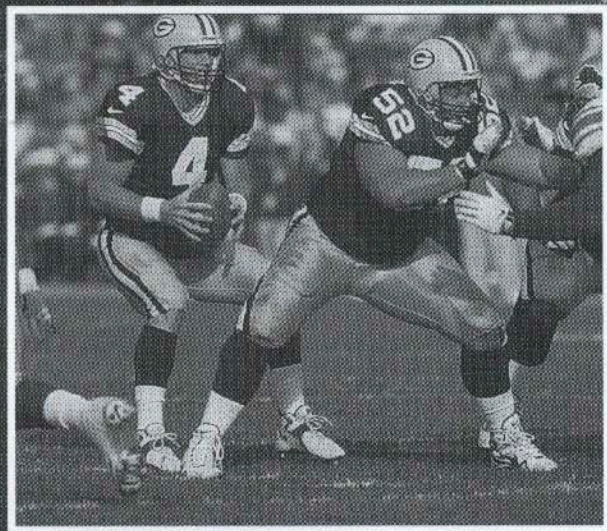


SPIRIT OF WISCONSIN



A Historical Photo-Essay
of the Badger State



Created by the American Writers and Photographers Alliance, with Editing by David J. Marcou (AWPA Director),
Introductory Essays by Former Governors Lee S. Dreyfus and Patrick J. Lucey, Foreword by Governor James Doyle,
and Technical Advice by Steve Kiedrowski

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Spirit of Wisconsin: A Historical Photo-Essay of the Badger State

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“I can have talent and vision,
but without the subject
I have nothing.”

— NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
PHOTOGRAPHER ROBB KENDRICK

“State history
is a difficult medium.”

—ROBERT C. NESBIT,
Wisconsin: A History

“Yesterday is gone.
Tomorrow has not yet come.
We have only today.
Let us begin.”

—BLESSED MOTHER TERESA

STAFF

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For All of Our Parents

*And for the Memory of Devyn Marie Doughty,
Elizabeth Martha Hampel, James Holey,
and the other great Wisconsinites, photographers,
writers, and bridgebuilders
who have gone before us.*

COVER CAPTIONS

FRONT

Bridge: Two young men going west on new bridge's dedication day, Mississippi River at La Crosse, November 17, 2004, photo by David J. Marcou.

Flag: "On Wisconsin," UW-UM football game, 2002, photo by David J. Marcou.

NFL: Green Bay quarterback Brett Favre gets set to pass behind Frank Winters vs. Detroit, 1990s, photo and copyright by Vernon J. Biever.

Diorama: Indian hunting diorama, Milwaukee Public Museum, 1987, photo by Debbie Abraham.

BACK

"Test Pilot": Gable, Loy, and Milwaukee native (Spencer) Tracy on set of Test Pilot, circa 1938, MGM for Wisconsin Historical Society (ID#11012).

Experiment: Round barn in Alga Shivers' barn-building territory, Vernon County, 2004, photo by Professor Roger Grant.

Entrepreneurial genius: A Kwik Trip store, the nation's top convenience store chain in 2004, La Crosse, 2004, photo by Steve Kiedrowski.

The Wrights: Mrs. and Mr. Frank Lloyd Wright reading at Taliesin East, 1936, photo by Melvin E. Diemer for Wisconsin Historical Society (ID#3976).

TITLE PAGE

Bridge building, La Crosse, photos by John Zoerb, 2003–04.

Below: David A. and Rose Marcou repeat their wedding vows for their Golden Valentine Anniversary, with Fr. Roger Scheckel presiding and WXOW-TV19 reporting, St. James Church, La Crosse, February 2000, photo by David J. Marcou, their oldest son.



