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# DANE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER



Volume XXIV

Summer 2005

Number 2

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## Wisconsin Public Radio and StoryCorps

NPR Member stations in cities throughout the United States are hosting StoryCorps, an unprecedented national project that invites ordinary Americans to interview one another and record personal stories in their own words. A StoryCorps mobile recording booth, housed in an Airstream trailer and hosted by Wisconsin Public Radio, was in Madison from June 9 - 20.

Every Friday morning, NPR's *Morning Edition*<sup>®</sup>, is presenting a StoryCorps interview.

NPR, Saturn Corporation, a division of General Motors, The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and the Library of Congress are sponsoring StoryCorps.

Said Kevin Klose, president and CEO of NPR, "StoryCorps is a gift to the nation, an opportunity to demonstrate the importance of every citizen to our diverse culture and history and we are so pleased that Wisconsin Public Radio and Madison agreed to be part of this very special program. The breadth and intimacy of StoryCorps differentiates it from all previous oral history projects and, through its travels throughout the United States, elevates the personal stories of Everyman."

StoryCorps is the creation of award-winning NPR documentary producer and MacArthur Genius Grant recipient David Isay. Begun in 2004, StoryCorps collected more than 2,000 stories in its first year and expects to collect more than 250,000 interviews over the next ten years.

Isay said, "We believe that listening is an act of love. Over the past year and a half, we've seen the profound effect StoryCorps has had on the lives of those who have participated in the project, and we've seen the power that these stories have had on the millions who have heard them."

Local and national radio broadcasts of StoryCorps highlights are supported by Saturn. As StoryCorps' sole corporate sponsor, Saturn will also help StoryCorps place its recordings in the permanent collection of the Library of Congress.



Said Saturn General Manager Jill Lajdziaik, "StoryCorps recognizes the importance of every citizen to our culture and history. This project is a natural fit for Saturn as we follow a similar approach - putting 'people first' in everything we do."

In each city on the tour, StoryCorps representatives will facilitate interviews between friends, colleagues or family members. At the end of the forty-minute session, the participants will receive a broadcast-quality CD of their interview. With their permission, a second copy will be archived at the Library of Congress, providing generations to come with access to these moving stories.

StoryCorps operates a recording booth at Grand Central Terminal in New York City, where more than 2,000 interviews have been taped. A second freestanding StoryCorps booth will open at the World Trade Center memorial later this year.

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- 7. A Friendly Reminder - DCHS dues

# Records Center Highlights "Madison Mirror"

By Debbie Kmetz, Electronic Cataloging Project Coordinator



In June 1969, Madison's Central-University High School held its final commencement exercises, a ceremony that signaled the end of an era. Dane County's oldest public high school could trace its beginnings back to 1854. Throughout its history, the institution had various names: Madison High School, Central High School and, finally, Central-University High School. Many people today remember it simply as "Central," the high school whose home was the large, distinguished building on Wisconsin Avenue, only blocks away from the State Capitol. Collectively, Central's students experienced the Civil War, two World Wars and the Great Depression. But the school itself could not survive changing demographics and the burgeoning growth of Madison's outlying areas.

June 5, 1969 marked Central's last official day. Dane County Historical Society's records show that two weeks later, on June 19, 1969, Principal William Marsh donated a substantial amount of material to the historical society including copies of the school's yearbook, "Tychoberahn;" a complete run of the student newspaper, the "Madison Mirror;" programs for graduating exercises; a World War II service list; and an official pupil handbook.

These materials document a significant span of time. The subject of this article, the "Madison Mirror," was published from 1924 through 1969. This set of newspapers offers researchers a chance to observe growth and change, make comparisons, and analyze the impact of larger events on the school.

Originally printed and distributed as 4 to 16-page issues, the newspapers were later bound together into hard-cover volumes. A handwritten inscription on the opening page of the first volume reads, "Madison Central High School, To be kept in office vault." The first issue measures approximately 10" x 13" and is dated February 26, 1924. It is a handsome, professionally produced newspaper -- typeset and printed on a high quality paper that has not become too brittle over time.

