

## ORGANIZATIONS

### GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

The G. A. R., a society of veterans who had fought to preserve the Union, was organized at Decatur, Illinois April 6, 1866. Its purpose was to strengthen the fellowship among said veterans, to honor the Union Soldiers killed in war, provide care for their dependents and uphold the constitution of the United States of America.

The G.A.R. started the celebration of Memorial Day in the northern states by a general order issued by Gen. John A. Logan. According to a newspaper of 1884, the Henry O. Watrous Post No. 93 held meetings the first and third Saturday evenings of each month in Gardiner's hall with Commander Mahoney in charge, and there is a later news item referring to the granting of a second charter to the Henry Watrous Post No. 93 at Spencer in 1895.

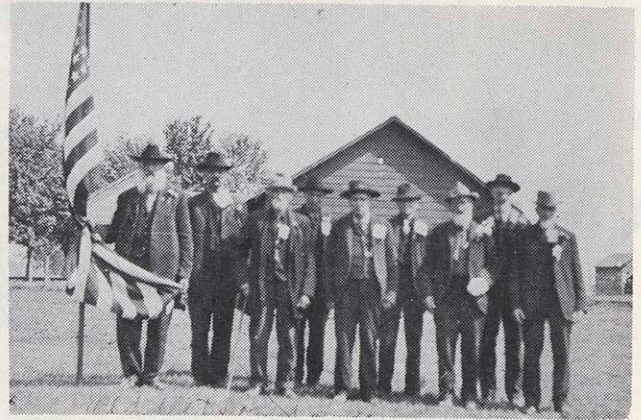
They bought the Catholic Church building located on West Main Street and converted it into a hall, probably in the late 1890's. A news item in a paper of 1901 tells of a supper held in the G.A.R. Hall with music furnished by Heath's orchestra.

For many years the G.A.R. and the Woman's Relief Corps worked together making preparations for the observance of Memorial Day and the decorating of the soldier's graves. Names of some of the early members who come to mind are William Mahoney, William McPherson, S. D. Graves, Charles W. Rue, Wesley Vanderhoof, H. R. Crowell, Collins Williams, Joseph Damon. Other Spencer soldiers of this period were F. C. Hartford, Rev. O. A. Britten (former Methodist pastor) Nick Gaffney.

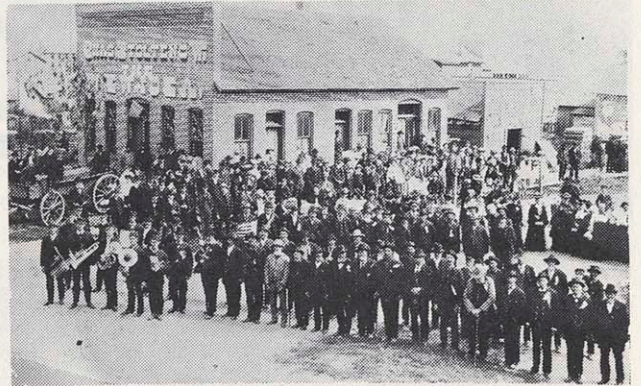
When they disbanded due to a rapid decrease in membership, they turned their hall over to the Woman's Relief Corps.



**Corp. John Schluenz, Civil War soldier and great-grandfather of Ted Neidlein. He homesteaded the former Elliot farm.**



**G. A. R. Vets of Spencer, Front row, L. to R., H. R. Crowell, Joe Whitmore, Sam Pickett, [unknown], Wesley Vanderhoof, and Col Williams.**



**G. A. R. convention held at Spencer in early 1900's. Spencer Band at extreme left.**

### KRUEGER-VEREIN

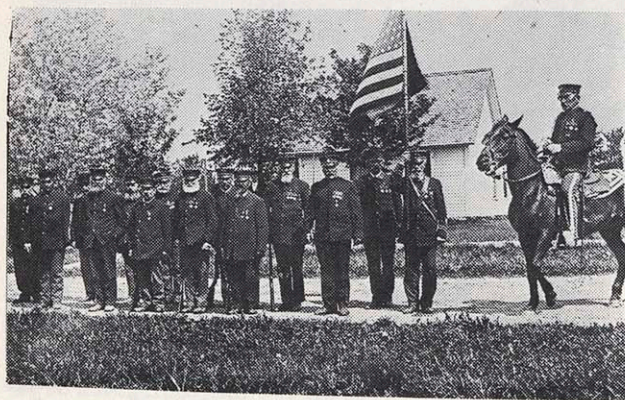
Charles Stoltenow was captain of the Spencer Krueger-Verein, an organization made up of ex-German soldiers. Mr. Stoltenow was born in Berlin and served in the Prussian Army in Germany. He and his wife, Augusta, came to America in 1873 and moved to Spencer in 1876.

One of the highlights of each Fourth of July celebration was to watch Capt. Stoltenow, mounted on his black horse, Topsy, shouting commands in German to his fellow foot soldiers as he put them through their formations.

On October 25, 1929, he sailed from New York for Germany where he attended, along with others of his countrymen in the United States, a soldier's reunion of the Deutscher Kruegerbund, which was composed of former members of the Imperial Army of Germany. He spent two months there.

"Grosspa Stoltenow," as he was affectionately

called by his family and many others, died at the age of 79, having played a very important part in the growth and development of our community.



Krueger Verein, L. to R., 1. William Schwantes, 2. Martin Ballas, 3. & 4. Unknown, 5. Anton Stelzl, 6. John Weis, 7. August Bruesewitz, 8 & 9. Unknown, 10. Mr. Struck, 11. Louis Frank, 12. William Foth, 13. John Marten, 14. Mr. Kleinschmit. Charles Stoltenow on his black horse, Topsy.

### WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS

The Woman's Relief Corps, one of the oldest patriotic organizations in the United States, voted in July of 1883 to become the official auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic and was headquartered in Springfield, Illinois. The aim of the corps was to assist the G. A. R. and perpetuate the memory of its dead, to assist Union veterans in need of help and to aid their widows and orphans.