WISCONSIN HISTORY TIMELINE

- 1634 Jean Nicolet: First known European to reach Wisconsin, seeks Northwest Passage.
- 1661 Father Rene Menard: First missionary to Wisconsin Indians.
- 1673 Louis Joliet and Father Jacques Marquette discover Upper Mississippi River.
- 1764 Charles Langlade settles at Green Bay, area's first permanent settlement. Fur trade expands.
- 1783 Following Treaty of Paris, United States takes control of Wisconsin region from Britain.
- 1818 Solomon Juneau buys trading post at Milwaukee. Steamboats on Mississippi River.
- 1822 New York Indians (Oneida, Stockbridge, Munsee, and Brothertown) move to Wisconsin.
- 1832 Black Hawk War (future presidents serve in Wisconsin area, including Abraham Lincoln).
- 1833 Treaty with Indians clears south Wisconsin lead lands. First newspaper, *Green Bay Intelligencer*, published.
- 1836 Wisconsin Territory is formed. Belmont is capital. First permanent capital, Madison, is established the next year.
- 1848 Wisconsin becomes 30th state. Gov. Dewey is inaugurated. UW incorporates. Germans immigrate.
- 1849 School code is adopted. First free, tax-supported, graded school with high school opens at Kenosha.
- 1850 State opens Wisconsin Institute for Education of the Blind at Janesville.
- 1851 First railroad train—Milwaukee to Waukesha. First state fair, at Janesville.
- 1852 School for Deaf opens at Delavan. Prison construction begins at Waupun.
- 1853 State death penalty abolished.
- 1854 Republican Party is named at Ripon meeting. Joshua Glover, fugitive slave, is arrested at Racine.
- 1861–65 91,379 Wisconsinites serve in Union Army during Civil War; killed: 12,216.
- 1864 State's first cheese factory is opened, in Fond du Lac County, by Chester Hazen.
- 1868 C. Latham Sholes, Kenosha, invents typewriter.
- 1871 Peshtigo Fire burns much of six counties in northeast Wisconsin; more than 1,000 deaths.
- 1872 Wisconsin Dairymen's Association begins at Watertown.
- 1898 5,469 Wisconsinites serve in Spanish-American War; killed: 134.
- 1901 First Wisconsin-born governor, Robert La Follette Sr., takes office. Legislative Reference Library opens, a model for the Library of Congress.
- 1913 Direct election of Wisconsin's U.S. senators is approved.
- 1917 Capitol (burned in 1904) is completed. 122,215 Wisconsinites serve in WWI; killed: 3,932.
- 1919 18th Amendment (Prohibition) is ratified and then repealed in 1933.
- 1920 19th Amendment (Women's Suffrage) is ratified.
- 1923 Wisconsin State Association of Colored Women's Club begins.
- 1932 Wisconsin is first state to pass unemployment compensation act.
- 1941–45 332,200 Wisconsinites serve in WWII; killed: 8,390.
- 1950–53 132,000 Wisconsinites serve in Korean Conflict; killed: 729.
- 1958 UW's Joshua Lederberg wins Nobel Prize in medicine (UW's Howard Temin shares 1975 Nobel in medicine.)
- 1960 Mrs. Dena Smith is elected state treasurer, first woman elected to statewide office in Wisconsin.
- 1963 Wisconsin's John Gronouski is appointed U.S. Postmaster General.
- 1968 Wisconsin's first heart transplant and first successful bone marrow transplant performed at UW.
- 1969 UW Black Studies/antiwar protests. State's Melvin Laird is named Secretary of Defense. Interstate highway built.
- 1970 Army Mathematics Research Center at UW-Madison is bombed by antiwar protesters; one death.
- 1971 Merger of UW and State University systems. Revision of municipal employee relations laws.
- 1974 Democrats gain control of both houses of the 1975 legislature for the first time since 1893.
- 1964–75 165,400 Wisconsinites serve in Vietnam War; killed: 1,239.
- 1976 Court orders integration of Milwaukee schools. Shirley Abrahamson is first female on state Supreme Court.
- 1977 Gov. Patrick J. Lucey is appointed Ambassador to Mexico. No-fault divorce law is passed.
- 1978 Cameras are allowed in courtrooms. Vel Phillips is elected secretary of state, first black constitutional officer.
- 1979 School of Veterinary Medicine established at UW-Madison. Governor Lee Dreyfus employs economic indexing.
- 1980 Madison's Eric Heiden wins 5 Olympic Gold Medals, Sullivan Award. 15,000 Cubans are housed at Ft. McCoy.
- 1984 Patrick Lucey is Independent vice presidential candidate. Indian hunting/fishing rights are contested. First state liver transplants are performed at UW. "Right-to-die" law is enacted.
- 1986 Farmland values drop. Laws set sulfur dioxide emission limits, raise drinking age to 21.
- 1987 Pari-mutuel betting/lottery in. Seatbelt law enacted. G. Heileman Brewing Co. taken over by Alan Bond.
- 1990 More than 10,400 Wisconsinites serve in Gulf War; killed: 11.
- 1993 Wisconsin's Les Aspin and Donna Shalala named to U.S. Cabinet. California surpasses Wisconsin as #1 milk producer, but Wisconsin is still #1 cheese producer.
- 1997 Groundbreaking for Miller Park, future new home of Milwaukee Brewers baseball team.
- 1998 Tammy Baldwin first state Congresswoman. U.S. Supreme Court upholds Milwaukee school voucher extension. Truth-in-sentencing, fetus protection passed.
- 1999 Supermax prison opens at Boscobel.
- 2000 Legislature approves local sales tax/revenue bonds for renovation of Packers' Lambeau Field.
- 2001 Gov. Tommy Thompson named U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. Limited embryonic stem cell research allowed, UW-Madison.
- 2002 James Doyle elected governor, works on budget, with expansion of Indian gaming compacts.

EDITOR'S PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Developing Ideas

David J. Marcou



The group I direct, which grew out of the writing classes I still occasionally teach and the photography classes I hope to teach again, has published ten books since 1993, including this year's *Spirit of Wisconsin*. The American Writers and Photographers Alliance (AWPA), our group's new name, is proud of all our books, but this one in particular, because it is close to home yet reaches out to others widely. In other words, we are building bridges of destiny with this book; that has been our idea ever since this group self-published its first little cookbook-style literary anthology, dedicated to Shelley Goldbloom, the first teacher of the writing classes I've taught since 1993. This time, we are especially tapping into the Wisconsin Idea, which has been in the air here for more than a century—the idea that the University of Wisconsin's borders are the cultural equivalent of the geographic borders of this state, and its realm of service, as a laboratory of democracy, affects the entire world. Our group includes several professors who have strong ties to our state's universities and colleges, with impacts beyond.

Spirit of La Crosse, a grassroots history of our headquarters city, and *Spirit of America*, a literary-photographic anthology that won the September 12th Initiative's top book award in 2002, were also thorough, beautiful books, though they didn't make the *New York Times* Bestsellers List. We're still working on achieving that list, because we believe in great strength emerging from underdogs. In fact, this book, which we hope readers will think is beautiful in conception, creation, editing, design, printing, binding, distribution, and marketing, is, like our previous books, a product of communal artistry and real-world economics; we love good black-and-white reproductions and think that what you see and read here will meet with your approval.

We hope readers will understand why we think the spirit of the land and people of Wisconsin are worthy of success and acclaim. Incidentally, we've made a great effort to include this state's living governors in this book, because they have led/lead Wisconsin well. It's always been our implicit goal to be nonpartisan, or at least bi-partisan, in our books, and we believe we've done that again here.

We thank all of the contributors, both regionally and internationally known, including all eight living governors of Wisconsin, and our families and friends, the production staff (especially our book's designer, printer, and publisher), our booksellers, our reviewers, and all of you buyers and readers of our new book—a volume we hope will have many people saying after they've read it, "That really *is* the Spirit of Wisconsin." We will all be happy about it then—and hopeful not only for Wisconsin's future, but for America's and the world's.

Enjoy our new book . . . we have enjoyed producing it for you!

PROLOGUE

Birth of the Republican Party

Lee S. Dreyfus, Wisconsin's 41st Governor, 1979–1983



It was a blustery night in March 1854 as more than fifty men gathered in the wooden schoolhouse in Ripon. Diverse they were—Whigs, disaffected Democrats, and religious abolitionists opposed to slavery, as well as “free soilers,” who opposed adding slave states as new ones formed. The addition of Maine as a free state had been balanced by the addition of Missouri as a slave state. The Democratic Party controlled Congress, and favored slavery. The Whigs were decaying. Many in the North held meetings to oppose Southern Democrats. Alan Bovay of Illinois organized Ripon’s meeting, and Ripon became the birthplace of the Republican Party, for at that meeting the party got its name.

