



Confluence

Where Past Meets Present

In this Issue

- Looking Back.....2
- KKK in Rock County..... 3
- Baseball: Beloit Passion.. 4-5
- New to the Collection.....6
- Celebration Dedication.....7
- Director's Report.....8
- BHS Happenings.....9
- New Board Members.....10

Contact Info
Phone
608-365-7835

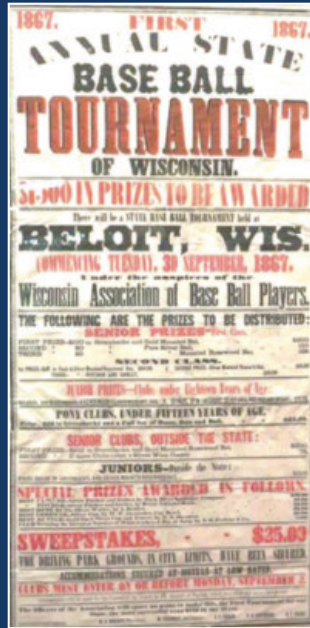
Address
845 Hackett Street
Beloit, Wisconsin 53511

Office Hours
Tuesday - Thursday
12:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

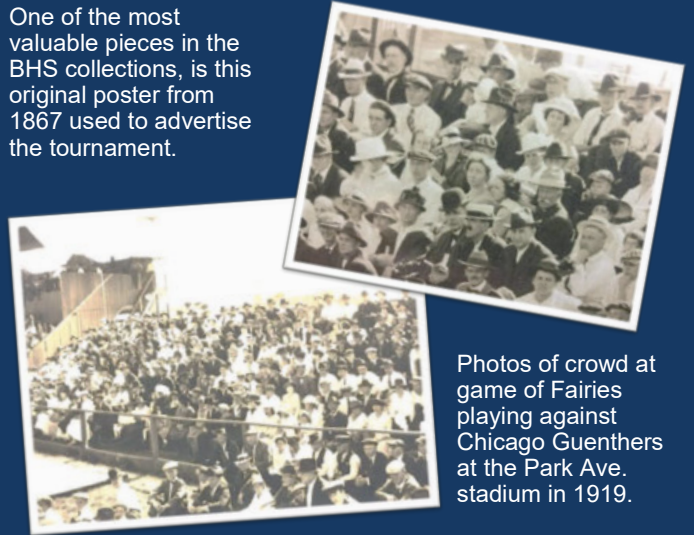
Email
info@beloithistoricalsociety.com

Website
www.beloithistoricalsociety.com

Follow us on Facebook and
Instagram!



One of the most valuable pieces in the BHS collections, is this original poster from 1867 used to advertise the tournament.



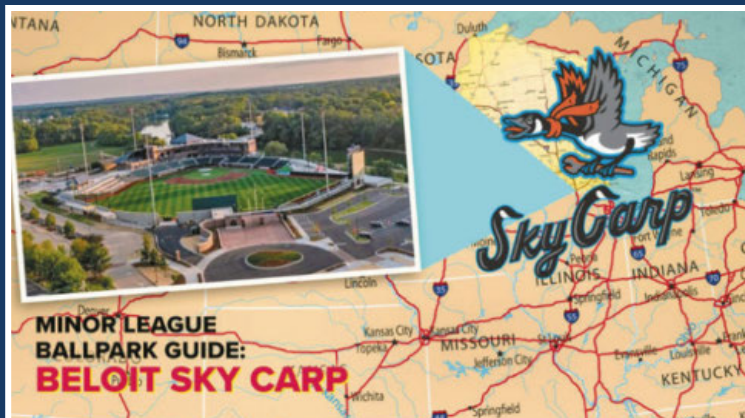
Photos of crowd at game of Fairies playing against Chicago Guenthers at the Park Ave. stadium in 1919.

Baseball: A Beloit Passion

Beloit baseball began in 1866, when Beloit College students returning from the Civil War, organized the Olympian Base Ball Club. The following year, Beloit made a splash when it hosted the first State Championship made up of 26 teams and attended by app. 2,400 people. The 8-day event put Beloit and baseball on the map for Wisconsin.

The baseball passion continued through the years of the Fairbank's Fairies, a semi-pro team organized by the F-M Athletic Association (1915-1926).

Baseball games continued to be held at various locations. The Beloit Brewers/ Snappers played at Pohlman Field. Today, we are very fortunate that Beloit Sky Carp enthusiasts can attend the games of the Midwest League affiliate of the Miami Marlins at our impressive new ABC Stadium built in 2021. (See article on pp. 4-5)



1911



WHAT A DIFFERENCE 20 YEARS MAKES

The photo on the left shows only horses. We went from that in 1911 to the 1930s photo below which shows only cars - and plenty of them. Many horse-related businesses were wiped out while new automobile businesses began and thrived. How hard that must have been for many people. Unfortunately, these boom-and-bust cycles have continued to present day.

