June 2011

A Publication of the Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society

100 Years a Restaurant

Since 1911 there has been a restaurant located at the site of 128 E. Main St. in Mt. Horeb. It is a place where hundreds of locals have started their mornings out, countless visitors have congregated and where rivers of coffee have been served for 100 years. Today it is fondly known as Schubert's.

In 1881 the Pieh Meat Market, which later added a second floor, was located at this address. In 1889 G.G. Mandt located his home and print shop at this location. Mandt published the Dane County Sun newspaper. Burchell's Restaurant followed Mandt's print shop and the building was torn down in 1905 when Thomas Ayen built the present structure and opened the City Meat Market, which employed George Pieh as butcher and assistant.

The building then passed into the ownership of Thomas Lingard. In 1911, Otto Olson, who had been making butter at the Old Town Creamery, resigned from his job to open a bakery and restaurant in the Lingard building. Olson rented from Lingard. Olson's second floor space was used for an apartment, a banquet and meeting room, and, for a while, a barber shop operated by Walter Hopkins.

Around 1916, Olson added the iconic wooden booths to the building. Along with the dinners and baked items the Olsons operated a soda fountain and sold cigars and candy. To increase bakery sales the Olsons sold bread beyond the bakery, shipping white and whole wheat to Klevenville, where it was loaded on a train to a destination in Dodgeville; it was dispersed to local stores along the way.

Pete Olson, the baker, originally created the well-known Swedish rye bread that is still offered today. Pete never really would divulge the recipe, stating "just a pinch of this and a dash of that."

In 1922 Fred Luder Jr. started building the Apollo Theater, later Strand Theater, next door.

That created a trying time for the Olsons; because of the large amount of rock that had to be removed to build the theater basement, blasting was required. This blasting caused the bakery's bread to fall in its pans while it was rising. It is said Otto Olson walked fast pace next door and shook his fist at the workers. The problem was soon solved.

On Friday, Nov. 11, 1949, the Olson's restaurant dinner menu consisted of the following: choice of roast beef dinner, fillets of haddock dinner, meatballs or a ham and noodles dinner. All these dinners came with cream of asparagus soup or apple cider, mashed potatoes, gravy, buttered green beans, banana salad, rolls and drink. Each dinner cost 95 cents.

A few years later coffee cost 10 cents, milk the same, a T-bone steak \$2.25, pork chops 90 cents, hamburger 25 cents, hot pork sandwich, potatoes and gravy 50 cents, pie a la mode, 20 cents.

Due to ill health Otto Olson retired in 1943. By this time he had owned the building for several years. After his

Story Continued on page 2



Interior of Olson's Restaurant c. 1914 (MHAHS Subject File)

Continued from page 1

retirement his daughter, Clara, took over the manage

ment of the business until March 1, 1957 when the Olson heirs sold out to Bert and Dorothy Fredrickson.

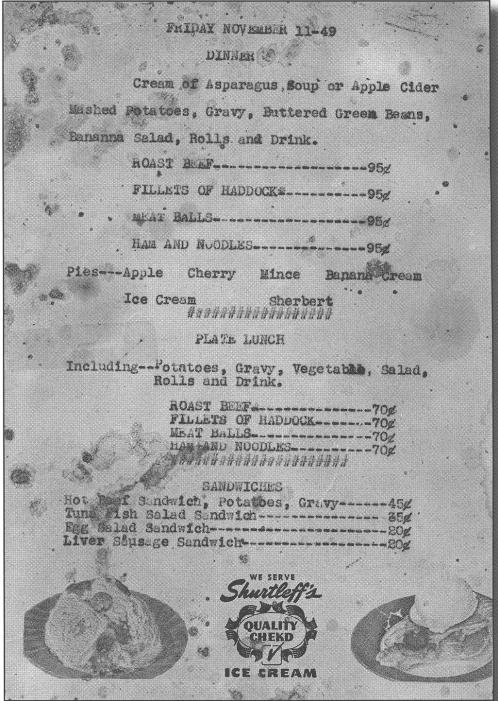
The Fredricksons retained the Olson name and added family and other antiques to the restaurant's décor. Two of these pieces remain today, the large back bar mirror from a Blue Mounds hotel building and a gas light that hangs over the cashier's station. In 1985 Fredrickson told the Historical Society, "One of my memorable employees was Freemont (Fritzie) Flatburg." The counter boy was with the business for over 40 years. "Fritzie," as he was known to patrons, entertained restaurantgoers with his antics of spinning glasses and throwing ice over his back.

