IN THE BEGINNING

The only Waunakee in the world is a small young community lying just north of Madison, Wisconsin in the north east corner of the town of Westport. (sections 5 and 8 of T. 8N, R. 9E).

The Winnebago Indians ceded this area to the federal government by the Rock Island Treaty of September 15, 1832, following the Black Hawk War. In the spring of 1833 the region was surveyed by John Mullet, assisted by Mahlon Blaker, C. H. Stowell, John Brink and H. M. Draper. The land was then put up for sale and by 1836 the future site of Waunakee was purchased while most of the other land in Westport wasn't purchased until the late 1840's. Lucius Lyon obtained section 8, which contains the southern part of the village, along with three other sections in the county from the federal goverment land office at Mineral Point for $1.25 per acre on June 11, 1836. Section 5 was bought, jointly, on July 29, 1836 by Mark Healy and Benjamin B. Kirchival, also for $1.25 per acre.

None of these men settled in the town of Westport and they didn't seem to promote settlement in the region either because the first settlers who came, Louis Montandon and Edward Boyles, came in 1845 and settled two miles south of the future village site. In 1846, they were joined by the O'Malley brothers and the following families: Burdick, Tower, Bradbury, Rodgers, Collins, Ruddy and Fitzgibbon. Later the Roach, Welsh, Tierney, Reade and O'Keefe families emigrated into the township. These early settlers settled down and began farming after having cleared the timber which covered much of the region. Some of the farmers grew wheat in the region and sold it probably in Madison. Most of the timber, which was marketable, was taken to a sawmill built in 1847 on the "Six Mile Creek" a few miles south of the present village of Waunakee. The owner of this mill was Carl C. Corneliussen, a young Norwegian immigrant. He hoped to build a small village around this mill and he called the area Charlesille but nothing ever developed out of his plan.

The township of Westport derived it's name from Westort, Ireland. In 1849, when Michael O'Malley was serving as the 1st town chairman, he named the township after his former home.

The mill property changed hands many times in the following years and after most of the timber was saved up this mill was converted into a grist mill and people from miles around brought their grain to this mill to have it ground up. This mill was later known as Packhams' Mill.

In the meantime, an embryo village was sprining up about five miles to the north of the mill called Leicester. The inhabitants of this village were an overflow of the English Temperance Emigration settlements of the northwestern part of the county. In time a school, a store, several shops, churches and even a post office were built in this settlement.

Meanwhile, the land for the future site of Waunakee had changed hands. George Fish bought the land which forms the west end of town sometime in the spring of 1866. Ira P. Bacon bought the land forming the east end of town in 1862. Lewis Baker took over the operation of the land somewhat in the center of town and going north. S. P. Martin also owned property and operated a blacksmith shop on the county line road which eventually was to become Main Street of Waunakee.

In 1869 and 1870 the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad was surveying in the area to extend their line through to Saint Paul. The company knew it would be necessary to set up a station somewhere north of Madison to accommodate the farm business of the region. The railroad officials had almost decided to put the depot at Packhams' Mill. In December, 1870, Lewis Baker, George Fish and Solomon Martin surveyed and laid out lots in part of section 8, T 8N, R 9E. Through the efforts of the surveyors and Ira P. Bacon the railroad was convinced to place the station at it's present location. The men offered free rights of way through their farms and had to put up $1500.00 cash. This turned out to be the start for the village of Waunakee.

The name of the village was selected in a somewhat unusual manner. Many of the people in the surrounding area wanted the village to be called Leicester, being the closest post office. However, since these same people had not contributed toward raising funds for the railroad, Baker and Fish decided they should have no part in naming it. Instead, they consulted with Gen. Simeon Mills, early day Madison pioneer and a Mr. Hill, a Madison banker. A list of possible names was supplied and from this list, Waunakee was chosen. The name is of Indian origin. It is possibly taken from the Ojibway language, meaning "peaceful place" or "good earth." "He lies in peace" is the Chippewa translation for Waunakee.

By 1873 most of the business places of Leicester, including the post office, had moved to Waunakee and the town began to grow.

Waunakee was laid out on beautiful flat land bounded on the north and east by the "Six Mile Creek" which insured the early inhabitants of a supply of water. Now that the railroad station was built there, more settlers and businesses followed in order to serve as a market for the surrounding farmers. By 1875 the population of the village was over 200 people. By 1880 the village could claim a population of 300, consisting mainly of additional local businessmen and people who worked in these businesses and the farms in the vicinity. From 1880 to 1890 the population increased only slightly because of the terrible visi-

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tation in Waunakee, as in many other places, the dreaded scourage of diptheria. The many cemeteries of the region,, with their numerous small stones for children are reminders of those sad days.

The Peter Meyer family of Waunakee lost seven children in a month's time of diphtheria, chiefly in January, 1887. Two died in one day and only one of the children was saved.

Likewise, in the same year of 1887, Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Schleck lost three; Mary the eldest, aged 18, Theresa and Helena. Mary, the eldest, was preparing to begin teaching school when stricken.

In addition, several of the townspeople lost their businesses because of a fire which broke out in February of 1879, burning all the buildings on the north side of main street east of the railroad tracks and this discouraged some people from settling here. It is on account of these two happenings that people probably began to think that the name of Waunakee meant a "dark and bloody ground" instead of its real Indian meaning.

In the two decades from 1890 to 1910 the population increased gradually since most of the "believed" curse of the 1880's had worn off. Additional land on the east side of town was platted and added to the village. In 1893 the village voted to be incorporated by nearly a 4-1 margin. Its area at this time consisted of 644.4 acres and claimed a population of 376. Now people really began moving into the village because prior to this, it was said, that Westport, the township under whose jurisdiction Waunakee was placed, did little to help out the village, especially regarding improvements and now being incorporated meant that Waunakee could make its own decisions and the residents could spend their own money on their own village. This period of increasing population was common for many towns and villages in Wisconsin at this time because in the late 1890's the price of agricultural land was beginning to rise and many eastern speculators bought up the land in the area and many farmers sold out, fearing another depression like that of 1893, and moved into the village with money in their pockets. Many new businesses, where these new residents worked, were developed during this time in Waunakee: a lumberyard, a creamery, several new stores and saloons, as well as a bank and even a high school.

The election on the matter of the incorporation of the Village of Waunakee was held the 16th of March 1893. 85 votes were cast with 67 yes and 18 no. On May 2, 1893 the first election of the Village of Waunakee was held in the home of Mathias Schleck (111 W. Main St.). The following officers were elected:

President	Henry Heller
Trustees	John Flanagan
	A. M. Blake
	Anton Koch
	Lawrence Freney
	Charles Porter
	J. H. Koltes
Supervisor	Mathias Helt
Clerk	William F. Riley
Treasurer	Frank E. Esser
Justices of Peace	James Taylor
	Albert Ford
Police Justice	P. R. Riphahn
Constable	Jacob Feiler
Marshal	E. M. Cooper
Assessor	C. C. Bacon

The first meetings of the Village Board were held in the home of Mr. Schleck. It was necessary to build a Village Hall and Mr. Baker offered to sell them a lot to be 30 feet wide by ten rods long for $100.00. His offer was accepted and it was moved and seconded that the village put up a building 36 feet long and 20 feet wide and 12 feet high. The building was completed August, 1895 and still stands in its original location on Baker Street. Later it was found that a jail was needed, so it was added to this building by Frank Kopp for $120.00. It is interesting to note that in 1898 the Hall needed painting. James Ford was awarded the contract for two coats of paint for the total sum of $14.00.

The next Village Hall was built about 1911 or 1912. The building had the fire equipment on the first floor and the Village offices on the second. Also included was a small auditorium. This location served as Village headquarters until the Community Building was opened in 1965.

SIDEWALKS

The first sidewalks were nothing more than planks laid down over the worse spots during inclement weather. This was in the year 1876.

A Frenchman named Schillinger (sic) who had lived near Paris, France before coming to this country and operating a farm near the new born town of Waunakee. He came to town soon after the planks referred to in this article were laid. With great pride he gazed at the walk and remarked, "Waunakee is on its way to being a second Paris. Truth or fiction, this was reported in a later issue of the Waunakee newspaper.

A group of Italian musicians happened into town. The group proved to be rather good and thus the idea of a public performance came forth. Jacob Buhlman and E. J. Foster (railroad station agent) contracted with the group for a price and the profits to be used to buy planks. Both men knew full well the problems of walking home evenings wading thru mud and water. The group held their permance and the sidewalk fund became $18.00 richer. The money was spent on planks, which were laid down wherever they were most needed.

The Presbyterian Ladies' Aid Society saw a much pressing need in sidewalks also. They paid out $75.00 to put wooden walks from the Riley House (110 South St.) down to the Presbyterian Church. This helped greatly with people coming

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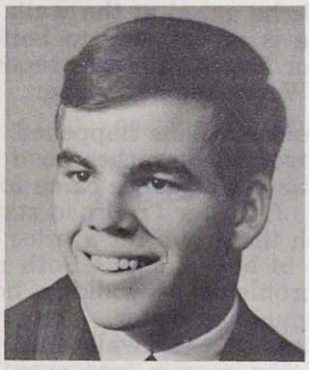

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from the train and also from the hotels to the church.

When Dr. B. W. Shaw built his first home (301 W. Main St.) in 1900, he requested the village to install cement walks in front of the house. The village replied with a no, but offered the Shaws a couple of planks to use instead!

The first cement walks were installed about 1904.

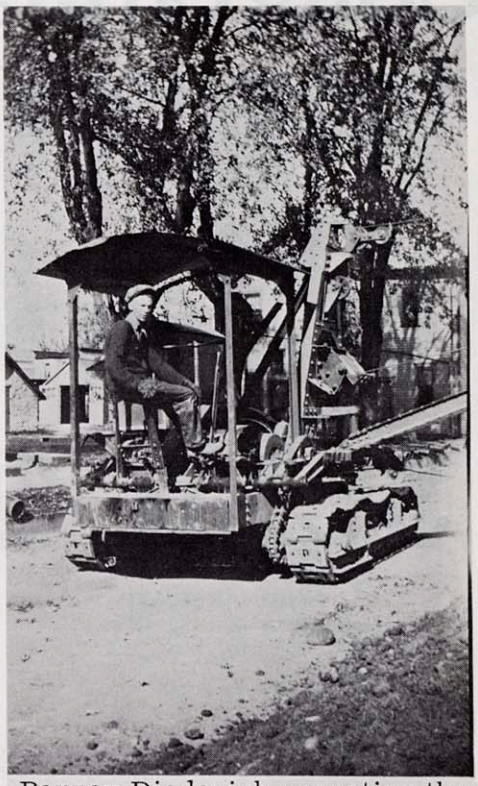
STREETS

The streets continued to be somewhat a mess until almost 1920. Sometime during the later 19teens, large rocks were put into place helping to cover up the water holes that always appeared during rain and spring weather. Finally some gravel was put down through the main portion of town. In 1923 the Village and County paid for and installed the first paved street. Main St. was covered from curb to curb in concrete. The people were so happy about this that a community street dance was held and attended by several thousand people. The business men of the community were responsible for holding this dance.

