



Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society Historic Times

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216 Green Bay Road, Suite 102, Thiensville, WI 53092
262-242-3107 | mthistory1839@gmail.com

Open Thursday afternoons from 2-5 p.m. and by appointment.
For research, call archivist Bev Silldorff: 262-242-3290

A Conversation with Jack Wiese

Contributed by Bob Blazich, President

I recently found myself in an interesting conversation with Jack Wiese who was born in Thiensville in 1931 and who still lives in the area. Jack's father, Edwin, was the teller at the original Thiensville State Bank and was the first president of the Thiensville-Mequon Rotary Club. Jack and his two older siblings lived just east of the former St. Cecilia's church in the family home on Ellenbecker Road in Thiensville.

As we talked, Jack shared many stories about attending the former Grand Avenue School (now apartments) and later going to Cedarburg High School when Grand Avenue no longer offered grades 9 and 10. He took the Interurban to Cedarburg for one year before it stopped running in 1948. He relied on family rides or hitchhiking to get back and forth to school after that.

While it was running, the Interurban was a big part of Jack's life. He would take the electric railway to Brown

Deer Park to skate in winter and up to Cedarburg to go to one of the two movie theaters. The Rivoli usually had good movies. Admission was a dime and popcorn was a nickel. Round trip on the Interurban was 20 cents.



Interior of Thiensville State Bank. Pictured: Charles Maas, bank VP, is behind the desk and Edwin Wiese, Cashier, in teller's window.

Jack said that there wasn't much for kids to do back then. He was a member of the Boy Scouts. Troop 52 was chartered in 1939 with Buddy Rowe as scoutmaster and Don Look as his assistant. The troop later rechartered in 1946 with Bob Billings as the scoutmaster and Wayne Reich as the assistant. Jack was also part of a youth group at Grace Lutheran Church in Thiensville.

Jack held several different jobs including serving as "the skinniest lifeguard at the Mequon pool" where he earned \$160 for the whole summer. He also set bowling pins at Riemer's (now Remington's) in Thiensville. (Yes, that long dining room at Remington's)
Story continued page 3

Inside This Issue . . .

Contact Us See Page 2

Memorial Donations See Page 2

President's Article Continued See Page 3

We've Moved See Page 4

In Memory See Page 5

Acquisitions See Page 6

Volunteering See Page 7

Membership Form See Page 7

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Contact Us

President: Bob Blazich, rblazich@gmail.com
262-242-4653

Archivist: Bev Silldorff, 262-242-3290

Membership & Volunteer

Chairperson: Mary Sayner, 608-881-9935
mcsayner@yahoo.com

Newsletter: Jennifer Hamm, 262-370-2232
jenniferhamm53092@gmail.com

Address: 216 Green Bay Road, Suite 102
Mequon, WI 53092

Website: www.mthistoricalsociety.org

Email: mthistory1839@gmail.com

MTHS Phone: 262-242-3107

Join Us

Join today. It's easy. Memberships also make great gifts!

Annual Membership:

Individual\$15
Family.....\$20
Contributing.....\$30
Business.....\$80
Sustaining\$100

Tax deductible 501(c)(3) donations are appreciated.

Send your check to: MTHS, 216 Green Bay Road,
Suite 102, Thiensville, WI 53092. Membership form
located on page 7 of this newsletter.

Memorials

March 2016 - June 2016

In Memory of Donald Goniu

Anonymous
Ms. Catherine Bennett for the Red Hat Ladies
Cynthia and David Bock
Lorraine and William Buehler
Richard and Jane Dean
Pat and Don Engelbert
Louise Fuhry
Roxybelle Heyse
Joan and Daniel Jablonski
Nancy H. Koberstein
Koslow Cycle, Inc.
Sarah and Brent Luft
Mary Sayner
Barbara and Leander Schaefer
Beverly Silldorff
Lois P. Smith

In Memory of Ruth Renz

Anonymous Family and Friends
Jan and Bob Blazich
Nina Look and Fred Derr
Gordon and Sharon Hinrichs
Don and Laverne Molyneux
Kevin and Lorrie Riemer Family
Bowne and Mary Sayner
Beverly Silldorff

A Conversation with Jack Wiese

President's Message, Continued from page 1

was once a very popular bowling alley.)

