



## COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES



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### KLEVENVILLE

*Submitted by Marvin Bakken*

This small village was once known as "Bluff." It owes its present name to Iver Kleven, who settled here in 1869. He had arrived in Madison in 1867, with his wife and two sons, Knute and Gilbert. Mr. Kleven was a carpenter, and in 1874, he built a large building which served as a hardware store, with living quarters on the second floor. It burned down in 1915 and was rebuilt.

The building next to it was built in about 1890. This eventually became a grocery store. It was run by Mr. and Mrs. Swenson. Mrs. Inger Swenson was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kleven, and became Postmistress after her father retired. Mrs. Swenson ran the grocery store and post office until 1941. The building was sold to Bill and Clara Reisdorf, who later remodeled it into living quarters. Since they passed away, the family has maintained it as rental property.



*Klevenville General Store and Post Office.*

When Mrs. Swenson retired as Postmistress, Mrs. Peter Riphahn held the position until 1952, when the post office was discontinued by the U.S. Postal Service. Mr. and Mrs. Riphahn's house, which was built by Mr. Kleven, was purchased by them from Carl Dalby. After Mr. Riphahn died, Mrs. Riphahn kept the home until 1991. Their family was Mary Lou, Peter, Jr. and Helen (Gerber). This home was purchased by Christopher and Betty Frost.

During his life in Klevenville, Mr. Iver Kleven and his two sons, Knute and Gilbert, built many houses in the area. He had his own lumber yard, and when the railroad came through in 1881, he built the depot. It was at this time the name was changed from Bluff to

Klevenville. The railroad came through Klevenville, instead of Pine Bluff, which was the original plan.

In addition to the stores and the lumber yard, there was also a stock yard, a blacksmith shop and a creamery. The creamery closed in 1895. No doubt, this is about the time the Klevenville Cheese Factory came into being.



*Klevenville Cheese Factory, farmer at left on wagon is Halvor Bakken.*

The blacksmith was Jim Hughes, who with his wife, Sarah, lived at the site where Hugo and Marie Fink now reside. Hugo and Marie purchased this house from Stanley Starczynski, who had succeeded Mike and Myrt Starczynski when they moved to the house north of Klevenville, now owned by Mark and Mona Haglund. Myrt Starczynski is Marie Fink's grandmother, and at the age of 102, lives in Black Earth.

The house next to the original store was the Dollhausen home. Mr. Nick Dollhausen died from injuries received when he was trampled by his horses in the barn. Later, this was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert McCaughey. In 1951, it was sold at auction to settle their estate. It was purchased by Marvin and Eunice Bakken. In 1969, they sold to Anna Doodla when they moved to their new home on Highway P. This is now the home of Albert and Ruth Bosshart, who purchased it in 1987. The house in Klevenville was bought by Jeff and Heidi Buttchen, the present owners.

The house across the street was the Moen home. The Marty family lived there at the time of Nick Dollhausen's tragic death. There have been several changes in the occupants of the Moen house, including Pepper and Diane Fink. It is now the home of Frank and Nancy Jo Daniels.

Next to the Moen house was a large, two-story shed, which Rueben Lee used as a garage and gas station for many years. It was also a great place for the young men of the neighborhood to "hang out." Rueben lost his life in an accident at the sand plant.



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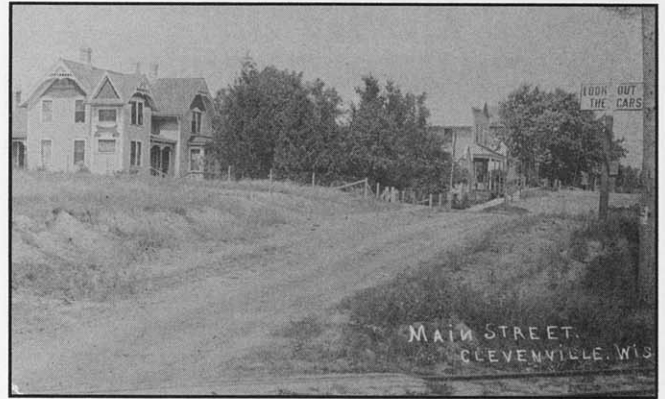
East of the road was a small farm now owned by Bob and Jean Mueller. Their son, Paul, lives in the house, and another son, Charles, and his wife, Denise, have built a house on the land. This small farm had been occupied in the past by the Johnsons, Martys, Ole Dahlbys and the Bert Hansons.