Ray Hohlstein's barber shop window collapsed at about 11:00 when the crowd had swelled to unestimable proportions.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING

Electric lighting was first furnished to the Village in 1915. Mr. Leo Wulfing was the first electrician and he probably installed lights into the majority of the homes and businesses. The power was brought in from the new dam located at Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin. Sam Blake was also an electrician in the early days of home used electricity.



Barney Diederich operating the Back filler while laying the water works and sewer system in 1927.

Typical view of what Main Street looked like before the paving was done. This is looking East from the McWatty house.

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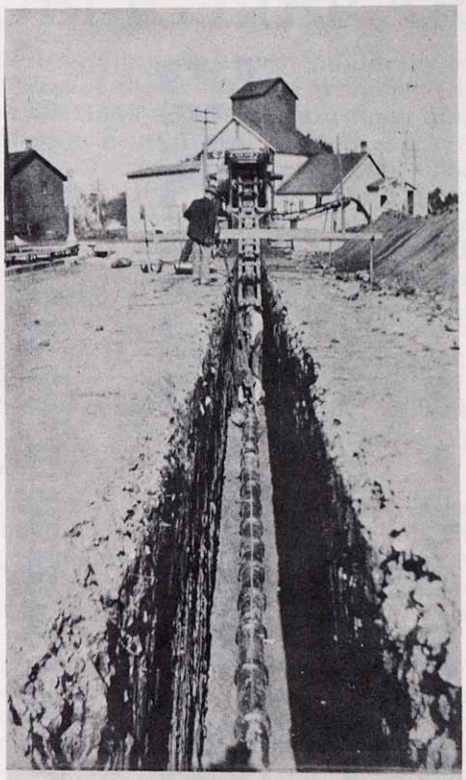
SEWER & WATER

The water works issue in 1927 was not forgotten by many for quite a few years. What started out to be a routine well check, ended up nearly causing the Waunakee fight of the century. Prior to the report being filed with the state, 32 wells had been checked. Only 6 showed pure, 6 were questionable and the rest were beyond any help. When the state heard of this, they advised the installation of a public waterworks and sewer system.

The issue passed in the spring election and many thought this ended it. The bond issue was voted on twce and was defeated both times by a substantial margin. Several of the prominent families of the community were so strongly opposed, they spent a lot of time and money talking down the system.

The vote on the bonds was due again the Tuesday after Labor Day. One of the opponents had come downtown on Sunday to get some things at the store. As he neared the railroad crossing, he apparently was deep in thought and didn't hear the train approaching. He was struck by the engine and was killed instantly. When word of this got around many people took this as a sort of bad omen and decided to stay away from the elections. Thus the bond issue finally passed.

Construction was started at once and the work completed in 1928. It is interesting to note that many of the people who so strongly opposed the installation of the sewerage and waterworks were the same first people to have it installed in their homes.



The long-awaited sewer system.

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POST OFFICE

At the time that Waunakee was platted the nearest Post Office was located at Leicester and the Posmaster was Mr. E. L. Noyes. The U.S. Post Office Department granted the request of change to Waunakee in October, 1871 and Charles Hudson was appointed Postmaster. The Post Office was located in his store at 100 W. Main St.

In years gone by, the political appointment of Postmaster changed almost everytime there was a change in administration in Washington. Thus, some of the early day Postmasters served for very short periods of time.

Jacob Buhlman was appointed Postmaster from 1886 until 1889 and the Post Office was moved to his store at 104 W. Main St.

In 1889 James Clarke became Postmaster and served until 1893 with the Post Office located at 105 E. Main St. Lawrence Freney next was appointed to serve from 1893 until 1898 when Charles Hudson was reappointed Postmaster. Again the Post Office was moved first to Freney's store and than back to Hudson's.

From 1902 until 1913 P. R. Riphahn served as Postmaster and the Post Office was located in the Koltes Lumber Company building at 114 E. Main St.

Harry Koltes held the position next from 1913 until 1921. The Post Office was located in a small building just east of the tracks on the Koltes property. The Post Office was to remain at this location during the early years of the next Postmaster, Math Adler. He served from 1921 until 1934. During the time that the Post Office was located east of the tracks the safe was blown up 3 times. It seemed that the night express train served as the perfect cover up for the noise of the exploding powder. Toward the end of Adler's term as Postmaster, the Post Office was again relocated to the Adler Michels Store in the Wauna kee State Bank Building. After going out as Postmaster, Mr. Adler served as a rural route carrier.

In 1934 John Michels was Postmaster and he served until 1951. The Adler Michels Store ceased operations in 1950 and the Post Office was now the sole occupant of the rear portion of the bank building facing on South St. Mr. Michels passed away suddenly and his wife Anna was appointed to serve as acting Postmistress until Herman Adler was appointed in 1954. Mr. Adler, son of Math Adler, served until 1971 when he changed to a rural route carrier.

The first rural route carriers started in 1902 and Carl Stebbins was the first appointed. The early days of rural delivery left much to be desired as the first gravel roads on Mr. Stebbins' route was not laid until 1922 and only covered six of the 26 miles.

Others who have served as rural carriers are: Wm. Powers, Michael Tierney, Math Adler, Harold Murphy, Wm. Hart, Orville Dorman, Terry Brubaker, James Feiler and Herman Adler.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

The beginning of life for the library is due to the forming of the Waunakee Women's Club. In February of 1909 about fifteen women met at the home of Miss Anna Heller (300 W. Main St.) for the purpose of organizing such a club. The meeting was conducted by Miss Mary Connors of Token Creek. After the club was organized and officers elected, Miss Connors suggested the club take as a project, the start of a lending library. A drive was made to collect books and obtain money to purchase a bookcase. Because there was no place to keep the library, a club member would keep it in her home and act as librarian. Later the library consisting of 50-100 volumes was placed in Mrs. Mike Simons' Hat Shop (part of what is now McIlwee's).

Sometime in 1914 Mrs. Ella Ford Baker took the library under her wing. Up to this time the library only had a few volumes and no reading room. She organized a group of young ladies to work in the library and also help raise funds. The library was moved to a second floor of the Koltes Building, above Dr. Blake's quarters. The village paid the monthly rent of $5.00. The library was now open three nights a week with Mrs. Baker serving as librarian. In order to raise funds, the girls would serve suppers on the nights that dances were held in Riphahn's Hall. The menu consisted of 2 ham sandwiches, pickles, 2 pieces of cake and ice cream and coffee. The total price for this outlay was only $0.35! Usually $5.00 to $10.00 profit was cleared from this venture. The money was used to purchase magazine subscriptions and additional volumes for the library.

In 1927 the library was in need of larger quarters and thus was moved into the former saloon side of the Brausen Hotel (now the Miller Hotel and Bar). The bar of the saloon made an ideal magazine rack and the huge mirror behind the bar remained because young women were tempted to come in and gaze at themselves. Following the end of prohibition, the library moved from the hotel to the first floor of the IOOF Hall, 113 E. Main St. It was closed for several years thereafter.

About 1943 a 4-H Club under the leadership of Eleanor Shillinglow Carberry took over operation of the library. The interior of the building was in dire condition. It needed to be redecorated and many of the books were in need of repair. The 4-H Club resorted to bake sales to raise the necessary funds. During this time a library board was formed and the village began to lend support to the library. Also the Woman's Club continued to help support it.

During the early 1950's, the library continued to grow. A new modern front was put on the 70

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year old building to replace the World War II Honor Roll. The inside also received a face lifting; new furnace, new ceiling and painted. The village census showed 1,043 residents. Total volumes in the library was 3,732 with 276 adult and 369 children borrowers.

Overall look of the new library.

The 1960's marked the opening of the new Community Building for the village. The year 1966 found the library moved into new and beautiful quarters in that building. Much volunteer labor was used to move and set up the equipment in the new location. Since that time the library has continued to grow, adding new volumes and programs each year. Presently the library operates with a budget of approximately $10,000.00 and has a total of 8,462 volumes. The library is also connected with the Madison Public Library thru the County Wide Services. Mrs. Ken Shaw, the present librarian has served 18 years in her capacity. Many local high school students and women have served as assistants over the years.

Much of the work of the library is due to volunteer workers. Cleaning, painting and such in the early days were all donated. Also in past years, the library owes much to Mr. and Mrs. Shaw. He served for 10 years on the Library Board. This was mainly during the planning and moving stages into the present location.

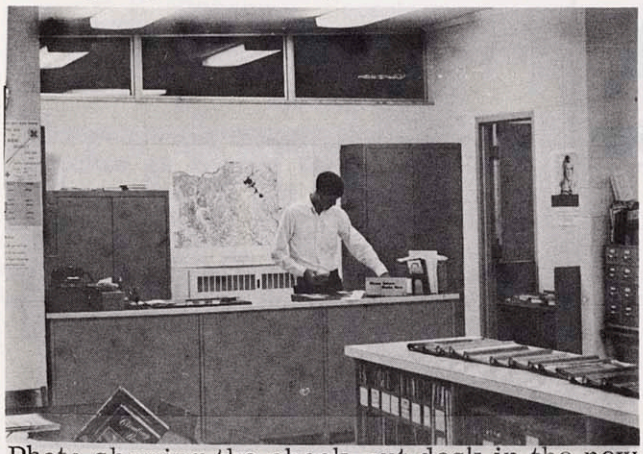

Photo showing the check-out desk in the new library. Bruce Caucutt is behind the desk.

Mrs. Ken Shaw, Librarian, at work in the work room of the present library located in the present Community Building.

FIRE !

The Fire Department had its unofficial start probably with the fire that occurred February 3, 1879 at 3:30 a.m. At that time, the buildings on the north side of Main Street, east of the tracks burned. The fire started in the rear of the Taylor Brothers store owned by Ira P. Bacon. The fire spread east to the house owned by Bacon and occupied by his son-in-law Eli Cooper. Next it went to a two story building also owned by Bacon. The first floor was a hardware store and the second used by the International Order of Odd Fellows. The house owned by a family named Moyham was next to the hardware store. A vacant lot prevented the fire from spreading any further to the east. Going west from Taylor Bro. store was a wooden hotel building owned by E. L. Noyes and operated by his step-son R. W. Towne. Next to that was the saloon operated by Mr. Schleck. Cause of the fire was undetermined. Enough warning was given so that people had time to escape and remove most of their belongings. Mr. Cooley, operator of the hardware store was the only reported injury, having been burned badly about the face and hands. The fire was finally extinguished with a bucket brigade formed by the neighbors. This was the first efforts at fire fighting in the new village.

Two years after the incorporation of the village, the Village Board ordered a combination chemical and water fire engine with 500 feet of hose and cart at a total cost of $880.00. This was a hand pumper and was drawn by several men. Not having a fire station, the equipment was kept in the Koltes Lumber Co. storage shed.

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CITGO

Earliest Picture taken of Waunakee Fire Co. Taken along side of the American House.