The biggest problem Jack and his friends had was "boredom". There really wasn't much to do. They would go to Loppnow's Drug Store or Seyfert's. Seyfert's had three parts to it; a soda fountain and grill (with a beautiful onyx countertop), a grocery store and a pharmacy. Seyfert's was on the northeast corner of Cedarburg and Mequon Roads, and Jack thought

the St. Cecilia nuns lived in the big farm house on the southwest corner of Buntrock and Orchard. The Ellenbeckers ran a farm just north of the Wiese home, and there was also a huge apple orchard behind the Weise home. While Jack was in service in the early 50's, the land was sold and the houses that still stand on Orchard and Highland were constructed.

I enjoyed my time "chewing the fat" with Jack, and I



Scouting image: Top Row, left to right, Carl Zaeske, Harvey Wood, Frank Schwan, Jerry Scherbert, Jack Wiese, Leroy Mueller, Monroe Hall and Roy Oberhieu. Center Row, left to right, James Ward, Jerry Radke, Lewis Oberhieu, David Loppnow, Ronald Anzia, Justin Pipkorn and Warren Sekas. Front Row, left to right, Harold Woodworth, Marshal Filter, George Mulligan, Mike Colgrove, Gordon Lucht, Fred Zaeske and Kieth Steffen.

Mr. Seyfert lived below the store overlooking the Milwaukee River just to the east. Straight across the street to the west was Pop Mulvaney's tavern (on the site of the new Café Hollander). Across Mequon Road to the south was a beautiful private park with big old oak and maple trees ... until somebody cut down all the trees and built the shopping center there. Jack said that he doesn't remember anyone complaining about clearing out the park. They just did it. The same thing happened to the old mill. They just knocked it down.

Doc Elbe lived just to the south of the Wieses, and

look forward to sitting down with him and others to hear more stories about life in our community's past. I recorded my conversation with Jack Wiese, and it will be added to the digital archives at the historical society.

I'm sure there are a lot of stories to be told by long-time residents of our community. If you know someone who might have an interesting story or two to share with us, please have them contact me. Or get their name to me and I'll happily take the initiative to invite them to share their stories. There's no substitute for first-hand oral history.

We've Moved!

Contributed by Bonnie Heintskill and the MTHS Board Members

Our big news is our move to a new office. Bob spent countless hours and months calling any place that might have an office space for rent. He even stayed home in the cold and snow this year instead of escaping to someplace warmer over the winter! Once he narrowed the choices down, Board Members toured the office spaces. The best fit was our new office, located at 216 Green Bay Road, Suite 102, Thiensville. All Board Members were involved in the process of touring the places, voting on which ones they liked, discussing pros and cons of each space, and working behind the scenes to get things ready. Bob sent many emails to the City Administrator and Assistant Administrator asking questions, keeping the City of Mequon updated, and extending our lease at The Logemann Community Center.



Images of City of Mequon Parks and Recreation volunteers who moved MTHS to its new location.



Brett Hockerman, Scott Ernst, and Joe Grube. The Mequon DPW volunteers also moved a few items after the move to the Isham Day House and a small shelving unit to the new office. The city crew moved out the remaining desks and shelving we could not use and donated them to Habitat for Humanity and arranged for a dumpster for our use until May 31, 2016.



Bev Silldorff organized materials and helped move delicate items to the new location. Harold Schnell took down the last display boards at Logemann and the City moved

them to the Isham Day House (IDH). Harold also did recycling of materials

no longer of use to the archive and is keeping an eye on the humidity issue at the IDH. Ray Heintskill and Bob Blazich moved shelving units and filing cabinets to make space for our paintings, photos, and display boards.

Thanks also go to Amanda and Bonnie Heintskill, Mary Ann and Chris Velnetski, and Bob Blazich who worked on getting our computers up and running in the new office.

MTHS owes a great deal of thanks to the Logemann Community Center and the City of Mequon for allowing us to be in the office space for so many wonderful years. In appreciation, handwritten thank you cards were dropped off at Mequon City Hall for each DPW and volunteer.