In the late 1920s, John and Perdella Marty purchased the house across the road from Perdella's parents, the Rob McCaugheys. This house had been the home of Harold Atkinson, who was the Depot Agent at that time. The Marty children were, Harold, LaVonne, Shirley (Martinson), "Bill", Wanda (Kahl), Robert, John, Jr. and Darlene. In 1951, Robert and Sophie Bakken bought the house. They, in turn, sold it to Steven and Mary Bollig in 1988.

There were two houses south of the railroad tracks. One is now the residence of Curtis and Carmen Maher. This house had been the home of Christ Olson, and later it was the home of Marie Fink's parents, Foster and Eva Odegard. The other home is that of Stephen and Barbara Hubred. This is a new house built some time in the 1970s. The old house had burned down quite a number of years earlier.

New homes built in recent years are: Michael and Judith Sullivan, 3145 Highway P; Dennis and Elaine Shaw, 3149 Highway P; Robert and Diane Krantz, 3151 Highway P; John Schuchart at 811 Zander Road. The house, where the Klevenville School was, is now occupied by the daughter of Ted and Audrey Zander, Patty Esser.

Now to go back in time to the coming of the railroad in 1881. The freight trains were usually pulled by two engines to make the grade to Mt. Horeb. They would usually come through in the morning and return from Lancaster in the afternoon. There was also a passenger train that made the trip the same way. This was a gas



*Klevenville in the 1890s.*



*Klevenville today.*

engine with one passenger car and a caboose. It brought the mail bag, and from 1937-1941, served as my transportation to high school in Mt. Horeb. Doris and Marc Deneen (from Riley) and I were almost always late to school, and had to leave school at 2:00 p.m. for the return trip home. The cost was 10 cents each way.

There are many fond memories of Klevenville, and it is still a nice place to live and raise a family.

I hope I have covered most of its history without slighting anyone. There are, no doubt, some omissions and errors. For this, I apologize.

Thanks to Shirley Martinson, the Riphahns, Julie Vasen, Marie Fink and others for their help, and for the old pictures. ●



*Klevenville Depot.*





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### MT. VERNON BUSINESS DISTRICT

*Submitted by Ben Goebler*

Previous and current owners of what currently is the **J&W Bar:**

- Louise Eggiman, 1932-1962
- Virgil and Millie Ketelboeter, 1962-1981
- Kelly, Miller & Durst, 1981-1983
- Wally and Juanita Anderson, 1983 to present time



*From left to right: J & W Bar, General Store and apartments.*

Previous and current owners of what currently is **Sparky's Tavern:**

- Eli Kobbervick, 1945-1948
- Vic Torterice, 1948-1954
- Len and Audrey Marty, 1954-1972
- Les and Alice Shutvet, 1972-1976
- Don and Francis Way, 1976-1977
- LaVerne "Sparky" Hermanson, 1977 to present time  
(currently operated by William and Jeanie Kraus)



*Sparky's Tavern.*

Previous and current owners of **Mt. Vernon Mill:**

- Stuessy Feeds, 1947-1952
- Waldo Disch, 1952-1978
- Mt. Vernon Feed & Seed, Ken Seston, Owner, 1978-1980
- F & H Mill, Fugate-Hanson, Owners, 1980-1986
- Sher-Feeds, Steve and Kris Sherven, Owners, 1986 to present time



*Mt. Vernon Mill.*

Previous owners of **General Store and apartments:**  
(see picture at left)

- Andrew and Lucey Nelson, 1942-1947
- Wallace & Westby, 1947-1949
- Sam & Betty Bieri, 1949-1950
- Ray Davis, 1950-1952
- Ben and Darleen Goebler, 1952-1959
- Amos Austin, 1959-1969
- The store was closed and converted into apartments in 1961

Previous and current owners of **Mt. Vernon Garage and Filling Station:**

- Rodney Kollath, 1934-1950
- Orville Showers, 1950-1957
- Adolph Fredrickson, 1957-1959
- Harland Erfurth & Gerald Trainor, 1959 to present time

Jerry Erfurth owned Jerry's Bulk and Fuel Service Trucks from 1961 until he passed away in 1976. Records are still kept by his wife, Freida Erfurth. The gas



*Mt. Vernon Garage and Filling Station.*



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delivery truck is at the present time operated by Harland Erfurth and Gerald Trainor, owners of the Mt. Vernon Garage and Filling Station.