On February 26, 1895 a meeting was called by the Village Board to organize a fire department. The following officers were elected:

H. J. Doll — Chief
Jake Fieler — Assistant Chief
Wm. Flatman — Foreman
Math P. Kopp — First Captain
Jacob Kessnich — Second Captain
P. R. Riphahn — Secretary
Ferinand Reith — Treasurer
Ignacious Reith — Steward

The balance of the 33 members elected were: J. H. Koltes, L. Freney, Thos. Marsh, Math Helt, Simon Kirschich, F. W. Kirst, John Klingelhofer Sr., Dr. A. M. Blake, Walter Clarke, J. J. Noltner, W. J. Riley, H. L. Reeve, F. L. Cowan, John McGuire, Mr. Braby, George Brader, G. A. Esser, John Roache, Gus Fleiner, Wm. Warneke, F. O. Hudson, M. Griffith, F. E. Esser, Peter Marx and John Neils.

May 18, 1895 the Village Board authorized the building of two cisterns (14 x 20 x 14 ft) to store water for use in fighting fires.

The village built its first hall the summer of 1895, located on Baker Street. Although this was a rather small building, it was also used to store the fire equipment. December, 1895, the Fire Co. donated a bell for the top of the hall at a cost of $47.00.

Following the organizing of the Fire Co., it was petitioned to form a Hook and Ladder C. This was chartered in 1901 and the following were charter members: Godfrey Schunk, Joe Geibuger, Gus Fleiner, Wm. Taylor, Edw. Kessinich, Frank Murphy, Geo. Pfiser, Edw. Doll, John Meurer, John Haus, John Falkinsein, Louis Goodman and Leon Clarke. The hook and ladder truck arrived the spring of 1901 and consisted of the following: 6 hooks, 2 axes, 2 crowbars, 1-8 ft and 1-10 ft ladders.

In 1904, the Fire Co. was moved to the first floor of the IOOF building on Main Street.

1907 brought a new fire engine to the Co. This engine was either hand or horse driven and had a gas engine to operate the pump. The total cost was $1530.00.

By this time the village was in need of new quarters, so a committee was appointed in 1911 to look for a new site for a combined village hall and fire house. The size of the building was decided to be 32 x 80 x 22 ft. high. Bids were let that summer and the building was started shortly thereafter. This building is presently owned by Tom-Sil Builders.

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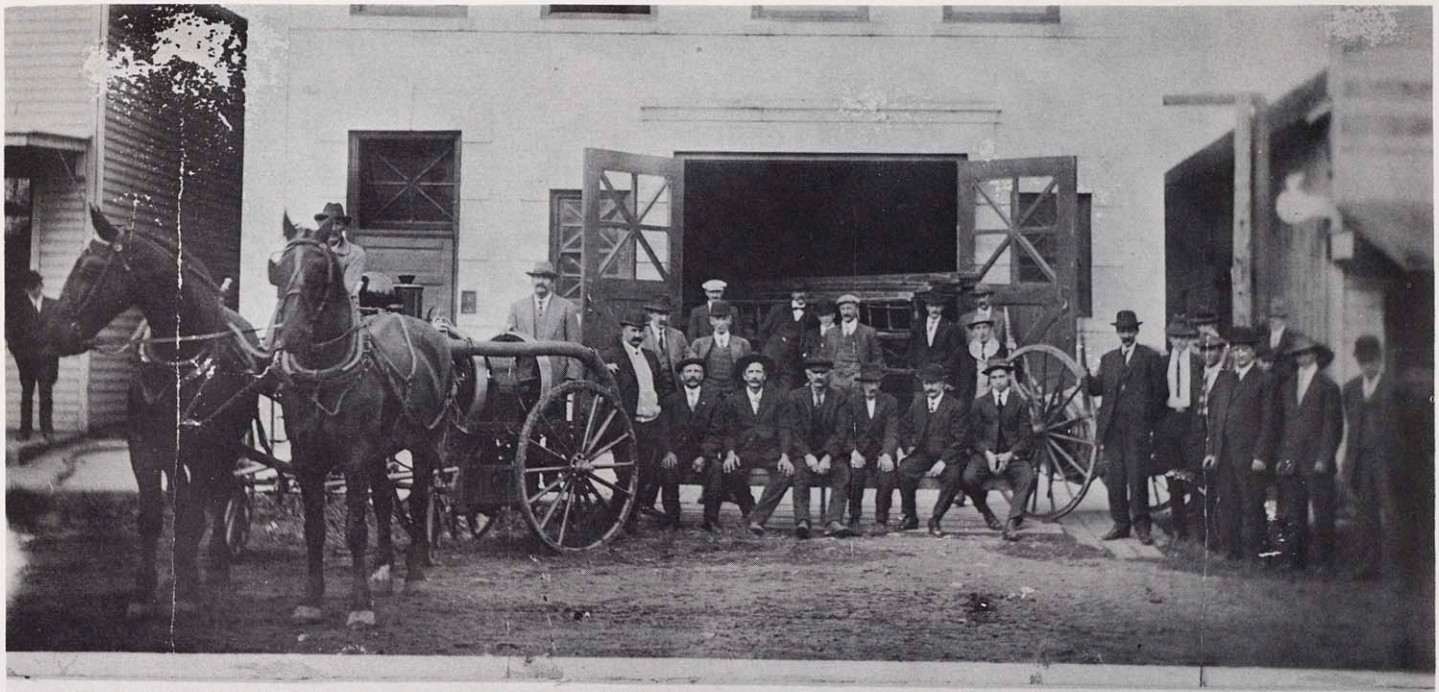

Waunakee Fire Co. taken somtime around 1911. Front row, seated, left to right, Simon Kirschesh, Matt Schmitz, Wm. Flatman, ?, Otto Hohlstein, John Schunk. Driver of the team, Godfrey Schunk. Standing on back of fire engine, left to right, P. R. Riphahn, ?, D. M. Tubbs, ?. Standing in doorway, left to ri right, ?, ?, J. H. Koltes, ? , ?. Standing beside hose cart wheel is Theodore Laufenberg, the other 8 men are not identifiable.

A Model T Ford fire engine was purchased in 1924 to replace the earlier hand drawn fire engine.

In 1933, a joint fire district to include the village of Waunakee and the townships of Westport, Vienna and Springfield was formed. The contract made with the village and Fire Co. was for 25 years. These same areas comprise the present Waunakee Fire District.

The present Fire Co. is a volunteer department and consists of 30 members. The equipment today is housed in the Community Building which opened in 1966. Presently the department has 3 fire trucks, a water tanker and rescue truck. The department also maintains 2 antique fire trucks for parades.

The following have served as Fire Chief since the company was organized:

H. J. Doll—2 years
L. Freney—2 years
Wm. Flatman—33 years
George Stehr—2 years
Werner Bernards—1 year
H. J. Adler—16 years
Leo Kessenich—6 years
Francis Bowles—11 years
Joseph Kopp Jr. is presently serving as chief.

Honorary members of the department and the number of years they served are:

Fred Schunk—47 years
Herbert Adler—35 years
Gerald Raemisch—33 years
Leo Kessenich—32 years
Werner Bernards—31 years
Martin Corcoran—28 years
Francis Bowles—25 years
Roman Adler—25 years
Roy Cameron—23 years
Marcel Schwab—22 years
Vincent Adler—21 years
Sylvester Adler—21 years
Henry Ripp Sr.—20 years
Robert Scheuerell—19 years
Wm. Statz—19 years
Leo Adler—19 years
Carleton Wilke—18 years
Wm. Curran—14 years
Roman Ripp—13 years
James Koch—11 years
George Kniebuhler—10 years
Ferd Wipperfurth—7 years

The present officers and members are:
Joe Kopp Jr.—Chief
Francis McMillan—Assistant Chief
LaVerne Statz—Foreman
Robert Raemisch—Captain
Larry Endres—1st Lieutenant
Donald Miller—2nd Lieutenant
Don Kopp—Secretary
Henry Zander—Treasurer
Joe Gilbertson—Steward

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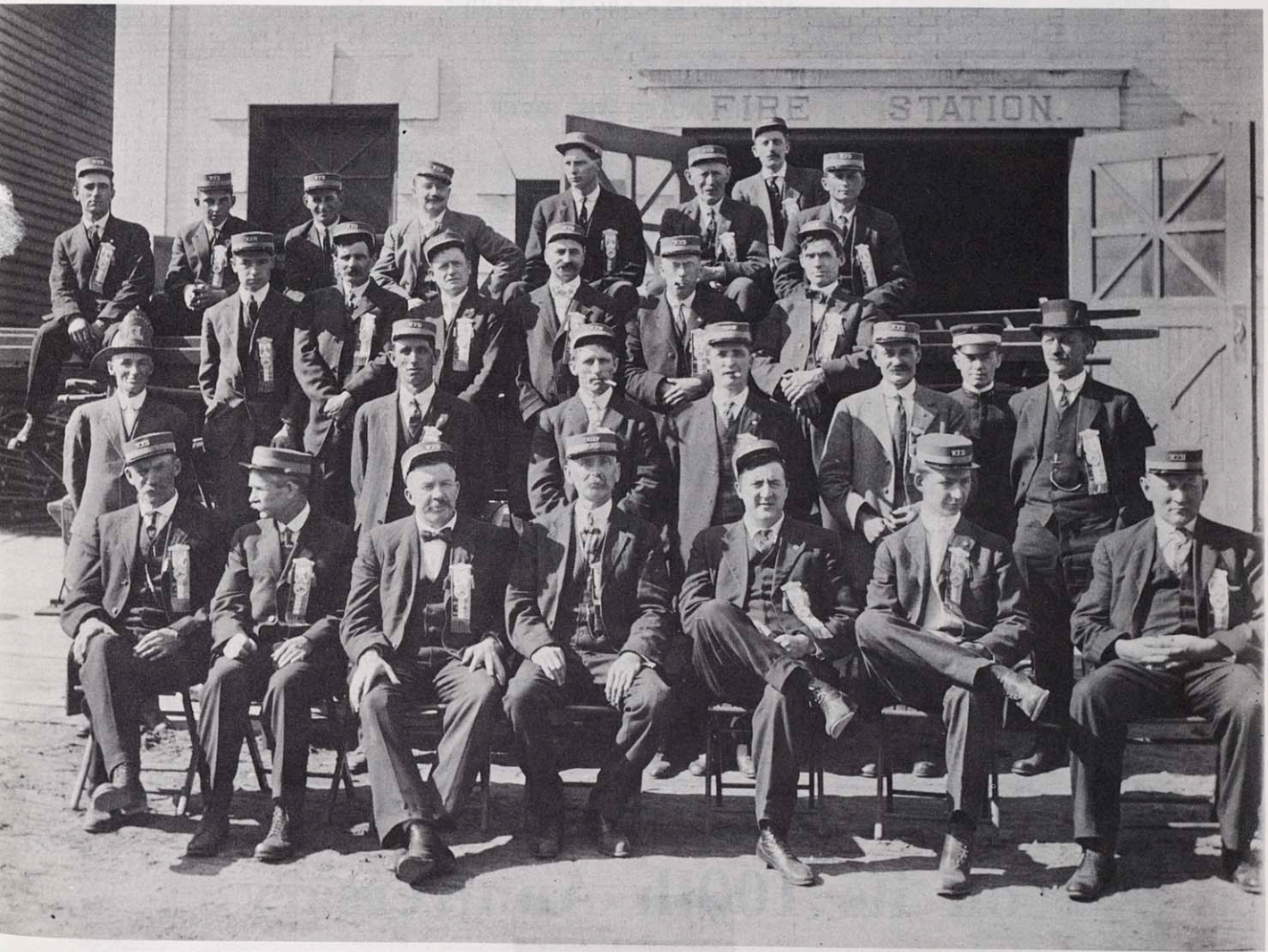
THE SUBURB OF
WESTPORT

HANSON'S

AT

WESTPORT

The horse driven fire cart with a gasoline engine pump. This was part of a parade on the 4th of July somtime around 1908.



