

**Yearbooks of Yore:
A Look At Four-Score Years of Beloiters**

By Paul Kerr

You have turned the pages of your graduation yearbook, and you've come to your photograph, that senior class photo, and you're studying it, silently wondering about that image of youth that was you. The Beloit Historical Society is visited by people who come here and find themselves, in these yearbooks.

Summertime for us at the Society is more a time than any other for visitors. In many cases they are former residents coming back, and it's always a pleasure for them to discover we have a local history room with resources like the *Beloiter*, the Beloit High School yearbook, available for viewing. When they discover the *Beloiters* they invariably go to their year of graduation, pick up the book, find their picture easily, and pointing a finger at the photo say, "There I am!"

Your Choice- "You're The Tops"



Most Musical Senior
ROBERT BELLARD



Most Athletic Senior
GEORGE HARRELL



Wittiest Senior
GEORGE BELL



Most Dramatic Senior
GERALDINE SCODWELL



Best Dancer
DONALD STEININGER



Most Versatile Senior
SANDRA BURNHAM

1956 *Beloiter*

Our two most used resources in the Luebke Library are the City Directories and the *Beloiters*. The first resource seems to be the practical one and the latter the nostalgic one. With a number of class reunions held here in the past few years - Beloit Memorial's Class of '65 two months ago - one is reminded anew of this nostalgic resource. So what about a brief look at a few? Let's turn the pages in four of these *Beloiters* and see what we find.



HERB SHEDDEN COACH NEITER BEAMERMAN
WHOLEY MERRILL LAMBLE BURNS
BOYS CAPE DOWNSLEY JAY

1916 *Girl's Basketball*

1916 *Beloiter*

(Continued on page 5)

Beloit Historical Society*Founded 1910***2005 Officers***President:*

William Yoss

Vice President:

Richard Ranft

Treasurer:

Harry Schermerhorn

Secretary:

William Bolgrien

Board of Directors

David Collins

Sue Drevdahl

~~Larry Durban~~

Mary Frey

Maggie Janke

Tom Jones

Steve Kinkade

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Cathy Piazza

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Terry Russell

Date of Next Board Meeting:**August 18, 2005****Lincoln Center Staff:***Executive Director*

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Volunteer/Event Coordinator

Loretta Hatch

Maintenance & Grounds

Fred Bull

Business Manager

Scott Reichard

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:

Ron Klein, Loretta Hatch,

Paul Kerr

UPCOMING EVENTS**Thursday, August 11 - Basketry Class**

Lincoln Center 845 Hackett St. - 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Contact Jan Knutson 365-2430

Saturday, August 20 - Quilting Class

Lincoln Center 845 Hackett St. - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Contact Bobbie Fiske 365-4528

Sunday, September 11 - Heritage Days

Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Open house, entertainment, food & beer (see page 4.)

Sunday, September 18 - City Hall of Fame Lincoln Center. 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Annual induction ceremony.

Saturday, October 8 - Annual Gala Auction Fund-raiser

La Casa Grande banquet room. 6:00 p.m. Annual auction and dinner. (See flyer.)

Friday, November 4 - Annual Membership Dinner

Lincoln Center. 6:00 p.m. Annual meeting and dinner.

Contact Beloit Historical Society for further information (608) 365-7835***Cub Food Receipts***

Our last batch of receipts brought in \$53.17. For each Cub Foods receipt submitted the Society receives 1% of the total. Thanks to everyone who participates in saving the receipts and thank you Charlie Jones for volunteering your time totaling them each quarter. Please keep saving receipts, and be sure to get them in before the end of the quarter. Every Penny Helps !!



Charlie wants us to pass on that the date for the quarters that he processes Cub Food receipts has changed. Corporate Cub is using the following periods for their program:

Feb. 25 to June 11 - June 12 to Sept. 3 - Sept. 4 to Nov. 12 - Nov. 13 to Feb. 18

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From The Director

The exhibit of John Heineke's WW II patches is complete. Embellished with artifacts and photographs from the Historical Society's collection, the exhibit focuses on WW II and its two theaters of operation, the European and the Pacific. A few hundred people have seen this display and there's still time for you to visit it, and other Society exhibits as well. It will remain up through the year.

Quilting classes once again proved popular and successful. These classes have proved so successful that a couple of classes have been added to our schedule of programs. There was a class taught in July and another will be held in August, Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please phone the Society if you are interested.