**Mitchell's Dance Hall and Tavern** were closed in 1940. It was then remodeled to family living quarters. In the 1970s, the building was renovated by removing the upstairs dance hall and it was made into a one-story home by Donald Way.



*Formerly Mitchell's Dance Hall and Tavern.*

The Mt. Vernon Telephone switchboard and office were located in this building until 1959, when the company introduced the dial system, with the first automation building being located behind the building in this picture. In later years, with the Mt. Vernon Telephone Company being sold to TDS, a new automation building was built at the present site on the corner of County Trunk G and Penn Street.



*Previously Mt. Vernon telephone switchboard and office.*

**Miscellaneous Businesses** in Mt. Vernon (both provided by Gerald "Jerry" Erfurth):

**Watkins Products Sales** from 1936 to 1946

**Fire Fryter Sales & Service** from 1960 to 1976

**Beard's Dairy:**

Owned and operated by Otto Beard, who delivered bottled milk to the residents in Mt. Vernon during the late 1920s until the mid-1940s.

**Piano Lesson Teachers:**

- Bernice Moore, 1920 to 1960
- Nona Erfurth, 1970 to the present time



*Miner Marty owned the Black Smith Shop until 1955. Harland Erfurth from 1955-1959.*



*Mt. Vernon Barber Shop 1939-1949.*



*Previously Mt. Vernon Grade School.*

### Dates to Remember:

- 1932 – Louise Eggiman, wife of Alfred Eggiman, opened a restaurant and tavern in the same building with her husband, Alfred, and to this date it still is operated as a tavern and restaurant, but the garage no longer exists.
- 1949 – The mill pond was drained and no longer used for water power.
- 1957 – The Mt. Vernon Fire Department was dissolved.
- 1962 – Eggiman Garage operated by Alfred Eggiman (owner) closed. ●



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### RILEY

Submitted by Carol Riley Statz

The Sesquicentennial Committee divided the Town of Springdale up into school districts, and a person chose a school district upon which to report. Since I was a "Riley from Riley," I, of course, chose Riley to research. Simple enough, I thought. After all, there was this great tradition of being a "Riley." The first thing I learned was that the story I had always heard about the Rileys homesteading this land was inaccurate, since the Homestead Act did not go into effect until May, 1862, and William Riley moved to Wisconsin from New York in 1850. There are still Rileys in Riley, which does give it special meaning, since seven generations of Rileys have lived in this small town.

Probably because of the Sugar River running through it, Riley was chosen as a location through which the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad would run its tracks. A railroad station was established at "Sugar River Station" in 1882. A depot and water tank

were built. With the coming of the railroad, through land owned by William Riley, it became known as Rileys Station, which was then, at some later time, shortened to Riley.