Waunakee Fire Co. taken a few years later. Front row, l to r, George Lester, Wm. Statz, Herman Doll, Wm. Flatman (Cheif), Edw. Doll, Jr., Art Simpson, Henry Bernards. Second row, l to r, Millard Tubbs, Henry J. Adler, George W. Stehr, Geo. Klein, Peter Zimmer, Fred Schunk, Joe Koltes, Third row, l to r, John Schunk, Theodore Laufenburg, Harry Clarke, Peter Uebersezig, Julius Diederich, Michael Kennedy. Fourth row, l to r, Matt Adler, George Heider, John Hanx, Otto Hohlstein, Peter Hilgers, Godfrey Schunk, Roy Rowley, Matt Hans.

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---

l to r, LaVerne Statz, Donovan Kopp, David Wilke, Kenneth Statz, Ronald Statz, Larry Endres, Joe Hellenbrand, Bob Kopp

l to r, Bob Ziegler, Ken Diericks, Joe Gilbertson, Al Hanson, Thayne Martin, Joe Kopp Jr., Ronald Lange, John Dresen, Dave Statz and Bob Varebrook.

Happy 100th Birthday

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l to r, Rodney Adler, Joe Meffert, Francis McMillen, Ben Kuehn, Jim Adler, Marvin Hellenbrand, Ken Schwab, Bob Raemisch, Don Miller and Bud Zander.

POLICE

Law and order in the early days of Waunakee was kept by the town marshal which was an elected position and only on a part time basis. Most of the problems in the early days were caused by spending too much time in one of the local saloons. The village for the most part was quiet and peaceful. On rare occasions there might be a horse theft or escaped patient from Mendota to be returned. One problem that Simon Kirsheck had when he filled the post was feeding the tramps that were put into jail for loitering. The Village Board finally agreed in 1899 to pay him $5.00 extra a month for this. His salary at the time was only $4.00 a month.

One incident that occurred in 1916 helped further the cause of the Anti-Saloon League. A traveling salesman was arrested for disturbing the peace and being highly intoxicated. He started to make such a noise while in jail that Marshal Tinney went to quiet him down and received a pail of sewage on him for his efforts. While he was gone to clean up, the prisoner started a fire. The prisoner was transferred to the Dane County jail and being unable to pay his fine, served 90 days.

The Waunakee State Bank was broken into but the thieves were unable to get the inner door of the safe opened. They left with some papers of no value for all their work.

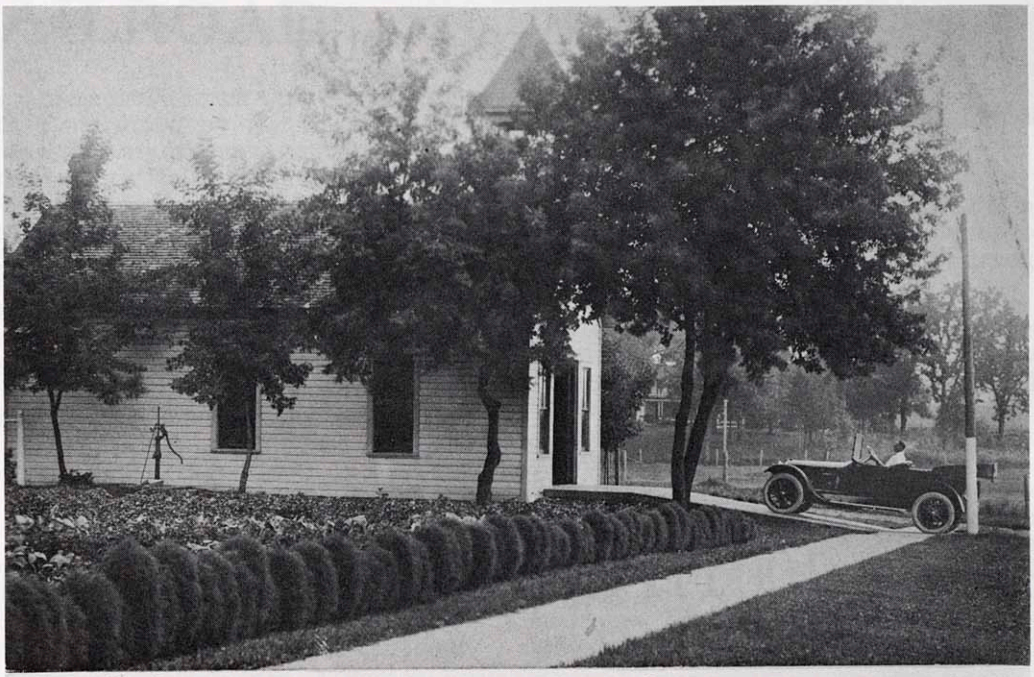
Mr. Simon Kirschesh who for many years served as marshal.

KNIGHT MANUFACTURING COMPANY

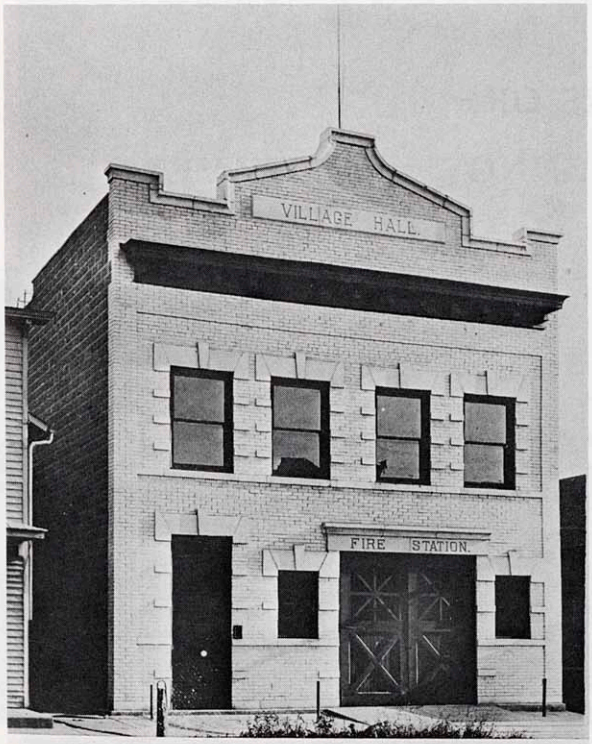
BRODHEAD

CARL STATZ

WAUNAKEE REPRESENTATIVE



The first Village Hall built in 1895. After the village moved out, it was used by Eric Simonson as a garage. At one time he sold the Oakland car out of this location.



The Village Hall built in 1911-1912. Presently owned by Tom-Sil Builders. It is located at 113 E. Main Street.

In 1927 a tear gas bomb that was used in connection with the Waunakee State Bank alarm system went off accidently causing the bank to close early for the day. The windows were left open for the weekend to help air out the place and Mr. Kenney was very pleased with the accidental test.

It was reported in 1930 that there had been no marshal for the past 3 years. This was claimed to be from the fact that since the saloon had not been able to sell liquor, that there was nothing for a marshal to do. Waunakee's history of fighting, drinking and general carousing seemed to no longer exist.

In the 1930's the marshal was paid $65.00 a month for his part time duties. The elected marshal was replaced by regular police officers in 1947 and today 2 full time officers provide protection to the community.

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To Salute The

VILLAGE of WAUNAKEE

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BOB — DON — FRANK — BUTCH

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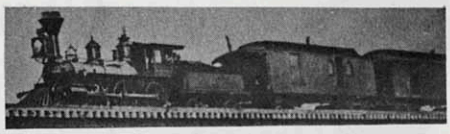
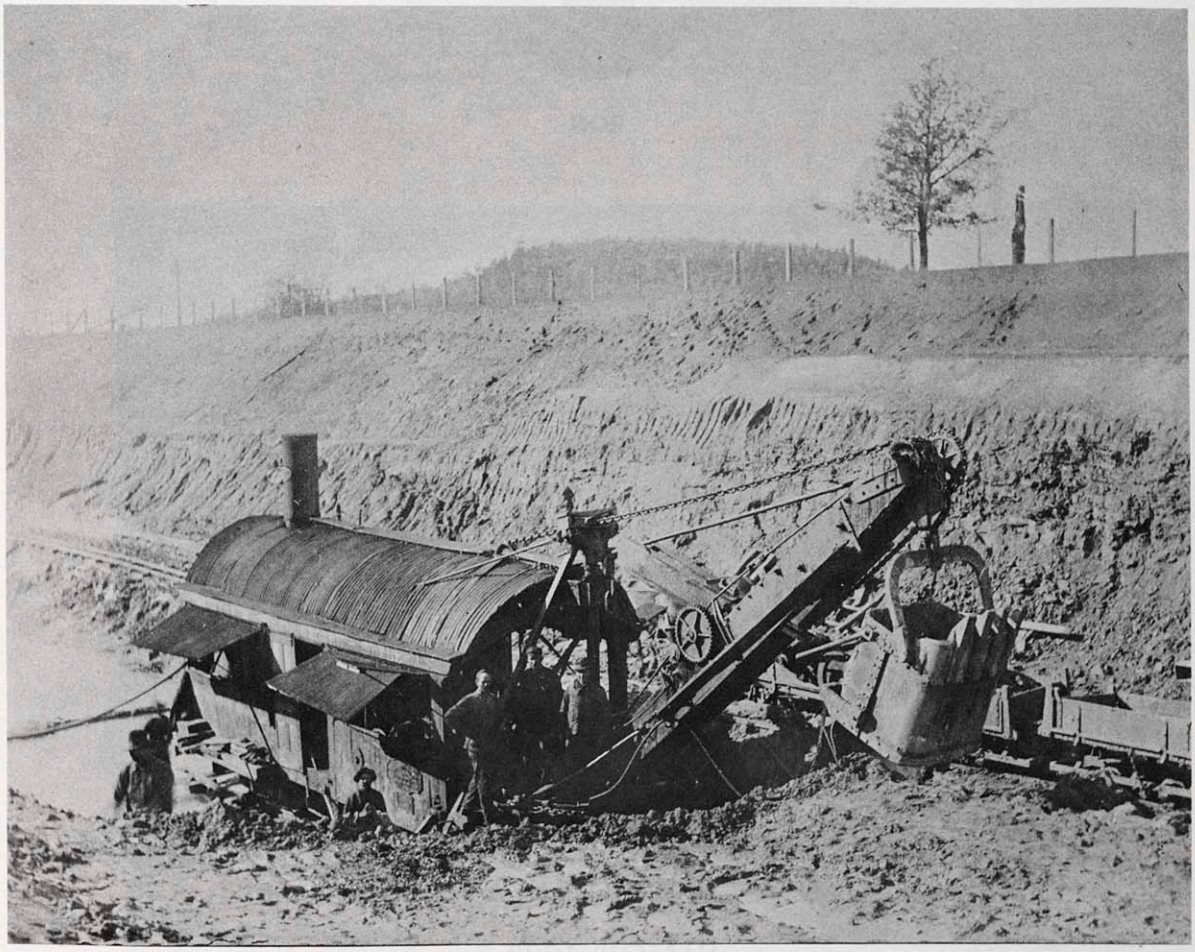


The portion of railroad track that passes thru Waunakee was constructed by the Baraboo Air Line. This was a dummy corporation of the Chicago and North Western Railroad and was a common practice during this time period. Work had already been started on the tracks when the issue of where to locate the depot was settled. By the summer of 1871 the road was finished to Baraboo. On July 4, the first trip was taken to Baraboo from Madison on the North Western Line. Many of the new residents of the community traveled with the other passengers in box cars. As stated before, Mathias Schleck furnished most of the accommodations for the RR officials and workers during the time of construction.