Just six years later, the new party had spread across the North and would win the presidency with candidate Abraham Lincoln of Illinois. The Republican Party would capture the presidency for all but twelve of the next fifty-two years. In 1855, Coles Bashford of Fond du Lac became our first Republican governor. Between then and today, all but ten of our thirty-nine succeeding governors have been Republicans. As we look at third parties today, no new party since can say that within six years of its founding, it controlled the presidency, the Congress, and the executive branches of half of the nation, as the Republican Party did in the mid-nineteenth century.

Today there are disagreements between moderate and conservative Republicans, with the conservatives clearly in control in early 2005, but the Republican Party has always been a two-wing party. Despite early successes, the party was seriously divided from the start—into Unionists and Abolitionists—and threatened Lincoln’s re-election. Lincoln understood that the Union needed to be preserved before slavery could be abolished; both would be accomplished. By the 1880s, the two wings had morphed into the Stalwarts, representing industry, and Robert La Follette’s Progressives, representing farmers and the working class. That squabble went on through my administration in the early 1980s, to Governor Tommy Thompson’s tenure, 1987–2001, when he was able to make his policies and performance acceptable to both wings through his exceptional political skills. After fourteen years in office, Governor Thompson was called to Washington to be in the Cabinet, and the party’s split resurfaced—now as Moderates and Neocons (for New Conservatives).

This long tradition of two wings in one party is the basis for its continuing vigor and strength. A century and a half ago at its birth in Ripon, a debut of great national significance, the Republican Party had vigor from the clash of Abolitionists and Unionists. Later, it was the clash of Stalwarts and Progressives. Today it is the clash of Moderates and Neoconservatives. Tomorrow it may be some other split, because the spirit of Wisconsin prefers conflict over conformity and clash over unity. It’s good for America that the Republican Party began here in Wisconsin, a state known also for its independent spirit. Readers should enjoy the independent-minded *Spirit of Wisconsin*.

INTRODUCTION

Rebirth of the Democratic Party

Patrick J. Lucey, Wisconsin's 39th Governor, 1971–77



In 1946 Senator Robert La Follette Jr., a Progressive Party member, lost a primary to Joe McCarthy. Born in La Crosse, I'd just come home from the war to Ferryville, a village on the Mississippi, to work for my father. The paper I read was the *La Crosse Tribune*—mainly John Weingard's column. Many vets wanted to revitalize the Democratic Party after the Progressives' demise; but it wasn't until a Madison meeting in 1948 that I truly felt at home. I met Henry Reuss, Carl Thompson, Jim Doyle Sr., Horace Willkie, and Gaylord Nelson there.

I ran for the Assembly against Speaker Don McDowell. Prairie du Chien official Margarite Rogers told me, "Now that you are a candidate the most important thing you can do for the party is to get elected." I did, in 1949. That year in the Assembly, Democrats were outnumbered by Republicans 74 to 26—only a bit better than our twelve seats in 1947; but having Tom Fairchild as Attorney General helped. Tom was the only statewide Democrat elected since the 1930s. In 1950 he ran for Senate, I for Congress. Neither one of us won then.

Now I could have gone home and worked for Dad, or devoted myself to politics. Jim Doyle Sr. was state party chairman. He suggested I work for the party full-time, warning of the horrors if McCarthy were re-elected in 1952. I hit the road as party organizer and worked off shoe leather, staying at members' homes to trim costs. I soon was Tom's campaign manager. Once I needed to reach him. At two minutes till noon, I called a state hotel and asked if I could speak to him. The lady didn't know his name. I asked her to stay on the phone and in one minute a car would turn in front of her hotel, with a sign, "Fairchild for U.S. Senator." She shot back, "Oh yes, he's just coming around the corner now." Despite his noted punctuality, Tom lost.

McCarthy died in 1957, after Senate censure. I was state Democratic Party Chairman during the special election. I phoned Ellen, Bill Proxmire's wife, the day before, saying we wouldn't win. Ellen shouted, "But Pat, you don't understand, we are going to win!" That win was crucial. In 1958, Bill was re-elected to a full term; our ticket did well, including Gaylord Nelson and John Reynolds. John Kennedy's win in 1960 and my governorship in the 1970s didn't hurt either. After its 1950s rebirth, the Wisconsin Democratic Party today has power and influence equal to the Republican. We need two good parties. Ours is a great state, and its history and images are represented well in this book.

Spirit of Wisconsin, by the American Writers and Photographers Alliance, based in La Crosse, deserves your best attention.

FOREWORD

On Wisconsin!

Governor James Doyle



More than 150 years ago, my great-great-grandfather left Ireland for America, eventually settling on a farm in Waupun, Wisconsin, to raise his family. Thousands of others did the very same thing: They left what they knew and accepted almost unimaginable personal hardships for the promise of something better.

Some came from Ireland, others from Germany and Scandinavia. Some were fleeing slavery in the South, and others were escaping political persecution. They joined those who were already here in Wisconsin, and together, they built the Wisconsin we know and love.

And just like the Wisconsinites of today, all they ever asked for was a chance—a chance to work hard, a chance to learn, a chance to succeed.

One of the great privileges of being governor is the opportunity to tour the state and meet people from all walks of life. Almost every day, I hear stories that demonstrate the spirit of Wisconsin. Teachers who come up with innovative ways of inspiring students. Police officers and firefighters who risk their lives to protect the lives of their neighbors. And entrepreneurs who act on their dreams and launch businesses that provide jobs and create products and services that support our economy.

In churches and community centers and crowded gymnasiums across the state, I've also met families of those serving in Wisconsin's armed forces—children saying good-bye to their father, parents burying a son or a daughter. I have seen communities bear these absences with dignity and courage. And on occasions such as these, I am reminded that Wisconsin really is a family.

I am proud of Wisconsin. And to every small businessperson who took a chance on an idea, to every worker who didn't give up, to all the students who pushed a little harder, to each farmer who got up a little earlier, I am proud of what we have accomplished together. Wisconsin is on the move—providing people with a chance to work hard, a chance to learn, and a chance to succeed.

Challenges still remain, but I have faith in Wisconsin—in its people and their tremendous spirit—to meet the challenges. As you can see in the pages of this book, the greatness of our state is a testament to the hard work, determination, and character of Wisconsin's people. Let's continue working together to keep our great state moving forward.

On Wisconsin!

