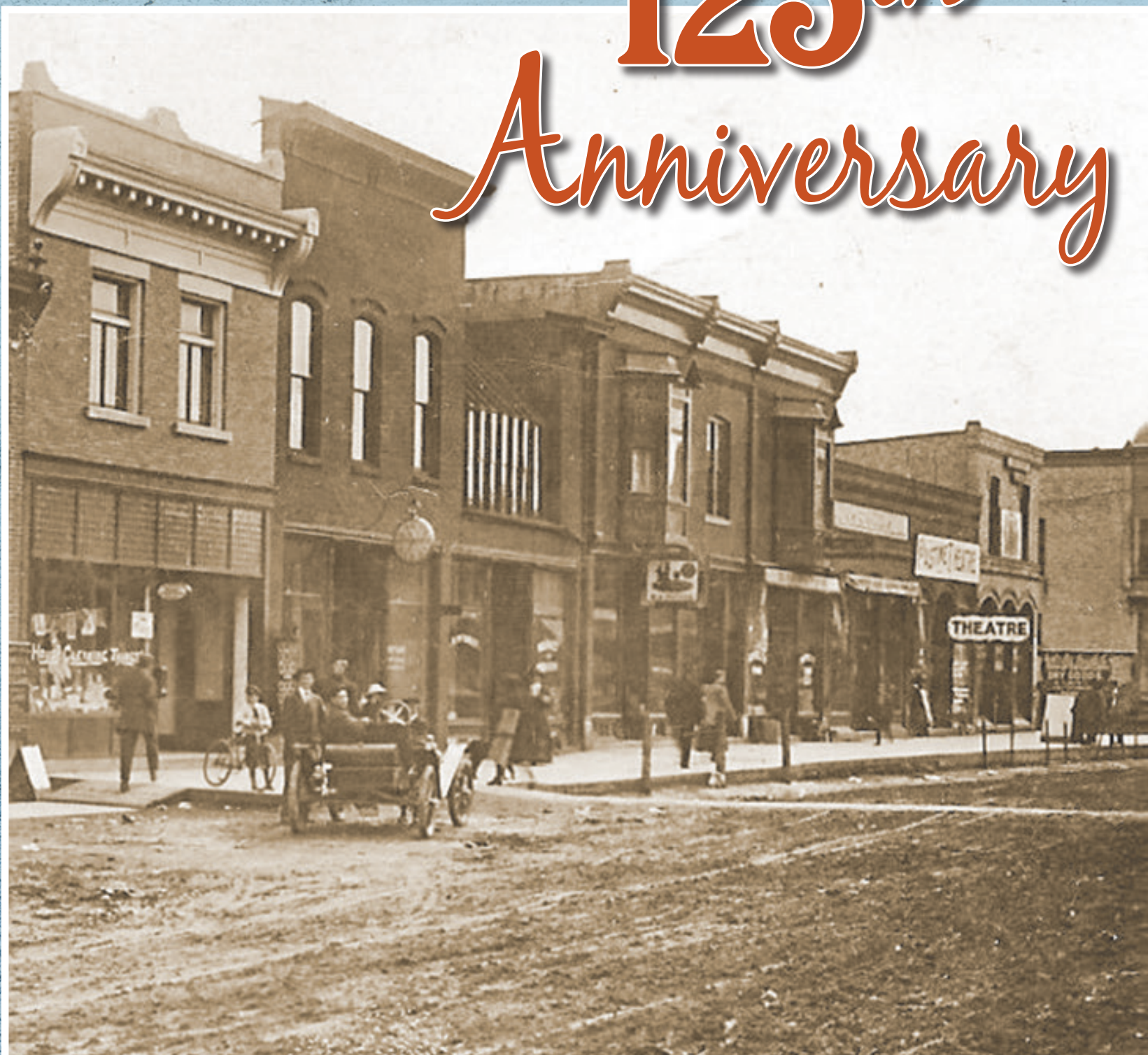


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The north side of Walworth Avenue in downtown Delavan as seen in the 1800s.
The City of Delavan is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DELAVAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY *Delavan 125th Anniversary*

Delavan's past and present on full display for city's 125th anniversary gala

By Dave Fidlin
CORRESPONDENT

It was a happenstance moment last fall amid an evening of research.

Delavan Mayor Ryan Schroeder, who dually serves as vice president of the Delavan Historical Society, was combing through city archives, compiling information on all of his predecessors.

"I came across the first mayor and realized he served in 1897," Schroeder, 48, said. "I did the math and thought, 'Wait a minute, next year is going to be our 125th anniversary.'"

Schroeder, a lifelong Delavan resident, leapt into action upon the discovery and began brainstorming – with a dedicated group of volunteers – ideas for a century-and-a-quarter celebration.

Pulling together an event that takes such a long-range look back might seem like a monumental effort, but Schroeder said it has come together because of the strong community pride embedded within the city.

"I'm real into showcasing my community," Schroeder said. "We've got a dedicated group of people. I thought, if we could get everybody on board and form an ad-hoc committee, this is something that could work."

And it has worked, as evidenced by the collaboration among the organizers who planned specific activities and shared personal insight into unique elements of Delavan's history.

"I think we've got a lot to be proud of, and that really is what this is all about," Schroeder said.

The fruits of the behind-the-scenes planning efforts will be on full display for a special rendition of this year's Brick Street Day gala. It is slated to take place Saturday, July 23 – coincidentally, the exact date portions of the original Town of Delavan were incorporated to form the City of Delavan.

"It's going to be a hybrid of our typical Brick Street Day, which we usually do in June, mixed with different activities and festivities around the 125th anniversary theme," Schroeder said. "It's a great way to make people aware of what we're all about."

Lorie Wuttke, who serves as secretary on the Delavan Historical Society, is among the organizers who has helped plan the forthcoming festivities.

"I think it's important to celebrate your past, both good and bad," Wuttke said. "It's how the city became what it is today. That's history, in general."

The intent, Wuttke said, is to offer an array of activities for residents and visitors of all ages to partake in to celebrate the city's milestone.

Throughout the day – 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. – a variety of family-friendly festivities are planned at such venues as the Aram Public Library, Phoenix Park Bandshell, Tower Park and along Terrace Street and Walworth Avenue and South Second Street and Walworth Avenue.

In many instances, Wuttke said area businesses are playing an intricate role in the festivities. Case in point: Duesterbeck's Brewing Company is unveiling its special Brick Street Red Ale at 10:45 a.m. on an assembled Main Stage on the day of the celebration.

Other events that are commonplace at community festivals will have a decidedly Delavan touch. For example, Magic Morgan and Liliana, a visiting magician, will be accompanied with a sign language interpreter – a nod to the Wisconsin School for the Deaf.

"We thought that was important because the deaf school is a big part of the community," Wuttke said.

Members of the Wisconsin School for the Deaf also will be teaching kids sign language at 11:30 a.m. on the Children's Stage in

Tower Park.

Another important element of Delavan's earliest years will be on display at the gala. Members of the Cream City Circus will be performing on the Main Stage on the day of the event.

During a 47-year stretch of time that culminated in 1894, Delavan hosted 26 different circus companies. Of particular note, the original iteration of the P.T. Barnum Circus was organized within the community.

Delavan's strong ties to circus culture were evidenced when the State of Wisconsin had a celebration of its own around the theme of the events. In 1948, amid a centennial celebration of statehood, the city was selected to host the program.

Since much of the program will take place in the heart of the city, Delavan's signature downtown features – including the red cobblestone streets, lined with vintage green lanterns – will also be an intricate part of the festivities.

