



**We celebrated "Syttende Mai" at May's Historic Handicrafts.**

## Children's Programming: Outreach that Benefits Everyone

By Curator Johnna Buysse

One of MHAHS's top educational priorities is to further develop our family programming with the ultimate goal of making local history fun and more accessible to children and their parents.

Thanks to years of devotion by staff, volunteers, members and donors, the Society has an almost-overwhelming basis from which to attain this goal—an extremely comprehensive and lovingly tended museum, as well as an extensive artifact and archival collection that is well documented and carefully monitored, not to mention the incredibly rich and fascinating history of the Mount Horeb area itself.

Are we biased? Well, yes, of course we are. But few communities have the historic resources that we have at our disposal to entice young people into the world of local history. The Society feels strongly that educa-

tion is not only a critical part of our mission, but also a commitment we have made to the community.

Earlier this year we introduced *Historic Handicrafts @ the Museum*, a seasoned-themed craft event for families held on the second Tuesday of each month. With relevant Society artifacts and documents as teaching resources, Society educators and volunteers provide historical context and guidance to children and parents about our local history. After our first couple months, we added a similarly themed scavenger hunt to encourage exploration of the museum. Some of our themes included St. Patrick's Day, when we looked at several early artifacts from an Irish immigrant family in the area; we made three-dimensional family trees for Arbor Day in April; May brought us to the celebration of Syttende Mai, or Norwegian Constitution Day; we made ice cream for Wisconsin Dairy Month in June; and the warmer weather in July prompted us to examine the secret language of Victorian-era fans, of which we have several beautiful examples in our collection that we were able to share with participants. (Cont. on page 5)

## MEET OUR CURATOR!

My name is Johnna Buysse. In February of this year, I was hired as the Society's half-time Curator of Collections and Education. Though I have met and worked with some of you in recent months, I would like to officially introduce myself.

I grew up in Kalamazoo, Michigan and earned my B.A. from the University of Michigan and M.S. from the University of Sheffield in England. I specialized in prehistoric and historic archaeology and worked primarily in California, which is where I met my husband, Thomas. When our son Nicolas was young we decided that the Midwest was a better place for us to be—family, seasons, and all of the other things one thinks about when raising a child. Thomas works at Epic as a systems engineer, and we consider ourselves lucky to call Mount Horeb home.

I have loved anything history-related since I was 12 years old. I'm a pretty big sports fan, especially college sports. I also love to read, and I have aspirations of getting back to my stained glass hobby one of these days.

I served on the MHAHS Board for over two years before being hired as Curator. This experience has given me an invaluable understanding of many facets of the Society. Thus far, I have found my position both challenging and rewarding, and I am excited to have an active role in helping the organization meet its goals in the years to come.



## A Lucky Find! But What's Found in Donald Park, Stays in Donald Park.

By Donna Thomas

*[A longer version of this article and the accompanying photo were originally published in the Fall/Winter 2014 edition of "Park Views," a publication of the Friends of Donald Park, and is reprinted here with permission of the author.]*

Our grandson Mac had an especially lucky tenth birthday this May. We celebrated with a hike at Donald Park.

On that spring day, the field adjacent to Pop's Knoll wasn't yet planted. Knowing that arrowheads can be found in the bare soil of unplanted fields, we cut through a corner of the field, keeping our eyes open.

Suddenly, an odd shape jutting out from the ground caught Mac's eye – a hunk of rusty iron. Mac gave a pull and out came a large, very rusty horseshoe! It probably had resided there for at least 75 years, possibly longer, since the day a large draft horse pulled it loose and lost it while working the field.

While viewing this treasure with great excitement, we

all wondered...was the horse that lost the shoe from the Rockview Farm, opposite what is now Pop's Knoll? Was the farmer forced to cut field work short and take the animal to the blacksmith in Mount Vernon to get a new shoe, thereby losing precious time in the field?



McKade Thomas and Johnna Buysse.

Our grandson's dad is a farmer, so he knows all too well what it means to have to stop and make repairs during field work. Mac was eager to keep this treasure. I told him he could do so until I learned how such things are handled.

I then consulted with Matt Marty, the Friends expert in park archaeology. Matt's reply, "What's found in Donald Park, stays in Donald Park."

Mac was disappointed but is proud that he discovered a neat artifact related to park history.

