

Beloit's Winter Fun in the 1940s and '50s

by Paul Kerr



Fred Bull of the Beloit Historical Society remembers that Carl, who was caretaker of Lincoln Junior School's ice rink, wouldn't allow "Pom Pom Pullaway" or "Crack the Whip" to be played on the ice because he considered it unsafe for the kids. There was probably a like scenario over at Roosevelt Junior School's ice rink. Kids and tomfoolery on ice went hand in hand as part of the winter fun in Beloit during the 1940s and '50s. It was a time when ice skating was a big part of winter recreation in the city for kids and adults alike. It wasn't always just fun and games either; there was real ice skating talent in this town. Who can forget those wonderful annual performances by the Ice Skating Club of Beloit at Riverside Lagoon? Those fourteen years of dazzling shows on ice?



Left to right: Nevada Keller, Kareen Keller, Mary Redmond, Estelle McMahan, Eleanor Simison, Jean Stewart, Carol Barrs, Viola Delaney, Audrey Keller, Betty Francini, Joy Hogland, Marie Johnson, Betty Webster, Betty Kramer, Ruth Lindstrom, Beverly Phillips, Marion Christophor.

At the Riverside Lagoon the ice skating club would hold competitions and produce shows that attracted thousands. The skating club was founded in 1944 and it spotlighted area talent. Original members were William and Evelyn Kitto, Marcella Westbrook, Clarence "Babe" Lynch, Martin Redmond, Harold and Adeline Delaney and Ervin Keller. The first performance of the club was February 10, 1945. It was a cold day and a big, wonderful event for the two thousand spectators who banded together in a ring around the ice.

Many people throughout the years braved cold afternoons to see proficient Beloit skaters parading their talents. The ice shows were marvelous productions. Like so many other annual shows the one in 1958 was typical: It consisted of clown and acrobatic acts as well as dance numbers and

(Continued on page 3)

Skaters at Lincoln Junior High School



Beloit Historical Society

Founded 1910

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Date of Next Board Meeting:**January 20, 2005****Lincoln Center Staff:***Executive Director*

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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**

For further
information on
Society events call
Lincoln Center
(608) 365-7835

Saturdays, February & March – Quilting Classes

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lincoln Center. Bobbie Fiske instructs. Cost: \$11 members, \$12 non-members.

Friday, February 11 – An Evening at Lincoln Center

6:00 p.m. Lincoln Center. Dinner and program Wisconsin Light Houses-A Photographic and Historical Guide by Barb & Ken Wardius. Cost: \$30 members, \$35 non-members.

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 !!



***The staff of the
Beloit Historical
Society wishes
everyone a
Merry
Christmas
and a Happy
New Year!***

**This Issue**

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Beloit's Winter Fun (Continued from page 1)*Skating at the Lagoon*

Ice attracted the skaters, but snow attracted everybody else. They all seem to have met with their toboggans and sleds at the popular Hospital Hill on Olympian Boulevard. Olympian was the location of Beloit's hospital and the hill provided years of fun and competition. The Toboggan Club held races there which attracted competition from Delavan, Williams Bay, Lake Geneva and Milwaukee. Orville Haas, Sid Renir and Art Coutts were important club members in this sport. The sledding club also raced on the hill, and the Jaycees were instrumental managing sledding events. Jake Jacobsen, the city Recreation Director, also officiated at many of those races. There was even a mini ski jump constructed at Hospital Hill for those less hardy souls unwilling to tackle the giant one at Big Hill. The ski jump at Big Hill was a magnet for competition from all over the world.

There is a lot more to say about winter sports in Beloit. There are the numerous other kids who skated where they could find a frozen pond or river, a slope other than the one at Hospital Hill which

ballet. Some of the stars were Adeline and Harold Delaney (Adeline directed most of the shows), Howie Westbrook, Marty and Mary Redmond, Clarence Lynch, Bill Kitto and Oscar Wentland. Some of the acts were "Twins on Ice" (Barbara and Beverly Ernst), "Two in Time" (June McDonald & Howie Westbrook), the "Twirling Miss" (Miss Penny Rowbottom) and "Two Alike" (Bill & Cathy Kitto). They glided, jumped, danced, and twirled in an extravaganza delightful to the eyes. There are many Beloiters of today who remember those days. The Beloit Daily News provided medals and ribbons and these were presented to the winner by City Manager Archie Telfer. The winter days passed with ice skaters skating, but also with sledders sledding, skiers skiing and tobogganers tobogganing.