"It's a part of what makes us so unique," Wuttke said. "That's become Delavan's charm."

The upcoming celebration also will pay homage to Delavan's rich history in industry. The city over the years has been noted for hosting such disparate companies as Ajay Leisure Products, Andes Candies and Pentair, among others.

Schroeder said he sees a deeper, big-picture meaning behind events such as the 125th anniversary celebration. Regardless of the local community event – and they typically occur monthly – he said it is an opportunity to shine a light on all of Delavan's virtues.

"If you're out by the Interstate or shopping at Walmart, you might not know what's in the heart of the community," Schroeder said. "My hope is people discover Delavan, have a great time and want to come back. Maybe a visitor will want to consider moving here."



Celebrating our anniversary

Although the Delavan territory has been around since 1836, this year, we celebrate the 125th anniversary of becoming a city (1897-2022).

The commemorative logo incorporates our rich circus history and portrays today's artistic work much like the artist colony Delavan was in the early 1900s. The image also reflects the brick street, which is recognized nationally and an anchor for the historic downtown district.



By Ryan J. Schroeder
CITY OF DELAVAN MAYOR

The City of Delavan has always had a remarkable diversity among our citizens, including the long history of the Deaf and Hispanic cultures that distinguish Delavan. Historically, the City of Delavan has been home to manufacturing companies that have put Delavan on the map with their goods and services.

We are proud of our city's history, and this commemorative newspaper insert showcases the images and captures the spirit of why Delavan will always be considered home for so many, regardless of where they live.

We honor the past and those individuals who came before us, helping to discover this land, building a village, and ultimately a city. The City of Delavan is a beautiful place to live, work and play.

So as you enjoy the activities of July 22 and 23, savor all that makes the City of Delavan what it is, and here's to the next 125 years and beyond!

Delavan 125th Anniversary

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On the cover: Downtown Delavan bustles with activity during the horse-and-buggy days of the late 1800s.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DELAVAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY *Delavan 125th Anniversary*

Looking back at how Delavan came to be

Delavan sits in the middle of what was at one time an inland sea. During the Ice Age, many glaciers, the last of which was known as the Michigan tongue, covered this area. The Michigan tongue descended down what is now known as Lake Michigan. A large section of this glacier broke off, pushing southwest into the area now known as Walworth County. Geologists have called this section of the glacier “the Delavan lobe.”

The first humans known to inhabit the Delavan area were Native Americans around the era of 1000BC. Later, between 500-1000 AD, Mound Builders lived in what is now the Delavan Lake area. Mound Builders were of the Woodland culture.

The effigy mounds they erected along the shores of Delavan Lake numbered more than 200, according to an archeological survey done in the late 1800s by Beloit College. Many were along the north shore of the lake where Lake Lawn Resort now stands. The Potawatomi Indians also settled around the lake in the late 18th century, although there were only an estimated 240 in the county. Some of their burial mounds are preserved in what is now Assembly Park.

From the mid 17th century through the mid 18th century, this area was known as “New France” and was under the French flag. It came under British rule and a part of the Province of Quebec following the French-Indian War. In accordance with the Treaty of 1783 it was turned over to the United States and a part of the newly established Northwest Territory.



The Delavan Lake lakeshore has attracted residents and visitors alike for centuries.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DELAVAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Delavan 125th Anniversary

The early days

Between the years of 1800 and 1836 the Delavan area was part of the Indiana Territory, followed by the Illinois Territory, finally becoming part of the Wisconsin Territory in 1836. Statehood was granted in 1848.

Delavan’s first white settlers arrived in 1836, finding the area to be dense forests with prairies on both the east and west sides with plenty of game available for hunting.

Lakes and streams surrounded the area.

The first known settler in the Delavan area was a man from the Rockford, Illinois area named Allen Perkins. Arriving in the spring of that year, he built a log cabin for his family at the base of the hill along what is now Walworth Avenue.


That same summer, two brothers from New York arrived in Chicago with the intention of starting a temperance colony. Samuel and Henry Phoenix were hoping to form a settlement “pledged to temperance, sobriety and religion; and where should a poor, despised colored man chance to set

his foot, he might do it in safety” according to the writings in Samuel’s journal. They traveled north of Chicago in search of the most desirable spot to settle.

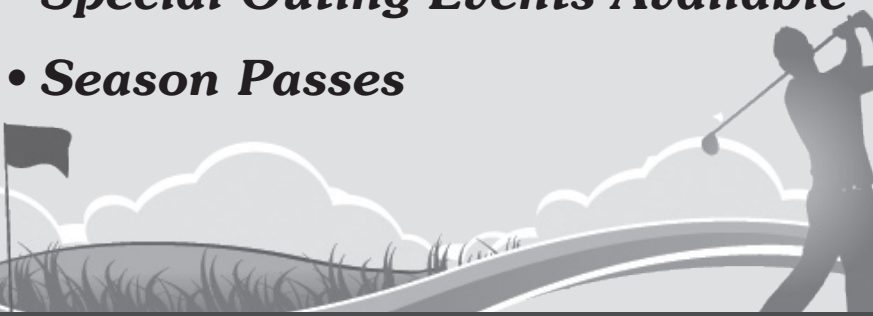
After traveling around this area and finding nothing to their liking, Henry returned to New York and Samuel continued the search. Samuel discovered what is now the Delavan area after spending a night in an abandoned Potawatomi wigwam. He later met Perkins and Perkins two brothers-in-law as they were traveling the same route to Spring Prairie to get provisions. They all returned to Delavan the next day. Samuel Phoenix stayed with the Perkins family until his provisions arrived from Racine.

Phoenix was a successful businessman in New York and staked many claims in the Delavan settlement. It wasn’t long before he and the Perkins family were at odds over the naming of the colony. The Perkins had filed for the settlement to be named “Wilksbarre”, but the postmaster who received the request and was to have forwarded it to Washington for approval was a friend of Phoenix and returned it instead.

Phoenix was joined in Delavan by relatives and they soon outnumbered the Perkins clan. Phoenix then filed the name of Delavan with the Belmont Legislature. Born in 1793, E. C. Delavan, whose surname the city now bears, was a temperance leader in New York State. He never saw the town that carries his name. He died in 1871. Phoenix also filed the name of Walworth County, taking the name from Chancellor Rueben Walworth, past



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president of the New York Temperance League.

Perkins eventually moved from Delavan and Phoenix then took over his claims. Before long, Phoenix held claims on most of the area. The settlement was touted as a great temperance colony to those in New England and many came west to settle here. Most new settlers were successful farmers, good businessmen and financially secure. The majority of them traveled here via steamers on the Great Lakes and came west from their landing in Racine by wagon. Most stayed with Phoenix until their own cabins were built. He had also established the first general store in town. Land sold for \$1.35 an acre and was primarily used for agriculture. Wheat crops were the most predominate and brought a good cash flow to the farmers.

The Baptist church, organized in 1839 was the first church in the newly formed town. From this church grew the first anti-slavery and temperance societies in Wisconsin. The belief in temperance was so strong that it was included in all deeds that no alcohol could be bought or consumed on the premises. This unconstitutional inclusion was outlawed in 1845.

Samuel and Henry Phoenix completed construction of the town's first gristmill in 1839, at the current Mill Pond site. It could grind 100 barrels of wheat per day and was the main business in Delavan for the remainder of that century. The owners had rights to build a dam and control the water levels and the power used at the mill.

