



The AKEY BrAKEY News

now a tri - annual newsletter from the Richland County Historical Society

October, 2022 Volume #14 – Issue # 3 – promoting and supporting the History of Richland County and Southwestern Wisconsin

Bertha M. Reynolds

Local Physician

By Emeritus Professor Jerry Bower

March 2009

The Reynolds family moved from Quebec, Canada, to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1865, the last year of the Civil War and the year of President Lincoln’s assassination. The Reynolds were farmers and they were attracted to Wisconsin by the availability of good farm land for \$1.25 an acre. They farmed near Thiensville, Ozaukee County, until 1892.

Bertha was born into a large family in 1868. We do not have any details of her childhood and how she secured an education. The Reynolds moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1892, again attracted by inexpensive farmland in the West. Here their main crop would be wheat.

At that time, Bertha was twenty-four years old and had graduated high school. She was consistently an excellent student. And of course she had learned to work hard on the family farm. Bertha trained to be a teacher in the Lincoln Normal School. After receiving her certificate, Bertha taught a few months in a rural, one-room school.

Along the way Bertha had discovered that she was not really satisfied with teaching. Her main desire was to become a medical doctor. Bertha had always excelled in the science courses she took. That was one factor in her belief that she could master all the coursework required to become an MD. Another factor is most interesting. The Reynolds family had nine doctors among Bertha’s many brothers and cousins! Of course, all of them were male. Bertha would encounter a good deal of gender discrimination as she worked toward her degree. In those days a female doctor was a rarity.

Bertha encountered discrimination in the very first inquiry she made about enrolling in a medical school. One of her cousins, Dr. Walter Nielsen, was the first dean of the newly chartered Marquette Medical School in Milwaukee. When she talked to him, Dr. Nielsen discouraged Bertha, saying “Medicine is not an appropriate career for a woman.” Bertha did not enroll in Marquette.

Instead, she enrolled in the University of Nebraska and earned an undergraduate degree, with an emphasis on science. When Bertha sought to enroll in the University of Nebraska Medical School, she again encountered advice that medicine was not a career for a “lady.” Undaunted, Bertha continued to apply for admission to a medical school. She finally succeeded in 1898, when she entered the Woman’s Hospital Medical College of Chicago. Studying diligently, Bertha completed her studies in 1901. Her first employment was at a sanitarium in Prairie du Chien.

Bertha did not remain long in Prairie du Chien. She soon moved to Lone Rock, where she would work as an MD for over fifty years! In Lone Rock, Bertha joined her brother, Dr. Nelson Reynolds, in his practice. In 1904 Dr. Nelson moved to Milwaukee, where he joined a large practice. So, Bertha became Lone Rock’s only physician.

Continued on Page 7



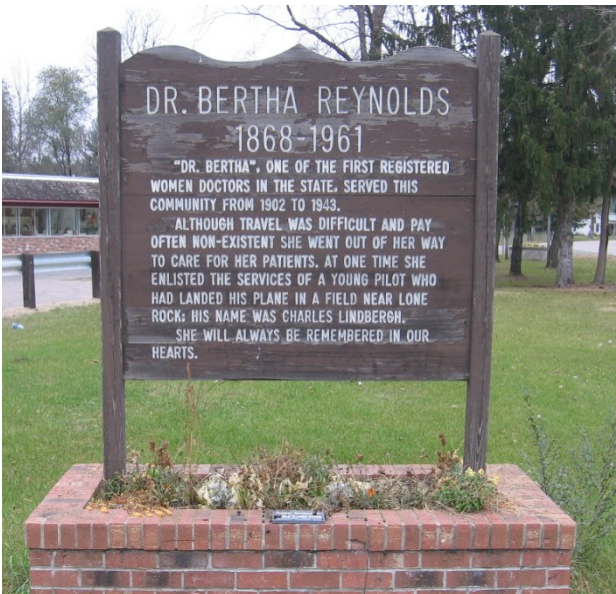
There are very few details available about Dr. Bertha's practice. During the days we are reading about, doctors made house calls to treat patients. At first Bertha traveled by horse and buggy to make house calls. She hired men to drive her rig. She liked to have a man available in case some male muscle was necessary in her treatment. In a few years Bertha purchased one of Henry Ford's Model Ts. She had local boy teenagers drive the car, which made her very popular with the teens. There were plenty of volunteers for this duty! The early autos did not have power steering and the roads often were no more than a set of ruts across the landscape. It took strength to drive a Model T.

Occasionally, Dr. Reynolds was ferried to a patient by airplane. The most famous episode happened in 1923, when the Wisconsin River was filled with huge, boat-crushing ice floes. When Bertha was called to an emergency across the Wisconsin River, she went to the airport to see

if a ride was available. She found a young pilot refueling his airplane. Bertha prevailed upon him to take her to the emergency. That's how Dr. Bertha met Charles Lindbergh.

In 1940, when she was seventy-two, Bertha decided to retire. Her plan was to move across the Wisconsin River to Avoca, where she had purchased a home. It was a very short retirement. In December 1941 the Japanese attacked the United States naval fleet at Pearl Harbor. This brought the USA swiftly into World War Two. In a few months, the doctor who had succeeded Bertha decided to join the Military Medical Corps. So, Bertha came out of retirement to work until 1953.

