

# PRESERVATION PRESS

SPRING 2026



## SHAWANO COUNTY: PART OF USA STORY II



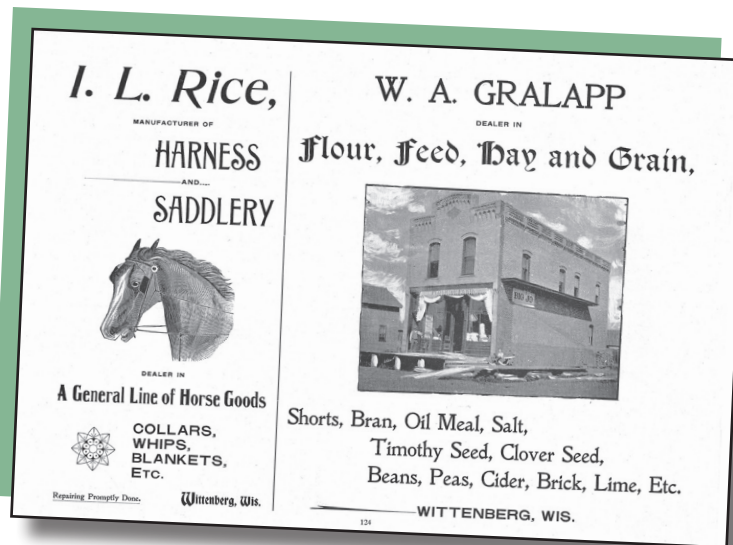
As the United States of America celebrates its first 250 years (1776 – 2026) we've used these pages of *Preservation Press* – Fall 2025 and this edition – to relate stories of singularly unique happenings in Shawano County which caught the attention of the nation, coast to coast.

But first, some gleanings from *Illustrated Atlas of Shawano County, 1889* as accumulated by publisher O.C. Rice. The publication is part plat book, part real estate sales brochure. Some of the entries can be characterized as interesting perspective/projection of writers distant from the people living the life of Shawano County at the time.

**From the Atlas, all direct quotations will be italicized, some excerpted:**

*Shawano county is a portion of that vast and magnificent domain, of which the Menominee tribe of Indians were in possession when the white man first set foot on Wisconsin soil. Furthermore, it was then a portion of that great pine region that has poured its wealth down the Wolf to build up the Winnebago lake cities, and lay the foundations of many fortunes outside its borders.*

*It is considered probable that some of the early Jesuit missionaries were the first white men who ever set foot on the soil of Shawano County. The first white settler was Chas. D Wescott, who is still living on his farm in the town of Richmond, a short distance north of the city of Shawano. In the spring of 1843, Samuel Farnsworth employed Mr. Wescott and a small crew of men at Green Bay to build a saw mill on Wolf*



*River. Shortly after his arrival Mr. Wescott planted some potatoes on the land now owned by J.A. Winans, north of the mill pond. This was the first soil broken for crop in the county by a white man. The mill is located near where the old Kast mill now stands. It subsequently passed into the hands of J.C. Lewis, but Mr. Wescott continued in charge for eight years.*

*The first meeting of the county board that appears of record was held November 13, 1855, and the accounts and charges against the county for the year 1854 were*

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★ SHAWANO COUNTY ★  
*Historical Society*

18<sup>th</sup> Annual

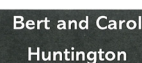
# RHUBARB FEST

Saturday, June 20, 2026 — 10:00-3:00

Heritage Park - 524 N Franklin Street - Shawano, WI

[www.shawanohistory.org](http://www.shawanohistory.org)

Sponsored by



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Spring, or at least I'm hoping Spring is finally here once you receive this. We are excited for another year of sharing Shawano County's history. This year we are also celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States of America. Although we are currently living in turbulent times, we must remember that our ancestors also overcame trial and tribulations and persevered.

This past year the society has lost several volunteers who I had worked along side with for many years, including Rita Trinko, Lorna Dumke, Judy Ebert, and Elaine Knope. Whether it was being a docent during school tours, working in the archives, or volunteering at Rhubarb Fest, we will always remember their smiling faces and warm hearts.

I would like to thank Tom Aumann for his many years of devoted service, both as a volunteer and board member. Tom has been the driving force of the Headstone cemetery walks for the past five years, as well as running the bar at Rhubarb Fest and a steadfast docent in the Zachow Depot. I would like to wish him well in his retirement.