Contributed by Mark Preuschl



Above: West Grand looking east (most likely from the top of the Episcopal Church). The trees in the center are in front of the Brittan mansion with its distinctive Mansard roof. This is Beloit's "hidden house" that still remains, however, many business fronts now face Grand Ave. in place of the trees. The Smoke House is near the center/right of photo. The view of the horse fountain is blocked by the rooflines of buildings.

Right: West Grand looking east from a vantage point closer to the front of the Smoke House. Chester's Department Store is the large building on the right.

It's Our Reputation...



We have 100 years of experience caring for families, from all walks of life. Each family comes to us because they know we are leaders in our profession, dedicated to excellence in service, and have the highest integrity.

Hometown people with a common concern

Daley • Murphy • Wisch & Associates
FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORIUM

2355 Cranston Rd., Beloit Wisconsin
Telephone 362-3444
www.daleymurphywisch.com



Jerry L. Murphy
Owner,
Funeral Director



Rana Wood
Funeral Director



Julie Navlyt
Funeral Director



Michele Van Fleet
Certified Pre-Planning
Counselor



Heidi Murphy Roth
Both Business Manager



Heather Murphy
Funeral Service Assistant



Nicole Wolf
Administrative
Assistant



Keeley Stearns
Administrative
Assistant



DeCarlos Nora
Apprentice
Funeral Director



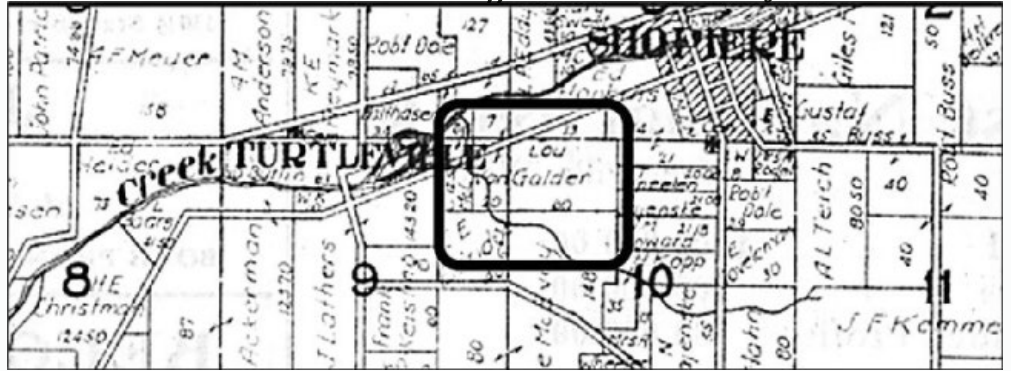
Sean Murphy
Apprentice
Funeral Director



5,000 ATTEND KU KLUX KLAN RALLY NEAR CLINTON

Sources: Janesville Daily Gazette and Beloit Daily News, Oct 11, 1923

With a crowd of people estimated at 5,000, the Ku Klux Klan gave Rock County the first great public demonstration in its history Wednesday night, when a three-hour ceremony of speeches, ritualistic work and initiation was staged in a vast open field on the L. A. Van Galder farm four miles east of Beloit on highway 61. The white robed and hooded klansmen went through their work in front of a 30-foot burning cross, pitched on top of a hill so that it was visible for several miles. The huge cross was kept blazing by constant spraying with kerosene. Under its light and the rays of several automobile headlights, the KKK leaders moved about in their white costumes presenting a most unusual sight.



The work was put on by the Blackhawk Klan of Rockford, Ill., and Klan dignitaries from three states. The demonstration featured a 40-minute address given by Dr. W. S. Harper, Atlanta, Ga., (a former Methodist minister for 25 years) now a national Klan lecturer, and the initiation of a class of 25 men from Clinton and vicinity. The meeting was entirely public, no effort being made to keep out non-members or prevent them from hearing the lecture and initiation ceremonies. Automobiles and people from a radius of 20 to 25 miles packed the big field. Two "hot dog" and fruit stands located on the grounds did a thriving business.

