

Valentine SNIPPETS of SALEM

162 – Village of Silver
Lake

50 years
1926-1976

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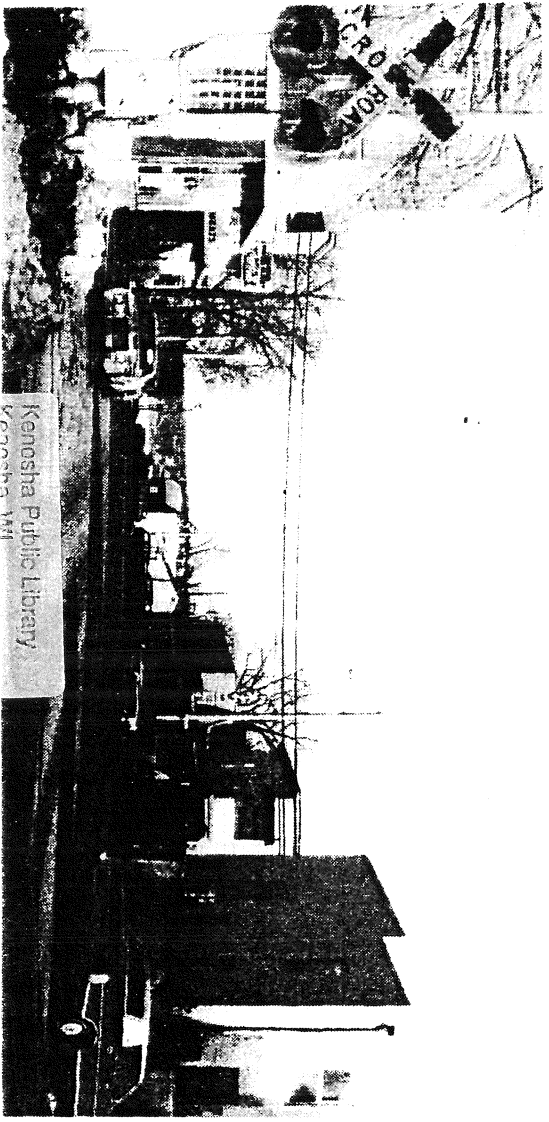
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VILLAGE OF SILVER LAKE
KENOSHA COUNTY, WIS.
1926 50 YEARS 1976



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Seated, left to right: Carl Fisher, Trustee; Bob Kruzon, Trustee; Ron Wieland, Trustee; Rich Harrison, Village President; Charles Walker, Village Clerk; Bill Kowalik, Trustee; Frank Cason, Trustee; Bill Elfers, Trustee.
Standing, left to right: Carol Keough, Village Treasurer; Cecil Rothrock, Village Attorney; Delores Walker, Deputy Village Clerk.

This book is dedicated to the people of Silver Lake who through the years strived to make Silver Lake the village it is today. May the growth and prosperity of our village continue to serve all for the future years to come.

Richard C. Harrison
Village President

Special thanks to Bill Hanson of Gateway Technical Institute, Katherine Gallagher, Delores Walker, Joyce Harrison, Ron Wieland, Dorothy Holtdorf, Kenosha County Historical Society, and many others too numerous to note for pictures, material, and extra assistance in the production of this book.

Art work by Jan Juber. Typing by Eleanor Harvey. Compiled by Jim Pace.

This page sponsored by the Silver Lake Village Board

Early History of Silver Lake

Silver Lake probably received it's name from the Indians because they considered the lake a shimmering pool of water. The Algonkian family of the Potowatomi tribe lived in the area. As white settlers drove other Indian tribes westward some of the other tribes settled in the area. The Algonkian used the Fox River as their means of travel and the area between the river and the lake as their campgrounds. Indian mounds have been found in the area.

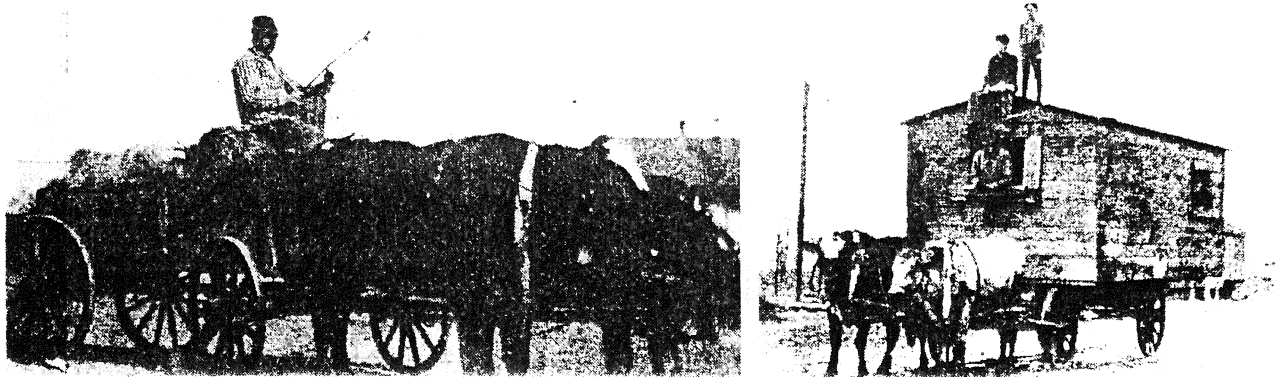
As a result of the Black Hawk Indian War of 1832 most of the Indians were placed on reservations in Iowa to free the land for settlement by the whites.

The French first claimed the area because they discovered it and because of several settlements in the state, mainly along Lake Michigan. So, from 1634 to 1763 the area was under the jurisdiction of the French. As a result of the French and Indian War all French lands east of the Mississippi River and south of the Great Lakes were given to the British. The English controlled the area from 1763 to 1783. In 1774 the British passed the Quebec Act, which became one of the reasons for fighting the Revolutionary War, and the area became part of the province of Quebec.

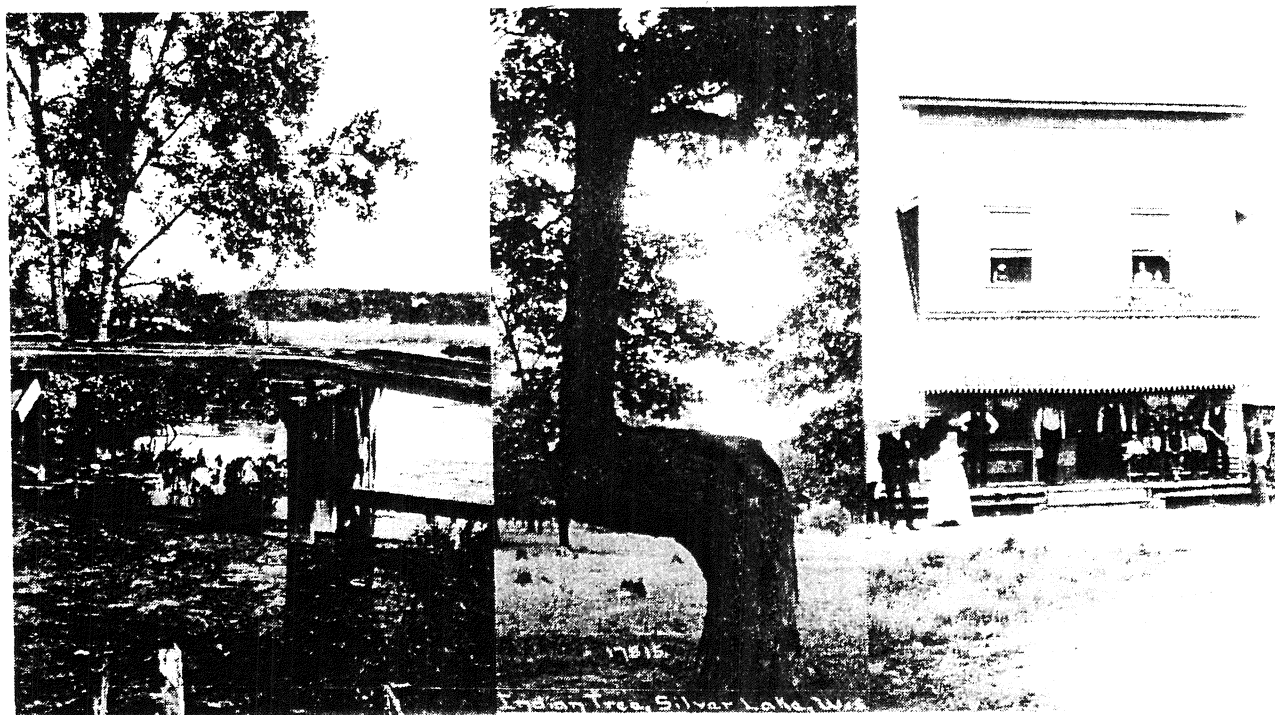
After the peace settlement of the Revolutionary War this area became part of the vast area known as the Northwest Territory from 1783 to 1800. It became part of the Indiana Territory in 1800, part of the Illinois Territory in 1809, part of the Michigan Territory in 1818, and finally it became part of the Wisconsin Territory in 1836.

The first territorial capital was at Belmont in the southwest corner of the state, then it was moved to Burlington, Iowa because the Wisconsin Territory included part of Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. In 1838 the capital was established in Madison. Wisconsin became a state on May 29, 1848 with the same boundaries as at the present time.

In Hannibal, New York in December, 1834, John Bullen and some friends discussed immigration to the newly opened western lands. They heard stories of the rich farm lands and land that they could purchase cheaply from the government. As a result of this meeting the Western Emigration Company was formed and stock sold to claim settlements in Wisconsin.



This page sponsored by Charles and Dolores Walker



The first group of the company arrived in Kenosha in 1835 and part of the group was John Bullen Jr. and Alfred Bullen, sons of John Bullen. John Jr. and Alfred explored the area west of Kenosha and filed a claim on all of the land between the lake and river. They went to the Federal Land Office in Milwaukee and purchased the land from the government for fifty cents an acre.

In 1836 they built a bridge across the Fox River near where the present bridge stands and also built a wayside inn near the spot where the Packer Inn is today. The bridge gave the farmers a chance to cross the river and take their farm products to Kenosha for shipment to the east by boat.

In 1853 construction started on the Kenosha and Beloit Railroad at the Fox River, just north of Silver Lake, toward Kenosha. By the end of 1856 the tracks had reached Kenosha to the east and to Genoa City to the west. As a result of consolidation the railroad became known as the Kenosha and Rockford Road. A railroad station was built in the town of Fox River just north of Silver Lake. A July 4, 1860 excursion train ran from Kenosha to Genoa City and returned and a description of that ride stated:

"The train was made up of flat cars with seats of plank arranged along the side, shade being afforded by oak and poplar saplings from the woods nailed to the edge of each car. The ladies on the excursion went dressed in their prettiest clothing, many wore white dresses. In the open cars, with the wood burning engines belching smoke and cinders, those dresses were in deplorable condition on their return." In 1864 the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company purchased the Kenosha and Rockford Road.

This page sponsored by The Packer Inn - Dick and Dianna Wolfe

The white population in Wisconsin in 1840 was 30,945 and by 1850 that had grown to 305,391. More settlers were arriving and people were looking for land to purchase.

Frederick Schenning came to the Silver Lake area in July, 1866, liked what he saw, and purchased several hundred acres from John Bullen Jr. for \$5.00 an acre. In October, 1866, Frederick Schenning, his wife Charlotte, and two sons, Frederick Jr. and William arrived in Silver Lake. There was the railroad depot, with Alex Bailey as station agent, and two farm houses. The Schennings moved into one farm house and started clearing land for farming. They made a deal to sell the wood to the railroad as fuel while they cleared the land. They named their farm the Silver Lake Farm.

In 1871 the Wisconsin Central Railroad was started in Fond Du Lac with the idea that most railroads in Wisconsin ran east and west and none served the center part of the state north and south. Frederick Schenning saw this railroad as a great asset for this area and donated the right of way and land for the depot in order to have the trains serve the people. Construction in this area started in 1879, but the tracks were not completed to Chicago until 1885. Trains started running in 1886.

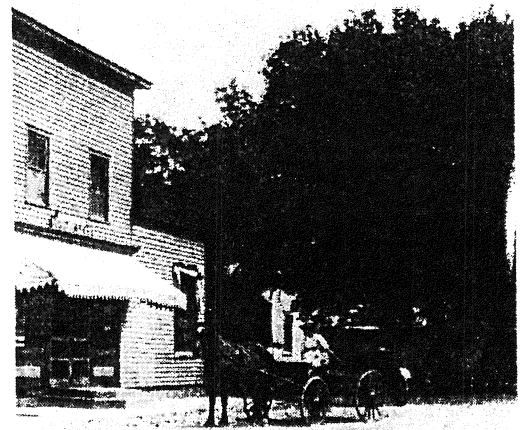
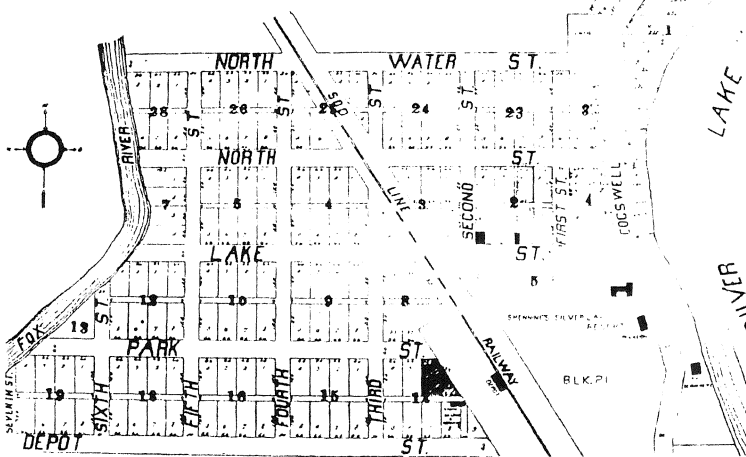
If one year was to be picked as the year that Silver Lake really started it would have to be 1886. The first passenger train from Chicago arrived, Frederick Schenning Jr. purchased the land east of the railroad tracks and built a hotel, livery stable, bowling alley, and ice cream stand, William Schenning purchased the land west of the railroad track, the first survey of the village was made by George W. Lewis of Twin Lakes, the first ice house (Zuttermuster's) was built near where Jay's Potatoe Chip building is now located, the first lots were sold, and the tourists began to arrive in town. The B. Dunning and Joe Dixon Store was built, the Wilbur Lumber Yard was built and managed by A. Mathews, F. Foster built and opened a furniture store, John Ludwig opened a blacksmith shop, and Chester Hockney opened a garage. Homes were built by Matilda Gallagher, Mr. Cafferty, George Selby, F. Zuttermuster, Herman Zuhde, Richard Koating, Robert Dixon, and A. Mathews.



This page sponsored by Pete's Shell Service - Cogswell Drive - Peter P. Paskvan

... streets and the Lakefront in Chicago. Silver Lake was named to avoid confusion with the other lakes and the government and naming the town a large amount of effort was having and taking the other name was Silver Lake as the best of every one in the community was agreed to call it Silver Lake. The Silver Lake Town a pleasure resort and was not intended as a permanent settlement based on the old days of wooden buildings. Silver Lake is a lovely water of about 1 1/2 miles long and about 1/2 mile wide.

There will be numerous small houses on the banks of these waters, which will be in order in a short time. The town is intended to be a summer resort and to be a place where the people can enjoy the water. The full growth of the town will be seen in the future. To Silver Lake, Wis. from Chicago, Ill.



In 1887 homes were built by David Prosser, Edwin Wilcox, Otto Zertz, Herman Tarrow, John Ludwig, Max Daniels and Fraser Foster. Frederick Schenning Jr. donated land for a Methodist Church. In 1895 William Schenning donated the land to build a Baptist Church. Roy Bufton opened a hardware store, Hannaman and Flucker opened a butcher shop, and Joseph Dalton and John Kerwin started a general merchandise store in 1894.

The Dalton Store became the community center for local residents. "The upper story of the building was a dance hall. It had a beautiful hard maple floor. There were benches built around the walls and over 300 folding chairs were available for people to sit on. All types of public doings were held there like dances, roller skating, card parties, church oyster suppers, vaudeville shows, school plays, wedding parties, farmers' meetings, political rallies, and silent movies." When Dr. Bernard Becker arrived in Silver Lake in 1898 he had his office in the Dalton Store until he built his home and office. The post office was located in the Dalton Store for many years.

The economic climate of Silver Lake was now established, in the warm weather the tourists were the main force. The tourists could arrive on thirteen trains daily, they could stay in three hotels or cottages, they came from Chicago, Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, and St. Louis. While in Silver Lake they could participate in physical culture classes, livery and riding academy, bowling, swimming, boating, fishing, hunting, football and baseball, and all at a cost of \$2.00 per day. In addition they were served "Cogswell's Celebrated Spring Water" direct from the springs located near Schenning's Hotel.

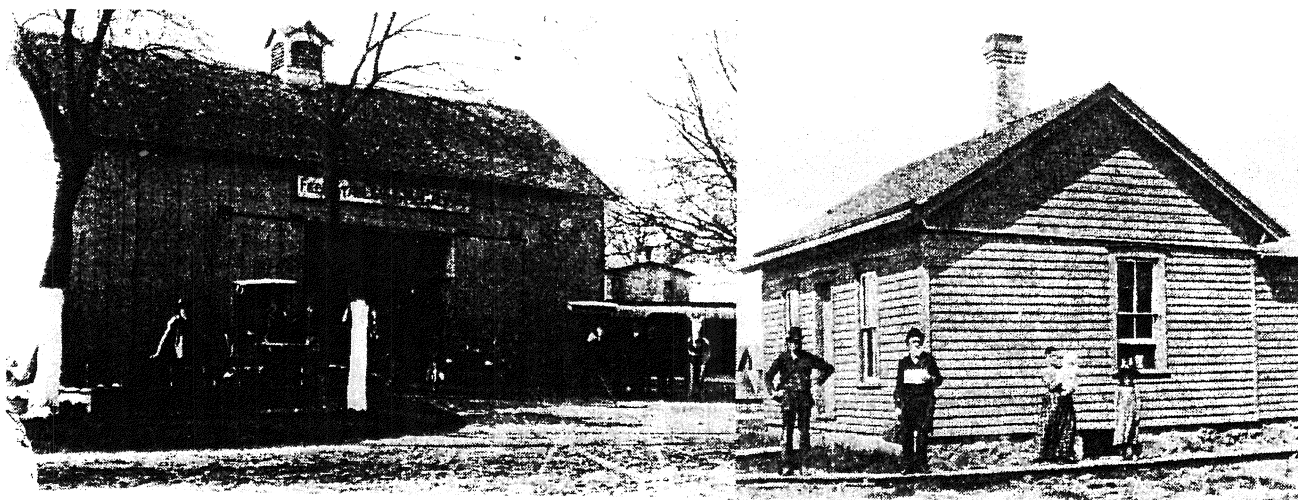
In the winter the community depended on the ice business. There were nine ice houses around the lake including Zuttermister's, Union, Bushing, Lewis, Consumer's, Jefferson, Boyle's, and Schenning's. Many arguments were held on which company was entitled to which part of the lake. The ice cutters and workers lived in the various hotels and rooming houses in town. The ice was cut and stored in the ice house and shipped by the railroad to the cities throughout the year. About 30 persons were hired year around and 300 were dused during cutting seas

The growth of weeds in the lake began to cause problems with the ice business and Chester Hockney invented his underwater weed cutter to control the growth of weeds. His machines were sold all over the United States to parks and communities. Today they are still built and used as an alternative to weed poisons. Mr. Hockney and George Engle eventually moved their garage to the Schenning livery stable and Engle invented one and two wheeled tractors, a webbed watershoe for walking on water, and a leveling instrument for determining a grade crossing.