*Hospital Hill*

From The Director

Since the last issue

The Halloween Costume Gala and Benefit Auction held at the country club of Beloit was another annual success for us. The Society added nearly \$9000 to its endowment, bringing the nine year total to over \$100,000 raised. Next year is the tenth anniversary of the Gala and we will work hard to make that one the best of all.



The Society's 94th Annual Membership Dinner was a well-attended affair. The 19th of November membership enjoyed a great dinner, noted the election of new officers and heard an enlightening program by Terry Lynch who brought to life the 28 month journey of the Lewis and Clark expedition. This year marks the 200th anniversary of the beginning of that great adventure.

The Fund Drive began the week of Thanksgiving and will run through December. In our next issue we will tell you how we did. Please know any contributions to the fund drive are appreciated. This historical society needs your support.

In the next few months we will begin work on a new exhibit in the Arthur Missner Veterans Gallery. John Heineke will loan to the Society his grand collection of WW II military patches for our next display. John has been collecting for 60 years and his assortment of patches and the stories that go with them make for an interesting tale.

Upcoming

Quilting classes will be starting up again in February. And watch for your invitation to our upcoming *An Evening at Lincoln Center* event. The program will be *Wisconsin Lighthouses Slide and Lecture Presentation* by Barb & Ken Wardius. The program highlights one-third of the lighthouses in Wisconsin. Many stunning images are accompanied by a lecture, storytelling, and music. It is a perfect program for anyone interested in lighthouses and maritime history. Join us February 11, 2005, for a good meal and enlightening entertainment.

Paul K. Kerr

Did You Know...

... that between 1909 and 1916 Beloit laid claim to the amateur ski jumping championship of the world?

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.



An Evening at Lincoln Center Ticket Give-Away

The Beloit Historical Society is giving away a ticket to our upcoming Evening at Lincoln Center Event. Take a moment to ponder the following multiple-choice question, and then call us at Lincoln Center with your answer. All correct answers will be entered in a drawing for a free ticket.

A building in the 300 block of State Street was first home to W. H. Sherman's Jewelry store from 1854-1890. Today what business occupies this building?

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| A) Alisa's Family Restaurant | B) Bagels & More |
| C) Austin Barber Shop | D) Stanton Shoes |

Beloit's Winter Fun (Continued from page 3)

kids and adults could tackle with their saucers and sleds, the other schools, playgrounds and neighborhoods involved with winter fun, but this brief glimpse gives you an idea of organized winter sports, those involved and the spectators braving the cold during the 1940s and 50s.



Big Hill Ski Jump



LORETTA'S VOLUNTEER NEWS

Looking for Office Volunteers !!! Tuesday and Thursday Afternoons

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Duties include answering phone, greeting visitors
and some occasional filing or research requests

**For more information contact
Loretta Hatch, Coordinator of Volunteers
at (608) 365-7835**

Wish List For Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead

Baby carriage for front entry-way

Old paintings for dining room

Appropriate china cabinet for dining room

Set of formal china & cutlery for dining
room

Gold tasseled roping for barriers across
parlor doors

Antique table lamps (kerosene/converted
kerosene to electric)

Appropriate carpet for dining room

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER

Sue Drevdahl



Spring Quilt Classes Offered!!

Beloit Historical Society's Spring
Quilting Classes are being offered
to anyone interested in
participating.

Classes will be held at
Lincoln Center on Saturday's
February 5 - 12 - 19 - 26
March 5 - 12 - 19 - 26

Each class will be held from
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with
Instructor Bobbie Fiske
Beginners are welcome!!

Cost is \$11 for members of Beloit
Historical Society and \$12 for
non-members. For further
information or registration contact
Lincoln Center at (608) 365-7835
or
Bobbie Fiske at (608) 365-4528