King Kleagle (an officer who recruits and controls members), William F. Wiesman, Milwaukee, and the Great Titan of Illinois opened the meeting shortly after 8 o'clock and introduced Dr. Harper to the 'huge audience'. Dr. Harper led the kneeling klansmen in prayer. After having the audience and Klan sing one verse of *America*, the Atlanta lecturer proceeded with his address, outlining the ideals and principles of the Ku Klux Klan. *"We want native born American citizens, having the best interests of their community, city, state and nation at heart, owing no allegiance to any foreign government, political party, sect, creed, or ruler and engaged in legitimate occupation. We want such men as members of the most powerful secret, non-political organization in existence, one that has the most sublime lineage in history, one that was here yesterday, here today and here forever."*

The Rockford Officer led the initiation ceremony, dedicating them "to the service of God, home and country". The candidates were wearing ordinary citizens' clothes and gathered about in a circle in the middle of the field with an American flag in the center. The tenants of the Klan were recited to the candidates followed by a prayer, while all knelt on one knee with bared heads. The great titan of Illinois then addressed the class and admitted them to membership. The klansmen wore full regalia but were not masked. Most of the spectators did not wait for this initiation, leaving soon after the Harper address. The Beloit-Clinton road was one solid line of cars from 10:15 to 10:45.



The KKK reached the height of membership —4.5 million—in the 1920s, and, then as now, tried to wrap its hatred and racism in the flag and national patriotism. Rock County KKK members displayed the above flag at the old fairgrounds in Evansville in 1925. The flag was 104 feet long and weighed 345 pounds.

Interviewed by reporters at the close of the ceremonies, the King Kleagle of Wisconsin, the great titan of Illinois and Dr. Harper were all willing to talk. *"I have them but I can't give them out to you."* replied King Kleagle Weisman when asked for the names of klansmen living in Rock County. *"You have them, right here and it won't be long before they'll be parading the streets of your town."* the Illinois titan predicted. *"I hope you'll be parading with them."* Weisman said the women of the KKK are being organized, and thousands of women are being enrolled. He indicated the Rock County gathering was but a harbinger of greater meetings to follow in this section as part of the program of the invisible empire.

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS
Advertise in our Newsletter!

CONTACT ME Alex Nicholas

anicholas@lpicomunities.com • (800) 950-9952 x2538

LifeCircle
Your Money Your Business Your Life
Your Financial Professional

Prudence A. Harker, CFP®, ChFC, CLU, President
Dan Winter, Wealth Management Director
Retirement Planning Specialists
608.365.2115 | TheLifeCircle.com
PrudyH@TheLifeCircle.com | DanW@TheLifeCircle.com

Securities offered through Equitable Advisors, LLC (NY, NY (212) 314-4600) member FINRA, SIPC (Equitable Financial Advisors in MI & TN). Investment advisory products and services offered through Equitable Advisors, LLC, and SEC-registered investment advisor. Annuity and insurance products offered through Equitable Network, LLC, which conducts business in CA as Equitable Network Insurance Agency of California, LLC. Retirement Planning Specialist title awarded by Equitable Advisors, based upon receipt of a Certificate in Retirement Planning from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. LifeCircle is not a registered investment advisor and is not owned or operated by Equitable Advisors or Equitable Network. For more information about Equitable Advisors, LLC you may visit <https://equitable.com/enr> to review the firm's Relationship Summary For Retail Investors and General Conflicts of Disclosure. CA Insurance License #0678518

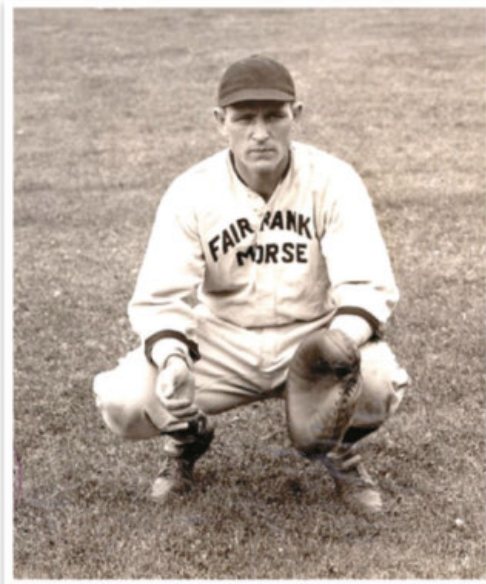
Beloit is a sports town with a passion for baseball. The game we know as baseball is thought to be based on English bat and ball games that immigrants brought to the east coast United States. In 1866, Beloit College students returning from their service in the Civil War, brought the new sport back with them and organized the Olympian Base Ball Club. Games at this time would be unrecognizable to us today. High scores and games lasting more than four hours was normal.

To play baseball, there needs to be two teams on the field and, in 1866, there were many teams throughout the stateline. Local teams included the Union Base Ball Club, a team of high school age players from the Beloit Academy, with the Olympians winning an early game 57-12. Other teams included the Madison Capitals, the Bower City Club in Janesville, the Beloit Badgers, a local independent team, the Union team in Rockton, Illinois, the Forest City team from Rockford and teams from Whitewater, Madison and Milwaukee.