Dr. Bertha Reynolds died on October 31, 1961, at age ninety-three. She is buried in the cemetery of the Little Brown Church in Bear Valley. Bertha's obituary described a few of the highlights of her career. Dr. Reynolds had delivered hundreds of babies. Sometimes she brought an elderly patient into her home to care for them until they could safely return to their home. Dr. Reynolds worked forty hours straight in 1914, following a tornado that leveled most of Lone Rock and cut a wide swath of damage through the countryside.



She worked similar hours during the worst of the 1918 flu epidemic. Only the Covid-19 pandemic has equaled that medical emergency in terms of how many people were infected and in terms of the pressure placed on health care staff to take care of all the patients. Bertha served many years on the Richland County Children's Board with Ada James, another of Richland County's outstanding women.

After her death, Dr. Bertha Reynolds was honored by UW-Madison and the village of Lone Rock. UW-Madison awarded her a Distinguished Service Award in honor of her long career. The Village Council named a park and a street in her honor. The park has since been renamed but the street is still in use.

Check out our website for the past issues of the AKEY BraKEY News and "HISTORY MOMENTS" aired on WRCO Radio

→ www.richlandcountyhistoricalsociety.weebly.com

A Warm WELCOME to those with NEW Memberships to the RICHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY for 2022. * a Lifetime membership # additional donation

Tyler Wilkinson

* Dan Biba

Nancy Cox

LaVerne & Mary Miller

Lyle & Mary Rognholt

#Patty Pulvermacher

* Randy Olson

Norm Sandmire #

JoAnn Otto #

Marjorie Bisco

* Steve Williamson

Also a sincere THANK YOU to all those that continue to RE - new their memberships as well as those with their LIFETIME memberships. - 0 - 0 - 0 -

What was the view like across from the AKEY School Museum

Well You can travel south on County TB from Twin Bluffs and on the very corner that these

horses are pulling the wagon with the dog in the road behind this is a sketch of what the Lemuel Akey Farm house looked like. The home is still located there today.

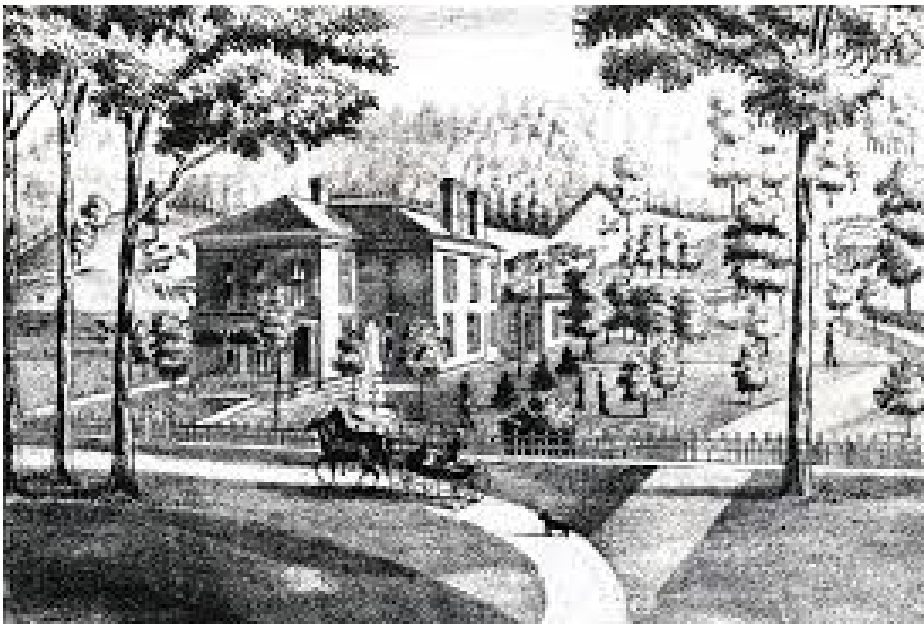
In 1899 the Akeys moved to a home located at 420 North Park Street in Richland

Center.

Here, both Mary and Lemuel passed away:

she on June 18, 1901

and he on March 25, 1913.



<https://ci.richland-center.wi.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Lemuel-Akey-Farmstead.pdf>

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Ken Thiede

As we close out 2022 the Historical Society has had a great summer and the History Moments have continued to be positive segments. Our Thanks is extended to Ron & Beth Fruit who have sold the station YET notably for their significant support of the Historical Society, the Akey Museum and our goal of promoting the history of Richland County.

To ALL members a 'historically positive' 2023 !

Check out our website for recent changes and upgrades with the link to WRCO Broadcasts that has MP3 excerpts from previous 'History Moments'. History Moments are broadcast on WRCO 100.9 FM

on Thursdays and Sundays with the Noon News.

NOTE for Packer game Sunday's News is at 8 a.m.