On a too cold November day, Mac met Johnna Buysse, the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society's archaeological curator, at Pop's Knoll, to show her where he found the horseshoe. It now resides with MHAHS, which is archiving all Donald Park artifacts.

## MHAHS Seeks Remnant Sale Donations

MHAHS is seeking donations to augment a planned fall Estate Remnant Sale. **Take this opportunity to downsize for a good cause!**

The types of items sought include quality household goods, antiques, collectibles, small appliances, artwork, books, small pieces of furniture, jewelry and linens. The Society will not accept the following: children's equipment or modern toys, computers, monitors, printers, etc, televisions, clothing (unless vintage), mattresses or exercise equipment.

Held periodically, these popular sales take place in the alley behind the Mount Horeb Area Museum on 100 South Second Street. All proceeds from the sale will be earmarked for future care and preservation of the 25,000+ artifacts held by the Society.

A sale is tentatively planned for Saturday, Oct. 3, 8a.m. to 4p.m. (the weekend of Mount Horeb's Annual Fall Heritage Festival), but it may be postponed to a later date if sufficient donations are not secured for a meaningful event.

Of course, items with a significant connection to the history of the Mount Horeb area should be brought to the Society's attention as possible additions to its permanent collection.

Pick-up of donations is possible if arrangements are made in advance. Call the Museum at 608-437-6486 or email [mthorebhistory@mhtc.net](mailto:mthorebhistory@mhtc.net) for updates or other information.



# Heritage Center UPDATE

“So...what’s going on with the new museum?”

That is a question that Society Board members, volunteers and staff hear. A lot. And we totally understand.

For those who are not working with this exciting project every day, it might seem like not much is going on. But we promise that meaningful progress is being made.

Recent developments include a spring series of community listening sessions. Between February and May, the Society hosted six such sessions across Southwestern Dane County, including stops in Mount Horeb,

Blue Mounds, Perry, Pine Bluff, Vermont and Springdale.

Although overall turnout was modest, much valuable feedback was collected that helped us grasp how people outside the organization view the Society and what they hope the new facility will accomplish.

In addition, Museum Consultant Peter Dajevskis of experienced public history firm *Interpretive Solutions* (which has worked with Harpers Ferry Historic Site and American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia, among many others across the country) was contracted to evaluate the Heritage Center project from the perspectives of both a longtime museum professional and a heritage tourism expert.

After intensive meetings with Society staff, Board members and key volunteers, Peter reported his recommendations. Major points included a need to adjust the existing plans and construction methods to reflect museum standards and the best-possible traffic flow patterns, while keeping in mind the capabilities of a limited staff. Peter also urged a close evaluation of the new facility’s climate control – the most crucial, and most expensive, element of a building intended to warehouse invaluable artifacts.

Based on the information gathered at the community listening sessions and the direction provided by Mr. Dajevskis, the Society then set about crafting an updated list of “needs” and secondary “wants” – a list that looks very different than it did just a year ago due in part to staff additions and the resulting increased capabilities for educational programming, expanded museum hours and public access for researchers and academics.

This list includes the functions and spaces the project has touted since the beginning: climate-controlled artifact and archival storage, public research room and library, work space for volunteers and staff, comfortable and attractive room for public programs and use by community groups, and an income-generating museum store.



**Museum Consultant Peter Dajevskis gave us lots to think about.**

But vital shifts in square footage allotments, room adjacencies and construction details have emerged that better fit our current needs, our goal of community service, and the economic realities of ongoing operational expenses.

The Board of Directors unanimously approved the finalized architectural program in July, and officially re-engaged our architect, Mount Horeb native Bruce Roth, just a few weeks ago to amend our previous plans with our updated needs.

In short, although it pushed actual construction down the road a bit, the Society feels confident that we are taking the right steps to ensure we are building the best facility we possibly can within a realistic budget – a facility that honors the time and knowledge contributed by decades of Society volunteers, that respects the investments of many generous donors, and that contributes an enticing visitor destination to the Village and region.

More details to come soon, with a Mount Horeb public information session in the works to spread the news about the significant strides the Society is making toward an honest-to-goodness, bricks-and-mortar Heritage Center reality. Can’t wait? Call 608-437-6486. Let’s talk!