With the arrival of electricity and telephone service other industries began to arrive. A Mr. Ligenfelter opened an ice cream plant in 1904 and later it was operated by Milton Bluim and then later by Charles Barber.

In 1913 a Mr. Graf from Kentucky arrived in Silver Lake with an idea for a stove foundry. He arranged for local people like Roy Loth, William Schlect, Claire Dixon, and "Taps" Born to invest in the plant. It was built on the present site of the Riverview School. The plant was needed because the ice business was slowly dying due to the invention of artificial ice plants. The foundry suffered a fire that destroyed half of the plant in 1918 and mysteriously the rest of the plant burned down in 1920.

With the invention of the automobile the improvement of roads became of prime importance. In 1912 an automobile club was formed in Kenosha County and funds collected to improve roads and post signs. Over \$6,600 was collected to improve Geneva Road (50) from Kenosha to Lake Geneva and over \$5,000 was collected to improve Burlington Road (83). Advertisements from the Silver Lake Health and Rest Resort stated that "Chicago Auto Parties are advised to take the road through Evanston to Kenosha, then over the Rock-Bed Road to Silver Lake".



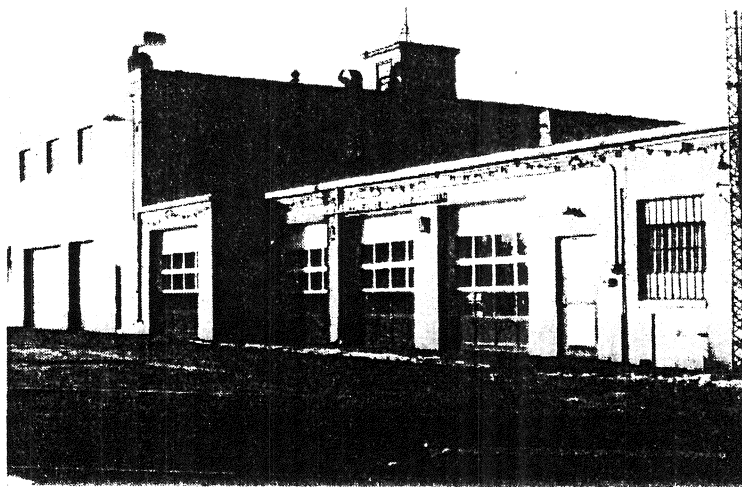
This page sponsored by Roger, Margie, Colleen, Roger, Jr. and Jeff Saucerman



The original survey of the Village made in April, 1886, showed the platt of the village as being from the lake to the Fox River, and Depot Street to North Water Street. In September, 1886 the Schenning addition was recorded and in 1910 the Schenning lakeside subdivision was recorded. The north village line was the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad tracks. Where the two railroads crossed at the north west corner of the village was called Peck's Crossing and had a large freight dock for the pick up of milk. The original Schenning farm consisted of 290 acres and the area of the unincorporated village was now almost 500 acres.

With the end of the ice business and tourist business falling off after the First World War, Silver Lake began to become a retirement settlement and typical rural community of the kind common in America in the early 1920's.

In 1919 Otto Schenning purchased 150 acres of the original farm on the south side of the village to Hwy. F. He sold this land in 1927 to Max Mueller who subdivided it and called it Silver Lake Estates and sold the lots to mostly people from the Chicago area for retirement homes and summer homes.



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THE SCHENNING

Seated from left: Eliza Schenning, Charlotte Schenning, Frederick Schenning, unidentified young girl. Standing from left: William Schenning and Frederick Schenning Jr. Note the big badge pinned on the chest of Frederick Jr., he was supposed to be the first marshal in Silver Lake.



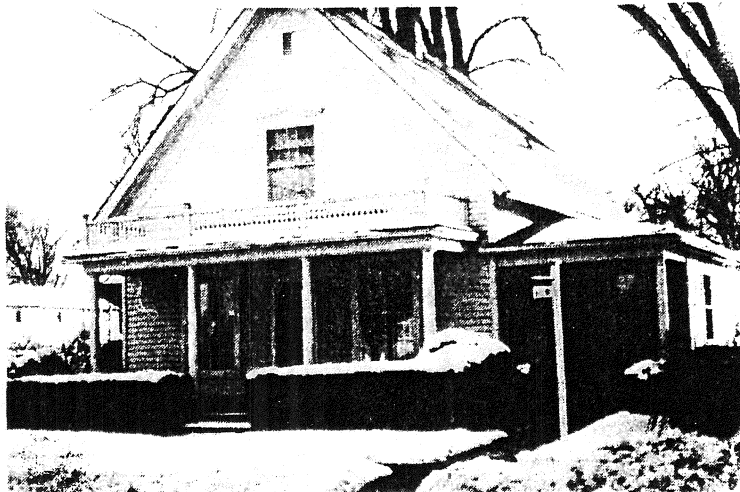
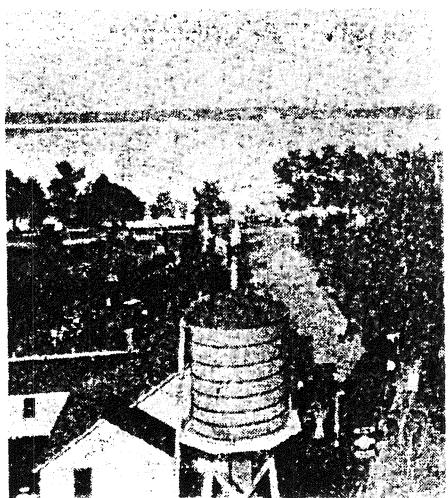
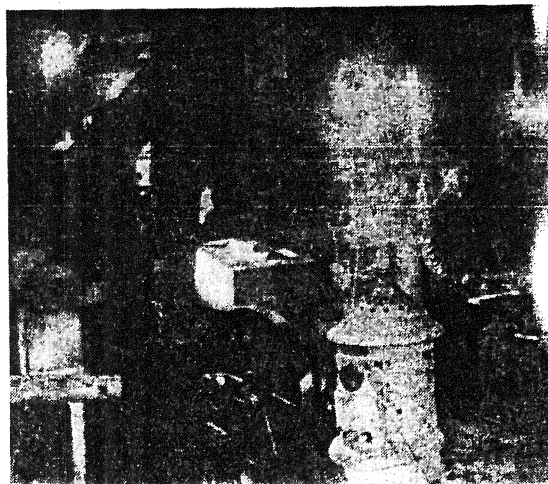
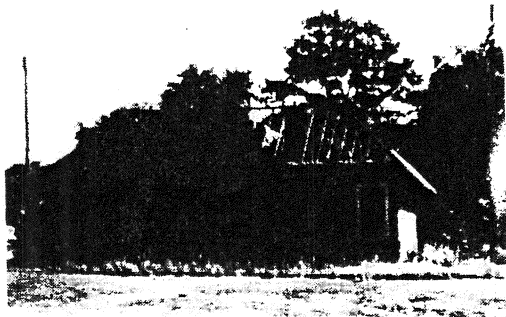
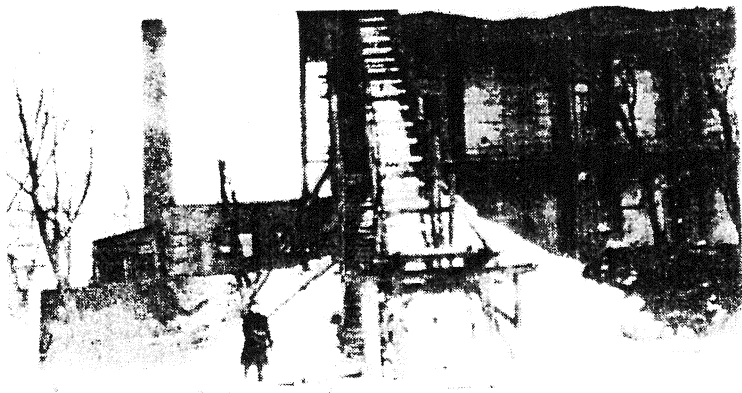
FIRST BABY BORN IN SILVER LAKE

From left: Charlotte Schenning, Charlotte's mother, Eliza Prosser Schenning and baby Edith. Edith Schenning Hockney is reported to be the first white child born in Silver Lake.



EXCITEMENT ON LAKE STREET

Some children are pictured at an excavation on Lake Street. Some of the children are from the Hockney family, but it was impossible to identify them.



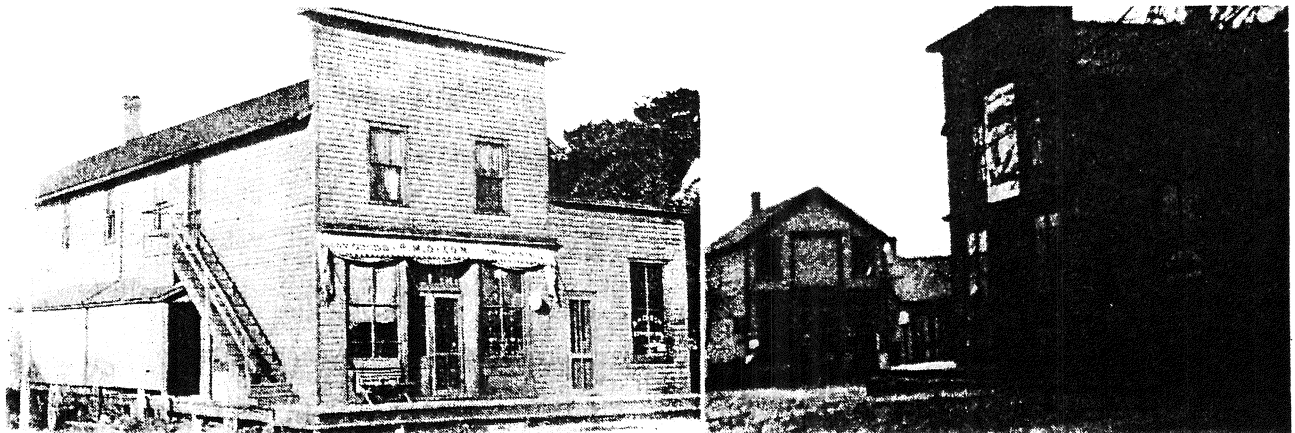
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Marge Payne - American Legion Club

History of the Village of Silver Lake

A petition dated June 21, 1926 and signed by Joseph Dalton, Ralph Barber, William Richter, O. D. Wicks, R. T. Bluffton, Bert Dean, C. V. Vaughn, P. J. Tennes, Eric Hansen, and notarized by Clifford Janke requested that the Village of Silver Lake be incorporated. The village would be comprised of 505½ acres of land and had a population of 325 persons. The boundries of the proposed village were: on the north the same as today, on the south from the Fox River to the railroad tracks, on the east the lake and on the west the Fox River. Excluded was an area in the southwest corner called the "points" that was between the Fox River and the high water mark.

The census of the proposed village showed the following families lived in the area involved:

Gallagher	Welch	Ludwig	White
Richards	Gaskin	Dean	Schultz
Davis	Selby	Tennes	Miller
Schultz	Blyberg	Taylor	Ellis
Washtook	Smithson	Prosser	Mathews
Lovestead	Runkel	Thornton	Schultz
Leiting	Schenning	Schroeder	Miller
Capelle	Albright	Bernhoft	Ellis
Mathews	Loth	Richardson	Mathews
Gandt	Klobuchen	Luczak	Schwartz
Peterson	Martens	Oberhafer	Becker
Pangler	Kamin	Dugan	Leonard
Ehlert	Vaughn	Faber	Carr
Wohlford	Epping	Hackel	Weaver
Schmalfeldt	Sokolski	Hockney	Johnson
Zelinger	Hazelman	Lubeno	Ganzlin
Walburg	Fiegel	Dixon	Griep
Eager	Stulgin	Grubel	Hoff
Dalton	Solvin	Schenning	Janke
Richter	Buften	Seitz	Doly
Hansen	Barker	Stoffer	
Glenn	Wicks	Meon	



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James A. Williams, Special Agent



Attorney Robert V. Baker represented the village on the petition of incorporation before Circuit Court Judge E. B. Belden on July 13, 1926. Judge Belden ordered the incorporation of the village provided that the electors approved it in a referendum. The referendum was held on August 5, 1926 and a total of 61 votes were cast, 57 for incorporation and 4 against.

The election of officers was held on September 7, 1926, and the following people were placed in office.

Village President:	C. B. Vaughn
Village Clerk:	Erik Hansen
Village Treasurer:	C. L. Janke
Village Assessor:	Joseph Dalton
County Supervisor:	J. M. Ludwig
Constable:	August Schultz
Justice of Peace:	Bert Dean
Village Trustee:	Otto Schenning
Village Trustee:	Ralph Barber

The first meeting of the Village Board was held on September 16, 1926 in the old Silver Lake State Bank building. The main item of business was to borrow \$300 to pay the incorporation costs. It had cost \$260.15 to incorporate the Village and \$13.00 was needed to gravel streets.

Other items of business covered by the Village Board in it's first year of existence included:

October - Complaint to railroad commission on dangerous crossings in village.

November - Ordinance regulating hawkers and vendors passed.

December - Ordinance regulating dance halls, soft drinks, and non intoxicating drinks passed.

January - Appeal to State Tax Commission that the assessed valuation of City of Kenosha was lower than remainder of county.

February - Board of Health appointed.

March - Demand on Town of Salem for Village share of taxes collected.

April - Village Clerk resigns and is replaced by Joseph Zelinger.

May - Village meetings now held in Lumber Company Office.

June - Streets and culverts repaired.

July - Attempt to get Wisconsin Gas and Electric Company to open office in village

August - Salaries established: Assessor \$54 a year, Clerk \$75 a year, Treasurer \$50 a year, Constable \$25 a year.

September - South Silver Lake Estates and North Silver Lake Estates are recorded and the Village now has $7\frac{1}{4}$ miles of streets to maintain.

In the fall of 1927 the village levied a tax of \$2,348.33 for street lights and general purposes.

1928

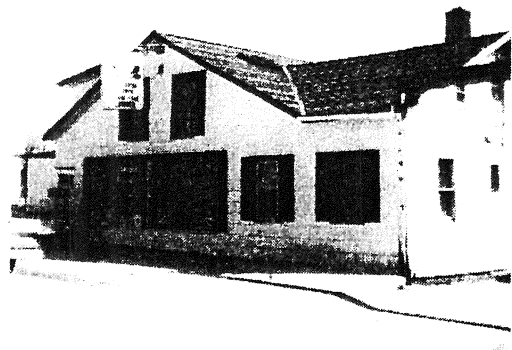
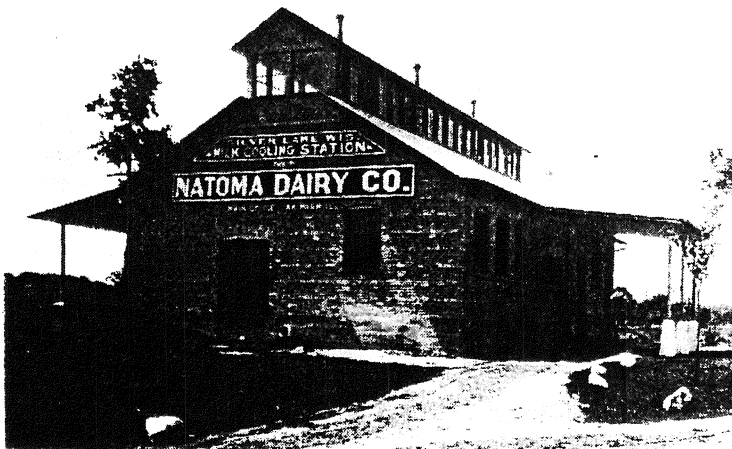
Silver Fox subdivision plot was signed, but later vacated. Construction of water cistern for fire protection by Dalton Store approved. Approved purchase of 300 ft. of fire hose and a fire siren. Water drainage problems were acted on by installing new culverts and catch basins. Monthly electric bill for street lights was \$52.50. Part time help hired to gravel and grade streets.

1929

February, rabies scare. All dogs must be muzzled, tied up, penned up, or they would be shot. Franchise granted to Wisconsin Gas and Electric Company to install gas lines in Village and they establish office on Cogswell Drive. Tax levy was \$12,908.74 including school tax. Purchased first fire truck at a cost of \$3,229.33.

1930

Site for a village hall and fire house was purchased for \$400. The building was built for a cost \$2,544. Ralph Barber resigned as Village Trustee and as Fire Chief. A "Poor Fund" is established because of the "Great Depression". One family is granted 60¢ a day for groceries at Dalton's Store and 40¢ a day for meat at Richter's Store. Part time work was found for the family and the financial help reduced to 50¢ a day. Dr. B. A. Becker was appointed Health Officer and made house calls to quarantine houses that had measles, mumps, or other contagious diseases. F. H. Schenning was given permission to dig a canal 8 ft. wide under Cogswell Drive to drain surface water to the lake.



This page sponsored by Silver Lake Lumber Co., Inc. - Gene Heckel - 1876-1976



Joseph Dalton

1931

The first Village Board meeting is held in the new Village Hall in April. William Richter was Village President and V. Holtdorf was the Clerk. Village Board Committees were appointed for the first time and the number of trustees increased from two to six. Twelve chairs (still in use today) and a file cabinet were purchased for \$46.50. A circus permit was issued in September. The ball park has floodlights installed for night games. Fire protection contracts with Wheatland, Brighton, and Salem towns were discussed.

1932

A pier was built by the Village at the lake front. The depression hit hard and the Village Board allowed \$3 a week per man and wife, 50¢ for each child, and \$1.50 per single person, in addition rent and light bills were paid. A program was started to put people to work on streets and storm sewer projects. The Village purchased a truck for \$15.00. Village trustees to be paid \$1.00 per meeting for the first time. A telephone is installed in the fire house. First traffic ordinance passed setting speed limit in Village limits at 25 miles per hour. The town of Salem paid \$200 for fire protection for one year. Merchant sponsor free movies and they are so well attended that Village Constable ordered to be there to direct traffic.

1933

Ordinance passed controlling the dumping of rubbish. A datum plane established and a bench mark placed on the old Silver Lake State Bank. Erik Hansen was hired as first village attorney. A series of burglaries, slot machines, and failure of merchants to obtain tax stamps worried Village Board. Village purchased \$8 worth of seed potatoes and plowed and planted them to feed the poor. Joseph Dalton became ill and his daughter Ethel was appointed Deputy Assessor, thereby becoming the first woman to hold office in Silver Lake. F. H. Schenning sold 250 ft. of lake frontage to the village for a beach and park. (Present day beach area). Federal Works Projects were in full swing with laborers being paid 50¢ an hour for a 30 hour work week. Projects being done included street widening, storm sewers, cisterns, sidewalks, curbs, and a vault in the Village Hall.

1934

Village rented the DeBell property for a dump. Tax deadline extended to June 1st. prohibition ended and ordinance passed to issue licenses for intoxicating drinks. Board of Review established for the first time. Village Board orders lake cleaned out at site of Boyle Green House. Discussion was held on clearing posts and other obstructions from the lake. 17 men were being employed in federal projects. 40 trees purchased and planted along parkways. Assessed value of village was \$530,010. Village President paid \$96.50 per year to supervise federal projects. Income this year increased by \$2 when apples were sold from village tree.

