

The 1980's

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Note: Since I did not usually write about current history, this file is small

Some Benefactors of Baraboo/Sauk County

Are there future benefactors among us today?

Yesteryear Revisited

By Bob Dewel

It is with great trepidation that we approach the subject of benefactors, for no matter how we try, we are bound to overlook significant donors to Baraboo/Sauk County. Therefore we used only our own stories (293 articles) over the past 9 years as the basis for our search, and readily admit that our stories do not cover the full gamut of local events and donations.

Not included are donations to churches, clubs, lodges, hospitals, the library, and schools or other private or semi-private organizations, nor is it possible to include in-kind donations. Some donors prefer to be unsung, and we apologize to those who might have liked a mention of their donation. In addition, one should remember that the amount given is not as important as the thought behind it.

Some projects, such as the statue of a Civil War veteran on the courthouse, require multiple donors, sometimes with significant sums of money. Civic improvements such as those by the CCC, WPA, and the ongoing Kiwanis Riverwalk are also in a class by themselves.

We concentrate, then only on the individuals about whom we have written, people who did not object to the publicity accompanying their gift, with apologies to those we may have overlooked.

Some prominent donors

Prescott Brigham, stage coach driver and tavern operator in Sumpter, who in 1846 purchased what is now the courthouse square and part of downtown Baraboo, "with his own money, and deeded it to the county."

The citizens of Baraboo, who in 1870, though told they would never see the money again, voted 347 to 3 to bond the city for \$70,000 to get the railroad to come in. In 1880 the city had to sell the \$70,000 bonds back to the railroad for \$100 total!

The Gatticker Sisters, who in 1915 donated the courthouse clock and copula as a memorial to their father, J.J. Gatticker. Later they also made possible the Magdalene Home in honor of their Mother.

Al. Ringling, who in 1915 constructed the magnificent Al. Ringling Theatre. Intended as a gift to the city, the gift was declined for good reason in 1917, but the theatre still serves with distinction, sparing the city the cost of a civic auditorium. Many donors made possible the restored façade and other improvements.

Della Ringling, wife of Alf. T Ringling, who donated their large home so as to provide the city with a hospital.

Dr. Albert Ochsner, living in Texas, who donated much of what is now Ochsner Park to the City. Later a bandstand donated by Herman Grotophorst was erected in the park. There are many other parks named after donors, such as the Pierce athletic park.

W.W. Warner whose childhood was in Baraboo, left \$40,000 in 1916 to be used to develop what is now State 123 for a direct route from the city to Devil's Lake. Properly known as the Warner Memorial Road, it was completed in 1921.

Judge Evan A. Evans, who in 1923 supplied the funds to purchase and develop what is now known as Mary Rountree Evans Park in honor of his wife.

John Kelley who supplied, (as somewhat of "a pest"), the drive, determination, and also the first circus wagon, for what in 1959 became the Circus World Museum.

George Archibald and Ron Sauey, who supplied or obtained the funds and developed the International Crane Foundation.

Kate Hill, who supplied much of the money to purchase the theatre, and also donated to the UW Baraboo campus music department.

Alma Waite, whose 1981 will donated \$779,718 to the city to be used for civic benefit. For years she had made benevolent gifts to several civic and entertainment venues. The Theatre did not benefit because at that time it was still in private (Milwaukee) hands, but surely would now, were she still living.

John and Murrel Lange, who provided millions of dollars for the University Center and the Nature Conservancy. They also made, while living, many significant donations to several other local entertainment and educational operations.

Robert and Ethel Rodwell, who in 1973 willed significant funds, believed to be over \$100,000, to the high school music department.

Wilbur Deppe, whose rarely publicized gifts cover a gamut of civic enterprises, particularly the Circus World Museum. We'll never know, either, how much of his own money Wilbur's friend Chappie Fox spent on the Circus Museum.

The land for the high school by the Draper family, and the land for the 1962 hospital by Frank Adamski.

Chester and Margaret Corson, who recently willed generous bequests to the theatre and other local endeavors.

Marie Ritzenthaler, Carol Sorg, and Esther Gray are among several donors who spread their significant gifts over many public enterprises.

Then there are the donors to Circus World Museum, Crane Foundation, Theatre, Railroad Museum, swimming pool, and others, lists to which we do not have access. Some donors spread a significant figure over several years, sometimes through the fund management services of the growing Greater Sauk County Community Foundation.

Comment

Remember the fad after World War II, when all over the country one found scribbled signs, all with the same message, "Kilroy Was Here". Well, we don't have Kilroys in Sauk County, but as you can see, from the partial list above, that many have chosen to have their names remembered long after they are gone, on brass plates rather than scribbled on walls as in Kilroy. Some persons, indeed, make their donation while still living, even if anonymously, so as to enjoy the gift and the appreciation of the public. Any lawyer or accountant can arrange public or anonymous gifts when desired, and assure their confidentiality.

In small cities like Baraboo and Reedsburg, local donor support is essential for the arts, theatres, and other cultural venues. Schools and governments are striving to meet their obligations despite tax control and restrictions. It is the private donor of even modest means who makes things work, makes their community strong and proud, serving its citizens and their needs and accomplishments. Sauk County and its cities and villages have been good to their citizens, so maybe it is payback time for financially secure citizens!

The future benefactors of Baraboo

Are they among us now?

by Bob Dewel

This is the last of a series of articles, about the past benefactors of Baraboo, with a summary and comments.

In the past few months several articles have appeared in the *Baraboo Sun* regarding benefactors to the city, ranging from early times to relatively recently.

It is obvious that the articles have not covered each and every major benefactor, nor could they, for some benefactors are anonymous and some gifts are difficult to categorize.

The Benefactors articles

A review of the benefactors might be useful to a discussion of bequests and other gifts. Here are the matters which were covered, in approximate order of publication:

1. The Warner Memorial Road by W. W. Warner of Madison, whose 1916 bequest was matched 5 years later by the city, county, and state, providing an all-weather route from the city limits direct to the Chateau at Devils Lake.

2. Preston Brigham, whose donation of the courthouse square and adjacent property to the empty treasury of the infant county assured Baraboo its position as county seat.



Dr. Robert Dewel

University Center. Unlike the others, the theatre has paid taxes for 75 years but now needs help.

9. Two articles on the importance of the Circus World Museum (CWM), and of John Kelly and Chappie Fox and others who made it a place of international significance.

power of compound investing.

Alexis DeToqueville

In the 1800's, a perceptive French traveler named DeToqueville commented as follows: "These Americans are peculiar people. If in a local community a need is not being met, a committee suddenly comes into existence. The committee thereupon begins to operate on behalf of the need, and a community function is established."

One only has to consider the Industrial Expansion Corporation, the CDA, BEDC, BID, Downtown Baraboo, the land donors for the high school, many parks, and fund drives for the hospital (including the past and on-going fund drives), to recognize what DeToqueville foresaw in those early days.

Consider also the recent hockey rink, the downtown street lights, and the Baraboo Scholarship Corporation to know that volunteerism is alive and well in Baraboo, even before Colin Powell took over national leadership of volunteerism. The local churches have also provided significant services.

In a more commercial way, local citizens banded together to provide such amenities as Thunderbird Lanes, Merry Mac's camping, and for a time the Devi Bara supper club.

Presumably the two entities, so closely entwined, will surely agree to a successful marriage in the future

About Being a Benefactor

Back at the turn of the century, the unsavory "robber barons" of unbridled capitalism "got religion," the result of which was the formation of huge foundations providing funds for the public good. The Carnegie Foundation's gift in 1912 to build our library is an example of that event.

Even while these articles were being written, Ted Turner dramatically served notice that he was reviving that tradition of public giving and is challenging others to "cough up" also for the public good.

Baraboo Donors

Only rarely does Baraboo have citizens of such comfortable circumstances, such as John and Murel Lange, to make really large donations to local institutions. Surely, though, there are many wills locked up in the files of Baraboo attorneys which will eventually reveal significant bequests to the city. Not to be overlooked also are the gifts which are lesser in monetary value, but are given from the heart, as told in the biblical story of the widow's mite.

But there are others who, like Alma

3. The Al. Ringling Theatre, provided by Al. to a city which lacked an auditorium for 10 years despite a local inducement gift by the "city fathers" of 25 percent of the cost of an opera house to anyone who would build one!

4. Oschner Park, a donation from Dr. Albert Oschner and other family members, with some money from city funds also.

5. Alma Waite, whose fine gift to the city provides many amenities for the citizens and, oddly, the purchase of a fire truck, normally paid for from tax receipts.

6. John and Murel Lange, whose 9 million dollars in gifts went to the University center, the Nature Conservancy, and several city institutions.

7. Two articles about the Northwestern Railroad, essential to the city's future. Baraboo's financial gamble of \$70,000 of 1880 dollars made possible not only industrial growth, but the circuses, the Circus museum, The Al. Ringling Theatre and the Mid-Continent Railway Museum.

8. An article about the Ringling Theatre and its cultural sisters, the library and the

Despite an open invitation in one article, the only suggestion we have received for a donor article was the idea that the DNR is a donor to the city, having contributed to the hockey rink and a shelter at Oschner Park! Others might feel, however, that its edict for all practical purposes destroys the historic dam and the lake near the CWM, so the idea was not explored. Another significant donor to city institutions is expected to be announced soon, and it is hoped Baraboo citizens will continue to be as generous as their predecessors were.

Ben Franklin Started It

It may have been Ben Franklin who started it all 250 years ago, for in Philadelphia, the largest city in the colonies, he persevered in starting the first hospital, the first library, the first college (now University of Pennsylvania), and even the first fire department! In his will he gave a modest sum to that city and to Boston, with some of the interest to be reinvested, and some to be used for education. Each fund is now worth millions to those cities, demonstrating the

The city's involvement

One thing DeToqueville failed to note may be the reluctance of Americans to have our government finance projects normally assumed elsewhere by a governing body. No European city, for example, would fail to at least partially fund a public building of such beauty and history as the Al. Ringling.