On January 17, 1896, a meeting was held to organize the Spencer Woman's Relief Corps with 23 women attending the charter meeting. Officers elected were Mrs. Mary Andrews, President; Mrs. Leah Graves, Treasurer; Miss Rizpah Crowell, Secretary. Some others attending that meeting were Mrs. H. P. Crowell, Mrs. Joe Whitmore, Mrs. S. D. Graves, Mrs. Adolph Wendell, Mrs. Edith Graves, Mrs. Rose Reas, Mrs. Carrie Damon.

The Corps celebrated its 50th Anniversary March 7, 1946 at the Methodist Church with a dinner and program with the husbands as their guests. The centerpiece was a gold decorated cake baked by Mrs. Essie Engel, the president; the invocation was given by Mrs. Edith Graves, Chaplain. During the program Mrs. Eva McIlhattan gave a history of the organization. Badges for 25 years or more of membership were awarded to Mrs. Edith Graves, Mrs. Eva McIlhattan, Mrs. Essie Engel, Mrs. Lillian Corbett, Mrs. Ella



Rizpah Crowell as "Chief Massosoit," in Woman's Relief Corp program given at King, Wis. Nov. 18, 1943.

Adams, Mrs. Ora Schaefer, and Mrs. May Hayward. Essie Engel presented Eva McIlhattan with a corsage for her service as treasurer for 25 years. Membership of the Corps at this time was 38. Lt. Rita Goeler, the only Spencer nurse in war service, had been made an honorary member in December.

For years the Spencer Woman's Relief Corps was a strong, active group. They made arrangements with the public school teachers for a Memorial Day program by students and provided the children with flowers to place on soldiers' graves. They also made arrangements for a memorial service to be held in the Methodist Church each Sunday preceding Memorial Day. They were faithful and loyal in taking care of the hall left them by the G. A. R. until finally, with but a few members left, they turned it over to the Lee F. Pickett American Legion Post. Some time in the 1950's they decided to disband.

Mrs. Merti Jossi, the last president of the W. R. C., presided over the last district convention held in Spencer.



Spencer High School band at cemetery on Decoration Day 1937.

## ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA

Golden Rule Camp No. 4366 was chartered on September 14, 1905, with the following list of Charter Members: Neighbors, Myrtle Colby, Andrew and Carrie Damon, Mae Driscoll, Lillian Farrington, Edith, Leah and Spencer Graves, Harriet and May Hayward, Lena Holmes, Cora Hubbard, Maude Lake, Emma McVean, Carrie Reas, Minnie Sayles, F. D. Strayer, M.D., Maude Upson, Barbara Vanderhoof and Mabel Welch. The first officers were Effie Ringer, who had transferred immediately from the camp at Chelsea, Wis. to the new camp in Spencer, and became the first Oracle; Leah Graves, Vice Oracle; Maude Upson, Past Oracle; Mae Driscoll, Recorder; May Hayward, Receiver; Carrie Damon, Chancellor; Maude Lake, Marshal; Edith Graves and Carrie Reas, inner and out sentinel, respectively; Emma McVean and Lena Holmes, managers, and Dr. F. G. Strayer, Physician. Carrie Damon served as chancellor for more than 25 years and Mae Driscoll served as recorder until January 1, 1955.

The R. N. A. is a benefit society dedicated to the protection of the American family, with a principal of true fraternalism exemplified by lodge activities and aid to members in need. Golden Rule Camp diligently carried out the aims and purposes of the society. They were active in the social life of the village, putting on home talent plays, hard time parties, etc. to raise funds for their charitable endeavors. In the days when there was neither welfare or Mother's pensions, they extended a great deal of aid to the needy whether or not that need was within their own membership.

On July 20, 1966 Golden Rule Camp No. 4366 consolidated with Midget City Camp No. 2666 at Colby, Wisconsin.

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### W.C.T.U.

In the early 1890's and extending into the early 1900's, there was a Women's Christian Temperance Union headed by Mrs. G. I. Follette. This was an active, dedicated group of women who met regularly in the homes of the members. At one such meeting in 1897 mention is made of a guest speaker who gave a lecture on religion.

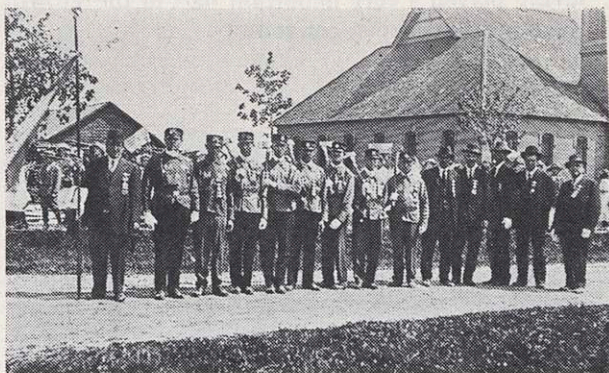
The insignia of the W.C.T.U. was a white ribbon which all proudly wore.

Miss Rizpah Crowell, Mrs. Anna Bodle and Mrs. Cyrus (Livonia) Messer, later fondly called Grandma Messer by all who knew her, were members of the organization.

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### EARLY LODGES & M.W.A.

According to the "Spencer Advance" of June 1888, there was the Temple of Honor (Evergreen Temple No. 219) meeting each Tuesday in Prentice's



**Modern Woodmen of America Spencer Camp ready for Memorial Day parade, 1915. L. to R., Editor Conry, Dr. F. A. Soles, Jake Ringer, Gary Fenhouse, Henry Fenhouse, Fred Mitchell, John Swan, Albert Fenhouse, Otto Ernst, Ed Ingham, John Graves, Gus Damon, Earl Holmes, Bert Reas.**

Hall, and Good Templars (Irene Lodge No. 186) meeting each Saturday evening at the same place. There was also an Odd Fellows Lodge No. 323 which met in the hall above Heath's Drug Store.

Modern Woodmen of America Camp No. 1124 was chartered October 22, 1894 with the following Charter Members: S. W. Doolittle, M.D., Norman S. Artman, W. S. Blaisdell, Edgar Elliot, John D. Graves, Jacob W. Lund, Emil C. Matthes, David P. Olin, Henry Wilber, and G. W. Wendell.

Membership continued to increase and in the early 1900's the camp built a hall on West Main Street on land now owned by Jensen's Motors. There being no Municipal hall, it was used often by other organizations and for school programs, for the Memorial Day Program, home talent plays, dances, basketball games and movies. Sometime in the 1940's, the building was sold to Herman Siemers who moved it west of town on Highway 98 and converted it into the Little Club.

