

PRESERVATION PRESS

SPRING 2025

Ice Cream + Shawano County = *Dehn's*

While visiting Heritage Park this summer a must do is the Dairy Museum, aka The Oil House, featuring a reset of a Shawano institution for decades – Dehn's Ice Cream Parlor. The popular Main Street "hangout" was the source of thousands of meals, ice cream treats and desserts, and soda fountain concoctions served and teenage romances nourished. The display includes a section of the original counter and stools (emphasis on pink), ice cream parlor/soda fountain fixtures, juke box, photographs and advertising items. Everything, excepting the scents of chocolate and butterscotch sauces, spicy chili and hamburgers on the grill.

Though lacking those alluring aromas it will still inspire memory recall for the thousands of Shawano-reared folks who frequented Dehn's for a date or a work-day lunch break. And, provide newcomers and guests a sense of life on Shawano's Main Street from the 1930s through the early twenty-first century.

Dehn's was started in the late 1930s when Bonduel ice cream manufacturer Henry Dehn purchased the South Main Street property to grow retail sales. He assigned plant employee Marvin Kroenke to operate the facility, which he did wearing his distinctive "soda jerk" cap for over 30 years with wife Dottie and their children along-side.

There were a few House Specialties:

Pigs Dinner: four scoops of ice cream banana-split-style, served in a wooden pig trough. Customers "earned" a button saying "I Ate a Pig's Dinner at Dehn's"

Pyramid: four scoops of ice cream arranged in pyramid fashion

Dehn's Special: three scoops of ice cream in a soda glass with cherries, strawberry and butterscotch toppings, finished with pecans, a cherry and two small wafers stuck into whipped cream on top.



The Oil House/Dairy Museum at Heritage Park includes a replicated display of Dehn's Ice Cream Parlor

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

★ SHAWANO COUNTY ★
Historical Society
BRIDGING THE PAST TO PRESENT



Pie Contest
Craft Vendors
Basket Raffles
Plant Sale

17th Annual
Rhubarb Fest
Saturday, June 21, 2025
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Heritage Park
524 N. Franklin St, Shawano
www.shawanohistory.org
rhubarbfest@shawanohistory.com

Event Sponsors

Tom and Lois Aumann

Free Admission



Live Music
Living History
Family Fun

Swedberg
Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc.
Remembering and Celebrating Life

Raddant
Electric Service

Edward Jones
Jon Aumann, AAMS

Martin
Jewellers
David & Heather Paul

2024 Annual Meeting



JESSE BORLEN, SCHS President and Curator, enumerated the many events, activities and organizational successes of Summer-2024 at Heritage Park; with a caveat. "We have great physical assets in our historical buildings, artifacts and displays. However, to fully maximize value for the community and traveler-guests we need more people assets, i.e. volunteers. SCHS, like most non-profits, struggles with attracting and retaining volunteers. We have opportunities for people with a wide variety interests and skills: docents to lead tours, archiving, building and grounds maintenance, event planning, marketing and community relations are our current needs Come talk to us, we'll review the opportunities."



LANA BUELOW, SCHS Treasurer, provided attending members and guests with a detailed financial report including income/expenses and consolidated balance sheet. She observed that the organization's finances are stable and sufficient to meet current operating obligations. However, accumulated cash reserves are inadequate to support growth and would be threatened by unplanned emergency expenditures.

GUIDING THE SOCIETY

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the Shawano County Historical Society to "enrich people's lives through history".

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Shawano County Historical Society is to "preserve the culture and history of Shawano County by creating a vibrant learning experience and serving as a resource for current and future generations".

★ SHAWANO COUNTY ★
Historical Society
BRIDGING THE PAST TO PRESENT

SHAWANO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2024-25

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is upon us and after the long winter we have had it feels great to be outdoors in the sunshine. This shift in seasons also means that the Historical Society is in full swing preparing for our busy Spring and Summer Seasons. Planning for our 17th Annual Rhubarb Fest, on June 21, has been underway for a few months already and I am very excited for the wonderful event we are planning for your enjoyment. Thanks to the many wonderful volunteers (we are always looking for more), we hope it will be our most successful Rhubarb Fest to date, especially with our members and visitors continued support. This year we will also be open for tours on Saturday's during the summer, which gives you the perfect opportunity to come and explore our collections, learn about Shawano County History, and perhaps pack a picnic lunch to enjoy afterwards. This year we have also launched the "Faces or War" project in the lead up to our Headstones event in September, honoring Vietnam War Era Veterans. Hopefully you will read the article about it in this newsletter and contribute or share with relatives and friends.

