



# The AKEY BrAKEY News

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

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April, 2022 Volume #14 – Issue # 2 – promoting and supporting the History of Richland County and Southwestern Wisconsin

*NOTE that this is another in a series provided by Dr. Jerry Bower which will be continued in future issues.*

## THE W. H. PIER BANK

142 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE

By Emeritus Professor Jerry Bower

March 2009

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Built as the W. H. Pier Bank in 1883, just as Richland Center was entering the era of the greatest expansion of its business community, the building has been used for various retail purposes since the Pier Bank (now operating as the Richland County Bank) moved to 195 West Court Street in 1921.

Designed by Madison architect David Jones in 1883, this three bay, two-story brick (now painted) former bank building features an Italianate influenced projecting metal cornice with large end bracket that has a wide border of corbelled brick. It also has a decorative window treatment. [Data from the 1987 Survey Form for the W. H. Pier Bank]

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:** William Henry Pier (was he named after President William Henry Harrison?), was born 6 December 1842 in Van Wert County, Ohio. We have no details about his childhood and education in Ohio, but may assume that he was educated in the common schools of Ohio. We do know the W. H., as he was commonly known, served in the Civil War in the 15<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteers.

In 1865, at the close of the Civil War, W. H. came to Richland County to West Lima, a little settlement on the West Branch of the Pine River. Here, W. H. farmed and taught school. In this era school was held during the winter, when both the pupils and the teacher would have fewer farm duties. In 1870 he moved to Richland Center, having been elected Clerk of Court for Richland County. W. H. remained a resident of Richland Center for over fifty years, during which time he started a bank and helped develop numerous businesses in the city.

W. H. Pier began his business ventures in 1871, when he purchased the abstract business of Smith and Laws. Through this occupation he became very knowledgeable about the city businesses and the rural farm land, so that he was able to make very successful investments.

Ten years later, his success allowed W. H. to open a banking operation in a corner of A. H. Krouskop's store on Center Street in downtown Richland Center. (Today, Center Street is Central Avenue.) This was strictly a checking operation in which Pier accepted deposits and redeemed checks written by his clients. Years later, Ed Parfrey described the initial Pier Bank as, "my first remembrance is that there was no ornate furniture, merely a safe and a flat table and Mr. Yeaman." Mr. Yeaman was a loyal employee, who later became an officer and stockholder in the Richland County Bank.

*Continued on Page 7*

Early in 1883 a spectacular fire destroyed Krouskop's store. Luckily, the firefighters were able to rescue some of Krouskop's inventory and Pier's safe. All was dumped on the courthouse lawn, across the street. For a few months following the fire, A. H. operated his bank in a corner of Dove's Furniture store. Later that year, W. H. had a brick building constructed on Center Street, directly across the alley from the quickly rebuilt Krouskop Store.

During the 1890s W. H. Pier made significant investments in the business community. In 1892, on the northwest corner of Court and Main Streets, the former site of the American House, the city's first hotel, he built the Union Block. Simultaneously, he and Mrs. T. M. McCarthy constructed the Pier Block on the southwest corner of the same intersection. Soon after its completion, the Coffland Brothers clothing store moved into the Pier Block, and remained there until the store closed in 1928.

In 1903 W. H. received a state bank charter, under the name of Richland County Bank. Its capital stock was valued at \$25,000.00, with almost all of it owned by W. H. Pier. In the 1904 annual report to the state, the Richland County Bank listed \$200,000.00 in deposits. The Richland County Bank steadily expanded its service to its clients, by installing safety deposit boxes in 1906 and adding a savings department in 1908. Until then, the bank had operated exclusively with checks.

In 1912 W. H. Pier had a large, handsome brick building erected on another corner of Court and Main Streets, this time on the southeast corner. But the Richland County Bank did not move into this new building until 1921. In the meantime, the U. S. Postal Service rented the building for the local post office. For a time, a small ice cream parlor, with a few tables and chairs, operated in a corner of the post office. In 1921, after extensive remodeling, the Richland County Bank moved from Center Street to its new home, where it remains today, ninety years later. That same year, W. H. Pier retired as president of the bank, turning control over to his son, A. V. Pier. W. H. subsequently moved to California, where he died in 1924, age eighty-one.

#### SOURCES:

Haney, Wava. "Richland County Bank Has Endured," *The Richland Observer*, 6 August 1998, Section Two, pp. 1 & 5.