A Wisconsin State Baseball Championship took place in Beloit in 1867. Teams from the surrounding area, including Chicago and Milwaukee, took part in the tournament. The games were played at Beloit's Driving Park grounds owned by Hank Talmadge (south of Switchtrack Alley with the entrance off of Prairie Ave.) The Beloit Olympians claimed this championship.



Beloit College Olympians
Our local Beloit College team won the first state championship.



Eddie Gharrity
Inducted into the Beloit Hall of Fame in 1978

The first Beloit native to reach the big leagues was Eddie Gharrity. He was a superb all-around athlete playing baseball, football and basketball in the early 1900s. Eddie's involvement in the sport exemplifies the history of baseball in Beloit.

He played for independent baseball teams and attracted the attention of professional clubs, originally signing with the Cincinnati Reds. He was traded to the Washington Senators in 1915, becoming their regular catcher within two years and stayed with the team until 1923 when he returned to Beloit. Gharrity then played for the Fairbanks Fairies until they disbanded.



Fairbanks Fairies
Gharrity is second row, second from left
The emblem on the uniform is the Z engine being built by Fairbanks Morse during the 1920s.

ADT-Monitored Home Security

Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Flood Detection
- Fire Safety
- Carbon Monoxide

ADT Authorized Provider | SafeStreets

833-287-3502

ADT-Monitored Home Security

Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Flood Detection
- Fire Safety
- Carbon Monoxide

ADT Authorized Provider | SafeStreets

833-287-3502

Dewey's TOWING AND RECOVERY

Serving Wisconsin and Illinois

Heavy and light duty Trucks and Auto

608-362-5377

1633 Huebbe Parkway, Beloit, WI

www.deweyservice.com



The Fairbanks Fairies baseball team is a result of the Fairbanks Morse Athletic Association. About 1,000 workers joined the association, paying 25 cents annual dues because they wanted a semi-pro baseball team in Beloit. Many of these workers joined together to build a ballpark. On April 24, 1915, work began on the stands, fences and bleachers for Morse Field which stretched over two acres along Park Avenue. Audiences numbering about 2000 attended the home games to watch the semi-pro team play. Many players moved from the Fairies to play for professional teams.

Long before boys Little League teams, the Morse Field Morning League played ball. This photo, (right) taken in 1920 or 1921, shows the young boys who played baseball on the big diamond at Morse Field in exchange for picking up paper and trash after home games.




The Fairies played from 1915 to 1927 and the field was torn down in 1930. After the Fairies team disbanded Eddie Gharrity returned to Washington playing baseball for two years then became a coach.

In the winter of 1939, a group of Beloit young men were playing cribbage in the north end of town for amusement. The group became so popular that they decided to form their own organization and the Beloit Cribbage Club was formed. They decided to build a clubhouse to provide space for the players. However, a clubhouse was an ambitious endeavor for a small club and they expanded to include a baseball team. The sports of soft ball, bowling and ping pong were also included. From its small beginnings with 110 members, the organization grew to be city-wide with over 1000 members and the name changed to the Beloit Booster Athletic Club. Eddie Gharrity took over management of the baseball team.

On August 16, 1942, a game between the Beloit Booster Athletic Club and Great Lakes Naval Training Station baseball team was played at Summit Field in Beloit to raise money for the Navy Relief and Welfare Fund. Exhibition games between service and professional teams were played throughout World War II. Great Lakes defeated the Beloit Booster Athletic Club by a score of 16-1.

Baseball in Beloit flourished in many forms. Young boys played on Little League teams and boys in their late teens played in the Stars of Tomorrow League, with teams named after former Beloit players such as Gharritys and Perrings. Players moved from Little League to play on high school, college and many times semi-pro and professional teams.

Sources: *Beloit A Great Sports Town: A Century of Recollections, Records and Rivalries*. Compiled by Dr. Daniel Green.
Elliott-Perring Sports Hall of Fame – Eddie Gharrity
Jim Franz

	<p>Beloit Regional HOSPICE Member of Beloit Health System 608.363.7421</p>  <p>Committed to our Community. Dedicated to your Health.</p>		<p>FREE AD DESIGN with purchase of this space</p> <p>CALL 800-950-9952</p>
--	--	--	--

1940s Beloit Ski Club Scrapbooks

An interesting new donation includes three scrapbooks about the Beloit Ski Club, that competed in ski jump competitions. Most of the material is from around 1940s, and includes many newspaper clippings about ski competitions, as well as a lot of great black and white photos and memorabilia such as original race numbers and programs. Much of the material focuses on the Beloit team, but also includes broader ski and world events, such as WWII. An interesting intersection of the two is a group of Norwegian skiers who escaped from the Nazis to serve in the Norwegian air force training in Canada. The newspaper article notes that they are only identified by their first names to protect their families still in occupied Norway. This precaution was perhaps also taken in-person, as this photo from the album taken at a local competition also only lists first names, while most captions have full names. Beloit had a popular ski jump where some of the competitions were held. A bit of history posted by the Welty Environmental Center, from information from the Beloit College archives: "In 1911, a 93-foot ski jump was built on the bluff overlooking the Rock River by the Beloit Ski Club, a group founded by Norwegian immigrants. A new ski jump was built in 1939 and Beloit hosted tournaments that featured champion jumpers from all over the world, competing before an estimated 10,000 fans. The ski jump was dismantled in 1959 due to unreliable snowfall and sold to the Snowflake Ski Club in Westby, WI."