I would also like to welcome Catherine White to our board of directors. I have enjoyed her input the past few months since her appointment in November and look forward to a wonderful working relationship.

We have many exciting things happening this Spring/Summer, including our 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Rhubarb Festival on June 20<sup>th</sup>. This year we will also be hosting a part of the History Maker's Tour in partnership with the Wisconsin Historical Society, which you can read more about in the separate article in this newsletter.

This year I am encouraging you to come visit us. Whether it's for a Saturday tour, research in the archives, eating rhubarb desserts, or strolling down main street learning about the history of Shawano.



**JESSE BORLEN**

# ANNUAL MEETING

Shawano County Historical Society concluded its 84<sup>th</sup> year and the set the table for its 85<sup>th</sup> with its annual meeting on October 20, Elizabeth Street Business Complex, Shawano. Attendees, members and guests, received reports from the President/Curator Jesse Borlen, Treasurer Lana Buelow,

retiring Director Tom Aumann and Website Administrator Mike Oberle.

Aumann reviewed the 2025 Headstones presentation held annually at the Woodland Cemetery in September. This year's tribute was in honor of the Viet Nam veterans of Shawano County featuring: Cpl Bruce J. Guex, Sgt Allan E. Singer, Sgt Larry Govine and Spec4 Ralph "Smokey" Fredenberg. Aumann indicated there are more than 600 Viet Nam era veterans in Shawano County. The Headstones project of the Historical Society, in alliance with county veterans' organizations, has been commanded by Aumann for several years commemorating the service of Shawano County military service veterans of the United States Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korean, and this year Viet Nam. He noted that there are 74 veterans of the Civil War interred in Woodland.

Buelow's extensive financial report, including operating and balance sheet summaries, revealed that the Society's main fundraiser – RhubarbFest – net income was down

slightly in 2025, probably due to it being an unseasonably warm and windy June day, but still produced \$17,000.

Borlen thanked attendees for their support and discussed the overall well being of the SCHS. He encouraged members and guests to help attract more community organizational and individual volunteer participation. He asserted that the most pressing need is for more storage and historical materials display space. (Heritage Park does not house a museum per se, but is the site of several historical buildings in which displays are curated.)

Oberle reported that visitors to SCHS's website continue to increase averaging more than one thousand per month. He also indicated there are now nineteen plaques on downtown Shawano historical buildings with several more gaining commitment to be installed. The Shawano Has History project was developed and coordinated by Leadership Shawano County.

Directors elected to the board were Borlen, Oberle and Cheryl Tiegs.

★ SHAWANO COUNTY ★  
*Historical Society*  
BRIDGING THE PAST TO PRESENT

SHAWANO  
COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

**2025-26**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jesse Borlen, President  
Mike Rindt, Vice-President  
Mikie Eidahl, Secretary  
Lana Buelow, Treasurer

Brian Carroll  
Priscilla King  
Mike Oberle  
Dean Proper  
Ron Schumacher  
Cheryl Tiegs  
Catherine White

Newsletter, Jim and Pat Kasten



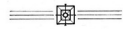
*SCHS members and guests participated in the annual presentation of the Society's activities, operations and plans*

Henry Hoffmann,

... PROPRIETOR ...

# Red River House

Gresham, Wisconsin.



First class accommodations for man and beast.

Fine line of Choice Liquors.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

audited and settled at the time. Order No. 1 for the sum of \$4.00 was drawn in favor of Chas. D. Wescott. In all, eleven orders were drawn amounting to the sum of \$135.50. The settlement with the county treasurer show that state and county taxes to the amount of \$355.60 had been collected, that the sum of \$41.57 remained in the hands of the treasurer subject to the order of the board of supervisors, and that a school fund of \$103.48 had also been collected. The treasurer's fees amounted to the magnificent sum of \$3.00.

The first newspaper, called the "Venture", was started by W.C. Thompkins in 1858, and A.J. Rockwell was the first editor. It proved to be a success and was soon sold to a stock company, the name changed to "Shawano County Journal".