When Camp No. 1124 was consolidated with the Marshfield Camp May 6, 1968, Harley Graves had served 52 years as Camp Clerk.

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### SPENCER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

In 1878 the Town of Spencer purchased five acres of land from William Tilden to be used for cemetery purposes. In 1920 the Spencer Cemetery Association was organized. Edgar Johnston was elected secretary. On July 12, 1940, a meeting was held in the American Legion Hall to reorganize the Association. The following Trustees were elected: B. C. Swarthout, President; Mrs. B. C. Swarthout, Secretary/Treasurer, Mrs. Maude Kuehnow, Vice President; Frank Corbett, Ben Burnett, Lawrence Driscoll, Mrs. Jonas Ayers.

The name would remain the Spencer Cemetery Association, the association would be incorporated with deeds of lots being placed on record at the County Seat in Neillsville. Perpetual care would be \$50.00 per lot; annual dues would be \$1.50, payable before May 15 of each year. The annual meeting and election would be held on the second Tuesday of June.

At its annual meeting on April 1, 1941 the Town of Spencer voted to deed to the Spencer Cemetery Association all rights and title to the land owned by said town, laying in the Town of Sherman, Clark County, and known as the Spencer Cemetery Association, and any money in the town treasury belonging to the Cemetery Association with the provision that, if necessary, the Town of Spencer could reserve a plot of ground on the east side of the north half for burial of paupers in their township.

In 1941, 15 acres of land was purchased from Frank Putman for the cemetery and in 1943 another purchase of 20 acres from him was made, bringing the total to its present acreage of about 40 acres.

B. C. Swarthout spent a great deal of time and effort in the locating of the graves so that they could be recorded and in the making of a map of the cemetery. The upkeep of the cemetery had been neglected but after the reorganization in 1940, the elected directors and those who followed have helped to restore the cemetery to its present appearance.

Mr. and Mrs. Swarthout served on the board until 1969. Ben Burnett served as trustee until his death in 1970. Frank Putnam was sexton for 20 years, followed by Fred Oelrich who served for 32 years. His son, Willard, then served until his death in 1971. Mrs. Ronald Rux is the present Secretary/treasurer and Alfred Hinkelman is the sexton.

It is believed that Susannah Ring was the first person to be buried in the cemetery.

### SPENCER WOMAN'S CLUB

The following is a quotation from Page 1 of the History of the Spencer Woman's Club. This history has been kept since the organization of the Club:

"There had been a growing feeling among a group of women in Spencer that if they organized they might be able to accomplish many things for the betterment of the community. With this thought in mind a meeting was called on March 21, 1946, at the home of Mrs. Kenneth Graves, to whom must go in a large measure the credit for the organization of the Club. She explained the functions of such a group, what one would have to put into it in time, effort and money, and what good one should be able to obtain from it. A vote was taken and it was decided to organize. Thus the Spencer Woman's Club came into being."

Constitution and by-laws were drawn up April 1, 1946, and accepted on April 4, 1946. The club also



**Charter members of the Spencer Woman's Club are from left to right, Mrs. Estella Fenner, 91 years old, a member during the club's first full year of activity and still faithful in attendance; Mrs. Beulah Kasper; Mrs. Linda Beisner of Weyauwega; Mrs. Lucille Tack; Mrs. Violet Parrette; Mrs. Maude McIlhattan; Mrs. Blanche Metzgar; Mrs. Grace Jacobitz. [There were 24 charter members, 15 are living. Mrs. Tack and Mrs. McIlhattan have 25 years of continuous active membership.]**

federated with both the District and General Clubs in 1946.

There were 24 Charter Members at the time of organization, at which time the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. K. D. Graves; Vice-President, Mrs. A. W. Beisner; Secretary, Mrs. V. G. Schilleman; Treasurer, Mrs. C. B. Jacobitz.

For the most part, the meetings were held in homes and continued to be until 1964 and 1965 when they started being held in the lunch room of the school.

In 1947 it was voted to restrict membership to 42 and to accept new members only as others dropped out as the membership was getting too large to entertain in the homes. This led to a group of young women organizing a club of their own which was called American Home Department and consisted of 13 young women who held their own meetings and were sponsored by the Woman's Club. Later they withdrew from the Club and formed their own Junior Woman's Club with their own Constitution and By-laws. This club continued until May of 1954 when they disbanded and rejoined the Spencer Woman's Club.

In 1950 the Woman's Club voted to purchase a copy of the book **The Life of John Hay** written by Dr. Tyler Dennett and it was to be added to the collection of books of "Wisconsin's Own" writers library being sponsored by the General Federation and to be put in the new Governor's Mansion in Madison.

Dr. Dennett was born in Spencer on June 13, 1883. His father was a minister in Spencer in 1879 and 1880 and his mother was one of the first teachers in the early

days in Spencer. Dr. Dennett received the Pulitzer prize in 1933 for a biography **The Life of John Hay**.

While in the State Department in Washington, D. C., Dr. Dennett discovered the original copy of the Declaration of Independence bearing the signatures of the signers thereof, neglected, dusty and torn. Through his efforts this precious document and also the engrossed original copy of the U. S. Constitution were repaired and placed in the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. The Declaration is enshrined in a niche in the west wall of the second floor gallery, protected by glass which has been chemically treated so as to exclude all injurious light.

At the meeting held on November 7, 1947, it was voted to sponsor a library for the Village and the club was offered the Directors' room at the bank for it. Later it was moved to the municipal building and has continued there to the present time.

This has been the largest project of the club throughout the years, it having been sponsored entirely by the Woman's Club, with donations made to expenses by the Village of Spencer and the Town of Sherman. In 1966 it was voted to request the Village Board to set up a Library Board, as the library was getting too large for the club to maintain. At that time the balance of the money in the Library Fund was turned over to the Village.

In 1954 Mrs. George F. Hayward donated a collection of miniature logging equipment assembled and built by her late husband. This collection was first displayed in cabinets in the Spencer High School and later, when the Club learned that Mr. Hayward had hoped to have his collection accepted by some organization at Wausau where it could be cared for and properly displayed for the pleasure and education of all interested persons in Marathon County, the club voted to donate it to the Marathon County Historical Society and it was transferred there in September of 1955, along with a framed photograph of the late George Preston Hayward.