The first station agent was a Mr. Cronke. Other early day agents were: Josiah Taylor, James Barney, E. J. Foster, Mr. Purple, Mr. Strong and Mr. Porter. Mr. H. L. Reeve served the longest of any being retired in 1936 after 44 years in Waunakee and 50 years with the railroad.

The first depot was built in 1871 and was destroyed by fire. The present depot was built in 1896. Also 1896 found the double track completed from Madison to Baraboo.

For many years the total number of trains passing thru Waunakee was 50, 14 of which were passenger trains that stopped here. This writer reports that his grandfather, Math Endres of Springfield, once stayed overnight with relatives in Waunakee in order to transact some business. The next morning, he informed his hosts that he would be happy to return to the peace and quiet of his farm, as the trains had kept him awake all night. Over the years much freight has been shipped from the depot. Much of this was farm products. Even today the RR transports much of the stock of the canning company.



Digging the grade thru the Mendota cut during construction of double track in 1896.

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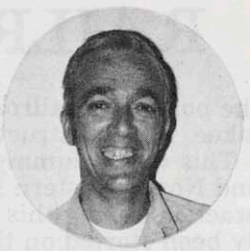
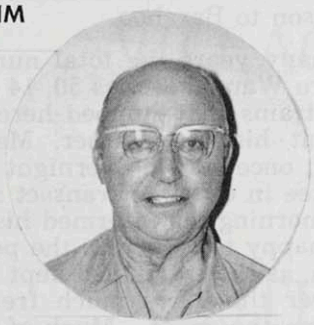
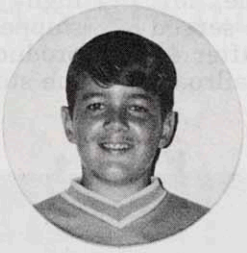


DEANER



CARLTON

DAVE



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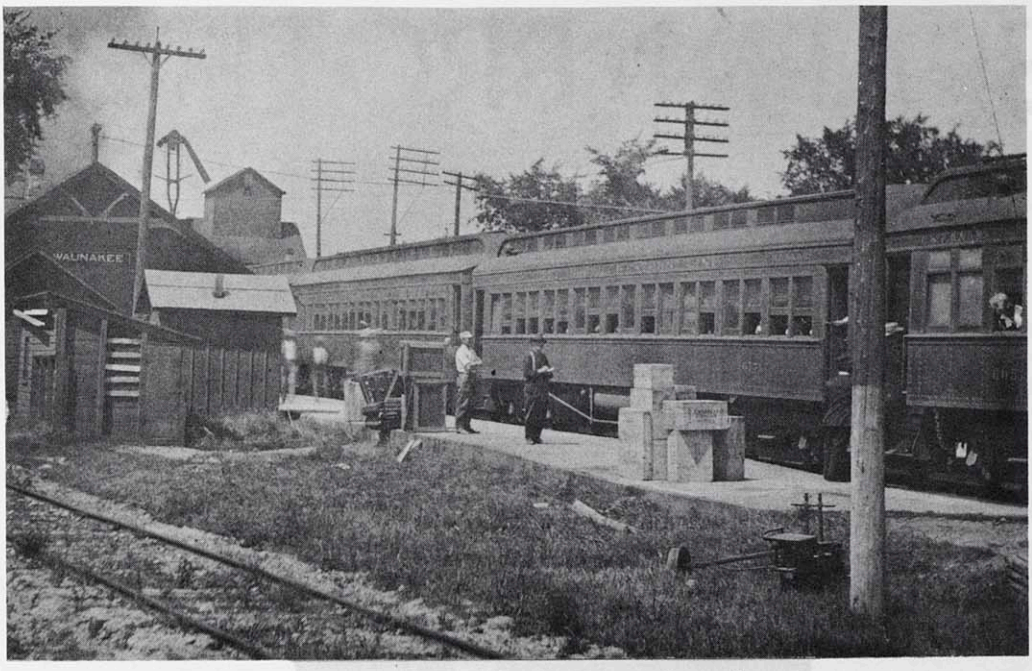
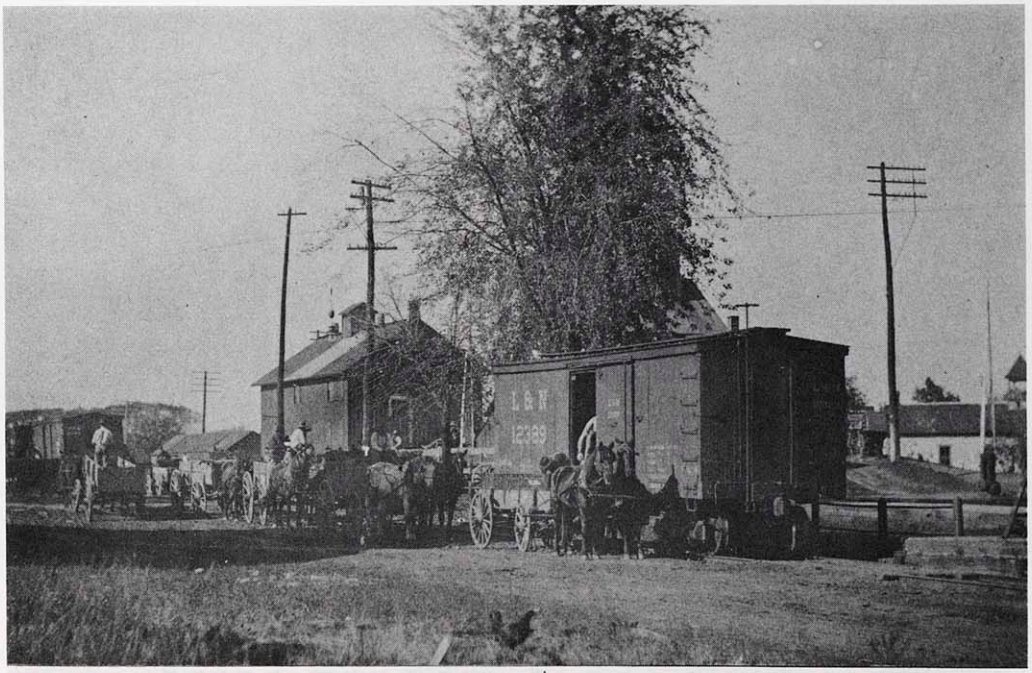


Passenger train at Waunakee depot.



Loading freight cars with sugar beets for the United States Sugar Company.

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As the Photo says, "A busy day at Waunakee." Good portion of the community most of them there.

The passenger business was extremely good until improved highways made it easier to drive into Madison. Many people commuted to Madison for work and to attend school. At one time there were 1200 tickets sold monthly from the depot. Gradually the demand and the service declined until sometime in the 1950's, when it was discontinued.

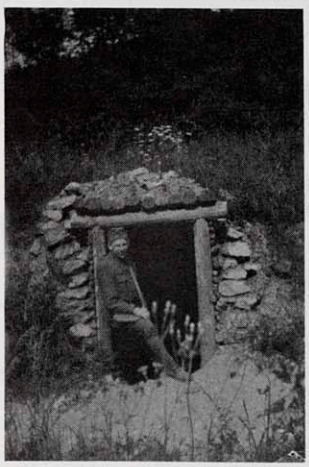
MILITARY

Although more may have served, the only two Civil War veterans that were found from the Waunakee area were James Clarke and William Fisher.

When Mr. Clarke tried to get into the service he was turned down because he was too young. The second attempt got him in but he only served two months and the war ended.

Mr. Fisher enlisted at the age of 20 and served for 9 months with the 49th volunteer Wis. Infantry. Mr. Fisher farmed in the Waunakee area before retiring to the village. He was the sole surviving Civil War veteran until he passed away in the 1930's.

World War I saw many young men from the local area serve in the military. This war probably caused mixed feelings in the community as there were many families who had come from the homeland of Germany. Approximately 100 men served their country and 9 lost their lives on the battlefield. Fred Schunk did an outstanding job leading the War Bond sales in Waunakee and far sold over the quota for the local drives. Dollie Reeve did her part for the young soldiers. She would go down and meet the troop trains as they passed through. With American Flag proudly waving in the breeze, she cheered the men to think that the people back home cared. The end of the war to end all wars was greatly celebrated. Many thought that never again would American boys shed blood in such a war. Parades were held, as well as banquets and dances. The community held these young men in great respect.



Henry Kirchesh was the first man from Waunakee to serve during World War I. This picture was taken outside a bunker somewhere in France.

Congratulations Waunakee

We have enjoyed being your close neighbor for the last **40** of your first **100** years.

We are looking forward to growing with you for the next **100** years.