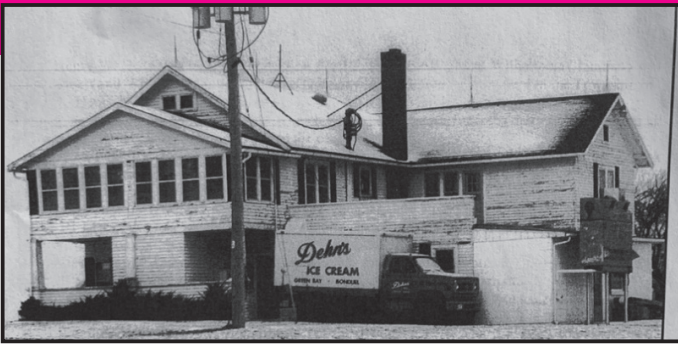
The Historical Society is also beginning to prepare for the 250th Anniversary of the United States in 2026. Throughout the next year you will be hearing more and more about our plans to commemorate this historic occasion and how you as a member/volunteer can participate. In the meantime, I encourage you to check out the America 250 website (www.america250.org) to see what is being planned nationwide. In fact, on April 18th, we will be participating in Two Lights for Tomorrow, by placing two lanterns in the windows of the Old Tabor Church at Heritage Park. This event honors the 250th Anniversary of Paul Revere's Ride, one of the events that signaled the start of the American Revolution. This project encourages people across the U.S. to place two lights (whether lanterns, candles, floodlights, etc.) to honor this moment in history.

I would again like to thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you at one or all of our upcoming events.



JESSE BORLEN

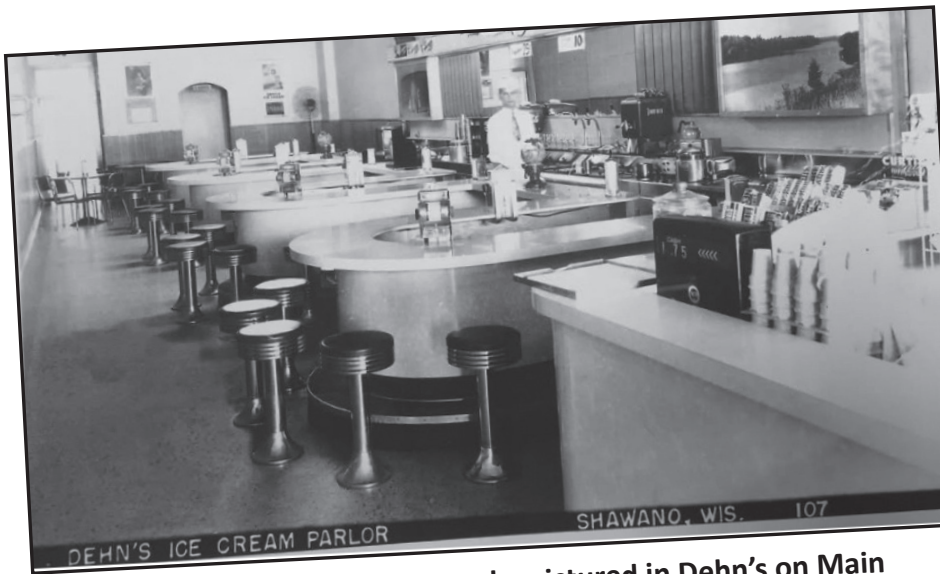
Dehn's (Continued)



Dehn's Ice Cream production facility located on, then, State Highway 29, now County BE

The building, 130 South Main Street, which is plaqued by Shawano County Historical Society's "Historic Properties – Shawano Has History" project subsequently housed Popp's Dinner, Angie's Main Café and Daily Grind. It is currently known as Thornberry Cottage Boutique and Gourmet Café.

Shawano History's plaque marking Dehn's, including references to previous tenants of the location



Long-time operator Marv Kroenke pictured in Dehn's on Main in his ever present "soda jerk" cap.



Dehn's Ice Cream Company

Henry W. Dehn was born and raised on his parents farm in the Township of Hartland, Shawano County. He attended the University of Wisconsin-College of Agriculture earning a degree in Dairy and served one year as college instructor before returning to the Bonduel area in 1915.

After operating a cheese factory near Advance he purchased land on old State Highway 29, now County BE, in 1932 building a cheese factory and later converting the facility to ice cream manufacturing: Dehn's Ice Cream Company. He opened ice cream retail stores in Green Bay, DePere, Shawano and Bonduel finding a niche with a double-dip cone for a nickel. At this time he, his wife and adopted daughter lived above the production facility. After moving to Green Bay in 1950 his plant manager Harvey Heck resided in those quarters above the plant.

Heck and Sylvian Tessier purchased the business in 1976 eventually taking on a third partner Fran Ourada. The business changed focus in response to economic and market conditions, selling the Dehn's home delivery routes to Schwan's. The long running, and company symbol, "tin" container with distinctive "candy-cane" striping was replaced with modern packaging materials requiring updated filling equipment.