Most of the settlers were from New England and were not tolerant of the Europeans that tried to settle in the area. Many travelers were turned away from the inn, operated by Israel Stowell. Now the oldest building in Delavan, it still stands at the southwest corner of Walworth Avenue and Main Street.

The Phoenix brothers died within two years of each other. Samuel in 1840 from tuberculosis and Henry in 1842. Both are buried in Old Settler's Cemetery, located in the 300 block of McDowell Street.

About six months after Henry's death, the first town meeting was held at Israel Stowell's. William Bartlett, a half brother of Samuel and Henry was elected chairman. It is said that he did not possess their leadership qualities.

Circus comes to town

1845 brought the end of temperance in Delavan. In 1847, Edmund and Jeremiah Mabie, proprietors of the U.S. Olympic Circus – then the largest traveling show in America – chose Delavan for their winter quarters, a year before Wisconsin attained statehood and 24 years before the Ringling Brothers raised their first tents in Baraboo, Wisconsin.

The Mabie brothers chose Delavan because of its ability to support the circus horses and other animals. The animals were the most important assets to the 19th century circus, both for transportation and performance. Delavan's abundant pastures and pure water provided everything the Mabies required.

The Mabie Circus stayed at the present site of Lake Lawn Resort on Delavan Lake, where it created a circus dynasty that survived in Wisconsin for the next 100 years.

As time passed, the circuses grew in strength and numbers; hundreds of clowns and circus performers from over 26 circuses set up their winter quarters in Delavan from 1847 to 1894. The P.T. Barnum Circus, "The Greatest Show On Earth," was founded in Delavan in 1871.

But, as times changed so too did the circus era in Delavan. It came to an end in 1894 when the E.G. Holland Railroad



The Hotel Delavan was constructed in the downtown during the booming 1800s.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DELAVAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Delavan 125th Anniversary

Circus folded its tents. Except for a handful of local performers, who continued the tradition, the circus vanished from the community. Within a generation, the familiar ring barns and circus landmarks were gone.

On May 2, 1966, the U.S. Postal Service selected Delavan to issue the five-cent American Circus Commemorative Postage Stamp. Today, more than 150 members of the old Circus Colony are buried in Spring Grove and St. Andrew's cemeteries.

The Mabie brothers took over where the Phoenix brothers had left off. They were financially well off and soon owned over 1,000 acres in the township. The purchased the Phoenix brothers gristmill, orchestrated the original plank road that was laid from Racine to Delavan and saw to the completion of the Racine-Mississippi railroad to this point in 1856. Edmund served a term as village president and they were both extremely fundamental in the development of Delavan during the pre-Civil War era.

In the late 1840s, many new immigrants came to Delavan, but were not welcomed by the Baptist element already established here. Many of the new arrivals were Irish and Catholic and settled in the Darien area. In 1856, many more Irish laborers arrived with the construction of the railroad and settled here.

School for the Deaf

The Wisconsin School for the Deaf was founded on April 19, 1852. It is situated high on a hill, overlooking Delavan, on land donated to the state for its sole use by Franklin Phoenix. Phoenix was a friend and neighbor to the Ebenezer Chesebro family whose daughter Ariadna was deaf.

Chesebro had employed Wealthy Hawes to teach his daughter in 1850. Hawes himself was hard of hearing and had attended the New York Institute for the Deaf and Dumb. As Delavan's population grew, so did the increase in the deaf population.

By 1852 Hawes successor, John A. Mills was teaching eight area children and the need for state assistance became apparent. The Chesebros, along with some help from

friends and neighbors petitioned the state for a school, the land was donated and the school was opened.

In 1861 the first manufacturing plant was built in Delavan. Founded by Trumbull D. Thomas, it manufactured windmills and wooden pumps. It employed 35 men. Over the years it grew and evolved and included a foundry and machine shop.

Sixty-four Delavanites perished in the Civil War, more than all other wars combined. Following the Civil War, many manufacturers built in Delavan, including the Logan cheese factory, the VanVelzer cigar factory, the Jackson tack factory and the N.W. Hoag grain elevator.

Lake Lawn developed

Development at Delavan Lake didn't begin until the first permanent residence was built by Dr. Fredrick L. VonSuessmilch in 1875 along the north shore. Mamie Mabie opened a small hotel at Lake Lawn three years later. A steamboat launch was built at that location also.

The next 20 years saw a building boom of private houses, hotels and resorts. Most of the residents were summer retreats for Chicagoans who came up on the train, which at that time stopped here six times a day during the summer months. Livery buses took people from the train station in town to the resorts around the lake.

Many changes came to Delavan in the last decade of the 19th century. Fires devastated the business district in both 1892 and 1893. A new school was built in 1894. Electricity was first brought to town in 1896. Delavan became a city in 1897.

During the early 1900s, Delavan became a recognized art center. The Chicago Art Institute held summer classes here for 15 years. Famous artists that had studios here include William T. Thorne, Adolph and Ada Schulz, Frank Dudley and Frank Phoenix.

Manufacturing rise

The Bradley Knitting Company was established in 1904. The first major manufacturer in town, it employed up to 1,200 people over the next 30 years. Delavan saw a rapid growth in building after Bradley opened. The average new

home during that period cost \$1,800.

The first paved street in Delavan was Walworth Avenue between Terrace and Fourth streets in 1913. Bricks were laid at a cost of \$1.79 per square yard. Sidewalks soon replaced the boards that had previously been used to walk on. In 1915, a three-block boulevard was built between Fourth and Seventh streets on Walworth Avenue. The brick streets still remain, although they were redone in the late 1990s. The boulevards still remain an attractive sight on the main street through town.

During this same time period, Aram Public Library, the Delavan Post Office and streetlights were added to the downtown area. Horse and buggies gave way to automobiles and plumbing went from outdoors to indoors. Dairy farming took over as the leading agricultural income and milk was transported to Chicago by train.

Delavan lost 16 servicemen during World War I. Influenza during that same time also claimed the lives of many at home.

Depression years

Delavan's strong economy helped to see it through the Great Depression, keeping it a bit less devastating than it was for many areas of the country. The resorts and ballrooms around the lake were instrumental in keeping the economy alive. Slot machines were abundant in the ballrooms and were known to have caused a few gang warfare incidents.

As the Depression wore on, Bradley Knitting Company fell into hard times. A Chicagoan by the name of George W. Borg came in and loaned the business some capital. He also opened a small manufacturing plant that made clocks for automobiles. Borg was also largely responsible for the development of the automobile clutch.

Around this same time, William C. Heath developed Sta-Rite Products that manufactured water systems. Heath later designed landing gears for B-17 and B-29 bombers and also developed a high-speed submersible pump that was used in the

LOOKING BACK • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

capture of a German submarine.

World War II and beyond

In 1940, Thomas B. Gibbs started a factory that manufactured timing and electrical devices. During World War II, Borg and Gibbs completed more than 30 contracts for the U.S. government. Because of the number of government contracts, Delavan was listed as one of the top ten prime targets for enemy sabotage.

Delavan was immediately affected by the bombing of Pearl Harbor when Walter Boviall, a DHS graduate, went down with the Arizona. Twenty-three Delavan servicemen lost their lives in this war. Government contracts kept Delavan's economy healthy during this time.

The late 1940s and early 1950s brought a building and baby boom to Delavan once again. The Korean War took the lives of three Delavanites. Progress brought a new water tower, which is still in use in Tower Park.

Borg Industries and Ajay Industries joined the industrial firms of Delavan. The Mill Pond was dredged during this time and began to be used for swimming in the summer and ice-skating in the winter. It still serves the purpose today. The new Delavan-Darien High School was built and the first senior class to graduate from it was the class of 1958.