Richland County History Room. MSS 410 & 1361.

Richland County Historical Society. *Richland County, Wisconsin*. 1986. Pp. 372-73.

Scott, Margaret Helen. *Richland Center, Wisconsin, A History*. C1972. Various pages.



[https://www.google.com/search?xsrf=APq-WBvmVkpUnxMQROx0BEKYQOQFPBDw0Q:1644360586075&source=univ&tbm=isch&q=pier+bank+142+South+Central+Avenue+digital+pictures+richland+history+room&fir=IGMvNenCZweAkM%252CNr7iFowQV70OBM%252C\\_%253BCXv5oiUZ4jg2-M%252CUQPncWepRsW8HM%252C\\_%253BQPw3n8zt1dZvWM%252CBI5LbRBHmSzHiM%252C\\_%253BklwIc7ol9OnWMM%252CBI5LbRBHmSzHiM%252C\\_%253Bm7MMbqC7wsb0nM%252CQlollB5ei-emwM%252C\\_%253BM3eAgvyrP9BxjM%252C9T9-SikQyn0Z-M%252C\\_%253BCKBWr6Xb2RqzW%252CChObLRiuMd7MSnM%252C\\_%253Bqx6z9NvflqPr1M%252CodiTAS4JTD2R7M%252C\\_%253BX24EKadnE7fuiM%252C.luH8nC3eaD-enM%252C\\_%253B8GzWyM3IH8n1iM%252CU2LTYLHllwCn5M%252C\\_&usq=AI4\\_kOpX4n\\_KD1qixm5gNxm9W6fvLRPw&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwEjH2vXEmPH1AhUj4kEHem2DB0QjJkEegQIMRAC&biw=1920&bih=969&dpr=1#imgrc=Qzd0r\\_fXR\\_mGtM](https://www.google.com/search?xsrf=APq-WBvmVkpUnxMQROx0BEKYQOQFPBDw0Q:1644360586075&source=univ&tbm=isch&q=pier+bank+142+South+Central+Avenue+digital+pictures+richland+history+room&fir=IGMvNenCZweAkM%252CNr7iFowQV70OBM%252C_%253BCXv5oiUZ4jg2-M%252CUQPncWepRsW8HM%252C_%253BQPw3n8zt1dZvWM%252CBI5LbRBHmSzHiM%252C_%253BklwIc7ol9OnWMM%252CBI5LbRBHmSzHiM%252C_%253Bm7MMbqC7wsb0nM%252CQlollB5ei-emwM%252C_%253BM3eAgvyrP9BxjM%252C9T9-SikQyn0Z-M%252C_%253BCKBWr6Xb2RqzW%252CChObLRiuMd7MSnM%252C_%253Bqx6z9NvflqPr1M%252CodiTAS4JTD2R7M%252C_%253BX24EKadnE7fuiM%252C.luH8nC3eaD-enM%252C_%253B8GzWyM3IH8n1iM%252CU2LTYLHllwCn5M%252C_&usq=AI4_kOpX4n_KD1qixm5gNxm9W6fvLRPw&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwEjH2vXEmPH1AhUj4kEHem2DB0QjJkEegQIMRAC&biw=1920&bih=969&dpr=1#imgrc=Qzd0r_fXR_mGtM)

