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THE HITCHING POST

The Oregon Area Historical Society Newsletter September, October, November 2021

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The purpose of the Oregon Area Historical Society shall be to collect, preserve, and advance knowledge of the history the Oregon area.



MELANIE WOODWORTH

Thank You for your many years as a volunteer and Museum Coordinator for the Oregon Area Historical Society. You have worked tirelessly in supporting the Historical Society and Museum. We deeply appreciate all you have done.

We miss you and wish you the very best as you settle into your new home in Ohio and to spending more time with your daughter, son-in-law and precious granddaughters.

Melanie is shown here receiving a plaque from OAHS president, Dave Gasner, in recognition of her years of service. The farewell gathering was held at Mulligans.



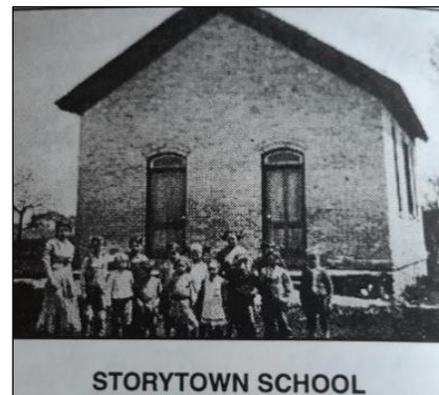
HISTORIC SETTLEMENTS OF THE OREGON AREA - THE STORYTOWN STORY

The 1840s saw a significant influx of immigrants to the Wisconsin Territory. Immigrants from Europe may have found their way from New York by making the long and arduous trip overland to the Midwest. Others would come by way of the Great Lakes. They used the Hudson River to reach Albany, where they could access the 363 miles of the Erie Canal which opened in 1825, to transport them across the State of New York to Buffalo on Lake Erie. From there, they could traverse the Great Lakes to the Wisconsin Territory. Some of the settlers came alone, some came as families and relatives. Others came in groups perhaps with a common ethnic heritage. English, Irish, French, German and Scandinavian immigrants were among the first to come.

Tiny settlements sprang up throughout the area as neighborhood centers and stopping places along the territorial roads of the day. Near the western boundary of the Oregon township, about 5 miles southwest of the Village of Oregon, an area that lies in the vicinity of County Roads A and D and to the east, marks the beginning of the settlement that became known as Storytown. Land patents were granted to brothers, Louis and Tristram Story, who were early settlers to the area along with Sam Shepard who married a daughter of one of the Story brothers.

A limestone building served as the blacksmith shop. It was operated by George Quigley whose home was near the shop. Also near the shop was a small, wood-frame schoolhouse built in the 1840s. Miss Algard was a teacher there. Church services were often held in the schoolhouse by traveling ministers. The frame schoolhouse was later replaced with a brick structure.

When the frame schoolhouse was replaced with a brick structure, the Algard and Shepard families decided to move the frame building to a corner opposite their farm homes and convert it to a country general store. It was later sold to John Colby. The business outgrew the space so a two-story building was built near his house. The old building was moved to a space among the other farm buildings. John Colby sold the store in 1903 to Ralph Anderson, who ran the store for a few years before closing out and moving. There is no precise date for when the store closed; but it is estimated to have been around 1915.



Early settlers plotted a hilltop spot for a cemetery. It was located about one half mile east of the center of Storytown. The plot was donated by Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Patchin and Mr. and Mrs. Ramanzo Colby in 1874. Todd Hann, who did research and renovation work at the cemetery as an Eagle Scout project, is buried at the cemetery. A marker is in place to commemorate his work.

In 1895, a meeting of farmers decided to build a cooperative creamery for the manufacture of butter. The building was erected in 1896 on land donated by the Colby brothers. The 70 foot chimney was built from sand and lime mortar. The butter was of top quality. However, the stockholders found the overhead expenses too high to operate the creamery, so it was sold to D.E. Wood Butter Co of Evansville, who in turn sold it to John F. Litel and Andrew Madsen of Oregon. Later these owners were about to close it when the farmers came up with plans to buy it back. In 1915-16 when World War I was in progress, the Farmer's Cooperative Condensed Milk Co started in Belleville and paid well. This caused the Story Creamery to be closed.

Acknowledgements:

Booklet: *OREGON WISCONSIN SESQUICENTENNIAL, 1841-1991*; excerpts from articles written by local residents of the area, Caryl Farrell, Chuck Cell and Lyman Anderson's OAHS Museum dedication speech.