On December 7, 1958, the Club sponsored a testimonial dinner honoring Ray J. Tack for his support in furthering the building of the addition to the grade school and the gymnasium which is now known as the R. J. Tack Auditorium. Mrs. Earl Reinholz was general chairman of arrangements and was assisted by members of the churches, schools, and all civic organizations in the village and surrounding territory.

As a means of raising funds in order to accomplish the worthwhile projects undertaken through the years, the Club has had food sales, rummage sales, Halloween Party, Square Dance Party, Christmas Bazaars, Sale of Cook Books, the presentation of a three-act play (with the cooperation of the Lions club), as well as promoting and presenting an annual Spring Fashion Show.

During the years the Spencer Woman's Club has donated over \$8,000.00 to the Spencer Library, Care Packages, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Badger Girls State,

Spencer Park Playground equipment, United Fund, Christmas Seals, Red Cross, March of Dimes, Nursing Scholarships and other smaller charitable projects.

In addition to the above the Club has donated clothing, money and various gifts to European Relief, Wood Hospital Gift Shop, Veterans Hospitals, glasses to New Eyes for the Needy, cancelled stamps to Hospitalized Veterans, Indians at Lac du Flambeau, gifts to Northern Colony at Chippewa Falls, gifts and favors to the Colonial Home at Colby.

Club women have been in charge of United Fund Drives, Inoculation Clinics at the school, Eye Testing at the school, and were instrumental in getting voting booths and curtains for the Village.

They have also sent Christmas packages to shut-ins every year since 1946.

During the past few years the club has had a Welcoming Committee who has called on each new family moving into Spencer, leaving a gift for each, the cost of the gifts being paid by the club.

## LIONS CLUB



**Grouped here at the celebration of the Spencer Lions Club's 25th anniversary are, seated, from left to right, Jerry Radlinger, Dorchester, district governor, passing a gift of cheese to John O. Filkin, Toronto, Canada, Lions International director and principal speaker, David Ingham, current president, and J. R. Thomas, Loyal, the first president of the club. Standing, left to right, Rudolph Meyer, Edgar, zone chairman, and Ray Parrette, Arnold Bruesewitz and Harold Kuethe, all charter members and past presidents, holding plaques presented to them.**

In February 1941 the Spencer Lions Club received their charter. Through the efforts of J. R. Thomas, principal of the Spencer Public School, 23 men from Spencer were organized to become members of Lions International. The charter was issued with a membership of 23, who were as follows:

Lowel Taylor	Clyde B. Jacobitz	H. G. Siemers
Arthur L. Boock	A. E. Messer	G. S. Ingham
Emil Marten	H. A. Kuethe	John L. Witt
R. J. Tack	H. A. Walterbach	Ralph Jones

Otto Sommer	R. L. Parrette	John Orgish
Arnold Bruesewitz	G. C. Schulz	Laurence Driscoll
George Seitz	J. R. Thomas	Marvin Engel
C. B. Spicher	Wm. P. Jensen	

At their first meeting J. R. Thomas was elected as the first president of the Spencer Lions Club. Their first meetings were held in the rear dining room of Gary's Cafe, which is now known as the Spencer Cafe. Later the club met at the various church dining halls. Eventually the Lutheran and Catholic churches discontinued serving and the Methodist Church continues to serve.

At the present time only two charter members remain with the club. They are Arnold Bruesewitz and Harold Kuethe. Membership varied through the years from 23 to 36 and then by April of 1968 the membership had dropped to 24. Since that time the membership has grown to 41. The club has been active on a local, state, and international level, contributing money and time to worthwhile projects. Just to mention some, the following are noted:

In 1951 the club was instrumental in promoting the first lighted athletic field, which was located where our Village Park is at present. Clyde Jacobitz, George Seitz and Russell Sampson served on a committee which was incorporated as the Spencer Athletic Corp. They canvassed the businessmen who donated to the project along with the Lions Club. The project was completed at a cost of \$3600. The Lions constructed a six foot fence around the field.

The Lions have held annual smelt feeds since 1954, the profits having been used since 1956 to support the Wisconsin Lions Camp for the blind at Rosholt, Wisconsin. Since 1957 they have also helped support the Leader Dogs for the Blind at Rochester, Michigan.

In 1956 the club built a warming house for the village skating rink. The warming house has now been removed because of its poor condition.

The Lions Club was instrumental in laying the ground work for the construction of eight classrooms, cafeteria and gymnasium for the Spencer School District. Through a committee, led by Lion R. J. Tack, the project became reality in 1958.

In 1958 the Lions Club purchased a score clock for the R. J. Tack Auditorium.

The Lions held their first light bulb sale in November 1962 and this has been an annual project since that time and the proceeds are used to support the Wisconsin Lions Camp and Leader Dogs for the Blind programs.

Since 1965 the club has been awarding a scholarship to the outstanding student-athlete of the Spencer High School.

In 1969 the club planted their first trees in the Village Park. In 1970 they purchased and installed a slide and merry-go-round at the Village Park. In 1971 they purchased picnic tables and grills for the park.

In 1974 they contributed \$2500.00 toward the construction of a building which will accommodate the ticket office, concessions, and space for storage at our new athletic field. The contribution was made to the Spencer School District.

Through the years the club has purchased many eye glasses for children of needy families in the Spencer area. They have been co-sponsors of many carnivals through the years and have been co-sponsors of Spencerrama Days with Spencer Jaycees since its beginning. They have collected used eye glasses for many years which are sent to Wausau for packing and shipping to foreign countries for unfortunate people who cannot provide glasses for their families. The club laid out the village for house numbering, installing the numbers, and furnishing numbers for all the homes which they still furnish at no charge to new home owners. The club also participates in the annual United Fund drive with the Jaycees and Spencer Woman's Club.

Due to the loss of records from 1941 to 1952, when Russell Sampson became Secretary and Treasurer, a position he still holds after 22 years, parts of the history of the club are missing.