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

Joseph & Mary Czarneski

Phyllis Keller

\*Randall & Bonnie Richardson

\*Paul & Louise Murphy

Mark Cupp

John & Lorraine Unbehaun

Christy's Sunnyside

Ed & Trinda Wells

Mary Nee & Rick Piasecki

Teresa Keegan

Linda Ray

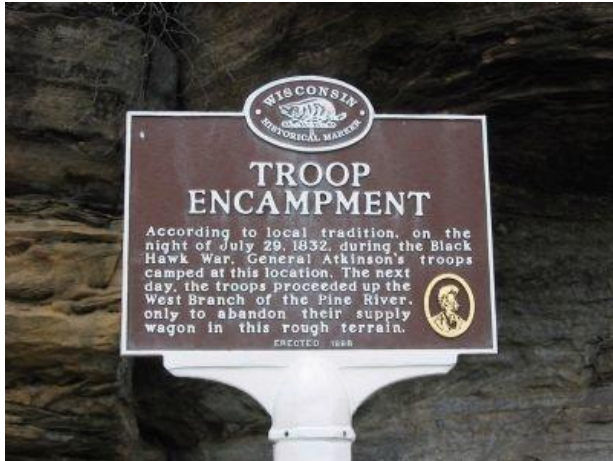
#Dennis & Brenda Williams

Gail Gruetzman

\*Cathy Johnson

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 -

<http://www.usgenweb.info/wirichland/books/1906-13.htm>



Photographed By Keith L, May 5, 2009

**Inscription.** According to local tradition, on the night of July 29, 1832, during the Black Hawk War, General Atkinson's troops camped at this location. The next day, the troops proceeded up the West Branch of the Pine River, only to abandon their supply wagon in the rough terrain. (Marker Number 401.)

This historical marker is listed in this topic list: [Wars, US Indian](#). In addition, it is included in the [Black Hawk War](#), and the [Wisconsin Historical Society](#) series lists. A significant historical date for this entry is July 29, 1856.

**Location.** Marker is in Rockbridge, Wisconsin, in Richland County. Marker can be reached from State Highway 80 north of County Highway D, on the left when traveling north. Marker is at Pier Natural Bridge Park. - 0 - 0 - 0 -

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Ken Thiede

AGAIN a Special THANK YOU to WRCO Radio for having the weekly 'History Moments' as our mission is to "Promote Richland County History". You can hear those excerpts being aired during the 'News at Noon' on Thursdays and Sundays on 100.0 FM and also on the morning news at 8:00 on both AM 1450 & FM 107.7

ALSO check out our website for recent changes and upgrades with the link to WRCO Broadcasts that has MP3 excerpts from previous 'History Moments'. This spring we are moving forward with painting the Akey School building and also the beginning of an agricultural exhibit which is planned to be located just east of the school with initial development over the summer.



Richland County History Room, 325 N Central Ave, Richland Center, WI 53581, richlandhistory@gmail.com, (608) 647-6033

<https://content.mpl.org/digital/collection/rchr/id/5142/rec/34>

## PLEASE -- Come and Visit the Akey School this SUMMER

The Akey School Museum is open Sundays June thru September from 1 to 4 pm. **Directions to the AKEY SCHOOL MUSEUM** -- it is located east from Richland Center off Hwy 14 about 4 miles south on County TB or from Gotham on Hwy 60 west 1 mile & north on County TB 4 miles.

# **“RE-SEARCHING” THE EARLY HISTORY OF RICHLAND COUNTY**

*This article concept was introduced in earlier editions to provide for ongoing information highlighting various topics of local interest.*

<http://www.usgenweb.info/wirichland/books/1906-6.htm> **BEGINNING OF THE COUNTY’S CRIMINAL RECORD**

**One of the most atrocious crimes, one that has seldom been paralleled anywhere, was committed within the limits of Richland county, in 1868.**

**The dark deed was committed by John Nevel, the son of a quiet and respectable farmer, who resided in the town of Dayton, about six miles west of the village of Richland Center. Mrs. Wallace, the victim, was only about twenty years of age, and had been married only six months. She had been trying to earn a little money by picking hops during the three or four weeks prior to the evening preceding the awful day, and had a small sum of money about her, to obtain which was the motive for the awful crime.**

**On the evening of September 23, Nevel called at the home of Mrs. Wallace, during the absence of her husband, and asked to have a five dollar bill changed. This, Mrs. Wallace proceeded to do, and in making the change for him brought her pocket-book to the door, and he saw that she had a sum of money in it. He watched where she put the purse and after she had seated herself with her back toward him he deliberately took deadly aim at the unsuspecting woman and fired a pistol, the ball entering at the back of her head.**

**She started for the home of her father-in-law, about eighty rods distant, and Nevel, fearing that she might live, seized an ax and followed her. She fell before going very far, and the murderer coming up with her, struck her several times with the ax about her head and body, until she was dead. He then returned to the house, secured the money and clothing, and started for the Mississippi river, with the intention of going into Iowa.**

**Two days later Nevel was captured at Ferryville, and was brought to the county seat on Saturday, September 26. The examination of the prisoner was continued over until Monday and he was lodged in the county jail. Soon thereafter the funeral cortege of the unfortunate woman passed through the streets, and the train of buggies, wagons and pedestrians is said to have made the largest procession of the kind ever witnessed in Richland Center.**