**MOUNT HOREB AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**Heritage Center Project**  
**COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS**

We want to hear from YOU!  
What do YOU want the Heritage Center to be?  
We want to hear all about it at these low-key, group discussion meetings.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Tuesday, Feb 24	7 p.m.	Mount Horeb Community / Senior Center (107 N. Grove St., Mount Horeb, WI)
Tuesday, March 10	7 p.m.	Blue Mounds Village Hall (11011 Englewood Ave., Blue Mounds, WI)
Tuesday, March 24	7 p.m.	Perry Town Hall (10084 County Hwy A, Mount Horeb, WI)
Tuesday, April 7	7 p.m.	Cross Plains / Pine Bluff Community Center (3734 County Road F, Cross Plains, WI)
Tuesday, April 21	7 p.m.	Vermont Lutheran Church (9846 Vermont Church Rd., Black Earth, WI)
Tuesday, May 12	7 p.m.	Springdale Town Hall (2179 Town Hall Rd., Mount Horeb, WI)

All are welcome to attend one or all of these sessions. Help us get this project right from the start!

For more information, Call (608) 437-6486 OR Email [mthshistory@mthsc.net](mailto:mthshistory@mthsc.net)

## LITTLE NORWAY NEWS

### Norway Building History Is Annual Meeting Topic

In 1992 Brian Bigler was asked by Little Norway owner Scott Winner to research and write the history of the Norway Building for its 100th anniversary in America. The result was a comprehensive history of the building that was published in 1993 in time for a special commemorative event held at Little Norway. (*The Norway Building of the 1893 World's Fair: A Building's Journey from Norway to America: An Architectural Legacy*, by Bigler.)

Twenty-two years after it was published in America, the book found new use in Norway as a fundraising tool for relocating the building back to the Norwegian seaport where its journey began 122 years ago.

Brian will regale the audience in a pictorial and informative journey through the building's colorful history, from Norwegian seaport to World's Fair show piece, opulent estate, tourist attraction and return to its homeland.

The program will take place on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 11 at 2pm at the Mount Horeb Community Center on Grove Street in Mount Horeb. [See flier insert for more information.]



### Society Unveils New Exhibit at Mount Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce

An exhibit featuring the Norway Building is now on display at the Mount Horeb Chamber of Commerce Welcome Center. The artifacts and archival materials in



Historic postcard, permanent collection MHAHS.

the display feature the many ways the Norway Building from the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 has been used in promotion, publications and art. The pieces are a sampling of items collected by the Historical Society over the past 40 years and include objects recently donated by Scott and Jennifer Winner, Little Norway's owners.

Items on display include an original shingle from the building with a laser art rendering, rosemailed plates, a needlework likeness, 1890s souvenir books, Little Norway promotional pieces, early ticket stubs, and a water color painting.

To see it in person, stop by the Chamber Welcome Center, Mon-Fri, 9a.m.—4p.m., Sat and Sun, 10a.m.—1p.m.

### Final Little Norway Items Added to Permanent Collection

The Society thanks Scott Winner, for graciously providing a truck and assistance in bringing the MHAHS acquisitions still remaining at Little Norway into Mount Horeb. The items were delivered on June 10, and are in the process of being documented and entered into MHAHS's collections database. All of the recent artifacts have important ties to the area and to the operations of long-time treasured attraction, Little Norway.

Among the additions are a Dahle family bedroom suite that greeted generations of visitors in the first building at the former museum - and where famous violin player Ole Bull once slept. A rare and early Norwegian wagon, a cupboard made by internationally researched carpenter and immigrant Aslak O. Lie, and objects created exclusively for Little Norway in the 1920s round out the invaluable additions.

## The Mount Horeb Area Historical Society

**MH Primary Center students deliver-and-dash their May Day baskets.**



**CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING (cont. from front page)** We had 15 children and adults join us for our first *Historic Handicrafts*, with attendance gradually increasing as the word of the monthly event spread. We have seen several repeat visitors looking forward to the new craft and particularly the scavenger hunt. At the Museum, we can now say, "go look in the Montrose Store exhibit" and the children know exactly where to look. In addition, several of our new volunteers in the archives initially approached us through the *Handicrafts* events.

Meetings with local educators have led us to think of new ways in which the Society can collaborate with teachers at the classroom level. In mid-April, Society staff and volunteers visited first- and second-graders at the Mount Horeb Primary Center to present a short May Day history lesson and guide the children through a basket-making activity. On May 1, the classrooms enjoyed a stroll through the nearby neighborhood as they "secretly" delivered the baskets to neighbors' doorsteps, bringing back lovely memories of past May Days for more than a few residents.