The city generously funds the library (now well endowed), the university center (now expanding), the airport, the outdoor pool and similar public benefits. Although sometimes reluctant, the city council usually comes through.

Although this series of articles has confined itself to projects within the city limits, it should be noted that some of our significant community leaders live outside those city limits. Since they do not pay city taxes, the efforts of these community leaders to "pay their dues" are especially recognized and appreciated.

Also to be noted is the long time generosity of the late Dayl Sorg and his family to our very close neighbor, West Baraboo.

Waite, Preston Brigham, Al. Ringling, and the Langes, who decide that "enough is enough" when it comes to money for themselves or their descendants. They distribute part of their fortunes while they are still living and able to see their donations go to work for the citizens.

One can make his or her donation in a will, or can make a contribution while living, through an accountant or banker or attorney. The donation can be public or anonymous. If to a tax-free organization, the gift may be deductible to up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income, saving taxes on both the federal and state tax returns.

This is the final article on the benefactors of Baraboo. We trust that a generation from now, a new series will report on the generous gifts and donations which are yet to be announced and reported in the Baraboo media. For some, like the theatre, the gifts cannot come too soon.

Surely the spirit of Ben Franklin and DeToqueville, so important in earlier days, will continue to be alive and well in Baraboo!

PL-a~~ note that this article was published in 1997

Alma Waite's blockbuster gift to Baraboo

1058

By Dr. Bob Dewel

In this, the fifth in a series about major benefactors of Baraboo, we consider the major legacy of Alma Waite.

You would think that Alma Waite would have received a nice obituary notice in the paper at the time of her death in 1981, considering the many gifts she had already made to the Circus World Museum (CWM) and the Mid-Continent Railway Museum. However, her passing got only a bare mention, a list of the pallbearers being the principal part of the story!

You would also think, in view of the magnificent gift to the city in her will, that our library and Historical Society would have Alma Waite files, but there are none. The city of course maintains records on the use of the money, but no personal notes. Even the CWM had only a clipping about one of the times she gave them money.

Moreover, it was only with great difficulty that a picture of Alma was found, and then only by chance, on the backside of a faded clipping about Judge Robert Gollmar. Mrs. Sandra Gollmar Edwards has allowed us to print it here. The CWM clipping did have a picture of Alma with others, but not readily reproducible.

Yet Alma Waite's will made the most significant monetary gift ever received by the city, a whopping \$779,718. I hope this article and some research records will inspire an Alma Waite file in our libraries and museums, normally so complete.



photo by Ronald Rich

Alma White (center) at the dedication of the Alma White Room in the Circus World research library. Also shown are Chapple Fox (left) and Clark Wilkinson.

This, then, is the story of Alma Waite and her gift to Baraboo and to us, its citizens.

The Juliar Heritage

To understand the gift from Alma Waite, you have to go back some 150 years and begin with the Juliar Family and its surprising connection to Baraboo and its circus heritage.

Briefly, the Juliar parents had three daughters. One, Mary Magdelina, married Gottlieb Gollmar. Among their 13 children were the five Gollmar Circus brothers. This circus was the second largest in Wisconsin, no small feat since dozens of circuses had their beginnings in Wisconsin.

The second Juliar daughter, Marie Salome, married August Ringling, and all of their eight children had some part in the history of the Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus, eventually the largest circus in the world.

The third sister, Katherine, married Henry Moeller, and two sons had the Moeller Wagon Works which built wagons for both the Gollmars and the Ringlings. Still extant are the Swan Wagon and the Bell Wagon.

The Moeller boys had a sister, Mary Moeller Lux, and Alma Lux was her daughter, Alma becoming Alma Waite upon marriage to Arthur Waite. Appropriately, "alma" means bountiful!

Note, then, that the Gollmars, Ringlings, and Moellers were cousins, and that Henry and Corwin Moeller were uncles to Alma. Since neither man had children, Alma eventually inherited the Moeller fortune. Alma always said that her money was circus money.

One wonders if the parents of the Juliar sisters were not mightily surprised at the lifetime pursuits of their grandchildren in the circus!

Now, in 1997, they could be proud of the public service gifts of those grandchildren, and of their great grandchild Alma Waite and her gifts.

Let no one say "What did the circus ever do for Baraboo?" Consider the Al. Ringling Theatre, the Ringling hospital and the Alma Waite Fund for starters!

Lifetime gifts of Alma Waite

Alma Waite is variously described as unassuming and unpretentious, but also not reticent in some matters. Alma had the wisdom to realize, well before her death, that "enough is enough" when it came to family fortunes, and that she should begin to dispose of it. Thus she was able to have the real satisfaction of seeing that her gifts were put to good use, and for public benefit.

There seem to have been four major gifts during her lifetime. Best known is the Moeller Hippodrome at the CWM, given in 1964 as a memorial to her brothers. She also purchased and moved the advertising rail car, as well as the Bostock collection of rare circus posters.

A member of the CWM Board of Directors, she gave significant funds towards the circus library. The Mid-Continent Railway Museum also received a donation, as did the Magdeline Home, named after one of the Juliar sisters. Had the Theatre been in the hands of ART Friends during her lifetime, she surely would have given to it also.

Alma Waite's will

Alma Waite died on July 8, 1981, after residing in the Magdeline Home for seven years. Her will lists 33 bequests totaling \$153,000, with the beneficiaries ranging from relatives and friends to organizations such as the Magdeline Home, the Sauk County Health Care Center, Camp Waubeek, the Humane Society, St. Vincent's, several Masonic organizations, the Methodist Church and the hospital. She also relieved certain organizations, such as the

*uncles



Alma White and the Swan Wagon built at the Moeller Wagon Works.

Industrial Expansion Corporation, of their obligations to her.

The real blockbuster, however, was the bequest to the city of the remainder of her assets, which totaled \$779,718. The restrictions on the city were mild. No money was to be used to increase salaries, and the money was to be used first to retire any indebtedness on the fairly new city hall.

Otherwise, the funds "may be used as the city may determine, but suggest it to be used for the repair of our sidewalks, which are in lamentable condition, or other worthwhile purposes." Attorney Jenks recalls that she had fallen due to a faulty sidewalk, perhaps in her Birch Street neighborhood.

Lest anyone think that the Alma Waite fund could now be used as grants to solve the current sidewalk controversy in 1997, note that the two operative words are "suggest" and "repair," not "replace or install." Alma might be amused to hear of the raging discussions about our sidewalks today.

The city's stewardship

The receipt of over three-quarters of a million dollars with relatively few restrictions was a big challenge to the city council of 1981, and also to the successor councils.

Resisting the temptation to spend the funds in one blaze of glory, the city first addressed the sidewalk issue. A policy was adopted whereby citizens can in effect borrow funds for sidewalk and curb and gutter, with a payment plan covering three years, and at relatively low interest. Well over half a million dollars has been circulated in this manner for both



The Moeller Wagon Works

sidewalks and for curb and gutter. Note that these are loans, not grants, and they do not cover the street repairs we need so badly.

Never has the principal been touched, but there are records of many outright grants from the interest. A continuing grant each year adds up to well over \$50,000 for Concerts on the Square, and other performing arts activities have been aided also. Well over \$100,000 apparently went for a new fire truck, and the Parks Dept., the Pavilion and the Broadway swimming pool have benefited significantly.

A major acquisition for the City has been the Alma Waite Annex on Fifth Street, housing offices and the Emergency Ambulance Service. Some years, funds have been allocated for fireworks and for holiday decorations, and the Juliar building was purchased to make room for the new Sauk County building.

Records are not readily available from 1982 to 1987, though it is known that the great anniversary parade in 1984 received help from the Alma Waite fund, and appropriately so, considering the circus connection of her estate. Beginning in 1987, however, it appears that a million dollars has been used so far for the "other worthwhile purposes" mentioned in the will!

Needless to say, all of these benefits come only from interest on the original bequest. Not only that, but the city has prudently used some of the interest to increase the principal to compensate for inflation. The principal is now valued at \$1,126,542 as of the first of 1997, with additional interest to be added in 1997 before the year is out.

Moreover, the Alma Waite Fund has been carefully protected from "raiders" who might want to deplete the principal for some current project. Thanks to a Charter Ordinance, the formula for preserving the fund can only be changed by a two-thirds vote of the council followed by a city-wide citizens referendum.

Recognition

No, there isn't an obituary on file, or apparently even available, for Alma Waite. There isn't a file of any kind — yet. However, Alma did receive a little recognition in her lifetime for her public gifts, although it is believed there were anonymous gifts also.

One time was at the CWM when she received a plaque in appreciation for a significant gift to their library. She stated, "I am very happy to be able to do this. The Circus World Museum is a fine thing for Baraboo, and I am glad to help out." Clark Wilkinson was the speaker that day, and called attention to the fact that she was giving during her lifetime and could enjoy seeing her gift put to use.

Another time was when the AARP honored her in 1964. W.E. Donahue spoke of her "willingness to work at improving the human condition" and her "concern for fellowman."

It has been said, "What you save, you leave behind. What you spend, you have for a little while. But what you give away on worthy causes or what you do to benefit mankind, you take with you. The latter is what lives after you."

The Alma Waite Fund will serve the city for generations to come.

And the Moellers? Well, we have a Ringling Avenue and a Gollmar Avenue. East, West, and South streets no longer describe the boundaries of our city. A Moeller Avenue would be nice.

What would Alma Waite want?

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In 1973 Alma Waite, a descendant of the circus wagon-building Moeller brothers, made out her will. Upon her death at a later date, it provided a generous sum of money, nearly three-quarters of a million dollars, to be administered by the city with a few restrictions.

An examination of the stewardship of the funds finds that the city has at times shown excellent management and at other times what might be considered inappropriate uses for the funds thereof.