The early history of Shawano county includes the unusual story of wild cat schemes, chief of these being the city of Osceola, a paper metropolis, located on what is now known as White Lake, in the towns of Hartland and Lessor, surrounded at the time by miles of unbroken wilderness. Mortgages on quarter sections of land adjacent to this imaginary city were floated in the East for thousands of dollars.

The Federal census of 1860 gave the county a population of 829, showing a gain of 575 in five years; and about this time Shawano County entered a new era in its development. By legislative enactment, "Shawano" was made the authorized way to spell the names, instead of "Shawanaw".

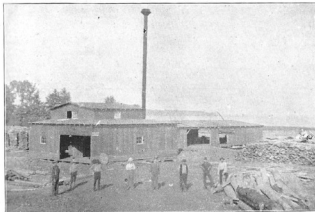
Indian trails and the Wolf River were the only thoroughfares of the early settlers. The first mails from Green Bay were packed over the old Indian trail. What passed for a wagon trail was opened between Shawano and New London sometime in the 1850s, and about the year 1866 the "military road" was completed between Shawano and Green Bay. Until the present railroad was built in 1884, communication was maintained with the outside world by means of stages running to New London, Shioc and Green Bay.

The extensive swamps of the southeastern part of the county have all been burned over, and many of them drained and cultivated. It is interesting to note that the extensive swamps referred to are mostly in the town of Navarino, and have made that town a subject for ridicule in the past; but the exhaustless fertility of the swamp lands that have been reclaimed, strongly indicates that Navarino may eventually become the richest town in the county.

The educational facilities of Shawano county rank with the best in the state. There are 108 public schools with 9,483 children of school age in the county. The schools employ a force of 124 teachers at an average salary, for males \$36.10 per month, females \$27.37 per month.

## FRANK ISSTAS.....

Manufacturer of  
and Dealer in

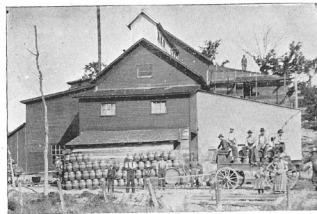


### LUMBER, SHINGLES, CEDAR POSTS.

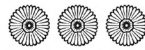
AND RAILROAD TIES.

CUSTOM SAWING,  
PLANING,  
AND MATCHING.

...CECIL, WIS.



BREWERY.



## E.W. BUCHE,

Proprietor  
of

### Cecil Brewery...

Cecil, Wis.



89



RESIDENCE.

## HUGO ASCHINGER & CO. ....



Manufacturers of  
... and Dealers in

### Pine and Cedar Shingles.

SPLIT ROCK (Shawano County), WIS.

# NOVITIATE TAKE OVER



New Year's Eve 1974 has been indelibly imprinted in the Shawano-Menominee Community psyche, even these decades later. On that December 31 evening a small group of Menominee tribal members took over the twenty room mansion known locally as The Novitiate on the Red River between Shawano and Gresham. The estate overlooking a beautiful, rocky rapids on the Red was built by a wealthy New Yorker as a personal retreat and later transferred to the Alexian Brothers of the Catholic Church to be used as a monastery, thus, the name Novitiate. Prior to the take-over it had been abandoned by the Alexians, stood empty, with only a caretaker on premises.

The young men involved in the take-over were armed and called themselves the Menominee Warrior Society. Their occupation lasted 34 days into 1975. During those days the lives and livelihoods of farmers and residents on Butternut Road were disrupted as it was heavily guarded by local law enforcement and Wisconsin National Guard personnel in response to sporadic gun fire and threats of violence.

Wisconsin Governor Patrick Lucey had dispatched the Guard to control the situation



*The grandeur of the of The Novitiate on the Red River*

so there “would be no loss of life”. Some ad hoc citizens groups had formed and staged counter-protests believing that the Guard and law enforcement were not doing enough to end the take-over.

The Shawano community was regularly visited by area, state and national media representatives. Also, by movie actor Marlon Brando, Milwaukee social activist Father James Groppi and leaders of the American Indian Movement (AIM).

The tribe's Menominee Restoration Committee opposed the take-over and after thirty-four days of the standoff the Alexians reached an agreement with the Warrior Society to end the situation; agreeing to turn the property over to the Menominee Nation for \$1.00 and “other considerations”.

Fortunately, there were no fatalities, with injuries no more than frostbite, however, the Mansion was left in shambles.