Eventually, the small, one-plant operation could not stay viable against the modern mass production facilities in the Midwest and ceased operations. While Dehn's Ice Cream is no longer in the marketplace, it is very likely the recipes have ended up in some manufacturer's inventory.

Henry Dehn passed away in November 1957, aged 61.

Sources:

Bonduel Community Archives and Darlene Heller, Shawano County Historical Society Archives

Bonduel - A Man and a Mission

Fr. Bonduel

The name Bonduel is forever inextricably linked with the development of Shawano County, the Menominee Indian Tribe and Reservation and Christianity of the area.

The Village of Bonduel was incorporated in 1916, but the area has been known as Bonduel since 1864 when a U.S. Post Office was established during the development of a highway connecting Green Bay and Shawano.

But, this article is not about the Village, per se, instead it is about the namesake: Father Florimond Joseph Bonduel. Born in the European country of Belgium, the village of West Flanders, in September 1800, he emigrated to the United States of America in 1831. He ventured to Cincinnati, Ohio to study and prepare to be a missionary to the West at the College of St. Francis Xavier, now known as Xavier University. In February 1834, he became the first Catholic priest to be ordained in the Detroit, Michigan Diocese.

Fr. Bonduel's now life-work as a missionary began on Mackinac Island which then was dominated by Protestants. Here, working among French-Canadian traders and Indians he presumably found an inner soul niche understanding Indian life and the ability to communicate and work with indigenous people. It was here that he learned the Chippewa language, the base language of the "Menomini". Bonduel was also fluent in French, English, German as well as Latin.

In 1837, the Church sent him to Milwaukee to be the first priest to lead a Catholic mass there, doing so in the home of Solomon Juneau, a leading founder of Milwaukee. A year later he received orders to take responsibility for the mission in Green Bay. Here he proceeded to purchase land parcels in his



Father Florimond Joseph Bonduel

own name with the objective of use for the Catholic Church. Some of the land was used for the "College of Green Bay". This institution was short-lived as it was destroyed by fire. Subsequently, in 1898, St. Norbert College was founded.

The year 1846 found Fr. Bonduel traveling on the Mississippi River establishing missions from Prairie du Chein, WI to Stillwater, MN. Then it was back to Northeast Wisconsin, assigned by the Church to the Lake Poygan Mission to serve the Menominee Tribe. His charge from Church hierarchs: ".....civilize them through education and farming of the land..... also to lead them to an acceptance of the Christian faith.....".

Fr. Bonduel's biographers wrote: "..... he found the tribe short of food, short of farm tools, (with) illness brought on by unhealthful conditions. What Bonduel saw brought him to tears.....he wanted

to run away. However, the Indians came to him with their own tears and begged him to stay....."

And, stay he did.....becoming a key player in the establishment of the Menominee's home in Northeast Wisconsin. In 1848, the Menominee Chiefs and federal government agents reached a tentative agreement for the Tribe to sell their Wisconsin holdings and relocate to Minnesota. Upon physically observing the projected Minnesota land site Tribal leaders determined the neighboring state tract was inadequate. Fr. Bonduel joined the Menominee Chiefs and Federal Indian Agents in Washington, D.C. for a meeting with President Millard Fillmore to seek to reverse the decision to relocate the Tribe. The result being another year in Wisconsin with new negotiations on where the Menominees should be "settled".

While certainly there were a lot of back-and-forth discussions regarding Minnesota versus Wisconsin, Fr. Bonduel was now an emotionally committed advocate for the Menominees and for Wisconsin permanence. He traveled to Madison to speak before the Wisconsin State Legislature pleading ".....to allow my Indians to remain on the tract of land set apart by President Fillmore for their home.....". The State Legislature unanimously concurred.

Subsequently, several Northeast Wisconsin counties petitioned the President to allow the Menominees to permanently occupy

The Legend

Fr. Bonduel regularly stopped on the military road in the area of the Shioc River to rest on his travels to and from Green Bay and Keshena Falls. Legend has it that while resting in a crude bark shelter on one of his trips he was attacked by a highway man. Two bears came out of the forest to scare the robber-attacker away. After that, those bears would hang around whenever Fr. Bonduel was in the area to protect him. Thus, the Bears mascot for Bonduel Schools.

Village of
BONDUEL
Rich in Tradition.