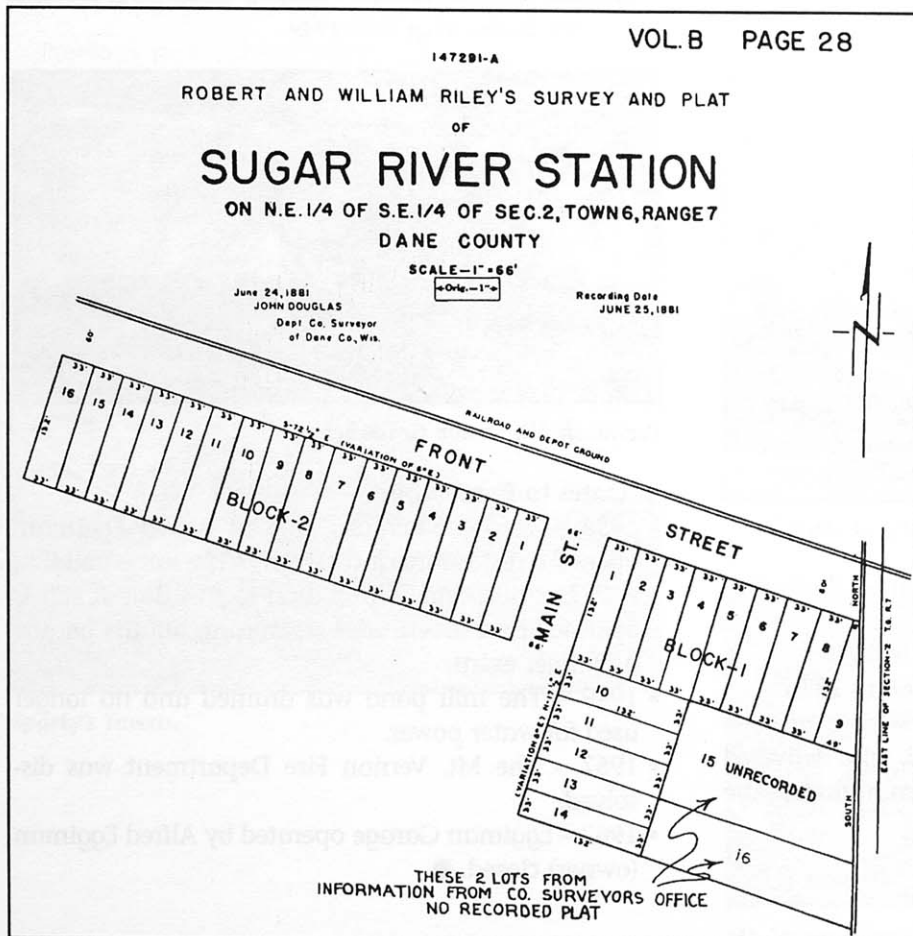


Depot and Water Tank No. 4, Riley Wisconsin, 1908.

One of the first two villages established in Springdale was Clantorf, which is one mile south of

Riley. That is where the first post office, general store and school was located. After the railroad came through, Rileys Station became the hub of activity. In 1884, there were three saloons in Riley. In April of 1884, John E. Brown opened his general store in what is now the Riley Tavern. He carried groceries, staples, wire, shoes, boots and clothing, just about anything a rural farmer could want or need. His motto was "Quick sales and small profits." Also in Riley at that time was a blacksmith, William Henrich, who specialized in horse-shoeing and general repair.

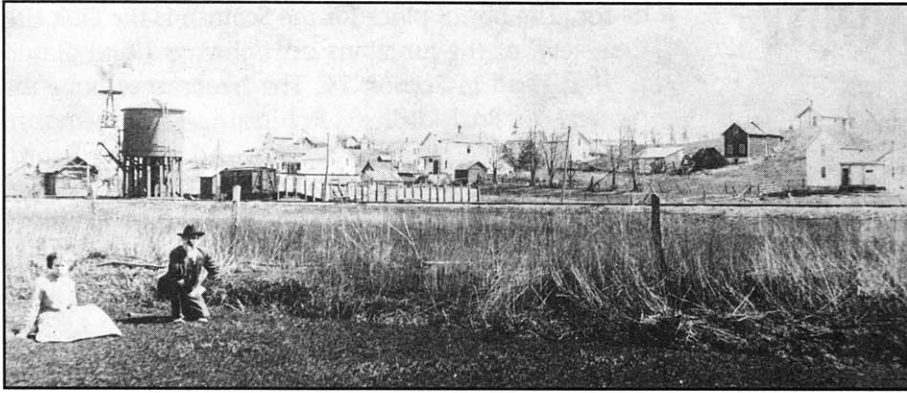
Passenger trains went through Riley several times a day, with the schedule being printed in the *Blue Mounds Weekly*, later the *Mt. Horeb Times* and eventually the *Mt. Horeb Mail*. An extra passenger train was added in 1884 for travelers to journey to the World's Fair in Chicago. In 1909, there were four passenger trains a day going west through Riley and two trains going east, as







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*Riley shown from the North, early 1900s.*

well as many freight trains that stopped there. The water tank that supplied the water to the trains used water from a well 18 feet in diameter and 28 feet deep.

By 1900, Riley was a busy place. There was now the Woodmen Hall, a dance hall, which also became a basketball court with the removal of the second floor, leaving the only access to the upper level by ladder. The hall was located directly east of the Marc Deneen residence running west and east. Rudy Schaller and his wife, Tina, provided entertainment. Rudy, the cheesemaker at the Riley Co-Op, played accordion, and his wife played the piano. Forest Henderson and Charles Himsel ran the hall, with Charles' wife, Mary, organizing programs. The hall also served as a rifle range for shooting competitions. The building was shorter than the 50 feet required to shoot, so they shot into the cloak room at the end of the building to accommodate the 50 foot requirement.



*Building addition to Riley Hall, 1913.*

There were stockyards in Riley. Before Oscar Mayer Company came to Madison, farmers sent their livestock to Chicago to market. People would herd their animals to Riley through the woods and on the roads,

so they could send them on the train to Chicago to sell. Someone would accompany the animals to collect the money from the sales.