During the April primary campaign in 1960, while under Fredrickson's management, John F. Kennedy greeted people and gave a short speech in the upper level "Ivy Room," so named for its decorated wall paper.

The Fredricksons carried the Olson tradition until 1972, when they sold the business to Doug Gobel, who redecorated the building, added a new form of dinner menu and changed the name of the restaurant to Gobel's.

Jerry Schubert and partner Gerald
Thompson purchased the business from Gobel in
November 1980. Jerry and his wife, Judy, bought out
partner Gerald Thompson in July 1984 and changed the
business name to Schubert's Restaurant.

In more recent years the business was operated by Jerry Schubert and his son Jim, with a fire in 2002 closing the establishment for a short while. Clean-up and remodeling following the fire revealed the bank of glass windows that divided the kitchen and bakery from the seating area. Also, for a short time, the restaurant was operated by Tim Appezzo and Richard Baumeister, who moved



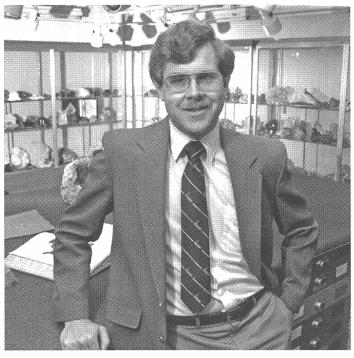
Olson's November 1949 menu (MHAHS Subject File)

their Blue Sky Café there. Steven Eckstein is the present operator of the business, with Jerry Schubert owning the building.

Through all these years and changes the restaurant retained its 1905 tin ceiling, WWI era booths, continued to offer "old style" plate lunches, whipped up malts, baked hundreds of treats and offered its signature Swedish rye bread. The business has become a Mt. Horeb institution with tourists and present and former residents making it a must-visit destination.

Smithsonian Rep to Visit

Mark your calendars now for our special Sesquicentennial annual meeting, which will be at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 9 at the Mt. Horeb Community Center. Mt. Horeb native Jeff Post will return from his duties in Washington, D.C., as curator of minerals and gems at the Smithsonian Institution. Jeff will give an overview of his interests in rocks, fossils, minerals and gems that stems from his childhood growing up in Mt. Horeb and will offer a look inside the nation's premier natural history museum.



Jeffrey Post, Chairman Department of Mineral Sciences in his Smithsonian work place (MHAHS Subject File)

Additional Contributions for 2010

Max and Betty Rosenbaum MG&E Foundation

Thank You!

Right - 1985 Summer Frolic (MHAHS Subject File)

Spirits to Visit Pendarvis State Historic Site

Spirits from southwestern Wisconsin's past will visit Pendarvis State Historic site at Mineral Point on Saturday, June 18 starting at 6:30 p.m. This new programming at the site is titled "Midsummer Spirits" and is geared for all ages. Mt. Horeb Society President Brian Bigler will take on the "spirit" role of Robert Neal, one of the founders of Pendarvis, a complex of restored Cornish miners' homes. Among other spirits present will be a Cornish stone mason who worked at Pendarvis with past site owners Robert Neal and Edger Hellum. Hellum will also be present to share the tale of his and Neal's accidental journey into the restaurant business, a journey that netted the pair national acclaim and aided in turning the decline of Mineral Point into a tourist mecca.

Other spirits who plan to visit are Christiana Martin, an original resident of Pendarvis' oldest home and wife of one of Mineral Point's more colorful characters; Steven Taylor, who will read excerpts from his 1827 diary, sure to include tales of his immigration to the lead mining district of southwestern Wisconsin. A "Cousin Jenny" (Cornish immigrant woman) will also stop by for a visit to share her stories of immigration and settlement on the Wisconsin frontier. Of course no spirit event would be complete without an old Cornish miner to tell his version of the lead mining story.