Richland County Historical Society Board

- Ken Thiede - President**
- Nick Studnicka - Vice-pres.**
- Jay Buchanan- Mueller - Secretary**
- Paul Wiertzema - Treasurer**
- Directors -- Rob Bender**
- Jerry Bower**
- Keith Reutten**
- Barb Cody as Webmaster**



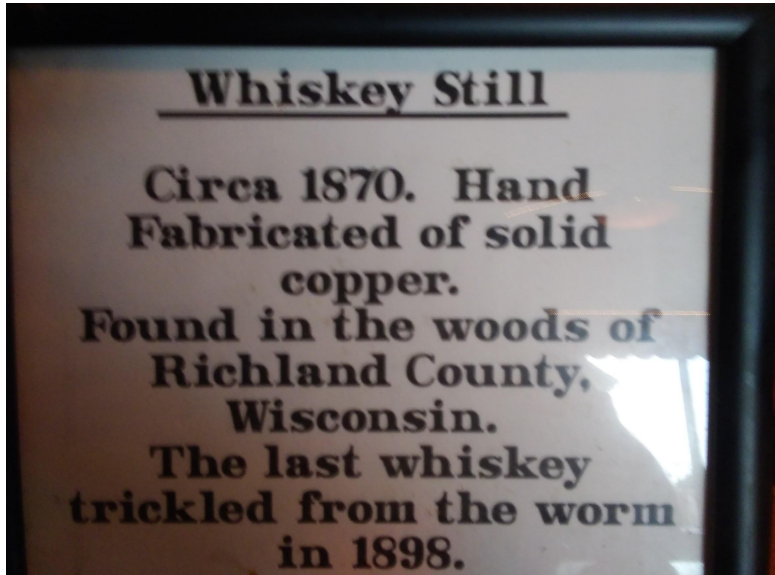
**located on
County TB
The Akey Museum**

A Special THANK YOU to WRCO Radio for having the weekly 'History Moments' as is our mission to "Promote Richland County History". You can hear those excerpts being aired during the 'News at Noon' on Thursdays & Sundays on 100.9 FM and also on the morning 8:00 news on both AM 1450 & FM 107.7

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT ...

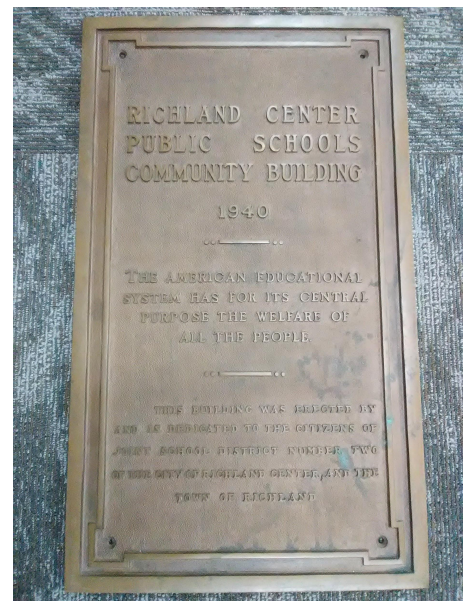
"A DAY TRIPPER" – Travel to the Grumpy Troll Brew Pub in Mt. Horeb

Located above the bar is this framed sign and the actual Whiskey Still

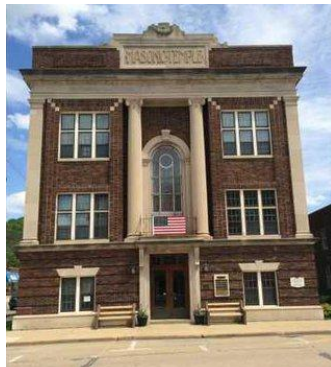


An addition at the Akey School Museum if You were to have stopped this summer was the 1910 Richland Center High School Desk preserved by long time member Carletta Heide as posthumously we have provided recognition in appreciation for her efforts.

Also preserved from the Old RCHS is this plaque that appears in the entry way to the gymnasium now in the New School in possession of Mr. Aaron Dettman serving as curator.



Masonic Temple Reflections on its past *By Victoria Fritz*



Portions of this article were featured on WRCO Radio for the 'History Moments' segment aired the last week in July, 2022

The Richland Center Masonic Temple, recently known as Blue Highways, as it appears today.

Published: Jun 24, 2015, 12:02 PM

Located on the corner of Central Ave and Mill St

<https://content.mpl.org/digital/collection/rchr/id/1384/>

Like a spouse you take for granted, a historical building can go unnoticed for decades. Until it's time to say goodbye.

Well, not exactly goodbye. The Masonic Temple on Church and Mill Streets is undergoing yet another transformation, a point at which to ponder the past.

Nearly a hundred years old now, this handsome building once housed an organization of men who espoused an enlightened way of thinking.

Completed in mid-1922, its arrival on the scene was announced by The Richland Democrat (precursor of The Richland Observer) in January of that year, publishing a photograph of the Masonic Temple with this headline:

Richland Center's New Masonic Temple Nearly Completed at a cost of \$55,000

A week later, The Republican Observer (also a precursor of today's Observer, as both The Richland Democrat and The Republican Observer merged in 1962), also published the photo, with the following caption:

"...The first floor will house the bowling alleys, the billiard and card rooms, baths and heating plant. On the second floor will be the dining room, dance hall and kitchen. The third floor will be given over to the lodge rooms..."