The inaugural issue announced that the "Madison

Mirror" would be published semi-monthly by the students of Central High School. The price: Five Cents. A column titled "Your Paper At Last" asked students to support the enterprise by contributing news, buying the paper and reading it. The editorial went on to explain that the newspaper did not want to seek advertising for financial support because local merchants were already contributing to the production of the yearbook. The newspaper's staff hoped to meet expenses by charging a nickel an issue.

These first pages present an interesting mix of material from news articles such as "Central High Basketeers Play Close Game with Varsity Preps" and "English Classes Design Books" to special columns. A feature titled "Bachelor's Buttons" announced its aim to publish one new joke every edition. A "Radio Column" by Al. Satterfield proposed to answer questions about the era's new technology. Readers were

*Continued on page 3*

## MAJESTIC

Madison's Lowest Price  
Talking Picture Theatre

WEEK NIGHTS	15¢	SAT. & SUN. NIGHTS
SAT. & SUN. MATS. ....		Adults - 25c

—LAST TIMES THURSDAY—

**GRETA GARBO** in **"ANNA CHRISTIE"**

Charlie Chase Comedy — Pathe Review

—FRIDAY & SATURDAY—

**BOB STEELE** in **"Near the Rainbow's End"**

A Talking Picture Romance of the Great Outdoors

— ADDED FEATURES —	
RIN TIN TIN —in— "THE LONE DEFENDER"	KNUTE ROCKNE FOOTBALL FILM AESOP'S FABLES

—SUNDAY, DEC. 7—

**HOOT GIBSON** in **"THE MOUNTED STRANGER"**

—Coming Mon.-Tues.—December 8-9—

**GARY COOPER** in **"THE VIRGINIAN"**

"Madison Mirror," December 4, 1930

## Records Center Highlights (Continued from page 2)

invited to write out their radio-related questions and drop them into a box in the school hallway. The first installment offered instructions on how to tune out interference from local broadcasting stations. The issue also featured "Alumni Notes;" an ad for the high school's vaudeville production; and the announcement that "Y.W. C. A. Clubs Welcome Girls."

This first issue established a general model that proved constant for the coming years. It focused primarily on issues of immediate concern to its readers: classes and activities. The newspaper also offered opportunities to students to hone their writing talents with regular columns. There would also be ample coverage of the arts, including articles about the school's theater productions and musicals. For many of the first 25 years, the newspaper featured student graphics, often woodcuts. The newspaper carried news of student and faculty travel, guest lectures, honors, and during World War II, updates on former students in service overseas. In 1926, the paper size increased to approximately 12" x 18" and the paper stock changed to a newsprint that has become very fragile with time.

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS NOW PAYS  
FOR 18 MIRRORS

# Depression

*is a Horrid Word*

**But--** It would be much worse if The Madison Mirror did not realize it!

A subscription purchased now cuts the cost 25% . . . Buy a subscription for the 18 outstanding issues of the year.

Included in these will be a Christmas Edition, a February Magazine, and a June Magazine . . .

## 25% off

### The Madison Mirror


See Your Session Room Representative or Room 309

"Madison Mirror," October 9, 1931

ers learned that the Milwaukee School of Engineering would present an evening demonstration on the "Wonders of Electricity" in the high school auditorium.


A 1924 front page article reports that, "Instead of fearing Latin, Miss Yeager's lucky pupils look forward to it with pleasure." Another 1925 article names some of the topics covered in a problems in democracy course including debates over the proposed child labor amendment and the general question of immigration.

Through the years, coverage of scholastics and athletics seems to appear in about equal measure. Scholastics could include news of academic clubs and teams, the National Honor Society and the honor roll as well as information about classes and special educational opportunities. One of the earliest photos in the newspaper depicts the debate team. In 1934, read-



**Fountain Room  
Downstairs**

It's fun to have lunch in the Fountain Room with all your High School friends, to say nothing of the delicious food! And it's only a step from school!

 **Harry S. Manchester, Inc.**

"Madison Mirror," March 9, 1934

In 1968, an article titled "Negro History-Why?" explains that Central is the only city high school to offer a course focusing on Black history.

Central offered vocational as well as college preparatory courses. A 1929 front page article described the work of 15 boys taking a sheet metal course. An ad in 1926 asked students, "Do You Want a Low Priced Appetizing Meal? School Cafeteria, Vocational Building."