1935

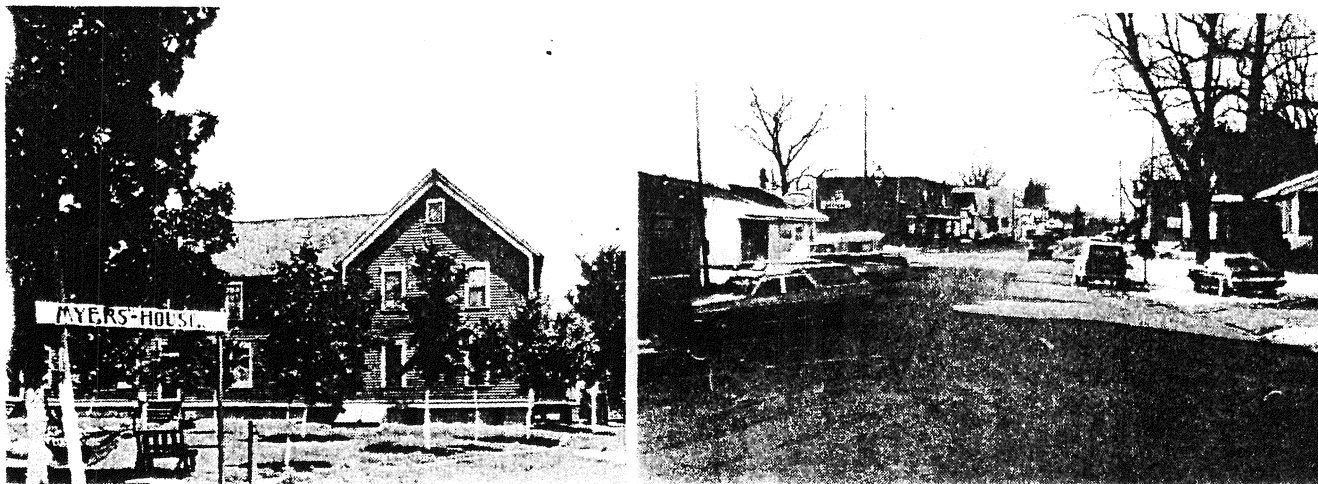
New by-laws adopted by Village Board. W.P.A. projects this year were to improve bathing beach, build grandstand, light and grade ball park as well as install more storm sewers. F. H. Schenning donated a strip of land to village on Lake Street to widen street and put sidewalks on south side of street. Town of Salem refused to sign fire protection contract.

1936

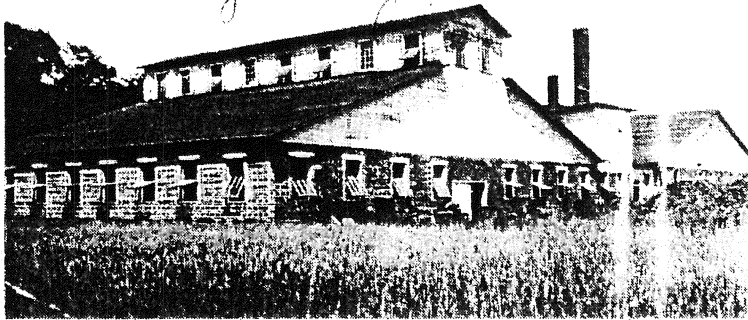
A fire protection contract was finally signed with Salem town. Theft of items from fire house was resolved by keeping fire house locked. Village beach was sanded. Silver Lake sub-division property owners attempted to find way to withdraw from village due to street conditions. M. J. Schenning appointed Fire Chief. Railroad again warned to put warning lights at all railroad crossings in village. One third of people in village in survey indicated they were receiving aid from poor fund. Investigation made into possible fraud in poor aid pension funds. 110 trees purchased and planted to replace trees destroyed when sidewalks were installed. Plans made to construct warehouse for village on same site of Village Hall.

1937

Ordinance passed on care and maintenance of sidewalks was passed. Village purchased fireworks for the firemen's harvest festival. Warehouse plans delayed. Band concerts and free movies still being given weekly. Attempts still being made to make Boyle Ice Co. to remove posts from the lake. W.P.A. put in storm sewers in south Silver Lake subdivision.



had a just half the size
 addition was put on
 last year
 moved to the ground July 10



1938

Village warehouse completed. A fire protection contract was signed with town of Randall. Soo Line Railroad was bankrupt and therefore only signal installed was on Lake Street crossing. Village trustee pay raised to \$4 a meeting. Only 60% of taxes paid previous year. A dam was built at outlet of lake. Town of Salem refused to pay for four fire calls and fire protection contract was cancelled. Clifford Janke resigned as Village Treasurer and was replaced by V. H. Holtdorf. Village placed raft in lake for swimmers.

1939

Town of Salem reinstated fire protection contract. Storm sewers installed in Silver Fox subdivision and North Silver Lake Estates subdivision. A rumor concerning the raising of hogs in the village caused the Board to study a zoning ordinance. The village dump truck was condemned by the W.P.A. and the village canceled the W.P.A. contract. The W.P.A. provided another truck and work continued on moving ball diamond to its present location. The village beach was lighted and bouys installed to keep motor boats out of swimming area. The KD Railroad was being abandoned and the village attempted to acquire RR property. Silver Lake Shores subdivision was proposed and village agreed if more land was provided for beach area and trees removed from middle of First Street. Additional beach area purchased for \$1,500 and trees were removed.

1940

CCC was making improvements at Fox River County Park. Sign at village beach stating "Gentiles Only" was ordered removed. Ordinance passed forbidding waste water being put in storm sewer system. State ordered toilets installed at public beach. Complaints received that because of gas leak trees were dying. Complaints were received that people were cleaning septic tanks and using it to fertilize gardens in village.

1941

Elm trees sprayed to rid them of bugs. Election workers pay increased to \$4 a day. A petition received from residents of Silver Lake Shores subdivision about people parking on private property, using vile language, and indecent exposure. The employment of a life guard at the beach was considered. A property owner demanded oil on her street. She stated that she heard if the right man on the Board was given a new suit that her street would be oiled properly. The Village Clerk suggested that everyone be on the lookout for a man in a new suit.

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 Jerry Truskowski and Ernie Strum

1942

budget for the village was \$5,900 of which \$2,950 was to be raised by property tax. Village to send packages and news items to men in service. Georgia Pankinton elected Justice of Peace, phone bill was \$2.92 a month for village. Bert Dean, Village Clerk, died. The village warehouse was rented for \$4 a month.

1943

Village purchased own snowplow. Wage scale for village laborer established at 65¢ an hour. Agreed to install honor role plaque for all men in service. Fire lanes to river improved at 6th Street, Lake Street, and North Street. Attempts made to have Soo Line stop trains in Silver Lake for Chicago bound passengers.

1944

County system of poor relief abandoned. Tie vote for Village President between William Richter and R. T. Bufton settled by lot and Bufton won. A spill way in dam of lake was constructed. Town of Salem refused to pay for fire calls. Village budget was \$5,698. Garbage collection started once a week in summer time. Petition for tennis courts received, but because of war and lack of funds no action taken. Surface water still a major problem in village.

1945

Dorothy Holtdorf appointed Election Inspector for the first time and which she still holds. Village garage rented to William Nash to manufacture items for federal government. Village streets being damaged by farmers driving tractors lugs on them. Dr. Chester DeWitt appointed Health Officer. Village hired first full time employee at \$140 a month. Christmas party held for children at Village Hall.

1946

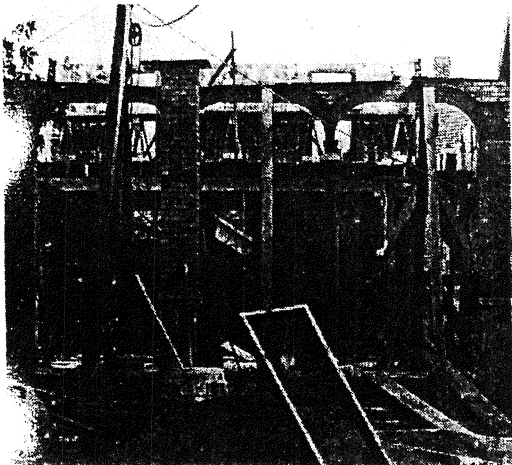
War veterans organization holding meetings in Village Hall. Honor roll placed on lawn by fire department. Many complaints received on dogs and cats running loose and biting people. Public beach closed in August and September because of polio outbreak.

1947

First stop signs installed at various corners in village. Building code and zoning codes established for village. Bus service obtained for the village. Complaints received about rabbit hunters in village. Three men deputized to control problem at public beach. Fire department authorizing to fill cisterns in village due to lack of rain. Outdoor meetings conducted by Christian Businessmen Association.

1948

Blano's Silver Lake subdivision approved and platted. Village attorney hired to attend each Board meeting due to new building and zoning code. Village budget \$12,050 and village tax levy was \$2,250. Village garage door had to be enlarged so that snow plow could get in it.



This page sponsored by The Tackle Box. Silver Lake - Karl and Pat Fischer

Probably the most significant happening as the 1940's drew to a close and the 50's began was the realization that the Riverview School was no longer large enough for its needs.

In November of 1949 the village opened up School Street in contemplation of the building of a new grade school and a building permit was issued.

In January of 1950 the consolidation of Camp Lake School District #1 Salem Mound School District #4, and Riverview School District #2 was discussed and by the spring of 1951 classes were being held in the new, three-room school at the north end of the village.

It was in the early 1950's also that the proposal of a new village hall or "public building," as it was referred to, came up.

The board rejected a first offer from the General Telephone Co. of \$12,500 for the purchase of the existing village hall and garage but later accepted an offer of \$15,000. Property east of what was then the O'Neil Barbershop, to First Street, abutting on Lake Street was purchased and plans for the setback of the building and parking space were decided on.

In March of 1953 sealed bids for the purchase of \$55,000 of bonds at three per cent to be issued by the village for the purpose of erecting a new municipal building and a structure to house the fire department equipment were opened.

Later that year B. J. Bruns was hired as architect. Village board meeting minutes note the purchase for \$902.50 and installation of locks, hinges and other hardware for the new building which bears the cornerstone inscription 1953.

BOUNDARIES

Village boundaries were changing through the years and they still fluctuate as subdivisions are created to take care of the growing population.

In September of 1951 the village petitioned to annex a portion of the South Silver Lake Estates then lying in the town of Salem, later to become the site of Jays Potato Chips buildings. In October of 1952 a petition was submitted to the board regarding the annexation of all the land lying east and north of the Fox River and west of the corporate boundary line.

In 1955 the court granted Theo Kalpake permission to detach 204 acres from the village as it was proven to be used exclusively for agriculture, but the 1958 minutes state that the Kalpake farm land, under the title of Wisconsin Silver Lake Beach Subdivision, requested annexation to Silver Lake and the request was approved.

In 1958 taxable property in the village was assessed at \$1,391,645. In 1960 an ordinance authorized the village clerk and treasurer to make out a tax roll showing the aggregate amount of state, county, school and other taxes to be used as "a story of the proportionate amount used" for each.

SEWERS

In 1960 village board minutes begin showing references to a proposed sewer system. From then through 1967 the minutes trace the story of the installation of the sewers and the treatment plant from the first meetings with Herbert Johnson of the firm of Jensen and Johnson, Elkorn, who had made the original survey, to 1967 when complaints on monthly sewer changes were recorded, a situation that prevails today.

In May of 1965 the clerk was instructed to apply for a federal grant for construction of the treatment plant; later, the clerk was instructed to advertise for bids and the village attorney to prepare the necessary legal papers for levying special assessments. Bonds were issued amounting to \$350,000 to pay for the project and the purchase of land for the treatment plant was completed.

Assessments were set at \$3 per front foot to be paid in cash or in ten equal annual installments plus interest, not to exceed six per cent. The hookup charge was set at \$200, flat fee.

A public hearing on the sewer project was held on September 27, 1964 and on November 3, 1964 the electors voted on a referendum allowing the village to construct a sanitary sewage disposal system and treatment plant.

Property at the corners of Hys. B and F, known as the Loth farm, was annexed from Salem to Silver lake and became the site of the plant.

SECOND DOCTOR

During the 60's the village also became concerned about lightening the work load of Dr. C. A. DeWitt who for so long had served as a dedicated physician in the area. Efforts were made to acquire a general practitioner and Dugans Park was leased to Walter Ebeling with an option to buy over a period of five years for the construction of a medical center. Dr. K. Zarka arrived to become the village's second physician with offices in a modern building at the south end of the village.

Space allows only the briefest mention of other action by the governing boards of the village during the past quarter century. Many of the problems confronting the trustees have been repeated over and over.

To mention just a few:

- Dogs disturbing the residents. Despite the ordinances regulating ownership of dogs, the problems were aired over and over. It was noted: "the ordinance is ignored," "there was not way to enforce it."

- The beach. In 1953 a fence, called a snow fence, was erected around the beach area with an exit at the north end. The town of Salem adopted an ordinance regulating speed boats on the lake but the Silver Lake village attorney reported that Salem had no authority to set such an ordinance.

- In March of 1954 the board discussed closing the beach and village president, the late Roy Bufton, suggested that the Silver Lake Improvement Association present a petition to see how many residents were in favor of such action. There is no further reference to a petition but sometime later it was decided that every effort be made to properly police the beach to stop picnicking; put up some type of fence and "use what safeguards necessary for the best interests of the village and keep it green." Later, the Silver Lake Improvement Association agreed to pay half the expense of installing a fence around the area and it can be assumed that refers to the present cyclone, metal fence.
- Firearms. In 1954 the village adopted an ordinance forbidding the discharging of fire arms in the village and firearms were defined as "any gun, rifle, pistol, air-gun, air-rifle or other explosive weapon."
- Licenses. In 1955 tavern licenses fees were increased from \$100 to \$150 a year. At present the charge is \$100 for a tavern selling beer only and \$300 for the combination beer and liquor license.
- Parking. In June, 1950, the board decided cars could park diagonally on Lake Street but the north side would be posted "No Parking." The "no parking" rule has been abolished for sometime.

In 1950 the village was doing away with "out buildings" and urging the installation of septic tanks. In that year a new Chevrolet truck cost only \$2,095 and the budget for 1951 was set at \$843,183.

Traffic policeman, Ed Martin, volunteered to police the village on weekends without pay until the regular season. Civil Defense inquired as to the amount of fire fighting equipment owned by the village and whether equipment and men, in case of emergency, could travel 150 to 200 miles.

A 1951 ordinance amendment forbid tourist or trailer camps within the village zoning area. The village carried on a dispute with the Milwaukee Road over payment for extinguishing of a fire on the Soo Line railroad by the village department but the outcome is not recorded.

Curbs and gutters were installed on Cogswell Drive at \$1.74 per lineal foot and in 1954 sidewalks and the alleys at the village hall were installed. Notices were printed and mailed to all box holders stating the rules and regulations on garbage collections in 1954 and also during that year property fronting Lake Street, belonging to the village, was sold to Ray Loth, the late Carl Flucke, Francis O'Neil and Henry Andre.

Traffic regulations and the establishment of footings for buildings were set; a time clock was installed to control the light at the beach and, also during this year of 1955, the village was assessed at \$1,223,749 and taxed at \$7,832 or the equivalent of 6 and 4 tenths mill. The sum of \$125 was donated to the American Legion for its Christmas party.

In 1957 the Little League ball teams were permitted use of the ball park. Village trees were trimmed at a cost of \$200. The plumbing codes were revised to meet state codes, likewise the building code.

The late V. H. Holtdorf replaced the late Martin J. Schenning as county supervisor in 1958, and Dr. Robert J. Smick replaced Dr. DeWitt as village health officer. New voting booths were installed in the village hall. The police committee recommended blinker lights at the intersection of Lake Street and Cogswell Drive and the village marshall's salary was set at \$2.10 an hour.

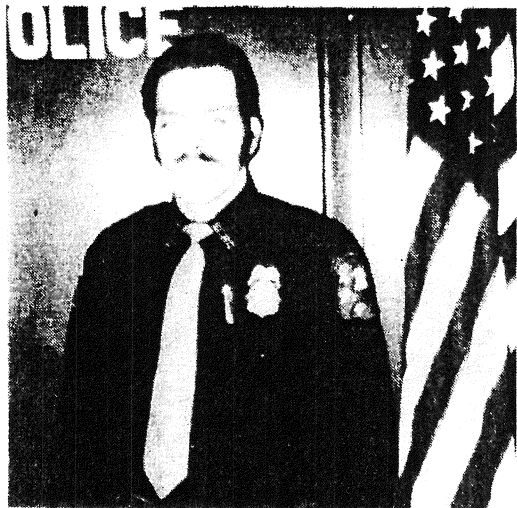
Mail and passenger service by the Soo Line was to be discontinued and the village attorney was sent to Waukesha to protest the action, but eventually the service was abolished.

Plans for a new post office building on Lake Street were presented to the board by Ray Loth and later in the year the official dedication of the building on Lake Street was held.

The question of building prefab homes came up in 1960 and in that year mobile home ordinances regulating fees, location, parking and trailer camps were adopted. The fire department began fogging mosquitos once a week. Street signs and house numbers were installed. All property was re-evaluated for assessment purposes and an ordinance establishing the office of the municipal justice of the peace was adopted. Present village president, Richard Harrison was appointed to the office. A contract to sweep the streets for \$200 was signed.

The big project of the 60's was, of course, the sewer system but the board found it necessary to draw up a new ordinance on peddlers' licenses to replace the ordinance of 1926.

The volunteer fire department was given permission to build an addition to the building at its own expense and the village approved the return of the 50 per cent of the fire call fees to the department to be used for construction of the addition.

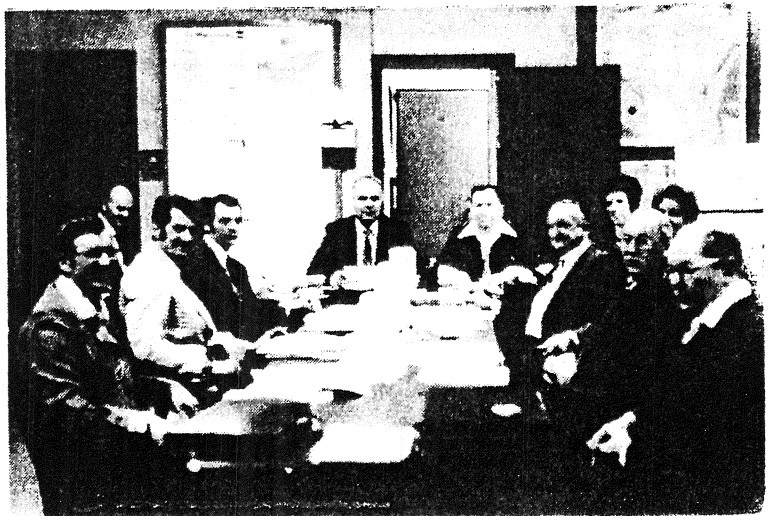
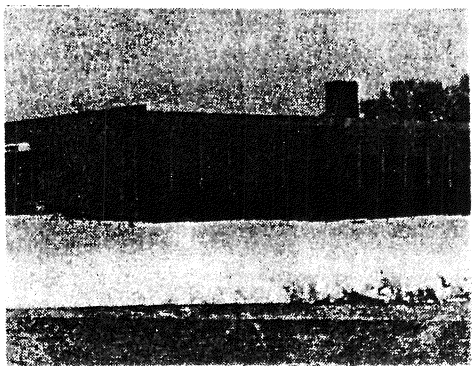
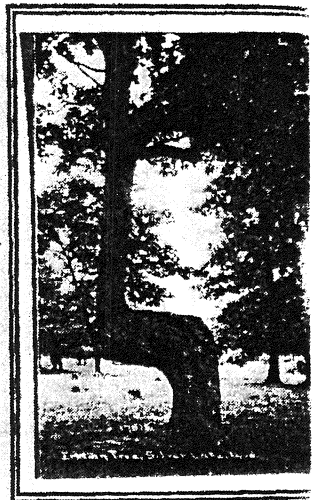
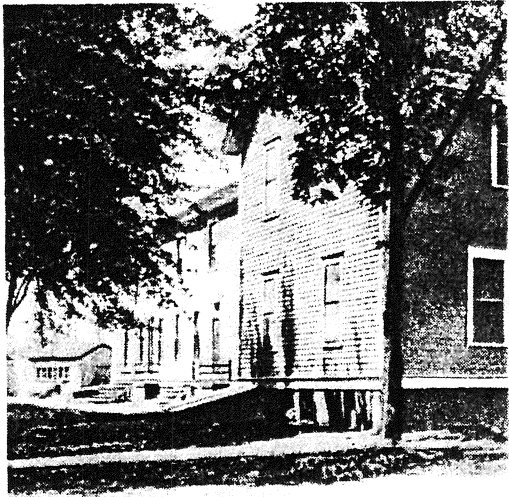


Glen Lawson



Leo Wazelle

In 1976 Silver Lake initiated a full-time police force with the addition of Glen Lawson to the staff headed by Leo Wazelle, chief.