The 1960s brought the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, who had stopped in Delavan during his presidential campaign. George Borg, son of George W. Borg was elected to the State Senate.

A D-DHS graduate, Gary Burghoff launched his acting career in the role of Radar O'Reilly in the movie "M*A*S*H" followed by the TV series.



Swimmers get ready to cool off in Delavan Lake at Lake Lawn Resort near the turn of the century. The resort has been part of Delavan's rich history for more than 100 years and enjoys a steady stream of visitors to this day.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DELAVAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Delavan 125th Anniversary

The Vietnam War took the lives of six area servicemen. Local attorney, Ernst John Watts became Walworth County Circuit Judge.

Delavan was chosen as the First Day Cover city for the issuance of a five-cent commemorative American Circus postage stamp. The Lange Memorial Arboretum was opened and a large section of the north shore of Lake Monona was donated to the city by Ben Dibble for use as a wildlife and botanical refuge.

The 1970s through the 1990s brought more growth both in industry and residential aspects. Joining the businesses in Delavan were Swiss Tech and Andes Candies.

Highway 15 was expanded to a four lane interstate highway and became Interstate 43, running from Beloit to Milwaukee.

Delavan's first female mayor was elected in 1976. Beth Supernaw had previously served on the common council, representing the second ward. Fires devastated the city during this decade.

In 1978-79, the Colonial Hotel, American Legion and Ajay South Second Street buildings were all destroyed by fires.

Since then, Delavan has become the home of Waukesha Cherry-Burrell, Stock Lumber, Bergamot Brass and other industrial companies. Ajay closed its doors in the 1990s. Geneva Lakes Kennel Club

brought Greyhound racing to the lakes area, which later closed and eventually became a retail space. Two shopping centers built in the late 1980s on the east side of town added many shopping alternatives to area residents. Additional shopping strip malls have been built along Highway 50 since then.

This information was taken from History of Delavan as published by The Delavan Enterprise and the Website Wisconsin School for the Deaf - State of Wisconsin;

The original text was condensed and paraphrased by Carla R. Strating and appears courtesy of the Delavan Historical Society.



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Recalling stage shows at Delavan's Opera House

By W. Gordon Yadon
CORRESPONDENT

For nearly 50 years the Delavan Opera House, located at the southeast corner of Walworth Avenue and Second Street, was the entertainment hub of the community.

Erected in 1893 by Newton O. Francisco and J.F. Fishman on the site of the McKee's Opera House, which was destroyed by a June 1, 1892, fire. The two-story brick building was razed in 1991 following a condemnation order.

The building contained business spaces on the ground floor. The Opera House was located on the second floor and contained a 60- by 28-foot stage, adjoining dressing rooms, a 520-seat auditorium and 120-seat balcony. An iron fire escape was installed against the west wall, which would descend to the street upon weight bearing.

Since its July 18, 1893, grand opening, the Opera House was used for various types of entertainment and assembling including theatrical productions, variety shows, boxing and wrestling matches, an international poultry show, high school class plays and graduation exercises, an indoor circus, dog shows, roller skating rink and various lectures and meetings.

The only entrance to the Opera House was located adjacent to the alley on S. Second Street and required ascending 40 stairs to reach the ticket office and auditorium, which was laborious for most of the elderly.

After the Delavan Theatre opened in 1929, the Opera House declined in popularity. It was almost condemned several times as a "fire trap."

Its last known public performance was presented by the J.B. Rotnour players in 1944. The building was owned by Francisco-Fishman and their heirs for 60 years. Other owners included Anthony Vedula, Eldon McQualilty, Mike Williams, Jon Goode and Richard Zurawski.

Following World War II, the Opera House was utilized in the manufacturing of plastic items, baby bibs, soakers,



A production of "St. Elmo" was held one night only at the Opera House on June 20, 1919.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Delavan 125th Anniversary

tablecloths and storage. In 1964 an attempt was made to start a teenage music-dancing center. Joe Murphy rented space for his Royal West Martial Arts.

On Aug. 8, 1987, heavy rain was thought to be responsible for the collapse of the central portion of the Opera House roof, causing considerable damage to Joe and Patti Hamill's Rexall Drug Store, located on the ground floor, and Murphy's Martial Arts Center in the Opera House auditorium. Delavan building inspector Jim Deluca condemned the building, which was razed in 1991.

The Opera House space was vacant until a controversial structure was erected by Expressions, a salon for the care of hair, skin and nails. Following a May 28, 1997, fire the damaged structure was removed and the site has been vacant ever since.

Gordon Yadon was a local historian who wrote weekly vignettes for the Delavan Enterprise.

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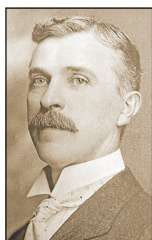
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DELAVAN MAYORS

Edward F. Williams 1897-98

Delavan's first mayor and later president of Citizens bank. Born in Delavan April 9, 1859, the son of Henry H. and Amanda Keeler Williams. Attended school in Delavan and started business career as clerk in M. Gavett's clothing store.

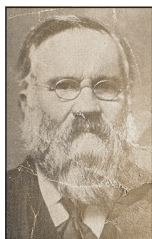


In 1881, started at Citizens bank as assistant cashier. Became cashier in 1886 and president in 1910. Elected Delavan's first mayor in 1897. Married Carrie Phoenix, daughter of Franklin K. and Mary Topping Phoenix in 1892. Three children: Phoenix, Lawrence and Edwina.

Served as director of Bradley Knitting Company, treasurer of Delavan Lake Country Club, a charter member of the Delavan Rotary Club and an active member of the Knights of Pythias. Was a member of the Episcopal Church. Died Feb. 5, 1923.

Alexander H. Allyn 1898-99

Born in Hartford, Connecticut, Sept. 1, 1835, and was the scion of a sterling old New England family whose heritage dated back to colonial times. Came to Chicago by boat and stage in 1852 and worked in a dry goods store and transportation company.



Arrived in Delavan in 1859 and bought a 184-acre farm three miles east of the village. Later moved into the village proper and in 1885 built a large, beautiful mansion at 511 Walworth Ave. Served four years as county supervisor between 1884-98. Married Elizabeth Humphrey Martin in 1861. She died in 1870. He subsequently married Mary Elizabeth Doolittle. Three children were born of the first marriage – Lenora, Katherine (Thompson) and Mary Esther (Kellog) – and four from the second, Susan (Moore), Timothy, Gertrude and Joseph.

Served for one term. Later bought a large dairy farm at 800 Geneva St. Was a member of the Episcopal church. Died Feb. 4, 1913. Buried in Spring Grove.

Albert E. Smith 1900-04

Popularly known as "Cap," was the only Delavanite to serve as both village president and city mayor. Served as last village president in 1896.



Elected mayor in 1900 and re-elected in 1902. Born Oct. 28, 1836, at Cape Vincent, N.Y. Came to Lake Geneva with parents in 1850. Helped lay rail for Racine-Mississippi railroad, which came through in 1856. Sailed on Great Lakes for two years and served as second mate aboard sailing vessel out of Maine.

Enlisted in Co. K, eighth regiment, in 1861, and saw considerable action in the Civil War. Was promoted to captain for bravery at Corinth, Mississippi. Also saw action at Vicksburg, Black River Bridge, Jackson, Henderson Hill, Fort Drussett and Red River Expedition. After war, headed west to Colorado in mining venture

and was captured by Sioux Indians who planned to burn him at the stake. During night, he escaped and made a hunger journey of six weeks before stumbling on a cabin in south Wyoming territory.

