

# Spirit Historical Society Newsletter

Nov. 2020 Vol. 2 No. 2

## Previously Liberty School News



Spirit Historical Society Newsletter is published by Spirit Historical Society, Inc. the successor of German Settlement History, Inc.

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### Christmas Programs at Liberty School



This photo taken in 1958 of 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

Do you have photos that can be shared with us? We have lots of old...old ones. Looking for photos from 1930 and newer. Community events or family photos would be welcomed. We scan and send them back or take them by email.

Do you remember how most of December was spent not on so much book learning, but on memorizing your part and the songs to be performed at the Christmas program? Decorations were made by the students and hung on the walls surrounding the classroom. All the desks were grouped closer together days ahead of time so that a stage could be built in the front of the room. Large sheets were hung around the edges to provide a "back stage" area where nervous children awaited their turn to go on stage and do their part in the program.



How many faces do you recognize? This photo was taken in 1962. At this point Liberty School was still running 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Our January annual **SHSI meeting** will be held virtually by teleconference, with only board members participating. We regret that we cannot at this time hold a meeting where the public can be invited. If you have anything that you would like to have brought up for discussion at that meeting, please notify us by email, snail mail or phone call by the end of December. We will take it under consideration at our meeting.

**The Spirit Legion Post 452** has cancelled the annual Christmas program that has been held at the Town Hall in December. The post is hoping to be able to hold their annual pancake supper next spring.

**Legion Post 452** holds their monthly meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. of each month at the Spirit town Hall beginning at 7 pm.

**Spirit Town Board** meetings are held in the Spirit Town Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. of each month, starting at 6:00 pm.  
Town board members are Darrel Lind, Bill Evans and Andy Holmquist.  
Clerk – JaNelle Nelson Treas. – Myrna Holmquist



The 78<sup>th</sup> annual **Spirit-Hill-Ogema 4-H Fair** was held virtually this year. Exhibitors submitted photos of their projects, which were emailed to judges. The results were returned as to their placings. Ribbons and premiums were paid.

Clubs that were eligible to participate this year were:  
Happy Hoboes, Hillbillies, Hamburg Hawks & Pioneer Sunrise.

Fair board members are Darrel Lind, Ed Ulrich, Adam Kielsmeier, Lynn Peterson and Molly Kielsmeier. Sec/Treas. is Colleen Schult.  
For more information and photos go to [www.facebook.com/spirithillogema4hfair](https://www.facebook.com/spirithillogema4hfair)

Our Yesterday House is currently located at: W1316 State Hwy. 86 in the town of Spirit, Price County, next to the Spirit Town Hall.  
The Machine Shed will be rebuilt when funding can be raised to do so.

Tours of our buildings are still cancelled at this time due to Covid.  
We hope to be ready to schedule tours again next summer. Tours will be free.

Mailing address: Spirit Historical Society, Inc. P.O. Box 621 Ogema, WI 54459  
Email us at [spirithistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:spirithistoricalsociety@gmail.com) Our website is [www.spirithistoricalsociety.org](http://www.spirithistoricalsociety.org)

Spirit Historical Society, Inc. is organized for educational purposes to protect, conserve and display buildings, artifacts and documents of historical value and interest in the Towns of Spirit and Hill in Price County and surrounding Spirit River Valley.

S.H.S.I. is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit tax exempt organization.

# Landscaping around 'Our Yesterday House'

In September we were able to get a bulldozer in to do the landscaping around Our Yesterday House. The ground was sloped to make the water run around the north side and off to the east. A crew got together to pick the rocks off the fresh bulldozing to make the area mowable next spring. A load of topsoil was delivered and moved to all 4 sides of the building to bring the dirt up to the top of the cement foundation.

Because of snow and early cold weather, no flowers were able to be planted this fall. The plan is to seed down the lawn area next spring and put in some flowers along the building that will hopefully take very little upkeep. Screens will be built to cover the rectangle holes left in the foundation where support beams had to be used when moving the building.

When the weather permits next spring the signs will be put back on the outside of the building, a ramp will need to be built to accommodate visitors and the inside will get a good cleaning before moving the artifacts back for display. We hope to be ready for tours again next summer.



September bulldozing project done by Randy Thums of Rib Lake.



A 'first-time' experience for Karen Baumgartner. Who would guess that a person would live in this area and never experience picking rocks?



Ready for the finishing touches next spring. If you would like to help put the building back in order, please let us know. We can always use volunteer help.



The rock picking crew included Karen Baumgartner, Luann Lind, Darrell and Cheryl Pierson, JaNelle Nelson and Dawn Meier.