Fr. Bonduel is considered the namesake of the Village

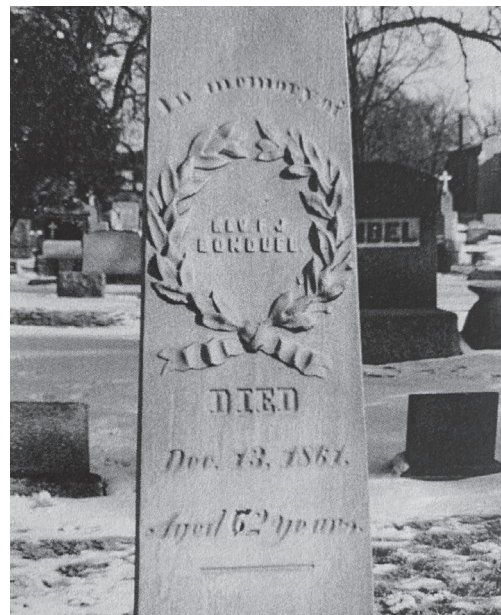
land in Northern Wisconsin near the Wolf, Menominee and Wisconsin rivers “.....where the Indians desire to live.....” After official federal authorization, the Menominees made their move from the Lake Poygan area 60 miles north to Keshena Falls.

The Menominees now had their permanent home. Tribal leaders recognized Fr. Bonduel’s efforts on their behalf, befriending him further, and cooperated with his mission to engender Christianity.

It was Fr. Bonduel’s wish to be named the Apostolic Missionary to the Menominees. After three years of stating his case in Rome the Catholic Church finally approved his request in 1857. His last mission assignment was Green Bay/DePere before passing away in 1861. His remains are interred in the Allouez Cemetery, Brown County.

Sources: (Book) **Florimond J. Bonduel – Missionary to the Wisconsin Territory**, by Malcolm Rosholt and John Britten Gehl; **The History of Bonduel**, by Rheda Monroe; Article on Fr. Bonduel written by Carol Luepke in **The Historian**, a publication of Bonduel Community Archives.

Editor’s note: This article is based on Fr. Bonduel’s biographers perspective of his relationship with the Menominees. There may be some factual variances with the interpretations and recordings of Menominee Tribal history.



Father Bonduel’s remains are buried in Allouez Cemetery, Brown Co

Curator’s Report by Jesse Borlen

FACES OF WAR PROJECT –

Many of you may know that every fall the Shawano County Historical Society partners with the Shawano County Veterans Service Office, AMVETS, Shawano American Legion, Shawano VFW to host a cemetery walk at Woodlawn Cemetery in Shawano called Headstones. Each year we strive to honor veterans from a specific war/conflict and this year

we will be honoring Vietnam War era veterans. In the lead up to Headstones on September 20th, the Historical Society is launching a project called “Faces of War”. The goal of the project is to collect photographs of all Vietnam era veterans in/from Shawano County, whether living or deceased. The photos will then be exhibited inside the chapel at Woodlawn during the cemetery walk and possibly other locations following the program.

To achieve our goal, we need your help. We are asking that if you are a Vietnam era veteran or know of one, that you please get in contact with the Shawano County Historical Society. We are asking for a photograph of the veteran from around the time when they would have served, along with some brief information including dates served, where, and any stories if you would like to share. The historical society does not need originals and has the capability to scan/copy your originals.

With your help we feel that



Private First Class Dennis Siegel, of Marion was serving in Vietnam when he was KIA on February 23, 1968.

we will be able to achieve our goal and preserve your service and story for future generations. We would like to thank you for your service and hope to hear from you soon. You can send any information to our project email shawanofacesofwar@gmail.com or feel free to stop by our archives at **524 N. Franklin St. in Shawano.**

We would also like to share a few of the photographs we have received so far from Phil Nelson and the family of Dennis Siegel.



Staff Sergeant Phil Nelson (right) receiving an army commendation from his commanding officer Kenneth Hall in May, 1968.

Downtown Shawano's Ground Breaking Retailer

What was Upham and Russell

Upham and Russell Company, established in 1858 by Charles M. Upham, grew from a 16X18 foot rough-cut timber shed to over 50,000 square feet of modern retail space at the time of their 50th anniversary celebration in 1908. It was generally regarded as the largest and most successful retailer in Northern Wisconsin. After Charles Upham's death in 1913, his son Robert operated the business until it closed in 1939.

A Montgomery Ward corporate store occupied the building after Upham & Russell closed, followed by Qualheim's True Value and now Cornerstone Chiropractic and Wellness.

Photos printed on these pages were included in Upham & Russell's 50th anniversary souvenir booklet offered to patrons in 1908; clear evidence of the wide variety of quality goods offered by the store.

Who was Mr. Upham

Charles M. Upham was born at Westminister, Massachusetts in September of 1837, one of nine children of Alvin and Sara Upham. His schooling was initiated in Massachusetts and continued in Racine, Wisconsin, though he did not finish high school. He worked as a clerk in Racine, then in Weyauwega, WI.

In 1858, at age 21, he walked the 32 mile Indian Trail from New London to Shawano with his life savings of \$600 (about \$20,000 today) in his pockets. In Shawano he quickly constructed a 16 by 18 foot store, stocking it with some groceries and dry goods with intentions of selling to the lumbering camps. Upham's vision was that Shawano was at a strategic position on the Wolf River with an endless supply of logs going down river to the saw mills at Oshkosh.