The present officers of the Spencer Lions Club are as follows, their term of office expiring in July 1974:

Charles Sundell	President
Rudy Schweiss	1st Vice Pres.
James DiUlio	2nd Vice Pres.
John Burke	Tailtwister
Douglas Bloedel	Lion Tamer
Russell Sampson	Sec. & Treas.
Richard O'Brien	Director
Ronald Rux	Director
Norman Kasper	Director
Albert Huotari	Director

## AMERICAN LEGION



Building on LaSalle Street now owned by the Post.

The American Legion is a patriotic organization of veterans, whose national charter was granted by Congress in September 1919 and was headquartered at Indianapolis. Between 1918 and 1942 membership was limited to American soldiers, sailors, marines and nurses who served in World War I. The charter has since been amended to include all members of the Armed Forces during time of war or conflict. The Legion itself is made up of the Post, County Council, District, State and National organizations. Throughout the years the American Legion has been actively concerned in obtaining care and aid for the disabled veterans and dependent children.

The American Legion Lee F. Pickett Post No. 298 was chartered January 15, 1922 with the following Charter Members: John Ballas, Harold Brown, Louis Bruesewitz, James Christiansen, Charles Cramer, Albert Foss, Chester Freeman, Gust Groh, John Hable, Robert Harvey, Herbert Hoops, Edward Huber, Robert Krause, George Krueger, Elmer Lambert, John P. Mann, William Oelrich, Carl Orgish, John Orgish, Ray Parrette, Werner Raabe, John Reas, Anton Ringquist Alfred W. Sells, Guy Vanderhoof, Munson Vanderhoof, John P. Weis, and William Weis.

Early records are unavailable, but meetings were held monthly in the G. A. R. Hall where the regular business of the Post was conducted and good comradeship enjoyed. The primary concern of the Post then as now has been the legislation of bills beneficial to veterans and aid to any local veteran needing assistance in obtaining his pension or any other form of aid.

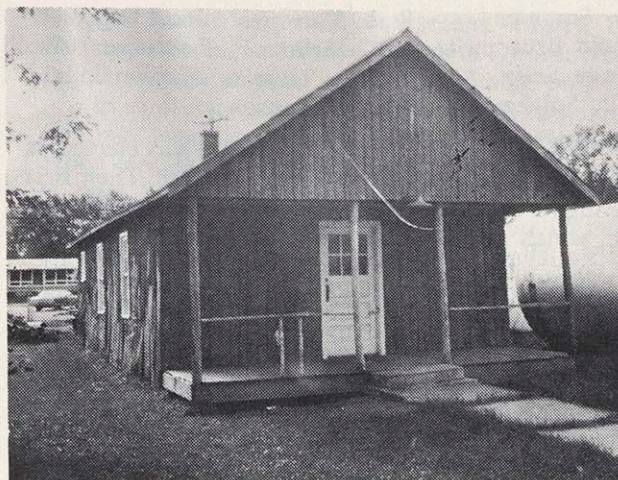
About 1928 the Woman's Relief Corps turned their hall over to the Legion Post with the provision that they be permitted to use it for their meetings. In 1939 the Post members, with the help of others in the community, tore down the old hall and replaced it with a rustic style building made of logs. In 1969 or 1970 this property was traded to Jensen's Motors for a building on LaSalle Street where they now meet each month. Various organizations use it for bake and rummage sales and the Jaycees meet there regularly.

Present officers are: Commander, Dick Meinders, Vice Commander, Eugene McVean, Adjutant, Don Hebert, Chaplain and Service Officer, Munson Vanderhoof.



### DO YOU REMEMBER?

When L. O. Ernst operated a butcher shop and meat carcasses hung from hooks in the cooler and you could choose your cuts and watch as he sliced and sawed your favorite roasts, steaks, or whatever or however you wanted it.



American Legion Building erected in 1939.

### AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The charter for the American Legion Auxiliary, Lee F. Pickett Post No. 298 of Spencer, Wisconsin was issued December 22, 1923. Two meetings were held each month. The first Wednesday was designated for the Auxiliary exclusively, and the second meeting on the fourth Wednesday being held jointly with the Legion. A sunshine fund was started, with each member giving one penny per meeting.

The activities included: An Armistice Day program which was held in 1925 at the Spencer Public School through the efforts of the Auxiliary. In 1928 a flag pole was erected in the Soo Line Park, the expense being equally shared by the Legion and the Auxiliary. In 1932 the Auxiliary participated in the observance of Memorial Day and placed Memorial wreaths on the graves of all soldiers killed in action and deceased veterans. In 1936 a float was constructed and entered in the Homecoming parade. In March of 1941 the Auxiliary began to sponsor a Public Library created by a W.P.A. project, and in 1943 began to sponsor the Girl Scout organization. In 1950 a "Scotch-lite-a-bike" Safety Program was started and in 1959 the Auxiliary and the Woman's Club began to co-sponsor a girl for Badger Girl's State.

Regular meetings are now held the second Tuesday of each month. The offering for the sunshine fund has been raised to a quarter. Poppies are still sold each May, the money going to veterans' hospitals and to help veterans here. Once a month tray favors are sent to veterans in hospitals. With the help of the United Fund, the Auxiliary still sponsors a girl to Badger Girl's State.

Following are the Charter members, first officers and present officers:

#### Charter Members

Mayme Christianson	Emma Ayres
Ina Cramer	Theresa Brown

Ellen Parrette	Carrie Damon
Agnes Pickett	Eliza Freeman
Marian VanDerhoof	Leah Graves
Anna Zettle	Ethel Johnson
Faith McVean	Maud Johnston
Susan Groh	Mildred Krause
Mary Hanson	Devina Lambert
Louise Parrette	Eva McIlhattan
Helen Pickett	Blanche Metzgar
Esther Callahan	Sue Nelson
Evelyn Orgish	Bertha Orgish

**FIRST OFFICERS**

Marian VanDerhoof	President
Ina Cramer	Vice President
Evelyn Orgish	Treasurer
Leah Graves	Chaplain
Hazel VanDerHoof	Secretary
Elsie Carlson	Sergeant-Arms
Mary Hansen	Historian

**Present Officers**

Mrs. Wilbur Hoops	President
Mrs. Dick Meinders	First Vice President
Mrs. Wm. Jensen	Second Vice President
Mrs. Russell Gehrke	Treasurer
Mrs. A. E. Messer	Chaplain
Mrs. Rueben Pribbernow	Secretary
Mrs. Ed Huber	Sergeant-Arms
Mrs. Russell Gehrke	Historian



March 8, 1901 - Spencer Tribune: Sunday a sixteen foot wheel blew off from the windmill at the railway water tower, falling on the track. It was removed just in time to prevent a train from running into it. This is the second time the wheel has come down this winter.