## Termination and Restoration

“Termination” and “Restoration” were two words which were part of everyday conversations

in Shawano and Menominee Counties during the 1960s and 70s. Both very complex.

In 1954, the U.S. Congress passed legislation – some labeled it an experiment – called Termination. This meant Congress wanted Indian Reservation land to be accessible to non-tribal persons to purchase land on which they would pay taxes. The Menominee people and reservation were chosen by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) because their logging and lumber business had experienced excellent success: Menominee Tribal Enterprises (MTE), established 1908.

It was during this period that Legend Lake was conceived and developed after the tribe sold land to a Reedsburg, WI developer, N.E. Issacson. The firm had previously developed a successful lake-based home-building property in Sauk County called Lake Redstone. Selling tribal lands got mixed reviews among the Menominee people.

In 1970, an organization called “DRUMS” (Determination of Rights and Unity of Menominee Shareholders) was formed to reverse termination and regain federal recognition as a tribal reservation. On December 22, 1973 President Nixon signed the restoration bill and the long, bitter experiment of termination came to an end.

Next step was the formation of the Menominee Restoration Committee (MRC) which chose Ada Deer as its leader. In 1975, Menominee County reverted back to full reservation status. A new tribal constitution was written, and in 1979 a new tribal government took office. By this time Legend Lake was well established and growing with homes built by Menominees and non-Indians providing a tax base for Menominee County.



*Menominee Warriors Society and supporters during the height of the “take over” event.*



# WORLD RECORD HOLDER RESIDED IN SHAWANO COUNTY

A celebrated World Record Holder resided in Shawano County at the beginning of the current century. From 2001 to 2014 a World famous progenitor resided in the breeders cooperative, Genex, barns in the Town of Richmond. A Holstein bull named Toystory.

Toystory was born on the Breuning family farm – Mystic Valley Dairy – in Sauk County in May 2001. His full name was Jenny-Lu Marshall Toystory, his mother (dam) being Jenny-Lu Patron Toyanne and his sire father was Mara-Thon Bellwood Marshall. The farm operators noticed this bull calf was gaining weight much faster than other calves, attracting the attention of the breeding cooperative, which purchased the calf for about \$4,000. While all dairy cattle bulls are huge, Toystory as exceptionally large at maturity weighing in at more than 2,700 pounds.

Toystory was huge, cantankerous (according to barn handlers) and extremely prolific. Semen collected from him produced more than 500,000 offspring throughout the world, including: United Kingdom, South American countries, Europe, Japan, China, Russian, Pakistan as well as the United States, including Shawano County and throughout Wisconsin. About 2.4 million units of semen in total, a record never to be beaten according to industry experts. Many of Toystory's female offspring (milk cows) have been leading milk producers on their farms and in breed and local farm records organizations.

Toystory generated international media attention including a "tribute" in the *Wall Street Journal* upon his passing on Thanksgiving Day in November 2014.

Visitors to the former Genex facility, now PEAK, on MBC Drive in the Town of Richmond are greeted with a commemorative plaque in honor of his residence and achievements in the barns.

*(Something to think about, without scientific verification.....with the amount of milk, cheese, butter, ice cream, etc. and meat produced by the offspring of this magnificent former resident we all likely have consumed some Toystory DNA).*



Plaque commemorating World Famous Toystory at the genetics facility on MBC Drive, Town of Richmond

## STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

In 1956 and 1957 Shawano High School boys basketball team (then known as the Indians) became only the third team in all schools tournament play



(no divisions) to win back-to-back championships. Team Captain Loren Wolf donated his personal collection of memorabilia to SCHS, currently displayed in the lobby of Shawano County Chamber of Commerce. Two tournament records of those teams still stand: Most Made Free Throws in a Tournament - 83. Highest Individual Free Throw Percentage in a Game – Fred Opperman at 12 for 12.

# DESPERATE TIMES: DIRE RESULTS

## Back Story

The 1960s were difficult times 'down on the farm'. Wisconsin livestock and milk production was dominated by "small" family farm operations with each owner making decisions to fit their purpose and needs. The marketplace for their food production was national in scope and trending toward concentration in few entities through mergers and acquisitions. Producer returns for milk and meat were low and production costs were increasing. Result: financial stress at the farm level with few options to leverage for remedy.