His innate skill of reading the developing economy of the area and tireless work habits produced an omnibus business enterprise covering more than 50,000 square feet of retail space. Plus, the start-up of other Shawano businesses including Shawano National Bank (Valley Bank, M&I Bank, BMO), a flour mill, lumbering operations; even investing in the dam built in 1892 giving rise to the paper mill on the Wolf. He also served as Postmaster in 1861 and Mayor in 1875.

He married Julia Parsons of Thompson, IL in 1872. They had two children: Sarah Upham Robinson and Robert Allen Upham. He passed away in November 1913.

His brother William Henry Upham, a lumber entrepreneur in Marshfield, WI, served as Wisconsin Governor 1895-97. Langlade County's Town of Upham is named after William.

(Note: a more complete biography was published in Preservation Press in spring of 2007, compiled by John Mutter)

Who was Mr. Russell

H.C. Russell was a native of Vermont, moving to Wisconsin about 1850. While attending high school in Racine he emphasized bookkeeping studies. He turned this training and skill into a bookkeeping business which he "persecuted" for a few years.

He then acquired a seat on the Chicago Board of Trade which he occupied for two years. Next, he moved to Shawano to join his brother-in-law Charles Upham as "junior" partner in Upham & Russell in 1870. In that capacity he was primarily involved in the firm's logging operations.

Not much is memorialized about Mr. Russell, though we did find a reference in a news story about the store: ".....Mr. Russell was a very fine man....."



Charles M. Upham
Founder of Upham & Russell

Portrait of Charles M. Upham,
founder and long time
owner-operator of
Upham & Russell stores



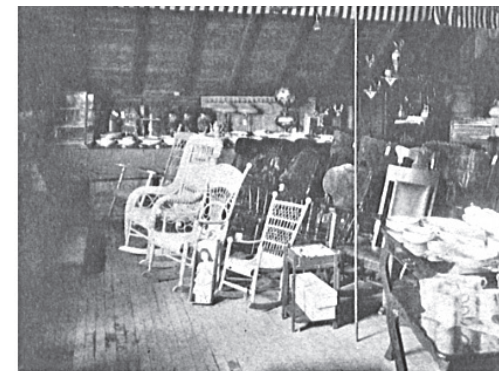
The Old Store ~ 1858

Upham's first store constructed in 1858



Garment Department

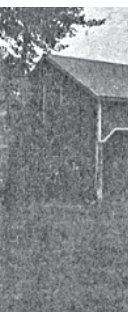
"Room equipped with all the modern conveniences
for display: wax figures, triple mirror
French bevel plate, skirt racks..."



Display in the Premium Department

Upham & Russell was an early adapter of
"trading stamps". This section displayed products
for customers to select from as they earned
stamps with purchases at the store.

"For the convenience of
our farmer patrons"
fashioned after Massachusetts
Meeting House sheds Upham
remembered from his
childhood



858



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Dry Goods Department ~ General Store

This section of the store focused on the female customers with "dress goods, ribbons, fancy goods....."



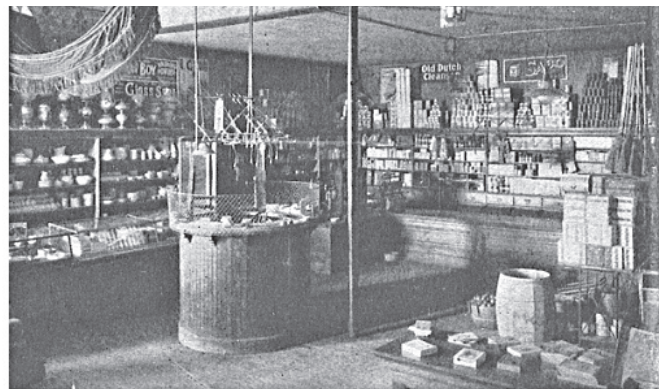
Shoe Department

Offering baby shoes, fine ladies footwear and men's working shoes



The Hub - Clothing and Men's Furnishings

A separate store in the Murdock House offered fine men's furnishings including Hart, Schaffner and Marx



Grocery and China Departments

"Shawano County's Finest Grocery Department" featuring Martha Washington canned goods, coffees, teas and dried fruits"



Carpet, Rug, Wallpaper and Drapery Department

"Many of the handsomest homes in Shawano County bear testimony to the taste of our offerings..... rugs are carried as high as \$40.00"



Hardware Department

Hardware was also in a separate building on the corner of Main and Green Bay Streets: guns, farm implements (McCormick), heaters and stoves, etc.