The paper charted an ongoing football and basketball rivalry with Madison East High School, and the yearly Armistice Day football match was eagerly anticipated in the sports columns. There is much coverage of the various sports events associated with Central's place in the Big Eight, All-City League. For many years, Central shared that league with Madison East, Madison West, Janesville, Kenosha, Beloit, Racine Horlick and Racine Park.

Over the years, new sports appear. Central's first all school boxing tournament was held in 1933; by 1936 the paper reported that boxing was growing in popularity. Golf appears in the sports reporting in the 1960s. From the very beginning, the newspaper covers girls' sports as well as boys.'

Articles in the paper also offer information about student life outside of the classroom. A 1929 article titled, "Girls Work for Room and Board, Boys Do Odd Jobs," reported that many Central students worked during their spare time. Boys' odd jobs included washing windows and cutting lawns. They also worked in grocery, clothing, hardware and drug stores. Girls did housekeeping chores in exchange for room and board, reminding readers that some students boarded in the city in order to attend the high school.

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## Records Center Highlights (*Continued from page 3*)

The article goes on to list summer jobs as surveyors' assistants, street work, piece work at the French Battery Company and work in pea canneries.

In October 1930, advertisements appeared for the first time, including ads from local companies such as The Hub, M. and C. Shoe Store, B. Rubin's New and Used Furniture, Brown's Book Shop, the Majestic, Mosely's Book Co., Smith's Studio, Palace Drug Store and Wheeler Conservatory School of Dancing. That school year, 1930-31, also marked the first time since 1900 that the school did not publish the yearbook, the "Tychoberahn." Instead, the "Madison Mirror's" staff expanded their June issue to 16 pages, featuring photos of the February and June graduates, with a listing of their activities.

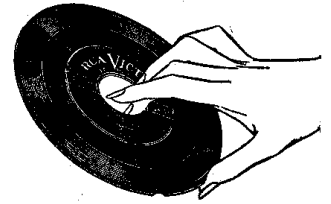
It is quite possible that the strain of the Great Depression took its toll. In fact, a hard-cover yearbook did not appear again until after World War II. Instead, from 1932 through 1945, the school published a soft-cover booklet titled either "Orange and Black" or "Mirror Magazine" that offered yearbook style reviews and photos. Meanwhile, since the more expensively produced "Tychoberahn" was no longer soliciting advertising, perhaps the "Madison Mirror" staff felt it was reasonable to ask local merchants for support on behalf of the paper.

The effects of the Depression can be seen in other ways as well. A 1933 article reported that, "300 Enjoy Selves at Central Dance -- Depression Prom Scene of Fun-Seekers Attired in Old, Worn-Out Garbs." The article goes on to say, "Approximately 300 Centralites, a good share of them dressed in keeping with the times, attended the Depression Prom Friday, March 10, in Central's compressed ball-room (gymnasium to you). Dance music furnished by the school orchestra helped everyone to forget the depression ..."

The repercussions of World War II were understandably even more pronounced. The issue published just two days before the attack on Pearl Harbor carried a story of students making small dolls for British children. However, by the time the next issue was printed, the war had drawn much closer to home. The newspaper carried a front page special announcement from the principal that read in part, "You as high school boys and girls will have to grow up more rapidly because of the war ..." The headlines for the lead article read, "High Schools Plan Defense Aid -- General Curricula of Central Changed to Aid Defense Program." In the following issue, students were urged to take Math, Electricity, and Commercial subjects. Another article declared that knitting needles were clicking for the Red Cross.

*Come in and play 'em yourself!*

**THE AMAZING NEW  
RCA VICTOR 45 RPM  
RECORDS  
WE HAVE**



**Wolff Kubly Hirsig**

**RECORD SHOP**  
WEST MIFFLIN AT THE SQUARE

"Madison Mirror," April 8, 1949

Later issues would report on more student-related activities such as the advanced typists receiving special training for defense jobs. There would also be significant coverage of Centralites serving in the armed forces. All too soon came news of graduates killed in the Pacific Theater. As the war continued, some Centralites wrote messages to the paper writing about life in the armed forces. The 1945 "Mirror Magazine" was dedicated to those who had died in the war. Its opening pages carried the names of the 42 former students on the "Gold Star Honor Roll."