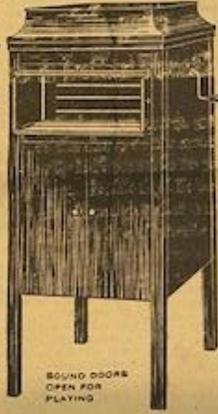
Internet article <https://danedocs.countyofdane.com> – Unincorporated Hamlets of Dane County, Wisconsin – “Historic Overview of Dane county”

Booklet: *History of Oregon and Trade Territory-1924* – “Storytown”

Oregon Observer Centennial Edition – 1983 – “The Story Behind Storytown,” by Letha Warner

Victrola Outfit

\$85.00
Buys
This
Outfit
with
Six
Records



Mahogany
or
Oak
Complete
with
Casters
\$85.00

SOUND DOORS
OPEN FOR
PLAYING

Come in and see our nice line of Victrolas today. We are now better able to meet the demands of the trade than at any time since before the war.

Take a Victrola on your camping trip.
Buy a machine for the home.

M. J. WISCHHOFF

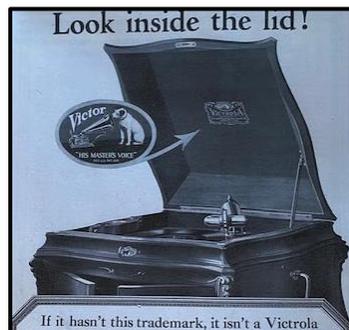
In the early 1920s Oregon jeweler M. J. Wischhoff advertised the Victrola in the Oregon Observer. The Victrola shown in the ad and the one shown below it, which was donated by James Larkin and is on display at the Oregon Area Historical Society Museum, appear identical. The two open doors as shown on the ad's picture concealed the phonograph's "horn" through which the sound was emitted. The doors acted as an effective volume control; when open the sound was loud, when shut the volume was reduced.

Thomas Alva Edison is credited with inventing the phonograph – reportedly his favorite invention. Charles Cros had earlier written plans for a similar device; but it was Edison who experimented and developed it and received a patent for it in 1878. Thomas Edison's phonograph used a metal cylinder that was wrapped with a sheet of tinfoil on which the vibrations from sounds were etched by the stylus onto the tinfoil as the cylinder was being rotated. Later improvements to the phonograph led to wax cylinders being used that produced a better sound.

In the 1880s Emil Berliner, a German immigrant filed a patent for a 'grammophone' using a flat disc rather than a cylinder. The flat discs were more easily manufactured than the cylinders allowing them to be mass produced. Berliner sought the help of Eldridge Johnson, who owned a small machine shop, in developing and producing a spring-wound motor for his disc phonograph. Competition in the industry was fierce and often ugly with several patent charges being waged among phonograph companies. Ultimately, Berliner was forced out of business and moved his operations to Canada. Eldridge Johnson retained many of Berliner's patents as the basis for his products.

Eldridge Johnson soon emerged dominant in the business. He incorporated his new operations as the Consolidated Talking Machine Company. It was reorganized in the fall of 1901 as "The Victor Talking Machine Co" The Victor Co quickly became the major player in the rapidly growing phonograph market.. Edison never called his machine a Victrola. That name was reserved for the Victor Talking Machine Co. Though somewhat difficult to see in the museum display item, you can make out the famous trademark of the dog and the logo "His Master's Voice", on the inside lid of the Victrola.

Johnson aggressively promoted his business through extensive advertising in magazines and newspapers. Johnson made sure the logo of the dog sitting in front of his phonograph was present on every machine and record and was used in all advertising material. "Look inside the lid" -"If it hasn't this trademark, it isn't a Victrola".



TUESDAY CREW VOLUNTEERS

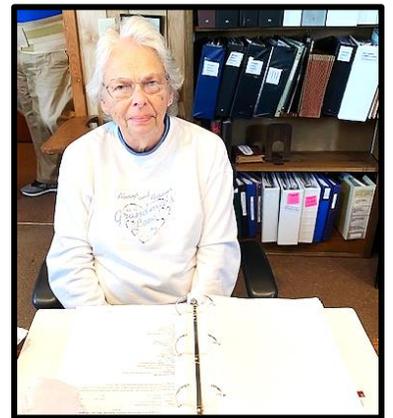


Heather Young is a native Floridian – born in St. Augustine, raised in Gainesville, graduated from high school in Interlachen and attended Saint John’s River Community College. She met her husband in high school. Coming to Wisconsin in 2001, her husband worked at Epic Systems until 2012. He is now an independent contractor working with hospitals who utilize the Epic system. Meanwhile, Heather attended Edgewood College (2002-2006) studying Early Childhood/Special Education and working as a writing tutor in the Writing Lab, helping students with their papers. They purchased a house in Oregon in 2008 and welcomed

daughter, Mina, in 2009.