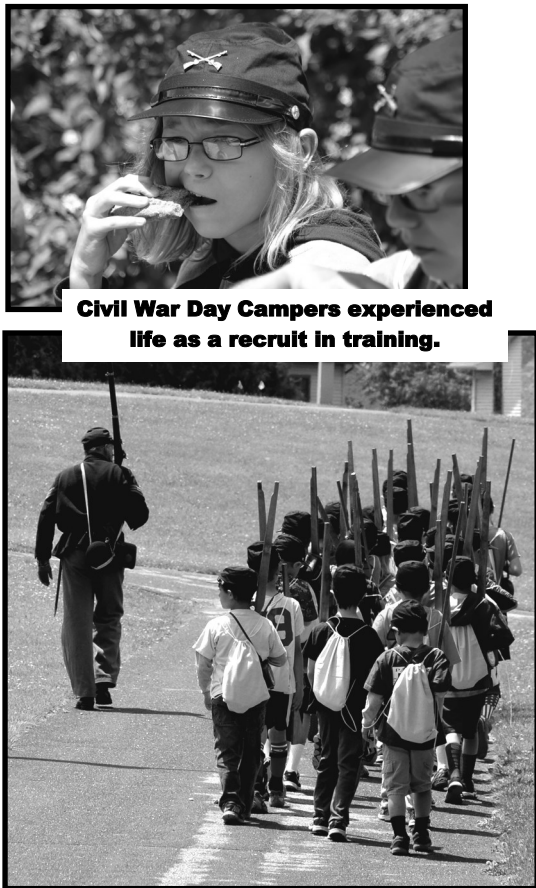
With 2015 marking the 150-year anniversary of the close of the Civil War, the Society decided to host a Civil War Day Camp at Grundahl Park in early June. We had a full roster of 30 children, ages 8 to 12—and, unfortunately, even had to turn away several interested families after reaching maximum capacity. With the help of professional educators and a number of wonderful volunteers, kids learned that life in a Civil War camp was not fun and games, that sending messages through signal flags was a rather complicated business, and that hard tack and beef jerky make for a pretty jaw-wrenching meal. To frame their experience in a local context, the kids were each assigned a real-life soldier from the Mount Horeb area; at the close of camp, we discussed their enlistment and shared their fate (whether they survived or perished).

Our goal was to provide the children a meaningful introduction to the Civil War and to encourage serious study about a very turbulent and important era in our nation's history. Based on the wonderful feedback we had from parents, stories of continued discussion for weeks afterward, and questions as to when we will provide the camp again, we feel the event was a success.

Our most recent child-oriented programming endeavor was *Dig Into History: Teaching Kids about Archaeology*, an event we hosted on the Society's lot at the corner of South Second and Front streets on the Saturday of the always-popular Mount Horeb Art Fair. We provided archaeology "sites" (artifacts planted in boxes of sand) and children were tasked with uncovering the artifacts, documenting what they found, and interpreting who might have left the artifacts. The Friends of Donald Park provided an information station that explained the archaeological work that was conducted at Donald Park, and Gary Eldred, a talented flint knapper, demonstrated the manufacture of flaked stone tools.

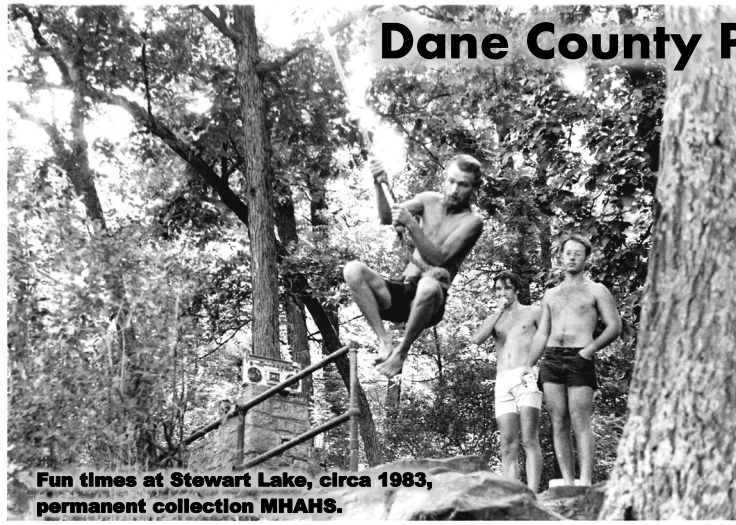
In addition to continued development of adult events, the Society intends to emphasize dynamic and intellectually stimulating children's programs. And we want your input; we welcome your ideas on ways we can further encourage families to become involved in preserving and understanding the history of our community.