Through the years, notices about tuberculosis appeared in the newspaper announcing T.B. tests and educating the students about the disease. A 1939 announcement identified T.B. as the leading cause of death among persons 15-45 years old. Not until the late 1950s did the tuberculosis coverage cease to appear.

The "Madison Mirror's" practice of printing advertising continued until the last school year, 1968-69. Though advertising's immediate purpose was to bring in revenue for the newspaper, the longer term effects included providing information about student life. Researchers using the newspaper today will find that in 1931, a student could buy a bowl of tomato soup and an open sandwich for 35 cents at Menges Pharmacy. In 1934, that same 35 cents could rent a radio for a day from Jimmie Jackson's on North Paterson Street.

The ads of the 1930s and 1940s tended to focus on consumer goods and recreation, a trend that continued into the 1950s and 1960s. Ads for blue jeans start appearing in 1949, "denim Levi's" for boys and girls. An ad in the January 24, 1964 issue reads, "Rock to the Sounds of the Beatles -- the Group that Sold Over 3,000,000 Records in England." There were also occasional ads announcing employment opportu-

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## Records Center Highlights (Continued from page 4)

nities. In 1944, the American Exchange Bank began a series of ads called "Stepping Stones to Your Home" that offered information about the process of buying a house.

The newspaper periodically provided articles about the history of the high school itself. A 1925 article chronicled events from the school's beginnings in 1854. A 1934 article offered intriguing information about the "Madison Mirror's" nineteenth-century predecessors: a hand-printed paper by Clarence Slightam and "The Archon," published from September 1894 to June 1895, and machine printed by Democrat Printing Co. of Madison.

Some of the newspaper's most poignant coverage regards the closing of Central High School itself. A November 1965 article reported that "Most Students Want to Keep Central Open..." Accompanying the article was a photo of a poster that read, "Save Central High." However, a few short months later, in February 1966 students learned that the Board of Education decided by a 6 -1 vote to close Central-University High School in June 1969.

During the next three years, the newspaper

**ATTENTION**

**All Girls Admitted FREE**

**MADISON ICE ARENA**

**1834 Commercial Ave.                      249-9931**

Madison's Only Indoor Heated Ice Skating Arena

**Friday, Jan. 24 & Saturday, Jan. 25**

**with CLYDE COFFEE of WISM**

8 - 10 P.M.

**FREE RECORDS**

Given Away At All Sessions

16 yrs. & under ... 50¢	<b>SNACK BAR</b>
Adults ..... \$1	<b>SKATE RENTAL</b>

"Madison Mirror," January 24, 1964

**Dave Clark Five Here July 4**



ENGLAND'S TOP ROCK & ROLL GROUP

**IN PERSON — TWO SHOWS**

**7:00 P.M.      9:30 P.M.**

**Dane County Fairgrounds Arena**

— Plus —

**OTHER TOP ROCK & ROLL ACTS**

Tickets on sale at The Hub or send check or money order to DC Productions, P.O. Box 1521, Madison, Wisconsin. Include a self addressed, stamped envelope!

**Tickets: \$5.00, \$4.50, and \$3.50**

"Madison Mirror," June 10, 1966

changed radically. No longer typeset, the copy now appears to be done on a typewriter. The paper size became smaller. An editorial in early 1967 reflected upon school spirit. As the end grew closer, more "lasts" appeared, including "Final Prom to Be May 24." The closing editorial read, "After June 5th, 1969, Madison Central University High School will cease to exist. To many it will be forgotten, but to Central students, never. We will remember many events and activities ... Central would not be Central without its great variety of people. .... Even though this school is closing, it will never die..."

Principal Marsh looked to the future when he took the steps to preserve this run of the "Madison Mirror." The newspapers document student life in the twentieth century, offering readers insight into a vital, diverse, cosmopolitan campus. They also provide researchers a steady and valuable 45-year record of information about education, social attitudes, Madison businesses and the effects of world and national events on Dane County students. ■

**DANE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER:** The Dane County Historical Society Newsletter is published quarterly (around February, May, August, November), with submissions due 15 days earlier. Reader reviews, testimonials, flak and flattery, are also welcome. Send to: Howard Sherpe, 1017 Chieftain Lookout, Madison, WI 53711. E-mail: skjerpe@chorus.net