She has been active in the Oregon Elementary PTO for the past 5 years; serving as vice president for 4 years. She is a PTO board member and parent representative for RCI. Heather also volunteered at Netherwood Knoll for grades K-4. She has served as co-chair to the Art Fair and the STEAM Fair. Heather is founding member of the Oregon Nature Alliance started in 2021. Fortunately for the Oregon Area Historical Society, she finds time to be an active volunteer with the group that meet on Tuesdays. Her energy level is limitless; taking on any task, project or duty that is asked of her. Other interests include photography (especially nature pictures), genealogy and history (English history is a favorite subject). She enjoys reading, hiking and kayaking.

Carol Wichmann was born in the area known as Penn Hollow near Lone Rock in Iowa County, WI. Her father operated the cheese factory located there. The family later moved to Dodgeville where Carol attended school and graduated from Dodgeville High School. After graduation, Carol attended the University of Wisconsin – Platteville for one year and then transferred to MATC in Madison to further her studies to become a legal secretary after which she worked as a legal secretary for a law firm located on the Square in Madison. Carol and Scott were married in 1968 and moved to Oregon in 1969-70. Scott was a teacher in the McFarland School System.



Carol became a volunteer with the Tuesday Crew earlier this year. She has undertaken the primary responsibility for maintaining the obituary binders. Carol has worked on updating the cemetery card files for the Prairie Mound and St. Mary’s Cemeteries as well as organizing other resource materials in the museum. Carol and Scott have three children–Tanja, Josh and Jason- 7 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. Her hobbies include reading, needlework, genealogy and puzzles.

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER – DEANNA FISCHER



Deanna Fischer was appointed to the OAHS Board of Directors in 2020. Deanna was born and raised in Sauk City, WI attended school and graduated from Sauk Prairie High School. As a little girl, she always wanted to become a teacher. She attended UW-LaCrosse attaining a teaching degree in Elementary Education. Her first teaching job was as a 2nd grade teacher in Prairie du Chien.

Deanna met her husband, Tom, while working a summer job during college as a waitress at the Farm Kitchen in Baraboo. Tom's dad owned the restaurant and Tom was the chef there. They were married the summer after she graduated. In addition to raising a family, Deanna continued to take teaching jobs as a substitute teacher, job-sharing positions and finally as a full-time teacher at Brooklyn Elementary. As an elementary school teacher in the Oregon School District, she became familiar with OAHS who provided costumes for students in support of the Pioneer Days and Wax Museum projects held in the 4th and 5th grades. This and student tours of the Museum inspired her to become more involved in the Historical Society after her retirement in 2013.

Other interests include serving as a board member and volunteer for Host a Family – an organization that provides Christmas gifts for families anonymously in the Oregon, Stoughton and McFarland School Districts. She is a member of Madison Area Questers whose programs focus on a collection, historic story or historic sites. Deanna represents the Historical Society on the Council on Aging for the Sr. Center. She seeks to become active in coordinating projects involving the School District.

Tom and Deanna have four children – Claire Marguerite (named after Deanna's grandmother and Tom's mother); Doug (and grandsons Braydon and Brecken); David and Maggie.

DIXIE BROWN NAMED OAHS MUSEUM DIRECTOR



Dixie Brown has accepted the position of Museum Director for the Oregon Area Historical Society. She fills the vacancy left by Melanie Woodworth who, along with her husband, Doug, have relocated to Cincinnati, Ohio where they enjoy being closer to their daughter, son-in-law and granddaughters.

Dixie grew up in the Goodland Park area and attended school and graduated from Oregon High School – Class of 1974. She rode the bus to school and recalls times when she stayed overnight with school friends who lived in town. She thought it was so much fun to be able to walk home from school. Marching with the band in parades was another highlight of her school days.

Before beginning a 25 year career with the American Girl Company, she worked part time while raising her family. One of her jobs was working with her brother, Bernie, doing wallpapering and painting. After retiring from American Girl, she became active in the Oregon Area Historical Society. Dixie says, "I have always been interested in history – except in school. I felt like it was too much memorization and not enough hands-on learning. I think children need to learn about different time periods and of people from ancient history to the present." Her focus with OAHS and the Museum is to find ways to get children more interested in history perhaps through classes, programs or history-related activities.

Dennis and Dixie have three children – Darcy, Ashley and Haley and one grandson, Riley.



The "Mannequin Sisters" are showing off their new holiday outfits



The American Girl Dolls are looking festive in their seasonal attire



Christmas Decorations at the Museum