After regaining health, went on mining expedition near Silver City, New Mexico, where he and four U.S. cavalymen were ambushed by 125 Apache Indians. Finally rescued by a cavalry troop after eight hours of battle. Later located in Denver where he was associated in the manufacture of crucibles. Later managed a silver Mill in Columbus, Colorado.

Married Elizabeth Reek of Linn in 1874. Returned to Delavan in 1894 and was engaged in farming for a short time and later purchased home at 235 Racine St.

In 1895, made another mining trip to Durango, Mexico, where he and a companion were ambushed by 20 bandits. Smith and his companion killed eight of the bandits with rifle fire.

Served two terms as state assemblyman from Walworth County, 1900-1904, the same period he was Delavan mayor. Was member of G.A.R. and attained 32nd degree in Masonry. Attended the Delavan Congregational Church. Died June 20, 1932. Interred at Spring Grove mausoleum. Survived by a daughter, Jenette Gormely France.

Ambrose E. Hare 1904-06, 1908-10

Born in Pickton, Prince Edward, Canada, Jan. 20, 1846. His parents were rugged pioneer farmers. Settled on farm near Richmond in 1848. Served in 13th Regiment during Civil War. In 1866, sent to Nebraska territory and drove 413 cattle back to Wisconsin for \$1.50 per day.



Remained on Richmond farm until 1901, when he moved to Delavan, occupying home at 115 S. Third St. In addition to twice serving as mayor, was county supervisor for several terms and president of the Walworth County Fair Board. Was a past commander of the Delavan G.A.R. post and a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge. Attended the Delavan Congregational Church. Died on July 21, 1922. Survived by a son, Henry, and a daughter, Mary (Blakeman). He was one of the last three Delavan Civil War survivors. Buried at the Richmond Cemetery.

Newton O. Francisco 1906-08

Born Oct. 16, 1840, at Oneida, N.Y. Came with his parents to Jefferson County in 1884. Moved to Delavan in 1861.

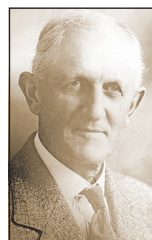


Married Marcella Gove in 1862. Commonly known as "Newt," he operated a carriage shop in Delavan from 1862-1898 and made many of the wagons and chariots used by local circuses. In 1892 was a partner in the building of the Delavan Opera House at Walworth Avenue and Second Street.

After retirement from carriage business, devoted full time to booking theatrical companies and other entertainment for the Opera house. Was a member of the Delavan Congregational Church and the Knights of Pythias Lodge. The family resided at 116 N. Third St. He died at the age of 91 on Feb. 18, 1932. Buried at Spring Grove.

Daniel E. LaBar 1910-16

A lifelong resident of Delavan, born here on Aug. 21, 1857, one of eight children of Damuel Reese and Harriet Topping LaBar. Grew to manhood on family farm and was member of the first Delavan High School graduating class of 1875.



Attended Wayland Academy in Beaver Dam, graduating in 1879. Engaged in farming as livelihood. Married Mary Antoinette Mabie in 1897.

Two children: Elizabeth and Daniel R. Left farm in 1900 and moved into large home on northwest corner of Sixth and Washington. Served as Delavan alderman between 1901-1905; two terms as county supervisor, was treasurer of Delavan School Board for 18 years, treasurer of Baptist church for 20 years, city mayor for three terms and state assemblyman from 1928-1936. Died July 21, 1939. Buried in Spring Grove.

Albert Hollister 1916-18

Born June 15, 1854, on a farm on the Elkhorn-Williams Bay Road. A graduate of Elkhorn High School, he later taught rural school for six years in between ventures as a butcher, harness maker and lumberjack. In 1880, he married Ida Jeanette Sheldon of Delavan. In 1883 started a lumber business in Iola, Iowa. He moved shortly thereafter to Manchester, Iowa, where he operated a lumber business for 22 years.



After three years in Chicago Heights, Illinois, he moved to Delavan in 1911, opening a lumber yard in Williams Bay and a feed business in Whitewater. An ardent sportsman, he made several hunting trips into Canada. He was a former president of the Walworth County fair board and served several years on the Delavan sewer and water commission. He was a member of the Congregational church and the Masonic Lodge.

Dr. Ora R. Rice 1918-22

Born in Marion Township, Grant County, Wisconsin, Sept. 16, 1885. Worked on family farm and attended Boscobel High School. Graduated from Northwestern University School of Dentistry in 1907. Opened dental practice in Delavan in 1907. Married Mary Tuffley of Boscobel the same year.



Served as alderman from 1915-1917. In 1917, served a year as mayor when Albert Hollister retired from office. Was elected mayor in 1918 and re-elected in 1920.

Served as state assemblyman from 1936-1961. Was speaker of the house for two terms, 1951-1953. Headed 1948 state centennial committee and was chairman of agricultural committee for eight years.

Operated successful turkey farm from 1935-57. Was 33rd degree Mason and trustee of Delavan Congregational Church. His wife died in 1955. Two children: Dorothy and Richard. Subsequent marriage

to Laura Johnson in 1957. In 1961, Rice Lake in Whitewater chain named in his honor. Died in 1966. Buried in Spring Grove.

Fredrick G. Tanck 1922-26

Born in Watertown, Oct. 5, 1872. Graduate of Marquette University School of Pharmacy. Worked as pharmacist at R.B. Arnold's drug store in Lake Geneva. Came to Delavan in September, 1902 and started a drug store in partnership with A.C. Dukelow. Sold his share in 1910 and moved to California for two years. Returned to Delavan in 1912 and repurchased drug store.



Was elected president of Wisconsin State Bank in 1930 and served for 10 years. Was 32nd degree Mason and member of the Wisconsin Consistory – also Knights of Pythias and a Congregationalist. His first wife, Susan, died in 1939. Married Olivia Haskins in 1948. Died Oct. 22, 1949 after short illness. Interred in Spring Grove mausoleum.

Charles J. Sumner 1926-28

Born in Bainbridge, N.Y. in 1872, came to Delavan with his parents in 1885. His father was Charles B., a prominent local attorney. Received a primary education in Delavan. Later attended private school and enrolled at Georgetown University law college.



After obtaining his law degree, he held several legal positions in the East, including superintendent of the document room of the House of Representatives in Washington. He took over his father's law practice in 1906 and later formed a partnership with E.L. von Suessmilch. He enlisted in the Army during World War I and was commissioned in the judge advocate general's branch, attaining the rank of major while serving in France.

He was active in local, state and national politics and once served as Walworth County district attorney. He served several terms on Delavan School Board, was a past president of the Rotary Club and an active member of the Masonic Lodge and Knights of Pythias.

He also served as commander of the Delavan American Legion post and was instrumental in the creation of Delbrook Golf Course, serving as a charter director. He was a member of the Episcopal Church.

While serving as Delavan mayor, he was stricken on Oct. 22, 1927, while watching the Delavan Red Devils-Oshkosh football game at the Spring gridiron and died at his Racine Street home eight hours later.

He was survived by his wife and daughter, Florence. Buried at Spring Grove.

George S. Wood 1927-42

Born in Delavan, July 11, 1884. Graduated from Delavan High School with Class of 1903. Was engaged in farming for several years.