The recent controversy on the council over the appropriation of some \$17,750 of the funds for a study of the sidewalk question in the city drew a divided council vote on the matter.

With regard to the fund, this writer had an occasion to make a rather complete study of the fund for an article in the Baraboo Sun series, "The Benefactors of Baraboo."

There are a number of observations that can be made, therefore, with regard to the \$17,750 study, the current request of the Al. Ringling Theatre for support, and the ongoing request for increased funds for the Concerts on the Square series.

In this article, we will attempt to predict what Alma Waite would have wanted, using her lifetime record of giving as an indicator for the uses of the fund.

Good management

With regard to the administration of the fund by the city, there is a shining example of good management. A few years ago the council moved to both protect the principal and insulate it from inflation. As a result, it would be extremely difficult now for a council to submit to temptation and raid the principal for some

BOB DEWEL

GUEST
COLUMNIST



MRS. ALMA LUX WAITE

current political gain.

Briefly, some 25 percent of the 1998 interest from the fund must be transferred to the principal, rather than being spent for some proposal. Only a public referendum could alter this plan. The 25 percent seems a rather generous measure of the consumer price index, but has allowed the fund to grow over \$1 million.

Past expenditures

As to past expenditures from the interest, the record includes the following selected examples:

1. The construction of new sidewalk adjoining city lands.
2. The use of Alma Waite funds to finance citizen payments for sidewalk or curb and gutter, with payments over a three-year period.
3. Several bequests to public nonprofit groups such as one to Circus World Museum for an exhibit.
4. Considerable support, totaling more than \$60,000 over the

years, for the Concerts on the Square series.

5. Astonishingly, some \$175,000 for the purchase of a fire truck!

With regard to sidewalks, it is true that Waite, in her will, suggested that some funds be used for the repair of sidewalks "which are in a lamentable condition." Waite had tripped and fallen about the time the will was written.

The council has interpreted "repair" liberally, to pay for new sidewalks on city-owned property. Previous councils approved this, for Waite had specified that any indebtedness on the then new city hall should be paid from her funds, and new sidewalks would be an appropriate matter for the new building, and by extension, to all city property.

The bequests to Circus World and the Concerts on the Square seem to fall within the intent of the will.

A fire truck

It is difficult to understand, however, how the very large expense of a fire truck a few years ago, though probably legal under the terms of the will, can be considered as an appropriate use of the funds.

That, and the present division on the council as to whether the funds should be used for a sidewalk survey, raise the questions in the premise of this article, namely, what would Waite want?

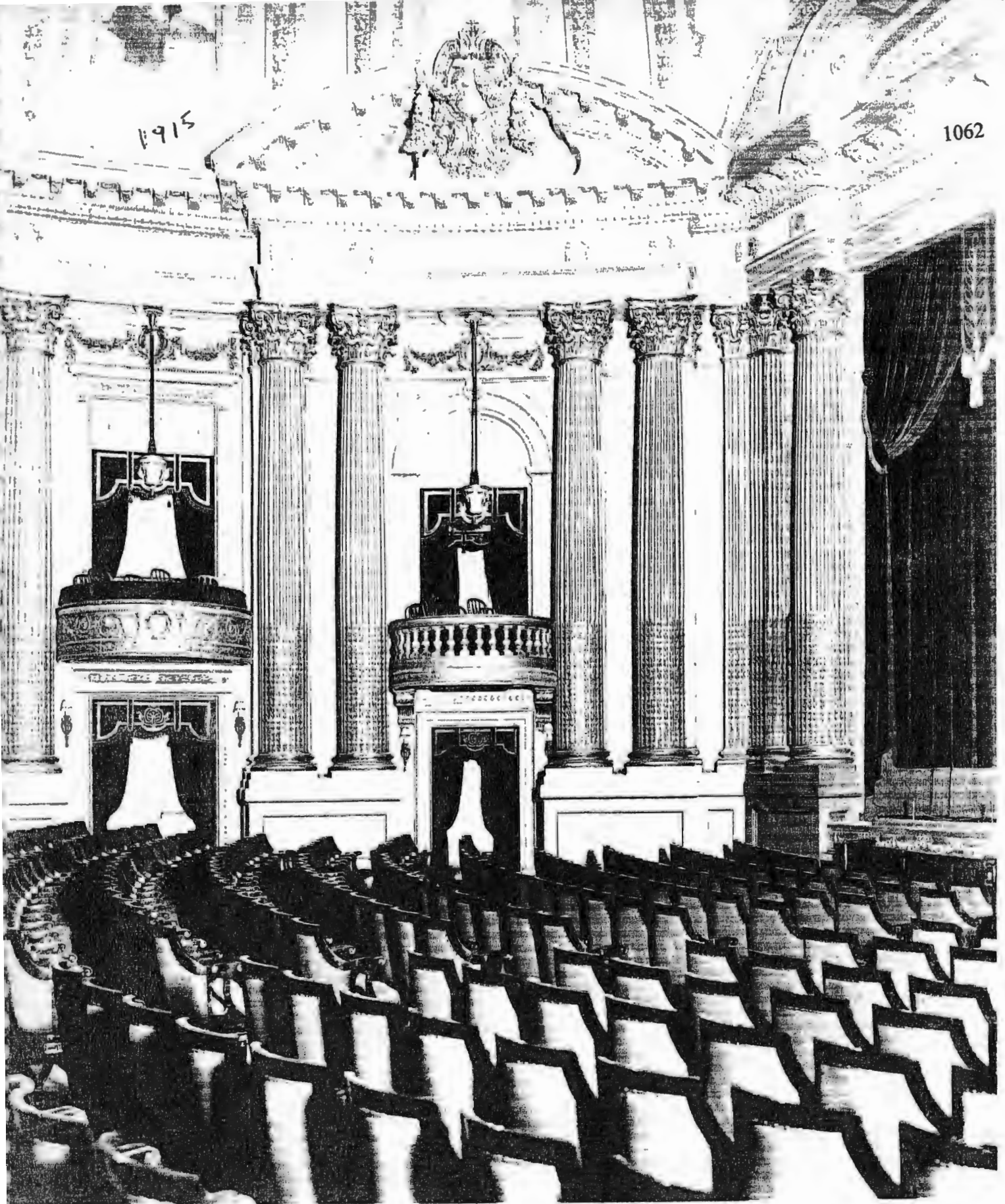
What would Waite want?

Here is what she stated in her will: "(the funds may) be used for such projects as repair of our sidewalks, which are in lamentable condition, or other worthwhile projects, but shall not be used to raise salaries of city officials."

Waite often told friends that, as the sole heir of the Moeller broth-

1915

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Had the theatre been in public hands during her lifetime, as it is today, we believe Alma Waite would have contributed liberally, as she favored entertainment venues.

1915 photo



A Proscenium Box, one of two. There are also 15 "Jewel Boxes".

Mark Tully photo, 2008

ers, her money was circus money. During her lifetime she set an example of how the money might be distributed, making many generous gifts to the Circus World Museum and the Mid-Continent Railroad Museum.

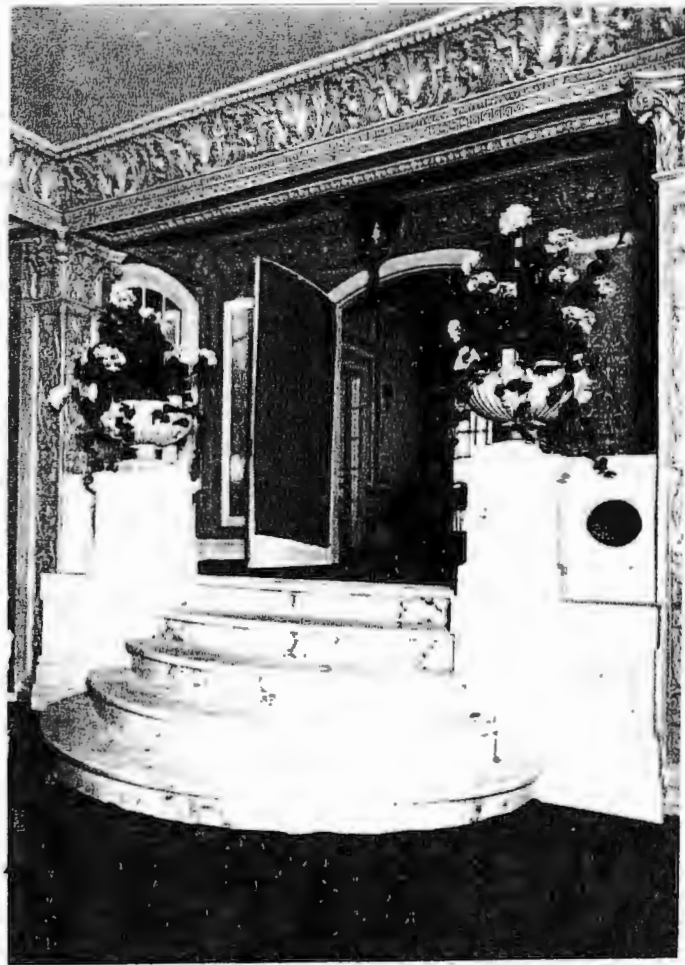
Her focus was public entertainment and enjoyment, which is an appropriate use for money derived from an entertainment medium, the circus. She even left modest amounts to circus personnel such as Paul Luckey and Chappie Fox "in appreciation of service to the Circus World Museum."

Again, it is extremely difficult to justify the use of the funds, though legal, for a fire truck. True, the truck serves a very useful purpose, but so does the police department and the street department, etc. Where would one draw the line? It appears, to this writer at least, to be an inappropriate use of the Alma Waite funds, though we have no illusions that the city will pay the \$175,000 back to the fund at this time.