Notice in the 1883 Spencer Tribune: 2 magnificent parlor cars were placed on the Central Wisconsin Railway, between Milwaukee and Ashland.



**SPENCER GARDEN CLUB**

On May 9, 1960 a group of women met to form a Garden Club. There was a good attendance, at which the following officers were elected: Mrs. Dan Kobs, president; Mrs. Walter Schwantes, vice president; Mrs. F. Long, secretary and Mrs. Albert Tolzman, treasurer.

In 1971 the Garden Club made all of the corsages

for the State Garden Club Convention held at Wausau, Wisconsin.

The aims of the Spencer Garden Club have been to encourage an interest in gardening by discussions of gardening methods and exchange of ideas at meetings. The Club's annual projects have been planting the "Welcome to Spencer" planter, providing seasonal arrangements in the library in memory of Mrs. Guy Ingham, improving the village park, and having a biennial Christmas holiday open house. They donated a set of gardening encyclopedias to the library.

The recent monthly meetings have included a great variety of subjects such as planting terrariums, making favors for patients in convalescent homes, artwork of pressed flowers, programs for Senior Citizens Clubs, for school children, and tours of special gardens. The last two or three years the Garden Club has furnished trees for grade school students to plant on Arbor Day.

Official flower of the Village of Spencer was proclaimed the Petunia in 1961. The Garden Club presented a petition to this effect before the Village Board and many petunias are planted each year by the club to help beautify the village.

On May 1974 the Spencer Garden Club was hostess for the Wisconsin Valley District meeting. The present officers are President, Mrs. Duane Kortbein; Vice President, Mrs. Arlin Ewert; Secretary, Mrs. Orville Schwarze; Treasurer, Mrs. Harold Utne.

**SPENCER SWAMP STOMPERS**



Swamp Stompers on the trail. Standing in foreground is President, Robert Schwantes.

A meeting to start the club was held on September 20, 1970 with Jerry Griepentrog as chairman. A committee was selected to check into club by-laws.

At the October meeting Jerry Griepentrog was elected president, Bill Shupe Vice-president, and Sharon Kobs, Secretary-Treasurer. The Board of



Directors elected for one year were Red Beyer, DuWayne Matter, and Jerry Kobs.

Of names suggested, the name Swamp Stompers was chosen. Incorporation was started in October 1971. A six-man Board of Directors was decided upon, consisting of the following: Red Beyer, Bill Shupe, Dale Anderson, Florence Misek, Ron Baumgartner, DuWayne Matter, and Jerry Kobs.

The first meeting of the Executive Board was held December 8, 1971 and the next year's officers were elected as follows: Ron Baumgartner, President; Dale Anderson, Vice President; and Florence Misek, Secretary-Treasurer. The new president took office December 11, 1971.

At the January 8, 1972 meeting it was explained that the McMillan Marsh would be opened for trail riding with the cooperation of the Marshfield Club.

At the April 1972 meeting Robert Schwantes and Frank Jacobitz were elected to the Board of Directors. In September 1972 Florence Misek resigned as Secretary and from the Board of Directors. Mrs. Robert Schwantes was elected to replace her.

An Executive Board meeting was held September 21, 1972 and Robert Schwantes was elected President and Frank Jacobitz Vice President.

Members of the club were sent to school to become safety instructors. The first snowmobile class started February 12, 1972. Incorporation papers were picked up and signed by the President. Two new board members were elected for three year terms. They are Allen Mondloch and Russell Klein.

At the April 1973 meeting Robert Schwantes was re-elected President, Russell Klein was elected Vice President and Betty Schwantes was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

A committee for a snowmobile dance was set up, with proceeds going to purchase an Amble-ski for the Fire Department. October 6 was chosen for the date of the dance. It was also decided to purchase a double-wide trailer for the Ambl-ski.

On December 15 and 22 driving tests were held for over sixty young students who then graduated from the Snowmobile Safety Course.

The Club historian is Sandy Mondloch.

It was decided the club should make uniform signs for the Village, using the colors green and white. These new signs have been approved by the Village Board and have been put up.

### SENIOR CITIZENS OF SPENCER

A meeting was held in the Spencer Village Hall on August 9, 1967, for the purpose of starting an organization of the Senior Citizens of Spencer.

Mr. A. C. Elliot, acting chairman, called the meeting to order. Mr. Wm. Schweke was acting secretary. Mr. Merkel was called upon to explain how

to get the group started. He gave an interesting talk on "Old People - Unforgetables," the purpose of the group, and how to have the regular monthly meetings.

The following were elected officers for Spencer: President, Mr. A. C. Elliot; 1st Vice President, George Schwantes; 2nd Vice President, Herman Toltzman; Secretary, Mrs. Lydia Hermanson; Treasurer, Mrs. Laura Wry, and six directors: 3 years - Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Reineking; 2 years - Mrs. Julia Ingham and Mrs. Ben Burnett; 1 year - Wm. Schweke and Ben Burnett.

The meetings are to be held the third Thursday of each month.

The first year there were 57 members and since that time the enrollment has increased to 84.

We also have an entertainment committee of three who sees about our trips, speakers, programs for special occasions, and general entertainment for each meeting. Cards, Bingo, and various games are the usual activity for the day, after which we are served a nice lunch.

Many of the Spencer Senior Citizens have taken advantage of the Marathon County Mini Bus Service from Spencer to Wausau and back again. These are free trips for all residents who are 55 years or older. During the first year there were 2800 passengers from the county who used the service.

We would like to see more of the Senior Citizens of the Spencer area come to join the group or just come to visit. We have a nice group and have a good time at all our get-togethers. Welcome!

### JAYCEES

An organization of young men committed to community improvement began in the spring of 1965. The group, henceforth known as the Spencer Jaycees, received their charter on April 29 of that year.

The Jaycees are a young man's organization, as only men between the ages of 18 - 36 are eligible to join the group which has as their motto, "Young Men of Action." A secondary phase of the organization is the personal development of young men, to become better citizens through community involvement.