**From the grave to the courthouse square, about four o'clock, with hurried and determined step, a band of men marched from the neighborhood where the crime was committed, with blood aroused to a fearful fever by the terrible butchery.**

**A consultation in the square, which lasted but a few minutes, resulted in a united and fierce rush for the door of the jail. The proper officers met the men at the door, warned them of their peril and did all that men could do to stem the furious tide that ebbed and surged around them, but in vein. The door was soon broken down, the prisoner seized, and in less time than it takes to write it he was taken to a tree near by, his body swung in the air and all was over.**

**The crowd then slowly dispersed. The ringleaders of this violation of the law were afterwards indicted by the grand jury, but the sentiments of a large portion of the community being with them, the cases were never prosecuted and the matter was allowed to drop where it was.** **Continued on Page 4**

**Check out our website for the past issues of the AKEY BrAKEY News  
→ [www.richlandcountyhistoricalociety.weebly.com](http://www.richlandcountyhistoricalociety.weebly.com)**

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During the early part of July, 1882, the atrocious murder of an old lady occurred in the town of Akan. Mrs. Sabina Driscoll, known more commonly by her first husband's name, Coleman, and who had come from Pennsylvania, had been living with her son, Martin Coleman, on a farm known as the McDermott place.

During the day of July 19, the old lady was missed from her accustomed haunts and a few days later her body was found after a prolonged search at the head of a ravine, the body being covered with rocks and rotten logs so that it was nearly hidden from sight. The head was bruised and cut as if by some sharp instrument, and the clothing was torn and a number of wounds found on one arm.

Suspicion pointed in the direction of her son as the murderer, and the latter left for other climes. He was pursued, and being found in the employ of a railroad company in Minnesota, he was arrested and brought back to meet his accusers. The evidence was purely circumstantial and not very strong, which fact caused the district attorney to enter a *nolle pros* in the case and the son was discharged. He then left the country, and disappeared from the knowledge of the people of Richland county.

The next terrible tragedy occurred at Sextonville on October 5, 1882, the particulars of which are substantially as follows: Ephraim Dockerty, the victim, several years before had married a widow who owned a farm near Sextonville, and who had a family of two sons, Arthur and Samuel Van Dusen, and one daughter, by a former marriage.

The family lived unhappily for years, and strife and contention were rife and continuous between Dockerty and the boys. Finally matters in the domestic circle became so unpleasant that some kind of a division of property was made and Dockerty took his departure for Dakota, in April, 1892.

About the latter part of September he returned to Sextonville, talked hard and made threats against the boys and family. He disturbed them greatly by unwelcome visits for several days, which resulted finally on October 5, in a serious altercation, during which Arthur Van Dusen shot and killed the troublesome Dockerty.

The young man immediately went to Richland Center and delivered himself a prisoner into the hands of the officers of the law. The day following, an inquest was held, with a jury composed of prominent citizens, at which the full facts in regard to the killing were brought out, and on reviewing them and investigating the matter thoroughly, the jury agreed on a verdict of justifiable homicide.

The verdict seems to have met with universal satisfaction and approval.

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A murder that sent a thrill of horror throughout the county was committed by Benjamin F. Barnes, at Boaz, on February 21, 1884. Mr. Barnes was one of the most prominent and highly respected citizens of the county, on who had always stood high in the community and bore an irreproachable character, yet, without a moment's warning he committed a most terrible crime by murdering his wife, cutting her throat with a pocket knife, and then attempted to take his own life in the same manner.

The most generally accepted opinion was that the murder and attempted suicide was committed while Barnes was under a fit of mental aberration, and in fact that was the verdict of the coroner's jury, although Mr. Barnes had never previously manifested any symptoms of insanity that were apparent to any of his neighbors or friends. He was arrested for the crime and in June following plead guilty to the charge of murder in the first degree and was sentenced to life imprisonment at Waupun.

He is still in prison and, owing to good behavior, is given many liberties not enjoyed by the average prisoner, the authorities permitting him to go at will outside of the prison walls, without fear of his attempting to escape.