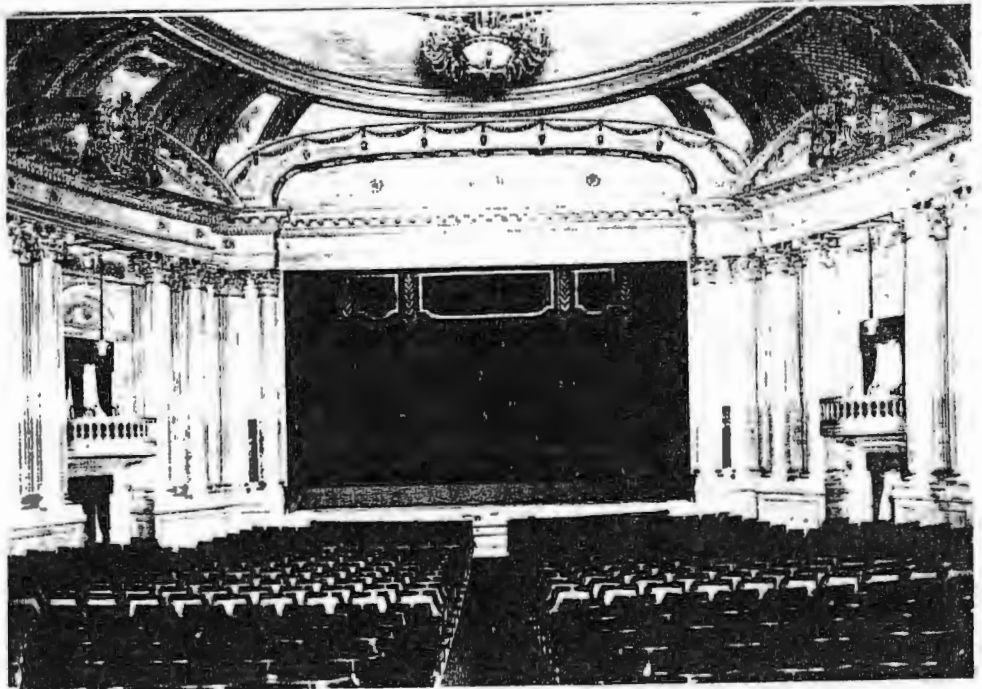
In contrast, there is the request from the Al. Ringling Theatre Friends for aid in restoring the facade of the theater that has served the city so well for 84 years. The theater fits nicely into the example Waite set during her lifetime in support of the arts and entertainment.

Why didn't she give to the theater during her lifetime? The answer is simple: the theater was in private hands until 1989, well after her death, being owned by Milwaukee interests. Now it is owned locally, by the ART Friends, with open membership. Even the state has recognized it as a Baraboo treasure. Surely the city will do no less.

Alma Waite would be pleased!



1915



1915

Baraboo's three cultural sisters, and their benefactors

The city has shortchanged Cinderella

by Dr. Bob Dewel

In this, the seventh in a series about some of the benefactors of Baraboo, the author compares and contrasts the fortunes of three major cultural institutions, particularly in respect to the benevolence they receive from the city.

Imagine if you will that the City of Baraboo is like a family, with the City Council and their departments as the parents, trying to be fair with the varying needs of their children.

The children, in this little analogy, would be the various quasi-governmental groups as well as some independent public service agencies which exist in the city. Both groups help make Baraboo the interesting and remarkable city that it is.

Gender assignment here is arbitrary, but some of the children of the city might be called "brothers," including the athletic facilities like tennis, hockey, the Pierce ball park, the summer swimming pool, industrial parks, and even the airport. All are partially or fully subsidized by the city.

There are also "sisters" in the family. These might include the zoo, fireworks, and band concerts, etc. Thus the family members listed so far represent athletics, business interests, casual entertainment, and patriotic services by the city.

However, there are three very special sisters in our Baraboo family analogy, and they could be called the "cultural sisters." They provide ongoing opportunities for cultural involvement by the citizens. They are:

1. The University Center, with its emphasis on education.
2. The Public Library, with the written word as its primary contribution.

3. The Theatre, providing as its specialty the spoken word, vocal and instrumental music, and dramatic arts. It also acts as a small Renaissance-style art gallery.

One can beat an analogy to death, but there are numerous areas of comparison and contrast in the relation of these three cultural sisters to the city and its citizens. Each is now considered separately, and then comparisons will be made.

The UW Baraboo-Sauk County College

Known until recently as the center, the college has a dual relationship to Baraboo and Sauk County. As agreed at its inception in 1966, the physical plant was erected at the joint expense of the city and the county. The buildings are also maintained over the years by the same governments. The University System staffs and operates the facility separately.

In effect, Baraboo provides some 60 percent of the physical costs since the taxpayers pay not only the Baraboo share, but as citizens of the county they also pay part of the county's share. This applies only to taxpayers of Baraboo. Despite its close proximity to the college, West Baraboo only pays its part of the county share. Surprisingly, the only reasonable route to the campus from Baraboo is through West Baraboo.

Within the year, two major events have impacted the campus. One is completion of the magnificent athletic facility donated from the Lange estates. This is the largest bequest, some four million dollars, received by any of the public colleges around the state.

The other event is the joint contribution of about one and a half million dollars each from the city and the county for upgrading of the older buildings, etc. Again, the

city of Baraboo bears the lion's share of this cost.

There have been many other donations to the campus over the years, often coordinated by the group known as the "Friends of the Campus." The college provides two years of higher education to area students without the financial burden of living and eating away from home. Sauk county money stays at home!

This fine institution of higher learning is now even finer with the Lange addition and the coming upgrades. The college, then, qualifies as one of our three "cultural sisters."

The Public Library

The oldest of the three "cultural sisters" is the Baraboo Public Library, which traces its origin at least as far back as a storefront on third street in the previous century. The southern wing of the present

building was constructed in 1903, with at least part of the cost being a donation from industrialist Andrew Carnegie, the Ted Turner of his day.

Over the years there have been countless donors, large and small, to the library. The most recent large donors have been the Lange bequest, as well as Ritzenthaler and Nessler gifts, and a yet to be publicized bequest of well over \$100,000. With that, the library will have an enviable and generous endowment fund of about a million dollars!

In addition, for most if not all of its history, the library has been the recipient of a yearly stipend from the city, which amounted to some \$350,000 last year. The library staff are city employees. Moreover, in 1982 the city enlarged the library to well over-double its size in a building program which cost \$716,000.



This "cultural sister" has been an exceptional provider of the written word for over 100 years. It is an institution for which Baraboo citizens can be very proud.

The Theatre

The third "cultural sister," which provides the spoken word, vocal and instrumental music, as well as dramatic arts and dance, is represented in this analogy by the opulent and magnificent Al. Ringling theatre, "America's Prettiest Playhouse."

Unlike the two previous institutions, this "sister" was built and maintained for 75 years by private enterprise. Not only that, but unlike the others, it paid taxes TO the city, and was often used for public service purposes—such as war bond rallies during the world wars.

By its presence, albeit in private hands, the city was relieved of the need to construct at public expense a civic auditorium. This would have required two or three failed referenda, and probably would have been a building of spartan qualities rather than the meaningful period style of the Al., which attracts national recognition.

It was in 1989, 74 years after its construction, that the private owners made it available for sale, probably to be cut up into three or four mini-rooms with no stage, and a white screen at one end — hardly deserving the name "theatre."

Citizens from Baraboo and else-

where rose to the challenge and purchased the theatre. Unfortunately, most of the recent owners had allowed the grand old lady to fall into disrepair. The "Al. Ringling Theatre Friends" group was formed, not unlike the University's Friends of the Campus, but with a far more daunting task.

The theatre has received a few bequests so far, and has wisely set up an endowment fund of \$400,000, similar to the Library endowment fund but much smaller. Like the library fund, only the interest can be used for theatre purposes.

Unfortunately, the gradual lack of regular maintenance the past four decades has left the theatre in need of major and costly restoration. So far the roof and outer walls have been repaired, and the facade awaits replacement of the beautiful terra cotta. Then the building will have been protected by sort of a cocoon, and the interior can be properly restored.

The third "cultural sister" therefore, upon receiving her terra cotta facelift, can then be returned to its former glory. All of this, so far, has been accomplished by private funds, with only a token gift of seed money from the Alma Waite fund in 1989 to spur purchase of the property.

Comparisons and contrasts

As in any family, the Baraboo brothers and sisters in our analogy have a different life story. All contribute in their own way to the excellent quality of life we enjoy in Baraboo.

But notice, if you will, that all but one of the family members mentioned in paragraphs three, four and five share in support from the city. In all analogies there are exceptions, and that is the case here. When it comes to support from the city, only the theatre has been left out for 82 years, with the exception of the token gift in 1989. This was not even from city tax funds, but from the Alma Waite fund, and was little more than 5 percent of the amount needed.

In contrast, that fund has given four times that amount to the open air band concerts, which are great. Similar funds have gone to fireworks, and very significant tax funds have gone for the written word (the library) and for education (the College). Few question that these are worthy causes, and their support should continue. Supporters of the spoken word, and of music and drama (the theatre) now feel that significant support is needed there also.



1915 view



Theatre in recent years, well preserved.
Curtain happens to be up in this picture. Same curtain.

They say that the theatre, which is the first of the palatial picture theatres built in this country, is now the Cinderella of the family — no offense to the other sisters; this analogy doesn't go that far! Unlike the fairy tale, however, this princess began in glory, with many princes over the years, and ends up as Cinderella, in need of help!

Supporters say that significant city support for the theatre at this time will encourage private individuals and trusts to pitch in and restore this still active and operating cultural heritage. Some may give publicly, some may give anonymously, just as they do to the library and the college, despite the massive public funding those institutions receive.

But the time has come, they believe, for the city to demonstrate a comparable level of support for this, the third of the "cultural sisters" of Baraboo.



In Baraboo's Al. Ringling Theatre, even the fire curtain carried out the theme of pre-Revolutionary France.