National Farmers Organization (NFO with identifying green and white logo) was founded in Corning, Iowa, initially as an advocate and lobbyist for family farms, but mutated into a collective bargaining agent similar to trade unions. Their thrust, other than the obvious of gaining higher prices, was supply control to stabilize and improve commodity level returns to producer-members. A method NFO initiated was "withholding actions" including dumping milk, calf disposal, cattle termination; in essence keeping supply out of the food chain to bring upward supply-demand and price pressure for at-farm returns. Charismatic NFO president Oren Lee Staley strongly advocated the tactic.

### Equity Livestock, Bonduel

Equity Livestock Sales Cooperative was formed in the 1920s to give farmers an alternative to private treaty sales to packing houses concentrated in Chicago, Milwaukee, Green Bay and Minneapolis. Equity established auction barns in strategic locations in rural Wisconsin as an alternative selling point for producers to deliver cattle in a competitive auction environment. Equity facilitated a range of buyers from the packing houses to bid for cattle to meet the packers production and marketing needs with both parties – seller and buyer – aware of reported current and future commodity market prices.

The equity "barn" in Bonduel was run by Roger Robson, a crusty, no-nonsense, experienced livestock marketing professional. The barn included an in-house lunch counter which, on auction days, made it as much a social center as it was a sales facility.

### Equity – Bonduel – Shawano County in the Headlines

On September 9, 1964 the farming community of Bonduel got unwanted coast-to-coast news attention, including radio and



*Cattle truck driver Ivan Mueller escorted by deputies through the angry mob after this truck accidentally drove over two protesters who slipped under the rear tires.*

television and the *Times* of New York, Los Angeles *Times* and *Time* magazine. Two men were killed, run over by a cattle truck attempting to deliver to the Equity auction barn on State Highway 117.

A crowd, estimated at over one thousand farmers and others, had gathered to picket Equity with the objective of preventing cattle from being offered and sold that day in protest of low prices. It was a call of withholding action of the NFO. (NFO had organized milk dumping and calf termination in other locations previously.)

As Ivan Mueller of Cecil, a contract cattle hauler, tried to enter the Equity auction yard his truck was blocked by the picketers. Other truckers had previously turned back; some simply parked on the highway until the

demonstration might be ended. There was a lot of shouting and hand gestures, Mueller's truck was physically rocked by the protesters.

Shawano County Sheriff Carl Krueger had stationed 14 deputies at the auction barn for the "scheduled" demonstration; Menominee County sheriff's deputies and the Wisconsin State Patrol were also on the scene. Too few in total to control the crowd.

Witnesses described that trucker Mueller slowly drove forward to the entrance gate through the throng. Two men – Melvin Cummings, 45, Birnamwood and Howard Falk, 53, Bonduel – somehow fell under the rear wheels of the cattle truck and were fatally crushed. Mueller testified he did not see them, but felt the bump of the tires as he slowly proceeded.



*On the day of the demonstration many trucks turned around and/or parked on highway 117 to wait it out. Mueller elected to attempt to enter*

*Time* wrote: "The crowd charged into the Equity yard after Mueller, shouting "murderer!" Men swarmed over the truck cab, shattered the windshield with their bare fists. Inside, Mueller grabbed his pistol (Sheriff's deputies reported it was unloaded), but lawmen fought through the crowds, took him into custody and charged him with homicide by reckless conduct."

Wisconsin Governor John Reynolds was in direct communication with Sheriff Krueger and ordered that Mueller and his family have protective coverage which lasted for several days after the incident.

NFO president Staley called off all demonstrations in Wisconsin, but continued withholding actions in other states.

Equity subsequently resumed normal operations, but tensions remained high for an extended period of time.

A year later, at his trial in Shawano, cattle truck driver Ivan Mueller was acquitted by a jury of seven men and five women after deliberating for about an hour-and-a-half.

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*The 1960s were difficult times 'down on the farm'.*

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*Ivan Mueller's truck was rushed, banged and rocked before, during and after the accident.*

# Lights, Camera, Action.....


LIGHTS, CAMERAS, ACTION.....