The Volunteer Brunch of 14 April was attended by 60 people. They all shared in the catered meal and music presented by Cheryl Licary and her Beloit Memorial High School All Girl Choir. This annual event is the Society's sincere *Thank You* for the great variety of volunteer tasks rendered to the Society over the year.

Chicago, always a busy and an interesting place, was the destination of the Society's first tour of the season. On 22 June the bus left with 28 people aboard for the Pullman Historic District, the LaPetite Restaurant and the Robie House. Also part of the tour were certain historic buildings on the campus of the University of Chicago. A long day but one enjoyed by all.

New entertainment added to the Society's schedule of events was received with enthusiasm this past Spring. The Sock Hop of 13 May and the Spring Theatre Troupe performances of "The Twelve Dancing Princesses" the 19th through the 22nd of May. Both events were well attended and quite successful. For the "Twelve Dancing Princesses" the Society thanks the talented and creative Wilma Jensen and Mark Maxsted. And for the Sock Hop the Society thanks all those volunteers who served for that evening, particularly Gary Zimmerman of *Z Music*, Mary Frey, Sue and Duane Drevdahl and special thanks to Bill Yoss who made the exhibit possible.

Hats off to Alta Green for her recent donation to the Historical Society. Off and on for five years Alta has worked diligently to produce a photographic history of the Beloit Iron Works (Beloit Corp.) Her monumental task is now finished and her three volumes of photographs and information is available here at the Society for serious perusal by those interested in this significant history. Alta's donation is an important addition to resource materials available at the Historical Society and we hope those interested will drop in to give it a thorough look.

Heritage Days, 11 September 2005, is fast approaching, and we have plans for an event at Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead. Music, food and entertainment will be offered. We are looking for sponsors to help offset some of the expenses. Would any of our members be able to help with a contribution of \$100, \$50 or \$25. Please let us know by calling us at 365-7835. Thank you.

Paul K. Kerr



APPEAL

Recently the Beloit Historical Society received word from the Beloit Foundation that if we could raise \$3000 toward the purchase of a new digital copier, they would contribute a matching grant. A request went to the Board members, and pledges and donations are coming in. However, we are short in reaching our goal and now appeal to you for help. A new copy machine, which is very much needed for our operations, would be a major tool for marketing ourselves and for the copying needs of those doing research. We gratefully appreciate any support you can give us. Thank You.

From the Files



The following are excerpts taken from a talk given by Dr. Harold M. Helm on October 9, 1942 to the Beloit Historical Society and published in the March 1943 issue of the Wisconsin Magazine of History. (Thanks to Ron Klein for contributing this.)

Early Beloit Physicians

Most if not all Beloiters are familiar with Horace White Park; but how many are aware that the park was a gift of Beloit's first physician? The winter of 1836, in Colebrook, New Hampshire, the New England Emigrating Company met in the office of young Doctor White, the deliberations of which resulted in the appointment of the doctor as agent for the company with authority to go west into what was then part of the Northwest Territories to select a site for settlement. He was to receive \$100 a month and expenses plus a horse and cutter.

Twenty-seven year old Dr. White left Colebrook the winter of 1836-37 traveling by way of Canada because of better sleighing. January 23, 1837, he arrived in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he met two other members of the emigrating company: O. P. Bicknell and R. P. Crane. Bicknell rode with Dr. White as far as Calumet, Illinois. Crane and White were the first to reach Turtle, which Beloit was then called. They met with Caleb Blodgett, who claimed the surrounding territory on the east side of the Rock River. The West Side of the river was considered Indian Territory. In March, 1837, one third of an estimated 7,000 acres was purchased from Blodgett for \$2,500.

Dr. White returned to Colebrook to report his progress. While there he was urged to resume his practice but he soon returned to Turtle, and his family followed later. His first office was in a single room at the south end of Blodgett's two-room cabin; it served as kitchen, dining room, bedroom, sitting room and office. He soon moved to a board home which became the family home where he died of consumption (TB) December 23, 1843.

Counting Dr. White, the New England Emigrating Company included fourteen members, three of which were of the Bicknell family: Captain John W. and his sons, Otis P. and George W. Captain Bicknell, who was the father-in-law of R. P. Crane. George was Beloit's second physician. He arrived in Beloit July, 1837, and for a time lived in the Crane home. Later George's office was in the Crane stone block. In 1849 he was one of the many who went to the California gold

(Continued on page 8)



Mark Your
Calendar!!