Darrell brought his tractor and trailer and hauled the rocks away for us.



# Obituaries



**Herbert Carl Magnuson** died on May 1, 2020. Herb, as he was known to his loving family and countless friends, died at home in the Town of Spirit under the watchful care of Joan Elizabeth (Dahl) Magnuson, his wife of nearly 55 years. Herb's robustness had been reduced gradually by a congestive heart condition in recent years and he ultimately succumbed to an unforeseen myocardial infarction. All should take comfort in the fact that Herb passed quickly. Herb took his leave while still on the homestead granted in 1880 to his grandfather, Carl John, and where Herb was born in the halcyon summer of 1928. In 1965, Herb married Joan, a music teacher raised in Hurley, WI. Their three sons (Carl, Eric, and Jacob), their respective wives (Kerry, Sarah, and Sarah), and four grandchildren (Daniel, Kate, Maya, and Lucy) all attend to the loss of Herb's presence with a cherished trove of memories. Herb's survived by his sister, Aileen Johnson, of Orland Park, IL. Herb was preceded in death by his brother and business partner, Lester, and parents, Jennie and Harry, who presumably are all greeting him in the great beyond. Anyone not mentioned herein yet deserving of a familial embrace should know they are loved deeply by Herb and his surviving family. Herb spent his working life as an innovative entrepreneur caring for animals and crops – primarily mink, foxes, and ginseng. Herb attended the one-room Stone Lake School, which closed the year he completed 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. Herb graduated from Rib Lake High School in 1946. Herb worked for Elmer Taylor's funeral home in Rib Lake during high school, which seeded plans for a possible future. After a few years spent building the Magnuson family's growing agribusiness, Herb earned a Mortuary Science degree in 1952 from the University of Minnesota. Forgoing that degree's utility, Herb returned to the family homestead and the agricultural pursuits that would characterize his working life for the next 60 years. As an influential and gregarious member of the mink ranching community, Herb's expertise and that of others from the Badger State was sought globally. Herb maintained an optimistic dedication to hard work. Vacations were rare for him, yet friendships often accompanied business throughout Herb's life. Herb's legacy of invaluable knowledge was freely shared with countless beneficiaries. When Herb finally "pelted out" in the fall of 2012, he left the global fur trade at an historic market peak. Herb possessed a strong religious faith and worshipped through the decades as a member of Spirit's United Methodist Church. Herb served as a strong pillar in the Masonic community and passed just a few days prior to what would have been the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his status as a Master Mason with Lodge #217 in Medford, WI. Herb also maintained membership in Eastern Star with Joan, whose Medford chapter closed in 2020. Herb contributed to many national and local organizations (ranging from The Grange to the Spirit Lakes Improvement Association). Herb's wide interests focused upon the beloved community in which he lived. As a presumed lifelong Republican Party member after having been named for the long-since-heroic President Hoover, Herb's political DNA evolved often enough by crossing the aisle to cast votes for Harry Truman in 1948 and Jimmy Carter in 1976 ("the best President the mink business ever new," according to Herb). He feasted upon the ongoing news of the world while always nursing a love of history. Herb spent countless happy evenings after a hard day's work with a stack of things to read and a cocktail to savor. He brightly engaged with events occurring both near and far away, most often with a story that would bring with it a surprising new insight to be considered. His prowess as a raconteur made the overdue transition into publication with the occasional stories contributed over the past decade to the Liberty School News under the column named "Stories from Stone Lake". When given the chance to weigh in amidst their feelings of loss, Herb's grandchildren and daughters-in-law described him as classic, charming, debonair, and high-spirited. Herb was known by all to be a loving man, gifted with optimism, wit, and kindness. When a party seems feasible...hopefully this summer a proper memorial is to be held on the Magnuson homestead in Spirit.



**Delores J. Miller**, age 77, of Thorp, WI, passed away from injuries sustained in an automobile accident on Friday, April 24, 2020. Burial of cremains will be held at Hillcrest Cemetery in Spirit, WI on Saturday, May 16, 2020 at 11am, with Pastor Don Rhody officiating. A Celebration of Delores' Life will take place at a later date.