There was a creamery just west of the Riley Tavern. There are still concrete remnants of its foundation there. By 1900, Riley had a new blacksmith, Sam Ireland, a colorful character.

The post office was established in Riley, on May 3, 1882. Prior to the post office moving to Riley, the post office had been at the corner of Highways PD and J, at a village called Clantorf. There was also a Baptist Church, built in 1896. It was struck by lightning and burned in 1920; however, services had not been held in it for many years.



Riley was quite an athletic area, having a baseball team, a basketball team and a rifle shooting team. Their teams were very popular and drew crowds to watch the farm boys play sports. They played basketball in the Riley Hall, which had been modified for basketball. The Riley team could beat anyone in their own Riley Hall, but couldn't find that success when they played at other teams' halls.

Presently, Riley has one tavern, the Riley Tavern. Its popularity has increased over the years with a Bluegrass Festival held there and the access to the Military Ridge Bicycle Trail, which is on the former railroad bed.

Shortly before the general store closed, May Deneen, who lived in the brick house just east of the store, opened a little grocery store in one of the rooms in her home. About 1950, the old general store became a tavern and the little grocery store was very handy for the residents of Riley. ●



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### SCOTCH LANE COMMUNITY

Some of the earliest settlers in Springdale were Scottish. These early settlers started the Scotch Lane area. The Scotch Lane community started west of Verona and included the Sugar River area from the junctions of Highway G and 18-151 over to the cross-roads town of Riley and west into the Town of Springdale.

The first known settler was Andrew Patton, who came in 1840 to the Verona area. Other pioneers who settled in the area were Andrew Henderson in 1854 and Henry Nimmo, a civil war veteran. Land was purchased for \$3 an acre. Andrew Henderson's farm was located at the intersection of Highways J and 18-151 in Section 14. Henry Nimmo's farm was located in Section 36. He had the first stone house in the Town of Springdale.

The Hendersons had a post office station, which apparently was never officially recorded, although there was a hand stamp for that post office. The Henderson post office existed from 1896 to 1900. Amond Iverson was the first postmaster and Ole Skinrude carried mail from the Henderson Post Office to Klevenville.

The Scotch Presbyterian Church, built in 1861, was located in the Town of Verona, at the intersections of Highway 18-151 and G, an intersection which is no longer there since the bypass went through. It stood on the hill behind and to the south of the former cheese factory building, which is currently at the end of a cul-

de-sac. The burial place for the Scottish is the Oak Hill Cemetery, at the junctions of Highways J and G and Kollath Road in Section 26. The headstones have the names, Rashford, Robinson, Gausmann, Messerschmidt, Regee, Niehus, Adamson, Beard, Brink, Miles, Henderson, Morch, Kollath, Weise, Wright, and Lester. ●

### NORSK GOLF BOWL

*Submitted by Marvin Bakken*

Until 1995, the golf course was in the Town of Springdale. It was started in 1926 when some Mt. Horeb residents each put up some money to buy land and build tees and greens. At the beginning, it consisted of just five holes. All tees and greens were made, but the fairways had to wait until the corn and hay fields were cleared and seeded. Ollie Statz was there to collect the greens fees and sell pop and candy.

The first individual owner was Mr. Lawrence Anderson. In 1940, or thereabouts, it was sold to Ken and Margaret Yost. Ken had been the golf pro at Brodhead. He was a friend of Lyle Johnson, and that is really how that came about. Ken and Margaret maintained possession until Walter Wirth bought it in 1957. Walt's son, Ron, came back to Mt. Horeb to manage the course and act as golf pro.

In 1958, Walt built the new Club House, and in 1960, added the eight-lane bowling alley. In 1965, Walter Wirth sold it to Duncan McDougall, with Dick and Betty Grosse as managers.

Dr. Clarence Gonstead, Ned and Polly McGinley and Jim and Toni Adams acquired possession of the "Norsk" in 1971. Subsequent managers have been Jim and Toni Adams, John and Marie McGinley and Jack and Connie McGinley.

Jim and Toni Adams sold their share in 1994. The "Norsk" is now owned by Polly McGinley and her two sons, Dennis and wife, Kate, and Ned, who is the golf pro, and manages the course with his wife, Kerry. ●

Map of Scotch Lane

