PART NINE: DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

President McKinley

It was raining in Mt. Horeb on October 6, 1899; nevertheless a crowd of from two to three thousand people gathered at the railroad depot to see President McKinley. School had been let out for the occasion. The streets were lined with people, and the town marshal had appointed twenty associates to help keep order.

The President's train was an hour late, but a mighty cheer went up when the two monster locomotives and five coaches finally pulled in. When the train came to a halt, our Congressman, H. B. Dahle, who had gone to meet the presidential party at Galena, appeared on the rear platform of the last car, followed by the President. Congressman Dahle introduced the President who spoke for several minutes, after which he presented the members of his cabinet who were traveling with him.

As the train pulled away the President was the last to leave the platform, and, standing in the doorway of the car, he bowed and waved his handkerchief to the cheering crowd.

Crown Prince Olav

Mt. Horeb was honored by its one and only visit from royalty when Crown Prince Olav of Norway stopped here on June 19, 1939, on his way from Madison to “Little Norway”. The Prince spoke to a throng of enthusiastic townspeople from a platform erected on Main Street, and delivered a message from his father, King Haakon of Norway.

American and Norwegian flags lined the travel route as the Prince went on to “Little Norway”, where he was greeted by members of the Dahle family and shown about the famous museum and showplace.

Other distinguished visitors here over the years have been Vice-President Henry Wallace, Governor Philip LaFollette, and Alexander Bull, brother of the famous Norwegian violinist, Ole Bull, who gave a violin concert at the Opera House sometime around 1898.
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