



DE PERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Pillars of the future,
built on the foundations of the past.

White Pillars Museum • 403 North Broadway • De Pere, WI 54115
Open Monday – Friday • Noon to 4:00 PM
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Volume 18

Issue 2

Spring 2006

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Construction began on the bridge we use today just over 74 years ago. It was built north of the old bridge shown on the left. The De Pere Journal-Democrat asked local clubs and organizations to make suggestions of an appropriate name for the new bridge. The Catholic Woman's club of De Pere proposed that the structure be named the Claude Allouez bridge, as a connecting link between the historical past and present. They also suggested that the memorial marker be given a suitable place upon the bridge. The marker still adorns the wall of the southeast end of the bridge, which was dedicated on July 2, 1933 with much fanfare.

IT HAPPENED IN DE PERE!

Anecdotal remembrances of long-time De Pere residents

1920's

Lloyd Pratsch was reminded at the last historic photo show of a story having to do with the picture that was shown of St. Boniface and Fourth street. At the time, there were still many horses using the De Pere streets, and there in the middle of the street sat what looked like a heap of horse apples.



According to Lloyd, back in the 1920s, the City of De Pere had two street sweepers. On the west side there was Frankie Keuken, who had originally been from Holland. He spoke rather slowly and in broken English.

On the east side, there was Pete Ticklebecker, also directly from Holland. He wore wooden shoes when he was sweeping the streets. Pete spoke very little English. He and his wife lived on the corner of George and Winnebago streets, and the house is still there.

Back in the '20s, very few De Pere streets were paved. Maybe George Street was, with just a single lane from Broadway to Webster. The side streets near uptown might have been paved for a block or two, but the rest were merely gravel.

Horse traffic was very common in those days, and, naturally, they left their calling cards wherever the mood struck them. Hence, the need for a clean up crew...hence, Frankie Keuken and Pete Ticklebecker - one on each side of the river. They each had a wide broom and a garbage can contraption with wheels, and they spent each day sweeping the paved streets and dumping the sweepings into their garbage cans.

Well, as the story goes, one fine day, some city-slicking traveling salesman came to town and seemed to be lost. He came in on 41, on the west side, and wondered where he was. Therefore, seeing Frankie sweeping the street, he stopped and asked, "Say, you, what's the name of this one-horse town?" and Frankie stopped sweeping for a minute, slowly looked up and replied "you wouldn't say that if you had my job, mister!"

If you have a remembrance that you would like to share, call Lynn Lee at 920-337-1954 or e-mail lleedepere@aol.com.

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Thank you for your support and contributions to the De Pere Historical Society and White Pillars Museum!

EARLY DE PERE NEWS

Brown County Democrat
May 7, 1896

Obituary - Last week there was joy at the home of Anton Hinkens on the Dickinson Road, east of the city, on account of the birth of a daughter; this week there is sorrow and deep sorrow, for the Angel of Death entered and took away the beloved and loving wife and mother. Mrs. Hinkens died Tuesday at midnight after a few days illness with pneumonia.

Mary Williamsen, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Williamsen, was born Feb. 20, 1863, being a little over 33 years of age. Ten years ago, last fall she was married to Antone Hinkens, who is now left to mourn her untimely demise with four children, the eldest of whom is about 7 years and the youngest but 9 days of age. As the husband is inconsolable over the loss he has suffered, the blow is an equally hard one to her parents, brothers, sisters and other relatives, all of whom have the sympathy of the entire community in this dark hour of their affliction. The funeral will be held from St. Mary's Church tomorrow forenoon at 10 o'clock.

Brown County Democrat
December 12, 1889

Died - Sunday morning, Dec. 8, Mrs. Julia Thatcher, wife of Elisha Buck, aged 94 years, 2 months and 4 days. Mrs. Buck was born in Windsor, Vt., on Oct. 4, 1795, and lived in Windsor County, Vt., until the summer of 1855 when she and her husband moved to De Pere and resided ever since with her daughter Mrs. G. S. Marsh. Her husband died in 1873. The funeral was held Tuesday at 2 o'clock p.m. and the remains were interred in a beautiful spot on Greenwood cemetery. Mrs. Buck was always known as a good, upright, and kindhearted woman.