The inauguration in July was a dazzling affair, this time reported in the more widely circulated Wisconsin State Journal. Its July 16th Sunday edition published an article headlined "Richland Center Masons' New Temple". It began, "Several thousand Masons from all parts of the state, accompanied by bands, attended the dedication ceremonies of Richland Center's new Masonic temple, Friday... [at a cost of] \$70,000... The building is three stories high, of Ionic architecture ... The dedication was observed by a parade of 1,000 Masons..."

Light and color certainly marked the arrival of this esteemed structure, in contrast to the shroud of secrecy surrounding the rites and rituals of the Knights Templar.

In order to lift this shroud in part and get a peek into the Freemasons world, I borrowed a page from the book written by Malcolm Duncan in 1866, called "Duncan's Masonic Ritual and Monitor". The third section refers to the initiation of a candidate to the First Degree of Masonry.

Seven Freemasons, consisting of "six Entered Apprentices and one Master Mason...is the requisite number to constitute a Lodge of Masons, and to initiate a candidate...They assemble in a room well guarded from all cowans and eaves-droppers, in the second or third story..." which in turn explains why the Richland Center Masonic Temple had recreational and dining facilities on the first and second floors, and all the lodges only on the third floor.

1- This is the seventh installment of an insert page for the AKEY BrAKEY newsletter with a Special Thanks for this OCTOBER issue to Dion Kempthorne who has provided his recollection of the 1962 Badger football season as well as to those from previous issues; to Jean Birkett in the January issue and Mike McNair in the April issue as well as all of those that have provided materials for past inserts.

We are seeking more materials for future inserts. If You have pictures and/or stories that You'd be willing to share Please do get in touch with RCHS President Ken Thiede or mail contact information to:

213 S. Central AVE Apt.#1

Richland Center, WI 53581

% Richland County Historical Society

We would welcome pictures and stories which would be great; even better letters & memorabilia that provide a historical look into our past.

Badger born and bred, Dion Kempthorne was a linebacker on the 1963 Wisconsin Rose Bowl team.

He earned a PhD in English from UW-Madison, and then taught English in the UW Colleges and served as CEO/Dean at UW-Richland.

Now a professor emeritus, Kempthorne lives in the woods in Richland County and spends his days reading and writing and hiking and cutting firewood. His poems have appeared in Mature Years, Verbatim, Verse Wisconsin, Wisconsin People & Ideas, and the Wisconsin Poets' Calendar, among other places. In addition to writing poetry, Kempthorne is at work on essays on Emerson and Thoreau and on a memoir that explores the personal benefits of reading and writing poetry.



<https://www.wisconsinacademy.org/contributor/dion-kempthorne>

The following is re-typed in its entirety from a decade ago ... although even more relevant today now 60 years celebrating the 1962 Badger football season and historic 1963 Rose Bowl game

Guest Essay for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel – 2

Saturday, November 17, 2012 section 5C

Fifty years ago this fall, at the Northwestern game, members of the legendary 1912 Wisconsin Badgers football team were introduced. Then a player on the '62, as I watched those old-timers file onto the field, I couldn't believe such scrawny old guys had ever played Big Ten football.

This fall the famous '62 team will be remembered. Now, yet another 50 years later, with linemen another 100 pounds heavier, we are the scrawny old guys.

I was raised in tiny Rewey, just a few miles from Lancaster, where 1942 Badger all-American Dave Schreiner grew up. With his death in combat on Okinawa still vivid in our minds, we kids on autumn Saturdays put the radio in the window to listen to the Badgers game and re-enacted Alan Ameche's amazing runs in our no-holds-barred game of backyard football.

To me, when I went from 10 to 20, with Rose Bowls in '53, '60, and '63, will always be the heyday of Wisconsin football.

My boyhood dream was to grow up to play for the Badgers. So after playing high school football in Dubuque, I was thrilled to get a scholarship to play at Wisconsin. In my Freshman year I met Elroy Hirsch, my idol from the 1942 Badgers and Los Angeles Rams, and that spring I found myself on a stage with John Kennedy while he was campaigning in Madison. Those were happy days for a boy from Rewey.

Before I knew it I was a starting guard and linebacker on the 1962 Big Ten Champion — 1963 Rose Bowl team.



vintage 1962 bobblehead



3 – Pat Richter, our All-American end – and 30 years later the athletic director who revived a moribund football program – was my real life Dave Schreiner. The past was present and the future was bright.

Now everyone on the 1912 team is dead, and members of the '62 team are dying faster every year.

The Camp Randall scene has changed: our practice fields have



become parking lots, the sacred ground in the stadium has become artificial turf, the skyline has been diminished by exclusive big-donor suites, an immense upper-deck and press box, glitzy Time Square

scoreboards and Big Brother replay screens.

Single-game tickets have soared from \$5 to \$50.

