1947

By the year 1947 there were only eleven boys in service. The RECORDER continued to send them the weekly local paper.

The Tilton show would again be in Belleville, and a U.S.O. drive was underway.

Floyd Palmer served on the jury trial of Alex Haines, who had been convicted of murdering a Mrs. Bertha Parker. Alex was known in Belleville as the man who picked up dry cleaning.

The Duppler-Smith Post of the American Legion made plans for their annual ball. Peggy King and her all girl orchestra provided the music. The legion post plans to bring some outstanding dance band each year for this affair.

Elizabeth Eagan and Herman Diederich Jr., both seniors in high school, were chosen by their classmates to compete with students from other high schools throughout the United States for college scholarships.

There would be more food at lower prices, but the prices would be higher than before the war.

Maurice Short Jr. was confined to his home for the past weeks with a bad case of quincy.

At the end of January, P. A. GenIn resigned from the village board after serving thirty-six years, most of them as president.

At the end of January Belleville was once again hit by a severe snow storm. Heavy snow and hard winds isolated Belleville for hours.
The Illinois Central train became stalled near Monroe. The stork also put in an appearance. It brought a baby girl to Mr. & Mrs. Ray Sherman, who arrived at the hospital just before the storm reached its height. A baby boy arrived for Mr. and Mrs. Norman Fischl after they walked a mile in the deep snow to get where a car could pick them up to take them to the hospital. Only one accident occurred in Belleville as a direct result of the storm. Norman Olson and Ralph Goodman were trying to get home early and due to the blizzard conditions ran into a car that was stalled across the road. Norman received a badly cut chin and other bruises.

It was estimated by February, 1947, that World War II had cost every individual in the United States $2,430.00 represented by his share of the public debt.

In March of 1947 Mrs. Adele Lamboley died. She had fallen previously and broke her hip. In 1906 Mrs. Lamboley and her husband purchased the telephone system in Belleville. She was eighty years, one month and five days old at the time of her death.

About ten acts were entered in the amateur show sponsored by the Tilton Comedians. From these, three prizes were awarded. Mary Flannagan placed first. She sang the song PERFECT DAY. Little Juanita Sandridge and Frederick Zweifel received second place. They sang UNCLE REMUS. Betty Zweifel and Rose Sherman presented a tumbling act for third place.

The Belleville Auto Co. received its first 1947 Chevrolet. They put it up for sale to a veteran only. Any veteran who wished to buy the car was to submit their name by eight P.M. Wednesday, April 9.
The names were placed in a hat and the name was drawn out at the Tilton Show of the night. The car was sold at its advertised delivered price and no trade in was necessary. Leo Schaller was the lucky veteran to have the privilege of buying the car. Two other names were drawn in case Leo decided not to take it. They were Carlton Genin and Edgar Judd. The car was a 1947 sedan equipped with all modern improvements and accessories. Forty-four veterans submitted their names.

Excitement and indignation were factors on the minds of Belleville residents when on Sunday, April 13, a body of a baby, a new born girl, was found floating in the river just above the dam. A man from Oregon was fishing, saw the baby’s body and reported it to the constable. He called the Dane County sheriff and coroner. The sheriff and coroner immediately took the body to Madison where an autopsy was held. According to the reports the baby died of a skull fracture and had possibly been dead since December. It was very possible that the baby had frozen and lodged in the mud until thawed and brought to the surface. A sheet from a cadaver pad dated December 17 was stuck against the leg of the infant.

Henry Ford, the world’s first biillionaire died at the age of eighty-three.

Belleville had another exciting day in mid April of 1947. A report from Madison came that a dangerous inmate from Mendota hospital had escaped and was headed for Belleville. Naturally everyone was on the alert, but it was not until evening, a man answering the description
stopped at the John LaPorte home and inquired if they knew where Ray Hefty lived. He said he and Mr. Hefty were friends. By that time it was known who the man was and that he was from New Glarus and had been committed to the Mendota Mental Hospital about a month previous. He had a "sudden spell of insanity" during a scuffle over a gun, and he was committed to Mendota. Mrs. LaPorte reported his appearance at their door immediately and Dane County authorities, along with local authorities, began looking for the man. They were not successful in finding him.

In May most of the property owners that resided near the river and several interested citizens met with the village board to discuss the problem of maintenance of the dam. The Wisconsin Power and Light company did not want to keep the dam as it was of no benefit to them. They would give it to the village if the village wanted to assume ownership.

The Genin Hardware Company was purchased by Donald O'Connor of Verona and Jim Clark of Madison.

Five memorials were dedicated and presented to the Reformed Church by relatives of boys who lost their lives in the War.

An editorial appeared in the BELLEVILLE RECORDER of May 16 as a plea to the people of Belleville for their "cooperation and generosity in a very serious critical situation." Living quarters for three of the married high school teachers were needed or the school district would lose them.

New park flood lights were dedicated in July.
Reverend Oscar Stanke retired from his Belleville post, and Reverend Robert Carsen succeeded him.

The local Pet Milk Plant halted manufacturing of evaporated milk. Production would start on skimmed milk powder. The change of work necessitated releasing all of the women employees and a few men.

It was noted that Wisconsin residents were smoking twice as many cigarettes as they did before the war and drinking somewhat more liquor. Alma Waefler and Leo Gehin became engaged.

A baby contest was held the summer of 1947. The judges were professional photographers from Des Moines, Iowa. Four youngsters from Belleville received prizes. First prize went to Ronnie Wild son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Wild. Rita Sherman, daughter of Mr and Mrs. Ray Sherman was second prize winner. Judith Fahey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Fahey, placed third. Ronald Zunker, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Zunker was the fourth place winner. The babies were judged on "personality, pleasing looks, and plain cuteness."

A young man from Holland, Lex Doren, was a guest in the Casper Zentner home. He was a good friend of Cloyance Zentner. The two men became good friends when Cloyance was stationed near the Doren home during World War II.

Jo-Ann Schmelzer became the bride of Cloyance Zentner on August 16. The school fair added something new in the fall of 1947. There would be a queen of the fair. Jane Garviolle was chosen. Mary Flanagan and Darlene Zuber placed second and third. Jane was presented with a lovely wrist watch. Mary received a table model radio and Darlene a Parker pen and pencil set.
Walter Baumgartner and Bill Hoenisch were the winning team in a water fight on Main Street. Fritz Weber and Rob Cockroft were the losers.

In September the local fire department was thirty-five years old. There was a very strong movement underway to promote a swimming pool for Belleville that would serve as a living memorial for war dead. Water was drained from the Sugar River in order to investigate the extent of repairs or damages for the dam. This was done by the village in order to help them make the decision whether to repair or destroy the dam.

Arlene Hoesly wed John Stadelman.

The rod and gun club held a fox hunt in November.

Mrs. Richard Clark, a lifelong member of the community passed away.

"Dear Santa,

I am writing for myself and my brother. We have tried to be good this year. I would like a famous Betsy-Wetsy drinking wetting doll, a set of dishes, baton or bicycle, books to read and puzzles. For my brother please bring a teddy bear, xylophone, some cars and trucks, some new clothes, picture books. Please bring both of us nuts and candy.

Much love, Sharon Hendrickson."