**WHERE in Richland County is BLOOM CITY in BLOOM TOWNSHIP 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.

[http://genealogytrails.com/wis/richland/history\\_towns.htm](http://genealogytrails.com/wis/richland/history_towns.htm)



[www.google.com/search?q=map+of+richland+county](http://www.google.com/search?q=map+of+richland+county)

Bloom City is an unincorporated community located, in the town of Bloom, in Richland County, Wisconsin, United States. Bloom City is 10 miles east of Viola. [Wikipedia](#)

This is one of the townships that was included in the town of Marshall when the latter was erected, and in the congressional survey it is described as town 12 north, of range 1 west. Bloom was organized in 1856, and the first town meeting was held at the residence of Isaac Pizer, in April of that year. The following were the first officers elected: Josephus Downs, chairman, Isaac Pizer and James E Kidd, board of supervisors; William Pizer, clerk; John H Crandall, assessor; Aaron Sutton, treasurer; Josephus Downs and L M Stewart, justices of the peace.

The surface of the town is broken and hilly, one main ridge extending through the western portion from north to south, while on each side of this are smaller, or connecting ridges, extending to the east and west. On the ridges the soil varies, in some places being a rich black loam and in others a yellow clay, but it is all very productive. In the valleys the soil is a rich dark loam, but in seasons of high water some places are overflowed, and farmers often lose a portion of their crops. There is comparatively little waste land in the township, and the condition of the farms, buildings, and surroundings is indicative of thrift and prosperity. The natural drainage of the town consists of a stream called the West Branch of Pine river, which courses in a southerly direction, and on its way through the eastern part of the town is joined by six spring tributaries. The town is thus well watered, making it a desirable and profitable locality for stock raising.

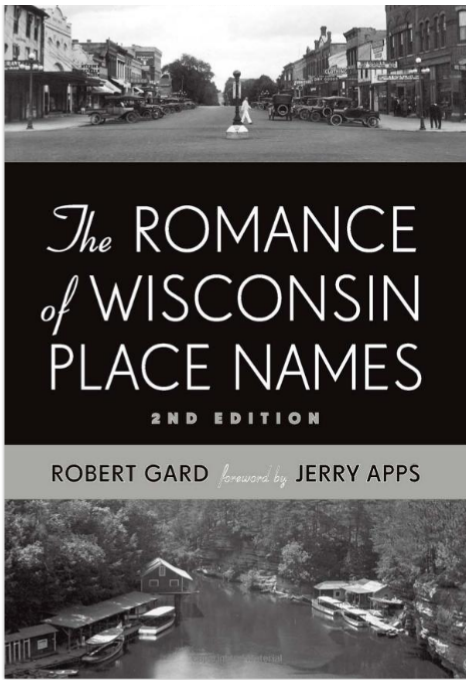
Among the first to establish a home within the bounds of the town of Bloom, was Isaac McMahan, who, during the year 1853, came and entered one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 23. He was born in Ohio, and was a resident of the town of Bloom from the date of his settlement therein until his death, March 14, 1881, at the age of seventy-four years. Another conspicuous figure in that early day wilderness was Daniel Householder, who entered three hundred and twenty acres of land on section 35. He also came from Ohio and lived upon the land he entered until the time of his death, in August, 1878, having reached the extreme old age of ninety-nine years. He located in the town of Bloom in 1853, later encouraged settlers to come to the place, and did much toward starting the town on its final prosperous career.

Bloom City, formerly called Spring Valley, is quite an important gathering place for the people of the town. There is perhaps nothing in its annals of any great historical importance, other than the fact of its existence, which statement is equally true of its business rival, West Lima, a few miles away. In each place there are several energetic and enterprising business establishments, and schools are carried on to a high degree of excellence.

The town of Bloom enjoys the distinction of being one of the best agricultural towns in Richland county. Its soil is especially adapted to diversified farming, fruit growing and truck gardening, in which pursuits, combined with stock-raising, the intelligent and industrious farmers have met with phenomenal success. The pleasant homes and thrifty surroundings are abundant proof of this, while an occasional handsome mansion, with modern improvements and appliances, affirms the conclusion that even in this favored land, some have been more successful than their worthy rivals.

In 1868 a Union church was built on the present site of the village of West Lima, it being a very neat frame building, and cost \$1450. It belonged to no religious denomination and was under no ecclesiastical control, but was intended and used for united services, where any and all religious bodies of people could meet for worship. In 1877 a church edifice was erected, on section 18, by the Christian denomination. It was a log building, and was known as the Sugar Tree House, services being held in it once each month.