**Civil War Day Campers experienced life as a recruit in training.**



**Art Fair Archaeologists used artifact clues to think about history.**





Fun times at Stewart Lake, circa 1983, permanent collection MHAHS.

## Dane County Parks Celebrate 80 Years!

brate its 80th anniversary with a fundraising event benefiting the Friends of Dane County Parks Endowment. The public is invited to this free gala event.

As the first county park, Stewart Park will be featured in a presentation by Bill Lunney, Chair of the Endowment. The history of the park dating back to 1912 will be discussed along with the role Mount Horeb citizens have played in its development. For many decades Stewart Lake was the only dammed lake in the County and became a model for many others. Current and future plans for the park will also be presented.

The Stewart Park presentation is a collaboration between Dane County Parks Endowment Committee and the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society. Society Curator Johanna Buysse shared MHAHS archival materials, including scores of old photos, land documents, and diaries and oral histories dating back to 1912. Some of this impressive collection will be on display at the celebration. The role of the 1930s Civil Conservation Corps and Stewart Camp will also be highlighted in Lunney's presentation.

The Mount Horeb community is invited to join the celebration, which includes food and music, and a 6p.m. presentation.

**Happy Birthday, Stewart Park!** In 1935, Dane County created its first park...Stewart Lake County Park. From the small beginnings of one park, began a legacy; the Dane County Park System now includes more than 12,000 acres of land, 25 recreation parks, 29 natural resource areas, wildlife areas, cultural and historic sites, forests, trails, including the Lussier Family Heritage Center.

**On Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2015 from 5p.m.-7p.m. at Lussier Family Heritage Center (3101 Lake Farm Rd., Madison),** Dane County Parks will proudly commemorate and cele-

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Meet Sandra Roth!

**Write your own Society "job description."** Welcome visitors, encourage them to go through the Museum, attempt to answer questions about our Museum and our Village, tend to gift shop.

**What is your favorite part of volunteering?** Meeting people from all over the U.S.A. and promoting what our Village has to offer. Sharing our history!

**Who or what got you interested?** Actually, I intended to volunteer years ago—prompted by my son [Bruce Roth, the Society's Heritage Center project architect], this is the year!

**Tell us about your family.** My maternal great-grandparents owned a 200 acre farm on the west side of town, which, eventually, was platted for homes, as well as businesses. Many of these buildings still exist today. My husband and I raised our children here.

**Tell us about your educational/vocational background.** I attended Mount Horeb schools and UW White-water. Starting from the ground up, I became the financial assistant for a growing chiropractic healthcare facility in Madison.

**Why is the Mount Horeb area the best place on Earth?** Simply put - it is home!





# The Mount Horeb Area Historical Society

## Time to Renew Your Membership?

We want to keep you up-to-date on MHAHS information, events and activities. To help us do so, please consider renewing your annual membership. Your renewal will ensure that you continue receiving the *Mt. Horeb Past Times* newsletter with all the information for the year, in addition to fascinating articles and photos of the area's history. A membership form can be found at the bottom of this page. Please fill it out and send it along with your payment.

If you are or were previously a member, your most current membership year is printed on the mailing label on the back page of the newsletter. Please check to see if you are an up-to-date 2015 Member. If not, your membership is due.

Additional donations can also be made on the form to the much needed Museum/Society Operations and Building funds.

Your continued support of the Society allows us to collect and preserve the history of Southwestern Dane County.

## 2015 Membership & Contributor CORRECTIONS & ADDITIONS

The following valued folks were victims of either typographical errors or acknowledgement oversights in association with our February 2015 newsletter.

We sincerely apologize for these errors, and would like to reiterate our appreciation for the support provided by our generous donors and members.