Farmers' Sheds



Dr. Amy Stuber, Cornerstone Chiropractic and Wellness, currently owns the property and sponsored the plaque commemorating its history

Bringing Life (vida) to Cloverleaf Lakes

La Vida



Club LaVida, situated on Pine Lake, Cloverleaf Lakes

A grand, state of the art, nightclub once graced the terrain overlooking Shawano-Waupaca counties' Cloverleaf Lakes: Club LaVida (translation "Life"). Built in 1933 by Chicago transplant Sam Favia, it succumbed to fire in 1958. It was located on County Highway Y where the (currently closed) Lake Aire Supper Club parking lot sits. (Note: The Lake Aire has had many owners and renditions over the years. It was originally Favia's Supper Club, built and operated by Sam Favia after he sold LaVida.)

From the pages of Clintonville Dairyman-Gazette, July 20, 1933:

Murmuring pine trees and mirror-like lakes, the twin charms of Northern Wisconsin, are to be found in Cloverleaf, whose advantages as a summer resort region have never been duly impressed upon the public mind. Located only seven miles from this city, this local lake region has a charm all its own as is evidenced by the growing number of cottages on the lake banks.

In the midst of these ideal surroundings, there sprang up the past summer a large and beautiful structure, which gives all the advantages of a big city in this summer resort neighborhood – a nightclub.....impressive beauty.....a palatial structure.....mere words cannot fully describe.

The exterior of the building, which is 90 by 100 feet, is of white stucco. The interior has space for 100 tables which will seat 400 people. Beside this is a spacious orchestra shell where a nine-piece band discourses music. The dancing floor will take care of 125 dancing couples. The lighting fixtures and equipment is of the latest design, comparable with only the highest class nightclubs in

the larger cities. The building is equipped with steam running water, shower bath, dressing rooms and modern facilities to house the entertaining troupes. The evening entertainments feature floor shows in which the best talent from the larger cities adds real class to the programs.

The culinary department is by no means the least of the attractions of the Club LaVida. They specialize in chicken and steak dinners which are served during the evening, beginning at six o'clock. A modern tavern is also housed in the building, where the best beer and soft drinks are served.

Perhaps there are two main reasons why the Club LaVida has been able to enjoy capacity houses during this time of – what will we call it – "convalescence" perhaps since "depression" is now looked upon as passe'. One reason is the high character of their programs and the other is the moderate rates. Anyway, the club has been doing a capacity business, being compelled at times to turn away large numbers.

Sam Favia, the owner of the Club LaVida, came to Shawano County four years ago from Chicago. He settled in the Cloverleaf Lake region and dreamed that some day a beautiful nightclub would rise to add further attractions to these ideal and healthful surroundings.

In the building of this club, many people were employed and many firms in nearby towns given substantial orders, all of which was duly appreciated. The patronage comes from places away, which means that it is a valuable asset and a help to every other business in the community.



Allmer Cronce Tavern and Resort was located where the building that has housed various renditions of Lake Aire Supper Club now sits. It was razed and was the site of Favia's Supper Club, across the road from LaVida on County Y

James "Jimmie" Lytell is the capable and affable manager whose duty it is to see that the public is pleased, and judging from comments so far, he has been filling the bill.

Now, really, what has a big city to offer in the way of attractions comparable to this part of the state? We have paved roads. Streetcars are out of date. Our hotel facilities are the best. And then to crown all these, we can get in a car and in a few minutes we are in Nature's woods and lakes that draw tens of thousands of people to Northern Wisconsin. And now a new and beautiful nightclub has been added to the attractions which draw more people here. Really, who would want to live anywhere else, anyway?

From the Clintonville Tribune Gazette, January 2, 1958:

The new year ushered in a catastrophe Wednesday morning when a roaring fire, fanned by 12 mile an hour winds, ravaged Club LaVida, about nine miles northeast of Clintonville on County Trunk Y in Shawano County.

Bill Brennan, proprietor of the club, estimated the loss at about \$75,000. He said Thursday morning he discovered that the basement of the structure was "in pretty good shape". Brennan said talks with insurance adjusters were scheduled and until then he would have no accurate idea of how completely the loss was covered by insurance. "If we do decide to rebuild it will be on the

present foundation. However, it will be smaller, because we won't have enough money to build the size of building that burned."

Brennan said he locked up the club at about 3:00 a.m. Wednesday morning, after which he drove to Chilton to spend New Year's Day with his wife and family.

At 4:30 a.m. Sam Favia, owner of Favia's Supper Club across the road from Club LaVida, was awakened by four youths pounding of the door. They were Dale Dallman, Tim Rouse, Wayne Bartz and Ken Rosenow. (Note: Ken, now deceased, was the husband of long time SCHS Board member Marcalene Rosenow.) They told Sam that the club was on fire as they drove past. Favia called the Belle Plaine Fire Department, but by the time the firemen arrived the flames were out of control and only the chimney and fireplace remained standing.