Thanks to everyone for your help and support.

Editor's Note: The board and members of the M-T Historical Society would like to give a special shout out to Bonnie Heintskill for her over-the-top efforts to make the very complex move of our 28-year old collection smooth and efficient. Bonnie spent countless hours organizing and planning details of the move, overseeing the work of our moving crew and coordinating the settlement of the entire collection into its new home.

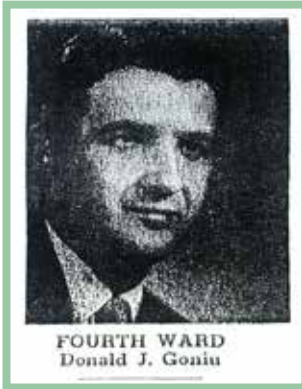
Thank you Bonnie!

Mary Sayner, Judy Helgeland, Fay Walker and Bonnie Heintskill worked with the City of Mequon DPW guys on the day of the move which was on Tuesday, May 3. A special thanks go to Mequon City Administrator Will Jones, Assistant City Administrator Jesse Thyges and Don Curran, Director of Parks and Recreation, for loaning us the following guys: Kent Sumner, Scott Schowalter, volunteer Josh Scibek, Paul Stanowsky,

In Memory

Contributed by Bev Silldorff and Mary Sayner

Image of late Donald J. Goniou, MTHS Board Member. Picture from 1957, the year Mequon became a City.



In Memory of Don Goniou

On April 20, 2016 the Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society lost one of its most loyal members, Don Goniou. He passed to his Eternal Home just 37 days short of his 90th birthday.

Don celebrated life to the fullest! He loved his family, his business, his gardens, and the City of Mequon. He demonstrated this by joining and supporting local organizations and participating in local government. He served in the Army during WWII. He served as an Alderman on the 1st Common Council in 1957 when Mequon incorporated as a city, he served on the school board, chaired the Blue Ribbon "Sewer Wars" commission, Open Space Commission, Economic Development Commission, Visionary Commission, 10th and 50th Anniversary Commission – the list goes on and on.

Don Goniou served as a Scout Leader, he served on business boards such as Hobby Industry of America and Bicycle Wholesale Distributors Association. He held memberships in UW Alumni Association and Cudworth American Legion Post. He was Founder and President of the Mequon Dance Club, a member and past president of the Mequon Men's club and on the commission to form the Mequon Historical Society (MHS) in 1987. This was truly his "thing" as he loved to talk about history and especially about Mequon. His enthusiasm was contagious. He was on the MHS board as Vice President in 1987 and remained so until 2011!

We will miss Don and the many years of cheerful interest and loyal support he gave the Mequon Historical Society, the M-T Historical Society and this community.

Image of late Ruth Renz, Board Member and Researcher for the Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society



Remembering Ruth Renz

Ruth Jahn Renz grew up on a farm here in Mequon attending the local elementary school and using the Interurban Railroad line to attend high school in Cedarburg. Ruth was very bright and was able to skip some grades graduating from high school at the age of 16. She often recalled the fun of those days with her friends despite the inconveniences we no longer encounter.

Before she married Ed Renz, she lived at home but worked in Milwaukee and also did waitress work in local restaurants. She said that waitresses were not given tips but were told to have a "drink" putting the cost on the tab. Ruth said she acquired a lot of candy bars.

One day Ruth was talking about how she met her husband Rev. Ed Renz. She was walking up the hill from Thiensville to her home and this young man in his car asked whether she wanted a ride home. She accepted the ride and a date because "he had a car." That led to married life, years in Europe and Florida and elsewhere, and finally settling back in Mequon to care for her aging parents.

To those of us at MTHS Ruth was a board member, an active and hard-working volunteer, a source of historic information and a friend. In some ways she was a private person; she guarded her birthday year like the gold in Fort Knox.

Ruth valued her history and the history of this area. She is missed by her friends and associates.

Recent Acquisitions at the Don Sillardorff Archive

Contributed by Archivist Bev Sillardorff (262-242-3290 or 262-242-3107)

The Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society thrives on the generosity of donors and local organizations. Below is a list of recent acquisitions.