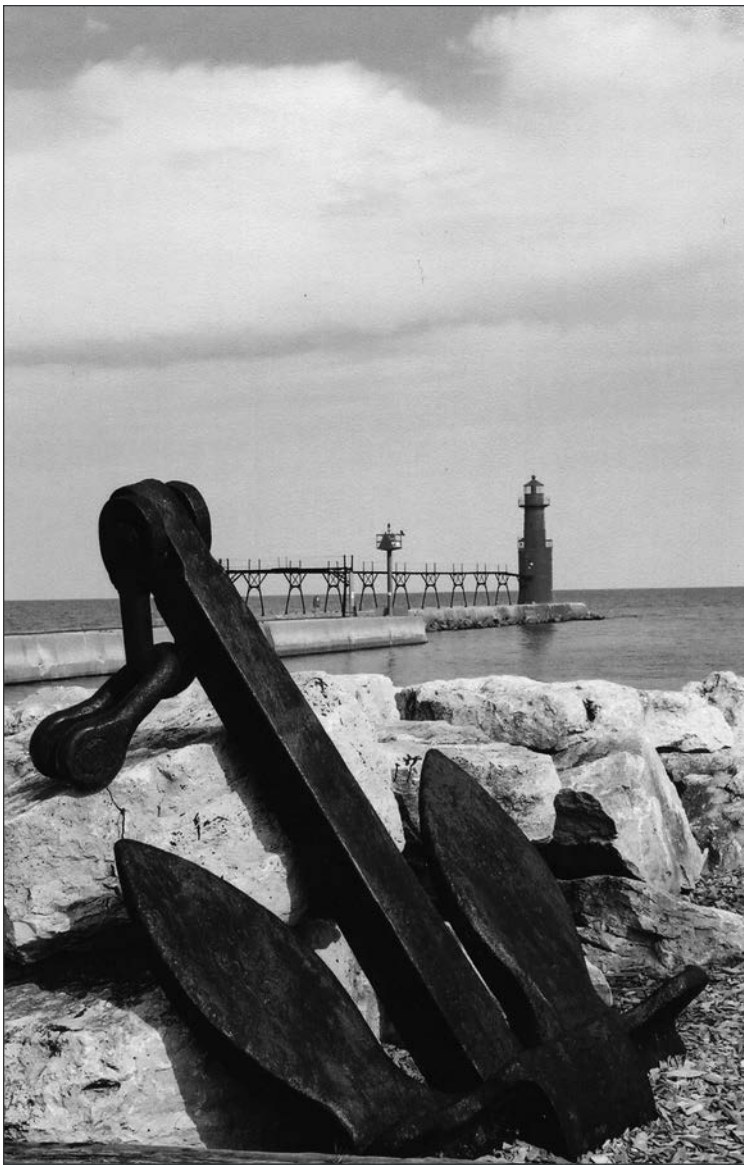
Bucky Badger, photo by Gary Coorough.





Wisconsin in the World

David J. Marcou



Before Columbus, vague oral accounts existed of contacts between Native Americans and the rest of the world. Mainly these occurred in legends, but no thorough written records exist of contacts between the two cultures then. Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492, and everything became “new.”

In 1634, when Jean Nicolet set foot on the territory that would become the state of Wisconsin, he was seeking a Northwest Passage to the Pacific and Asia for France. (Lewis and Clark, though not traveling through the Wisconsin area, sought the same thing in the early nineteenth century for America.) New France was growing, and the French kings nourished their colony more by sending missionaries to convert natives than by sending settlers, given the apathy among many of the French populace for everything

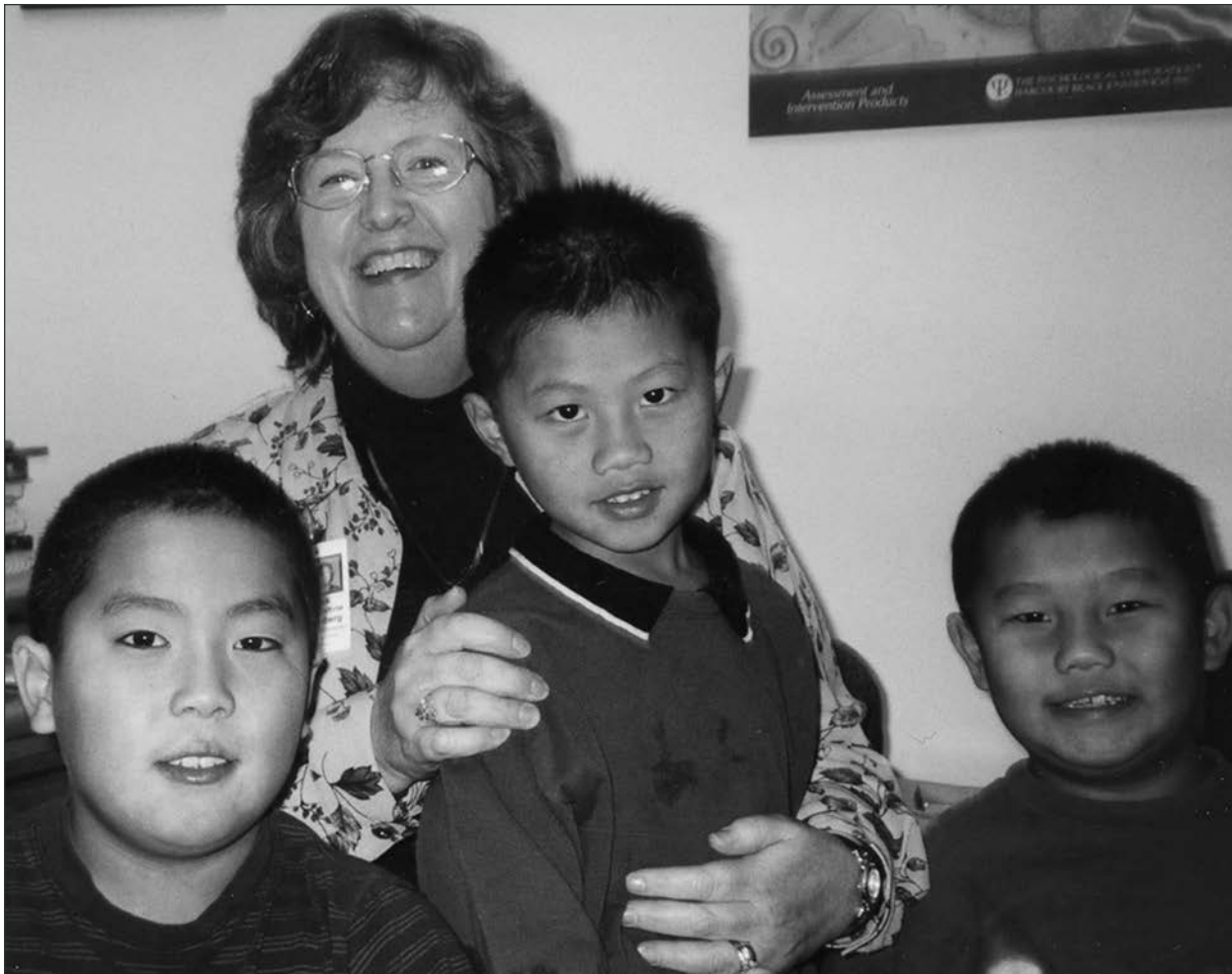
Anchor and lighthouse along Lake Michigan shore, Algoma, photo by Mark Smith.