Pendarvis State Historic site is located 25 minutes west of Mt. Horeb, off Highway 18-151.



Mt. Horeb's Sesquicentennial Events

May 6 - December 2011

Mt. Horeb Area Museum – Fridays & Saturdays, 10 – 4 & Sundays 12:30 – 4. Special exhibits – 100 S. Second Street. All new "Mt. Horeb Area Then & Now" book available at the Museum's store.

July 9

Jane Austen "Picnic in the Park" – Heritage Park & Gardens – North Second Street – sponsored by Landmarks Foundation

July 16 – 17

Historical Society antique vehicle exhibit and book sales – In front of the Mt. Horeb Area Museum, 100 S. Second St.

Mt. Horeb's 40th annual Art Fair.

July 17

Village Birthday Party –12-3 at 106 S. Second St. – free cake and ice cream, historical displays, demonstrations and entertainment. This event is geared for seniors and young alike.

Fire Muster – at the firehouse on First Street with historical displays.

September 30

"Quilts of Southwestern Dane County: A Retrospective" – Opening of three-day antique quilt show at the Mt. Horeb Area Museum, 100 S. Second St. 10 – 4.

October 1-2

"Quilts of Southwestern Dane County: A Retrospective" -- Antique quilt show at the Mt. Horeb Area Museum, 100 S. Second St., 10 - 4.

Contemporary and antique quilt show – Community Center – 105 N. Grove St. Mt. Horeb Fall Festival

Pioneer Days – Heritage Park and Gardens, North Second Street – sponsored by Landmarks Foundation

October 9

Special Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society Annual Meeting – Guest speaker, former Mt. Horeb resident Jeff Post, curator of gems and minerals at the Smithsonian Institution. 1 p.m., Mt. Horeb Community Center, 105 N. Grove St.

Mt. Horeb Art Fair Turns 40

The Mt. Horeb area has had a long history of people interested in the arts and has been home to dozens of artists using all sorts of media, both professional and nonprofessional, since the 19th century.

In the early years local works were mostly entered in competitions. The annual Fall Frolic beginning in 1921 had categories for oil and water-color paintings, along with textiles, china

painting and flower arranging. In February 1956, the village played host to the 10th South Central Regional Rural Art and Crafts Exhibition, which was held at the Municipal Building. The show, jointly sponsored by the Dane County Agricultural Extension Office, the Mt. Horeb Chamber of Commerce, the West Dane County Office of Superintendent of Schools and the University of Wisconsin was open to non-professional painters from all over the area that earned less than half of their total income from art or art-related fields.

In 1971, Judy Patenaude, who had just moved with her family to Mt. Horeb, and who had participated in the fledgling Madison Art Fair, visualized a similar event for the village. Unfortunately Mt. Horeb had no central village square to hold an art fair around, but it did have a small plot of grass-covered land

on the corner of Main and North Second streets (today part of the Mt. Horeb Telephone Company building resides there).

Ten exhibitors took part in the first fair, with each paying \$2 for their entry fee. This inaugural event was successful enough to encourage Judy to give it another try. Middle school art

teacher Geri Despins joined forces with Judy. The second year's event also proved successful. Each succeeding year brought more artists and other groups interested in participating. The fair soon filled a large portion of the village's Main Street. Judy and Geri were joined by Verna Spaanem and Ruth Halverson in managing the fair with service groups providing additional volunteers.

Profits from the Art Fair were used to purchase art work each year that was hung in community buildings such as the library and community center. When the show grew large enough, a Mt. Horeb Arts Council was formed in 1981 with Judy as its first president. The council ran the annual fair and also used monies raised to hold workshops, grant scholarships and bring plays, concerts,

and dance groups to Mt. Horeb. The Sons of Norway added their Kaffe Stue to the annual event and the simultaneous running of the Song of Norway in its early years added to the promotion of the fair and the town.

Sometime after 1986 the Art Fair went under the umbrella of the Chamber of Commerce, which still manages the show today.