Heritage Days Celebration

September 11, 2005

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead

2149 St. Lawrence Avenue, Beloit

**Open House: Free Guided Tours of
1857 Victorian Homestead and Grounds**

**Entertainment Provided by
Monday Morning Dixie Band**

**Square Dancing by Beloit
Petunia City Square Dance Club**



**Picnic
Lunch
\$5.00**

**Includes
Hamburger or
Chicken Breast Sandwich
Potato Salad
Baked Beans
Pickle & Cookie**

**BEER, SODA &
BOTTLED WATER
SOLD SEPARATELY**

Yearbooks of Yore (Continued from page 1)

Jim Daugherty: President; Marsha Heckle: Vice President; Kim Mc Affee: Treasurer; Nona Ginchoff: Secretary.

Senior Officers, 1976 Beloit

"A quitter never wins: A winner never quits." A page of this *Beloiter* is dedicated in memorium to Edward Ficke (1917-1933), Lucile Knutson (1918-1934) and Albin Wingren (1916-1935). Valedictorian was Jane Wolfe with 95.562 points and Salutatorian was Doris Anderson with 95.137.

The next 20 years takes us past the era of James H. McNeel into that of Royal B. Everill, who was Principal of the Beloit Memorial High School in 1956. The Seniors of the 1956 *Beloiter* chose to dedicate the

The first *Beloiter* was published in 1916. World War I raged in Europe and the U. S. had yet to enter the conflict. This first volume of the *Beloiter* is dedicated to the lawyer James H. McNeel who assumed the position of Principal of the Beloit High School in 1913. There's a handsome picture of him with the faculty of the time that taught at the High School. Class colors were Gold & White and the class motto was "We can because we think we can." A Senior class numbering 77 graduated in this first year of the *Beloiter*.

Now we move ahead 20 years to 1936. McNeel is still the Principal but this yearbook is dedicated to the teacher held most dear by her students, Miss Dorothy Kirchner. Whereas the faculty size of 1916 was 23 teachers, 1936 boasted 43 and the graduation class size had grown to 288. Nineteen thirty-six was a leap year and graduation was held at the Fairbanks Morse Auditorium. The class motto was



1936 Beloit

(Continued on page 12)

LORETTA'S VOLUNTEER NEWS

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS



OFFICE
Joanne Ciulla &
Lois MacGowan

DOCENT (Tour Guide)
Amy Couillard

GALA AUCTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sue Drevdahl	Joyce Ronan
Phil Alseth	Cheryl Freitag
Jan Knutson	Sue Kurth
Deb Clippert	Dave Knutson
Terry Karow	Nancy Heidt
Marilyn Showen	

Thanks to those who
donated desserts for the
Twelve Dancing Princesses event
which took place in May:
Sue Kurth, Mary Paden,
Joyce Ronan, Helen Massengill,
And to all cast members and their
families.



Beloit Historical Society
is seeking copies of the
1919, 1929, 1931 and
1932 **Beloit City**
Directories
to add to our collection.

If anyone knows where we can obtain
copies please contact Lincoln Center at
(608) 365-7835.

BELOIT GALLERY EXHIBIT OPENING & SOCK HOP

Thanks to those who donated valuable
time or made contributions to make the
society's Beloit Gallery Exhibit opening
and "Sock Hop" a great success.



Sue & Duane Drevdahl
Mary Frey
Harry Schermerhorn
William Yoss

Those interested in viewing the Beloit Gallery's 1950s -
1960s exhibit are welcome to stop at Lincoln Center during
business hours: Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

DOCENTS NEEDED!

**HERITAGE DAYS
CELEBRATION
SEPTEMBER 11, 2005
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**PLEASE CONTACT
LORETTA AT
LINCOLN CENTER 365-7835**

Know Your Beloit History

- (1) The earliest settlement of the Beloit area can be traced to the confluence of Rock River and _____.
- (2) The first inhabitants of the Beloit area were a tribe of about 600 _____.
- (3) The first schoolhouse was erected in 1852 in Public Park. Today the park is known as _____ Park.
- (4) In the year _____, Beloit had no College graduates because all of the seniors were in the war.
- (5) In the early 20th Century, _____ and _____ streets were renamed East and West Grand Avenues, respectively.
- (6) Originally, the present day Beloit was called " _____ " by the Winnebago Indians.
- (7) _____ was the first child to be born in Beloit.
- (8) _____ is believed to be the first Chinese-American woman to live in Beloit.