Brennan, who purchased Club LaVida last April from Ralph Bever, who had purchased it from Favia in 1953, had formerly leased the bar at Shalagoco Country Club on Shawano Lake. The Club had been remodeled several times since Favia built it in 1933 and Brennan was in the process of another update, converting the dance floor to a modern dinning room when the fire put an end to the changes. The fire apparently started in the barroom, swept across the dance floor and into the dining room. Brennan subsequently determined it was not financially feasible to rebuild.

Sources: Marcalene Rosenow, Belle Plaine resident, contributor to Treasures in Time, Town of Belle Plaine Sesquicentennial, 2008. SCHS Archives.

Shawano Born – Unbound Artistry

He was born into poverty in Western Shawano County in 1910. His education in “Indian Schools” was limited and abbreviated. He became an accomplished and prolific artist whom most in our community never heard of though many have seen his work, perhaps even owning renditions.

His name was Clarence Boyce Monegar, born to a HoChunk (Winnebago) tribal family in Wittenberg on April 10, 1910. His mother was an accomplished Indian artist, principally in designing, weaving and decorating baskets. She saw, early on, artistic talent in her children, particularly, Clarence, thus nurtured and encouraged them and him. Though he took some lessons in school he was primarily self-taught; gifted with a photographic memory and innate penchant for detail. One of life’s lessons from his mother was steeped in the HoChunk-Winnebago tribal culture: observe keenly, pay acute attention, always be watchful.

Monegar studied at the (Government) Wittenberg Indian School which was established in 1885 as the Bethany Indian Mission School (one of many humanitarian institutions of Rev. E.J. Homme and Norwegian immigrants), and also the Indian School in Tomah (Monroe County Wisconsin). He returned to Wittenberg for high school, but dropped out after the first year to support his mother and family working in the woods. His father and four siblings had died in 1918 stricken by the Spanish Influenza Epidemic which wiped out much of the Winnebago Tribe.

Driven by wanderlust, which plagued him his entire life, Clarence ran away at age sixteen to join a Wild West Show touring the country. He tired of the vagabond life yearning to reunite with his family and home. His return to Wisconsin found him in Black River Falls gaining employment as a sign painter for store fronts and delivery trucks.

In 1932 he married Emma Stacy, a young woman of tribal hierarchy, who strongly encouraged his artistic bent with some success. However, she passed away in 1942 leaving Clarence with four children. Per cultural tradition of the time he subsequently



Monegar’s eye for wild life and detail is well represented in many paintings similar to this one



Monegar’s painting of “The Sinking of the Lady Elgin” is one of five Monegars curated by the Milwaukee County Historical Society.

married Emma’s sister Tilly.

Perhaps it was his artistic nature that led him to push traditional boundaries and yield to an unconventional lifestyle as once again he neglected family responsibilities to pursue drifting and drinking. Monegar was arrested and incarcerated for non-support in Clark County, Wisconsin. While in jail Clarence penciled sketches of wildlife which caught the eye of his jailers, the sheriff and district attorney who provided him with painting materials and encouraged his work. The D.A. paroled him into his care and took him to the University of Wisconsin in Madison introducing Clarence to John Steuart Curry, Wisconsin-Artist-in-Residence of the College of Agriculture. Curry helped turn Monegar’s art into a lucrative occupation.

While being mentored by Curry the Shawano County Native American began signing his work with a small arrowhead. His artistic sense, in addition to intense color perception, was attention to intricate detail (likely inherited from his mother). But his life lacked focus. Settling down was not in his demeanor: drifting, drinking, drawing and painting was all-consuming.

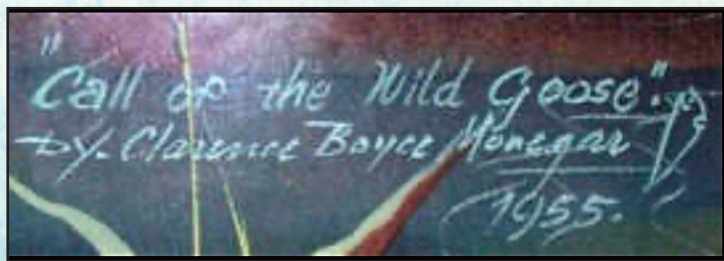
It is estimated he painted over 8,000 pictures, peddling them himself going door-to-door, shop-to-shop and tavern-to-tavern.

He died in July 1968 at age 58.

Today, the works of Clarence Boyce Monegar are highly collected; some on display in museums and art centers, but mostly on the walls of wildlife enthusiasts, hunters, collectors; including lake cottages and hunting cabins throughout Wisconsin.