Delores Joanne Zielke was born on January 26, 1943 in Tomahawk, Lincoln County, WI, the daughter of Fred E. and Ruby E. (Nelson) Zielke. She was raised on the family farm and received her education in the Spirit area, graduating from Prentice High School in 1961. Delores enrolled in Medford Teachers College, in Medford, WI, for one year. She was united in marriage to Jeffrey Miller on August 4, 1962 at Zion Lutheran Church, Spirit WI. They farmed and raised their family in the Withee area. After their divorce, Delores continued to care for her daughter, Lori, worked at the Abby Cafe in Abbotsford, and then later at the Clark County Health Care Center until retiring in 2008. After her retirement, she continued caring for her daughter, and her grandson, Jaidin. She was an avid reader, enjoyed flower gardening, watching the birds, her favorite being the Chickadee, and especially loved spending her time with her family. Delores will be dearly missed by her children: Lori Miller of Owen, Justin Miller of Thorp, Stacey (Tim) Ruggles of Boyd; her grandson: Jaidin Miller of Thorp; one brother: Richard (Linda) Zielke of Medford; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers, and sister-in-law: Fred E. Jr. and Roger (Pauline) Zielke.



**Beryl Nyberg**, 84, a lifelong resident of the Spirit/Ogema area, passed away Thursday, October 15, 2020, at Ascension St. Mary's Hospital in Rhinelander. Beryl was born March 16, 1936, in Ogema to Benjamin and Elsie (Nelson) Lofquist. She married Rodger Nyberg on July 26, 1958. The pair spent 50 wonderful years together at their home in Spirit before his passing in 2008. Beryl was a telephone operator for a short time, but dedicated most of her life to raising her children and helping Rodger run the family farm.

She was happiest when her house was filled with family, and always opened her heart and home to friends old and new. Beryl cherished her community connections as a longtime member of the Homemakers Club, an active member of the First Lutheran Church in Ogema, and a former Sunday School teacher. Those who knew her loved her, and those who loved her knew the boundlessness of her generosity, kindness, and warmth. Surviving Beryl are her four children: Mark Nyberg, Ogema; Bruce (Rachelle) Nyberg, North Fond du lac; Beth (Jim) Block, Minong; and Shelly (Jay) Kahle, Tomahawk; as well as her brother Dale (Barbara) Lofquist, Cherokee Village, AK. Beryl was the proud grandmother of eight grandchildren (Alicia, Kirsten, Annie, Jenna, Morgan, Connor, Jakob, and Nicholas) and one great grandson (Cayden), and she adored her many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Beryl was preceded in death by her parents Benjamin and Elsie Lofquist; husband Rodger Nyberg; brother James Wagner; sister Phyllis Wagner; and grandson Benjamin Block.



**Benjamin W. Marheine**, age 87, of Brantwood, passed away peacefully on October 27, 2020 at Rib Lake Health Services under the care of Aspirus Hospice. Ben was born on June 28, 1933 to Benjamin L. & Lillian (Hendrickson) Marheine. He was married to Lori Ludtke; she preceded him in death in 1995. Ben was a US Army Veteran and a long-time fixture, known as "Renegade," to the local pulp trucker culture. Ben is survived by his son – Benjamin E. Marheine of Brantwood; step daughter – Sonia (Dale) Landwehr; granddaughter – Scarlett August; his siblings – Kathleen Conlan, Nancy (Otto) Vyskocil, Judy (Donald) Morin, Clarence "Tuffy" Marheine, James (Ann) Marheine & Dennis (Sue) Marheine. Ben is preceded in death by his parents, wife – Lori and significant other for many years – Virginia Pyykonen.



**Aileen Johnson, nee Magnuson**, age 90 of Orland Park, Illinois at rest November 11, 2020. Born in The Town of Spirit, Wisconsin to the late Harry and the late Jennie Magnuson. Beloved wife of the late Harold, loving mother of Craig (Mary Beth) Johnson, cherished grandmother of Erik (Sydney) Johnson and David Johnson. Her siblings were the late Herbert (Joan) Magnuson and the late Lester (Donna) Magnuson. She had many dear nephews. Aileen finished her career in business but she remembered her days as a teacher and her students very fondly. The joy of her life was her family. Due to Covid-19, there will be no services. People may pay their respects at Hillcrest Cemetery in Spirit, WI



Aileen, Lester & Herb Magnuson



Chief Evergreen Tree, Aileen, Lester & Herbie Magnuson 1940



Herb, Aileen & Lester - Jennie & Harry Magnuson in front seat, back seat Eric Jacobson 1937 Dodge

## The Ghost Child

Author: Dianne Rhody-Scott

10/04/16

I watched as my brother's ashes sank slowly into the river below. I had scooped the ashes with my hand and now let them slide through my fingers into the slow stream of the Spirit River. This was the same place on the bridge, over the river where we spent many childhood summer days swimming and catching frogs. I watched as the ashes separated; the heavy ones sank straight to the river bed, the medium ashes floated on the water surface for a time and the finer parts floated like dust in the early morning mist, melding away together. It was peaceful and final.