Accepted boys' supervisory position at



DELAVAN MAYORS

Wisconsin State School for the Deaf and became carpentry instructor, a position he held for 40 years. Was appointed mayor Nov. 1, 1927, following the death of Charles Sumner. Served in office longer than any mayor in Delavan history until Mayor Mel Nieuwenhuis, who served 18 years as mayor from 2002-2020.. Made his home in Delavan but spent winters in Florida. Never married.

Clarence Anderson 1942-44

Born in Elkhorn, April 11, 1901. Attended elementary school in Millard. Between 1920-1930, was a county livestock dealer and shipper. Was General Motors automotive dealer in Delavan from 1934 to 1951. Served two terms as first ward alderman, 1938-1942.

Elected mayor in 1942. Married Dorothy Merrifield of Milton Junction in 1924. Five children: Doris (Styles), Elizabeth (Schalino), Mary Lou (Sanders), Warren Dean and Charles. Was charter member and trustee of Delavan Industrial Foundation, organized in 1940.

Master of Masonic Lodge and member of the Madison Consistory from 1929 forward. Member of Delavan Congregational Church. Was a licensed real estate broker and operated a Delavan realty firm.



Clarence Anderson
1942-1944

John F. Thorpe 1944-50, 1954-56

Born on a farm in Darien Township, Aug. 19, 1889, Thorpe attended Toppings Corner School.

After being engaged in farming for a short time, accepted employment with the Walworth County Highway Department but resigned in order to form his own construction firm.

He married Mildred Kemmet April 22, 1919. From a modest beginning, developed his business into one of the largest of its kind in this area. Served in the U.S. Army during World War I and was a member of the Delavan American Legion. Also a past president of the Delavan Lions Club. Was elected to the Walworth County Fair Board in 1943, later attaining the offices of treasurer, vice president and president. Also served as a director of the Wisconsin Road Builder's Association.

After service as a third ward alderman, was elected mayor in 1944, serving three consecutive terms. Served a fourth term from 1954-56. Was a member of St. Andrew's Catholic Church, its Holy Name Society and Knights of Column.

He died Sept. 24, 1960. Burial took place at St. Andrew's Cemetery. He was survived by his wife and daughter, Mary Madison.

Fernie Bachelet 1950-54

Born Sept. 23, 1883 in Lake Geneva. Received basic education in Lake Geneva and entered bulk kerosene business, making delivery by horse-drawn cart. Later purchased



Fernie Bachelet

automatic tank truck for petroleum product delivery service.

Moved to Delavan and opened a service station at Fourth and Walworth in addition to bulk oil business. Married Ruby Fairchild in 1908. Two children: Ruby (Markham) and Fernie.

Served as first ward alderman prior to election as mayor. Member of the Delavan Methodist Church, Masonic Lodge and Odd Fellows. Resigned as mayor on Jan. 6, 1954, because of poor health. Died Feb. 28, 1955. Buried in Spring Grove.

Harvey Weiss 1954

Was elected by the common council to serve as mayor from January to April 1954, upon the resignation of Fernie Batchelet.

Born Sept. 27, 1913, in Kenosha. Graduate of Kenosha High School and Whitewater State University. Taught business education at Lancaster High School. Entered the U.S. Navy and attained rank of Lieutenant, senior grade, while serving aboard a destroyer on convoy duty in North Atlantic.

Married Martha Ann Walker of Delavan on July 3, 1942. Children: Douglas and Patrick. Served as second ward alderman prior to his election as mayor. Long-time member of water and sewer commission and police and fire commission.

Served as chairman of numerous civic and charity organizations and was a trustee of the Congregational Church. Was manager of administrative services at Harvestore Products, Inc., A.O. Smith Corp., Elkhorn.



Ray Morrissey 1956-60

Born in Delavan, Feb. 2, 1909. Graduated from Delavan High School with the Class of 1926. Attended Notre Dame University from 1930-34 and played football under Knute Rockne. Was in charge of recreation for all state penal institutions in 1934 and 1935.

Walworth County recreational direction in 1936, the same year he married Teckla Schiedler. Served as first ward alderman from 1944-46. Was county supervisor from 1946 through 1964, serving as chairman the latter six years. Children Kathleen (Engle) and Jean. Member of St. Andrew's Catholic Church. Operated Club American tavern in Delavan.



Eula Grams 1960-64

Born in Pine Village, Indiana, Jan. 17, 1916. Attended school in Pine Village and won all-conference basketball honors. Helped work the family farm as a youth.

Came to Delavan in 1938 and was employed at Bradley Knitting Co. Enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II and served in the Pacific as pharmacist's mate.

Married Jean Watts. One daughter,



Ann. Served as first ward alderman, 1952-58. Served as commander of Delavan American Legion, treasurer of Delavan recreation board, chairman of fire and police commission, and member of industrial relations committee.

Moved to Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1964 and was vice president of the 20th Century Guardian Life Insurance Company.

Robert H. Miller 1964-76

Born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, May 7, 1894. Attended high school at Easton and graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering from Lafayette College.

During World War I, served as an instructor in the 122nd Air Squadron of the Air Corps. Served as consulting engineer at numerous non-ferrous foundries in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio before coming to Delavan in 1942 to assume charge of the G.W. Borg aluminum foundry in Chicago.

Later was consulting engineer at Rockford and Lake City, Minnesota, before returning to Delavan in 1959. Married Helen M. Santee in 1920. Two children: Jeanne (Tiff) and Robert H., Jr. Served as first ward alderman one term prior to election as mayor.

Member of the Congregational Church, American Legion and Goodfellows, one of the organizers of the WWI Barracks, chairman of the industrial development committee and chairman of the Walworth County cancer drive.

Was in charge of official first day cover sales of the circus stamp.



Beth Supernaw 1976-80

Supernaw was the first – and remains the only – woman to be elected as the mayor of Delavan.

Supernaw spent much of her life dealing with vision issues, having been declared legally blind at the age of 30. A first corneal transplant failed, but the second was a success, the same year she was first elected mayor.

She was a member of the city council for three years before being elected as mayor in 1976. She earned a second seat two years later, at the same time she was elected to the Walworth County Board of Supervisors.

She was born in La Crosse, Nov. 5, 1930, the eldest of four children. She graduated from Madison East High School in 1948, then attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was active in student politics and worked as the campus chairperson for Eisenhower for President and Kohler for Governor campaigns.

She obtained a Bachelor of Science in education in 1952 and married John Supernaw the same year. The couple had two sons, John and William.

She was extremely active in the community, serving as co-president of the PTA with her husband, a charter member and fourth president of the Junior Woman's Club, various committees at the



United Methodist Church, a lecturer for the University Eye Bank and co-chairman of the Walworth County Association for Retarded Children.

Aldoph A. Lagg 1980-84

Born in Lead, South Dakota Nov. 8, 1913. Graduated from Lead High School in 1931, and graduated from Detroit University in 1943 with an accounting degree.

In the summer of 1938, worked at the Mount Rushmore National Memorial site. One such duty included buffing the stone which created Teddy Roosevelt's eye glasses. He once at his noon lunch on the lip of George Washington.

Married Dorothy Logue-Nash in 1947, and in 1948 they both moved to Delavan where Al accepted the position of controller at the Barker Lumber Co. In 1956, became associated with the G.W. Borg Corporation as assistant to the treasurer. In 1963, he was appointed city clerk by Mayor Eula Grames.

In 1966, he was given the dual position of city clerk/treasurer positions he held until 1976 when he resigned. In 1980 he ran for mayor and was elected defeating the incumbent mayor, Elizabeth Supernaw. He served four years before being defeated in 1984 by Charles Brunswick. During his two terms he expressed his conservative views, and usually opposed anything that would increase the tax rate.