Brown County Democrat
April 20, 1906

Golden Wedding - Today, April 20, marks the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Woodward of the west side, they having been united in the bonds of wedlock at Aurora, Ill., by the Rev. Charles Button on April 26, 1856. The happy event will be duly celebrated this evening at the home of their granddaughter, Mrs. William Bakken, a number of invitations to relatives and friends having been issued.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodward came to De Pere in 1873, and have resided here ever since, Mr. Woodward following his trade of painter, in addition to which he has been poor commissioner since the spring of 1905. The groom of 50 years ago is 73, his life partner for half a century 67; they are a well-preserved couple and bid fair to live to celebrate many recurrences of their nuptial anniversary. They have one son, Fred Woodward, formerly of this city, now in Alabama, and five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Mr. Woodward is a veteran of the Civil war and many comrades will no doubt attend to-night's golden wedding.



Henry Hermes and Bernadine Manwering were married on September 26, 1911 at St. Boniface Church. They were attended by Alex Hermes, brother of the groom and Miss Mamie Hermes, a cousin of the groom.

Acquisitions from the Historical Photo Presentations

Ed Scray and Elizabeth Hermesen on a motorcycle



Robert Dickinson,
Anna Anderson-
Dickinson, Maud
Dickinson Van Sistine,
Raymond Dickinson,
Nettie Dickinson-
Arent

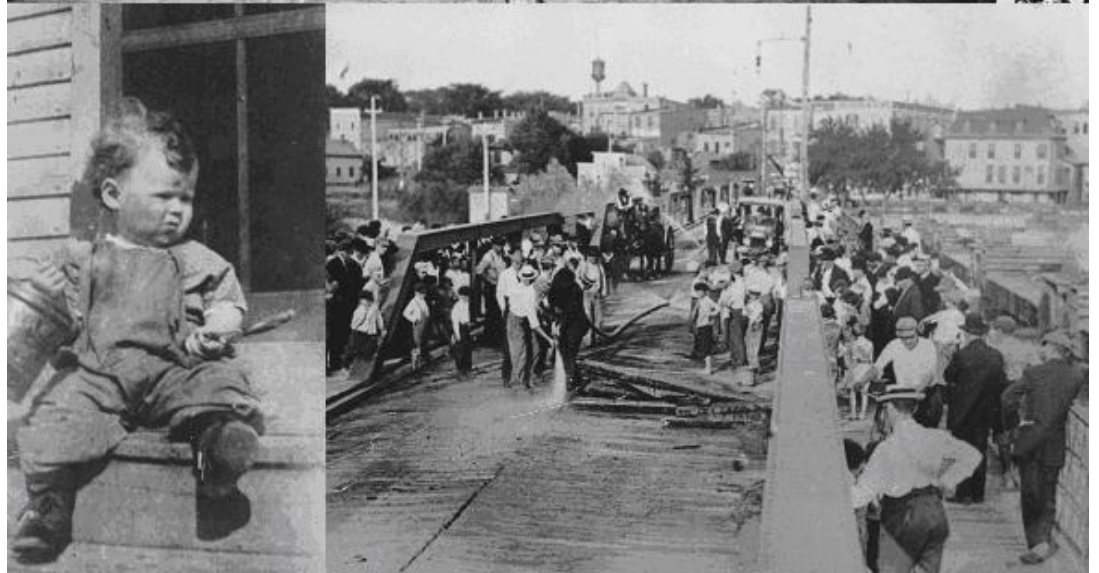


The inside of
Broadway Garage,
when it was on
Broadway in De Pere



Unknown little painter

Putting out a fire and
making repairs on the
wooden bridge that
was replaced in 1933.



May is National Historic Preservation Month!

Sustain America-Vision, Economics, and Preservation is the theme of National Preservation Month 2006. Thousands of state and local community groups will honor their distinct histories through various activities and bring historic preservation to the forefront of Americans' daily lives by emphasizing the vital importance of protecting our nation's past.

De Pere offers the following world premiere:

Films of old De Pere from the 20's and 30's



In the 1920's and 30's, De Pere photographer Roy Hannon filmed some of De Pere's people, residences and businesses. Please join us for a truly unique event and a glimpse at De Pere of yesteryear.

First public showing - Saturday, May 6, 2006

De Pere Cinema Cafe
417 George St.

Showings at 10:00 A. M., 11:00 AM and Noon

\$3 per person / Profits to benefit the De Pere Historical society



De Pere Historical Society
403 N. Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
(920) 336-3877

Membership Application Form

If you would like to join the De Pere Historical Society, forgot to renew your membership, or would like to send a friend a gift membership, use this form. All members will receive the newsletters regarding families and events in De Pere history and Historical Society news.

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Membership Expires: December 31, 2006.