateur champion. In 1935 she was chosen as the outstanding female golfer in the State of Wisconsin and invited to play an exhibition golf match with Babe Didrickson Zaharias and Gene Sarazen in Madison. Merle competed in the Beloit City Woman's Tournament in 1945, 1948, 1952, 1953, 1954 and 1956, and is the only woman in the history of the tournament to be undefeated. In 1965 Merle turned professional and at that time became one of only three women to be admitted to the Ladies Professional Golf Association in recognition of their career in golf. She concluded her golf career as a teaching professional for the Ladies Professional Golf Association.



Included in this issue are inserts with a sampling of complete bios from the two Halls, and a complete listing of all the inductees.

The Beloit Historical Society exists due to the generosity of its members and the community. Thanks to all who have contributed since our last newsletter (from March 8 through June 5, 2006)



Contributors

Andrew & Maggie Janke, Beloit Federation of Women, Regal-Beloit, Eugene & Dorothy Brill, Gloria & David Mason, Beloit Evening Lions Club, Fred Mathews, Mike Chamberlin, Harry & Liz Schermerhorn, Charles & Joy Boardman, Art & Karen Donaldson, Tom Jones, Kiwanis Club of Beloit, Barbara Gunderson, Merlin Nundahl, Robert Solem Fund, Herb & Grace Christiansen

In Memory Of

Robert Solem

from Jo Ann Koch, Gaylord & Elizabeth Heaston, Bob & Carol Schwaegler, George & Kay Blakely, Fred & Kathleen Stone, Carl & Carol Balke, Lois Papesh & Ken Johnson, Betty Daniel, Elizabeth Belting, Brita & George Shoeneberg, Richard Mason, Richard Hagen, Janet Haakenson, Jean Walrath, Donald Walrath, Faith & Joe Kobyłka, Veronica Gayle, Sylvia Lewis

In Honor Of

Sylvester & Ruth Burdick

*from Robert & Glenda Burdick
for Sponsor-A-Day*

A reminder to everyone that the Beloit Historical Society is a repository for Beloit History. If you have objects, letters, diaries, photos, documents, clothing, etc., that pertain to Beloit history or to someone from Beloit, please keep us in mind as a permanent home for these items.

Please keep in mind that the Beloit Historical Society is a worthy organization to receive a **memorial gift**. Past memorials have been put to good use for special purchases or exhibits. Consider us when it comes time to remember your loved ones, or even include us in your estate planning.

Sponsor-A-Day

Why not consider sponsoring a day at Lincoln Center? By contributing the average cost of daily operations at the Society (\$300), you can pick a day to commemorate a special event or the memory of someone. Recognition of the contribution then is published in the Beloit Daily News and Stateline Shopping News.

Did You Know...

... that Mathew Hale Carpenter, inducted into the City Hall of Fame in 1984, was a silent partner in the Milwaukee Sentinel from 1870 until his death in 1881?



Did You Know...

... that 1988 Sports Hall of Fame inductee Frank Clarke was a charter member of the Dallas Cowboys, playing offensive end from 1960 to 1967?

AN INVITATION...

The Beloit Historical Society is dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of Beloit's rich history. Please support us by becoming a member, and receive membership benefits: The quarterly newsletter, *Confluence*; free admission to the Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead and complimentary passes for friends; affiliate membership in the Wisconsin State Historical Society; and discounts on Society activities, programs, and souvenirs.

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Family _____



Individual Membership		Family Membership	
1 Year	\$ 20	1 Year	\$ 25
2 "	35	2 "	45
3 "	50	3 "	65
Additional, Tax-Deductible Gift			
Sponsor	\$ 50		
Supporting	100		
Sustaining	250		
Patron	500		
Benefactor	1000		
Other			

Beloit Historical Society
845 Hackett St.
Beloit, WI 53511

Phone: 608-365-7835
Fax: 608-365-5999
E-mail: beloihs@ticon.net



Heritage Days Celebration

September 9, 2006

12:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead
2149 St. Lawrence Ave.

Join the Beloit Historical Society for a celebration of Heritage Days at Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead on September 9, 2006.

Bring the children and grandchildren for a great educational, Civil War re-enactment by Southern Wisconsin's Civil War Cavalry Unit, including horses and weapon demonstrations.

A pie baking contest and free guided tours of the Homestead, original limestone barn, smokehouse and the Daisy Chapin one-room schoolhouse will also be offered. Hereford's BBQ ribs will be sold with a picnic style lunch.

For further information contact Lincoln Center at (608) 365-7835.

Confluence

Beloit Historical Society
845 Hackett St.
Beloit WI 53511

Address Service Requested

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.

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commitment to preserving your community's
heritage today! Thank You!*

(If your expiration date is incorrect,
you may have renewed after the newsletter was mailed.)