Top: La Crosse Mayor John Medinger and Governor Tommy Thompson (in suits and ties) and others gather for "Oktoberfest at the Capitol," circa 2000, courtesy of the John and Dee Medinger Family.



Left: A World Peace Flag for sister cities, courtesy of the John and Dee Medinger Family.



Wausau School District speech-language pathologist Christine Freiberg with Hmong protégés (L-R) Jerry, Andy, and TouNhia, 2003, courtesy of Charles and Christine Freiberg.

but furs and European prestige. Wars were fought often on the Continent, and men were needed back home to fight or work.

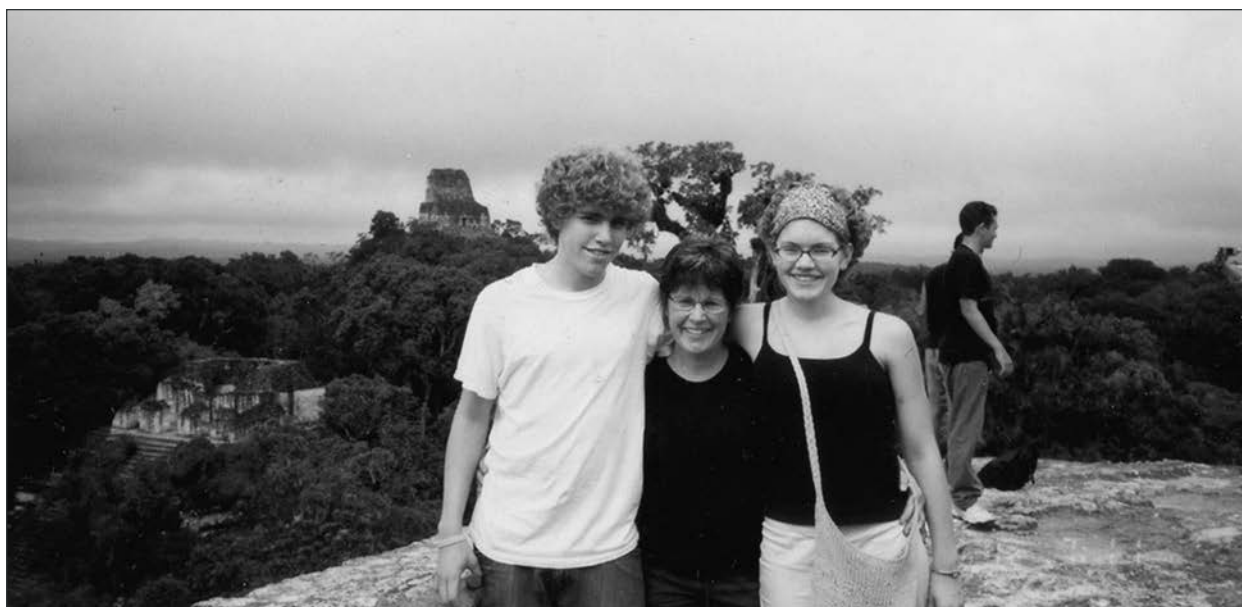
But the French weren't the only people interested in the Americas; the British, Spanish, Portugese, and Dutch were, too, not to mention the Native Americans. By the time Britain took over France's share of what would someday become the United States—and Wisconsin, in 1763—life was changing. And by 1783, when the United States won its own territory, and 1815, when it took over the Wisconsin area finally, change was accelerating. Still, it would be a hundred years before the United States and Wisconsin would be viewed as real forces for positive change in the world. In that regard, the Civil War helped a bit, but it was during World War I, when America came to the rescue of Britain and France, that the world really noticed the “United States.”

Of course, Wisconsin was important before 1918 to Wisconsinites and many other Americans; it had been a gateway to the Northwestern territories and states. And its beautiful land and waterways



Left: Homage in Wisconsin to Edward Steichen's "Brooklyn Bridge," original photo in color on textured paper by John J. Satory Jr.

Below: Three Perpiches from Wisconsin visiting Guatemala, 2004, courtesy of the Dr. Mark and Sandra Perpich Family.





Elephants at the Milwaukee Zoo, photo by Debbie Abraham.

presented economic and social opportunities that immigrants, Yankees, and Native Americans capitalized on. Potential agricultural, industrial, marine, and transport profits lured all sorts of people. Today's Old World Wisconsin village and farmlands prove the value of our ancestors' lives, as it does ours now.

The facts that the Republican Party was introduced here and Progressivism was founded here brought in even more people as time went by, yet Wisconsin is not overpopulated today, partly because there still is a lot of land in farms and parks/preserves. Also, while urban centers are growing and international interest expands in America's Dairyland—home to so many attractive businesses, farms, churches, and schools—the Badger State and Wisconsinites retain many of their traditions, even as they travel everywhere in the world and navigate via the Internet.

Progressivism, which is more a cultural philosophy than a political ideology today, has been a great boon to America and the world due to the legislation and human talent it has called forth.



“Old-style” women with baskets, Old World Wisconsin, circa 1999, photo by Peg Jerome.

Chapel and hills in Wales, a future sister state? Photo by British AWPA member Margaret Salisbury, FRPS.