Answers: (1) Turtle Creek (2) Winnebago Indians (3) Horace White (4) 1864 (5) Bridge & School (6) Turtle (7) Nancy Wadsworth (8) Yee Shee Gok Wong

What is VOLUNTEERING...

- * **Keeping Active**
- * **Gaining Experience**
- * **Meeting People**
- * **Exploring & Sharing Ideas**
- * **Acquiring Self Confidence**



These are just a few good reasons why people volunteer. If you have your own reasons and an interest in keeping the history of the Beloit community alive... Join the Beloit Historical Society's volunteer staff today!

Meet people whose interests are similar to yours. Expand your history skills and give yourself the personal satisfaction of accomplishment.

As a volunteer, your time commitment is flexible. Every minute of volunteer time is appreciated and contributes to the society's goal in collecting, preserving and disseminating knowledge of the history of the Greater Beloit area.

Volunteers are an important part of the Beloit Historical Society. The Society relies on its volunteers, members and staff, to provide ideas, financial support and helping hands. Together we have made the society what it is today we are grateful to have a community of people who work together to preserve our city's heritage. Beloit Historical Society's volunteer opportunities include: Administrative Support, Collections/Accessioning, Maintenance, Bulk Mailings, Research & Newsletter Articles, Docents (Tour Guides), Archives/Library, and Special Events. For further information on Volunteer Opportunities Contact Loretta Hatch, Coordinator of Volunteers (608) 365-7835

From the Files (Continued from page 4)

fields. He must have returned in the early to mid-1850s; in the Rock County Gazetteer, Directory and Business Advertiser for 1857-58 one of the advertisements read, "*Bicknell and Knight, Physicians and Surgeons. State Street, Beloit, Wisc. Special attention given to the treatment of all Surgical Cases and the performing of all Surgical operations. G.W. Bricknell, Wm. Knight.*"

During the Civil War Bicknell was surgeon for the Twenty-second Wisconsin Infantry. He was born in 1807 and died in 1870. A sad sidelight: The large, red granite Bicknell monument in Oakwood cemetery, Beloit, indicates that three children – Abby Maria, Hattie Eliza and Freddie – all died at less than three years of age.

In July 1838, Charles H. Bicknell arrived in Beloit. He opened the Beloit House hotel, which he ran for about four years before beginning the study of medicine in Rockford, Illinois, under Dr. Josiah Goodhue, one of the incorporators of Rush Medical College.

Leaving Rockford, Charles continued his medical studies at Beloit in the office of his brother George. With another brother, Thomas, he operated a pharmacy store for four years under the firm name of Bicknell Brothers. Thereafter being associated with Dr. George, he devoted himself to medical practice until 1861 when he went on his own. Dr. Charles Bicknell died in 1881, fifty years after coming to Beloit.

While Charles Bicknell was Beloit's first medical student and third medically inclined citizen, the third practicing physician to come to Beloit was a Dr. Jesse Moore. He arrived in Beloit with his family from the Yucatan, Central America, September 11, 1840. Dr. Moore, listed in the 1857-58 City Directory, was located at Race and Broad Streets. He saw Beloit through a smallpox epidemic. Dr. Moore, born in 1792, who died in 1869, is buried in the old section of Oakwood Cemetery.

Dr. Asahel Clark, number four, arrived in Beloit in 1845 from Benton, New York. Born in 1809, he graduated from Geneva, New York, Medical College in 1839. He practiced for five years in Yates County, New York, before coming to Beloit. After practicing here for fifteen years he moved to Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, and then to Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Clark died in 1888 and he is buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

Dr. Elijah N. Clark, younger brother of Asahel Clark, graduated from Geneva New York Medical College in 1841. He came to Beloit in 1847. In 1852 he went to the California gold fields where he practiced medicine rather than mining. After three years in the gold fields, Dr. Clark returned to Beloit to again take up his practice of medicine. He practiced medicine and dentistry until 1887 when he gave his entire attention to dentistry. He died in 1902.