I know college football has become a big business, but it still sets me off to hear university officials call the team "a good product," just as it put Churchill on the ceiling when anyone referred to his soldiers as bodies

Football is more extravagantly funded and staffed than we could ever have imagined. Personalized trainers, position coaches and improved fitness machines help players polish their skills, and through the years, player specialization and rule changes have made the game less punishing to play.

Back in the day, because of strict substitution rules, we trained to play both defense and offense, and some of us routinely played both ways, sometimes the full 60 minutes. What a breeze it would have been to play only offense or defense. While today's specialized players get good at their positions, one has to wonder, say, with turnovers, when you see

that offensive players can't tackle and defensive players can't block, whether specialization hasn't harmed the overall quality of the game. – 4

Sit with an offensive lineman from the '60's and he'll tell you that by the old rules today's linemen would be called for holding, not now and then, but on every play. And tackling then, before spearing was outlawed, back when we were amused by our own concussions, was an even more deadly activity. Head to head, helmet-splitting bell-ringing hits were celebrated. I was pleased when a sportswriter called me a "head hunter".



These days, while watching games, I unfairly compare today's players to my teammates, always favoring my old pals, often saying to my football-deaf wife such things as, Pat Richter would have caught that pass, Ken Bowman would have made that block, Steve Underwood would never have missed that tackle. Perhaps the best thing about looking back at your glory days is seeing how much better you get every year.

The game today is less about the game than it used to be, as if the game alone is no longer enough to please our entertain-me-or-else culture. With zany commercialism and astonishing new technology, the autumn solemnity of Camp Randall in 1962, the steely do-or-die intensity of the game, with men in fedoras and ties and top coats, with women in heels and dresses and furs, has morphed into a raucous spectacle of blaring rock music and garish sideshows. While the student section chants profanities, fans in every manner of red-and-white wannabe garb play their own disruptive games of Wave and Jump Around, hoping to become two-second celebrities on the big screen.

5 – How many people even watch the game in what is now oddly called real time?

In 1962, before instant replays and DVRs, you had to pay attention: You watched the game or you missed it.

Today, even the players seem less in the game, and more into their celebrity. We would have been benched immediately if, like some of today's players, we had danced around high-fiving after catching a pass or making a tackle, like spectators watching ourselves on the replay screen. We weren't cheerleaders. We weren't allowed to make the big deal out of doing what we were expected to do. Television has done tons to change not only the conduct of fans and players, but also the tempo and meaning of the game itself. It's hard to say whether television clarifies or obscures the game, covers or smothers it. Those of us who remember when a game always started at one o'clock don't like waiting to see what the networks decide. Relentless commercials seem like continual delay of game infractions. As a former player of a faster game, I find the effect on players painful to watch. I wonder what our head coach, Milt Bruhn, a bear of a man aptly named, would say about this. He hated distractions and delays, anything that caused us to screw up or "mill around like cattle." Impatient and devoid of irony, he would yell, "What the hell do you think this is, a game?"

On the other hand, we have television to thank for making football so wildly popular it's worth pausing to remember what a gift it was to fans who only 50 years ago would never have seen a game in person. The excitement of the '63 Rose Bowl game, which we lost to No. 1 Southern Cal in a nail-biting, heartbreaking 42-37 comeback, captivated the nation as millions who were neither Badgers nor Trojans fans watched it on television. This game was one of the first great shared experiences of television entertainment. Television was catching on big time and football with it.



Think of it. To be able to see – 6 the Rose Bowl game. In the inexpensive comfort of your own living room. Hence we now have the proliferation of holiday bowl games, not the three or four top games, but a host of games between mediocre teams scrambling for national attention and television dollars. How many of those games would we watch if we had to pay to see them, if we had to be there?

Being there. Just like being there, even better than being there, we television watchers started to say, which, of course, wasn't true. It's not at all like being there; it's almost the opposite, like something else entirely, in the way CNN hurricanes aren't hurricanes, the way iPhone sunsets aren't sunsets, the way football players on the screen are not actual size. In 1962 football was direct, immediate, bruising, and beautiful to us players, with real mud and blood and grass stains. It was not yet a chance to star in Big Ten Network highlights, and not quite yet a ticket to ride in the NFL.

What it was, and still is, was a powerful blend of war and religion, a blood sport of body and soul, of sacrifice and salvation, of putting your body on the line. It was not, and still is not, for the fainthearted, which is why our enthusiasm for it never wanes. As if we have created our own unique religion, stadiums and taverns across the land have become secular cathedrals and chapels bursting with passionate believers. Even our obituaries, which once featured our church affiliation, now declare that we were loyal fans of the Badgers or the Green Bay Packers. Really, what right-minded God would keep an avid football fan from entering the gates of heaven?