This page sponsored by Carr's Westosha Glass and Lock



HISTORY OF SILVER LAKE RESCUE SQUAD

The Silver Lake Rescue Squad was officially organized in 1959, Bob Rudolph, Lloyd Casey, John Koch, Dominick Rago and Frank Cason each contributed five dollars for equipment and this fund was matched with a twenty-five dollar donation from Orville Yeager. The fifty dollars was used for a down payment on a 1952 Pontiac. Orville Yeager was elected captain and the struggle to get money and equipment began. The Pontiac cost \$1100 of which the men raised \$600, the village of Silver Lake donated the remaining \$500. In the beginning the men spent many hours raising money, taking a first aid course, recruiting members, and obtaining other equipment. By the end of 1960 there were seventeen men on the squad. At present the membership is 22 with many more helping out.

Charter members are: Orville Yeager, Rich Harrison, Art Schultz, Harley Jerde, Lyle Kerkhoff, Dominick Rago, Willis Carle, Ed Redding, Bill Carr, Ray Clark, John Koch, Charles Walker.

The first resuscitator was purchased with a \$500 donation from Louise Schenning in memory of her late husband Martin Schenning.

On Nov. 29, 1959, the Silver Lake Rescue Squad had its first call, a stroke case. The call was answered by Orville Yeager, John Köck, Bob Rudolph, and Bill Carr.

The past seventeen years of community aid form a foundation for a future of continued service - Silver Lake Rescue Squad



The Pontiac served this squad until 1961 when the men were able to purchase a new vehicle. A Ford econoline truck was delivered on Nov. 30, 1961, and was converted into an ambulance. The econoline was in use until the purchase of the present truck, a custom built Ford with the ambulance body by Barko of Milwaukee. The truck was purchased in Dec. 1966 and put into service in Feb. 1967. It is equipped with electronic sirens and special red and white oscillating lights on top, the first vehicle to be so equipped in this area.

The longest run the squad has made was to Lakeland Hospital, Elkhorn with a surgical case. One of the worst calls was an auto-train accident on Lake St. in Silver Lake where three were killed. The squad joined the stork club in 1972 with the birth of twins.

The squad has made over 2300 calls in the past 17 years, which hasn't gone unnoticed by the many supporters who have donated to keep the squad going.

At the present time there are three Emergency Medical Technicians on the squad - Carl Schultz, Phil Cayo and Bill Carr.

Past captains of the squad were Orville Yeager, William Carr, Robert Rudolph, Howard Williams, Phil Cayo, Roy Pack and Carl Schultz.

When the rescue squad incorporated in 1974, the officers positions changed from captain and secy-treasurer to president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, and three board of directors.

Officers now are President, Carl Schultz; Vice President, Phil Cayo, Secretary Treasurer, John Smith; and Board of Directors, Bill Carr, Art Schultz, Ken Richards. Members of the squad are as follows: Al Bryner, Bill Carr, Phil Cayo, Larry Clark, John Davidson, Ron Fleming, Rich Harrison, Harley Jerde, Jim Kamin, Konnie Klen, Wayne Lake, Roy Pack, Ken Richards, Art Schultz, Carl Schultz, John Smith, Steve Rudohph, Tom Pfeffier, Mike Bull, Bob Williams and Tom Solka.

In indication of the growing need for the services of the Silver Lake Rescue Squad can be seen in increasing numbers of annual calls, from 105 in 1963 to a peak of 236 in 1971 and 177 in 1975. In 1976 a new rescue squad unit will be added. The past 17 years of community aid form a foundation for a future of continued service.

This page sponsored by Silver Lake Deep Rock Station - Francis Prestay



HISTORY OF RIVERVIEW SCHOOL

The Riverview School was established in the year 1895 in the Village of Silver Lake. A one room school was built on four lots donated by William A. Schenning. The school was built on the land, which is south of the present Community Baptist Church. Miss Gertrude L. Boothe was the first teacher. Prior to 1895, the children, of the Village of Silver Lake, attended the Salem Mound School on Highway 50. This building still stands and is located north of the Salem Mound Cemetery.

In the year 1912 it became necessary to establish a two room school or a State Graded School. While the school was being remodeled, the children had school in the Methodist Church, which is now the Lyle Kerkhoff residence. Two sisters, Miss Maude Vincent (Mrs. Roy Murdoch) and Miss Mildred Vincent (Mrs. Ray Paddock) were hired as the first teachers for the two room school. This school was in operation until the year 1949, when the school became too small for the increased enrollment.

On July 11, 1949, the annual school meeting was held and adjourned to August 8, 1949, for the purpose of voting to build a new three room school on the nine acre site, which was acquired about the year 1930, for school purposes. The land is where the present school stands.

A loan of \$40,000 was voted to build and Mr. Lawrence Monberg was hired as the architect. Three classrooms, an office, two washrooms, steam heating system, asphalt tile on the floors, and ceramic tile in the washrooms were included in the new building. Mrs. Enid Frank was principal and teacher. The staff included three other teachers.

During the annual meeting on July 10, 1950, the first addition to the school was voted at a cost of \$23,000. This room was to be used as an additional room. It is now the fifth grade room.



In December, 1950, the Camp Lake School was annexed to the Riverview School District. This district now had an equalized valuation of \$5,960,000. The Dix Bus Service transported 55 children from Camp Lake.

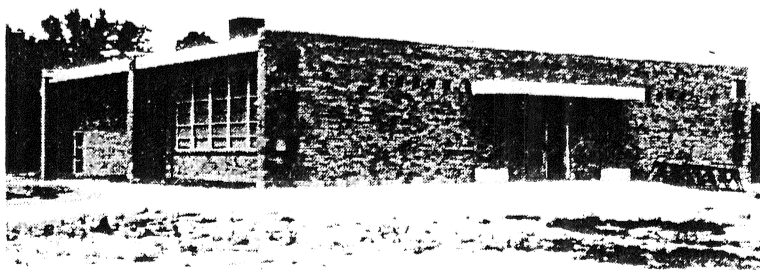
A special school meeting was called on April 25, 1952, for the purpose of building another addition to take care of the increased enrollment. A loan of \$25,000 was voted, and one room, basement and kitchen were built.

On January 31, 1955, a special school meeting was called for the purpose of building a fourth addition to the school. A loan of \$30,000 was voted for the purpose of building two class rooms, a large basement room and washrooms for the kindergarten, a storage room, and a new two door entry were built. One of the new rooms was designed for permanent kindergarten use. The school enrollment at that time was 181 students and the school could accommodate about 230 students. At that time, Mrs. Enid Frank was principal and teacher. There was a staff of five other teachers.

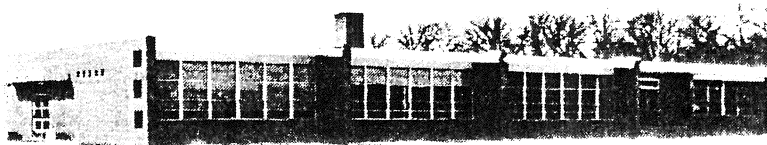
Four more classrooms were built on the north of the school during the next few years.

In 1966, the present school office, library, two classrooms and the gym were built at a cost of \$165,000.

Mr. Perry Hellum became the new administrator for the school in 1968.



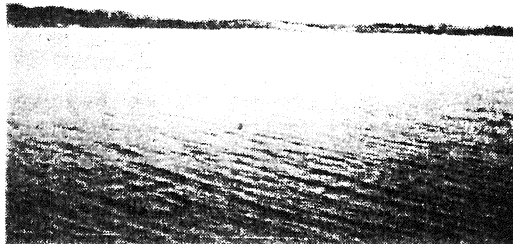
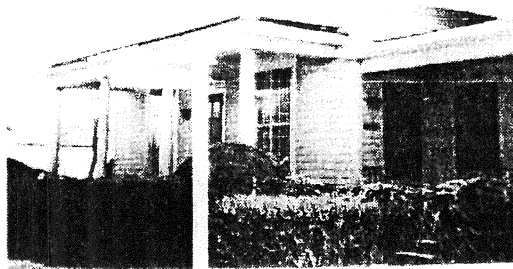
This page sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Perry Hellum



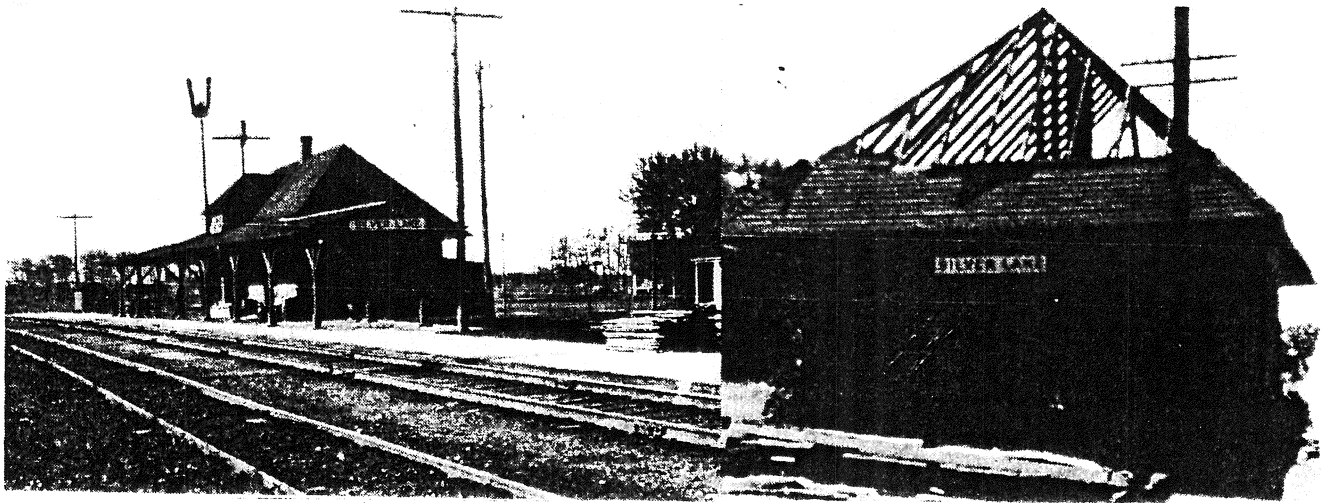
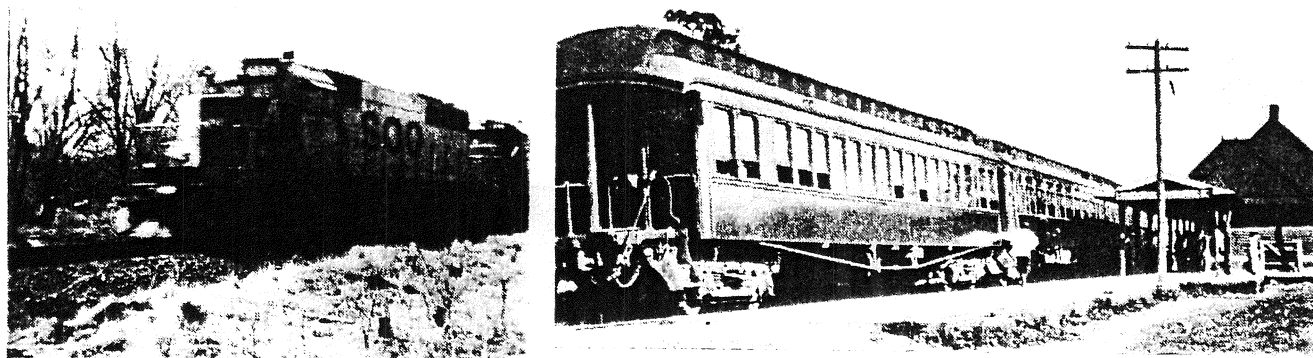
Four rooms, a teacher's lounge, a music room, material center, and AV room were built in 1969. This is the present Junior High.

In 1974, the last addition to the school consisted of two rooms and a hall. This was built at a cost of \$75,000. These became two sixth grade rooms.

The 1976 enrollment at Riverview School is 433 students with a staff of 29 teachers. Mr. Perry Hellum is District Administrator and Mr. Douglas Feld, Assistant Principal.



This page sponsored by 8th Grade Graduates, Riverview School (Class Officers: Todd Olson, Tim Lawrence, Ruth Growney, Vanessa Voltz)
Dr. and Mrs. Chester A DeWitt



This page sponsored by Frank and Ruth Ann Cason
Buy, Sell, Trade, Appraisals - Phone 414-889-4611
Leo Wazelle, Member A.N.A.
Box 161, Camp Lake, Wisc. 53109
Over 25 years in Silver Lake - Lake to Lake Dairy Products
Mariondale Farms, Inc.

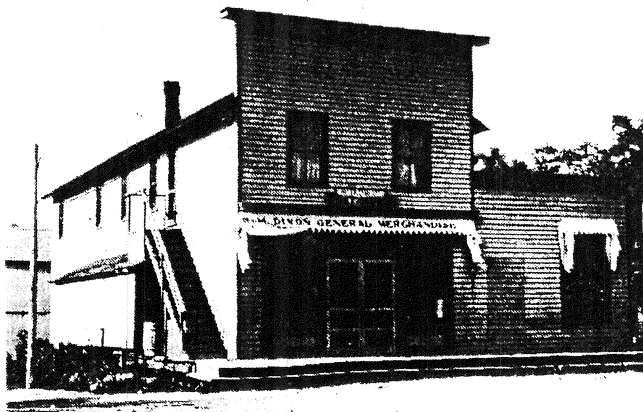


The Silver Lake Post Office

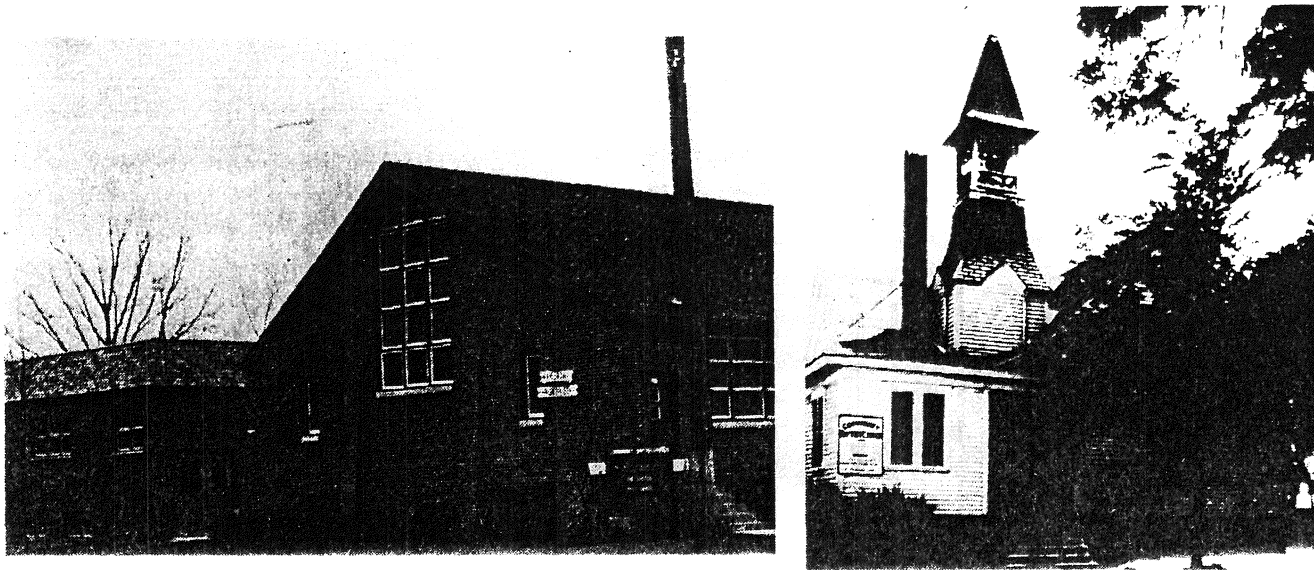
The first post office was located in the Dixon and Dunning Store on Lake Street. The first postmaster was Fred Schoening and he was appointed on February 16, 1887. The following persons have served as postmasters in Silver Lake:

Robert M. Dixon	February 25, 1887
Brayton D. Dunning	June 4, 1887
Henry Bluim	February 5, 1895
Robert M. Dixon	March 30, 1899
R. Claire Dixon	July 1, 1915
Florence M. Lewis	January 22, 1925
Malcolm R. Dalton	February 20, 1934
Bonnie Hauge	July 1, 1973

In 1895 the post office was moved to the Dalton Store building on Railroad Street. In 1915 it was moved to a building on Lake Street and in 1925 it was moved to the house north of Carls Store on Second Street. In 1934 it was moved to the Dalton Store. In 1959 a new post office was built on Lake Street at First Street. The building was completed in May, 1959 and the official dedication was held on August 30, 1959. The local post office is the only real active physical link that people of any small community have with our national government. It is a most important and necessary establishment for everyone in the community.



This page sponsored by Malcolm and Ethel Dalton.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

On May 16, 1897, a Baptist Church was organized at Silver Lake by Rev. Charles Rust, evangelist, and Rev. E. B. Edmunds, secretary of the Wisconsin Baptist State Convention. The meeting was held in the chapel car "Glad Tidings" which had returned to Silver Lake, having held evangelistic services there in November 1896, when several people were converted and expressed a desire to organize a church. Sixteen men and women were baptized, and two accepted by letter to become the charter members of what was to be known as the Silver Lake Baptist Church.

Plans were under way to erect a building, and Harry Orvis of Camp Lake designed and built it, because his wife desired a Baptist Church near by which to worship. The total cost of the building was \$6000.00, and equipment \$200.00. The dedication of the church was held October 17, 1897.

During Rev. Ralph Spangler's pastorate from March, 1925, to June, 1926, talk was begun of remodeling the church, but it was not until Rev. Charles Randall's ministry from June, 1926 to June, 1930 that the work was done. The building was raised, a basement put in, a new chimney and heating plant at a total cost of \$3,000.00. On May 17, 1928 the constitution was revised and the name changed to the Community Baptist Church.

In January, 1949 Rev. Lawrence Williams accepted the call to our Church. In 1950 the members started planning for the building of a new church, and an architect, H. J. Bruns, was chosen to draw up plans. Two additional lots were purchased in 1952, and a building committee was appointed. In February, 1954, the constituency was canvassed in the interest of the building fund. On October 17, 1954 the ground breaking ceremonies were held and work was soon begun by the contractors, Rausch Brothers of Wilmot. The cornerstone laying ceremony was held on February 27, 1955. In May, 1954 the church was accepted into the fellowship of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches.