Shirley Homburg, Vice President, DANE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Howard Sherpe, Editor, DANE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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# Mount Horeb Area Historical Society - 30th Anniversary

On a snowy evening in March of 1975, a group of dedicated citizens with a mission of preserving the history of Southwestern Dane County set in motion the Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society. From the beginning the society has depended on its volunteers to make things happen through countless public programs, exhibits, and fund-raisers. The Society's scope of collecting focused on the environment, people, places and outside forces affecting the region. This mission, with continued public support, resulted in an award-winning collection revered by state historians, genealogist, writers, and researchers. The Society's holdings now exceed 20,000 photographic images, close to 20,000 artifacts, a library of books, and countless manuscripts, posters, diaries, and ephemeral items.

To celebrate this milestone birthday there will be events throughout the year. They began in April with a program "Back to the 1950s." On May 1st a new Centennial Gallery exhibit titled "Your Treasures, Your History: 1975-2005" opened at the Mt. Horeb Area Museum, 100 S. Second Street in Mt. Horeb. The exhibit contains more than 100 artifacts

More than 100 artifacts have been drawn from the Museum's extensive and diverse holdings for inclusion in the exhibition. The items were selected by Donna Read, one of the Society's newest curators, and by president Brian Bigler. During the month long selection process, items were chosen for their local importance, their social statements, their relevance to area communities in the collections territory, their representation of the diverse talents of area citizens, and, if they passed the "WOW" factor - visually interesting! Many of the



items have never been exhibited before.

The items represent some of the first artifacts to become part of the Museum's permanent collections, like the 1918 operating table from the Mt. Horeb Hospital gifted in 1977. The gift of a pottery vase brought to the Museum by well known artist, Marjori King, during the exhibit's installation, will be amongst the most recent items. The vase will join an earlier work of King's selected for inclusion and dating to 1986. The largest item displayed is a 1971 Ski Doo snowmobile gifted by Milo & Dorothy Bergum and Ken Kellogg. Ken Kellogg won the machine during a raffle at the second annual snowmobile races held at Mt. Horeb on January 3, 1971. The snowmobile was lovingly restored for the exhibit by David Boyden, and his son Mike, who received school credits for taking on the local history project.

From its inception the Historical Society has been known for its detailed interiors, and this exhibit has given the opportunity to once more ply this old favorite. Using the gallery's limited space, curators have painstakingly reproduced an actual 1899 photo of the interior of John S. Donald's farm home office. The very desk where Donald started his long and distinguished political career is included in the setting, as is a photo of Delma Donald Woodburn at age one year, who, at 102 gifted the items in the room setting to the Historical Society. The exhibit is also fitting as Delma was a member of the organization from its very beginning.

Museum hours are: Friday and Saturday 10:00 - 4:00 and Sunday 12:30 - 4:00. For more information call 608-437-6487 during museum hours.

*Information for this story came from the Mt. Horeb Area Past Times, a publication of the Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society.*



## Forest Hill Cemetery Tour

Historic Madison's 11th annual forest Hill Cemetery tour will take place on Sunday, July 24, 2005, beginning at 1 p.m. This year's tour will focus on Madison authors, ranging from Frederick Jackson Turner to Ella Giles to William Ellery Leonard to Belle Case La Follette. Gather at the Catlin Chapel just inside the entrance to the cemetery on Speedway Road. The tour is free, so bring your friends for an enjoyable afternoon.

## In the Fall Issue

Read about the earliest letter sent by Simeon Mills from Madison on October 22, 1837.

There will also be a story about Simeon Mills, his trip to Madison, and what he found when he arrived. Read what he had to say about Madison, his future home.

**Do you have a story you'd like to see in this newsletter? If so, contact the Editor: [skjerpe@chorus.net](mailto:skjerpe@chorus.net)**

## DANE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY A FRIENDLY REMINDER

Please renew your membership if you have not already done so. Your continued interest and support enables the Society to carry out its goal preserving Dane County's heritage for tomorrow's generation.

*(Any level of membership is welcome. Circle your choice.)*

Individual - \$12.00

Family - \$18.00

Contributing - \$40.00

Sustaining - \$60

Business/Professional - \$75

Student - \$5.00

Local Historical Society - \$25.00

*Make your check payable to:*  
Dane County Historical Society.