.....or, the call may have been: “....roll sounds, roll cameras, action!...”. Either phrase was heard many times in Shawano County in 1974. Film production crews from New York and Hollywood descended on the county to produce a full length feature film and a nationally aired television commercial for cereal. In late summer-early fall of that year Tomorrow Entertainment filmed a General Electric (GE) Theater film starring Patricia Neal, Ed Flanders, Marc Singer and Meg Foster, and many local folks. Benson and Bowles Film Company set up on a Bonduel farm for a Post Grape Nuts commercial featuring noted outdoorsman and health food advocate Euell Gibbons.

The film for television, *Things In Their Season*, was filmed on several locations in the county with the dairy farm of Clarence, Myrtle and John Koeller, Oak Avenue, Town of Richmond being the base site. Other locations were: Equity Sales Barn, Bonduel, City of Shawano’s Memorial Park and Community Hall, Jerry and Betty Luepke farm, Bonduel, Patio Restaurant on Main Street and Consolidated Badger’s dairy plant. The area was abuzz with activity as the film stars and production crew immersed themselves in the community enjoying food and drink and sightseeing. Many local citizens had speaking roles and as extras in the film and/or assisted in location set-up and filming activities.

The film, which aired Thanksgiving week on CBS, received many favorable reviews. Many local homes were the site of watch parties the evening it was aired. It remains available on streaming services. Shawano County Library has CD copies.





close  
up

**GE THEATER**  
8:30 (2) (3) (6) (7) (8) (12)

**THINGS IN THEIR SEASON**


**Special:** An emotional domestic drama.  
A family-run Wisconsin dairy farm is the cause of tension between a proud farmer named Carl Gerlach and his independent-minded son Andy. The father wants Andy to stay on the farm, but the college-age youth is determined to head out on his own.  
Caught in the middle is the wife and mother, who has managed to keep farm and family together. But her anguish as peacemaker has suddenly struck a much more anguishing chord: the discovery that she is dying of leukemia.  
This original work was written by veteran screenwriter John Gay. (90 min.)

**Cast**

Peg Gerlach .....	Patricia Neal
Carl Gerlach .....	Ed Flanders
Andy Gerlach .....	Marc Singer
Judy Pines .....	Meg Foster

*Ed Flanders, Patricia Neal*

TO PEG AND CARL THE LAND WAS  
EVERYTHING. UNTIL THEY WERE ABOUT  
TO LOSE EACH OTHER.



“THINGS IN THEIR SEASON”

Starring:  
Patricia Neal and Ed Flanders.