"Ola", Fredric, Karra and Olaf



"FLY FOR NORWAY"
Was a newspaper headline about skiers



One ski jumper included in these scrapbooks is Walter Nelson, member of the Beloit Sports Hall of Fame, who went on to, among other things, place in the U.S. Championships and set a North American Distance record in 1942.

Right: Unlike many sports at the time, women were both able, and encouraged by the organizers to participate in ski jumping, according to this article from 1948. It is not clear if any women from Beloit competed during the years the scrapbooks cover, but it was certainly a popular event for everyone!
Left to right: Liz Davis, Beloit, Victor Graboski, Cloquet, Minn, Evie Bosch, Beloit



Girls Urged To Compete In Mid-West Contests
By Audrey Sugden
Do you know that half of the skiers in the Central states are women? You would never think this, if you could glance at the list of contestants in the Central Downhill and Sialom Championship Meet held every year. There are always well over eight times as many men in this meet as there are women. What is the cause for this disappointing fact? First of all, there just aren't enough women and girls in the Central Association who are willing to race. This doesn't imply by any

Thank you to **Peter Casagranda** for donating these scrapbooks he received from **Les Davis** (his in-law) over 40 years ago. We thank **Norma Saxon** for delivering them to us.

Beloit Skiers Take Titles at Dubuque

COMPLIMENTS OF
FAIRBANKS, MORSE & CO.
a name worth remembering when you want the best

Class "B"

No.	NAME and CLUB	1st Jump	2nd J
55	Ola Hirth, Racine Ski Club		
56	Bil Duckwitz, Blackhawk Ski Club, Madison		
57	Paul Vining, Wood Ski Club		
58	Dale Severson, Eau Claire Ski Club		
59	Perry Warde, Beloit Ski Club		
60	Jack Madahl, Duluth Ski Club		
61	Walter Herry, Bear Hill Ski Club, Detroit		
62	Brud Willard, Keweenaw Ski Club, Iron Mountain		
63	James Drummond, Helliger-Hungel Ski Club, Milwaukee		
64	George Sandley, Racine Ski Club		
65	Robert Fairinger, Blackhawk Ski Club, Madison		
66	Edvard Maas, Wood Ski Club		
67	George Lahrer, Eau Claire Ski Club		
68	Dan Jackson, Beloit Ski Club		
69	Richard Wingren, Dubuque Ski Club		



Above: Program from 1940s, including many Beloit competitors

Right: Original race number, labeled "Iron Mt. Mich. 1940"

ARE YOU REACHING THE MEMBERS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

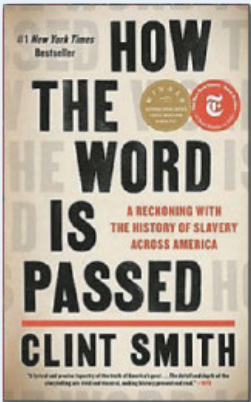
To advertise here visit lpicommunities.com/adcreator

A MUSEUM'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PRESENT HISTORY

The next issue of *Confluence* (July/Aug) will be my 10th year as editor. I came to Beloit in 1968 to teach and have chosen to call this area home for the past 56 years. A large part of my desire to do this job, is to share my love of Beloit and its amazing history with others in the hope that they, too, will develop a deep appreciation of our city's' story.

While making decisions about newsletter content in earlier issues of *Confluence*, I have been inclined to share the positive and "overlook" the negative. I recently changed my viewpoint on this. True history education should share the good as well as the "ugly" parts of what created our city. Notice the article on page 3 featuring the KKK in Rock County. The Jan/Feb, 2023, front page features Eddie May, outstanding athlete, WWII hero who gave his life in France and a BHS Hall of Fame honoree. His story also includes "*Blacks couldn't get served at Beloit restaurants and since most doctors and dentists wouldn't treat blacks, it was necessary for them to travel to Rockford for medical and dental services.*" An article in the Jan/Feb, 2024, issue featuring a donation to the collection, caused some negative feedback from a reader asking why BHS would include scandalous information about Henry Talmadge's wife and child in our newsletter. I felt it showed how a great community supporter isn't always admirable in all aspects of his life. For example, our beloved founder, Caleb Blodgett, (Sept/Oct, 2023), hid in a boiler to avoid a bail bondsman and others to whom he owed money.