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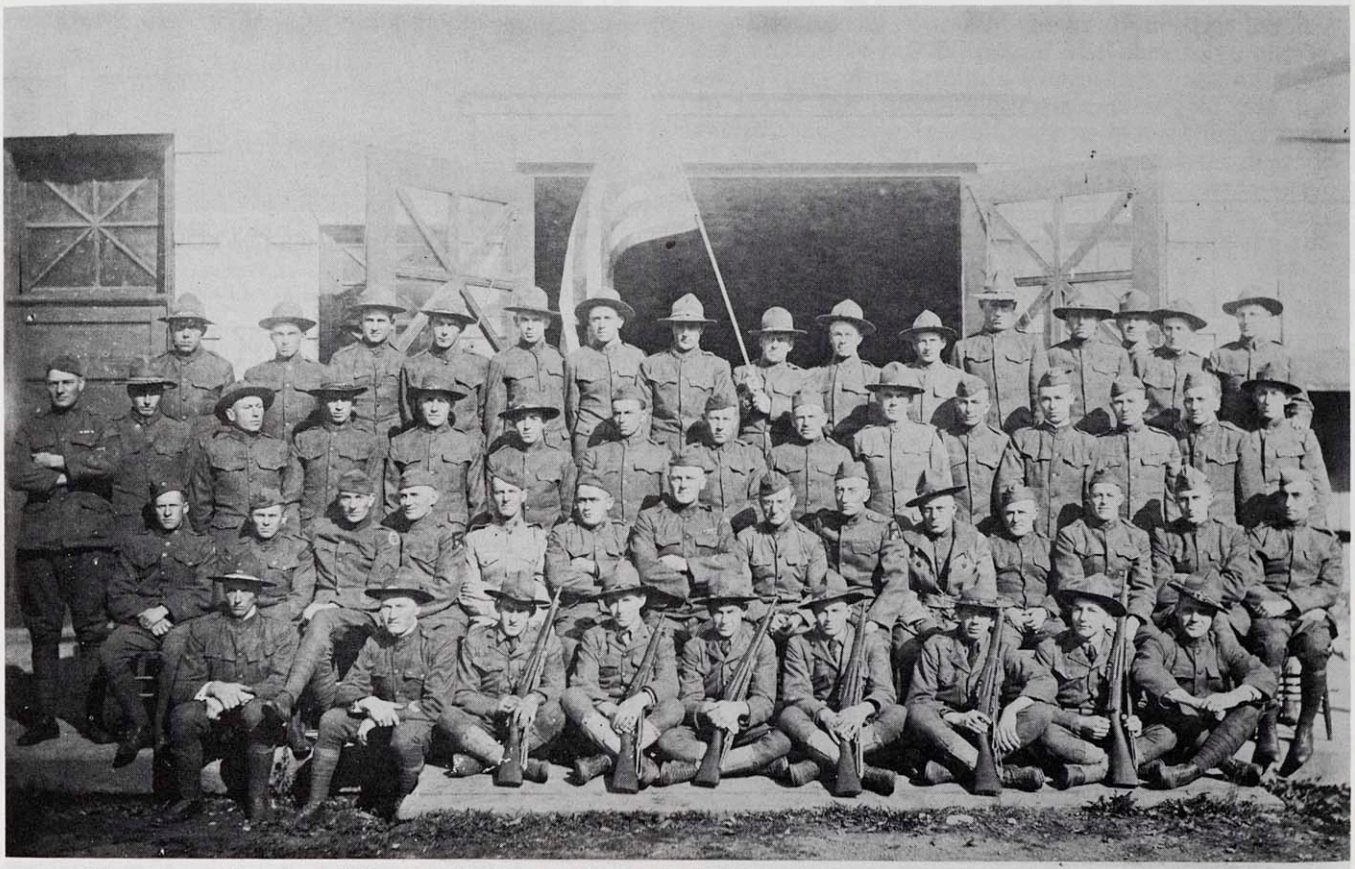
World War II found almost 200 young men from the Waunakee area serving. Fred Schunk again conducted the War Bond Drive and was honored by President Roosevelt for his outstanding work. Many of the wives and mothers provided food and other articles to the Red Cross and the U.S.O. Of course Waunakee homes have always had large and beautiful gardens and they were expanded into "victory gardens." The returning veterans were joyfully welcomed back home but the war had been too long for the celebrations that honored the end of World War I.



This was a gathering of the World War I veterans in 1919. The local community honored them with a banquet and ball.

SCHOOL DAYS

Waunakee's educational system, established in the early years of the village, has gradually evolved to meet the needs of a progressively growing community.

The first school, a small frame structure located in the eastern part of the village, was taught by Miss Jones, later Mrs. Jacob Buhlman. Because of the increased attendance, a two story structure was erected in 1878 at the corner of Second and West Streets.

"The total number of scholars on the roll" seven years later, in 1885, "was 86, with an average attendance of 75."

The close relationship between school and community was related in a Wisconsin State Journal news story of Feb. 21, 1879: "A jolly crowd it was that gathered last evening to listen to the recitations and music by our village school, under the direction of our accomplished teacher (Principal) Mrs. L. Hood. Assistant Principal was Miss Ella Salisbury.

A third two story building was erected in 1922. This building presently houses the high school art department.

The elementary program was moved from this building into a new building completed in

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MADISON, WIS.

First grade school in village. It was located about the area of the Koltes Lumber Co. In later years it was moved east of the store and was used by Simon Kirschech as his home and cobbler shop. This building has since been torn down.

1956. Three additions have been made to the original building. The first was completed in 1961, the second in 1963, and the third in 1965.

Present enrollment totals 640 pupils, including Kindergarten which was added to the curriculum in 1957.

The curriculum also has evolved from the courses in Home Economics and Manual Training offered in the early 1900's to present courses in Art and Music, and for a time, Foreign Language.

During the course of the years neither teacher responsibility nor taxpayer vigilance have changed. When Miss Lucinda Flemming was "engaged to teach the upper room at a salary of $45 per month and Miss Jessie Clark to teach the primary at a salary of $30 per month" the district decided "that the school be taught in three terms—two months fall term, four months winter, and three months spring, providing their services were satisfactory to the district."

Salaries, thus totalled $675 for the 1900-1901 term. Creeping inflation during the following decade must have caused the alarm noted in the July 3, 1911 meeting: "Motion carried that both teachers do not be paid more than $1050."

HIGH SCHOOL AND ADDENDUM

Effort to establish a high school for a "large number of bright boys and girls eager to acquire a higher education" began in 1902. "The people are alive to the injury suffered by the village on account of this," read an article in the Wisconsin State Journal January 7, 1904 and made repeated attempts to join with Westport to form a joint district for support and maintenance of the school.

The district was formed in 1904 and, in a special election held in the village and in the township in August, the issue to build the school at a cost of $5,000 was sharply contested. "Both men and women voted and on separate voting it was carried by each sex by a close vote. The male vote being 29 majority in favor of the school and the female vote a majority of 8."

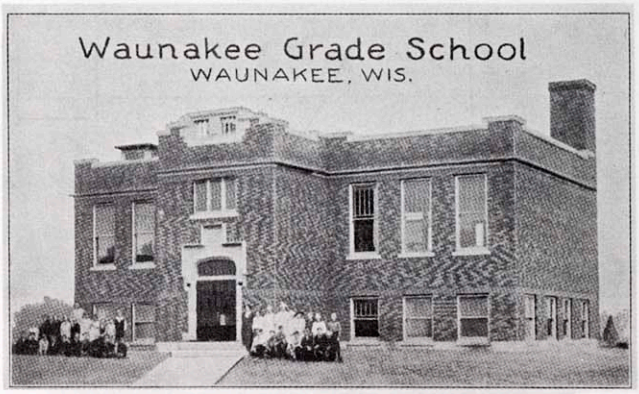
Brick layers began their work by November and the school opened the following fall to 22 students, 9 boys, 12 girls, and one over 20 years old. Gertrude Reis Koch was the first graduating Senior the following June (1906).

Principal A. L. Carlson and Miss E. M. Dunn comprised the faculty. Serving on the Board of Education were M. H. O'Keefe, President, John Klingelhofer, Director and Frank R. McGuire, Secretary.

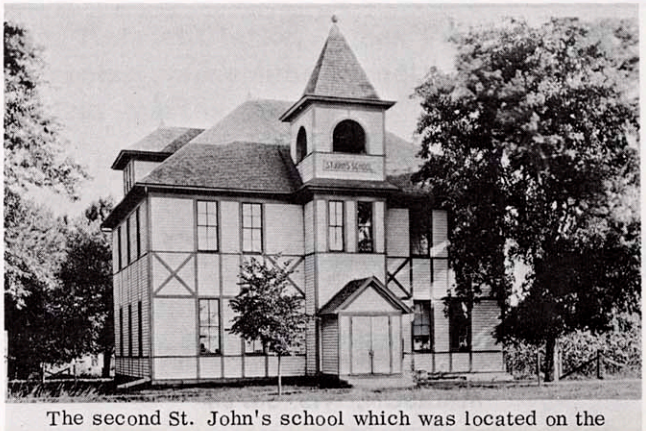
The school year comprised 180 days, the average daily attendance recorded 19.

Fred G. Mueller headed the school the following year.

By 1920 enrollment had increased to only 50; in 1951 to 149; and today enrollment in the Junior High School totals 270 and in the Senior High



Third elementary school built in 1922. This building is now part of Waunakee High School.



The second St. John's school which was located on the present parking lot. Completed in 1896.

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St. John's school picture taken in 1912.

Front row, l to r, John Frederick, Norman cook, James Worringer, Werner Noltner, Frank Endres, Edward Feiler, Lawrence Taylor, Oscar Simon, Edward Taylor, Norbert Miller.

Second row, Dorothy McGuire, Anna Riphahn, Harriet Clarke, Agnes Feiler, Louise Raemisch, Margaret Gilligan, Frances Uebersetzig, Josephine Plendl, Irene Gilligan, Marie La Crosse, Christine Frederick, Martha Maly.

Third row, Katherine Lyons, Everose Ries, Mary O'Malley, Helma Kessenich, Lena Bernards, Josephine Kalscheur, Theresa Ripp.

Fourth row, Elizabeth Hauser, Margaret Becker, Elizabeth Miller, Henry Kurt.

Fifth row, Dennis Kessenich, Theodore Kessenich, James Feiler, Joseph Becker, Joseph Spahn, John Cook, James Ripp, Henry Hellenbrand.

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WEEK ENDS & HOLIDAYS
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WAUNAKEE

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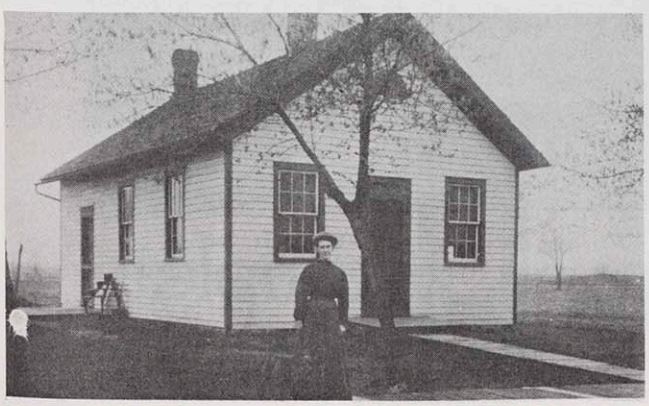
ART & MARY WEISENSEL

The elementary school.

The high school.

St. John's school.



First school house of St. John's.

School, 430. The teaching assignment in these areas together with that in the elementary level for the 640 students in the K through 6 grade program is carried out by 72 full and part time faculty members.

The physical plant has undergone several rebuilding programs. An addition to the original building, was made in 1936. The original building was replaced in 1950 with a $250,000 structure. A food service area and washroom with classrooms on the second floor were added in 1962. Two years later, another addition was completed at a cost of $314,000 including the Music Department area, Vocational Education Area, and locker rooms for the physical education program.

The electors of the school district approved the construction and equipping of a new senior high school on the land facilities project purchased in 1966. The estimated cost of the new high school is $1,960,000.00. The building and equipping of a swimming pool addititon was approved by the electors at the annual meeting in July after much discussion and concern. The estimated cost of this project is $260,000.00.

The budget for the 1970-71 school year is $937,649.00 for operational costs and $357,197.00 for debt service and capital outlay. The total sum is $1,294,846.00 to support educational opportunities for 1,340 students in K-12. The school thus becomes one of the leading industries in the community.

Estimate expenses of the coming year 1899 are as follows:

For (2) teachers salaries	$720.00
Fuel	35.00
Incidental expenses, fix floors, etc.	50.00
Clerk's salary	10.00
Total	$815.00
Recommended to be raised by Special District tax	$300.00

Operational expense increased to $3,253.20 by 1917. And by the early 1920's, the principal received $2000 annually and the four teachers were paid $140 each per month. The janitor was paid $325 annually.