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Robert E. Gard · 2015 · History

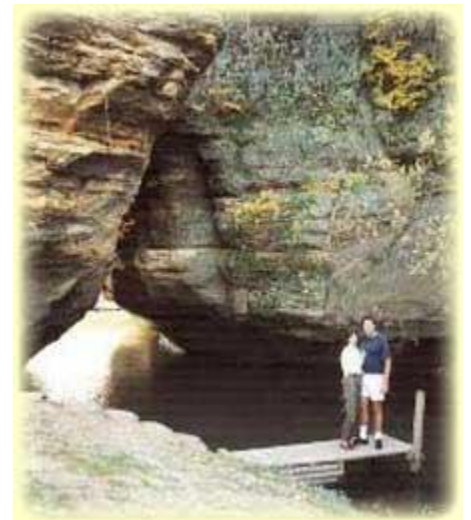
**Pier County Park Richland County** This ten-acre piece of land near the natural bridge donated in 1947 by the heirs of William **Pier**, founder of the **Richland County Bank**.

## Pier Natural Bridge Park

Pier Natural Bridge Park is located along Hwy. 80 North, at Rockbridge in Richland County.

The park obtains its name from the Pier family, who donated the land to Richland County to preserve the site as a park. The site has a very unusual geological feature – a half-mile long “finger” of blocked and layered

sandstone rising nearly 60 feet above the flood plain of two merging valleys. This narrow finger is topped by tall pines and covered with green shrubs. The West Branch of the Pine River meets with the Main Branch underneath this rock formation, which forms a Natural Bridge. The Park has two historical markers – one indicating the unique rock formation and the other recognizing the significance of the Blackhawk wars in this area. The park has a man-made tunnel which allows visitors to walk through the rock formation to the West Branch of the Pine River. There are also stairs to walk to the top of the rock formation to view the surrounding area



<https://parkscommission.co.richland.wi.us/county-parks/pier-natural-bridge-park/>



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

Please renew your membership annually by July 1<sup>st</sup>—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

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Mail registration to:

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



This is the sixth installment of an insert page for the AKEY BrAKEY newsletter with a Special Thanks for this APRIL issue to Mike McNair who has provided an author's perspective as well as previously to Craig & Cindy Chicker. Terry & Kate Moen, Ed Lee, Rob & Tammy Bender and Jean Birkett who provided materials for past insert pages.

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.

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### Writing Sneaked Up on Retired Educator

Mike McNair never intended to become a writer when he retired as Richland Center High School counselor in 2001. When asked recently how he ended up writing his own humor column, a novel, a humor book, three children's books, and a dozen features in *Our Wisconsin Magazine*,



he smiles. "Writing sneaked up on me when I wasn't looking."

And it did. His wife, Nancy, worked at the Richland Medical Center back then. Home alone, he discovered he enjoyed writing humorous stories.

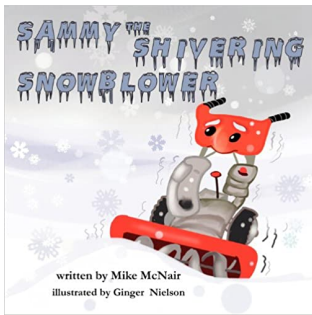
That summer, his eighty-seven-year-old mother moved into a nursing home near her southern Indiana home.

He began writing *The Hooticat Newsletter*, a tongue-in-cheek communication that he snail mailed to her to keep her current with family happenings. Many issues included original stories. Before long, he was emailing the newsletter to aunts, uncles, and cousins. On April 13, 2011, his mother passed away at the age of 97. And just like that, after ten years and 116 issues, *The Hooticat Newsletter* ended its run.

**MWNews.net** In the early spring of 2005, McNair emailed Dave Collins, publisher of *Midwest News*, an online newspaper, to inquire about writing a bimonthly humor column. Collins told him to send writing samples. He liked the stories and came to Richland Center to close the deal. McNair remembers the day well. "We sat at my dining room table. Mr. Collins made an offer and we shook hands. That was the only contract I ever had for my first paying writing job." The first of 200 *Mike's World* humor articles appeared in May 2005 and the last one in January 2014.