Reading this best seller and highly praised book, helped me decide how to tell our history. I encourage you to have your eyes opened a little wider as mine were. We are never too old to learn the real stories. Our **Share** library system has many copies available.
 Mary Herrmann



"In the small Texas town I grew up in, we were taught one version of American and Texan history. This history, I would later come to learn, left a lot out and has contributed to my obsessive compulsion to learn the stories withheld from me by the state, trusted educators, and family members."
 Clint Smith.

In an interview with John Cummings, the elderly, white owner of the Whitney Plantation Museum, Smith writes about the moment Cummings encountered the feeling of "**discovered ignorance**" and how the question "*How could this have happened and I didn't know about it?*" began to haunt him. This haunting led Cummings to open the Whitney Plantation, the only former plantation site in Louisiana with an exclusive focus on enslavement.

These forgotten and neglected histories, however, can only become unburied if we make a concerted effort to do so. "*At some point it is no longer a question of whether we can learn this history but whether we have the collective will to reckon with it.*" This is the crux of Smith's book. It is awareness that informs not just how we understand the past, but how we act in the present and look to the future.

'Celebration' for Beloit
 Beloit Daily News, May 3, 2003



Riverside Park was the scene of a celebration when Representatives of Beloit 2000, the City of Beloit, Friends of the Riverfront, Warner Electric and its parent company, Colfax Corp., helped re-dedicate Vern Shaffer's sculpture Celebration at its new home on the north side of Riverside Park.

"We're very excited about this gift of wonderful art," Friends of the Riverfront spokesperson Jeff Adams said. "It's a very symbolic celebration today."

"This year, Beloit will see some very dramatic and wonderful improvements to the park," Beloit 2000 Chairman Gary Grabowski said. "We celebrate the beginning of that work here today. This sculpture brings a sense of heritage to our park."

In 1977, Warner Electric's President William Keefer commissioned Shaffer to create the 32-foot-tall, 8-ton sculpture to commemorate Warner Electric's 50th anniversary. The sculpture was given to Beloit 2000 by Colfax Corporation and relocated to Riverside Park this winter. Beloit City Council President Terry Monahan accepted the sculpture on behalf of the city.

(photo courtesy of Mark Preuschl)

America's leading full-service supplier of exterior and interior building products

ABC
 Supply Co. inc.

More than 790 locations nationwide
 abcsupply.com

WE'RE HIRING!
 AD SALES EXECUTIVES

BE YOURSELF.
 BRING YOUR PASSION.
 WORK WITH PURPOSE.

- Paid training • Some travel
- Work-life balance
- Full-Time with benefits
- Serve your community

Contact us at
 careers@4lpi.com or
 www.4lpi.com/careers

ADVERTISE HERE
 to reach your community

Call 800-950-9952



**Message from
Executive Director,
Donna Langford**

Thank you to the members who participated in the special meeting held March 25, regarding the sale of the Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead. A vote was held to sell the property with the vote 153 for the sale and 2 against.

All of the objects that have a Beloit connection are being moved to the society's Lincoln Center facility. Objects that were purchased in order to furnish the house to the Victorian period and do not have a Beloit connection, remain in the public trust by transferring them to eight other regional museums. This transfer was done due to space constraints at BHS and to enable the objects to be used where they are relevant to the missions of these regional museums. The Building and Grounds Comm. is working on the plan to move the schoolhouse to the Lincoln Center location.

This summer we welcome Beren Engstrom as the Exhibit Development intern through the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) internship program. (See his introduction on page 9). Beren is the sixth intern since 2020 that BHS has hosted through this program. Beren's internship is 400 hours over 10 weeks and is focusing on the creation of new exhibit topics to be displayed at Lincoln Center and as traveling exhibits for other locations.

BHS is honored to be selected as a host site for the Community Fellows Program through the Impact Beloit initiative at Beloit College. We welcome Kelsey Engelke as Museum Educator and Brigid Parker as Nonprofit Office Coordinator Fellows for the 2024-2025 academic year. We also welcome Macie Janes as an intern this fall. These interns will be focusing on community outreach projects and activities for the local schools.



We Have a New Roof!

Work began on March 18, to remedy the leaky roof which had given us problems for a long time. Funds were provided thru a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in the non-profit building and facility category. We are extremely grateful.

2024 Annual Membership Meeting

The Beloit Historical Society's Annual Membership Meeting on May 17, begins at 5:00 pm with a review of 2023 and goals for 2024. The business meeting is free to attend.