*Mail to:*

Dane County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 5003  
Madison WI 53705

## DANE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS *FORWARD! A HISTORY OF DANE: THE CAPITAL COUNTY*

FORWARD traces the history of Dane County through the twentieth century. As home to state government, Dane County history provides background and insight into the development of Wisconsin throughout this period. The book was researched and written by Allan Ruff and Tracy Will. Tracy Will is well known to many Wisconsinites as one of the hosts of the popular television series, *Wisconsin Stories*, developed cooperatively by Wisconsin Public Television and the Wisconsin Historical Society. The first published history of Dane County in nearly 100 years is replete with fascinating details and rich graphics. It has over 400 pages of text, hundreds of pictures, complete index, maps, photos, and graphics enliven the text.

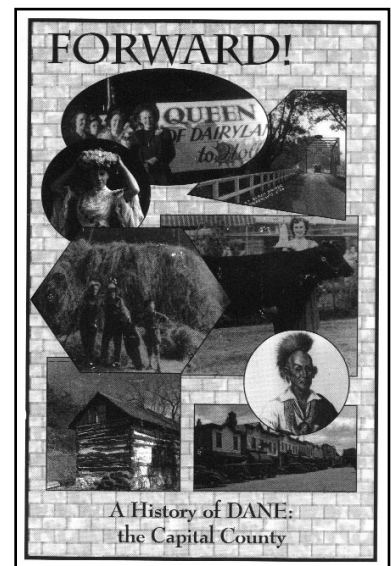
I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ number of copies:

Historical Society Members Copies @ \$26.95 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OR Non-Members Copies @ \$29.95 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping and Handling: Add \$3.00 per copy \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**MAIL TO: DCHS, P.O. BOX 5003, MADISON, WI 53705-0003**

*If you wish to pick up the book in person to save shipping and handling charge, please call Anne Short (274-1960)*

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Dane County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 5003  
Madison, WI 53705-0003

Non Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Madison, WI Permit No. 739
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**Wisconsin Public Radio and StoryCorps (*Continued from page 1*)**

**Here are some of the people interviewed while the StoryCorps Mobil Unit was in Madison.**

**Anne Short** Interviewed by Mike Bovre.

Anne grew up in Sheboygan, Wisconsin and graduated from U.W. Madison. She worked for U.W. Extension, is a published local historian, conducted bus tours, raised a family, and teaches reminiscence writing at Westside Coalition for the Aging. Was a board member-Dane County Historical Society.

**Joanne Jensen** Interviewed by her daughter.

Joanne grew up on a farm in Dane County. Her maiden name was Schuepbach. Her mother was an Italian, who was part owner of 3 Sisters Restaurant. She was Josie's Restaurant owner for 40 years. She lived through redevelopment of Greenbush area. Joanne is a board member of the Dane County Historical Society.

**Shirley Homburg** Interviewed by Barbara Furstenberg. Born and raised on a farm in Town of Blooming Grove off Milwaukee Street. She rode to one room school with the milkman on his route. In the interview she told of her studies in art education at the University of Wisconsin. her marriage to Harold Homburg, and their family. The Homburgs estab-

lished a thriving multi-faceted construction business which they run as a family business. She is very civic minded and talked about her job as the manager of the gift shop at Olbrich Gardens and how she got there.

**Butch Strickler** Interviewed by Marshall Shapiro.

Butch is a former athlete at the U.W. He was in the sausage making business in New Glarus. He was very active in U.W. fund raising and organized the well known "Bologna Bash."

**Dr. Ray Guenveur** Interviewed by Barbara Furstenberg.

He was an optometrist in Mount Horeb from 1939 until his retirement over 60 years later. He talked about the early years in Mount Horeb, especially during the '40's and '50's and about his practice and history of Mt.Horeb. Topics included the Gonstead chiropractic practice, the Fall Frolic, community leaders, and social matters. He told how he established his optometry practice and some of the changes that occurred over the years. He was president of the Wisconsin Optometric Association.

**Ray Virnig** Interviewed by his son Robert Virnig.

Ray is a life-long resident of Cross Plains and 5th generation local historian. He is a member of St. Francis Xavier Church, Cross Plains.

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