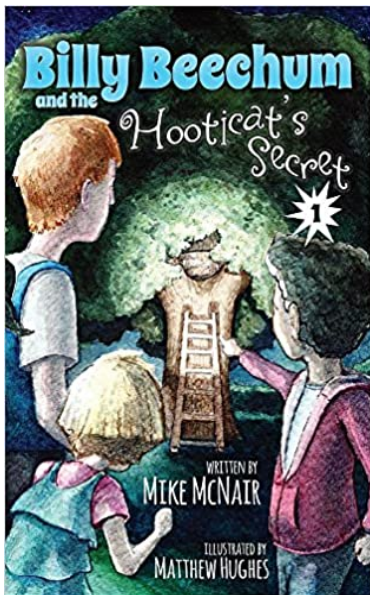
By 2005, McNair had another project going, writing a novel just for fun. When he finished *A Distant Summer* in 2008, he realized the coming-of-age story about three fifth-grade boys growing up in 1954 southern Indiana turned out well. He sold publication rights to **4RV Publishing**, a small traditional Oklahoma publisher. It debuted in 2010.





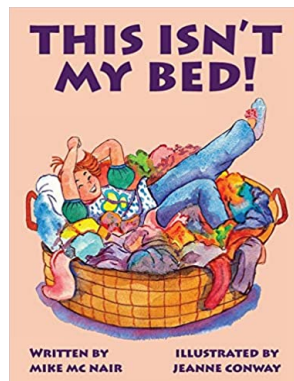
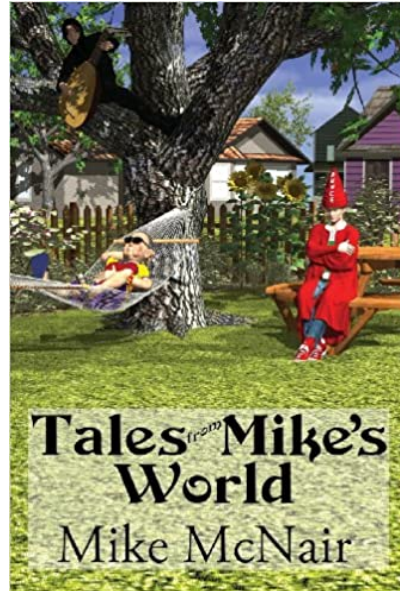
In the years that followed, McNair sold publication rights for four more books to the same publisher: *Sammy the Shivering Snowblower*, a children's picture book about a snowblower that hates cold weather;

*Tales from Mike's World*, a humor book based on his *Mike's World* column;



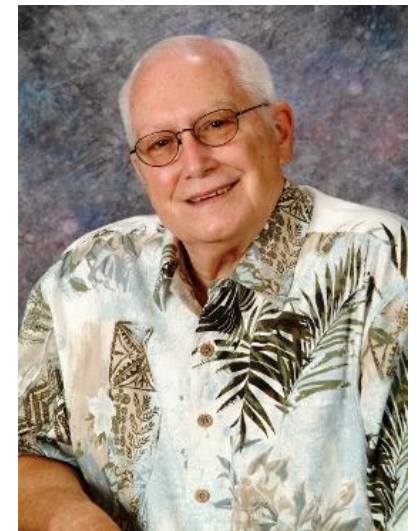
*Billy Beechum and the Hooticat's Secret*, a children's chapter book;

and *This Isn't My Bed!* a children's picture book based on a bedtime game he played years ago with his own children.



He has been a field editor for *Our Wisconsin Magazine* since it came out over ten years ago. In addition, he has written a dozen features for the magazine with more in the planning stage.

McNair says the most amazing aspect of his writing career involves a famous story hardly anyone knows he wrote. Before Facebook became a popular place to share stories and pictures, people emailed them to friends. One Sunday afternoon in March of 2002, he wrote a satire titled "Men Should Be Considerate Toward Their Wives (especially as they grow older)." It was about a man who was so clueless, he thought his chauvinistic actions were examples of his going out of his way to show respect, understanding, and kindness toward his wife. He sent it to a few friends, and within days, it exploded on the internet. It has been read by millions throughout the world.



The remarkable history of the famous story is included in his humor book, *Tales from Mike's World*.

McNair invites you to visit his website at [mikemcnair.yolasite.com](http://mikemcnair.yolasite.com)

There, you'll find interesting stories, including one about the time Larry Bird hung out with McNair's parents when Bird was a young boy. As long as you're there, you'll want to read his blog. And if you're interested in ordering a book or two, you'll find information on that too.