### MEMBERS NOT LISTED

Russel Amacher  
Lonna Arneson  
Janet Besadny  
Ryan Besadny  
Carolyn Bierman  
Suzanne Birrenkott  
Lynn Burns  
Alan Colvin  
Susan Daley  
Robert & Arlene Finley  
Don & Katie Gordon  
Finn Gunderson  
Ruth Haglund  
John & Dorothy Helmenstine  
Christine Jensen  
Kae Evenson Johnson  
Phil & Sue Krejci  
Philip Leavenworth  
Michael Losenegger  
Fred Luhman  
Hazel Maloney  
Shirely Martinson  
Rebecca Nelson Selby  
John Pare  
Arlo Paust  
Michael & Heather Pecosky  
Georgia & Ed Post  
John & Karen Ranum

Marie Ruste-Jerred  
Jackie Sale  
Jason Schneeberger  
Arnold H. Schoville  
Jeffrey & Kathleen Schultz  
David Stenseth  
John Stowe & John Terrel  
Marjorie Sutter  
John & Jan Swartz  
Violet Thompson  
Robert Ranum Tollund  
James & Marly Van Camp  
Peter Walton  
Nancy Williamson  
Louann Zibell

### ARTIFACT DONORS NOT RECOGNIZED

Hobson Family  
Vicker Family Trust

### BUILDING FUND DONORS NOT RECOGNIZED

Linda Gerke- in memory of June Underwood, Walter Durtschi, Lois Marty & Louis Roedell

### NAMES SPELLED INCORRECTLY

Carl & Lois Arneson (Member)  
Nina Cheney (Member)  
Teri Vierima (Monetary Donor)



## Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society Membership Form

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to receive a digital newsletter by email. ☐

### Membership Levels (Memberships are effective for the current calendar year.)

☐ \$20 Individual ☐ \$35 Household ☐ \$75 Contributing ☐ \$150 Sustaining ☐ \$500 Patron

Additional Donations to: Operations Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Building Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: MHAHS, P.O. Box 238, Mount Horeb, WI 53572 All contributions are tax deductible.

***We Depend On You! Thank you for your support.***

# Mount Horeb Area Historical Society & Museum

100 S. Second St.  
P.O. Box 238  
Mt. Horeb, WI 53572  
[www.mthorebhistory.org](http://www.mthorebhistory.org)

Celebrating 40 Years of Preservation and Education!  
1975 - 2015

## **ATTENTION MEMBERS:**

If you are or were previously a member, your most current membership year is printed on the mailing label. Please check to see if you are an up-to-date 2015 Member. If not, your membership is due.

We appreciate your renewal and don't want you to miss a single issue of our newsletter or important information about MHAHS events.

## **Mount Horeb Area Historical Society**

### **Board of Directors**

Tony Zalucha-President  
John Swartz-Vice President  
Ashley Green-Secretary  
William Thousand-Treasurer

Andy Burkart  
Marlyn Grinde (*Honorary*)  
Shirley Martin  
Doug Nesheim  
Karla Ott  
Peter Riphahn  
Lee Underwood

### **Operations**

Destinee Udelhoven-Exec Director  
Johnna Buysse-Curator of  
Collections & Education  
Jane Burns-Newsletter Editor

### **Volunteer Curators**

Brian Bigler  
Marlyn Grinde  
Lee Underwood  
Marietta Gribb

**Mount Horeb Area Museum**  
100 South Second Street  
**MHAHS Research Center**  
108 East Main Street  
Mount Horeb, Wisconsin 53572  
(608) 437-6486

## **SPOTLIGHT ON COLLECTIONS: A Young Boy's Dream Car**

Steve Vasen of Mt. Horeb was 11 years old when he built this "race car."

Born on Jan. 31, 1939 at the Buckner Hospital in Mt. Horeb, Steve grew up fascinated by vehicles. At age 3 he made the Madison newspapers after his climb on board a box car operated by the Chicago & North Western Railway as the train was departing the local depot. He also enjoyed rides on Landmark's dray truck and Durtschi's milk delivery vehicle.

In 1950, at age 11, Steve became fascinated cars at Hanley Auto Co. (owned by John Hanley and Eric Furheim). The Hanley team was building a stock car that was to be driven by Robert Gerber. Steve attended the races and decided he needed a car of his own. He built this midget race car, number 73, at the Hanley Auto Co. with the help of Eric and Bob. His love of racing endured into his adult life.

Steve was a volunteer fire fighter in Mt. Horeb for 30 years and was on the committee that started the Mt. Horeb Rescue Squad. As village president for one year he was proud of assisting in getting the library on Grove Street constructed.

Steve died in 1998 leaving his widow, Julianne Vasen, and their two sons, Brad and Blake.

Steve's race car was donated to the Historical Society in the summer of 2015 by his wife.