GENERAL ELECTRIC THEATER

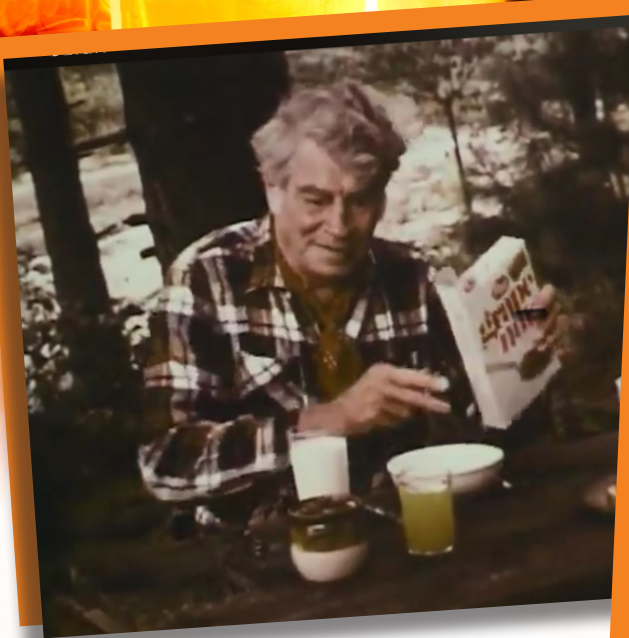
TONIGHT ON CBS.  
8:30 CENTRAL

GENERAL ELECTRIC

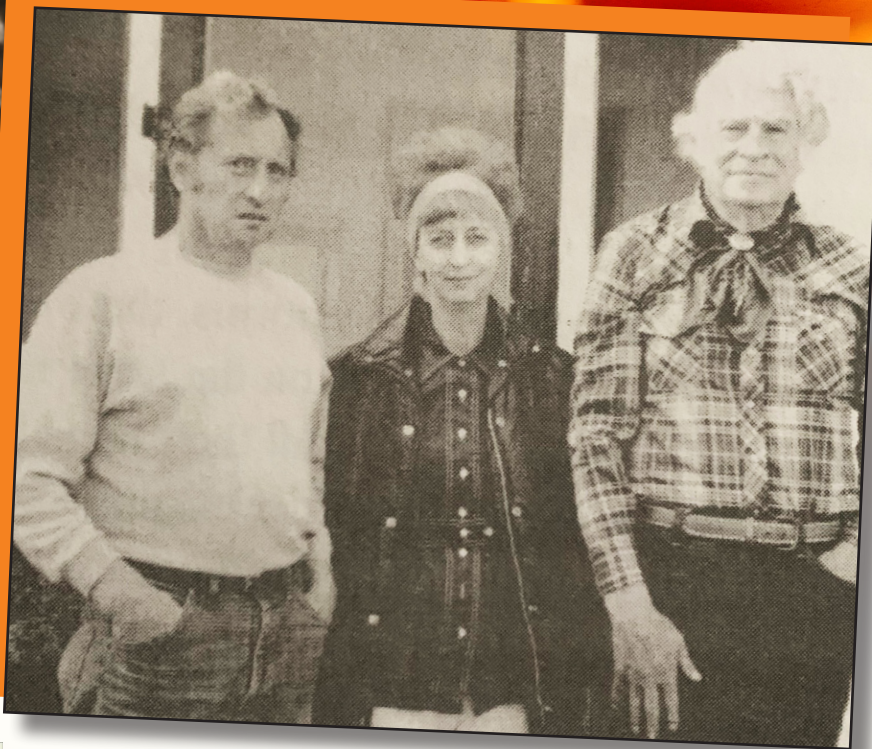
A-70 TV GUIDE

TV GUIDE print ad promoting the showing of “Things In Their Season” on CBS.

*Film production crews from New York and Hollywood descended on the county to produce a full length feature film and a nationally aired television commercial for cereal.*



*Euell Gibbons Post Grape Nut Flakes tv ad as it aired.*



*Larry and Marcie Leitzke with Gibbons at their Bonduel farm, site of filming of the commercial.*



The Gibbons Post Grape Nuts cereal 60 second television commercial only took two days to complete, but also generated community buzz. It was filmed by a crew out of New York City on the dairy farm of Larry and Marcie Leitzke, Bonduel. Their white house and red barn situated on a hill met the director's requirements perfectly. Marcie Leitzke wrote a piece for the **Shawano County Sesquicentennial** book: "We learned and were amazed at the hard work involved in filming. Every drop of sunshine was utilized. We were confined to the house and it had to be absolutely quiet while sound was produced. Police officers were stationed on the road to keep curious onlookers away..... (though) car after car drove by for a peek at Gibbons."

Though not filmed in Shawano, the current big screen film, **Song Sung Blue**, provides some notoriety for Shawano. "Shawano" is mentioned four times (pronounced correctly!). The film stars Kate Hudson and Hugh Jackman. Kate Hudson was nominated for an Academy Award (Oscar).

*See Preservation Press, Fall 2023, for more about the filming of "Things In Their Season".*

*Promotional poster for Oscar nominated film **Song Sung Blue** starring Kate Hudson and Hugh Jackman.*

# 100 Years

## AND COUNTING

It is rare for a business to successfully operate for 100 years, even rarer to be owned and operated by one family. A fixture of the Shawano area business community for over 100 years is the Wallrich Agency, an independent insurance agency

Started by Caspar Wallrich in 1925, the family owned, independent agency is now owned and operated by the third and fourth generation – Cap Wallrich and his son Aaron. Cap's daughter Amy Vue is also involved assuring continuity of the family in the business.

Cap's father, Michael C. Wallrich, joined the agency in 1949, took over the firm from his father and originator Caspar in 1968. Third generation Cap had plans to become a golf course superintendent pursuing studies at North Carolina State University after graduating from Bonduel High School. However, his father convinced him to become involved in the insurance business forty years ago in 1975.