As children, we lived with a ghost child. She lived in the bottom cabinet in the kitchen. She was named Carla, after my father. Carla was an older sister who died before we were born. One sunny spring morning while my mother was distracted with farm chores, toddler Carla walked into the farm driveway. Just then, the truck driver who had finished loading the daily milk supply, backed over her with his heavy load. He left the farm, not knowing he had shaken our family tree for generations. Carla became a ghost child. She died on the way to the hospital. She was only two years old.

Her funeral was very sad. My mother was overwhelmed with guilt. Neighbors brought fresh lilacs to the home in a gesture of condolence. My mother took long, frequent showers to quell the physical pain of her body rash for months following. The internal pain remained. Farm life demands huge dedication of work. The necessary routine of work, kept my parents sane. There were also three other young children to tend.

Two years later, I was born and then another two years and my brother. We knew there were sacred places in the house that Carla held. It was in the kitchen cabinet under the sink, where she had scribbled with a crayon. It was Carla's drawing. It was where my mother stood when she peeled potatoes or washed the dishes. Our kitchen was the center of our family activity, where we cooked, ate our meals, played games. We even had a chalk board on one kitchen wall. My older sister taught us lessons and we could play the hang man game there. Carla watched silently during all those years.

Now, my brother has become a ghost. He is more of a wanderer. He plays, floats, and swims in the Spirit River. He watches silently. I wonder if he visits his dead sister when he gets lonely.

What do they talk about? Do they miss our mother: I miss them both, for now.

# Results from an election held in the town of Brannan April 3, 1894

*A Copy of 1<sup>st</sup> Records of  
Town of Brannan Price county*  
 Price County was formed 1879 and was divided  
 into two townships. Brannan & Worcester  
 This election of 1894 - Town of Knox and Town of Spirit  
 were still one town - Town of Brannan.  
 Knox formed their own town a few years later.  
 The name Brannan was changed to Spirit. 1923

There were 145 voters that cast their ballots in 1894.

In comparison the 2020 Presidential election brought out 209 voters in the Town of Spirit.

**STATEMENT OF VOTES.**

The following is a Statement Setting forth the whole number of Votes for each office, the names of the persons for whom such votes were given, and the number of votes given to each person at an Election had at a Town Meeting held at Town Hall in the Town of Brannan County of Price and State of Wisconsin, on the Third day of April 1894 for the Election of the following officers, to-wit: Three Supervisors of which one shall be Chairman, one Town Clerk, one Town Treasurer; Justices of the Peace to fill vacancy; 2 Justices of the Peace for full term; 2 Constables; 1 Assessors; One Sealer of Weights and Measures; Judges of County Court; Judges of Circuit Court; Overseers of Highways; Associate Justices of the Supreme Court to fill vacancy; Associate Justices of the Supreme Court for full term, and

257 If any office above named, is not filled at an Election, the Town Clerk can draw a pen mark across the office to be omitted at the said election, and then leave the Statement blank respecting the said office, wherever it may occur in the following statement of votes.

The whole number of Votes given for said office of Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, was  
*One Hundred and Forty Two (142)*

And they were given for the following persons, viz:  
*W. H. Knox 142 One hundred and forty two*

The whole number of Votes given for said office of Supervisors, was  
*One hundred and forty five*

And they were given for the following persons, viz:  
*M. J. Roach; One hundred and forty two (142)  
 C. H. Olson; One hundred and forty four (144)  
 Fred Smith One (1)  
 John Wick One (1)*

**STATEMENT OF VOTES.**

The whole number of Votes given for said office of Town Clerk, was  
*One Hundred and Forty five (145)*

And they were given for the following persons, viz:  
*John Lind Jr., One hundred and forty five (145)*

The whole number of Votes given for said office of Town Treasurer, was  
*One Hundred and forty five (145)*

And they were given for the following persons, viz:  
*C. B. Nelson (145)*

**TOWN CLERK'S BOND.**

Know all men by these presents, That John Lind Jr being Elected Town Clerk, in the Town of Brannan County of Price and State of Wisconsin, and we S. P. Tillson and John Lind Sr as his sureties, do hereby bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, and legal assigns, each and all of them, firmly by these presents, to pay to the said Town, or to each and every person who may be entitled thereto, all damages which said Town or any person or persons may sustain, by reason of the loss of any Chattel Mortgage, or other papers required by law to be filed and kept in the office of said Clerk, or by reason of the neglect to perform, or unfaithful performance of official duty by said Clerk.