Son's of Norway Kaffe Stue, 1983. Enjoying Norwegian treats, L-R Melba Huseth, Virginia Landen, Ruby Fink, Orene Vasen, Ann Erickson. (MHAHS Subject File)

The Son's of Norway Kaffe Stue, shown here in 1983, was added to the Art Fair in its fledgling years. (MHAHS Subject File)



An Archivist at Last

Shan Thomas had visited the Society's archive for several years conducting research for Little Norway historic site and organizing the Agnes Dahle Green papers housed there. This past winter, while volunteering with the Green papers, Shan began to realize that the Historical Society was in need of someone to professionally manage the growing collections and handle the increasing public requests. Museum director Laurie Boyden, who was hired to manage the volunteers and take over operations of the museum, had found herself pulled more and more into handling archives requests, which inhibited her work at the Museum.



Archivist - Shan Thomas

In February Shan approached Society President Brian Bigler with an offer too good to refuse. She would not only volunteer to handle the archive requests, but would also organize the entire collection and make it more userfriendly. Shan came with great credentials, a master's in archival work and as a retired head archivist from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

Some of the first items to come to the Historical Society immediately after its founding in 1975 were archival related. For 36 years these collections grew into the tens of thousands. From the beginning these materials were sorted into subjects, some filled file cabinets, others filled acid-free boxes, and still others were filed flat on shelves. As the collections rapidly grew this process became more difficult to manage and even more problematic to access for last-minute walk-in requests. Add to this the process of

getting the material into the Historical Society's database and the fact that no volunteers were familiar with the archival process.

Shan has already begun the massive reorganizing of the collections and along the way she is creating a directory of the archive holdings and is determining record groups. She will also create a standard finding guide that will greatly increase public access. In March the board approved a \$2,000 allotment for acid-free materials and additional shelving to keep the project moving forward. If you have interest in financially sponsoring this project contact the Museum office at 608-437-6486, or send a donation to Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society Archive Project at the address on your newsletter.

What is in the Society's Archive?

"If it happened in southwestern Dane County, especially in the last 36 years, we probably have record of it," said Society President Brian Bigler. "For its entire existence the Historical Society has placed priority on seeking out the everyday and hard-to-find materials that best represent the area's vast historical experience -- materials created by, used by, or that have affected the people and environment of the Mt. Horeb area."

Some of the rare items that reside in the archive are letters and a personally signed book by Robert "Fighting Bob" LaFollette. There are also letters signed by Gen. John J. Pershing and political papers of Congressman H. B. Dahle and Sen. John S. Donald. The Society owns the only known copy in existence of the Mt. Horeb

Grit newspaper published by A.G. Paulson in 1894 and a copy of the April 15, 1865 New York Herald announcing the shooting of President Abraham Lincoln. There is an original ballot used when women first received the right to vote.

The 1881 hand-drawn plats for the new Village of Mt. Horeb are part of an extensive map collection, which also includes Sanborn Fire maps depicting downtown Mt. Horeb residences from 1880 to 1924. There are tax records from area townships dating back to the 19th century and the first handwritten notes of the baptisms held at the original Mt. Horeb Methodist Church.

The collection also contains numerous school and business records, trade catalogs, phone books and an extensive holding of military service records and related newspaper clippings. There are organizational records

dating back to the 19th century including such groups as Modern Woodmen, Masonic Lodge and the Blue Mounds Fire Insurance Company. There are also materials supporting local and national causes, from the Friends of our Native Landscape to Women's Suffrage.

In addition there are movie posters used at the Strand Theater of Mt. Horeb from the 1940s to the 1960s. Broadsides announcing gatherings at the Mt. Horeb Opera House, Fall Frolic, Summer Frolic, sporting events and many others are also preserved.

There are locally published and unpublished books, genealogies, township and church histories and some rare books dating as far back as 1700.