One of the very early members of the Beloit College faculty was Professor S. Pearl Lathrop, also a doctor of medicine. Born in Shelburne, Vermont, in 1816, he graduated from medical school in 1843. After practicing only a short time, he became professor of chemistry and science at Beloit College in 1849. Professor Lathrop went to the University of Wisconsin in 1854 and died that year of typhoid fever. He was buried in Beloit. As a side note, he was the first physician in Beloit to perform surgery using general anesthesia.

It seems, according to family members, Dr. Louis Merriman came to Beloit in 1842 and thus was preceded by Doctors White, Bicknell and Moore. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1828. Dr. Merriman was present at the laying of the cornerstone of Beloit Middle College in 1847. He was one of the original donors to the building of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, in 1850. Dr. Merriman practiced medicine in Beloit from 1842 until 1889.

The 1857-1858 *Beloit Gazetteer* lists a great many physicians and the *Beloit Directory* of 1872-1873 confirms the presence of many doctors in Beloit. It would take many more pages to list all the doctors that practiced in Beloit from the late 1800's to the early 1900's but let's look at one very unique doctor, Doctor Mary Bartlett. "Dr. Mary" as she was affectionately known by her patients.

Mary Bartlett was one of three Bartlett sisters who became doctors. They graduated from Hahnemann Medical College in Chicago, the first American medical school to offer medical diplomas to women. It was a time (the early 1900s) when it was practically unheard of for women to work outside the home, much less practice medicine. The three sisters, Mary, Edith and Etta, became practicing homeopathic Doctors of Medicine. Edith practiced in Janesville, Etta in Texas and Mary practiced in Beloit.

Mary Elizabeth Bartlett was born in Newark Township in 1869. She was one of nine children born to Herrick and Nancy Bartlett. Mary and her sisters Edith and Etta received teaching certificates and taught in a log one-room schoolhouse located on the Bartlett property to raise money for college to study medicine. Mary took pre-med. courses at Valparaiso College, Indiana, and then went to Hahnemann Medical College in Chicago from which she graduated in 1899. She practiced medicine in Eagle, Wisconsin, from 1899 to 1901 and in Honey Creek, Wisconsin 1901 to 1903. "Dr. Mary" practiced in Beloit from 1903 until her death in 1959. Her office was in downtown Beloit but she made her home at the original Hanchett Homestead that her brother John and sister Lille bought in 1901, until her death in 1959.

A Native of Beloit, Dr. Harold M. Helm was the third generation of his family to practice medicine. Educated at Beloit College, the University of Wisconsin, Rush Medical College and Cook County Hospital, he began his practice in Beloit in 1916. He died in 1958 in Beloit.

We currently have 738 members on our rolls. The following people have renewed their membership or have become new members between March 11 and August 1, 2005. A big Thank You for supporting the Beloit Historical Society!
(Underlined indicates new member; numbers next to names refer to multi-year renewals.)