First taxes to cover transportation costs for students who traveled by car and by horse and buggy were levied in 1921.

Not only have methods of teaching changed but also materials available for use in the teaching procedure.

Visual aids such as the moving pictures shown on screen Feb. 25, 1921 "by means of a stereopticon bulb instead of an arc light which was used before" have increased to a substantial collection of equipment including camera, radio, recording, projection, and copy to implement and facilitate teaching procedure. A language laboratory, with 24 units, was installed in 1962.

The course of studies as well as the method of teaching has varied during this period. In the

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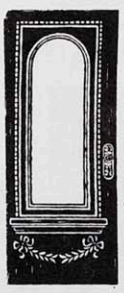

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late teens and early 1920's students had military training on Thursday mornings. Today they are able to plan their college preparatory or vocational programs from some 70 courses offered in 13 areas. Significant expansion of curriculum services were realized in 1962 with the expansion of the vocational education program, instrumental and vocal music program, special education services and drivers training. Pupil Personnel Services have been added along with a significant growth in the summer school program in 1968.

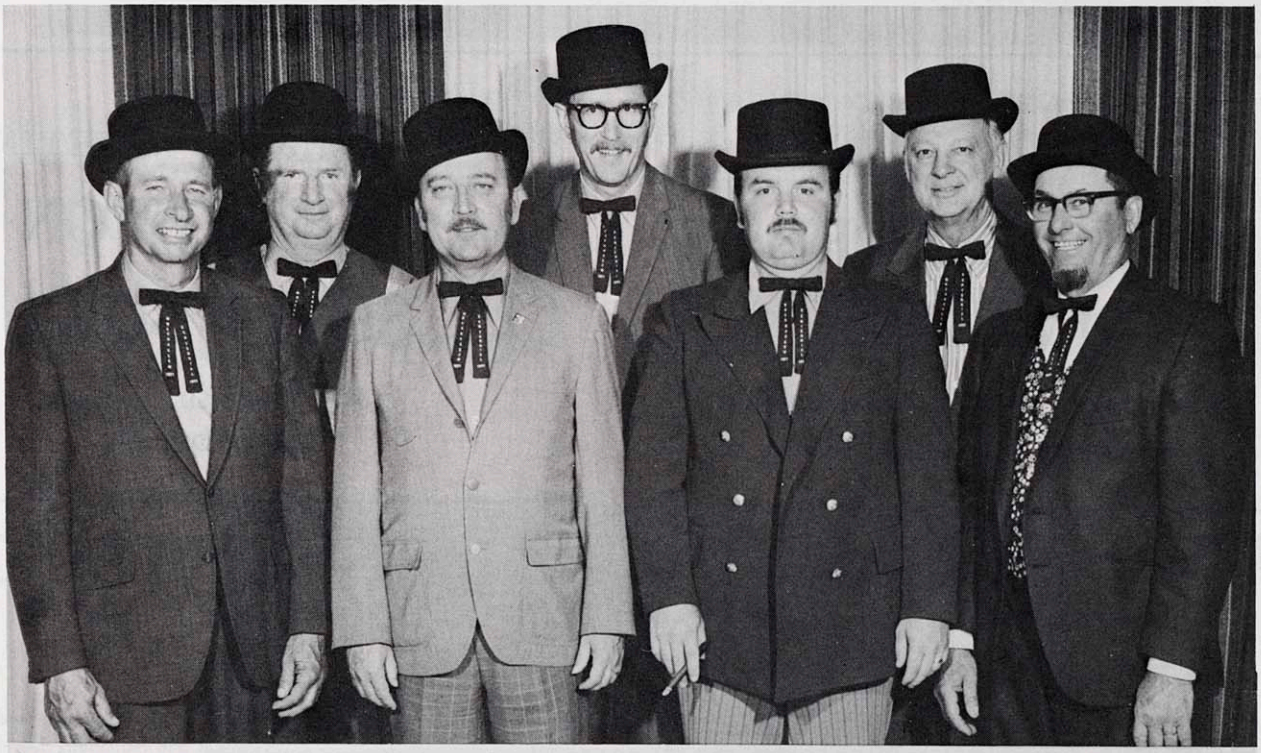
The Waunakee School District was reorganized under Superintendent Richard F. Trotta, and formed into a new operating unit to include grades K-12 in the summer of 1965. This replaced the Waunakee Elementary School (K-8) and the Waunakee Union Free High School (9-12).

Sports developed gradually. Baseball began in 1921; football, with a six man team started in 1939; boxing matches were organized in 1944; and wrestling, golf, and track added later.

The girls' physical education program has been expanded into an extensive intramural program that includes basketball, volleyball, softball, track, and bowling.

The school annual, The Whippurwauna, appeared in 1921, and six years later, the first printed newspaper, Wau-Da-Wis, was published. It was named the Waunakee Warrior by 1951 and appeared monthly. Later it was renamed the Whippurwauna Echo.

Present administrative staff serving under Superintendent of Schools Marvin Berg are Jack Reed, Principal, Senior High School; Patrick Marcella, Principal, Junior High; and, Mrs. Beverly Grove, Principal Elementary School. President of the School Board is La Vern Endres. Peter Ripp, Dr. Knight Bakke, Carl Hanson, Thomas Hadfield, Bob Varebrook and Roy Dorman complete the Board panel.



SCHOOL BOARD, left to right: Peter Ripp, Dr. Knight Bakke, Roy Dorman, Supt. of Schools Marvin Berg, Robert Varebrook, Carl Hanson, LaVerne Endres. Not present when picture was taken: Tom Hadfield.

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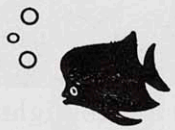

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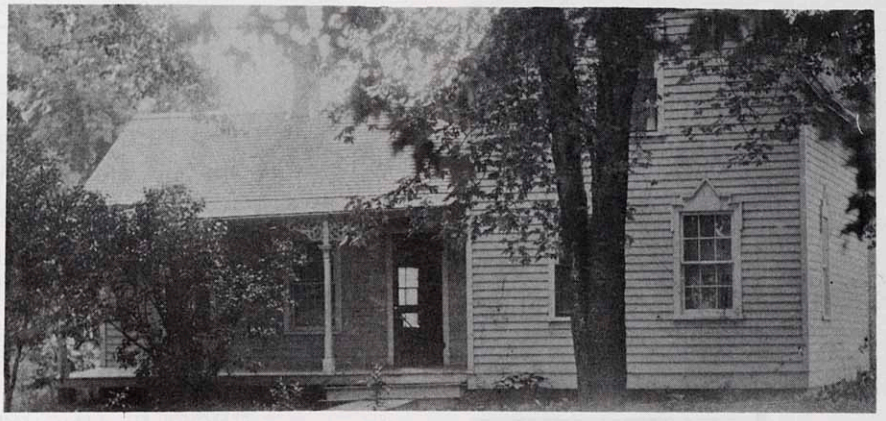
This site almost ended up being a thriving community. The building to the right is the mill located about 2 miles south of Waunakee on the "Six Mile Creek". Woodland Dr. runs left to right and the Old Mill Road runs thru the center of photo.



The first residence built in Waunakee for George Murray at 108 W. 2nd St.

Built in 1871 by Mr. Wilmarth

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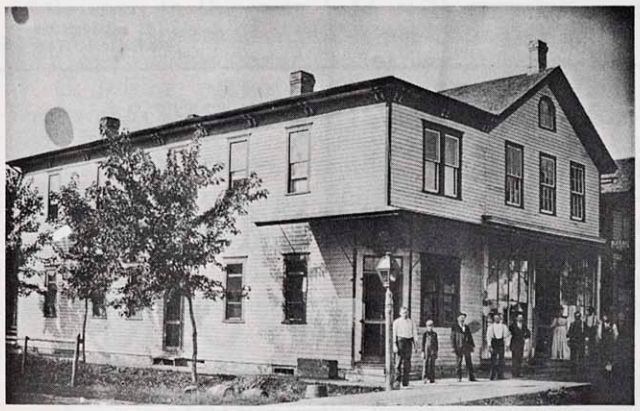
2. The Old Mill as it stood prior to being torn down. The man on the right is Harry Koltes. To the right of him is where the water ran under the building to give the mill power.

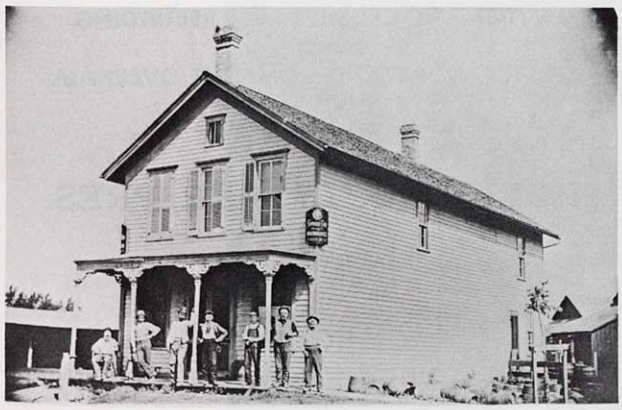


100 W. Main Street

O'Malley House

317 W. Main Street (Fish)

Built in 1853 by Mr. Bryant



105 Baker Street

105 Bacon Street (Truehl) ?

See pg. 43 - 108 N. 2nd St.

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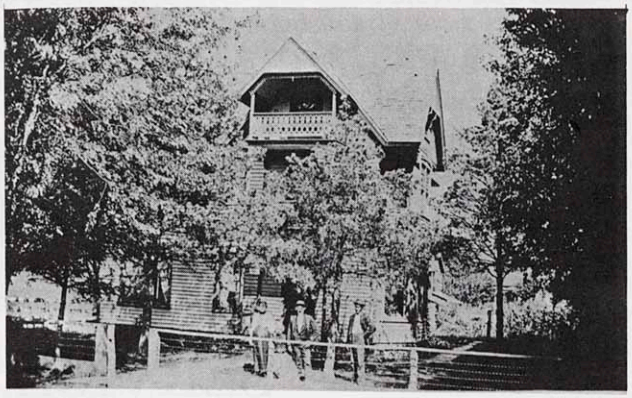

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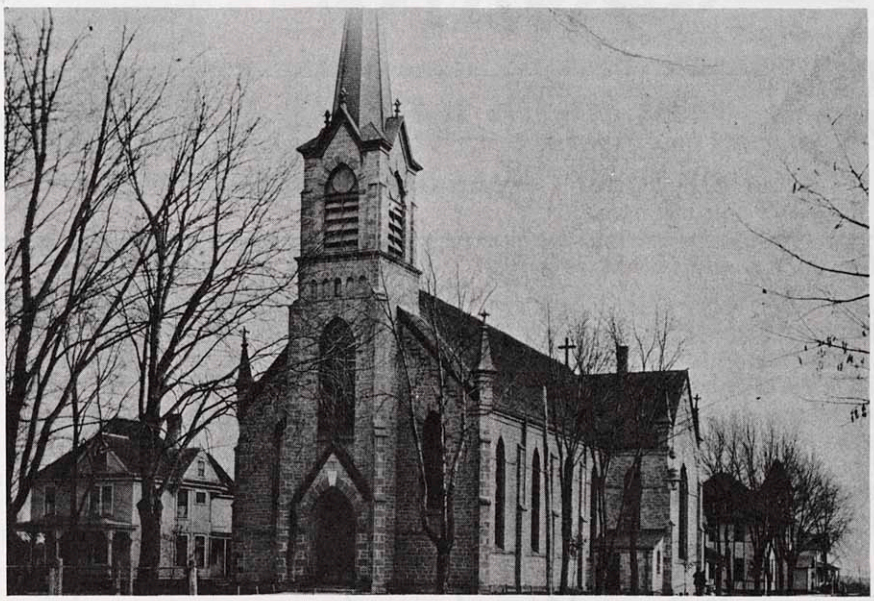
RELIGION

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

The congregation of St. John the Baptist was established in the year 1874, with permission of the Most Reverend Archbishop John M. Henni, D.D., Milwaukee under the leadership of the Rev. W. G. Miller, pastor of St. Mary's of the Lake, Westport. The congregation consisted of 19 German families, who formerly worshipped at St. Mary's or St. Peter's, Ashton. Being concerned that their children were not being instructed properly in the Holy Faith, it was concluded that a Catholic school needed to be built. A meeting was called and although money was scarce, enough was raised to purchase a site and erect a building, which for the time being served as both church and school. A year later this building proved too small and thus a separate school house was built and was taught by secular teachers.