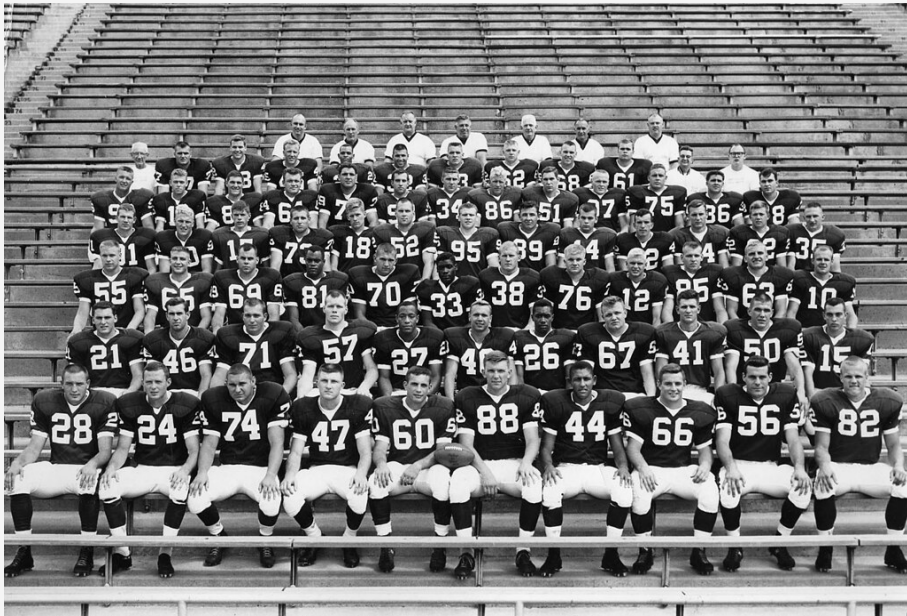
Call it what you will – desire, determination, life, liberty, the pursuit of beating Ohio State – whatever drives it, that young thing that moves young men to physical sacrifice and spiritual heights awakens in all of us a spirit that transcends gender and age.

7 – It is this spirit that still makes me check my chinstrap when the band plays “On Wisconsin!” that chokes me up when 80,000 fans stand and sing “Varsity” that makes me tremble to see how fleeting our lives are.

People wonder, could Richter and Ron VanderKelen play today? Could Ameche? Hirsch and Schreiner? How about Eddie Gillette, the quarterback of the 1912 team, our only undefeated team in a hundred years?

You might as well ask if Fred Astaire could dance today, or could Shakespeare write, as if dancing’s about new shoes and camera angles, as if writing is about quills and computers.

Could all those countless players whose names have faded from the sports page and memory, those players from 50 years ago, from 100 years ago, play today? Are you kidding? “Don’t you see”? They are playing today. They are magnificent. Perhaps our best team ever.



www.americanfootballdatabase.fandom.com/wiki/1962_Wisconsin_Badgers_football_team

The 1962 Wisconsin Badgers football team represented the University of Wisconsin in the 1962 college football season. Wisconsin was the Big Ten Conference champion and ended the season with a #2 ranking in both the AP and UPI polls (UPI is now known as the Coaches' poll), which remains the highest season-ending ranking in these polls in program school history (since the inception of these polls in 1936 and in 1958, respectively). # 2 Wisconsin played the #1 USC Trojans in the historic 1963 Rose Bowl, the first bowl game in college football history to pair the #1 and #2 teams in the nation.