John & Joanne Acomb (2)	Betty Daniel	Richard Gupton	Marge Krueger	Thomas Roehl
Victor & Sandra Adamsky	Charles & Irene Davis	Dorothy Gustowsky	Jeanette Kuehl	Larry & Mae Sanford
Mary Lou Armstrong	<u>Lori Davis</u>	Janet Hahn (3)	Sue Kurth	<u>Michael Santucci (3)</u>
Buzz & Fran Beckman	Fran & Gene Dencker	Larry & Carolyn Hamilton	Barb & Lee Kuska	Janice Schefelker
Olive Behrman	Alain & Wendy Dereix	<u>Patricia Harper (2)</u>	Richard & Barbara Long (2)	Harry & Liz Schermerhorn
Beloit Floral	Betty Dilworth	Helen Heckle	Lois MacGowan	Henry & Carol Schreve
Charles & Joy Boardman	Butch & Nancy Dix (3)	Clair Helom	Gloria & Dave Mason	Nancy Schultz
Ethel Bridge (2)	Larry & Natalie Durben	Ken & Diane Hendricks	Fred Mathews	Wayne Showers
Eugene & Dorothy Brill	Dennis Dwyer	Paul & Penny Hendrickson (2)	Jerry & Phyllis Mathews (2)	Borg & Gayle Skaugen
Richard & Irene Brill	Pat Eddy	Brian Hepperly (3)	Richard & Mary Jo McCauley	Alan Sorenson
Robert & Glenda Burdick	Richard & Jean Engel	Gerald & Gloria Hereford	Mary McKie	Theodore & Laverne Stevenson (3)
John & Sally Burris	Elsa Fabiszak	Caryl Hines	Kay McMahon (3)	Tim Stoikes
<u>Sharon Carley</u>	Lois Ferrera	George & Ellie Hooker	Richard & Lynda Moon	Gail Taylor (3)
Ralph & Edith Carlson	<u>Matt & Dianne Finnegan (3)</u>	Harriett Hopkins	<u>Mr. & Mrs. John Moriarty (2)</u>	Kaaren Torkelson
Pat & Gino Casucci	Joe & Mary Fox	<u>Martin & Marlene Howe</u>	Tom & Susie O'Brien (2)	Stephen & Connie Truesdale
Mike Chamberlin	Marjorie Fresley (3)	Jan & Don Johnson	Richard & Marian Olsen	Ken & Coleen Watson
Donald Chamberlin (3)	Fran & Marilyn Fruzen	Hardy Johnson	Harry Padon	Eugene & Jackie Weeden
Gerald Chapel	Greg & Ann Furman	Ken Johnson	Lloyd & Peggy Page	Al Wendorf
Herbert & Grace Christiansen	Dave & Shirley Geffers	Charles Jones	Ann Perry	John Winkelmann (3)
Ione & Myron Clark	Richard & Dawna Gerhard	Martin & Rita Kades	Polly & Peter Peterson	Hank & Lyn Woodard
Harry & Emilie Clark	Jeanette & Roger Goecks	Mary Jane Kellicut	Truett & Leila Pittner	
George & Mary Clay	Jean Goodwin	Fred & Joanne Klett	Rich & Pat Ranft	
Kenneth & Berniece Crossfield (2)	Daniel & Cornelia Green	William Klingberg	<u>Jeff Reese</u>	
	Barbara Gunderson	Virginia Knutson		
		Ida Kolak		

SAVE THIS DATE!!!

Saturday, October 8, 2005

**Beloit Historical Society's
10th Annual Gala Auction**

6:00 p.m.

La Casa Grande

(New Banquet Hall)

618 Fourth Street, Beloit

**Live & Silent Auction
Musical Entertainment
Food, Raffles &
Much More**

Cost \$50 per person

Visa & Master Cards Accepted

**Please contact Beloit Historical
Society for reservations or further
information (608) 365 -7835**

24 Individually Owned Grocery Stores

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C. W. Davis
J. M. Dornstauder
Economy Grocery
John Georgison
Bob Goldsworthy Grocery
L. J. Hart
Kapitanoff Bros.
Munger & Dennisson
K. & P. Food Store
Murray Grocery
Fred O'Donnell

Park Avenue Grocery
Harry Parr Grocery
Peterson & Dix
Porter Avenue Grocery
Cern Rasmussen
C. C. Shultz
Spyreas Grocery Co.
Vlau Grocery
Otto Voigt
Ray White
P. O. Wick Grocery
Ray Wisch

*Ads of
Old*

1936
Beloiter

LINK FOOD STORES

THERE'S ONE IN MOST NEIGHBORHOODS

1956
Beloiter

Did You Know...

... that before the Beloit High School's yearbook *The Beloiter* was first published in 1916, the school newspaper the *Incescent* published a predecessor to the yearbook in it's June issues?

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 someone from Beloit, please keep us in mind as a permanent home for these items.

Mr. Spudnut
**HEAD of
the CLASS!**



... in Digestibility!
.. in Quick Energy!
... in Goodness!

AMERICA'S FINEST FOOD CONFECTION
TAKE A DOZEN HOME TODAY

Spudnuts
SPUDNUT SHOP

1101 4th Street

Paul's Food Market

Quality Groceries & Meat

1100 Euclid Avenue—Dial EMerson 2-2313

We Deliver

60 Years Ago

August 16 will mark the 60th anniversary of Japan's surrender to the allies. At 6:00 p.m. local time on that Tuesday evening in 1945 President Truman announced at a press conference that "I have received this afternoon a message from the Japanese government in reply to the message forwarded to that government on Aug. 11. I deem this reply a full acceptance of the Potsdam declaration which specified the unconditional surrender of Japan. In the reply there is no qualification." The announcement was greeted with elation everywhere, and Beloit was no exception.