Sealed with our seals and dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1894

In presence of  
John Lind Jr [SEAL]  
S. P. Tillson [SEAL]  
John Lind Sr [SEAL]

I hereby approve the sureties named in the above or within bond.  
 Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April 1894  
W. H. Knox Chairman Town Board.



The Town of Spirit is no longer using the wooden ballot boxes for storing ballots until they are counted. Computer read-out ballots have replaced the old boxes. The town board is giving away the old boxes. If you would like to have one, contact any town board member. Smaller ones are 12-1/2" square x 24-1/2" tall. Larger ones are 18" square x 25-1/2" tall.

NATHANIEL NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH – submitted by Joyce Bant  
(1898 – 1953)



Nathaniel Norwegian Lutheran Church (on the right) before the steeple and vestibule were added. Home across the road belonged to Mr. & Mrs. Paul Pederson.

Church was located 3-3/4 mile north of Hwy. 86 on County D. Folks living on West Knox Rd. had only to drive 1 mile east on Old Mill Rd. then ½ mile north.

The church in Knox Mills was very active for a long time. It was already fading when I was growing up. I was the church organist...not good at all but all they had...sometimes I played with only one hand. -  
Joyce Bant

“Nathaneal Skandinavian Lutheran congregation in Knox Mills, Price County, Wisconsin, was organized by Pastor L. E. Nord the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 1898. The Norwegian Lutheran Church was built after Hobe left the community. Services had been held in one of his company houses, but when Hobe sold out the congregation was without a place of worship. Now they were pressed into building one in a hurry. All the members of the congregation were poor. They were having a hard time raising funds so Alfred Sandquist offered a piece of his property in Section 16 to build on and plans were made for a church 32 feet long, 22 feet wide and 16 feet high. Instead, the congregation found an acre of land owned by John & Carrie Johnson in the SW1/4 of the NW1/4 of Section 22, T35N Range 3 E which was more centrally located among its members. The Johnson’s sold that property to the church for one dollar. The congregation hurriedly built a church (36’ x 24’ x 14’) there in February of 1902 and located a cemetery beside it. A note of interest is that the ceiling of the church was curved and a piece of art and by the time interviews were done in 1983 the person or persons responsible had been forgotten. At one time stained glass paper was purchased and glued in the windows but it lasted awhile and started to come off, especially on the south side where the sun weathered it.

In the fall of 1905 they were able to lay a stone foundation and a cornerstone under the church. The members of the congregation put in that cornerstone a short history of the congregation, a Lutheran Prayer Paper, the Lutheran Herald, Decorah Pasten Reform, the Swedish American States Leader, one cent United States money and a Luther’s Catechism. They also included a message written in Norwegian Script. They could not have known that when the church was torn down and the message found, no one could read it.

The congregation was organized at Knox Mills on March 15, 1898 by Rev. J. E. Nord. There were also Pastors Reinertson and Haugum of Knox Mills. Other pastors were 1902 – Pastor Knudsen; 1905 – Pastor Minne of Catawba; 1910 - Pastor Ivar Ramseth; 1913 – Pastor Hjalmar Madland; 1914 – Pastor A. Running (services in the Norwegian language were held Sunday afternoon, September 23, 1917 at 3:00); 1919 – Rev. C. K. Helland; and 1923 – Rev. C. M. Horneland. It isn’t known by this author if the congregation could support any of these pastors so they could live in Knox Mills although the obituary of Robert Rasmussen reads “Pastor Haugum of Knox Mills”.



Interior of the Nathaniel Lutheran Church in Knox Mills

The Norwegian Lutheran Church continued to be a center of the community. They moved the location of their many fund raising activities from the home of Alfred Sandquist to either the Knox Mills school or Knutson’s Hall. There were still no facilities at the church in which to hold their doings. Church members sold subscriptions to keep the church going besides the usual fund raisers.



It was hard to get preachers as they had to come so far. It was also hard to get together enough money to pay them. Although church services weren't held every Sunday, Sunday School for the children was. Throughout the summer it was held at the church but during the winter months, so the church wouldn't have to be heated on the Sunday's there were no services, they met in the homes. Ruth nee Hemmrich Weber and her sister Marion Perkins told how during the time they lived in Knox Mills, from 1929 to 1944, there had never been an Easter Sunday service so one year they walked to the Spirit Baptist Church to attend their Easter service and Lloyd Nelson drove them home.