Dinner will be catered by Knute's at a cost of \$35 per member and \$40 for non-members.

Featured Speaker

Following the meeting and dinner, **Jon Miskowski**, Director of Television at PBS Wisconsin, will provide a sneak peak of the documentary

Wisconsin Hometown Stories: Beloit.



Contact our office (608-365-7835) for information. A detailed letter was sent to all members.

GREAT NEWS!!!

BHS Awarded Women's Fund Grant

The Beloit Historical Society is pleased to have been awarded a \$3,000 grant from the Women's Fund Grant Program of the Stateline Community Foundation. This grant is in support of the Women's History Resources Project to create an exhibit and associated booklet. This multi-phased project includes the cataloging of primary source documents and publications of Beloit women's organizations contained within BHS' collection holdings. Historic documents from 72 different Beloit women's organizations serve as a source of information to develop a traveling exhibit on women's history in Beloit.

**Blakely
& Blakely
Law Firm**



Robert G. Blakely

- Attorney At Law -

1122 Cranston Road, Suite 2

Beloit, WI 53511

608-365-4401

bob@blakelylaw.biz

www.blakelylaw.biz



ANGUS-YOUNG

ARCHITECTS/ENGINEERS
Interiors | Landscape

555 South River Street Janesville, WI 53548
Ph. (608) 756-2326

316 West Washington Ave Suite 800
Madison, WI 53703-3050
Ph. (608) 284-8225

Balance in Creativity
www.angusyoung.com

Please Meet Our WAICU Summer Intern



Beren Engstrom

Hello! My name is Beren Engstrom. I'm currently a rising senior at Beloit College, majoring in creative writing and minoring in museum studies and education. I'm extremely grateful to say that I am the 2024 WAICU summer intern at the BHS.

Since I moved to Beloit in 2021, it has gone from being just my college town to a home community that I deeply value, one that I want to actively support and be a part of. During my time at Beloit College,

I've done extensive museum work, and more recently have begun studying education. With my professional aspiration being to become a teacher, I've developed an interest in the intersection between education and community in museums, how we use collections to make meaningful connections between people. I sought out the BHS because I saw, through the WAICU internship, an opportunity to develop connections and cultivate experiences that would give back to Beloit and help me to get to know my home along the way. I'm excited about the possibilities before me and the BHS team, and I'm looking forward to getting started!

Do You Know a Beloit Booster Who Deserves Recognition?

The Beloit Historical Society Hall of Fame Committee is seeking nominees. We are looking for candidates who are outstanding leaders with their efforts and vision for a better Beloit Community. The individuals have made contributions to the greater good to the Beloit area and its citizens with leadership, resourcefulness, devotion and efforts towards the realization of a better Beloit community. The nominees can be living or deceased.

Nomination forms are available on the Beloit Historical Society website <http://beloithistory.org>.

Contact the Beloit Historical Society, 608-365-7835 or info@beloithistoricalsociety.com with questions.

BHS Helps Expand Learning for Beloit College Museum Management Students

Instructor Nicolette Meister's Introduction to Collections Management course, visited the Historical Society on April 2nd to learn about archival organization.

The class focus is museum collections management, so this workshop was a chance to learn about the differences between how archives and museum objects are managed.

BHS archivist and librarian, Diane Ray, showed how collections come in as loose items and how they are organized, cataloged and safely housed. The students did a small hands-on project, and then enjoyed a behind the scenes tour.




Trivia Teaser

Question: What was the first year Beloit operated as a city?

Answer: When Beloit was incorporated as a city in 1856 (not to be confused with its founding in 1836), it was divided into 4 wards, 2 on the west side and 2 on the east side. The total amount collected in taxes (in 1857) for the first year as a city was \$28,049.49. The real estate assessment on the west side was \$350,575 and personal property assessment was \$18,931. The east side real estate assessment was \$449,884 and the personal property assessment was \$69,902. This is a tax rate of approximately 3.15%.

Welcome New Members

David C. Luebke
Diana Peters



Beloit Film Works
FILM FRIENDLY LOCATION SERVICES



WE EXTEND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR FOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Tommy Bricco

Born and raised in the City of Beloit, I am a proud Purple Knight Alum. I enlisted in the US Army, obtained my bachelor's from UW Oshkosh and my master's from NYU. I started my career at the Hetrick-Martin Institute - Home of the Harvey Milk High School and spent 10 years living in New York city.

Last August I became Director, Buildings & Grounds for the School

District of Beloit. Around that same time, my grandfather, Arnie Lee, was inducted into the Beloit Historical Society Hall of Fame. Both my grandfather and I shared similar passions for education, service to the School District of Beloit and the entire Beloit community. As such, I felt honored and driven towards sharing my time and love of history with the greater Beloit community through the inspiring work of BHS.