This page sponsored by Community Baptist Church of Silver Lake



REPORT OF WATER ANALYSIS KENOSHA

Source Well on property of Silver Lake
Hospital, Silver Lake, Kenosha County

Sent by Dr. W. W. Newell

Address Kenosha, Wisconsin

Collected 11-1-37 Received 11-1-37 Lab. No. 17434

Count at 37° Interpretation
B. Coli in 5 10 ml. portions 00000 safe

Nitrogen as Nitrates
Nitrates
As Chlorides

Chemical result
(Parts per million)

WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE
Laboratory of the State Board of Health

Well Water report given in November, 1937, on house identified as the Silver Lake Hospital. The Hospital was located at 111 East Park Street, now the home of George Danford.

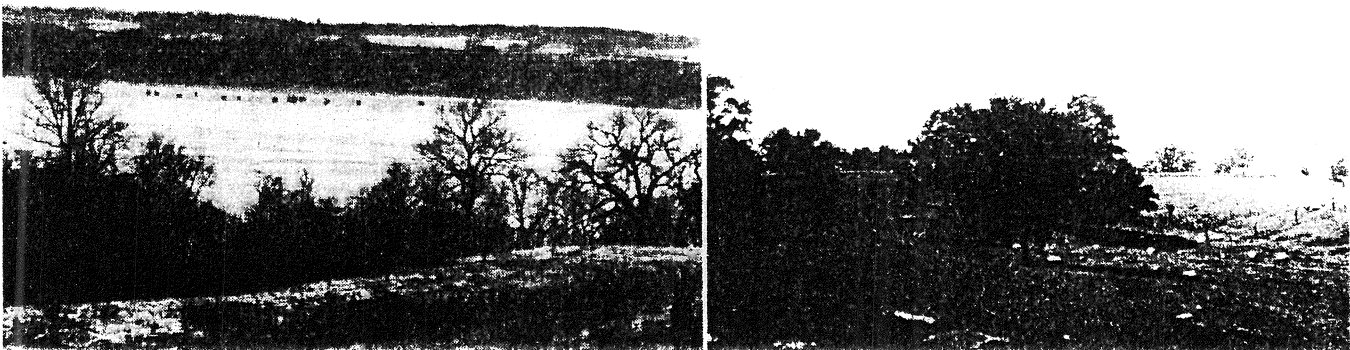


Dave McQuire, a familiar face seen in town for almost 70 years. Weighed over 600 pounds.

This page sponsored by Silver Lake Auto Service and Wilmot Auto Service - Harm, Tim and Tom Garwood

Following the call of Robert R. Mason as pastor, in July of 1969, plans were submitted by Mr. C. J. Bruns, son of H. J. Bruns who designed the present building for a new educational building. A proposal for construction was presented by Church Building Associates of Indianapolis, Indiana. By a ballot vote the congregation accepted the plans and proposal, and construction began with ground breaking on April 12, 1970, under the supervision of Church Building Associates with Oliver Walden employed as superintendent. His work was completed on schedule in October, 1970 and work continued under direction of the building committee. By March, 1971, the new facilities were in full operation with a noticeable increase in Sunday School attendance.

In December of 1974, Pastor W. Gene Campbell arrived as pastor. With the pastor and a competent staff the facilities have been greatly used and Sunday School continues to increase.



V.F.W. Post

The Brandes Memorial Post 8375 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was chartered on June 23, 1969. The Post is named after Thomas G. Brandes, the first military person from Kenosha County killed in the Vietnam War. The Post Commanders have been:

1969-70	John Schnurr
1970-71	Jerry Evans
1971-72	Ed Pietrowski
1972-73	Arthur Schultz
1973-74	William Elfers
1974-75	Roger Saucerman
1975-76	Walter Ebeling



HISTORY OF SILVER LAKE GIRL SCOUTING

In the span of several years, two girls' clubs, namely the Yebo girls and then the Sunshine Club were organized by Gladys Bufton (Mrs. Fred Schmalfeldt). In 1936 she explored the possibility of a Lone Troop of Girl Scouts since Scouting existed only in the city of Kenosha. A Charter was granted to Troup 55 with Lucille Weaver (Mrs. S. Gault) as assistant leader to Gladys. There were ten girls registered Nationally. Camping, hiking, earning badges and fun was a big part of the program. Each year Lone Troop 55 grew bigger. Fern Berry (Mrs. Clem Tilton) joined as an assistant leader. As assistant leaders left for college or jobs, new ones gave breat help. Katy Jones (Mrs. Vincent Paddock) joined us as an assistant leader. We were now invited to join the Kenosha Council and by 1941, approximately 40 Silver Lake girls, ages 10 to 14 were registered Nationally.

Parading in the Wilmot Fairs, going to Pottawatomie Girl Scout Camp, earning badges in the Girl Scout program, camping and over nighting at the Kenosha Girl Scout Little House, selling Christmas cards and Girl Scout cookies, taking part in Civic functions such as donating to the Red Cross War Fund, selling poppies for the Women's Auxiliary, sending soldier kits to 15 local boys in the Service kept everyone a busy but happy bunch of girls.



This page sponsored by Fred and Gladys Schmalfeldt

Many able and wonderful women joined Troup 55 as assistants during Gladys Schmalfeldts 25 years as the leader: Elta Williams Berry, Mrs. Edithe Michaels Pittner, Mrs. Larry Connell, Mrs. Rockwell, Mrs. Nancy Knight, Mrs. Marge Kruzan, Mrs. Elvera Moe, Mrs. Jean Nielsen, Mrs. Marlene Hubbard, Mrs. Betty VanderZee, Mrs. Mildred Kowalik.

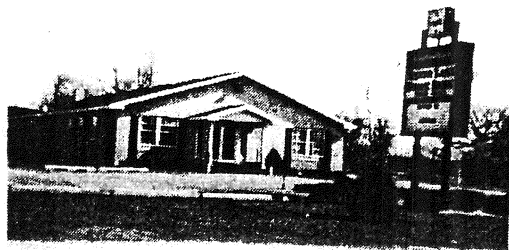
Mrs. Elvera Moe took over the leadership in the 1960's. Her assistants turned into leaders as the Scout program became revised. The following have kept Scouting alive for hundreds of Silver Lake girls. Mrs. Betty Schendel, Mrs. Alice Greenwald, Ethelyn Nelson, Mrs. Betty Grinder, Mrs. Lois Schultz, Mrs. Cheryl and Mr. Jim VanPatten, Mrs. Joanne Sherwood, Mrs. Penny Wegner, Mrs. Sue Ellworth, Mrs. Carol Smith, Mrs. Herda, Mrs. Dorothy Glatz, and Mrs. Joan Ranson.

In 1946, Mrs. Schmalfeldt organized a group of high school girls, some of whom had belonged to Troup 55 and wanted to continue in scouting. Seventeen girls kept this group active for 3 years.

In 1947, Argia Panknin (Sobbe) and Marcelyn Connell helped Mrs. Schmalfeldt organize a Brownie troupe "77" for girls from 7 to 9 years of age. Hiking, cook outs, handicrafts, songs and games made the weekly meetings exciting. The leadership was turned over to Mrs. Edith Michaels and Mrs. Bertha Wilson and then for several years to Mrs. Evelyn Thiede. Mrs. Esther Thornton with Mrs. Etta Berry as assistant became the next leader. For the next 10 years Mrs. Thornton lead the Brownies with many changes in helping her. Mrs. Virginia Freeman, Mrs. Elaine Maleski, Mrs. Elvera Meo, Mrs. Eyolene Nuyttens, Mrs. Rose Mary Alby, Mrs. Gertrude Hockney, Mrs. Helen Swanson, Mrs. Mary Ann Hornof. and Mrs. Virginia Lubkeman were willing helpers.

Mrs. Louise Schenning then became leader for several years. Mrs. Dorothy Vorpahl and Mrs. Leslie Blavat became co-leaders and to date the Brownies are still having fun with Mrs. Leslie Blavat, Mrs. Barbara Berg, Mrs. Barbara Spickerman and Mrs. Marann Kennedy.





HISTORY OF SILVER LAKE STATE BANK

In 1907, Robert M. Dixon, George C. Breul, Charles Phillips, Charles Bernhoft, W. G. Schlecht and 17 other forward-looking citizens of Silver Lake in Salem Township signed an agreement to purchase 100 shares of stock for the organization of a commercial and savings bank to be known as the Silver Lake State Bank. On August 22 of that year the stock was fully subscribed, providing for a paid-in capital of \$10,000.

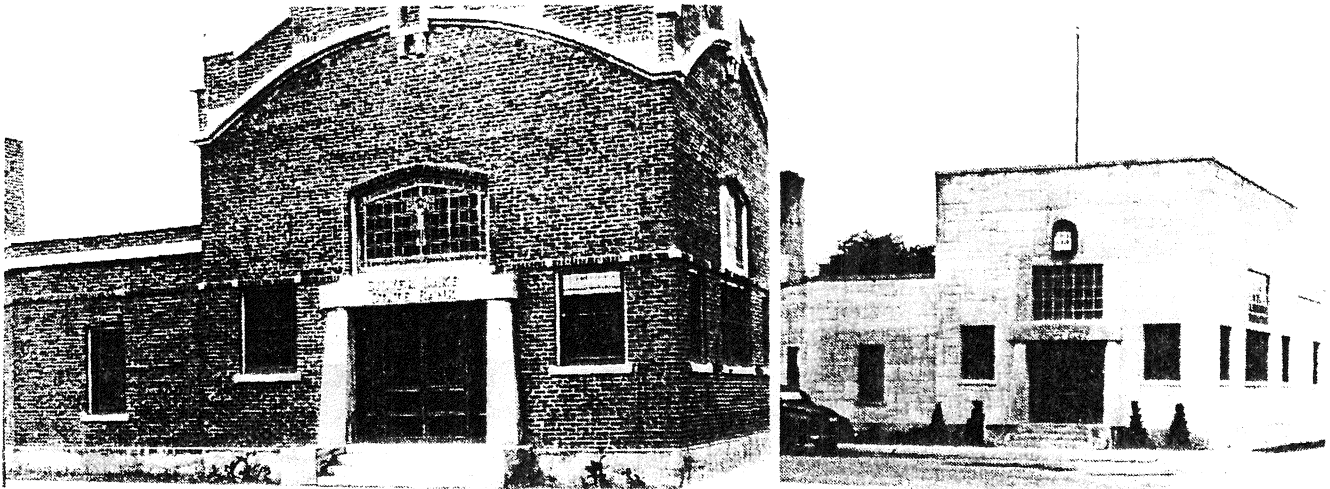
On July 3, 1908, the state commissioner issued a charter and the first bank in west Kenosha County opened for business. Dixon was present, B. H. Stocker, vice president and Schlecht was cashier. Breul, Bernhoft, F. H. Schenning, John Dixon, Albert Schenning and A. Mathews formed the board of directors.

The bank conducted business in the two rooms in back of what was then Fleuker's Butcher Shop, now Sokolski's Grocery Store, southeast corner of Second and Lake Streets. By the end of 1908 total assets were \$23,952 and larger quarters were required.

The late John M. Ludwig, blacksmith, built a frame building just north of Carl's store, but on June 22, 1912, the new brick building on the southwest corner of Lake and Second, which for many years was a landmark in the village, was completed.

In 1922 the bank was completely reorganized; more capital was brought in, and the man who has been most closely identified with the destiny of the the bank began his tenure.

Erik Hansen, Age 29, of Kilbourn (now Wisconsin Dells), at that time assistant cashier of the Kilbourn State Bank, became cashier and manager. His son, Lyle E. Hansen, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and of Marquette University Law School, joined the staff in 1948 and was vice president, cashier and director. A long-time employee is Mrs. Georgia, B. Panknin, auditor. Long associated with the bank were John Evans, chairman of the board, and C. V. Cook, vice-chairman, both of whom are now deceased. John H. Thomson joined the bank in the early 1960's as assistant cashier, was made a director, and in 1969 was promoted to cashier.



Due to the continuous growth of the Silver Lake State Bank requiring additional floor space, the board of directors in 1966 voted to construct a new building to house the bank facilities, which is the present building at 740 Cogswell Drive. The building is of colonial design with drive-in facilities and a spacious parking area.

In April of 1970 the controlling interest in the Silver Lake State Bank was purchased by David A Straz, Jr. A major portion of that stock was purchased from Erich Mildenberg, currently Commissioner of Banks of the State of Wisconsin. At that time Mr. Straz became president, and the newly elected board of directors were David A. Straz, Jr., David A. Straz, L. Erik Hansen, James H. Thomson, Edward C. Evans, chairman of the board; along with the following officers: James H. Thomson, cashier; R. H. Henning, assistant vice president; Georgia B. Panknin, assistant cashier. The assets of the bank at that time were \$5,285,479.68.

Over the years under the close supervision of Mr. Straz, the bank has shown considerable growth and at year-end of 1975 reflects total assets of \$9,466,370.55. The present board of directors consists of Edward C. Evans, chairman; Honorable K. Thomas Savage, attorney with the firm of Carlson, Savage and Malloy; David Straz, vice president; David A Straz, Jr., president; James H. Yanke, agriculture; and M. W. Dederling, executive vice president and cashier.

The officers of the bank as of December 31, 1975 were Edward C. Evans, chairman; David A. Straz, Jr., president; M. W. Dederling, executive vice president and cashier; David A. Straz, vice president; Clarence L. Wilson, assistant vice president; and Mrs. Georgia B. Panknin, assistant cashier and auditor.

At the present time Mr. David A. Straz, Jr. also has controlling interest in Kenosha National Bank, the West Kenosha State Bank, and the First National Bank of Lake Geneva, along with various other real estate holdings.



THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION IN OUR COMMUNITY
SCHULTZ-HAHN POST 293

After World War I had ended our veterans could see that there was a need to form an organization which would give service to the community, state and nation. An organization was needed to help rehabilitate the veteran, insure aid for the disabled, and care for the widows and orphans of the veterans who had died in the service of their country. The memories and associations of the great wars could be preserved by an organization of veterans who had served together. By combining their efforts many new laws and benefits could be enacted to help the veteran.

In 1921, a group of Legionnaires from the American Legion Post #21 of Kenosha, led by Herbert Swensons, came into our community to help to organize a legion post. Under the leadership of their 1st Commandor, Lester (Ted) Smith of Salem, they organized and operated under a temporary charter until 1931 when the Post received its permanent charter.

Our Post was named in memory of Private John H. Schultz, of Salem, and Private Martin Hahn of Brighton. Private Schultz was killed in the Argonne and Private Hahn was killed at the battle of Meuse, Argonne. Both of these men are buried in the Meuse Argonne American Legion Cemetery, Meuse, France.

Before World War II the membership held their meetings in the Salem Hall. After World War II the meetings were held in the Fire Dept. buildings of Silver Lake and Salem. In 1950 a drive for building funds was conducted in our area, and our present Memorial Hall in Silver Lake was acquired. Legion members and many friends of our veterans worked together to put our Hall in shape for community use. With our own permanent home the Post membership increased and became active in the community.

The Post sponsors an annual Memorial Day Parade and program to honor our departed veterans of all wars. The community children's Christmas Party which is hosted by the Post has grown to be an annual affair. Many of our Post officers who have helped to guide our progress have devoted many hours for Legion and community projects.

The Post has gained State wide recognition after 1958, when it began to host an Annual American Legion Birthday Breakfast. This is well attended each year by State, District and Local leaders of the organization. This was started by our Past Comdr. Eugene Doyle, who rose in the ranks of the organization to represent our Post as State Vice Commandor.

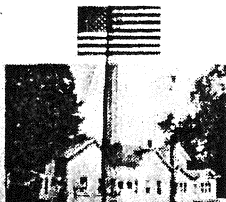
In 1964 the membership decided to again expand and remodel our Memorial Hall, bar and living quarters. This was a \$30,000 project which was completed July, 1964.

Our Post has a very active Ladies Auxiliary which was organized February, 1928. They have worked very hard to help our Post with the many activities.

Since our beginning in 1921, veterans of World War II, Korean War, and the Vietnam Conflict have joined our ranks.



John Schultz
June 24, 1894
October 18, 1918



Schultz-Hahn, Post 293, 1951-1964



Martin Hahn
July 7, 1894
October 15, 1918



HISTORY OF SCHULTZ-HAHN AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

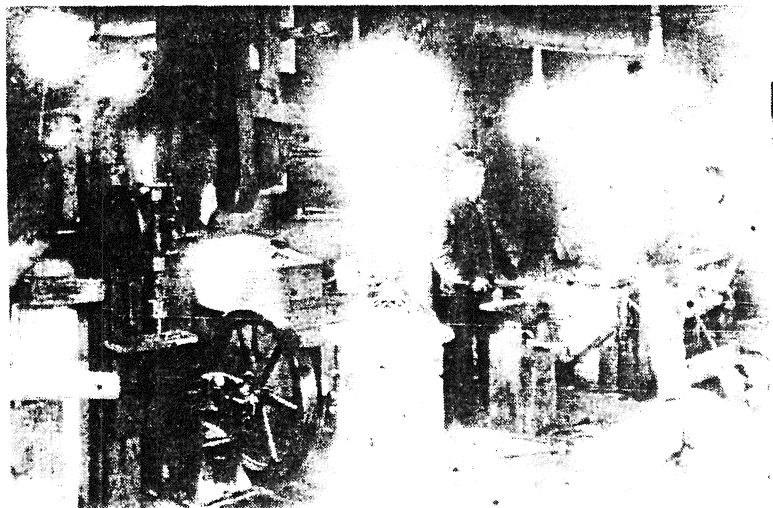
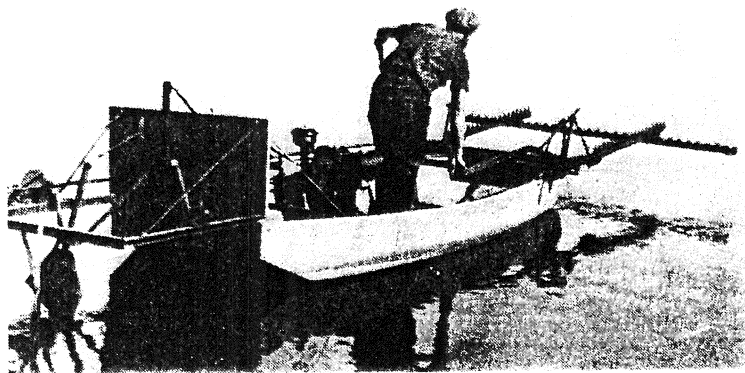
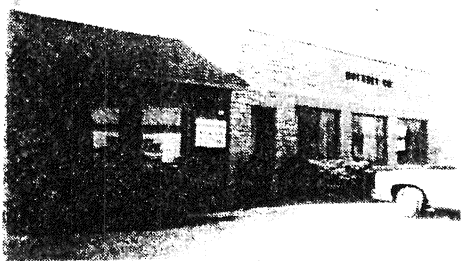


It wasn't until 1950 that the Post acquired their own building and converted the old tavern and farm house into the Schultz-Hahn American Legion Building. At this time the ladies of the Auxiliary were busy attending District Conferences and State Conventions; bringing home new programs, new ideas and putting them to practical use in our Silver Lake area. In 1964, a major remodeling was undertaken to modernize our Memorial Hall and Bar. At that time our hall was dedicated as a Memorial to those who have left us while serving God and Country, and especially to the two young men who gave us their name; John Schultz, born June 14, 1894, called to serve his country in May of 1918 and died in action October 18, 1918; and Martin Hahn, born July 7, 1894, called to serve his country in May of 1918 and died in action October 15, 1918; dead and buried in the Argonne in France less than a month before the Armistice was signed. So our Hall stands as a Memorial to them and to those who came later, as did Tom Brandes, Vietnam, Daniel Patrick, Vietnam. Our Hall is dedicated to serve this community and is available to our community organizations such as our Fire and Rescue Units, Boy and Girl Scout Groups, Sunshine Club, Senior Citizen Groups, etc.