Judy Vogel:

- Various newspaper clippings and images of Milrace Motors including the office on the current site of Frenz's Market on Main Street in Thiensville and an image taken outside of the Willowbrook shops.
- Article about Kathy's House, and Dick and Judy Vogel's daughter Kathy.

Shirley Warren:

- Bliesner Family History (Genealogy).

Schmidt Ford:

- Dealership advertisements and articles including images of employees circa 1978.

Judy and Glen Helgeland

- Four filing cabinets, computer desk, and two rolling printer stands.

Mary Ann and Chris Velnetske

- Three filing cabinets.

Steve Peterman of TWP Architects

- Five drawer architect drawing cabinet.

F.L. Weyenberg Library

- 3 shelving units, framed photos, desk and a rolling book box.

Mr. and Mrs. Gawlick

- Black credenza with two lateral file drawers.

Logemann Community Center

- Computer and monetary donation.



Milrace Motors event in Thiensville at the Willowbrook shops. Image circa 1961.



Milrace Motors advertisement. Image circa 1961.



Employees of Schmidt Ford, Thiensville, 1978.



Volunteering at the M-T Historical Society

Contributed by Mary Sayner

Most of the volunteering for MTHS this spring has concerned the move from Logemann Center to Thiensville---216 Green Bay Road. All volunteers who helped in the moving effort are thanked for their efforts. MTHS could not function without volunteers!

Bob and Bonnie attended the Mequon-Thiensville's Recreation Department Silver Awards Luncheon on Thursday, May 26, 2016. Bob and Bonnie presented on volunteering for MTHS and what we do at the society.



Bonnie Heintskill and Bob Blazich at the 2016 Silver Awards Luncheon.

MTHS was represented in the Fun Before the Fourth by three Ford Model A cars driven by the Hilby, Ehlers and Karthaus families. Bob Blazich and Fay Walker also walked the parade route distributing information cards about MTHS, and the Hamm family handed out water and took donations in front of our new location.

Now that we have settled at our new office, MTHS

volunteers are organizing our historic collections and accepting and cataloging the new donations from local residents and organizations. We have a list of a few people who have expressed an interest in volunteering. As soon as we can get projects identified, we will be calling you. To other members and friends of MTHS, we invite you to volunteer. Just call Mary Sayner at 608-881-9935 or email mcsayner@yahoo.com.

MTHS Wish List

MTHS is in need of the following items. Remember, your donations are tax deductible! Call us for more details.

Supplies from Gaylord Archival Supplies:

- * Archival Boxes and safe sheet protectors
- * Gift cards for Gaylord Archival Products

Office Supplies:

- * Copy/Printer paper
- * Reacher/grabber
- * White envelopes
- * 1st class stamps - 100
- * 2-step step collapsible stool with wide steps and hand rail.
- * Ledger Size HP Printer/Scanner/Coper/Fax - Prints up to 13" x 17" papers. Model HP7612.
- * Seagate Backup Plus External Hard Drive 5 TB, WIFI accessibility and 200 GB cloud storage.

I Would Like A Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society Membership!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Tax deductible 501(c)(3) donations are appreciated.

I would like the newsletter sent by Mail Email

Email Address: _____

I am interested in volunteering for the Mequon Thiensville Historical Society Yes No

Annual Membership Levels:

- Individual\$15
- Family.....\$20
- Contributing.....\$30
- Business.....\$80
- Sustaining\$100

Please Mail Checks to: M-T Historical Society, at 216 Green Bay Road, Suite 102, Thiensville, WI 53092.



1961 Mirrae Motor gathering in Thiensville. Image courtesy of Judy Vogel.

Sharing Memories

Historic Times

Megun-Thiensville Historical Society's

SAVE THE DATE!

M-T Historical Society OPEN HOUSE on Saturday, September 17th, 2016 from 1-4pm! Stop in to see our new office and enjoy light refreshments. A children's activity will be available. Bring the whole family!

Your Renewal is Due

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

216 Green Bay Road, Suite 102, Thiensville, WI 53092

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