Historic Beloit: People & Places - Word Search

T P F W S T A T E S T R E E T K L K B N F C R H C
 T Z T F S R R E S U O H A R E P O N I W D O O G C
 L L C P Q L K M Q A R T H U R A D A M S L D M F Z
 T H M U E S U M L E G N A R Q K T C L W M K T S P
 Z J V K N O T T U D R E H T O R B T T D M L Y Q G
 P O H S R E B R A B S N I T S U A M E V R N G N M
 X M K R R E T A E H T C I T S E J A M L A I I P J
 G K F A I R B A N K S F A I R I E S Y E T R C V H
 B E L O I T P L A Z A H L L K B Y G N A R R P H C
 K C Y Y Y J C K B X O I E Q E N J C T E T N A V A
 Q M H R R X T X P T N T N L W C M D P H L E R B E
 K H X R F F R B E C O G O N G W L D T L L D S T B
 M O B D M L X L O H E I R L Z M E T L T I A K G Y
 F N Z F V N L L N Y T S T P Y T Z H T C M I R G L
 X Z M R M O N O D C T B U M Z N J J Q H N S P C R
 R J J Q R C T R O R H P R O D P T B P E A Y C K E
 Q Z R L E L Q L M L I L T U H Y H M X S M C N R V
 K P E N I T L P B N B R N P S Y Z K Q T K H R E A
 Q N T H T E F L N T A K L V K B E M T E C A L V W
 R E R R G C O C R C U C K P L L E S R R E P M I L
 R M P E M D Y W Z D L N L N T L F R A S B I X R L
 Y Y D G G H R M R H T N J N V X P N G R V N T K F
 M T X E L L A H T T E H C N A H Z N T P P L N C J
 X X T Q T K T L L R K R A P E T I H W E C A R O H
 P T Y B E L O I T I R O N W O R K S Y G M B Y R M

Words can go
horizontally, vertically
& diagonally in all eight
directions

ALDRICH
 ANGEL MUSEUM
 ARTHUR ADAMS
 AUSTINS BARBER SHOP
 BARTLETT
 BECKMAN MILL
 BELOIT COLLEGE
 BELOIT IRON WORKS
 BELOIT PLAZA
 BOLDGETT
 BROTHER DUTTON
 BRUSBERG
 CHESTERS
 DAISY CHAPIN
 FAIRBANKS FAIRIES
 GOODWIN OPERA HOUSE
 HANCHETT HALL
 HILTON HOTEL
 HORACE WHITE PARK
 HOTEL LORLEN
 LINCOLN CENTER
 MAJESTIC THEATER
 MCNEANYS
 RASEY HOUSE
 ROCK RIVER
 STATE STREET
 TED PERRING
 THIBAUT
 WAVERLY BEACH
 YATES

Answers on bottom of page 9

*We'd like to remind 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.*



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Roland's
TOYLAND

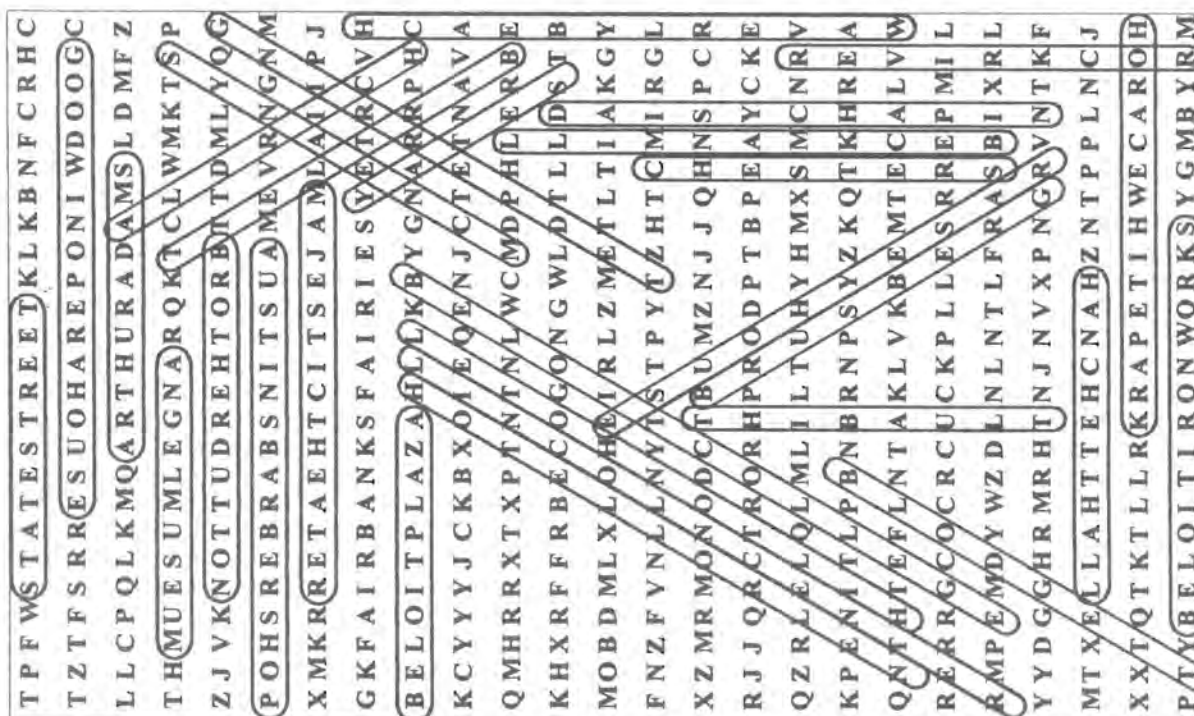
127 W. Grand Ave.