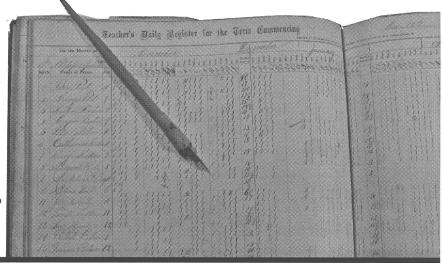
Photographs in the holdings number around 25,000 and contain images as early as 1850. There are Civil War portraits, including Ulysses S. Grant and Old Abe the War Eagle, and exterior views that date to 1874. In addition, the Society holds the individual collections of several area photographers including Blue Mounds photographer Albert Thorhaug and Mt. Horeb photographers Alva Webber and Cyril Burns. There are photographs of area farms and business places, of visits by distinguished visitors such as President William McKinley, Crown Prince Olay and John F. Kennedy, and everyday folks who have resided in southwestern Dane County since its founding to the present.

Annually Society volunteers work hard at collecting the everyday materials that are still being produced, such as posters, announcements, photos, political pamphlets, church bulletins and the like to ensure that no piece of local history is overlooked. If you want to become involved in these efforts contact the museum office at 608-437-6486.

A large collection of area school records dating back to the 1860s tells the story of rural and village education



Above - Numerous military records are housed in the archive, including some in this personal collection of William Keithley mortally wounded in WWII

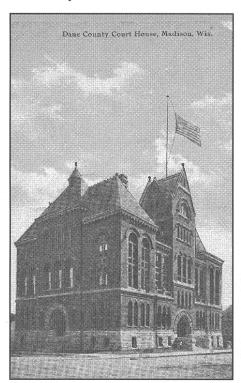


Dane County at 175

At the first Wisconsin Territorial legislative meeting held in 1836 the borders of Dane County were carved out of the wilderness. The same legislature voted to establish the capital of the territory. Territorial Judge James Doty named the capital city of Madison in honor of the nation's fourth president, and named the county after Nathan Dane of Massachusetts. Dane was the chairman of the committee that drew up the ordinance of 1787 for the government of the Northwest Territory. 2011 marks the 175th year since the county's naming.

Nathan Dane's Northwest ordinance of 1787 mandated that Thomas Jefferson's goal – that democratic government and institutions accompany settlers as they populated the west – would be implemented in the new territory, and that territorial government would be republican in form. The ordinance provided the authority for territories to be self-governing, while at the same time extending a commitment to the protection of personal and property rights of adult males. It also established the means for the territories to become states, equal in status to the original members of the union.

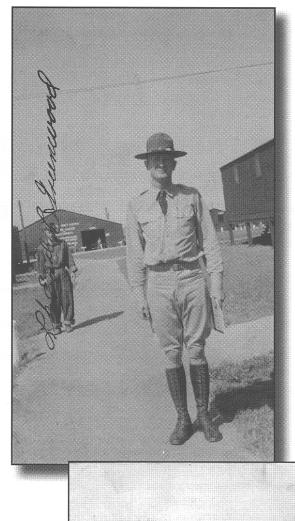
The ordinance's Third Article described "religious freedom, morality, and knowledge" as the underpinnings of good government and stipulated that "schools and the means of education forever be encouraged." It also included a Bill of Rights for territorial citizens, four years before the federal Bill of Rights became part of the U.S. Constitution. Slavery and involuntary servitude would be forbidden.

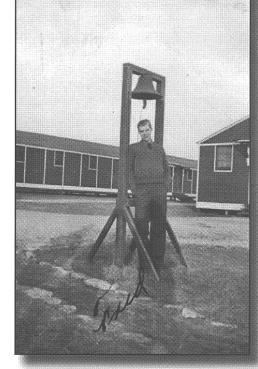


Old Dane County Court House Madison (MHAHS Subject File)

Numerous events are planned for the County's year-long anniversary. These events are listed at www.danecounty175.org

A chair used by Cornelius A. Sorenson in the early years at the old Dane County Court House is on display at the Mt. Horeb Area Museum.





Above - Images from the Mount Horeb Civilian Conservation Corps collection, housed in the Society Archive.

Holy Redeemer Celebrates 150 Years

2011 marks the 150th anniversary of the construction of a house of worship for a group of determined German Catholic immigrants of southwestern Dane County.