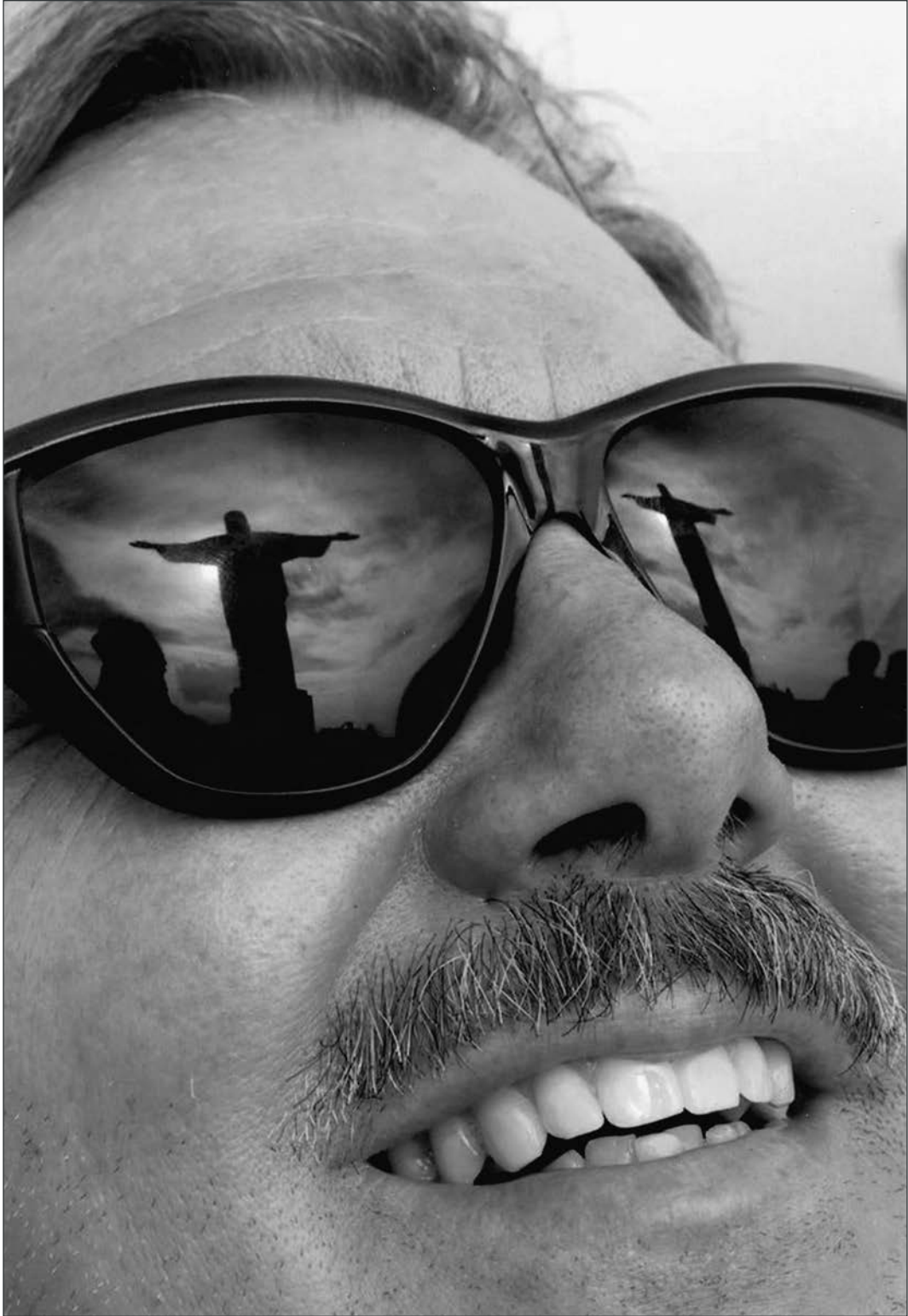


Trooper John J. Satory Jr. (R) and friend, Vietnam, early 1970s, courtesy of the John and Beth Satory Family.

One of its great early photographic proponents, Oshkosh-born Lewis Hine, prompted child labor legislation with studies of how the poorest of the poor lived and worked in the early twentieth century. Also passed then were unemployment and worker's compensation laws, predating the New Deal's very progressive legislation.

But whatever world press Wisconsin may have received then, it can't compare with coverage of it today. Like it or not, the American military polices much of the world now, and the troops that go through Fort McCoy, near Sparta, are numerous and have impact. Partly due to that and partly despite it, business, cultural, political, educational, and religious exchanges between our state and the world are multiplying exponentially. For instance, La Crosse has five international sister cities now—in Germany, France, China, Russia, and Ireland—and may add more. Equally positive is the relationship between Wisconsin and its sister “state,” Nicaragua. The Olympics, other sports, the Peace Corps, other charitable organizations, the United Nations, and many other events and organizations also have great influence on how the world perceives us, as Americans and Wisconsinites, and we influence much of the world by our interests and actions here and abroad.

Moving into the world, all Wisconsinites should demonstrate to other peoples the best traits of humanity and evoke the human spirit. The world around us gives ample room for interactions and



Dr. James Baumgaertner reflects on Christ, Rio de Janeiro, circa 2003, photo by Peggy Baumgaertner.



Baseball lesson in Nicaragua, Wisconsin's sister state, circa 2003, photo by Rick Wood.

achievements, and it's hoped these supply many peoples and environments with the goodness we all need.

When readers think of Wisconsinites in the world, they should think, see, and feel the Spirit of Wisconsin and the capacity we have for renaissance and renewal.

Wisconsin photographers influence how others perceive us and how we perceive others. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* staff photographer Rick Wood, an Indiana native, has called Milwaukee home for more than twenty-five years, but he also enjoys traveling and taking photographs worldwide. A three-time Pulitzer nominee, Wood toured Nicaragua, Wisconsin's sister state, in 2003, and Cuba in 2004 and brought back many photos—of women, men, children, sports, cars, buses, bikes, carts, horses, cows, landfills, and cityscapes.

Wood has also photographed scenes of terror and turmoil in areas such as New York City on 9/11 and North Korea—and he's learned that no matter what their political systems are, people are still people wherever he goes.