In the many factories in Beloit, power plant workers let loose with a riot of noise when they laid on the factory whistles all over town, and residents added to the pandemonium with their car horns. It seemed as if everyone headed downtown, and at the crowd's peak around 9:00 p.m., it was estimated that 25,000 folks were celebrating, the multitudes centering on State & Grand and 4th & Grand. Rock County Sheriff E. A. Silverthorn ordered all taverns in the county closed as a precaution, but word has it that beer was flowing out of the rear of some establishments. Confetti appeared, and everyone was throwing paper in the air, even ripping newspapers or whatever else they could find. Russell Van Galder, manager of the South Beloit Airport, took



*Grand Avenue looking west
(from Century of a City)*

students and employees for free rides to see all the hoopla from above, and he noted that it looked like the downtown was under 2 feet of snow because of all the paper and confetti in the streets.

An impromptu parade broke out when high-schoolers formed a long snake dance through town, even zigzagging their way through the post office. On the west side the Eagles' drum corps played favorite songs and took part in another parade that was headed by the national colors. At Fourth and Grand a platform was erected for musicians.

Beloit's excitement over the war's end was summed up by several residents:

"I've always said I wouldn't be a war bride and now I won't be," was the comment made by Janet Nelson, whose Cpl. Francis Rhomberg, was home from overseas, and whose wedding was planned for the following week. James Ryan, 17, said "Swell! Just Swell!" His mother, Mrs. Daniel Ryan, said "Now he won't have to go to war; but it's a sad time for the folks of the boys who won't be coming back." A group of girls celebrating downtown yelled in unison, "Hurray! My man will be coming home!"

At 7:00 the next morning all that was left of the previous evening's revelry was a sea of paper and other debris. Three post office janitors, launching their brooms into the disorder on the street, remained light-hearted in the face of the overwhelming task. How could they complain, knowing the war was over?

Yearbooks of Yore (Continued from page 5)

annual to Sylva

Rasmussen. Sylva had served the school system since 1925 and had been with the High School since 1927. Each class had a theme: The Seniors chose "Thanks for the Memories," the Juniors "Impatient Years," and the sophomores "Green Years." "The High and the Mighty" was the theme chosen by the Administration and "Someone to watch over me" chosen by the

faculty. The senior class size had grown to 444 by 1956, and there were 64 teachers. Edith Lang was Valedictorian and Yvonne Dressler Salutatorian.



1916 Beloit



Debate Club, 1956 Beloit

The next 20 years take us to 1976 and a different kind of yearbook, or at least it becomes apparent that there is a different feel in the content of the book. It starts right off with sports, then a listing of classes beginning with the juniors, then a list of faculty, groups (clubs) and activities. There is no apparent theme, class motto, dedications, valedictorian or salutatorian listed, details one gets used to studying the earlier yearbooks. Still, there are interesting details. Three of the players on Barkin's basketball team are 6'7" (Todd Shockley, Bill Hanzlik and Zach Sherrod); Jim Hoekman is the School King, and Barb Saari, the School Queen; Donald Sudkamp is the Principal and the two assistant Principals are Robert Herzog and Fran Fruzen; there are over 60 teachers on the faculty and the graduating

(Continued on page 13)

Yearbooks of Yore (Continued from page 12)

Top row, left to right—L. Nichols, J. Stier, K. Gittings, M. Shaw, M. Marston, L. Johnson, T. Gharriy, R. Sulik, L. Johnson, W. Stebbins. Second row—T. Addie, G. Anderson, R. Pederson, R. Zahn, C. Wade, F. Monroe, L. Monroe, E. Edwards, E. May, J. Edwards, R. Anderson. Front row—O. Enthoff, accompanist; D. Arthur, Director.

Boy's Glee Club, 1936 Beloit

class of seniors numbers 494; and Mr Wilbert Remmele retires from teaching after 29 years.

The Beloit Historical Society has an almost complete collection of the *Beloiters* from 1916 to the present. The "almost" means we are missing the 1989 and 1990 *Beloiters*. By the way, if any of you could help us find copies of these two volumes it would be greatly

appreciated. In reflecting on yearbooks in general we should mention that we have some of the Beloit Catholic annuals as well as one or two from Turner High School. We could use a little help in gathering more from these two schools. As mentioned earlier, they are a much used resource.