*(Golf and Wallrich have been part of the Shawano County community since 1922. That was the year that Shalagoco Golf Club (now Shawano Lake Golf Course) was formed with M.J. and Marshall Wallrich being part of the*



*Third and fourth generation of the Wallrich Agency: Aaron, Cap and Amy Vue.*

*incorporators group. In the late 1960's Cap's parents Mike and Ruth built the Golden Sands Golf Course, Cecil, which opened in 1970. Cap's brother Pat operated the course for several years before selling and moving to Florida. Brother Mike Junior (dec) managed several courses in Wisconsin. Brother John is a PGA professional and served as club pro of Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan for over 30 years. Cap works with the Bonduel High School girls golf team.)*

Wallrich Agency offices are currently located at 304 East Green Bay Street, Shawano. In its formative years the offices were located at 103 Main Street, then 105 South Washington. Over its existence the agency has represented industry giants such as Allstate, Aetna and Travelers. Today's business is the result of consolidation with other local independents – Shrank Agency and Hoepfer Agency (owner Ralph Hoepfer was Michael's wife Ruth's father) – over the years. As the insurance industry has changed Wallrich Agency has affiliated with Robertson Ryan and Associates to enhance their data processing capabilities and marketing initiatives.



*From a display at the Agency's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary open house: on the left is originator Caspar Wallrich and, right, is his son/successor Mike, Cap's father.*

## Shawano County Chamber Marks 100 Years!

**SHAWANO**  
country

*The Wallrich family arrived in the United States from Germany in 1855, originally settling in Kenosha County. The family subsequently relocated to Shawano County in 1885 when M.J. moved here to partner with the law firm Wallrich, Dillett and Eberline. He served as City Attorney, County District Attorney and Mayor. He was elected to the Wisconsin State Legislature in 1903. In 1919 he helped to organize county farmers into the Perfect Seed Circle which spawned Consolidated Badger Cooperative/Morning Glory Dairy/Northland Foods (now Foremost Farms USA) and Tri-County Breeders/Badger Breeders/Midwest Breeders/Genex (now PEAK).*

# OUR THANKS FOR THESE DONATIONS

Received Sept. 23, 2025 –  
 March 16, 2026

## MEMBERSHIPS

### GUARDIAN - \$250

Peter Voy  
 Stephen Fellman  
 Catharine White

### PREMIER - \$100

Wilson Abbott  
 Lenore Behnke  
 Bruce Buettner  
 Sam & Wendy Crawford  
 James Daniel  
 Ray & Ruth Disterhaft  
 Joseph Dillenberg  
 Tom & Mary Ellen Felts  
 Jim & Pat Kasten  
 Karen Kupper  
 Gregory & Lesley Nemetz  
 Michael & Sylvia Oberle  
 Rich & JudyAnn Pahlow  
 Joann Stein  
 Roger & Pat Strebeg  
 Town of Grant

### NEW MEMBERS

Joe Dillenberg  
 Catharine White  
 Carol Upham

## MEMORIALS

Bill Hoppe  
 Elaine Knope

## CASH DONATIONS

Dean Proper - \$5,000  
 Sue Mitton Petru - \$2,000  
 Timothy & Barbara Schmid - \$500  
 Joann Stein - \$100  
 Herbert Grover - \$100  
 America Online Giving - Chad Voelker  
 Thrivent Choice - Sandra Carroll  
 In Honor of Marcelene Rosenow's  
 90th Birthday - \$330



Displays and activities will be conducted by  
 The Wisconsin Historical Society,  
 April 27th - July 10th at Heritage Park, Shawano.

## *Rent a Church for Your Event*



Available for weddings, reunions,  
 anniversaries, memorial services,  
 meetings, concerts, special events

**The Old Tabor Church**  
 located in Heritage Park  
 524 N. Franklin Street  
 Shawano, WI 54166

For information on  
 rates and availability contact  
 Shawano County Historical Society  
 715-526-3323  
 church@shawanohistory.com

COME  
**EXPLORE**  
 THE HISTORY OF SHAWANO COUNTY

**VISIT HERITAGE PARK  
 THIS SUMMER**

Enjoy guided tours on Saturdays  
 from 10 AM - 2 PM or bring the  
 family for a picnic on our grounds,  
 which are open every day.

★ SHAWANO COUNTY ★  
*Historical Society*  
 BRIDGING THE PAST TO PRESENT

**PLAN YOUR VISIT AT  
 shawanohistory.org**

SHAWANO COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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Shawano, WI 54166

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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](http://www.shawanohistory.org)*