Bicyclist and arch, Cuba, another future sister state? 2004, photo by Rick Wood.



We Are Wisconsin

Professor John Sharpless



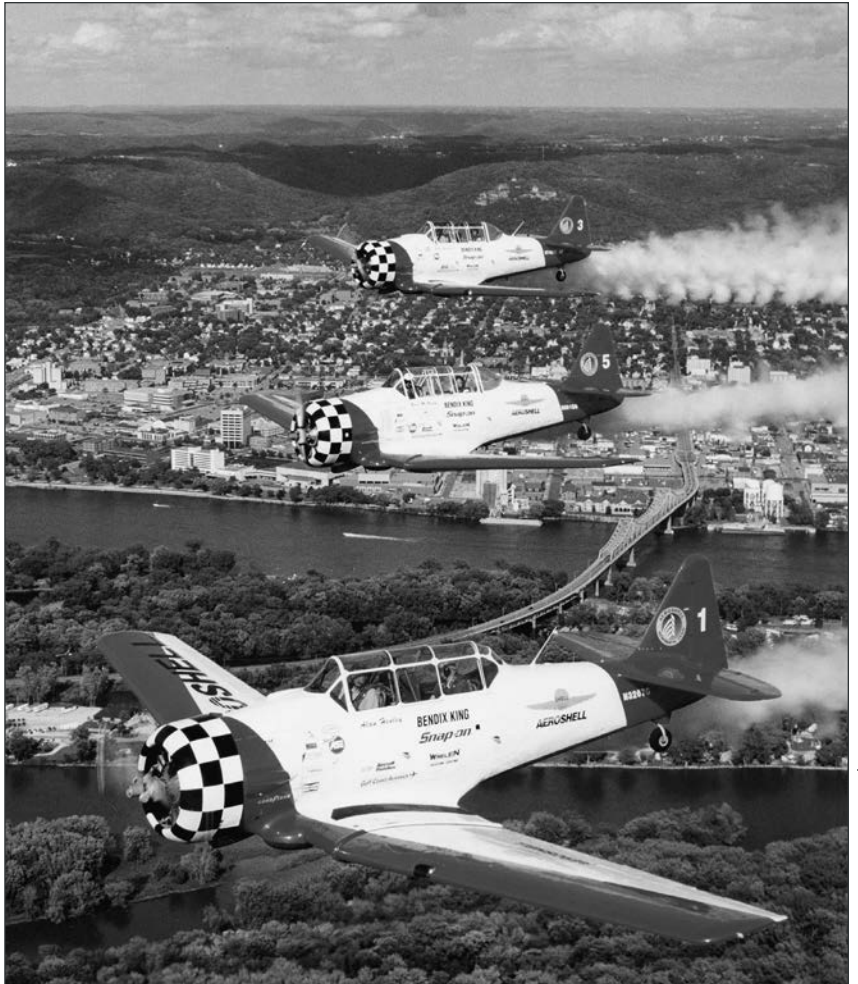
The Middle West is a special “between” place—between the arboreal forests of the Canadian Shield and the misty valleys and rolling ridges of the upper southlands. It is the “middle border” between “The East” and the great “American West”—with no exact beginning or ending. To the east, the Middle West starts somewhere in the wooded hills of eastern Ohio and ends west in the “nowhere” of the Badlands and the flat prairies of Nebraska and Kansas, within reasonable range of the Great Rockies. If there’s a unifying geography, it’s the great drainage basin of the Mississippi, Ohio, and Missouri rivers and its northern “border”—the Great Lakes.

Of all of our nation’s regions, the Middle West is the least well-defined. Its borders—its edges—are on the frontiers of the mind, not



Top: Black Hawk, or Ma-Ka-Tai-Me-She-Kia-Kiah, Saukie chief, circa 1830s, lithograph by J.T. Bowen for the Wisconsin Historical Society (ID# 3772).

Left: Aerial view of a western Wisconsin farm, photo by Tony David Kiedrowski.



Top left: Road through big woods, northern Wisconsin, circa 2004, photo by Bob Mulock.

Top right: T-6's over Wisconsin, Deke Slayton Airfest, circa 2004, photo by Dave Larsen.

Left: Seven/Main Bridge over main channel of Black River, near McGilvray Road, circa 1900, courtesy of Murphy Library, UW-La Crosse (ID #25866), with the aid of Mariel Carlisle.



Minnesota native Charles Lindbergh returns to his college, UW-Madison (Camp Randall Stadium), August 22, 1927, soon after his most historic flight, photo by Melvin E. Diemer for the Wisconsin Historical Society (ID# 5126).

on the road map. Its history seems less raucous and bold compared to the Rocky Mountain West's or New York City's. And our self-identity is less sharply articulated than the American South's. The Middle West was not born of war, national rebellion, cattle drives, or gold. If there is a common experience, it's more subtle.