Serving as the first president of the Spencer Jaycees was Allan Seitz. Succeeding him in following years were James Karau, Orville Schwarze, Eugene Jensen, Ken Neumann, Merlin Kobs, Gerald Kobs, Steven Christman, Gerald Marden, and Leo Wojcik Jr.

More than one hundred projects have been conducted by the Jaycees since their inception nine years ago. The first contribution to the community was the entrance signs on the outskirts of the village. Some other major projects have been building a shelter house for the park, purchasing a scoreboard of the school's athletic field, building and erecting a park fence, and purchasing a movie projector for the Village Library.

The foremost fund-raising project has been Spencerama Days. Among other projects designed to

raise monies for community service have been many basketball games, birthday calendar sales, chili suppers, and Christmas tree sales.



**Mrs. Jean Zogg receives a beautiful plaque from Jaycee Earl Gamble for being named Spencer's 1973 Outstanding Citizen of the Year.**

### SPENCER JAYCETTES

The Spencer Jaycettes were chartered on November 9, 1969, by the Waupaca Jaycettes. The Charter Evening event was a dinner meeting conducted by Jaycee President, Ken Neumann. Jaycette Charter president was Colleen Marden. There were twelve charter members.

It was 1969 -- and the newly created Spencer Jaycettes went to work! Like any new organization, they needed money to function. Their first projects included a bake and delicatessen sale.

In 1970 they began searching out the community to discover where they were needed. As wives and mothers, of chief concern was the education of children. Articles were written concerning "protecting your children from strangers" and parents were advised to call school when their children were ill. A need for trained babysitters arose and they answered it with a babysitting clinic. Youths were trained and certified. A list was made available upon request to employers. This was the year Spencer was recognized by the State for its industrial growth. The Jaycettes proudly recognized it and entered their first float during the Spencerama Days celebration. They continued to assist their Jaycees whenever needed and established their own installation and orientation for new members. Bake sales and a pie social were their moneymakers.

Science equipment for the Junior High School was purchased from a project derived from saving Betty Crocker coupons in 1971. New kinds of money makers attempted were a garage sale and a card party. Bicycle safety classes, along with a skit for "Protect Your Child from Strangers Week" was held. During Jaycette Week, articles were written and a special "Afternoon Thing" held for all Jaycette children. Vests were made and lettered for the Jaycees; they were to be awarded as a Golden Key Chapter three years in a row for having

such a large percentage of the Jaycee's wives as Jaycettes.

Communications between Jaycees and Jaycettes became stronger in 1972 through their newsletter and assistance throughout Spencerama Days. Attendance increased at district, regional and state meetings. They helped choose an outstanding citizen, conducted the annual Kiddie Parade, Bicycle Rodeo and produced the Community Birthday Calendars. Their hands reached out to serve many new areas; helping to sponsor two girl scouts to camp; coordinating the Jay-teens and Girl Scout's efforts during the Multiple Sclerosis drive; training more babysitters through the clinic; honoring their Jaycees with a potluck supper; collecting and repairing toys for Santa's Workshop and making their own vests so they could be recognized as the Jaycette they were proud to be. During the spring they co-hosted a regional with Marshfield for the Wisconsin Jaycettes.

Then 1973 found them continuing to move ahead with confidence. The Speak-Up program and Spoke and Sparkette award system was established to aid in the personal development of each member. They were ready to try many new projects. P.O.W. letters were written monthly to free our prisoners from Vietnam; they assisted in planning and coordinating the Spencerama Queen Candidates; Red Ball project went community-wide with the fire department; Betty Crocker coupons were collected for the purchase of camping equipment for the crippled at Camp Waubeek; a masqueraded Halloween parade was held for all the children in the community. All other yearly assistance was continued. Three new moneymakers highlighted the year: their own cookbook sales, participation at a flea market, and a craft bazaar.

And so it is that each year this organization grows. They are the "Wives of America's young leaders and mothers of those who will inherit that leadership," and they will grow and mature. They will continue to reach out with heart and hand beyond the realm of their kitchen windows and thus create happier marriages, inspired children and women who can and must contribute to the world in which they live.

Chapter Presidents have been Colleen Marden, JoAnne Rothamer, Sharon Kobs and Diane Rothamer.



### DO YOU REMEMBER?

When bell-bottom trousers were the latest style for young men and the jazz-bon tie and patent leather oxfords were in their hey day at the dance halls and cabarets.



**Boy Scouts at Lac du Flambeau Camporee--July 1960. L. to R., Frank Jacobitz, Bob Myott, Jack Staeger [Scoutmaster], Ray Fritsch, Bruce Barfknecht, Mike Bauer, Kevin Schiro, Scott Ingham.**

### SPENCER BOY SCOUT TROOP #687

The Boy Scouts of America in Spencer were organized in 1938 and 1939 as Troop 687 under the sponsorship of the American legion. J. R. Thomas was the first Scoutmaster. Through the years the scouts have been lead by M. J. Fritsch, Alfred Borth, Clarence Gunewald, Dr. F. H. Koehler, Robert Blanchard, Earl Finkbeiner, Earl Reinholz, Walter Flink, J. W. Staeger, Donald Bauer, John Burke, and the present Scout Master, Michael Graves. The troupe has been sponsored by the American Legion, Lions Club, Junior Woman's Club and Parent Teachers Association. The present institutional sponsor is the Jaycees.

From newspaper news items, we find notes of early Scouting activity:

**July, 1952** -- James Koehler, Edward Fravert, John Neuenfeldt, and William (Bill) Neidlein spent a week at the Boy Scout Camp at Chicagamie, near Amherst.

**November 26, 1953** -- A poultry party was held Wednesday evening, November 18, in the Municipal Hall co-sponsored by the Boy Scouts, Junior Woman's Club, and the Spencer Lions Club.

**December 9, 1953** -- The Cub Scout packs were formed the first part of December, 1953, at a meeting of the parents and North Wood County District Scout officials. The formation of the Cub Scout Packs took place after the parent's night Pancake Supper, sponsored by the Junior Woman's Club and Boy Scout Troop 87 at the Spencer High School Cafeteria. Following the supper the Scouts entertained with skits, games, and demonstrations. The highlight of the evening was the magic tricks performed by John Gerdes.