*Ads of
 Old*

We currently have 752 members on our rolls. The following people have renewed their membership or have become new members between October 6 and December 7, 2004. A big Thank You for supporting the Beloit Historical Society!
(Underlined indicates new member; numbers next to names refer to multi-year renewals.)

<u>Lorie Adams</u> Gene & Sylvia Arner <u>Glenda & Don</u> <u>Baker</u> Chris Birkey & Shelley Cousin Al & Barb Blackman George & Kay Blakely Dennis & Darlene Blunck William Brown Anna Calland June & Walt Divan	Ron & Kay Duffy Deanna Feuerstein James Forrestal <u>Ralph & Helen</u> <u>Garman</u> <u>Donna Gurholt</u> Carolyn Hansen Sandy & Dennis Hays Helene Heigl Lawrence Hines Lee & Janet Hovland Cheryl Jackson Dick & Marcie Karashinski	William & Gayle Keefer Steve & Sharon Kinkade Roberta Kroeger Elaine Lans Lucile Lourim Janice LeDell Malson Donna & Tim Manning (3) Frank & Suzann Marsden <u>Patricia</u> <u>McGovern</u>	Joe & Eleanor Moen (2) Chuck & Joan Mueller Dolores Owens Nancy & James Packard (3) Steven & Catherine Piazza Matt, Susie & Rachel Reichard Charles Ricksecker (3) Lucile Roden Ovid & Ruth Smedstad	August & June Stellberg Mildred Swinehart (2) Bette Synstegard Susie Thompson Dorothy Thompson Carolyn Thomson William & Ada Watson (2) Gary Weinkauff Harriet White Lawrence & Jean Zanton
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Answers to Word Search



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 October 11 through December 9, 2004)



Contributors

LaVaughn Kunny, William & Gayle Keefer, Regal Beloit Corp., Elaine Lans, Steve & Sharon Kinkade, Constance Matusiak, Wilma Jensen, Laverne & Theodore Stevenson, Ralph & Helen Garman, First Federal, Jerome Fagerstrom, Merlin Nundahl, Carol & Bob Schwaegler, Lois MacGowan, Nancy & Jim Packard, Jean & John Anderson, Eugene & Jackie Weeden, Virginia Harrer, Lois Papesh, Robert Pederson, Patricia Dabson, Ethel Bridge, Dorothy Thompson, Cheryl Jackson, Virginia Holt, Bernard Grommes, John & Helen Eldred, Ken & Vernice Hansen, Jacki & Tom Roehl, Joe & Mary Fox, Jo Ann Koch, Robert Bort, Larry & Karen Arft, James Forrestal, Shar & Don Morello, Harry & Ruth Davis, Tom & Peggy Lang, Lloyd & Peggy Page, Gerald Chapel, Janice Schefelker, Esther Belardi, Harry Padon, Gerald Druckrey, Berenice Ellis

In Memory of

William Dilworth
from Betty Dilworth

Thomas Fabiszak
from Elsa Fabiszak

Dan Savage
from Marcella Savage

Rosabel Dwyer
from Dennis Dwyer

In Honor of

Brother Joseph Dutton
from Robert & Sarajane Crave

Peggy Page's Birthday
from John McDonnell & Judith Christensen

Retired School District of Beloit Staff
from Bette Lang & Tom Evert

Sponsor-A-Day

in honor of **Dave & Annie Collins**
from Anonymous

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.

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!

How about the gift of a membership with a free bonus book for that hard-to-buy-for relative?



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. In October we cashed in our accumulated coins and 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.

Name _____

Address _____

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

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end of January 2005)*



Confluence

Beloit Historical Society
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Beloit WI 53511

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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.)