Some Blasts from the
Past
Tales from Other Days
By Bob Dewel

Some items which have accumulated on my desk are too short for a full article. Today we'll reduce the pile with shorter stories. One includes use of the name Baraboo to name articles of clothing, plus old time want ads, plans for a riverwalk over 60 years ago, and oiling the streets to hold down the dust.

The Want Ads of Yore

We wonder, for example, whether this short want ad in the paper brought any result, other than raucous speculation by the coffee groups of the day: "LOST: Tuesday afternoon, ladies pocket book near the residence of Mr. Cary, 511 Ash Street. Finder please phone 490W". The next item, a want ad for a lost pocketbook, specifically states its contents as being exactly "Seventy-five dollars: three twenty dollar bills, one \$10 and one \$5, at Peck's store". That person kept good track of their money! Does the ad reflect upon Peck's Store? Both ads were in the Daily News, June 1915

Fine Baraboo Clothing

We've noted it before—there's something about the word Baraboo. I've written in the past how the word was used to name restaurants, bombers and ships, to mention a few. Now comes a mid-century article from the past about men's sport coats carrying the name. It seems that an unnamed company labeled their men's sport coats "The Baraboo Beau" and "The Baraboo BILL".

It gets more complicated. Coats were named "Baraboo Jac" for children and a "Baraboo Mac" for women, as shown in the attached photo. They were not made in Baraboo by the rather short-lived Boreva Sports

Co, however. That concern occupied the present office building at 123 Second Street from 1948 to 1957.

So, why the Baraboo names on jackets made elsewhere? The news article explains that two Sheboygan manufacturers saw an area sign reading Baraboo and featuring a bear. They decided it was a clever name for their sports jackets. During all this mid-century time, Life magazine was running ads for what the Baraboo newspaper calls, with out explanation, the "Baraboo Bill" ads. There's something about the name Baraboo that resonates with strangers.

In addition, that month the Parade magazine showed models of skirts and blouses which were indeed made by Baraboo's Boreva Sports Co. To top it off, timers and other parts for the 1949 Rose Bowl scoreboard were made in Baraboo by Hagen Manufacturing Co.

Riverwalk Planned in 1946

On one of the last days this past October, another segment of Riverwalk was completed—that between the Broadway Bridge and Water Street, passing the new Gazebo. We hear the small park area is to be named Kiwanis Park, thanks to major funding (\$60,000) of the Riverwalk by that club. Starting in 1997, the City, DNR, and Kiwanis Club will have completed a mile and half of the hard -surfaced Riverwalk, with the Effinger Drive walk just finished on November 15. Yet to be completed next year is the segment from Broadway west to Mary Rountree Evans Park. Except for short sidewalk breaks on Second Avenue and on Water Street, this will connect the western city limits of the city to Manchester Bridge with a hard surfaced blacktop walk, suitable for wheel chairs and baby carriages. West Baraboo did a rather short section at the west end.

This is not the total Riverwalk history, however, for in 1946, some 60 years ago, a published news report sent to me by Joe Ward states: "Chamber of Commerce Secretary George Weber,

City Treasurer, outlined plans for a river walk from Broadway Bridge to the athletic field" , at Mary Rountree Evans Park then. George stated that some land had already been procured for this purpose.

Little did they know then how long it would take to buy the rest of the land, since the City did not elect to assert its right of eminent domain. Let's hope future city projects don't take so long to be completed!

Road and highway notes

We understand that downtown Baraboo had brick or macadam paving by 1915, but there were problems even so. In July of that year there were complaints, for most downtown streets had been covered with Tarvin. The newspaper described it as a "nasty black stuff", designed to keep the dust down. It not only tracked into stores, but sometimes into homes nearby, and the paper speculated that "we imagine there will be something said by dame housewife that the city fathers will not care to hear."

Speaking of roads: In the early days there were two ways to cross the bluffs toward Sauk Prairie. One way was the Indian trail which became the present Highway 12, known then as the West Sauk Road. Another somewhat steeper but more direct road led through the present Badger Ordnance property, and was connected to the present South Shore Road to Devils Lake by what is presently called the Burma Road. The latter now dead ends at the North property line of Badger.

Funny, my desk still seems cluttered with items of historical interest. Is there no end to tales of the past?



The "Baraboo Mac" hounds tooth coat is undated. It was not made in Baraboo, but rather in Sheboygan. The makers just decided that the word Baraboo had a nice ring to it. The undated coat was recently for sale on the Internet as a vintage garment. Joe Ward contributed the picture.

J. J. 0910

ARE YOU GOING TO THE BARABOO FULL MOON PARTY?

Yesteryear Revisited

By Bob Dewel

The word Baraboo is not exactly your run of the mill name for a city. It is sort of unusual, in the same way that Oconomowoc or Paducah or Issaquah (Washington) are unusual.

True, our proud Ringling and Gollmar circus heritage has made our city's name more commonly recognized than most. Even so, we sometimes get the query "Bear-a what?" from strangers.

However, Baraboo seems to be a word that attracts people. This article will give five illustrations of uses of the word Baraboo which have little apparent connection to our gem city on the Baraboo River. One example is a spaceship, one an avant garde restaurant, one a steamer half way around the world, one a mailbox in Hawaii, and one a supper club.

The Baraboo Full Moon Party

Our most recent revelation of the use of our name comes from Arnie and Judy Utzinger, and concerns the Baraboo Restaurant --yes, that is its name--at 7300 Ocean Terrace, Miami. This whimsical establishment sent a flyer promoting their "Baraboo Full Moon Party" on Friday, July 6.

The cause for the celebration is said to be IEMANJA, the Afro-Brazilian Queen of the Seas. Brazilian music and dancers are promised to "instill joy and a sense of well-being". Not only that, but "the evening culminates in a drum procession to the beach where each guest throws a white rose into the moonlit seas." The simple dancing available after all

that ceremony almost seems like a letdown! The restaurant is Argentine-owned

Lest you think this is a small diner on the strip down there, take note that the menu has three choices for appetizer, including lamb carpaccio and goat cheese served with orange segments and surogula. The entres include confit of rustic pintella chicken leg in carrot juice reduction, served with celery roots flan.

Dessert specialties include vanilla bavaresa served with strawberry coulis. Definitely not your regular menu at our fine eateries in Baraboo. Total dinner cost is \$50 per person, which hopefully includes the white rose you throw into the moonlit sea.

Arnie Utzinger e-mailed for an explanation of the Baraboo name and received the following: "Baraboo is Baraboo. Baraboo has been inspired by the magic, dreams and fantasy of the circus. Baraboo is as simple as the joke of a clown, Baraboo is as sophisticated as a kid's fantasy. Baraboo is U and us, having fun in a warm night, under the stars. Baraboo surprises you...When are you coming down?"

Well, this writer agrees, Baraboo surprises you---our City of Baraboo that is. What started out as a few articles in the Baraboo Sun in 1997 has expanded to well over 150 stories, and ideas just keep coming, as this one did from Arnie. Our rather unusual town name seems to ring a bell with folks.



No, Baraboo has not become a ghost town. This stone marks a Baraboo family plot in northern Wisconsin

Great Baraboo Brewing Co.

Baraboo seems to be a favorite name for restaurants and regular readers may remember our article of two years ago relating the discovery of the Great Baraboo Brewing Co near Detroit.

This upscale bar and restaurant chose the name in recognition of the Baraboo Whiskey War of 1854, when, as related in still another article, some 50 local matrons did a Carrie Nation act of destruction of local saloons. This was long before Carrie Nation was even a teenager. The local women were fined, and their husbands are said to have discreetly reimbursed the bartenders for the carnage.

Apparently the folks in Michigan found it a good theme for their restaurant, and their menu features a short story on the Whiskey war in Baraboo. Too bad they can't supply their customers with Ruhland or Effinger beer, as once brewed in Baraboo.

"Lost it on The Baraboo"

Here's another use of the name of our fair city, this time in or near New Zealand. It seems that, in an undated article from the past, "two traveling stock companies were enroute between two seaport towns in New Zealand on an old steamer, named the 'Baraboo', when the boat collapsed."

All the 50 actors were saved, but their trunks, containing their wigs and costumes, sank with the boat. It is said that for decades afterwards, an actor who had lost or misplaced a wig or costume would say "I lost it on the Baraboo."

Spaceships and mailboxes

We have less verification for the next two usages of the name Baraboo. Several years ago the library had, and perhaps still has a fantasy tale about a space ship which carried a circus from planet to planet or galaxy.

Appropriately, considering the circus being transported among the stars, the spaceship was named "The City of Baraboo". If memory serves correctly, it was a weird tale, and we did not finish reading the story, but found the use of the name Baraboo of interest.

With regard to the mailbox, the Eugene Baraboo family which visited the city recently reports that a friend who had just returned from Hawaii saw a mailbox there with the name Baraboo on it.

Apparently there are still more Baraboo surnames in the world that we have not yet located. Perhaps there are more restaurants also. Baraboo is a catchy name! And a proud one too! Incidentally, the Eugene Baraboos', after their recent Baraboo visit, write: "I think we all walked a little taller with pride, for having the name Baraboo."

Followups to Recent Yesteryear Stories

Yesteryear Revisited

By Bob Dewel

This column has frequently reported on the use of the name Baraboo, for everything from WWII bombers to restaurants and ships at sea. In a recent article we asked for a report on the Baraboo Restaurant in Miami, Florida, and now new Baraboo resident Jeff John has responded.

Miami Baraboo Restaurant

He found a 5-star restaurant, the "Baraboo", well located off famous Collins Avenue in Miami, with good beachfront access. It was housed in a restored Art Deco building, and listed as "expensive". Readers will recall from another account that the establishment featured an event called "The Baraboo Full Moon Party", in which the crowd wandered to the adjacent beach and threw flower petals in the water. We hardly ever do that here in Baraboo!