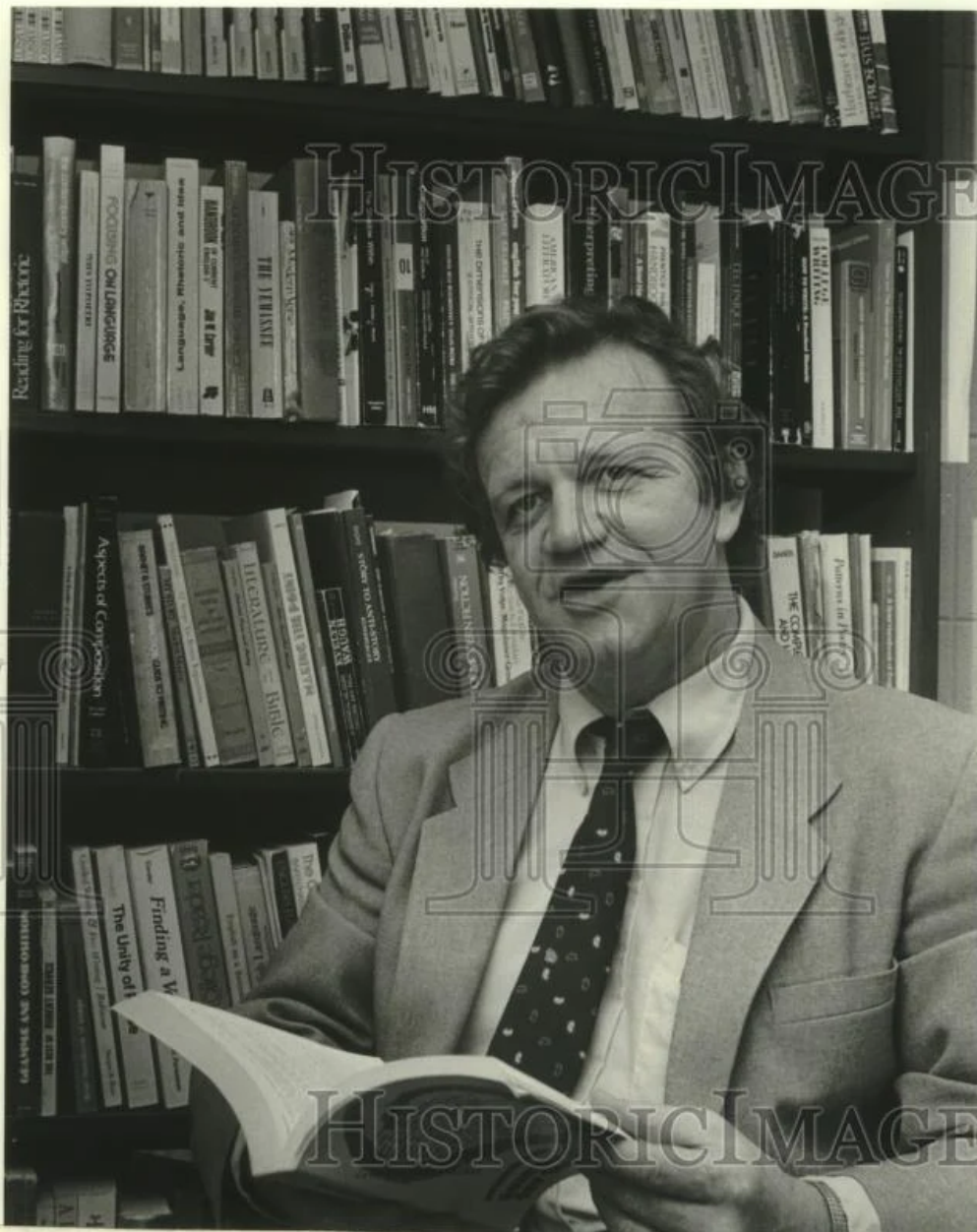
G	Date	School	Opponent	Con	Pts	Opp	Note	
1	Sep 29, 1962	Wisconsin	New Mexico State	Ind	W	69	13	
2	Oct 6, 1962	Wisconsin	Indiana	Big Ten	W	30	6	
3	Oct 13, 1962	Wisconsin	Notre Dame	Ind	W	17	8	
4	Oct 20, 1962	(10) Wisconsin	Iowa	Big Ten	W	42	14	
5	Oct 27, 1962	(5) Wisconsin	@Ohio State	Big Ten	L	7	14	
6	Nov 3, 1962	Wisconsin	@Michigan	Big Ten	W	34	12	
7	Nov 10, 1962	(8) Wisconsin	(1) Northwestern	Big Ten	W	37	6	
8	Nov 17, 1962	(4) Wisconsin	@Illinois	Big Ten	W	35	6	
9	Nov 24, 1962	(3) Wisconsin	(5) Minnesota	Big Ten	W	14	9	
10	Jan 1, 1963	(2) Wisconsin	@(1) USC		L	37	42	The Rose Bowl

www.sports-reference.com/cfb/schools/wisconsin/1962-schedule.html

During his years at Dubuque Senior High School, Dion lettered in football, wrestling, and baseball. He made his greatest athletic impact, however, on the football field. When asked to describe his greatest moment in sports, the future doctorate in literature wrote, "The emotional charge of lining up for the kickoff with close friends under the lights for Friday night football games." Dion attended the University of Wisconsin on a full football athletic scholarship. At Wisconsin he was a starting "two-way player" at guard and linebacker his junior and senior seasons. In 1962, he led Wisconsin to the Big Ten Championship and The Rose Bowl to battle against Southern Cal for the National Championship. He was awarded All-Big Ten Honorable Mention that year. He earned Bachelor of Science, Master of Science and his Doctorate in English degrees from Wisconsin.

<http://www.showcaseiowaschools.org/DubuqueSenior/Event/4184/Index>

Player ROSTER	Pos	Summary
Ron Vander Kelen*	QB	124 Cmp, 216 Att, 1582 Yds, 14 TD
Hal Brandt	QB	18 Cmp, 36 Att, 228 Yds, 2 TD
Lou Holland*	RB	49 Att, 273 Yds, 5.6 Avg
Ralph Kurek*	RB	67 Att, 367 Yds, 5.5 Avg
Bill Smith*	RB	18 Att, 79 Yds, 4.4 Avg
Ron Smith	RB	50 Att, 177 Yds, 3.5 Avg
Carl Silvestri	RB	39 Att, 243 Yds, 6.2 Avg
Merritt Norvell	RB	39 Att, 168 Yds, 4.3 Avg
Gary Kroner	RB	23 Att, 95 Yds, 4.1 Avg
Jim Purnell	RB	10 Att, 50 Yds, 5.0 Avg
Jim Nettles	RB	6 Att, -3 Yds, -0.5 Avg
Pat Richter*	WR	49 Rec, 694 Yds, 14.2 Avg
Ron Carlson*	WR	4 Rec, 59 Yds, 14.8 Avg
Larry Howard	WR	5 Rec, 76 Yds, 15.2 Avg
Elmars Ezerins	WR	3 Rec, 53 Yds, 17.7 Avg
Ralph Farmer	WR	3 Rec, 36 Yds, 12.0 Avg
Ron Leafblad	WR	3 Rec, 43 Yds, 14.3 Avg John Fabry P
Ken Bowman*	OL	Steve Underwood* OL Mike Gross OL
Dion Kempthorne*	OL	Andy Wojdula* OL Joe Heckl OL
Roger Pillath*	OL	Lee Bernet OL Roger Jacobazzi OL