When the congregation dissolved the church records and treasury and the care of the church and cemetery were turned over to Albert Sandquist. The church was torn down in 1975 and he continued to care for the cemetery and mow it by hand and hand dug the few graves that were needed. When he could no longer care for it he turned everything over to this author. After a few mowings, with the help of husband, Jim, and Harold May, who lived across from the original church cemetery, it was decided that it was too burdensome a job and that the town should be contacted about what to do. This author found Judith Larson Gustafson to go with to a Town of Knox board meeting and they took it over on September 10, 1988. The money that had accumulated in a bank account was turned over to Jerry Swenson and the records were sent with my Dad to be delivered to Bill and Pat Swenson, however, he shared them with Leo Pierson who turned them over to Audrey nee Thorbus Birch.

A column in The Bee of June 1, 1990 stated that a flagpole was donated by brothers Sydney and Leo Pierson of Brantwood. A new sign with the name of the old church and cemetery was also installed. Also noted were the veterans who are buried in that cemetery. They are Nels Thorbus, Indian War; Oliver Berhow, Civil War; Vernon Berhow, World War II and the Korean War; and John Christianson, World War II.

By 2002 the sign that Sydney and Leo Pierson had donated was deteriorated to the point that it needed to be replaced. The McNaughton Correctional Center located at Lake Tomahawk, had a woodworking shop where inmates work on projects, mainly for community service. After speaking with the warden it was decided that this was a community service project and the sign was made and delivered to Jerry Swenson who got it placed at the cemetery.



Each year on Memorial Day the Spirit Legion Post 452 renders honors to the veterans buried here.

A dwindling membership and subsequent difficulty in getting a pastor to come from the nearest Norwegian Lutheran Church which was in Park Falls was the reason that services were no longer offered in the Knox Mills Norwegian Lutheran Church and its sister church in Spirit, which was located just to the west of the cemetery, and they were both eventually torn down. Four churches still remain to serve that community...a Lutheran Church located north of Brantwood on Highway D, Methodist and Baptist Churches located on Highway 86 in Spirit and a Lutheran Church located in the German Settlement in Spirit.



# Remembering Winters of the Past



Using the buzz saw to cut up piles and piles of firewood. This job was almost never done in the warm summer days!



A water tank was used to ice the tracks that the sleighs used, making it easier for the horses to pull the loads out of the woods.


Logging was made easier when bulldozers and crawlers replaced horses.



Chainsaws replaced hand saws making the physical work much easier.



A big Thank You goes out to Spirit Legion Post 452. They took on the responsibility of making sure all veterans buried in this area were honored on Memorial Day this spring when programs were all being called off because of Covid. The schedule to the right shows the eight cemeteries where the group rendered honors.



## Spirit Memorial Day

**Spirit American Legion Post 452 will be rendering honors May 25 at the following cemeteries at the schedule shown below.**

|                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Knox Cemetery             | 8:30  |
| St. Mary's Cemetery       | 8:50  |
| Clifford Cemetery         | 9:10  |
| Finlander Cemetery        | 9:30  |
| Garden of Memories        | 10:00 |
| Levitt Creek Cemetery     | 10:30 |
| Ogema Hillside Cemetery   | 10:50 |
| Spirit Hillcrest Cemetery | 12:00 |

**Firing Squad:**  
 Commander Ben Kauer,  
 Andy Holmquist,  
 Bill Evans,  
 George Hedstrom,  
 John Evans,  
 Leonard Long,  
 Terry Pocock



Amidst thunder and lightning the deceased veterans were honored by Skip Ploof, Terry Wasti, Pete Jabobsen, George Blomberg, Stan Carlson, Duane Harper & Jerry Swenson



Color Detail: Loren Nelson, Clarence Johnson, Harry Blasel & Dennis Laaksonen



Clarence Johnson always willing to help out.



A large crowd assembled at Garden of Memories Cemetery where Ed Blomberg at the age of 99 recited the Gettysburg Address from memory.