Unfortunately, Jeff and wife Melisa found the restaurant has now closed, and is for sale. Its connection to Baraboo is still a bit unclear, though a publicity blurb when it opened in 2000 said that it "captures the spirit of the circus with elegance and style, featuring a menu that is one part fantasy and two parts classical cuisine." Another report speaks of it as a circus-themed restaurant.

Readers who wish to visit the Baraboo Restaurant on the internet should Google buyrestaurant.com and search the links for pictures.

Danny Thomas' Oink

Old timers may remember, with mixed feelings, the odd publicity which Baraboo received in April 1955 from the Danny Thomas television show. For reasons that are not clear, and not apparently funny, Thomas announced during a skit that Baraboo folks "don't talk, they oink."

This odd remark was made in the context of a skit, wherein he and his wife visit her mythical birthplace on a farm near "Beribau," but pronounced as we pronounce it. Their son Rusty becomes lost and, in the skit, they found the townspeople and officials quite helpful in finding him. They finally characterize the area as "the friendliest place in the world—nothin' unusual, it happens all the time."

Unfortunately, it was only the oink remark that was remembered from the program. Seeking to make lemonade from lemons, local figures including John Kelly attempted to award Thomas the first annual oink award, but it got no further than the WMTV station in Madison. ABC claimed that they were looking for a word to rhyme with caribou for some reason.

Bill Schuette was the alert reader who supplied this material, along with several clippings from the time. They relate to the attempt by the citizens to rectify what they interpreted as a slur upon the city. City leaders tried to turn public anger into a golden opportunity for publicity, with a street dance and a hog calling contest. John Kelly, still promoting the idea of a circus museum in Baraboo, said "oink or no oink, as you please, but let's get this circus museum on the go". By 1959 he had succeeded, and the Danny Thomas show was long forgotten.

Clarence Darrow

Our recent article on famous attorney Clarence Darrow was of interest to two local attorneys. Judge Evenson noted, in a recent speech at the opening of the courthouse cornerstone, that his father was the local defense attorney working the case with Darrow.

In addition, Attorney Forrest Hartmann has in his possession a novel, "Farmington", written by the brilliant Darrow and published in 1904. Attorney Jim Hill Sr. owned the book



The Baraboo Restaurant, Miami
then, and Darrow autographed the book while dining at the Hill residence. Hartmenn recalls that during his days a law student, two dissertations by Darrow were among the materials available for law students to study, this being several decades after Darrow's death. His presence in that small trial in Baraboo in 1921 was unusual for a man of his stature.

Cleaning Out the
Yesteryear Files
Yesteryear Revisited
By Bob Dewel....(Yahoo:
Robert Dewel)

This writer is fortunate in that our alert and loyal readers frequently submit material and ideas for publication. Some ideas lend themselves to follow up, but some are too small to justify a full article. Once in a while the files need clearing, and today we note a number of short but interesting items. For example:

Quick Justice

Here is a self-explanatory clipping from the Baraboo News of June 1899. We've lost the record of who sent us this, but it reads as follows: "One of Baraboo's well-known citizens was fined \$1 and costs in justice court today. He whipped a 14 year old boy who was identified as a 'Peeping Tom', and the boy's father did the rest." Neighbors sometimes disciplined neighborhood children in those days, a rare action now.

The Railroad

Some time ago Jane Spear sent us a 1960's news clipping about the former railroad station on Linn Street, by then a storage building for Civil Defense. Russell Prothero was the director, these being the perilous days of the Cold War with the Soviet Union.

The abandoned station was once the hub of activity on the Northwestern Railroad line, with Baraboo as a division headquarters. Old timers recalled special trains, such as one sealed train carrying lepers to an undisclosed Eastern location for treatment. There were also prison trains, and some mysterious trains carrying gold bullion.

The article recalled that there were "call boys" who went from door to door at early hours to awaken railroad

men for their oncoming shift. Catherine Wood Rinkob once told me of such an arrangement, the caller simply rapping on her father's bedroom window to awaken him. Catherine's Mother taught reading to many railroad men in the local YMCA, located then on the Northwest corner of Ash and Second Streets.

Old Courthouse Pillars

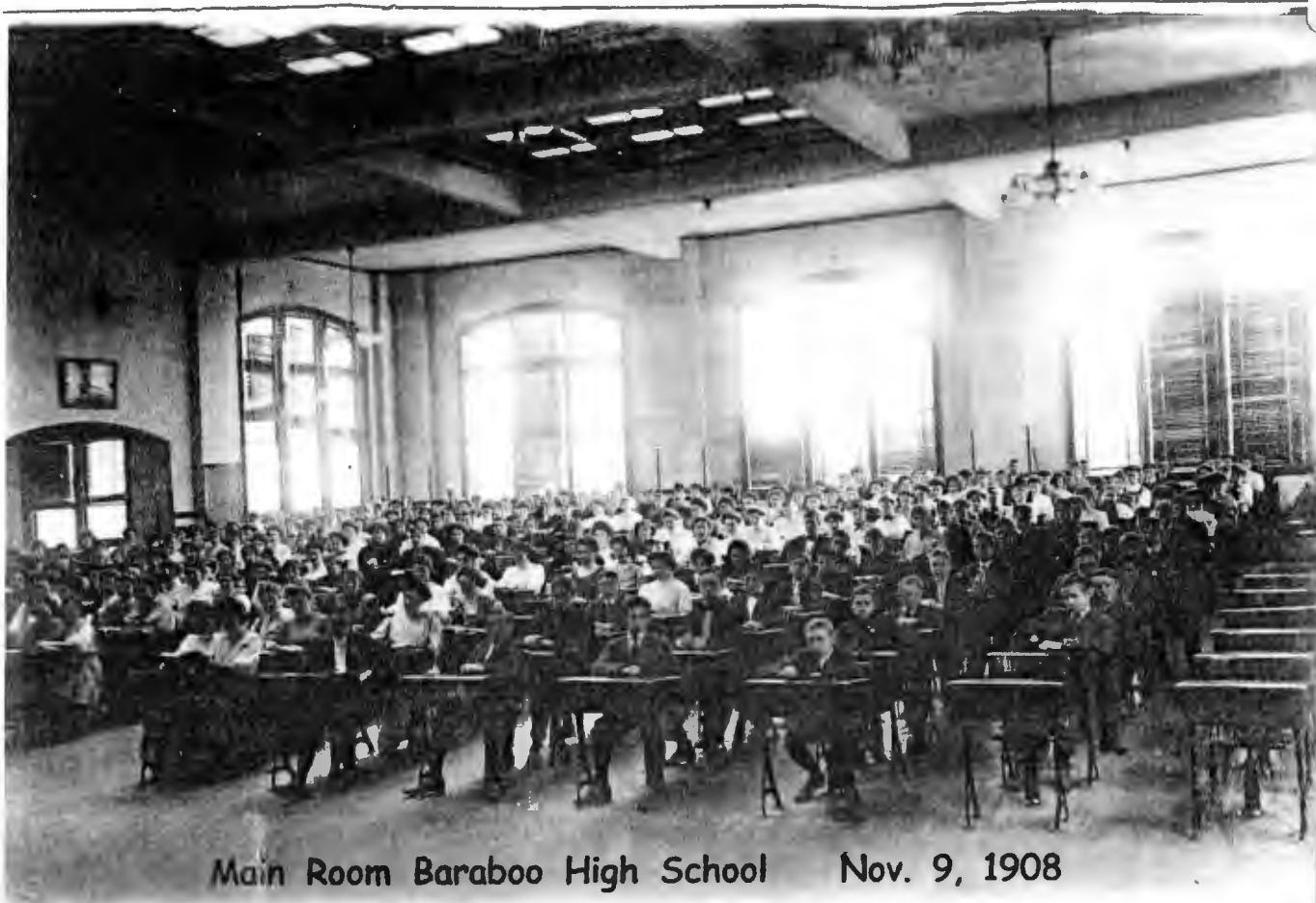
Historian Paul Wolter sent the text of a March 4, 1922 story with regard to pillars on a porch at 318 Tenth Avenue. At that time W.L. Hazeltine used two pillars originally used to support the cover over the east entrance of the old red brick courthouse, which had burned in 1905.

Composed of sandstone they were "probably made from blocks taken from the quarry at the end of Quarry Street during the summer or 1856." They still stand today, possibly the only remnant of the old courthouse building which saw so much service to the county from 1855 to the time of the fire in 1905.

Bringing the Bard to Baraboo

Did anyone notice the opening page of an article in the May edition of the Readers Digest, Page 134 in the large print edition? It proclaimed, in large type the words "Bringing the Bard to Baraboo." The Bard, of course, refers to Shakespeare, but in only one place in the text is Baraboo barely mentioned as one of four towns involved.

We really don't do enough, or even much to tell the truth, of Shakespeare in Baraboo, so it was a surprise headline. We suspect that the alliteration of B's in the three words was the reason for the use of our city's name. It is just another example of such uses, several of which we have reported in previous articles. There's something about the word Baraboo that flows freely from the tongue, though most strangers pronounce the first three letters as "bar" rather than as "bear".



Main Room Baraboo High School Nov. 9, 1908

Mary Hein submitted this picture of the study hall in the old Red Brick High School

Inez Stewart

Inez Stewart calls our attention to the words of Ringling Theatre architect George Rapp who described the theatre, upon its opening, as a "shrine to democracy, where the wealthy rub elbows with the poor, and are better for the contact." Rapp's tribute is sincere, but the fact is that the original theatre seating had two sections, one more plush for customers who wished to pay more, and harder seats in the back for the less affluent.

She also sent a copy of Helen Baldwin's sign at the Farm Kitchen, which she founded and operated for many years. We wrote of Helen Baldwin in a previous article some years ago.