In 1921, former servicemen from Salem, Bristol, Brighton, Camp Lake and Silver Lake areas organized the Schultz-Hahn American Legion Post 293 under the leadership of Lester Smith, the 1st Commander of Post 293.

Several years later, the wives and mothers of these former fighting men organized the Schultz-Hahn American Legion Auxiliary, and on Feb. 22, 1928 received their Charter with a membership of 16 ladies led by 2 presidents that first year, Mrs. Leona Smith and Mrs. Agnes Thomas. Of the ladies that joined that first year, only one is still a member of the Schultz-Hahn Auxiliary, Mrs. Evelyn Swenson of Camp Lake, who has belonged to the American Legion Auxiliary for 50 years. Mrs. Irma Sherriff and Mrs. Chrystal Richter have 48 years memberships; Mrs. Anna Rudolph and Mrs. Belle Barhyte, 40 year memberships; and Mrs. Louise Robel, who is still very active in the community has served 30 years and is a past-president.

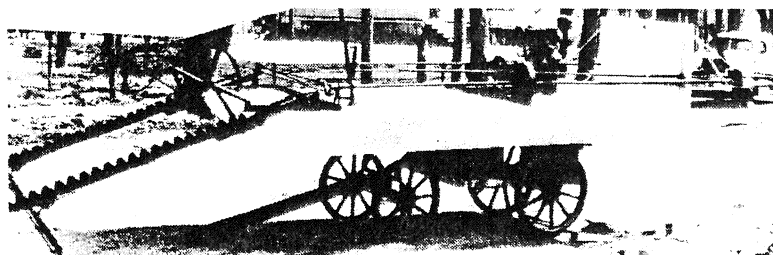
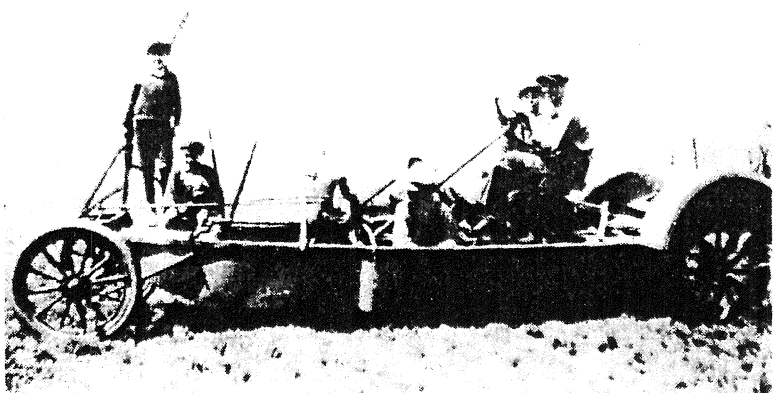
These women, and many others too numerous to mention by name built up the Schultz-Hahn American Legion Auxiliary to what it is today; an organization of 64 senior members and 19 junior members dedicated to assist the men of the American Legion and to serve the Veteran and the community.



List of Some of the Purchasers of Weed Cutters

Illinois Park District Administration, Bloomington, Ill.
 Ramsey County and City of Saint Paul, Minn.
 U. S. Fisheries Station, San Marcos, Texas
 The Congress Lake Club, Canton, Ohio
 Chas. Crane, Jr., Iuxwich, Mass.
 Chas. Crane, Woodshole, Mass.
 Village of Williams Bay, Wis.
 Department of Public Works, State of Ohio
 Wairu River Board, Wellington, New Zealand
 Cerro De Pasco Copper Corporation, Wall St., New York City
 Matthews Electric Co., Birmingham, Ala.
 City of Madison, Wis.
 City of Detroit, Mich.
 Milwaukee Park Commission
 City of Winona, Minn.
 City of Albert Lea, Minn.

Minneapolis Park Commission
 Malibeu Lake Club, Hollywood, Cal.
 McGowan Lyons Hardware & Supply Co., Merice, Ala.
 Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Ill.
 The Little River Drainage District, Cape Girardeau, Mo.
 Laurel Springs Plantation, Green Pond, S. C.
 A. L. Bauer, Loch Sheldrake, N. Y.
 James C. Kimberly, Neenah, Wis.
 Connecticut Agricultural College, Storrs, Conn.
 Village of Seba Beach, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
 Municipal District of Rae, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
 Tennessee Valley Authority, Decatur, Ala.
 Frank Scheers, Shawano, Wis.
 Conservation Department, State of Ohio
 Fish and Game Commission, Little Rock, Ark.
 City of La Porte, Ind.
 City of Omaha, Neb.
 City of Rice Lake, Wis.
 Couzens Estate, Detroit, Mich.
 City of Providence, R. I.
 City of Jacksonville, Fla.



This page sponsored by The Hockney Company, Underwater Weed Cutters,
Stanley Anderson



THE SUNSHINE CLUB OF SILVER LAKE

On February 22, 1926, the Sunshine Club was organized. The Adult Bible Community Baptist Church Class met at the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Schenning (Fred) for its regular monthly meeting. Mrs. Harry Orvis of Camp Lake was the teacher of the class. She suggested to the eleven members present that a club be organized, the purpose to bring a bit of cheer to the sick, the lonely, the bereaved with a card, or a gift, and maybe a visit. By the end of the year 41 members had signed up. Meetings were to be held in the homes, dues would be 10¢ a month. Election of officers was held at this first meeting: Mrs. H. Orvis, president, and Mrs. Oscar Yanke, secretary, treasurer. In the beginning, the club was sponsored by the Adult Class of Community Baptist Church but it became a civic association, which includes members from Silver Lake, Camp Lake, Bassett, Fox River and Salem.

Of the 41 members who joined that first year, five ladies are still active: Mmes. Roy Swenson, daughter of Mrs. Orvis, Florence Schenning, Anna Hazelman, Esther Yanke, and Martha VanderZee.

The first person to be remembered was Mrs. Otto Schenning of the birth of a baby boy.

Monthly meetings were held in various homes with hostesses serving refreshment and also planning the program. A Sunshine committee took care of remembering those who needed a bit of cheer, a great help to the officers. The club also donated to public charities such as Red Cross, Cancer Fund, Heart Fund, Poppy Fund and later years the Rescue Squad. Mrs. Orvis served as president until her death in April, 1943, a total of 17 years. Mrs. Louise Schenning became a member in 1934, and soon after was chosen vice president. At the death of Mrs. Orvis, Louise Schenning, now Mrs. Oscar Robel became present, and she has served faithfully the last thirty two years. The dues have been raised to 25¢ per month, and the only means of raising money is by a silent auction now and then and donations from non members. All members enjoy the monthly birthday table with a hand made gift for each celebrant for that month. New ladies moving into the community are made welcome. A worthwhile project for many years is the giving of baskets of fruit at Christmas, usually delivered by the president or members of her committee.



In 1964, the club began holding its meetings in Legion Memorial Hall, as the membership grew, and several times in the Silver Lake Village Hall.

Report for the past year: Present membership - 52.

Officers are Mmes. Louise Robel, president, 32 years, Evelyn Swenson, 6 years; Helen Franz, 2½ years; and Martha VanderZee, 26 years.

Sunshine Committee: Mrs. Lillian Schubert, for Silver Lake; Mrs. Helen Franz, Camp Lake; Mrs. Elsie Pflueger, Salem; Mrs. Florence Schenning, Fox River; Mrs. Lillian Dombrow, Shorewood Terrace.

During the past year 110 cards and gifts have been sent, 25th and 50th anniversaries remembered, 24 Christmas baskets delivered; Silver Lake Rescue and Salem Rescue Squad each received \$25.00; plus donations made to charities.

The club gives \$5.00 to Silver Lake Rescue Squad in memory of a member who has passed away. This past year the club lost three members by death.

On February 22nd, 1976, The Sunshine Club will observe its 50th anniversary. Special observances have been held on the 25th, 35th, 40th and 45th.

The club theme song (Tune - Peggy O'Neil).

If you're lonely feel forlornly,
Join the Sunshine Club
If you're weary, things are dreary,
Join the Sunshine Club.
If you're a stranger and no one you know,
If you're wondering what place to go,
Come and be one of us,
We're a live bunch of us,
Join the Sunshine Club.



HISTORY OF SILVER LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Silver Lake Volunteer Fire Department was started sometime in the early 1900's. The first record that could be found was a report from the Fire Insurance rating office in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, dated September 18, 1923.

The first organizational meeting was held at the Wilbur Lumber Company office. The following volunteered their services: Chief R. C. Barber, Assistant Chief Charles Richards, 2nd Assistant Chief Paul Price, Secretary-Treasurer Joe A. Zelinger, William Richter, Harry Schmalfeldt, Fred Schmalfeldt, Jr., Ray Wastek, John Taylor, Warren Sarbecker, Cliff Janke, Bert Dean, Fred Wild, Clarence Loth, Vivian Holtdorf. Walter Kamin & Bert Richards volunteered their services and were initiated at a later date.

In August, 1929, a new pumper was built by Peter Pirsch & Sons Co., Kenosha, for the village fire department. This was on a 1929 Model A Ford Chassis. It was equipped with a 250 gallon PM rotary gear pump. Through the years this pumper answered fire calls in all of Salem and Wheatland Townships until fire departments were organized in those townships.

The fire department moved from its quarters at the Wilbur Lumber Company to a firehouse which is now the General Telephone Company garage on Railroad St. In 1949 the fire department purchased another new pumper built by Pirsch & Sons. This pumper was also built on a Ford chassis and had a 200 gallon per minute pump.

In 1952 a new Village Hall and firehouse was built in its present location.

This page sponsored by Silver Lake Volunteer Fire Department

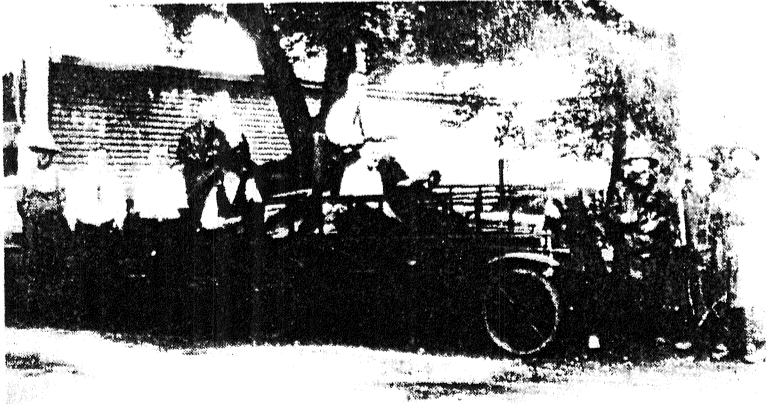
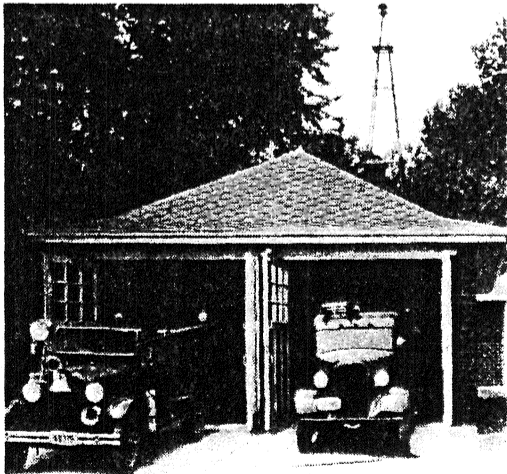
In 1960, a 750 G.P.M. pumper was ordered from Peter Pirsch. This piece of equipment was paid for jointly by the fire department and village. The fire department now had three pumpers in service. In 1962 the 1929 Model A pumper was retired from active service and is still used as a parade vehicle by the fire department.

In August, 1967, construction of a new stall and hose tower was started by the members of the fire department. Money for this project was raised by donations. All labor was free and no one received any money for this project. Help with the labor and material was received by the department from many people who were not members of the fire department. This project was completed in March, 1968.

In 1970 another piece of equipment was purchased by the fire department. This was a four wheel drive grass fire truck and carries a portable generator and flood lights and deluge gun. This engine responds to all calls.

In 1975 a 1000 G.P.M. pumper was purchased jointly by the fire department and village from Pirsch & Sons. The department also has a 1250 gallon tanker. At the present time the fire department consists of 35 men who are as follows: Chief Richard C. Harrison, Assistant Chief Wayne Lake, Captains David Zillmer, John Smith, Lieutenants Steve Rudolph, Michael Bull, Robert Williams, Secretary-Treasurer William Kowalik, Arthur Schultz, Robert Rudolph, William Zirzow, Frank Cason, Walter Ebling, Farley Jerde, James Kamin, Larry Clark, Erv Pagles, Phil Cayo, Robert Schenning, John Davidson, Bert DeBell, Ronald Felming, Richard Nichols, Ken Ricards, Bert Lathrop, Roy Pack, Carl Schultz, Konstantyn Klen, Tom Pheiffer, Clark Berg, Steve Schultz, John Koch, Dave Gyger, Dave Schoenbeck, Joseph Elfers.

Chiefs who have served: 1929-1935 Ralph C. Barber, 1936-1943 Martin Schenning, 1944-1947 Ralph G. Barber, 1948-1951 Fred Schamfeldt, 1957-1966 Lloyd C. Casey, 1967-1972 Richard C. Harrison, 1973-1974 Wayne Lake, 1975-1976 Richard C. Harrison, 1952-Llle Kerkhoff, 1953-1954 Hardy Schmalfeldt, 1955-1956 Sheldon Faber.





History of Silver Lake Fire Department and Rescue Squad Auxiliary

The Silver Lake Fire Department and Rescue Squad Auxiliary held it's first meeting on January 19, 1961 with nine members present. Jo Rudolph was elected president and the group received their charter on October 19, 1961. At that first meeting, members decided on dues of 50 cents a month, but this was later eliminated.

For several years, membership was limited to the wives of fireman and rescue squad members only, but now is open to any women who are interested in joining. The only requirement being they must attend three meetings before the receive their badge signifying that they are a member and be 18 years of age.

The main purpose in organizing the auxiliary was so the wives could help their husbands in as many ways as possible. They began serving coffee and sandwiches when the men were on a lengthy fire or rescue call and also contributed proceed from any fund raising events, which consisted mainly of card parties and bake sales, to the fire department and rescue squad. The first year the auxiliary donated \$73.50 to the rescue squad to help pay for their new ambulance which they had purchased that year.

In the beginning, the rescue squad was in need of sheets, so one of the auxiliary's early projects was making them and also laundering them after the calls, to help save on expenses. The auxiliary's flag was also made by two members, Mildred Williams and Pat Brandenburger.

As years went by, additional fund raising events were sponsored by the auxiliary some of which included holding childrens movies at the American Legion Hall, a rummage sale, an old fashioned ice cream social, spaghetti dinner, and the newest event a Fall Benefit Dance which proved to be the largest fund raiser. The auxiliary has also participated in the Silver Lake Summerfest since it began and holds monthly luncheon and card parties and various bake sales through out the year.

This page sponsored by Silver Lake Fire Department and Rescue Squad Auxiliary

In 1970, the auxiliary took on the task of keeping the old 1928 fire engine which was going to be sold for lack of storage space and because insurance was high. The picturesque fire engine was the first pumper in use in the western part of the county and fought it's last fire in 1964, but remained a piece of Silver Lake history. After circulating a petition, headed by Charlene Procknow and Betty Zillmer, the village decided to keep the truck. The truck was restored to it's original red color and the auxiliary set up a special fund for the maintenance and care of this well loved vehicle which is now used only in parades.

Many women have remained members of the auxiliary since it's beginning and some have contributed many services, above and beyond the regular duties as a member. In 1973, the auxiliary decided to honor these special members with a plaque and has only given two such awards. In 1973, the first award was given to Mrs. Charles Hocking and her husband. Mrs. Hocking has been making Raggedy Ann and Raggedy Andy dolls since 1970 for the benefit of the auxiliary. Mr. Hocking, a local artist, has donated paintings of the village hall and fire and rescue squad trucks to the departments.

Mildred Williams received the award in 1974. She has been president and served four terms as treasurer, an office she currently holds. She has contributed generously to auxiliary bake sales and has always been willing to participate in various auxiliary activities.

In 1975, the auxiliary presented checks totaling \$1250, the fire department receiving \$750 and the rescue squad receiving \$500.

Membership has increased considerably over the years and now totals 51 members in the auxiliary.

Present officers are as follows: President, Margie Saucerman; Vice-President, Viv Czebotar; Secretary, Jan Nichols; Treasurer, Mildred Williams; Publicity, Judy Kunz; Historian, Edna Swartz; and card party chairman, Juanita Clark.



History of Silver Lake Sportsmen's Club, Inc.

In the spring of 1957 Sheldon Faber and Edwin Lech purchased, banded, and released two pheasant roosters in the Silver Lake area. This act became the basis for forming a sportsmen's club in this area.

In June, 1957, the following men joined together as the charter members of the Silver Lake Sportsmen's Club: Henry Andre, Francis O'Neil, Howard Koubener, Eldon Schenning, Joseph Czebotar, Frank Cason, Robert Rudolph, Sheldon Faber, William Kruzan, and Edwin Lech.