In 1846 a widowed German woman, whose name has been lost to history, accompanied by her three sons Anton, John and Hubert Keller, and a man named Henry Schneider located on section No. 3 of what, in 1854, would become Perry Township. Shortly after their arrival Anton and John went to California, presumably in quest of gold. Hubert and Mr. Schneider were left to tend the farm. The boys' mother left to live in Dubuque, lowa, but returned in 1850 bringing along John Meirgler, a Yankee, and his family. Anton and John Keller returned in 1851.

From 1853 to 1855 quite a number of immigrants arrived from Germany and clustered their newly established farms in the northeast section of Perry Township. Being of strong faith these early settlers would travel the 15-20 mile trip on foot or by ox team to the nearest Catholic church at Pine Bluff. The first official service of the community was a Mass held by the Rev. L. Conrad at the home of John Keller in 1855.

In April 1859 panic struck the German settlement when Caroline Keller, the wife of Simon Keller, became critically ill and in need of a priest. Vincent Holtz walked 26 miles to Madison where he called on Father Michael Haider. Father Haider arrived in time to administer the last sacraments, with Mrs. Keller dying shortly after the priest left. A rough wooden box was created for Caroline's remains, placed on a lumber wagon and hauled by ox team to Madison where she was buried.

This incident alarmed the German settlement. Father Haider was again sought out for advice and he suggested the group contact a pastor at Cross Plains who would serve the group occasionally. He further advised them to build a little church as soon as they felt able. In 1860 Michael Goebel and Frank Fix offered a combined total of 11 acres in section No. 10 for the purpose of a church building and burial grounds. Community members quarried and hauled stones and acted as assistant masons in the construction of the building. The congregants also raised money through

subscription. The building was dedicated by Bishop Henni in 1861, and this is the milestone the congregation, today known as Holy Redeemer, is celebrating in 2011.

This small stone church, with a wooden bell tower added in 1879, served the congregation for 52 years. Already in 1913, Father Theodore Rohner suggested that Father A.A. Malloy of St. Louis, Mo., call upon the parishioners and advise them to think seriously about building a new church for the growing congregation. Rev. Rohner's insistence led to a special meeting on March 28, 1915 when the congregation voted to build. During the winter of 1915-1916 parishioners using horses and bobsleds hauled the red brick for the new church to Perry from Mount Horeb. Again, the parishioners did much of the work on the new building themselves. This building, with its commanding hilltop location, still serves the congregation today.

To celebrate this anniversary parishioners are hosting a special reception at Holy Redeemer on Aug. 7 at 2 p.m. The reception will offer good food and conversation and a chance to meet former priests who served the community. The Diocesan choir will also perform and a new church history is in the making. To see and read more history on Holy Redeemer visit the Mt. Horeb Area Museum.



First Holy Redeemer Church (MHAHS Subject File)

Dane County Fair Marks 160 Years

Many local children and their parents look forward with great anticipation to the annual Dane County Fair held in July. Older adults look back with fond memories at the time spent showing their animals, and having their entries of foods, gardening, sewing, woodworking, crops, conservation, photography and the like exhibited and judged. Still others remember the long days spent at the fair socializing while grooming their animals, participating in the midway rides or viewing the many commercial exhibits. Still others enjoyed the awards program combined with musical entertainment held at the end of the fair.

Some longtime residents of southwestern Dane County have watched the fair grow from a grouping of Quonset huts and wooden buildings to an Exposition Center with large arenas and exhibit halls. However, most do not realize that the fair was not always located at what is today the Alliant Energy Center complex. Further, the fair did not start out as a place for local 4-H and FFA organizations to exhibit their work.

The Dane County Fair actually had its humble start 160 years ago. In 1851 the Dane County Agricultural Society came into existence. That October, at a site near the Yahara River in Madison, the group held the first Dane County Fair, a one-day event that took place on a Wednesday. In 1856 and 1860 the fair was held first at a location on Wisconsin Avenue and then at what is now Camp Randall. With the start of the Civil War in 1861 and for 10 years following fairs of all kinds were put on hold. The Camp Randall site where the fair had last been held became a military training site.