One final word on our wonderful collection of yearbooks. The Society owes a great deal of thanks to Merlin Nundahl who has purchased the yearbook for us for at least the past 14 years. Without his constant vigilance about the yearbook's publication and availability, and that familiar, annual call for us to go down to the high school to pick it up, we'd be 14 volumes short in our collection. Thanks Merlin!



Badger Reps: Row 1: K. Neubauer, N. De Cori, W. Stanley. Row 2: D. Heaney, C. Kinast, T. Wen.

1976 Beloit



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 11 through August 1, 2005)



Contributors

Joe & Eleanor Moen, Eugene & Dorothy Brill, Marjorie Fresley, Martin & Rita Kades, Charles & Joy Boardman, Hank & Lyn Woodard, Ron Anderson, Dennis Dwyer, Mike Chamberlin, Betty Daniel, June Smythe, Beloit Floral, Ken & Diane Hendricks, Roger & Jeanette Goecks, Barbara Gunderson, Donald Chamberlin, Richard Gupton, Heidi Eilertson, Jess & Darlene Nelson, Fred Mathews, Gary Zimmerman, Bob Davis, Pat & Gino Casucci, Harry & Liz Schermerhorn, Richard & Dawna Gerhard, Larry & Mae Sanford, Herb & Grace Christiansen, Matt & Dianne Finnegan, Richard & Mary Jo McCauley, Marjorie Reynolds, Myron & Ione Clark, Hendricks Development Group, Janice Schefelker, Ralph & Helen Garman, David & Annie Collins, Sue & Duane Drevdahl, Jerry & Phyllis Mathews, Merlin Nundahl, Gateway Community Bank

In Memory of

*Alice Everill
from Bill & Carol Bolgrien,
Susan Hangiandreou*

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.

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.

Scholarship Fund

Every year the Society awards scholarships to students who are pursuing studies in the field of history. The Society has a continuing need of funds for our Scholarship program. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to the Beloit Historical Society's Scholarship Fund. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



BONUS FOR NEW MEMBERS!

If you aren't a member of the Beloit Historical Society, why not consider joining us? You will become part of Beloit's repository of history, one of Wisconsin's oldest local historical societies (founded 1910), and enjoy the many benefits offered (see the membership form below.) And as an incentive to becoming a new member we offer a **free book** if you sign up: *Pioneer Beloit* by Arthur Luebke, *History of the Beloit Fire Department* by Herb Christiansen, or *Sparks from the Flaming Wheel*. Please join us in celebrating Beloit's history!

Do you have a jar full of pennies (or nickels, dimes and quarters) that you'd like to donate to a good cause? You can put them to good use by dropping them off at the Lincoln Center. The last time we cashed in our accumulated coins we received **\$270!** Thanks to everyone who remembered to "drop in a Lincoln penny for Lincoln Center."



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.

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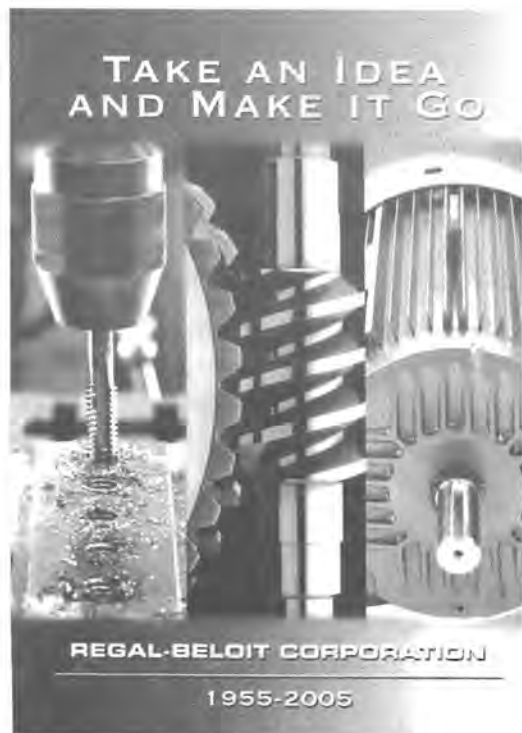
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This year marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Regal-Beloit Corporation and the 25th anniversary of its reinvention in 1980.

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Take An Idea And Make It Go is a story of good ideas, good people and hard work.

**Purchase Your Copy Today at the
Beloit Historical Society for only \$25
(retail value \$30)**

Confluence

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