Also known for reforms within the Delavan Police Department in the early 1980's. Al enjoyed hobbies including woodworking, hunting, fishing, bowling, and golf. He was a past member of both the Delavan Lions and the Elks club. He passed away on August 15, 1994. Interred in the Delavan Arboretum. He was survived by his wife, Dorothy; and five daughters Sharon, Lisbeth, Patricia, Bonny, and Susan.

Charles Brunswick 1984-86

Born June 23, 1937 at the Walworth County Hospital, later known as Lakeland in Elkhorn. Originally from Genoa City, Chuck moved to Richmond, Illinois, where he graduated from high school in 1955, followed by four years at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, obtaining a B.S. degree in business administration in 1959.

Moved back to Delavan in 1972 after purchasing the Arizona Inn. In 1974, married Carol Dunklee of Rockford, Illinois. Four children: Brian, Barry, Lisa, and Charles W. II. In 1975, while big into aviation and having his own pilot license, he managed the Lake Lawn Lodge air facility for nearly six years.

In 1982, he opened his own consulting and computer operation at 314 E. Walworth Ave. In 1983 he was elected President of the Delavan Improvement Association and was active in the Delavan Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Although he had never sought public office before, in 1984 he opposed



What happened to the DHS baseball team of 1899?

For several years an enlarged photo of the 1899 Delavan High School baseball team appeared on the wall of Max Schmaling's food market and later Pick'n Save and Piggly Wiggly. When the latter's historical photo collection was discontinued it was offered at silent auction with proceeds to the Delavan Historical Society.

Tim Sturtevant, whose grandfather and a cousin are shown as team members, was presented with the 5 by 3 photo by the successful bidders, his children.

Following is a capsulation of what happened to the team players after this 111-year-old photo was taken, starting with the trio posed in front.

From the left: Harrie Utley – Married Bernice Langley and for several years was associated with his father's meat market. Later traveled 29 years as a sales representative for Armour and Co. Died Dec. 24, 1947. Buried in Spring Grove Cemetery. Survived by a daughter, Jan (John) Lehman.

Martin Kelley – Graduated from DHS, 1901. Attended DePaul University. Was traveling auditor for Libby, McNeill and Libby. Joined Yellow Cab Co. and was general manager and organizer of its fleet in Australia. Later became auditor for Maytag Co. Upon retirement served as county supervisor and as member of Walworth County Selective Service Board during World War II. Remained single and died Dec. 15, 1945. Buried in St. Andrew's Cemetery.

Bradley Tyrrell – Graduated from DHS in 1901 and Beloit College in 1905. Vice-president and director of sales at Bradley Knitting Co. for 25 years. Vice-president at Beloit College, 1938-39, and acting president from 1942-44. Married Kate Root in 1907. Children: William, Bradley, John, Katherine and Nancy. Died March 8, 1964. Buried in Spring Grove Cemetery.

Charles Hanover – His father was Delavan physician. In 1899, infant sister was killed when a marble mantel fell on her. Child's mother died of heart attack while trying to lift mantel. Both are buried in St. Andrew's Cemetery. Charles moved to Seattle in 1907 and became engaged in the pharmaceutical profession.

Earle Horton – Graduate of DHS, 1901. Married Mande Van Velzer. Farmed in Saskatchewan for six years, returned to Delavan and became partner with father in operation of Horton Milling Co. Caught hand in mill machinery resulting in serious infection and tetanus, which claimed his life Jan. 8, 1915. Interred in Spring Grove Mausoleum.



The 1899 Delavan High School baseball team included: catcher Harrie Utley (front from left), student manager Martin Kelley, pitcher Fred Coulthard; standing: shortstop John Burrows, pitcher and third baseman Charles Sturtevant, first baseman Ray Lowe, right fielder Bradley Tyrrell, left fielder Charles Hanover, second baseman Earle Horton, center fielder Howard Sturtevant and utility Harley Jones.

SUBMITTED PHOTO
Delavan 125th Anniversary

Howard Sturtevant – Married Alma Cox and farmed west of Delavan. During the flu epidemic of World War I, contracted double pneumonia, which claimed his life March 17, 1919. Had two brothers, Robert and Frank, and a sister, Nellie (Peter) Lerwick. Buried in Spring Grove Cemetery.

Harley Jones – Was successful farmer in Darien Township. Enjoyed hunting and fishing. In retirement moved to Florida. While visiting his nephew, Royal Jones, died at Lakeland Hospital Nov. 21, 1951. Buried in Darien Cemetery.

Fred Coulthard – Became a Baker and worked for his brother-in-law, Fred Ebberts in Burlington. Returned to Delavan and purchased bakery from Goodrich and Son at 310 E. Walworth Ave. Lived

with wife Elinor in apartment above 322 E. Walworth Ave. Moved to Milwaukee where he was involved in the baking business for several years prior to his death.

Standing from left:

John Burrows – Graduated DHS, 1901. Obtained engineering degree. Became vice-president of International Chemical Corp. of New York City, which operated mines in Florida. Later attained presidency of Potash Chemical Co., Carlsbad, N.M. Died while on business trip to Rapid City, S.D., April 27, 1943. Survived by wife, Ann, and two children, Barbara and Richard.

Charles Sturtevant – Was employed 20 years at Bradley Knitting Co. Served on Delavan Fire Department, 1899-1927,

responding to 750 fires calls. Married Ella Collins, 1909. Children: Charlotte (Brad) Liddle, David (Vicki) and Charles. Employed as custodian at Delavan Public School. Was an avid sports fan. Died March 22, 1968. Buried in Spring Grove Cemetery.

Roy Lowe – Graduated DHS, 1901. Operated furniture and undertaking business in Kewanee, Ill., for 14 years. Returned to Delavan and became purchasing agent at Bradley Knitting Co., later an accountant at Thomas B. Gibbs Co. President of Delavan School Board for 12 years. Married Ethel Hewes. Children: Laverne, who died in infancy, and Kathleen (Donald) Knight. Died April 18, 1950. Buried in Spring Grove Cemetery.

Delavan woman had adventuress life

Probably no woman in Delavan history led a more venturesome life than Mary Holland Madden. Her life was filled with harrowing experiences that would make an interesting movie script.

She spent most of her 48-year life span traveling with various circuses. During her

career under the big top, she survived an attack by outlaws in Texas, an ambush by ruffians in Mississippi, a steamboat sinking on the Ohio River, a devastating fire that claimed the life of 40 circus horses and several shooting incidents.

Mary Ann Holland was born in a Hamburg, German, hotel room on Feb. 20, 1847, to John and Honora Cottingham Holland, American circus equestrian-acrobats who were performing in Europe at the time. Her father displayed a U.S. flag outside the hotel room window, otherwise, he was told, the infant would be born a German national.

She was brought to Delavan when only six weeks old and spent her first two years on the family farm, located on Mound Road near County Trunk F. At an early age, she was taught Roman riding and acrobatics.

She was the eldest of six children in the family and made her circus debut in a family riding act, at age four, on the Mabie Brothers U.S. Olympic Circus, a Delavan based show. By age 10, Mary was an accomplished performer, traveling with the Holland-Mosher Circus, co-owned by her father, then spending two years on the Buckley North American Circus.

During the early part of the Civil War,



she traveled with the Holland-Madden Circus, owned by her father in partnership with George Madden. While traveling in the south, the circus company was nearly captured by Confederate troops.

