

1946

The movie "Our Vines Have Tender Grapes" was a special interest to the people of our area in 1946. The movie, starring Edward G. Robinson, Margaret O'Brien and Agnes Moorehead, was a warm-hearted story of the life on a dairy farm and was filmed in Little Norway at Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin.

There was talk of Belleville having its own American Legion Post. High waters and ice damage chewed pieces off the dam. Engineers estimated it would cost ten thousand dollars to fix it.

Victory clothing drives were held to collect usable and serviceable clothing for European refugees.

Carl Genin bought an interest in the P. A. Genin Implement Company.

In spite of the effort of three fire departments, fire completely destroyed the tavern, dance hall, and living quarters of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Viney of Basco.

Vincent Eagan joined the staff of the Belleville State Bank.

The high school basketball squad elected Donald Fahey captain for the season. Bill Clark led scoring with one hundred fifty points.

The American Legion Post became a reality that spring. The name Duppler-Smith was chosen. It was to honor the first servicemen killed from World Wars I and II in the area. The post was eager for the women of the area to support the legion in all activities.

Herman Diederich's car was stolen from the road in front of his house. It was a gray 1935 four door Plymouth sedan. It was located at

Spring Valley, Illinois, a week later. It had been run into a creek and was only slightly damaged. There was a broken spring in the rear of the car.

One hundred fifty couples attended the junior prom in the spring. Jerry Elmer and Leah Ayen were prom king and queen.

There was also a record attendance at the Mother and Daughter Banquet at the Swiss Reform Church. It was the sixteenth affair of its kind. Two hundred thirty-five mothers and daughters took part in the celebration.

The first poppy day was held in Belleville on May 25, 1946.

In June Pauline Schrepfer wed William Fahey.

Russell Howard was elected as the new chief of the American Legion Post in Belleville. The membership was fifty strong.

Belleville welcomed the first war bride in the community.

Mrs. Ted Forrester arrived here from her home in England.

The first meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary was held in the youth hall. The new officers elected were:

Mrs. Herbert Adams - president

Mrs. Vernon Ross - vice president

Mrs. Donald Hanold - secretary

Mrs. Howard Hoesly - treasurer

Mrs. Clifford Scott - historian

Mrs. John Eckstein - sgt. at arms

Mrs. Al Schmetter - chaplain

Japanese war criminals were on trial in Tokyo.

The Belleville truckline installed a new ice house located one half block east of the Catholic Church. Ice cakes were available at

anytime. Ice cubes were available when ordered.

There was a double wedding of sisters. Luane Christen married Herbert A. Blaser. Her sister Valaria was united with Willard Meland.

Marion Judd and Donald Meyer were also married that summer.

Because of meat shortages, Buss's market and Weber's locker plant were closed Sundays.

At the annual school board meeting Fred Brunner was elected as director of the school board to succeed Robert Fahey. Linus Doyle was elected as clerk. A proposed budget of \$38,405 was accepted. There was an increase of \$1,000 over the previous year.

In July it was noted that fifty experienced carpenters were needed to build veterans housing at Truax Field in Madison. The wage was one dollar and fifty cents an hour. There was room and board available at the site.

August of 1946 found Jack Hofmaster and Herman Diederich Jr. chosen to play in the all state high school band at Camp Randall in Madison. There were one hundred sixty-three members. Jack played the drums, and Herman played the tuba.

Joseph McCarthy toured the state campaigning for the United States Senate.

The hourly wage rate reached a record high. The average hourly earning for workers in manufacturing industry reached a record high of one dollar and seven cents an hour. The average weekly earnings were forty-two dollars and ninety-two cents.

The director of astronautics at the Sorbonne University in Paris hoped to send the first atomic energy rocketship to Mars by 1960. No humans would be aboard the inter-planet rocket ships on its first fifteen day trip to Mars.

Plans were made for the Belleville high school fair which was held on the school grounds on September 17. Several new features were added. At noon all rural students, their parents and Belleville business and professional men were given dinner as guests of the local high school sponsored by the home economics department.

John LaPorte purchased the harness shop from James Fitzgerald.

Belleville had eighteen residents over eighty years who were still active.

The old band uniforms that had served for twelve years were wearing out. The purple and gold capes were to be replaced with new uniforms. A fund was started for new ones. The amount hoped to be raised was \$2,000. The price of one uniform was forty-five dollars. Mr. Glen Wood returned from the service to take over as band director.

Belleville went for the Republican candidates at the polls in November. Three hundred and three people voted in the village.

Jack Adams became the new assistant editor of the BELLEVILLE RECORDER.

Betty Herfel and Francis Fahey exchanged vows, as did Rosemary Watkins and Osbourne Hare.

Trygve-Lie was elected as the first secretary general of the United Nations.

In December Betty Zimmerman of Madison married Clarence Hageman of Belleville.

The band fund for new uniforms totaled \$1,520.89 at the close of the year.