Mary Joyce

Local raconteur John

Geoghagen contributed an article from *Fur-Fish-Game* magazine telling about Mary Joyce, a Reedsburg and perhaps Baraboo native who mushed a five-dog team 600 miles across Alaska alone (!) in December, 1935 at about age 27. After leaving Sauk County she became a nurse in California, and then did the dog-sled episode. In later years she took up flying and then became a stewardess for Pan Am.

Eventually she operated her hunting lodge in Alaska full time, flying customers to likely hunting and fishing areas. It is a stirring example of another Sauk County native who made good in a big way in the outside world. She was a frequent visitor to Baraboo in later years, where her brother was in the insurance business and Maude Joyce was Justice of the Peace.

High Bridge Railing

In a follow up to our very recent series on the Broadway and High Bridges, Frank Terbilcox Jr. called to say that the protective railing from the pedestrian walk on the High Bridge was saved, and used for many years as a fence around a farm property. He estimates that there were some 500 feet of railing. It has since been removed, and is believed to be destined for donation to the Sauk Co Historical Society.

If so, it is our suggestion that they in turn donate it to the Kiwanis Riverwalk, particularly for use under the new Broadway Bridge and along the new path going east toward the old High Bridge location.

There is a 50 foot segment of the iron railing still standing on the old abutment at the south end of Oak Street. One can walk to it on weed-clogged sidewalk, but be aware of unsure footing and holes if you go. It gives a good perspective on how high the High Bridge really was, as you gaze across the river from this point.

Well, the desk still is not clear. Many thanks to all who contributed to this article, and thanks also to those who are waiting to see their contribution mentioned in a future story.

Yesteryear Revisited Gets Letters, Pictures Yesteryear Revisited

By Bob Dewel

This writer has produced some 260 articles about early Sauk County and Baraboo in the past seven years. Our books do not sell well, since you can clip the articles you want from the News-Republic. Your scribe does receive a fair volume of mail, pictures, and suggestions from our readers. Today is catch up day on those matters.

Every person is important in his own way, and many go unrecognized. I have received material in the past few weeks on three persons who deserve more recognition than is often accorded them. They are Frank Scherschel, Hugo Gregory, and Jane Huth Langdon.

Frank Scherschel

Though he has been gone many years, Scherschel is well remembered by friends, and at one time had national recognition. He was a first rate photographer for the once powerful Life Magazine, especially during World War II. Inez Stewart sent me a copy of a recent feature article in the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, titled "Scherchel roamed world with camera".

Actually, much of the article is about Frank's younger brother Joe, who was with the National Geographic and who acknowledges getting his start with Frank. The connection to Baraboo is that Frank, after retiring from Life Magazine, moved to Baraboo and had a camera shop on Fourth Street. His wife was Jeanne McGuire, a Baraboo girl. Their annual Super Bowl Party included a host of friends, and continues yet today.

Hugo Gregory

Another person largely unsung in local circles but well-known internationally was the late Hugo Gregory, of Merrimac but with many

Baraboo connections. Dr. Gregory and his wife, Dr. Caroline Gregory, selected Sauk County as their retirement center several years ago, after distinguished careers for both at Northwestern University, where he was a professor of Speech and Language Pathology.

Gregory was a recognized authority on speech and language pathology, having authored or edited not only papers but six books on stuttering and fluency problems. Having had a severe problem with stuttering as a child, he could well relate to the problem, and devoted his life to clinical research, treatment, and writing about it. An entire issue of the Specialist Magazine was devoted to his memory, headlined by "Watching over us...with a big smile".

On retirement, he and Caroline lived a quiet and non-pretentious life among us. Their interests included the First United Methodist Church and the Fortnightly Club. He died this past October 11 following surgery and complications at Johns Hopkins Hospital. It is our good fortune that Caroline plans to remain active in community affairs.

Jane Huth Langdon

One of our correspondents is Dr. John Schellkopf of Pacific Palisades, CA, who half a century ago played the Barton organ and worked in the Al Ringling Theatre. John recently sent an article to us with the notation "I read this article in a Delta plane...flying to Salt Lake City. I couldn't believe it when I saw that she (Langdon) had come from Baraboo."

John was referring to a feature article in Delta's "Sky" magazine written by free lance writer Timothy Harper. Well over two pages, it is a story about Jane Huth Langdon, titled "The Scent of Mother", and it refers to Jane's ongoing search for her birth mother. According to the article, Jane "always felt like an orphan when she was growing up in the small town of Baraboo, Wisconsin." As an adult she retained this ambivalent

feeling, and began a search for the birth mother.

Though she came very close to a face to face meeting, the final visit was never consummated, ending with the death of the birth mother. It was known that they both liked flowers, and as a sideline Jane has developed her own line of perfume, made from flowers. She has a web site called houseofrose.com for those who are interested. Look for "The Scent of Mother" on this web site for the story.

According to a different article in the Wisconsin State Journal, Jane also originated a business with the web site sewbeautiful, in which her goal is to help customers own their own dream suits. Sounds like a home town girl who made good!

Other items

We get suggestions for articles. Greg McMahon suggested an article on the history of cemeteries, and the library has a complete series of "inventories" of persons buried in Sauk County. Long time Scout leader J Ray Otis, tells me that a stagecoach stop was once located on Eighth Avenue near West Street. Ray is an avid reader of the history of breweries,

That's all the room in this article, and there are still items to report in a future story!

Yesteryear Files Have Untold Stories

Yesteryear Revisited

By Bob Dewel

This is article number 225, give or take a few, in the Yesteryear series which have appeared over the past five years. Enough interest has been created that a number of folks have sent me items to consider for a story. Some things, however interesting they may be, are too brief for a full article. To clear our files and give a little print to such items, we present today short mentions of a few of the things sent to us,

James Fleming

Lots of Baraboo folks besides the Ringlings have gained national recognition for their achievements. We've written about some, such as Stuart Palmer and Louis Claude. A clipping sent to me by Mary Stieve tells of the success of a Baraboo boy who did significant work with national television. He is James Fleming, who lived as a youth in the 200 block of Fourth Street. His father had the A&P store somewhere on Third Street near Oak.

Born in about 1915, he graduated from BHS, and worked on the experimental radio station at the University in Madison, and later at WGN in Chicago. It was James Fleming who hired Barbara Walters for the early Today show, and at times he replaced John Cameron Swayze on the Evening News. A winner of three Emmys and the Peabody Award, he also served as a correspondent in Moscow. He was forced to leave by the Soviets after he filed a story revealing the massacre of Polish soldiers and civilians by them.

Herman Grotophorst

Someone gave me a well preserved copy of the oration by Judge Evan Evans for the funeral of Herman Grotophorst. Herman can be remembered by his gift of the band stand at Ochsner Park, but more importantly, by his less tangible services. Born in Honey Creek in 1857, he became an attorney with the Grotophorst, Quale, and Langer group of his day. He was the oldest local practicing attorney upon his death in 1931 at age 74.

In earlier days he served for eight years as president of the State Board of Control (prisons), the State Normal School (teachers) Board, the Baraboo School Board, and the Baraboo Park Board. He resided at 803 Ash.

Not to be overlooked is the author and reader of the flowery funeral oration, Judge Evans. As noted in another article, he donated the Mary Rountree Evans Park to the city, probably when Grotophorst was in charge of the Parks Board. The park is named after Evans' deceased wife. The documents will be given to the Sauk County Historical Society.

Grace Stone

Grace Stone sent a newspaper story by L. A. Nolan recounting the undocumented legend of two brothers one living at each end of Devils Lake, and in bitter conflict. Since they called each other the devil, the legend goes that it became known as Devils Lake.



Country Connections

This publication recently ran an old time picture showing a horse drawn wagon with about a dozen children in the picture. A shy young boy pictured therein is Mike Spencer, later to become Sheriff. Also in the picture is an equally shy girl, now Mrs. Glennis (Hill) Luck.



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Catherine Terry

Catherine Terry has sent us a picture of the 1912 Baraboo football team., Unfortunately there is no identification, and readers are invited to send identification if possible. Also included in her letter were newspaper clippings of the 1916 State Basketball Champions, of which we have written, plus a clipping showing some of the same men in a 50 year reunion gathering of the group.



*The Al Ringling Theatre brings thousands of children
to downtown Baraboo every year*

The Alf T Ringling Organ
 Molly Bergstrom's recent article on the removal of the Ringling organ from St. Joseph Church and its destiny as an attraction in an aquarium in the Mall of America is of interest. In many ways this was a huge pipe organ, with 26 sets of many pipes per set, compared to the 9 sets of pipes of the Barton Organ in the Al Ringling Theatre.

The difference is similar to that of an elephant and a race horse. As a church organ, it had no tremolo to beautify the sound, nor were there any drums, harp sounds, thunder, bird calls, castanets, tom tom, etc., as found on the theatre organ. The Theatre organ is about 45 years newer than the church organ also. Nevertheless it served well as a church organ for about 8 decades, and will now see new life in Minneapolis.

Turn of the Century Graduations

Among the people who brought me things recently was John Geoghagen lifelong resident and raconteur extraordinaire. John's contribution was copies of the nicely printed Commencement invitations from 1899 and 1904. The latter was at the Grand Opera House on the NW corner of Oak and Fifth Avenue, which was to burn to the ground the following year. The high school itself would burn in 1906. Although graduation took place on June 11, class exercises were held three days later at the Lake View Hotel and Devil's Lake. These were oral demonstrations and declamations, not physical exercises as we know it today.

The graduation class was divided into three sections, with 8 students in English studies, 10 in Latin, and 14 in Science. There were several well known Baraboo names among the students, including that of L. Schuyler Van Orden, who would later head the Bank of Baraboo, now the Baraboo National Bank.

Despite the above listings, our "in" box remains full of ideas and scraps of information for another time and

another article. All of them make our county and city great places to live.

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM.

Opera House, June 13, 8:15 p. m.