The present organization of Troop 687 consists of 17 members. The Adult Committee members are Floyd Wichman, Chairman; Darreld Hasting, Robert Hinrichsen, and Spencer D. Graves, treasurer.

The troop is composed of three patrols which are

the Indian patrol, with John Burke Jr. as the patrol leader, and the Bear Patrol, with Jim Day as the Patrol leader. The Senior Patrol leader is Neil Jacobitz. Troop 687 is part of the Ojibwa District which is a part of the Samoset Council, headquartered in Wausau.

The purpose of the committee members is to assist the Scoutmaster in the Scouting program.

Boy Scout Troop 687 has had many projects as a group and each month boys personally participate in the project. Each scout is awarded scout merit badges as each project is completed. This produces a constructive program of great merit in moulding a well-rounded citizen, with admirable qualities that make for good citizenship and faithfulness to God and Country.

The troop is self-supporting through such functions as door-to-door selling of items, Chili Supper (served annually in February), and bake sales. The residents of the village have wholeheartedly given support. The money earned from these projects has gone toward the purchase of troop supplies and equipment and that big event each summer, which is the week-long camping trip at Camp Tesomas, near Rhinelander. The troop has had many weekend camping jamborees and fun days such as swimming and tobogganing. At present a canoe trip is being planned for the summer of 1974. All these things play a part in moulding the character of a Boy Scout into self-sufficiency; a minute man of the present day. With God's help, Troop 687 will continue in the future and will turn out good citizens, who may be leaders in this great country of ours and a credit to the society in which we live.



**Girl Scout, April Graves, carrying sign announcing the next unit in parade.**

### GIRL SCOUTING IN SPENCER

On My Honor, I Will Try:  
To Serve God,  
My Country and Mankind  
And To Live By The Girl Scout Law.

Girls in the Spencer area have been privileged for a number of years by having ladies volunteer to bring the "Life of Girl Scouting" to them.

As to when scouting actually began in Spencer, we do not know, but we have ladies remembering being a Scout thirty years ago.

Spencer Woman's Club has long been the sponsoring club for our troops. Helping to finance scouting are the Woman's Club, Jaycees, and United Fund, plus various ways the Scouts have for earning money, such as the annual cookie sale and Cadettes bake sales.

Meeting places have been at the American Legion Hall and various rooms at the school.

Camping seems to be an enjoyable activity for the girls and they have a selection of places to go. Day Camps are for Brownies and Juniors; they leave home each morning and return each night for one week. The last few years it has been at Cherokee Park. Mary Prokopinski of Spencer has generously given her time each summer for many years to supervise the girls at Day Camp. These volunteers are what keeps Scouting working. Junior and Cadettes can stay overnight at either Camp Del-O-Claire or Camp Birch Trails.

Among those who could be remembered as early leaders or workers in the activity of Scouting are: Corrine Kettelborough, Jean Graves, Betty Shupe, Rosella Schweiss, Audrey Wichman, Rosie Sawyer, Fay McNeely, Margaret Stevens, Karen Hanson, Arlene Hanson, Nona Schultz, Barbara Steffenhagen, Mary Andreas, Sheree Mondloch, Nancy Mondloch, Nancy Karau, Darleen Jicinski, Joan Kemps and Vera Keyes, who has also been cookie chairman for several years.

The Scouts keep busy working on their badges, ice skating, swimming, hobby work, caroling, visiting shut-ins, making tray favors, picnics and many other activities throughout the year.

Membership and leaders in 1974 are:

Cadettes - Troop 106, 16 members, Alicia Cantlon.

Juniors - Troop 104, 27 members, Marion Seitz, Margaret Hastings, Nancy Karau.

Brownies - Troop 103, 31 members, Mary Krause, Marianne Genett.

Town Crier - Margaret Hastings.

### CUB SCOUTS

The Cub Scouts, which may be considered a junior organization of Boy Scouts of America, was first organized in Spencer October 6, 1944. District 6 (Ojibwa) Pack 687 of Samoset Council has been sponsored from time to time by the Spencer Lions Club, American Legion, Spencer Junior Woman's Club, Spencer P.T.A. and Spencer Jaycees.

Cub Scouts join the Pack at age eight and become Webelos at age 10 and are ready to become Boy Scouts at age 11. The Pack is divided into dens of six to eight boys; the Cub Scouts led by mothers, and Webelos

dens led by fathers. In the separate dens boys learn various crafts, games, songs, skits, magic tricks and ways to help one another. The important objectives of scouting are family oriented--the building of comradeship between parents and boys, leaders and friends, and teaching them to be mindful of God and their country.



**These seven Spencer Cub Scouts were 1974 first place winners in the Pinewood Derby in their respective dens. Front row, left to right, John Prokosch, Den two; Karl Johnson, Webelos; and Danny Kobs, Den five. Standing, John Deitz, Den six; Brian Rose, Den four; Jon Steffenhagen, Den three; and Kevin Pankratz, Den one.**

The first Cubmaster was Alfred Borth, an ex-army man, who taught the boys to march and camp. Mrs. Loren Copet served as the den mother and the group was sponsored by parents of the Cub Scouts. Others serving as Cubmasters were Arthur Huber, Dr. F. H. Koehler, Donald Bauer, Merlyn Lindner, Norman Wachholz, George White, Bob Freeman, Merton Reckner, and Ralph Storm. Present Cubmaster is George Kann.

After a lapse of nine years in the scouting program, Mr. Herman Schultz of Marshfield (originally from Spencer), and working with District 6, helped reorganize the Pack. He also put on shows of Indian dances and folklore and by his interest and help kept both the boys and their parents interested in the Cub Scout program.

Highlights of Pack activities are: The Blue and Gold Banquet (held annually), visiting the airport, Brewers Baseball games, picnic outings (including baseball and games), swimming, Scout-A-Rama jamboree for the first time in the fall of 1973, and the Pinewood Derby.

In 1973 DuWayne Gripentrog, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer Gripentrog, received the highest award, the "Arrow of Light," having completed all the awards a Cub Scout can receive.

The Pack has grown steadily and received recognition at the annual bean feed of 1974 for gaining the most new members. Present membership is 46 Cubs and 9 Webelos.