In September 1871, the Dane County Fair was once again held at Camp Randall and became one of the ways the community celebrated the end of the Civil War. The fair that year was a success; however, lean years followed with subsequent fairs operating in the red. Prizes and premiums ranged from 25 cents to \$5; admission was 15 cents for youngsters and 50 cents for adults.

In 1896 the Agricultural Society began looking for a new site that could be used specifically for the fair. They purchased 250 acres at what is the present site of the Alliant Energy Center (formerly the Dane County Expo Center). Known then as "Lakeside Park Farm," the land was thought by some to be worthless swampland.

From 1900 through 1938 the financial status of the fair was precarious and fairs were held irregularly. The Agricultural Society tried to stay alive by selling off parcels of the original 250-acre site.

In 1940 the Dane County Fair Association replaced the

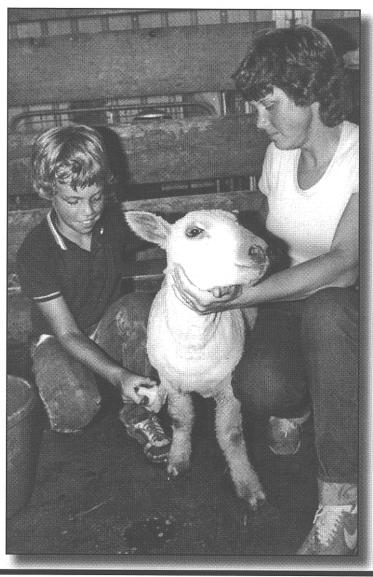
Agricultural Society and moved the fair to Stoughton, where it was for 10 years. During all this time the County Board did not abandon the County Fairgrounds site at Madison.

In 1946 the Dane County Fair Association was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) Education Foundation for the purpose of producing an annual county fair. In 1951 the Dane County Fair once again returned to its present site, where in 2001 the fair celebrated its 150th birthday.

Dane County Fair entry tickets (MHAHS Archive)

Mother and son team at the Dane County Fair 1983 (MHAHS Subject File)





Financial woes through the years have prompted the expansion of the use of the fair site into a multiuse complex, first with the Dane County Expo Center, followed by Alliant Energy Center. The fairgrounds now play host to expositions, trade shows and events year round, including the annual World Dairy Expo. However, every July the grounds are still thronged with thousands of area children and adults eager and ready to once again have their fair entries put to the test.

Dane County Fair program 1933 (MHAHS Archive)

Ribbon from when the Dane
County Fair was held at Stough-

Fifteen year old Donald Julson, Springdale 4-H member, with his registered Brown Swiss in 1942 (MHAHS Archive)

ton, 1940 (MHAHS Archive)



Sec. 562, P. L. & R. Rural Route Box Holder Dane County Fair and Capitol Exposition FEERLANDERSER Exhibits accepted from Dane County Residents only FOUR DAYS-FOUR NIGHTS August 24, 25, 26, 27, 1933 Admission, Adults 25c Children Under Ten Free No Charge for Cars or Parking Get Season Tickets with Dane County Fair Scrip for \$1.00 FOUR CONTRACTOR IS Madison, Wisconsin *************

Generations Of Memories The Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society	New Renewal Membership Membership
Individual Household	E-Mail Individual Lifetime
Society Membership Levels \$15.00 \$25.00 Benefactor Building Fund Donation	Membership \$250.00 Mail to:
All contributions to the Society are tax-deductible.	Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society 138 East Main St. Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

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Archives Hours:

2nd & 4th Wednesday each month 12:30 – 3:00 3rd floor of the Municipal Building 138 E. Main St. Mt. Horeb WI 608-437-6486

museum Hours:



Book Sales Will Take to the Street

Society volunteers will be selling the new "Mt. Horeb Area Then & Now" book and other past Society publications in front of the museum on South Second Street on July 16 and 17 during Mt. Horeb's Art Fair weekend and during Mt. Horeb's Birthday Party on July 17. Also on display will be an 1890s pony wagon recently restored by Louis Roedell of rural Blue Mounds Township.

You can also pick up books at the museum during regular hours on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. The "Then & Now" book is also available at Prairie Book Shop on the corner of Main and Second streets.