Under the leadership of the Rev. M. M. Gerend, the twice monthly services at the Mission of St. John's were increased to regular weekly visits. He also placed the school in charge of the school Sisters of St. Agnes. In the spring of 1882 a new dwelling was built for the Sisters, costing $725.00.

In 1885 preliminary steps were taken toward incorporation of the parish. Mr. Michael Koltes



St. John's Church, 1908, and parsonage, Waunakee, Wisconsin

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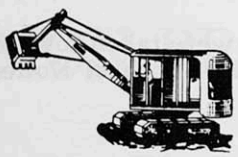
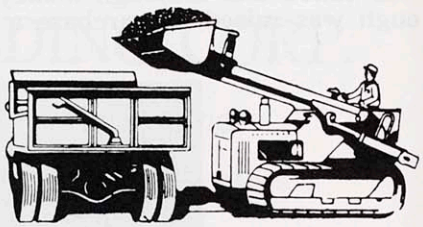


EXCAVATORS



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was elected treasurer and Mr. Peter Esser secretary. It was also decided finally to erect a new church building, the other becoming too small for the parish. The summer of 1886 found the foundation being started. The new building was built entirely of quarry stone and had a seating capacity of 400. Ira P. Bacon, while not of the faith, was a friend of Rev. Gerend and thus he donated the first land for the cemetery.

The Rev. B. A. Siepker was the next rector of St. Mary's, Westport. He came there in 1889 after serving his first year of priesthood in Oshkosh. In 1889 the parish house was built and Rev. Siepker moved to Waunakee to become the first resident pastor.

In 1896 a new school was built on the site of the present church parking lot. The old school was removed and remodeled and is now occupied by Frank Koch (310 Grant St.).

In 1906 the church was remodelled and enlarged, the wings being added. 1909 found the congregation incorporated.

On December 4, 1916 Rev. Siepker died and was buried in the church cemetery. He had served all but one year of his priestly life here at Waunakee. The Rev. C. J. Hausner took over administration of the parish in 1917.

In 1922 a new home for the Sisters was built and the old house relocated to 203 West Third St.

Father Hausner was a leader in promoting a better observance of Good Friday by urging the closing of all business places from noon to 3:00 p.m. This is a practice still carried over to today in Waunakee and many surrounding communities. The parish celebrated its golden anniversary in 1924.

Rev. M. J. Jacobs replaced Fr. Hausner in 1935 and under his leadership a building fund was started for the construction of the present school at 114 E. Third St.

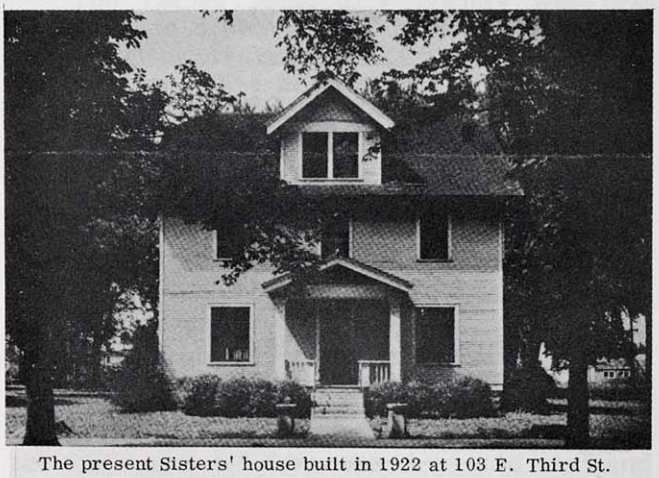
The school finally was started in 1948. Rev. N. B. Schneider became pastor in 1946. Materials and construction costs had risen so sharply that the cost was almost double the original estimate. The school was completed and occupied in 1949.

In 1952 Rev. Schneider was forced into semi-retirement due to ill health. Rev. R. H. Ziegler replaced him and remained until 1969. The parish continued to grow during his tenure. The parish school was enlarged to double its original size of 1949 starting construction in 1960.

The present pastor is the Rev. E. J. Dietzel. The parish today has approximately 500 families. The school has an enrollment of 317 for this past school year. There are 7 Sisters, 7 lay teachers presently teaching in the parish school.

St. John's will celebrate it's own centennial in 1974.

First Sisters' house built in 1882. Later moved to 203 W. Third St.



The present Sisters' house built in 1922 at 103 E. Third St.

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTH. CHURCH

The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church of Waunakee, Wisconsin and a part of the Iowa Synod, existed from 1878 to 1916. At first services were held in the old district school house, Gussman's Hall and later in the newly constructed Presbyterian Church at 110 West Second St.

Pastor Julius Keuling of Hope, Wisconsin conducted the first service of the organized congregation in 1878. He served as pastor at Waunakee and Hope from 1878 to 1889.

During the first year twelve persons were christened. Some of the early families of this congregation were: Jacobi, Krier, Leatzow, Preise and Wagner. In the existing years of the congregation the following families were added to the membership: Buhlman, DeBower, Heidt, Heller, Hilbert, Holhstein, Klingelhofer, Pieh, Pietsch, Paepke, Riebert, Schwenn, Shipke, Stehr, Voigt, Watzke, Wilke and Yung.

The congregation was served with several pastors during it's existance as follows:

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Rev. E. Sans—1891-1900
Rev. J. C. Graepp—1901-03
Rev. P. F. Moench—1904-07
Rev. F. Seifert—1908-1912
Rev. George Knobloch—1913-14
Rev. J. Ebert—1915-16

The year 1916 records the last year of German Lutheran services in Waunakee. During 1878-1916 there were 130 christenings, 28 confirmations, 15 funerals and five weddings. The largest confirmation class received was on March 31, 1895 with six girls and five boys. After the church discontinued, many members joined other area churches and some joined the First Presbyterian Church of Waunakee.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF

Religious services of the First Presbyterian Church, Waunakee, Wisconsin commenced July 1, 1877. The formal organization was on February 17, 1877 in Gussman's Hall, a carpentry shop in Waunakee (the site of Koltes Hardware Store). The Rev. B. H. Riley, Lodi, Wisconsin, chaired this organizational meeting. The following persons presented certificates of dismission from other churches in order to become charter members of this newly organized congregation: Mr. Jacob Buhlman, Portage Presbyterian Church; Mrs. Elizabeth Chambers, Cambridge; New York Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Martha Jardin; Miss Martha Hislop, Lodi Presbyterian Church; Mrs. Sara E. Henika, Beaver Dam Presbyterian Church; Mrs. Mary L. Potter, Winnebago Minnesota City United Evangelical Church; Charles Gussman and Mrs. Mary Gussman, Louisville, Kentucky, German Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Mr. Jacob Buhlman was unanimously elected as the first elder of this congregation, and Mr. Riley, the first moderator.

The church board secured a loan on May 6, 1878 in the amount of $500.00 from "The Board of the Church Erection Funds, of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A." for the purpose of erecting a new church structure. This mortgaged was signed by the first trustees of the church: I. P. Bacon, Jacob Buhlman, Charles Gussman, E. J. Foster and N. Martin. The loan was paid up by the late C. J. Schmidt in 1945, and a mortgage burning ceremony was held in July.

The First Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered by the pastor on August 11, 1878. Mr. Buhlman was ordained and installed as ruling elder at this service.

Mrs. Harriet Clarke was the first new member to be received on May 10, 1879 and Mr. Daniel Salisbury was received Aug. 16, 1879. Additional ruling elders elected were: Mr. Charles Gussman and Mr. Salisbury.

The Communion Cups, Tankard, Bread Tray and Baptismal Bowl were given to the church by a church in Lavonnia, New York in 1876, before it's formal organization as a church. One communion cup, the bread tray and baptismal bowl are still in use today.

Rev. Riley completed his duties November 10, 1881. He was succeeded by the Rev. J. W. Marcussons. Mr. Barry Thomas began missionary work at the church on October 1, 1892 and maintained the Sunday School and one weekly worship service. On October 1, 1895, the Rev. F. Harvey took charge and served as supply pastor. In 1896 worship services were held in the evening until Mr. Harvey left in 1898 then Mr. and Mrs. Willard S. Hodge, Westport Mill conducted evening services and Sunday School.

The Ladies' Missionary Society was first organized on September 21, 1899 with Mrs. Willard Hodge as president, and Mrs. Agnes McWatty as secretary. The Society paid $75.00 for the first actual sidewalks in the village, made of wood and located between the church and the Riley house at 110 South Street.

Church attendances were poor from October 1, 1902 to January 20, 1903, so services were discontinued for a time, however, the Sunday School was maintained during this period.

During 1903 great concern was expressed to "Brother Jacob Buhlman and Margaret Buhlman who have persisted in opening and running their general store on Sundays and absenting themselves wholly from church services." A committee was appointed from the church to visit and "admonish" them for this activity.

In November, 1904, the Rev. George Hunt became the acting pastor and moderator of the church. He would arrive by train from Madison at 1:15 p.m. and conduct worship services at 2:00 p.m. three Sundays a month. The local church members took turns entertaining Mr. Hunt for Sunday dinner while he awaited his return to Madison on the 5:00 p.m. train.

For many years during the 1920's the church records were lost. A statement was brought up-to-date on July 23, 1930 by the elders at that time Burr, Cameron and Riles. Oliver C. Johnson was called on November 1, 1927. He also served the Prairie du Sac Presbyterian Church.

The 60th Anniversary was observed on February 27, 1938. Mrs. B. W. Shaw presented a report on the old Missionary Society and early Aid Society. Mrs. Orville Dorman gave a historical sketch of the Ladies' Aid Sciety and Miss Minnie Klingelhofer told of the Lutheran (St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church) services that were formerly held in this church. The pastor preached a historical sermon and Mr. C. J. Schmidt gave recollections of his early years in the community and church.

Mr. Johnson served until May 30, 1939, the longest of any pastor to this date. The Rev. Mau-

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