A portrait of artist Clarence Boyce Monegar



Monegar’s signature included a small arrowhead which his mentor guided him to include

Sources: Milwaukee County Historical Society and Clark County (Wisconsin) Historical Society

OUR THANKS FOR THESE DONATIONS

(Received Sept. 17, 2024 – March 12, 2025)

Memberships

Lifetime - \$1,250

Toni Knope
 David & Heather Pahl

New Members

Rita Trinko
 Ray & Ruth Disterhaft
 Dan Aschenbrenner
 Thomas Lederer
 Susan Pflugradt
 Susan J Schultz

Guardian - \$250

Steve Fellman

Premier - \$100

Mike & Dorothy Eidahl
 Tom & MaryEllen Felts
 Lenore Behnke
 Sam & Wendy Crawford
 Aaron Damrau
 James Daniel
 Peg Gallagher
 Jim & Judy Judd
 Jim & Pat Kasten
 Karen Kupper
 Mike Oberle
 Curt & Martha Knoke
 JoAnn Stein
 Roger & Pat Strebiger
 Peter Voy

Memorials

Estate of Dejon Polzin - \$3,000
 In memory of:
 Phyllis & Barney Olson - \$3,800
 James Warren - \$200
 Beatrice Moede - \$100
 Carole Kurkiewicz - \$50

Cash Donations

From Lifetime members:

Suzanne Mitton-Petru - \$1,000
 Mary Podzilni - \$1,000
 Tim & Barb Schmid - \$1,000
 Robert A White - \$500
 Lee & Merrie Crawford - \$250

America Online Giving: Stacey Bartz

Thrivent Choice: Mike Rindt

Heritage Park and Zachow Depot Summer Tour Ads

Dean Proper - \$3,000

Heritage Park

524 North Franklin Street • Shawano, WI 54166

Plan your visit at www.shawanohistory.org

MUSEUM TOURS:

Saturdays - June - August - 10am - 2pm

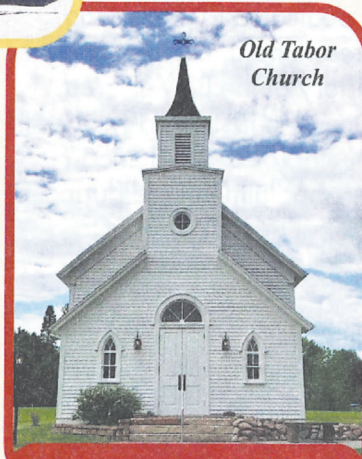
Or by appointment 715-526-3323

*Experience the history of Shawano County
 while touring 8 museum buildings filled
 with exhibits & artifacts.*



*Nationally acclaimed
 replica of 1906 CNW
 depot and a diorama
 of 1949 Zachow, WI*

*After exploring the Depot, we invite
 you to take a walk around town.
 Stop by the church, then head past
 the saloon to the doctor's office,
 or perhaps browse thru the fishing
 tackle at Farmer's Hardware.
 Visit a a mid-century ice cream
 parlor after a lesson at our one
 room school. Immerse yourself in
 Pre-WWI domestic bliss in the
 Kast House built on-site in 1874.
 Grab a bench, sit a spell, and enjoy
 the tranquility of our park.*



*Old Tabor
 Church*

Rent A Church for Your Event



17th Annual
Rhubarb Fest

Saturday, June 21
 10am-3pm
 at Heritage Park

**Headstones
 Vietnam**

Saturday, September 20
 3pm
 at Woodlawn Cemetery



SHAWANO COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
524 N. Franklin St.
Shawano, WI 54166

Phone: 715-526-3323
Email: Office@shawanohistory.com
Web: www.shawanohistory.org

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WAYS YOU CAN HELP US FINANCIALLY

- **Membership*** Consider upgrading to a higher membership level when you receive your annual renewal information by mail. Encourage friends and family to join.
- **Cash Donations*** Monetary donations help us maintain historical documents and artifacts, adhere to professional museum and archival standards, maintain museum buildings, and pay operating expenses.
- **In-kind Donations.** Donations of goods and services allow us to keep operating expenses low and use the funds we raise for our programs and historic preservation.
- **Other Ways to Donate**
 - Utilize employer donation matching programs to benefit SCHS, such as Benevity Causes (Prudential), Thrivent Your Cause, Prevea Circle of Giving, ThedaCare community volunteer program.
 - Designate SCHS to receive merchant charity donations, such as Thrivent Choice Dollars.
 - Memorials on behalf of a missed loved one
 - Community Foundation grants
 - A gift of appreciated stocks, bonds, or real estate to the SCHS eliminates federal taxes on capital gains.
 - Use your required minimum distribution from your IRA as a tax free gift.
 - Make the SCHS a beneficiary of a percentage of your IRA, 401k, annuity, will, or trust.

**Membership and Donations available online at www.shawanohistory.org*