(MT3) WEST BEND, WIS., Nov. 19--REMEMBERS ROSE BOWL--Dion Kempthorne, now an English professor at the University of Wisconsin-Washington County Center, was known as "The Headhunter" when he played on the 1962 Wisconsin football team that went to the Rose Bowl. Players from that squad are to appear at halftime of Saturday's Badger game with Minnesota. (AP Laserphete)
(jae6200mbr-jnl) 1982. Slug: Rose Bowl Reunion.

The rituals may have been obscured from view, leaving most people in the dark about the goings-on within lodges. Yet the movement itself was a beacon of light. In Dan Brown's book, "The Da Vinci Code", the brotherhood was referred to as the Illuminati, or enlightened ones.

A work of fiction, one might protest. Possibly in response, an article in usnews.com back in 2009 explored Freemasonry's impact on America, describing it as "richer and more significant than anything that entertainment or speculation would hold ... the first organization to espouse religious toleration and liberty.

The most famous Freemason in America, George Washington, himself espoused these ideals. He said, "It is now no more that toleration is spoken of as if it was the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights. For happily, the government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens..."

According to the website of the Masonic Service Association of North America, "during the late 1700s it was one of the organizations most responsible for spreading the ideals of the Enlightenment: the dignity of man and the liberty of the individual, the right of all persons to worship as they choose, the formations of democratic governments, and the importance of public education. During the late 1800s and 1900s, Freemasonry grew dramatically.. [when] the government had provided no social 'safety net". The Masonic tradition of founding orphanages, homes for widows, and homes for the aged provided the only security many people knew."

Turning "Blue"

Few Richland Center residents today know what this proud building once stood for, especially since it changed hands in the mid-1990s. Finding the place too big for their purposes, the Masons sold the building to three couples: the Lawrences, the Hendrickses and the Rewalds, who then offered the second floor as a banquet and events hall.

Many a happy event and concert did happen in what was recently known as Blue Highways, and that is what many of current area residents remember. Some used it for their wedding receptions and, every first Friday of the month, people could rely on an evening of good music and a hearty meal during Treasures Music night, thanks to Margie Ide.

Residing at the Temple

Today, upon entering the main doors of the Masonic Temple, you will still see the Masonic emblem painted on the wall by the ground floor staircase (and duplicated on the second floor staircase). This organizational coat-of-arms encompasses the "single most identifiable symbol of Freemasonry", according to ancient-symbols.com. The architects' or draftsmen's tools are used to impart symbolic lessons in conduct. The Masons are directed to "square their actions by the square of their virtue" and to "circumscribe their desires and keep their passions within due bounds toward all mankind."

This writer leafed over photos and articles about the temple at the Brewer Library's Richland County History Room. One picture depicts the main lodge, circa 1930s. In front is a platform with a wooden panel behind and a sort of balcony overhead. On the platform were three chairs, from which the Master Mason and his two assistants would preside over the proceedings. When I went to take a look in late May, this platform could still be seen in its original location, sans the chairs.

Perhaps not for long. The new owners, Ed and Dixie Wynhoff, plan to transform the second and third floors into apartments, pending permits and the subsequent construction work. The apartments will certainly be located in one elegant edifice. Even classier are the ideals of Freemasonry, let us not forget.

The people of this town will come and go. Even this building will one day go. But it once stood for religious tolerance, the dignity of man and individual freedom, ideals as relevant today as they were in our history, and held by Masons George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, who were beacons of light.

wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Image/IM148674



WHERE in Richland County is **Byrd's Creek** located?

From the popular "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?" there are locations in Richland County that many are not aware of and only some have heard of. This ongoing series will highlight some spots of interest while covering the History of Richland County.



Located along State Hwy 60 approximately two miles east of Port Andrews You'll travel thru Byrd's Creek. On this vintage map, listed below left, You can find **"Byrds Cr."** in the SW corner of Richland County to the south of Tavera and northwest of Westport.



DO YOU REMBER WHEN ?



circa 1984 Richland County digital history

**Rules for Teacher
1872**

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys.
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and scuttle of coal for the day's session.
3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
4. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
5. After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.
6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
7. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.
8. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give a good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.
9. The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

IS A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING

**PROMOTE
AND
SUPPORT
RICHLAND
COUNTY
HISTORY**



www.richlandcountyhistoricalsociety.weebly.com



... Would you → pass this newsletter on to a FRIEND?

Please renew your membership annually by July 1st—consider the following options:

- _____ \$10 for individual / family membership
- _____ \$20 for a business to support the historical society
- _____ additional DONATION to support the historical society
- _____ \$100 for a LIFETIME individual / family membership



Donations are always WELCOME

HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Member Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Mail registration to:

C/o Richland County Historical Society
213 S Central AVE Apt.#1
Richland Center WI 53581