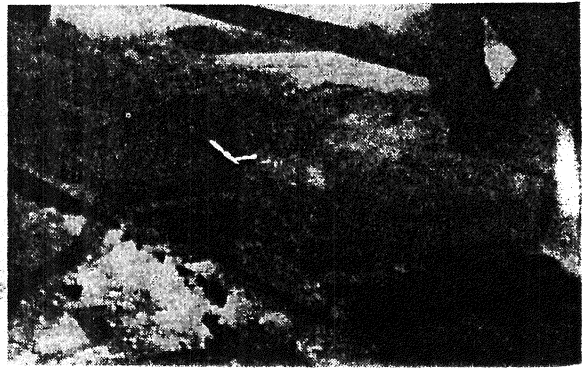
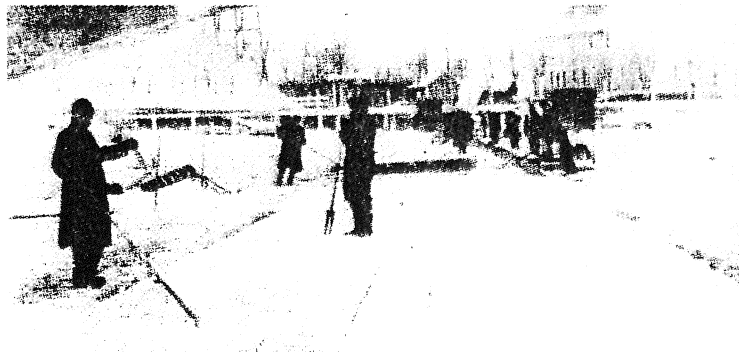
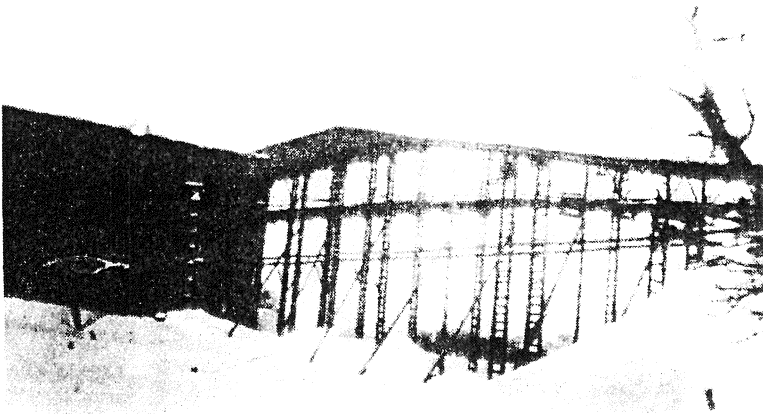
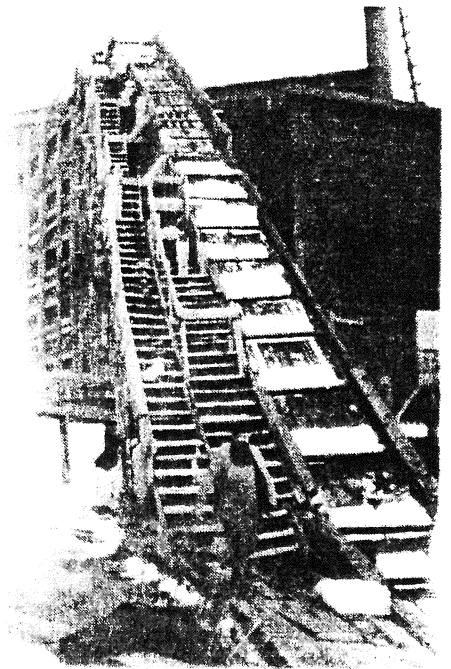
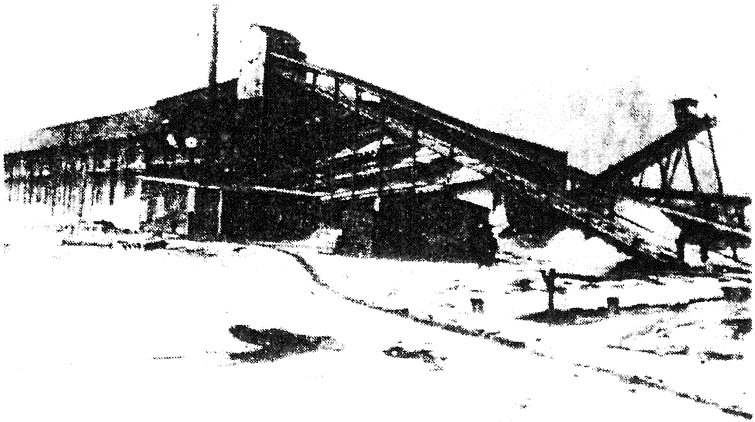
The club was incorporated in July of 1958. Shortly thereafter the group purchased 40 acres from Phil VanHalter in Salem town. This property became the home of the club and in short order a club house and trap shooting range were constructed.

Because of rapid growth the club limited membership to 80, but formed a Junior Club to train boys in gun safety, fishing, hunting, and trap shooting. Upon becoming adults the members of the Junior Club automatically become members of the club.

Some of the club's activities are: yearly planting of pheasants; assist the D.N.R. check fish population, growth, reproduction, and oxygen strength of water; periodic seining of the lakes for rough fish; construction of a dam at the lake outlet to maintain water level; placing a fish barrier at the outlet of Silver Lake to prevent entry of rough fish; and maintaining and supervising a Junior Club.

The officers for 1976 are: Alfred E. Oetting, president; William Kunz, vice president; Joseph Rausch, secretary; Al Trainer, treasurer; Jack LaMeer, Skip Zirzow, directors.





This page sponsored by The Sugar Cone Cafe - "Breakfast and Lunches" 889-9310
Proprietor - Adele Wenzel

History of Silver Lake Super Stars 4-H Club

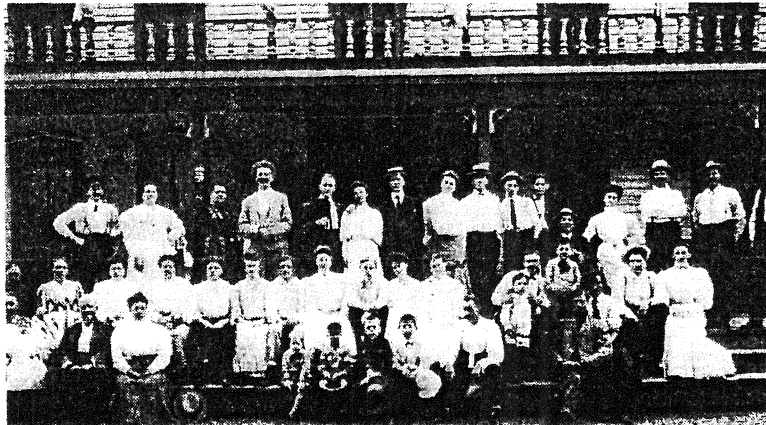
The Silver Lake Super Stars 4-H Club was formed on November 22, 1972. As club projects that year the club sang Christmas carols for shut ins and held a bake sale to raise funds for the club.

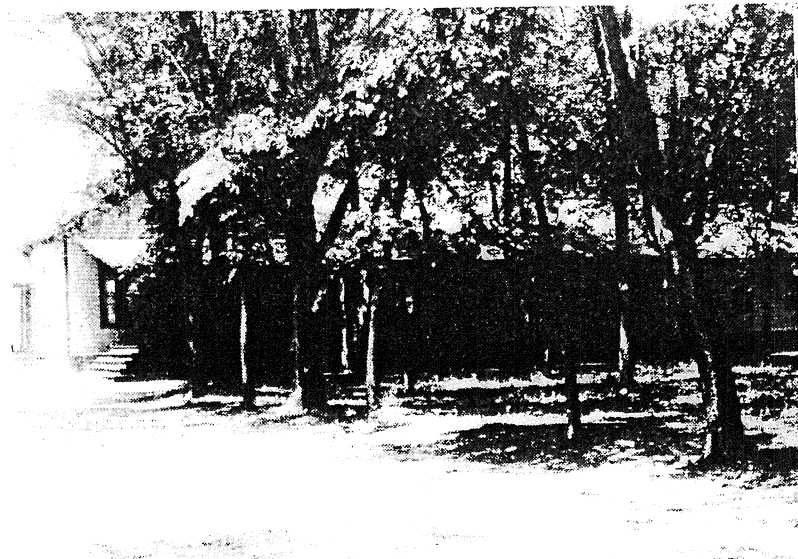
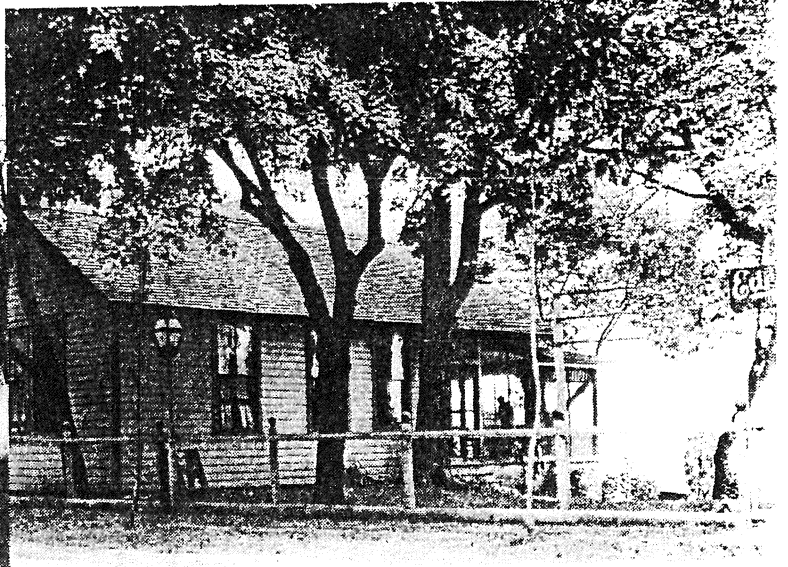
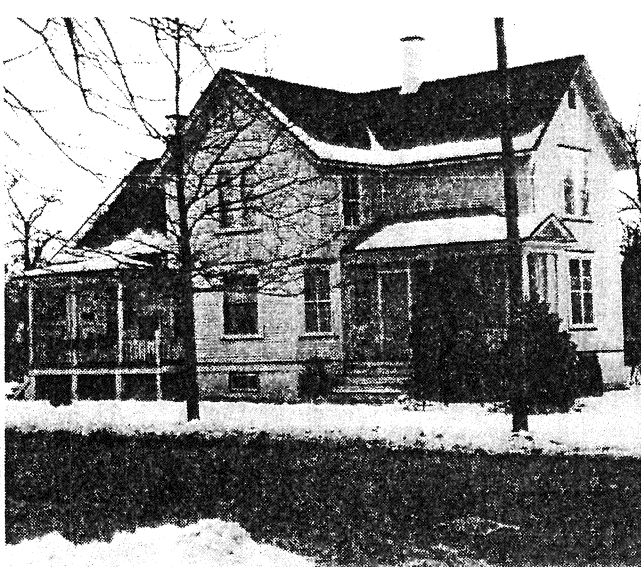
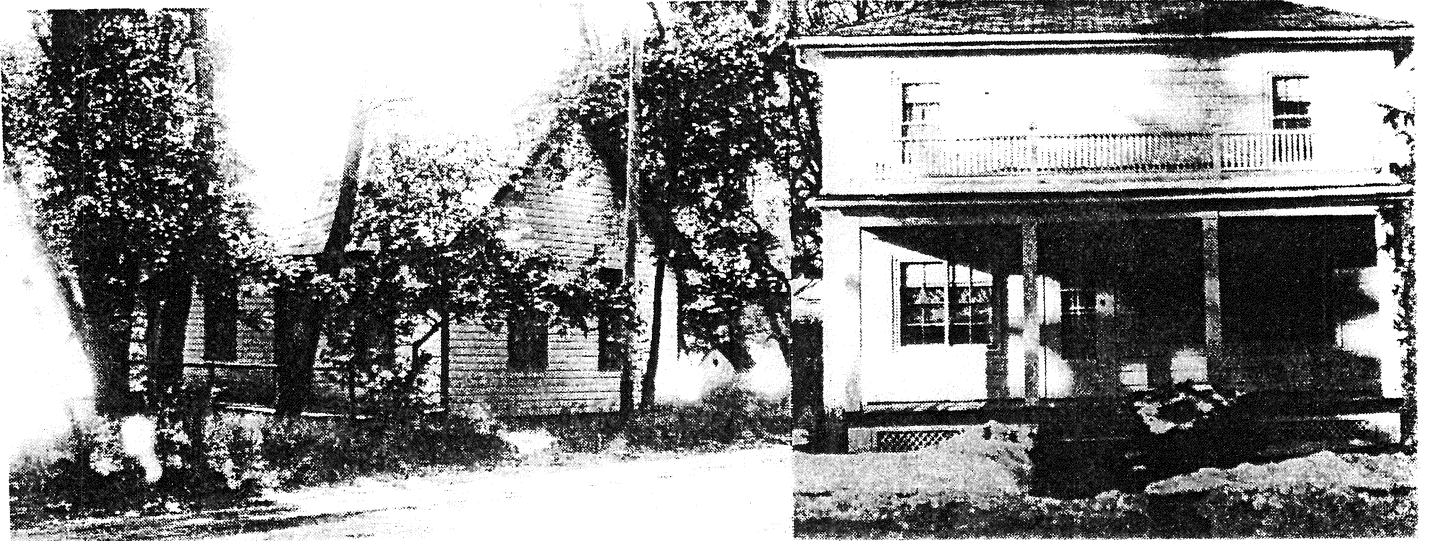
Mrs. Dolores Walker became leader of the club the second year. Club projects included cleaning up the Silver Lake Beach, marched in the Memorial Day Parade, won first prize for the club float in the County Fair parade, and participated in judging at the fair.

In 1975 the club participated in the County 4-H pizza sale and had two of the top salespersons in the county by selling a total of 317. A popcorn sale was also held to raise funds for the club.

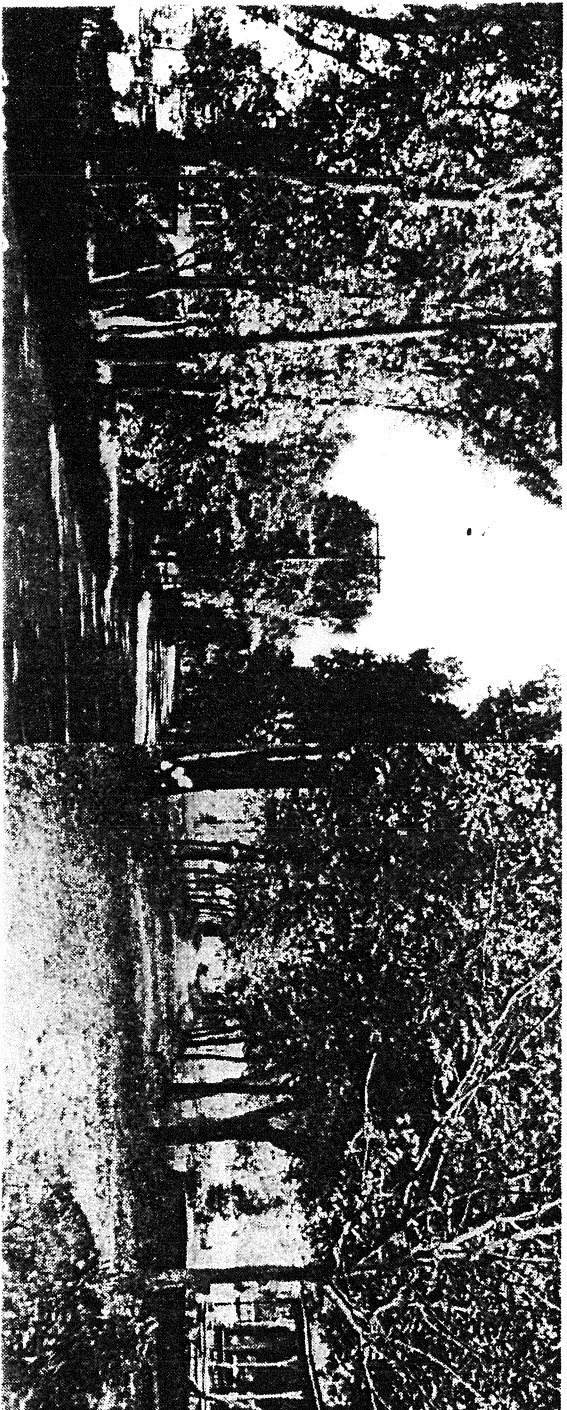
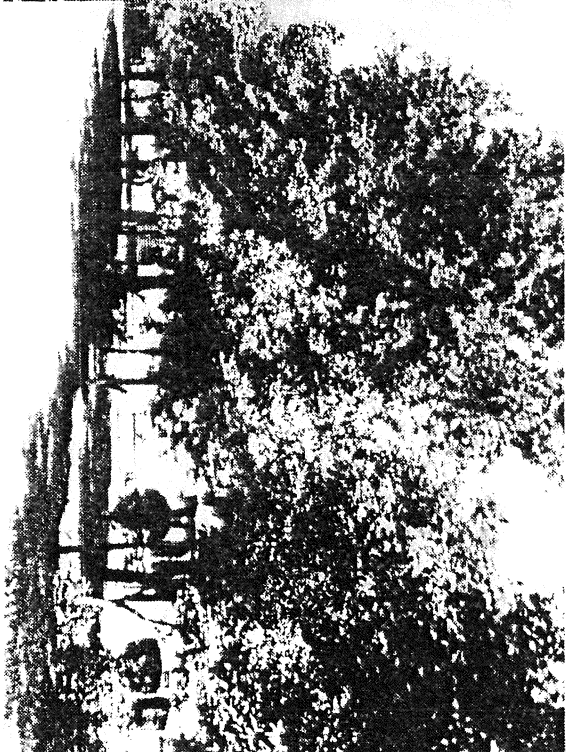
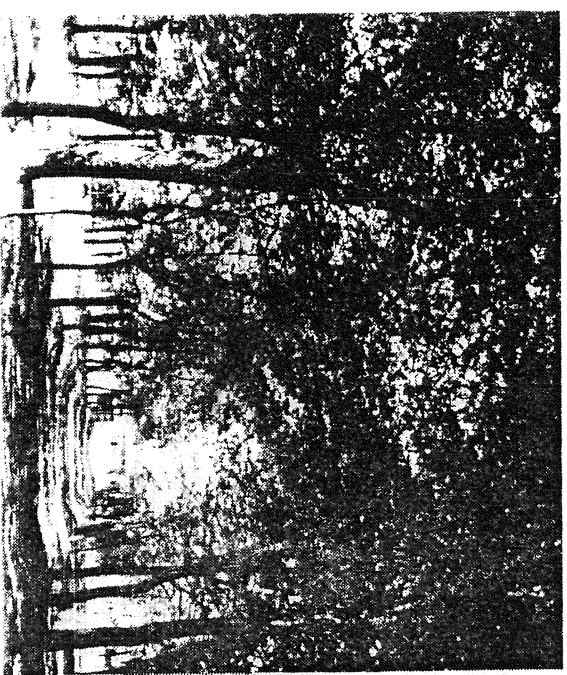
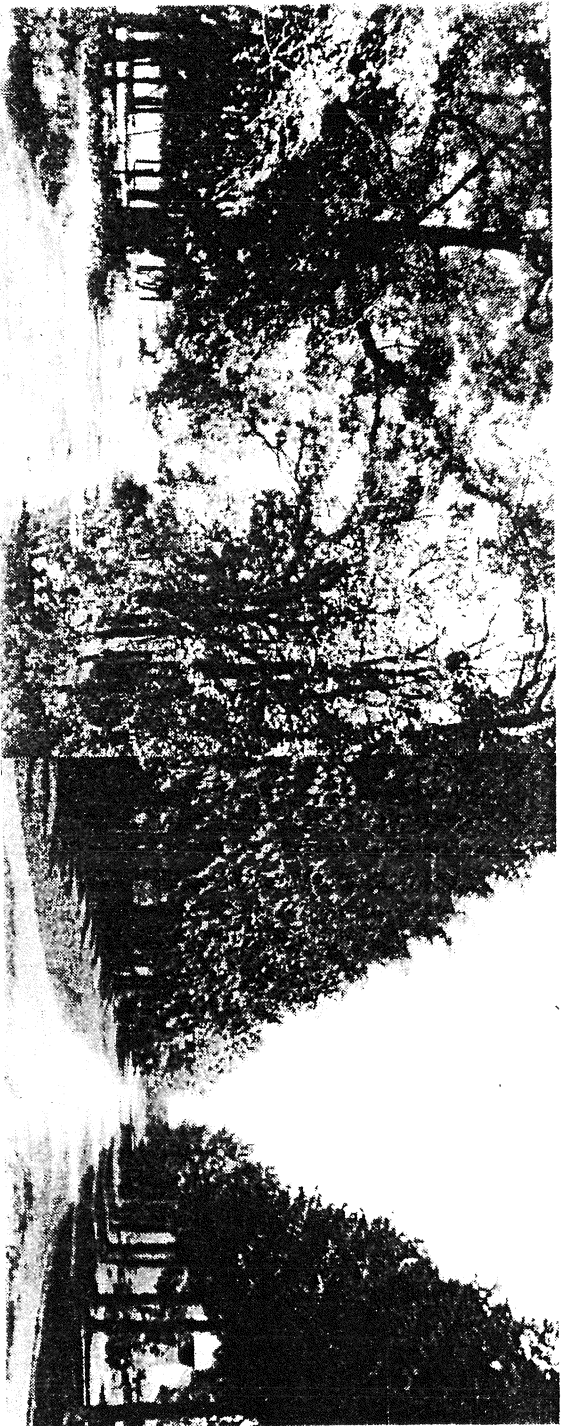
Last summer the club toured the Jay Potato Chip plant in Chicago. A party was held to honor Mrs. Walker for her efforts as club leader.