**Thank you for your  
 dedication and service so  
 we can all live in  
 freedom!**

Tom Neal, Stan Carlson, Terry Wasti, Duane Harper & Jerry Swenson

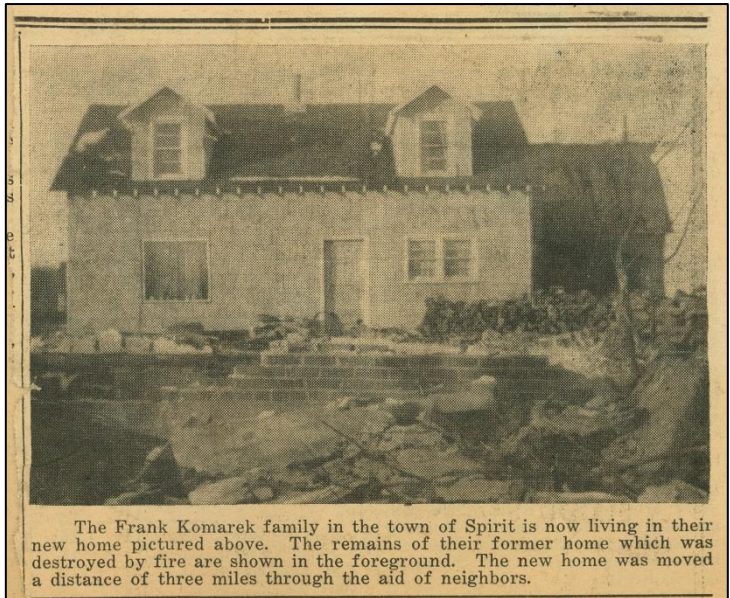


The morning ended at Spirit Hillcrest Cemetery in the midst of an approaching thunderstorm.

# News Articles From the Past

In the newspaper  
Feb. 3, 1972  
75 YEARS AGO - 1897  
W.H. Knox has shipped all  
the machinery of his mill at  
Knox to West Superior and is  
now tearing down the mill  
building which will also be  
shipped to that point.

DEC 3 1953  
**Hit by Lightning,  
House 'Explodes'**  
Journal Special Correspondence  
**Spirit, Wis.** — Four members of  
the Frank Komarek family were  
burned, three of them critically,  
when lightning struck their six  
room brick house early Friday.  
Komarek, 59, his wife, Lucia, 51,  
and a daughter, Mirella, 14, were  
the most seriously injured. They  
and a son, Lawal, 28, were taken to  
Riverview hospital, Tomahawk,  
for treatment.  
"The house just seemed to ex-  
plode," Komarek reported.  
Telephones in this Price county  
area were knocked out and neigh-  
bors were unable to call fireman.  
The house was destroyed.



The Frank Komarek family in the town of Spirit is now living in their new home pictured above. The remains of their former home which was destroyed by fire are shown in the foreground. The new home was moved a distance of three miles through the aid of neighbors.

1953-The Komarek home (located between the 2 big hills ¾ miles west of Zion Luth. Church) was destroyed by lightning during hunting season. Their new home was moved from the east side of the Spirit River on YY between Meier Rd. and Strucker Dr.

## Tiny Ogema Claims Title of Christmas Tree Capital

Journal Special Correspondence.  
**Ogema, Wis.**—With the boast that Ogema is the Christmas tree capital of Wisconsin, this Price county community of 200 persons will celebrate the second annual Christmas tree festival Saturday.

Sponsored by the Lions club, the festival attempts to identify the Price county area as a producer of quality trees. The festival also brings together producers and buyers of trees.

### Growers to Compete

A festival feature will be a contest between growers of balsam, spruce, Norway and Scotch pines. Cash prizes are offered. One of the winning trees will be given to Gov. Nelson for his family's Christmas.

The management and marketing of Christmas trees will be discussed in the afternoon. Ogema area residents will display

handcrafts and will demonstrate the making of Scandinavian pastries and candles.

### Will Serve Dinner

The Lions club will serve a chicken barbecue dinner at the Ogema school.

A festival queen will be announced Saturday night from the 16 Price county candidates. The winner will be the one who has sold the most Christmas tree festival buttons.

The final event will be a square dance at the Ogema American Legion hall.

The sponsors are hopeful that this year's festival crowd will be double the 2,000 who attended last year.

Oct. 21, 1961



WINNING TREES AND WINNING SMILES—This float of the Ogema Lions Club featured the new Festival Queen and her court and the prize winning Christmas trees Sunday afternoon. Left to right, are candidates Helen Weinzatl and Grace Ann Rhody and Queen Delores Swanson.—Photo by The Bee.

1966

Best Letter Contest  
describing  
"My Favorite Use  
of Electricity"

Following is the winning letter for the month of April in the "BEST LETTER" Contest. It was written by Carl Rhody, Rt. 1, Ogema, Wisconsin.

**"MY FAVORITE USE OF ELECTRICITY"**

We have so many uses for electricity it is difficult to pick a favorite.

I will choose water heating. In 1953 we installed a 52-gallon water heater in our new Grade A milk house.