I look forward to contributing my skills to drive our mission forward with younger generations of Beloiters in hopes of inspiring them to know the importance of understanding our city's unique, and diverse history.



Sylvia Lopez

Prof. Sylvia López has been an educator for over two decades working with diverse groups of students in high school, college, and continuing education programs. As the current Director of Community Connections at Beloit College, she is working to create "real-world," out-of-classroom experiences for students that stress the importance of responsible, informed citizenship and career readiness.

She teaches all levels of Spanish and has published multiple books. She has been the recipient of teaching awards which include the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, 2020 Beloit Rotary Teacher of the Month and the 2019 Presidential Service Award from Beloit College.

A believer in the Beloit Historical Society's mission of "Connecting people with Beloit's history to inspire an inclusive, informed, and engaged community," I look forward to helping the Society diversify its collections and celebrate the city's rich history.



Danielle Clifton

As a 3rd generation Beloit, I am a proud descendant of men and women who believed in this city and gave greatly of their time to its various institutions. I feel it's now my turn to lend BHS the skills I've learned along the way to help preserve as well as move it forward."

Marty Densch was born in Beloit. His father was a machinist at Fairbanks. He has always had a keen interest in history and has long supported both the Beloit Historical Society and the Wisconsin Historical Society. He has volunteered as a docent at Beckman Mill and served on the board of Friends of Beckman Mill and as its board president.



Marty Densch

He is also a car enthusiast and loves a good road trip. That inspired him to do his own study of the evolution of way-finding in the early days of the automobile and the development of Wisconsin's state highway system, the first such numbered system in the nation. He has given presentations for the Society for Learning Unlimited and BHS on topics such as "Way-finding Way Back When" and "The Search for Old 51".

He looks forward to helping preserve Beloit history — and learning more about it — in his role as a member of the BHS board.

"Every town has to have a place to keep its history, otherwise it will be lost"

John Patrick

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

What's YOUR LEGACY?

BHS now offers 2 NEW Membership Levels beginning in 2023

LEGACY \$2,500
CONSERVATOR \$1,000

Benefits of Sustaining members PLUS gift memberships, behind the scenes tours & free admission to events.

ENJOY THESE GREAT MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS!

CONFLUENCE NEWSLETTER

Confluence highlights Beloit history and keeps you up-to-date on Society happenings. There are six issues each year.

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

Enjoy discounts on Society events, reduced research rates, and complementary access to the Lubke Library.

SUSTAINING MEMBER

Sustaining Memberships come with a NARM membership, giving card holders access to over 1,000 museums.

Learn more about the benefits of membership or purchase your membership instantly at beloithistory.org.



YES, I WANT TO PROTECT AND SHARE BELOIT'S LEGACY

Name

Address

City State Zip

Email

Phone

I'm interested in: Volunteering Leadership Roles

I would like to be a member!

- \$2,500 Legacy
- \$1,000 Conservator
- \$500 Sustaining
- \$50 Business
- \$50 Family
- \$30 Individual

I would like to make an additional gift in the amount of:

- \$500
- \$250
- \$100
- \$50
- _____

Enclosed is my personal check made payable to Beloit Historical Society

Please charge my: Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Card # Exp CVV

I would like information about making BHS part of my estate plans.

Sharing Beloit's history to enhance community pride.

NEVER MISS OUR NEWSLETTER!

SUBSCRIBE

Have our newsletter emailed to you.

Visit www.mycommunityonline.com



Place Your Ad Here and Support our Community!

Instantly create and purchase an ad with

AD CREATOR STUDIO



lpicommunities.com/adcreator



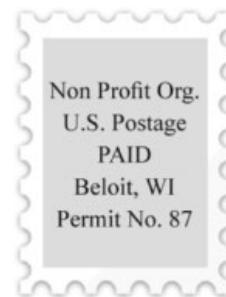


BELOIT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY EST. 1910

845 Hackett Street
Beloit, Wisconsin 53511
Phone: 608-365-7835

Confluence Newsletter

*Connecting People with Beloit's
History to Inspire an Inclusive,
Informed and Engaged Community*



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

BHS Staff

Donna Langford, Exec. Director
Sharon Green, Admin. Assistant
Diane Ray, Archivist

Board of Directors

Rick Dexter, President
Jackie Jackson, Vice President
Tom Larsen, Treasurer
Robert Blakely
Tom Bricco
Daniele Clifton
Marty Densch
Dick Gerhard
Ellen Joyce
Sylvia Lopez
Mark Preuschl
Betsy Schmiechen

Newsletter Editor: Mary Herrmann
Cover Design: Nancy Wallace

With deep appreciation to all of you special members who give extra support towards our goal of sharing Beloit's history