The present leaders of the Silver Lake Super Star 4-H Club are Mrs. Loretta Fox and Mrs. Cheryl Nicholes.





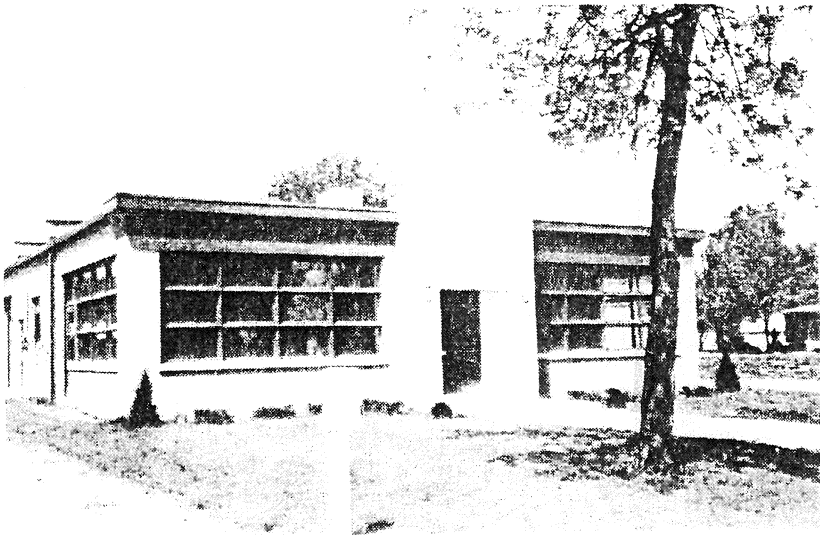
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Silver Lake Dairy Queen - The Sattersten's



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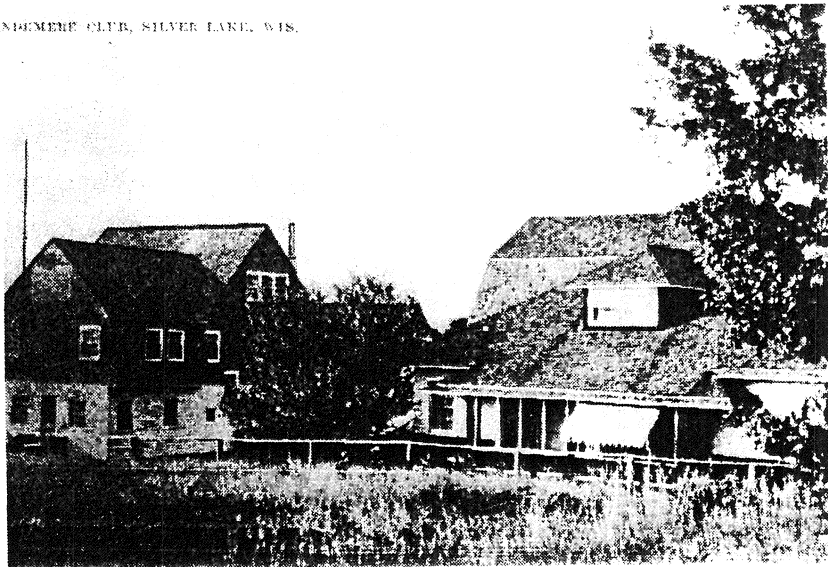
Dave McQuire,
World's Fattest Man

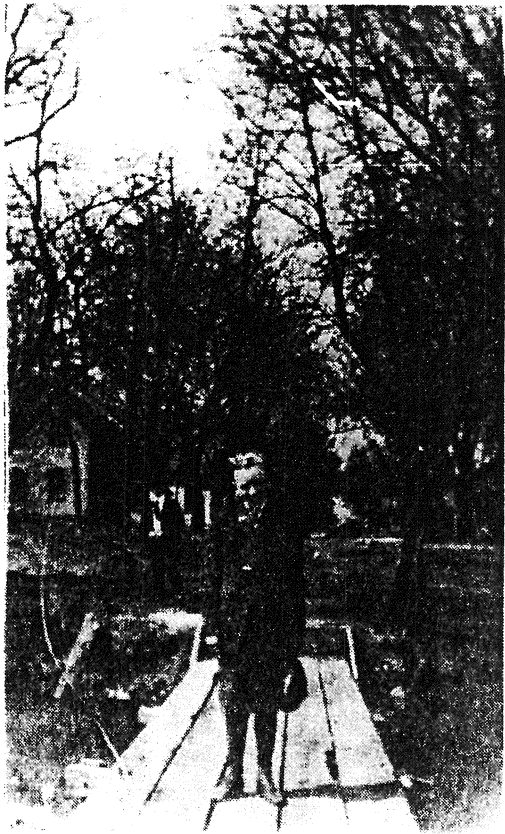


SHIMMERE CLUB, SILVER LAKE, WIS.

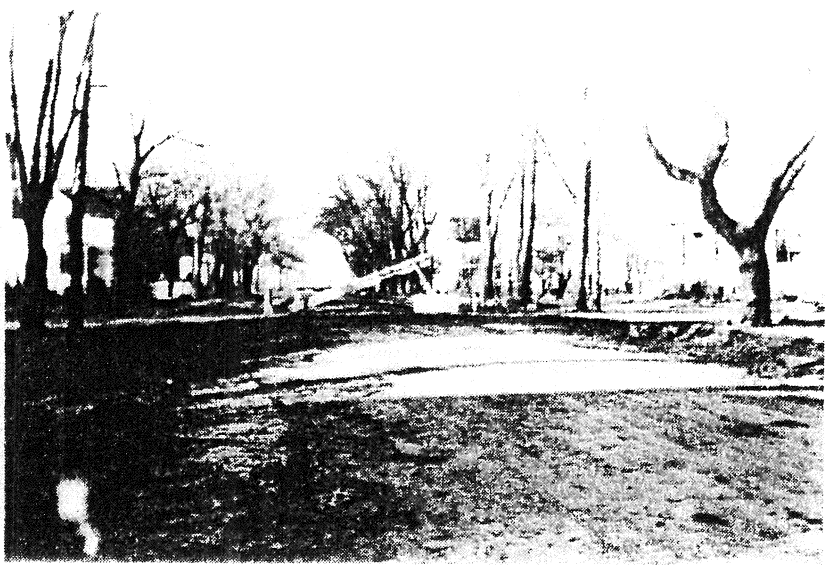


Frank Kamin

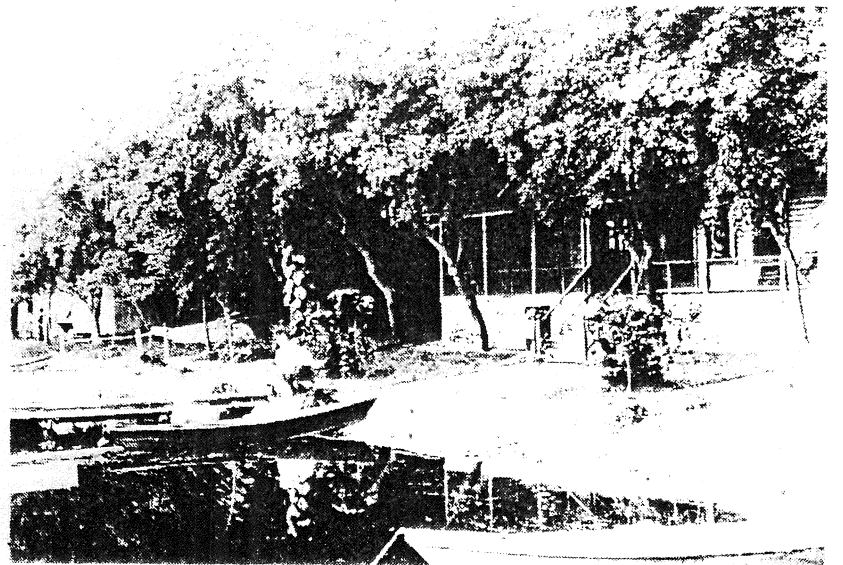
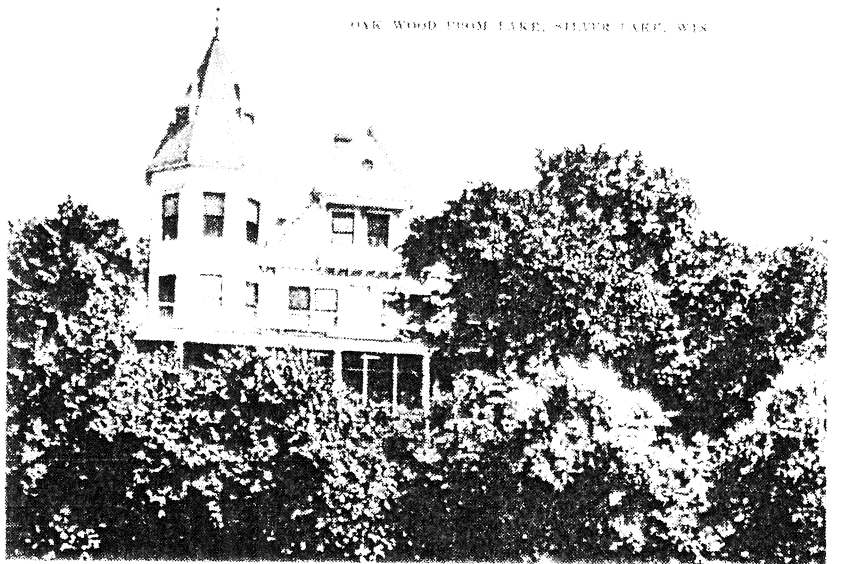




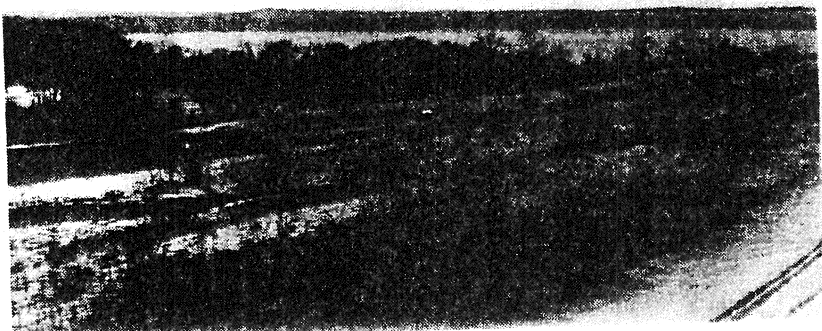
Ed Marchivenski



OAK WOOD FROM LAKE, SILVER LAKE, WIS.



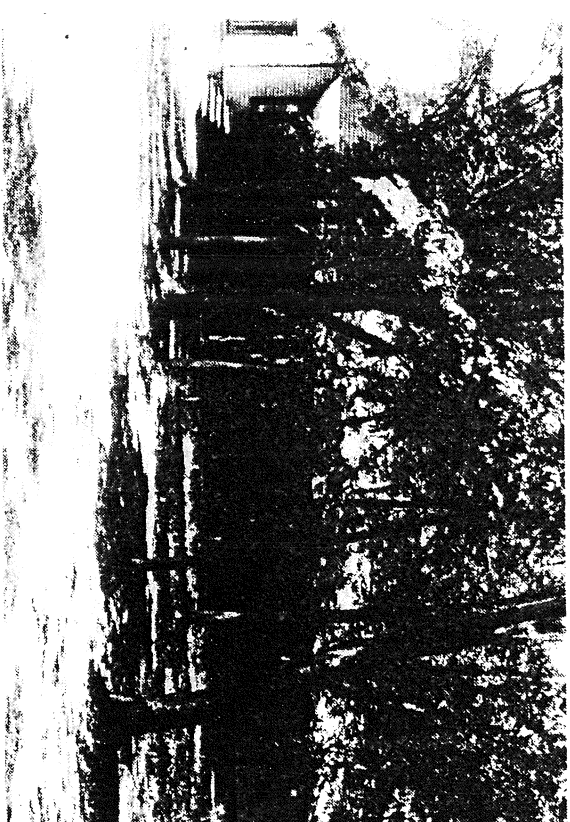
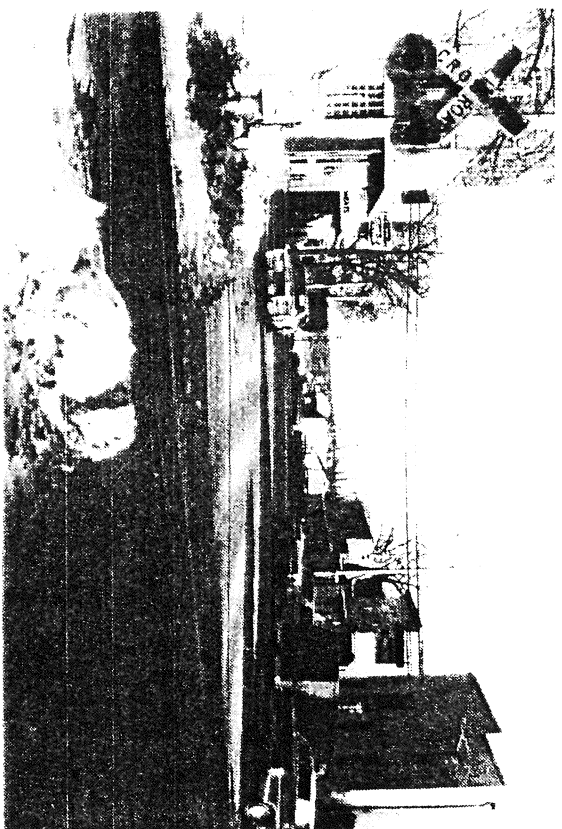
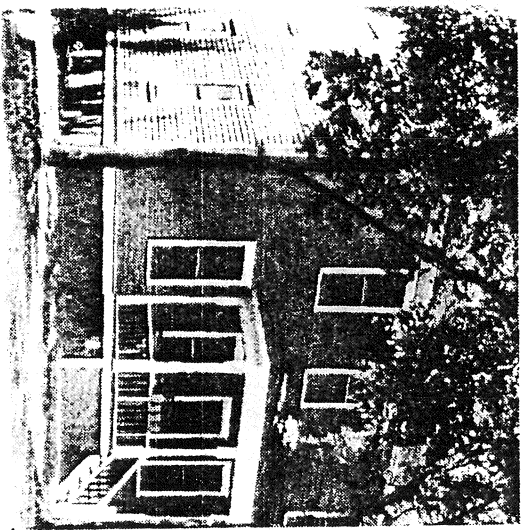
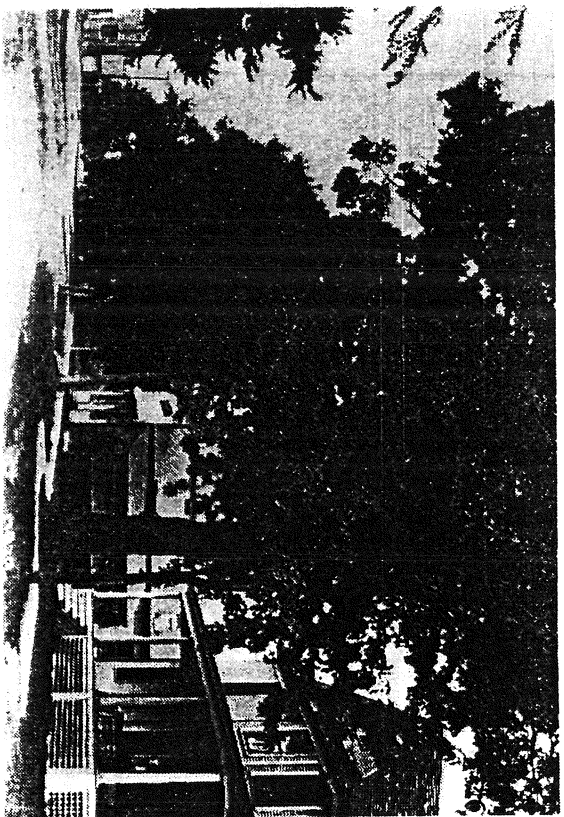
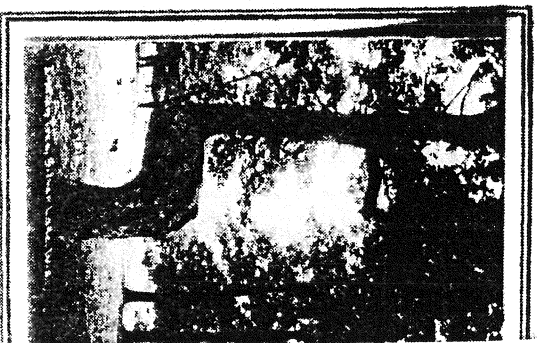
This page sponsored Royce and Katherine Gallagher
Oscar J. and Louise R. Robel



THIS picture of the late Dave McQuire, one of the few ever taken of Wisconsin's biggest man, was snapped by Walter Ripley of St. Francis, Wis., about 17 years ago at the Wisconsin state fair, the only one McQuire ever attended. He hated to have his picture taken. The man standing beside McQuire was six feet tall and weighed 600 pounds.



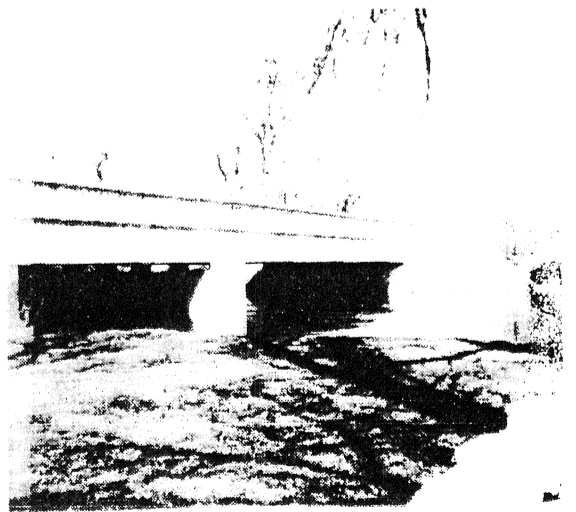
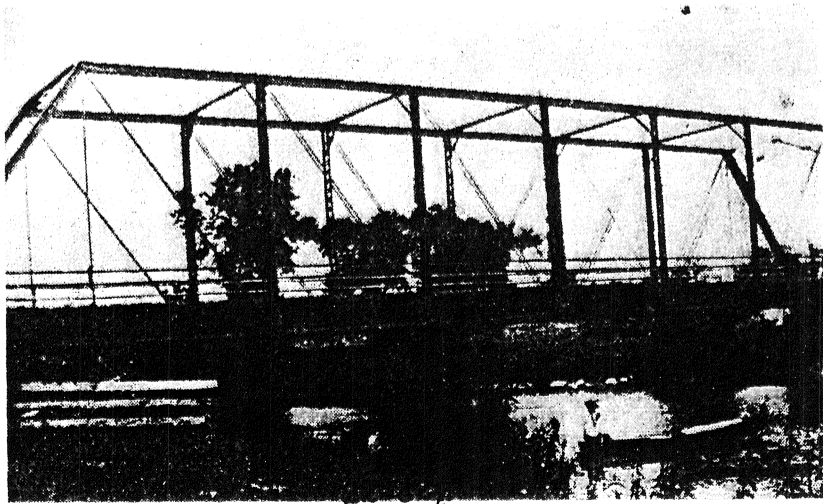
View of Silver Lake Hotel Lawn,



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if one itay piece of information was found - the effort was worthwhile

to compile this and other in the review Genela Valentin 8/2009