At age 16, Mary married George Madden, her father's partner, who was 12 years her senior. Madden was a combination clown-magician, billed as, "The Funniest Clown in

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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DELAVAN MAYORS

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

incumbent Mayor Adolph Lagg and won a convincing 731-459 victory to become mayor at 47 years old. When the city administrator resigned during his first term, Chuck filled the role of interim city administrator. In December 1985, he resigned as Mayor to apply for the full-time position of city administrator. Peter F. Dantone, president of the city council, took over the duties as mayor for the duration of the term.

Performed accounting work for local firms, and resumed his Brunswick Management work out of his home office at 925 Racine St. Chuck and his wife Carol were members of the United Church of Christ in Delavan and his hobbies were golf, boating, and flying.

Peter F. Dantone 1986-94

Born Dec. 4, 1916, in South Beloit, Illinois. His parents moved to Clinton in 1924, taking occupancy of a 160-acre farm. Remained in South Beloit with an aunt to avert transferring to a new school but joined his parents on weekends and vacation periods to assist on the farm.

Graduated from South Beloit High School in 1936. Worked again on the family farm prior to obtaining a job at Beloit Fairbanks-Morse plant as an apprentice in the diesel development department.

Married Lucy Kitzman April 10, 1942, then enlisted in the U.S. Air Corps a few weeks later. Later transferred to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and served in various stateside posts during World War II.

Spent a number of years as an alderman in the city, and was named acting mayor Dec. 23, 1985, when Brunswick resigned to become an applicant for city administrator. He served the remainder of that term plus earned election in 1984, 1988 and 1992.

His wife, Lucy, died of cancer in 1989. A year later, he underwent quadruple bypass surgery.

As mayor, was involved in establishing Delavan's four major business-industrial parks.

Ronald Henriott 1994-2002

Born at Lakeland Hospital in Elkhorn Oct. 17, 1944. Ron was raised in Delavan

and graduated from Delavan-Darien High School with the Class of 1962.

Close friends and classmates with Gary Burghoff, who gained fame in his portrayal of Radar in the award-winning M*A*S*H TV series. Attended both UW-Whitewater, and UW-Milwaukee after high school. Returning to Delavan he was employed at Sta-Rite's dairy division and later became an inspector.

Between 1967-1977 he served as volunteer equipment manager of the Delavan Red Devils semi-pro football team. In 1976, he joined Swiss-Tech Inc. as a machinist. Prior to being elected to public office, had an interest in local government and started his service to the City of Delavan as a citizen appointment to the Delavan Park and Recreation Commission. In 1988 he ran unopposed for a District 2 Aldermanic seat, was elected to three terms as Alderman prior to being elected city mayor.

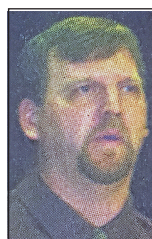
Ron also is in a rare group having served as mayor and coming back later to serve on the city council. In 2014, he was appointed first district city alderman and was re-elected for three terms serving until 2021. Ron continues to serve as a citizen appointment to the Delbrook Golf Commission, and Police and Fire Commission presently.

In 1968, Ron married Sandra Brewer, and together they have two grown children Kimberly, and David both D-DHS graduates and two grandchildren. Ron enjoys attending Badger and Packer football games, golf at Delbrook, and is often painting in his free-time signature city entrance welcome signs near the school for the deaf, Delbrook, the arboretum and other locations.

Mel Nieuwenhuis 2002-2020

Born in Elkhorn, Aug. 26, 1961. Graduated from Delavan Christian School in 1975, then from Delavan-Darien High School in 1979.

Married Peggy (Gifford) Nieuwenhuis in August of 1981. Seven children: Aaron (Kristin), Matthew, Jesse, Hannah (Noah), Sarah, Chloe (Steve) and Claudia (Ben).



Elected as the youngest mayor in City of Delavan history at 39 years old. Currently, the longest running mayor at 18 years.

The 2002 election was the closest in the city's history, winning by one vote. Followed by three recounts, eventually winning by four votes over future successor Ryan Schroeder.

Served on nearly all committees and commissions while in office, and also served as a city alderman from 1996-1998 and in 2001. Currently serves on the Delbrook Golf Commission, Delavan Christian School Board and the Briggs Road Evangelical Free Church board of trustees.

Hobbies include golfing, fishing, hunting, coin collecting and refurbishing vintage golf clubs.

Mayor Ryan J. Schroeder 2020-current

Schroeder, a 1992 graduate of Delavan-Darien High School, was born May 27, 1974, in Janesville.

Schroeder has earned a Bachelor of Science in administration and public policy from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.



Was elected third district alderman at the age of 24, becoming the youngest ever elected city official in Delavan's history. Served as city council president, vice-president and was elected to a total of 10 terms. Serving from 1999-2009, 2011-20 as third district alderman.

Elected mayor in 2020, and re-elected unopposed in 2022. Club president for both Delavan-Darien Kiwanis and Delavan Lions Club and serves on the Delavan Historical Society board as vice president. Also a board member to the Delavan Lake Chamber of Commerce, the Delavan Aram Public Library Foundation, and helps volunteer coach for the Delavan Comet youth football program. Ryan was recognized by Clean Wisconsin as their 2007 Local Elected Official of the Year for his hard work in leading Delavan to a cleaner, safer environment. Ryan also was a 2017 Honoree by the Delavan Downtown Business Association for his work to promote and help revitalize historic downtown Delavan.

Married Natalie Liner from Elkhorn on Sept. 13, 2014, and together they have two boys, Trenton and Christopher. Both attend the Delavan-Darien School District.

Interests are collecting political memorabilia, going to Green Bay Packers and Badger football games, golfing and taking vacation road trips with family.

DELAVAN WOMAN • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

the United World." Following her marriage, she added a Punch and Judy act to her repertoire. For the next 25 years, she and her husband traveled with several different shows, including the P.T. Barnum Circus in 1872.

In 1866, while with the Mike Lipman Circus, they were attacked by a band of ruffians in Winona, Mississippi. Two years later, while performing with the Haight-Chambers Circus in Fayetteville, Arkansas, they fought off an attack by a large guerrilla band and were escorted to Galveston by federal troops.

The next year, the Maddens joined the C.P. Ames Circus and, on opening day, the proprietor was shot and killed in Charleston, S.C. Traveling with the P.A. Older Circus in 1871, the Maddens' bad luck continued when the show lost 40 horses in a devastating fire in Reedsburg. A short time later, the Older Circus played Peshtigo, a few days prior to the catastrophic fire that wiped out that community the same day as the great Chicago fire.

The hex continued in 1885, when the Maddens were on tour with the Holland-McMahon Circus aboard the steamship

"Mountain Girl," on the Ohio River, when it collided with an ore boat and sank.

Leonora, the daughter of Mary and George Madden, married Joseph McMahon, co-owner of the Holland-McMahon Circus, which later gained a bad reputation for permitting grifters to travel with it. In 1894, the Holland-McMahon Circus was detained for 30 days in Minnesota, following complaints on its dishonest practices.

In 1895, while in Dallas, Texas, Mary was diagnosed with cancer, with an unfavorable prognosis. Her desire was to die in Delavan and she spent her final days in her brother's Delavan Home, 608 E. Walworth Ave.

Her death took place on Halloween, 1895. Her funeral was conducted at Christ Episcopal Church with burial in Spring Grove Cemetery.

She was survived by her husband, who died in 1897, and her son-in-law, Joseph McMahon, who was shot and killed in a shooting affray in Wichita, Kansas, on April 2, 1897. He is buried on the Madden lot in Spring Grove. Her daughter, Leonora, died in 1943 and is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Decatur, Illinois.

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