1. Selections, - - High School Orchestra
2. Invocation, - Rev. H. H. Van Vranken
3. The Value of Ideals, - Jessie May Little
4. Russia and the Eastern Problem, - - -
William Kachel
5. "Invitation to the Dance," - - Weber
Grace Munroe.
6. Queen Victoria, - - - Zella Carlon
7. Library Work in Wisconsin, - - - -
Cecilia McGuan
8. a { "Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind,"
Sarjeant
b { "Who Knows," - - - - Rogers
Miss Inez Knillans.
9. Modern Knighthood, - Marie Bartenbach
10. The Scotch-Irish in America, - - - -
Walter Patterson
11. "The Palms," - - - - Leybach
Alice Boodle.
12. The Value of Manual Training, - - -
Ethlyn Herrick
13. The Development of the American
Principle, - - - - Lewis Aton
14. a { "Onward," - - - - Geibel
b { "Vesper Hymn," - - Stephenson
High School Chorus.

GRADUATES.

ENGLISH.

Almie Ludlow Bird.
 Bertha Pointon Kimball.
 Maude Mae Minor.
 Nella M. Wood.

Mayme E. Clark.
 Minnie McArthur.
 Anna L. Patterson.
 Aurey Wood.

LATIN.

Grace Beaver.
 Irwin Coates.
 Frances P. Horr.
 Belle Morse.
 William Sansum.

Eugene H. Byrne
 Ora B. Cahoon.
 John D. Hengstler.
 Anna McDonald.
 L. Schuyler Van Orden.

SCIENCE.

William T. Ennis.
 Mary F. Herfort.
 Wilhelmine C. Luebke.
 John Noves.
 Elizabeth Patterson.
 Emma E. Steinte.
 Edward W. Thuerer.

Maude Hamilton.
 Ida Luebke
 Ida Marquardt.
 Marguerite Eva Newell
 Arthur Rumpf.
 Edna W. Sheldon.
 Emil Welland.

Circus Parades were Exciting in '80 '84 Yesteryear Revisited

By Bob Dewel

Baraboo folks are used to circus hyperbole. Even so, it must have been thrilling back in 1980 to read that "the city would be host to the most magnificent, largest, greatest Processional Spectacular ever seen." The date was Saturday July 5, 1980.

What's more, it would be "absolutely free, through the streets of Baraboo...unseen in generations (with) over 300 horses." It is hard to believe, but the 1980 parade seems almost forgotten in comparison to the 1984 parade. The 1980 parade route was circuitous, going as far north as Eighth Street, as far west as West Street, and as far south as Second Street before returning to the fairgrounds.

Thanks to George Rambo's scrapbook of both events, we have a good record of the 1980 parade and its extravaganza 1984 brother. The city was swamped with some 80,000 visitors in 1984, and better crowd control measures are planned for the 2004 spectacle as a result of the experience. Several local persons participated in crowd control in the Milwaukee parades also, and their expertise will serve us well.

The parade will mark 120 years since the Ringling boys left the city in their first venture as a circus. Yankee Robinson, the veteran circus operator, lent his name and presence to the enterprise, but died within the year.

The 1984 Parade

Leading the parade were trumpeters, mounted, and dressed in early English costumes. Next came the color guard, for circuses always stressed the patriotic theme.

Next was one of the original Ringling carriages, driven by its owner, the late Verne Albert. This and another Ringling carriage are now property of the Circus

World Museum, but on this day the carriage contained the president of the State Historical Society, John Gielfuss, and his wife.

There were bandwagons, the first one carrying the Hal Edwards band. The well-regarded Happy the Clown had his own "float", Ringling and Gollmar wagons abounded, some built in Baraboo by their cousins the Moeller Brothers. There were several calliopes, and all circus wagons were drawn by horses. Teams and their drivers were brought in from several surrounding states for the event.

The Zor shrine added their camels to the parade, and one float featured a well known local personality as a snake charmer, complete with a live snake. There was even a stilt walker—surely he didn't walk the entire two mile parade route! Bringing up the rear, of course, was the traditional street cleaner machine. In other words, this was a first class authentic parade put on by the CWM, the world's largest museum of circus memorabilia and effects. And, it is located in Baraboo!

In those days the CWM featured a Theatre of Illusion along with the Big Top and other attractions, and it was announced that the Ringling Bell Wagon, built in Baraboo and one of the more celebrated wagons of all time, would be present.

The post office came up with a first day cover. Importantly, there was a free flyer to pass out, telling our visitors of the other attractions of Baraboo. This is a great opportunity which should be repeated this year. The Theatre, the Zoo, the UW Campus, the nearby Railway Museum, the International Crane Foundation, all should be featured. Some 1200 persons were said to have been involved in the parade preparation and execution, including well over 100 unpaid local volunteers.

We're rather laid back about the circus in Baraboo, and fail to realize what a great thing it is to live in a small city with significant national and

international history and institutions. We receive national attention from not only the CWM but the Crane Foundation, the Railway Museum, the Al Ringling Theatre, and Devil's Lake.

There are thousands of cities of similar size that would love to have any one of those attractions. We are fortunate beneficiaries of the circus history and heritage, carefully kept alive by the CWM.

Thanks to those institutions, Baraboo is not just the name of another small city, but an interesting and progressive place to live. With a population of 11,000, plus West Baraboo and at least 1000 fringe citizens living just outside the city limits, we can afford to boast a little, and the parade will enhance the image of our city.

• G G Gollmar met with an accident that would lay him up for a few weeks. His sons, the Gollmar Brothers, had a number of men cutting wood on their lot west of the city for several weeks and Mr Gollmar thought it would be good exercise for him to take an ax and show the young fellows how they used to fell trees when he was a young man. In some manner, the ax came in contact with a limb and the blow landed fairly on the top of his foot, cutting a gash about three inches in length and to the bone. He was brought home and Dr. Gollmar called, who took several stitches in closing the wound. Nov 2001

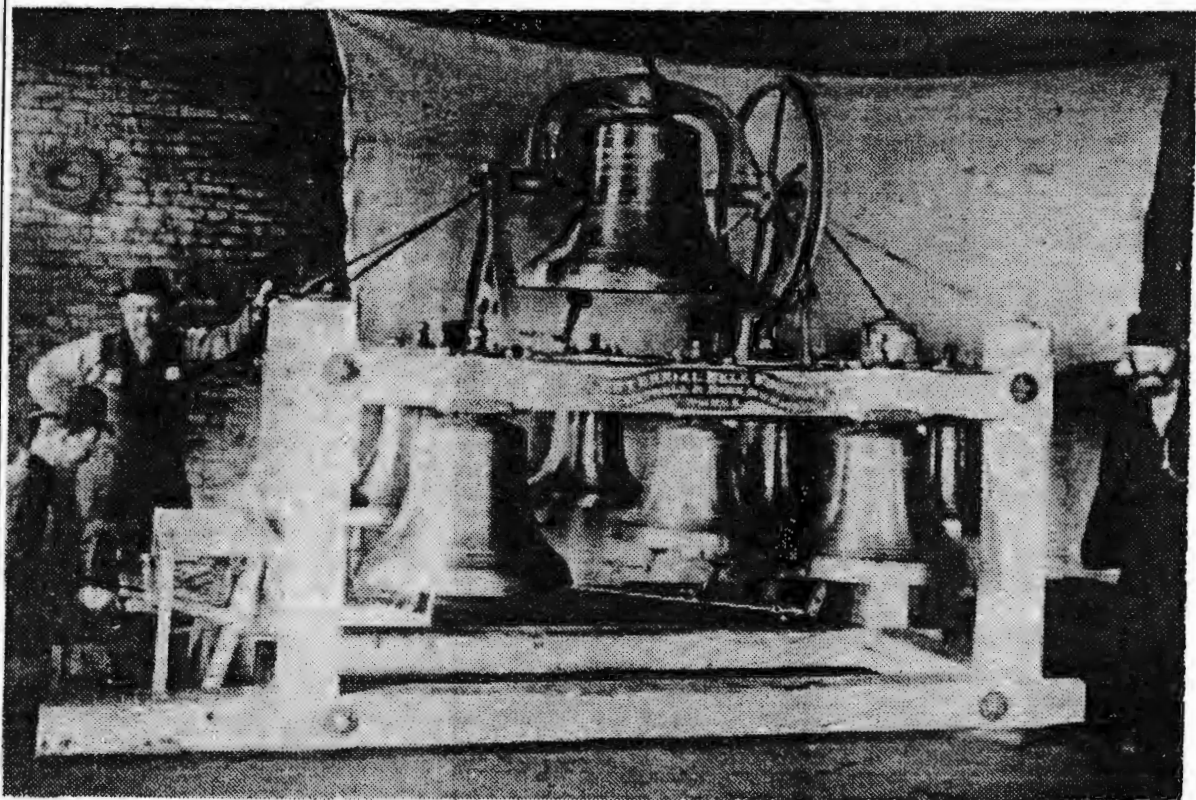



photo from the Robert L. Parkinson Research Library
The bells arrive at Moeller wagon works, 1892.

June or July.
100 years ago this week (1906)

■ W. H. Canfield completed a unique cottage on the old settlers' grounds at Messenger shore, Devil's Lake. It was made of basswood slabs stood on end, three stories, making the structure about thirty feet high. He commenced the foundation two years before and at different times labored alone. Mr. Canfield lived alone at the building and the only companion he had besides an occasional visitor was a chipmunk. 1906 

Feb 1 1907
100 years ago this week (1907)

■ "The moving picture show opened last evening in the Odd Fellow building on Third Street. On account of the band concert the attendance was not so large as would have been. However a large crowd is expected. The program is one of the finest to be secured."

■ Emil C. Koenig of North Freedom was the first to make application for citizenship in this country since the new law went into effect. He appeared before Clerk of the Court Hill.

Kathy Waddell is a longtime Sauk County historian. Her column appears Tuesdays.

From Kathy Waddell's Column