This heater is equipped with a hollow core with a thermostat-operated fan that "kicks in" at 32° and shuts off when room temperature goes up to 35°.

We have a deep well pressure system in the milk house and it has never been frozen, thanks to the dependability of our electric water heater.

We were so well pleased with our heater that we soon replaced another fueled so-called automatic water heater in our house with an 82-gallon electric heater.

Last fall we installed an electricity-heated water cup outside our pen-type barn for young stock. This cup has no protection of any kind from the weather except the thermostatic-controlled electric heating element. I am pleased to say we had no trouble of any kind all winter long, the stock having water at all times with no extra work on our part.

Sincerely yours,  
Carl H. Rhody  
R.R. 1, Box 114  
Ogema, Wis.

**MRS. ROY MEIER WINS MARCH CONTEST**

Following is the winning letter for the MONTH OF MARCH in the "BEST LETTER" contest. It was written by Mrs. Roy Meier, Rt. 1, Ogema.

**"My Favorite Use Of Electricity"**

I have used my electric range for eight years, being one of the first in this neighborhood. Not a repair bill yet.

There were eight in our family then, and it was wonderful to be the boss instead of a slave to the whims of my old wood stove.

When making meals for extra help I just reach for another kettle, turn on another burner, and everything is done on time.

As for baking, I can truthfully say, I have never had a baking failure for which my electric stove was to blame.

In our case, electricity is cheaper than any other fuel and it does such a clean odorless job without ever having to strike a match or check the fuel supply.

I can cook with low heat with no worry about scorching, even though my stove has no automatic burner.

My family must have enjoyed it too, as when our two older children married, they both bought electric ranges for their homes.

Mrs. Roy Meier

# We sell books written by local authors

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

| Books by Jeanette Gilge        | Quantity | Total | Books by Carl Rhody           | Quantity | Total |
|--------------------------------|----------|-------|-------------------------------|----------|-------|
| <i>"Pioneer Family Series"</i> |          |       |                               |          |       |
| A Winter's Promise             | \$5.00   | _____ | The Saga of Spirit Valley     | \$7.50   | _____ |
| Never Miss a Sunset            | \$5.00   | _____ | The Saga of Spirit Valley II  | \$7.50   | _____ |
| All Things Heal in Time        | \$5.00   | _____ | The Saga of Spirit Valley III | \$7.50   | _____ |
| Best of Intentions             | \$5.00   | _____ | The Saga of Spirit Valley IV  | \$7.50   | _____ |
| Satin in the Snow              | \$5.00   | _____ | The Saga of Spirit Valley V   | \$7.50   | _____ |
| As Long As I Have You          | \$5.00   | _____ | <b>Set of 5 Saga books</b>    | \$35.00  | _____ |
| <b>Set of 6 Pioneer Series</b> | \$20.00  | _____ |                               |          |       |
| City-Kid Farmer                | \$5.00   | _____ | <b>Books by James Rhody</b>   |          |       |
|                                |          |       | Brant's Bear                  | \$10.00  | _____ |
|                                |          |       | The Pleasure of the Sorrow    | \$5.00   | _____ |

Shipping – Orders for \$10 and under – add \$3.50 > \_\_\_\_\_  
 Orders over \$10 – add \$7.50  
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## Spirit Historical Society, Inc.

### Membership Application

You are invited to become a member of S.H.S.I.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Year \_\_\_\_\_

- Categories: Please check one
- \_\_\_\_\_ Swamper (Non Member) - \$1.00 to \$24.00 per year
- The following categories qualify you as a Member:**
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sawyer - \$25.00 to \$49.00 per year
- \_\_\_\_\_ Teamster - \$50.00 to \$99.00 per year
- \_\_\_\_\_ Woods Boss - \$100.00 to \$499.00 per year
- \_\_\_\_\_ Homesteader - \$500.00 to \$999.00 per year
- \_\_\_\_\_ Settlement Builder - \$1000.00 or more per year

Please make checks payable to SHSI and mail to:  
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**Thank you for your generous gift!**

Spirit Historical Society, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization whose mission is to protect, conserve and display buildings, artifacts and documents of historical value for educational purposes. Members are persons who contribute \$25.00 or more at any time during the year. Membership continues through the month of January the following year. As a member of S.H.S.I. you will be contributing to our mission, receive our newsletters and will be eligible to vote in person or by absentee ballot at the S.H.S.I. January annual meeting.

**Spirit Historical Society, Inc.**  
**Formerly German Settlement History, Inc.**  
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