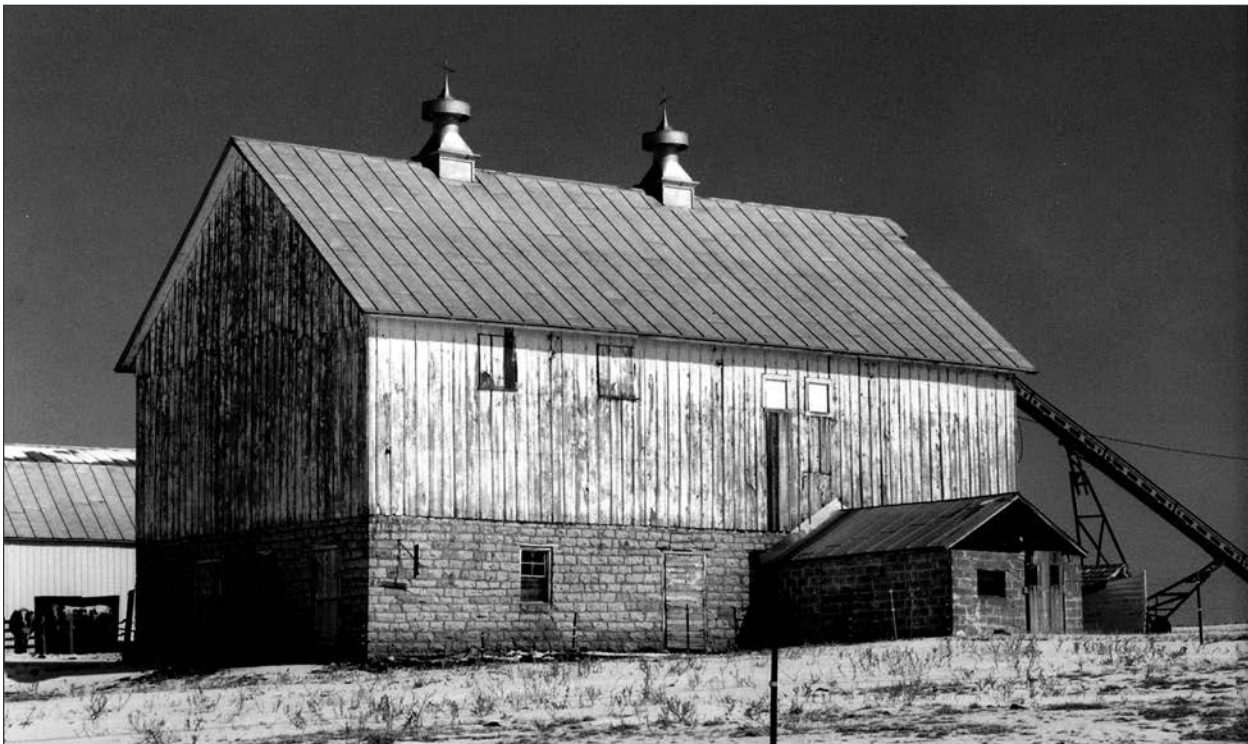
But those of us who were born or have spent our lives here, well, we just know “the place,” in a way, like the Native Americans have long known it. We know the rich aroma of our springs, the bite of our winters, the languid heat of our summers and riotous beauty of our autumns. We know our corn fields, prairies, and forests; our rivers, lakes, and marshlands. We know the smells and sounds of our cities. They are not like those big cities of the East and West Coasts. Ours are still a bit rough and raw, seemingly naïve and unsophisticated, as if they haven't quite grown up yet. As old and worn as they sometimes seem, though, they still are often young and filled with spirit.

Most of all, we know our people—their restraint; their quiet, often self-effacing humor; their charity without presumption of reciprocity; and their ingrained suspicion of pretense and pomposity. The Midwesterner. Who is he? Who is she? Perhaps as “bland” as the place? Not so striking a caricature as those of the East, the West, and the South. Harder to stereotype and lampoon perhaps, but nonetheless identifiable when we see and hear the type. Flat, nasal accent; broad-faced; sun-marked; and given to a quaint exaggeration in the stories they tell. Innocents tempered by hardship. Romantics guarded by cynicism lest their dreams fail them, and yet, hopeful at every turn—i.e., quintessentially American.



Top: Historic buildings and cars, UW-Madison, 1930s, courtesy of the Werner and Jolene Engel Family.

Bottom: Old barn, western Wisconsin, circa 2003, photo by Mark Smith.





The Zickermans and Freibergs at Madison's Camp Randall Stadium for UW-UM football game, November 2004, photo by Karen Zriny.

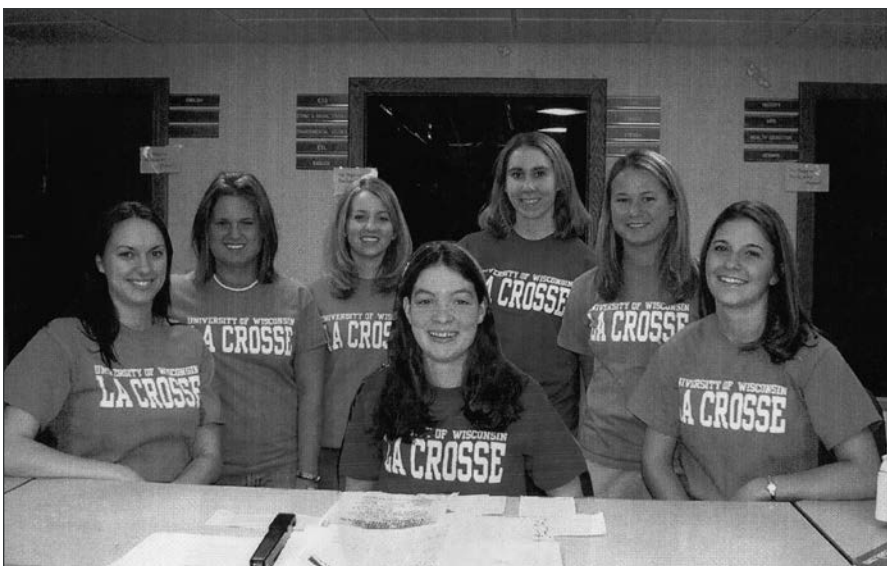
Former Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi, for whom the Super Bowl's Lombardi Trophy is named, pro football writers' dinner, Milwaukee, February 10, 1969, photo by Robert C. Miller/Milwaukee Journal for the Wisconsin Historical Society (ID# 19898).



And, at the heart of the Middle West is Wisconsin—heart for the heartland—which not only gave birth to geniuses like Frank Lloyd Wright, “Fighting Bob” LaFollette, and Georgia O’Keeffe, but also raised up non-natives like Henry Aaron and Brett Favre to superstar status, and contributed to some of the most famous combat units in U.S. history, as well as hard-working farm families that supply food and drink and fabric to the world. To be sure, it is that multi-variegated peninsula jutting north out of the Illinois flatlands—Lake Superior to the north, Lake Michigan to the east, and the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers to the west.



Top: Frank Lloyd Wright's Monona Terrace, photo and copyright by Zane B. Williams.



Left: UW-La Crosse Textbook Rental Store workers, 2004, photo by Cory Miller.



Above: Horse collars and bridles, Stonefield Village, circa 2003, photo by Paul Abraham.

Right: Nighttime storefront with cheesehead motif, circa 1993, photo by Robert Joseph.

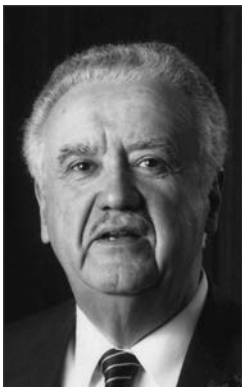
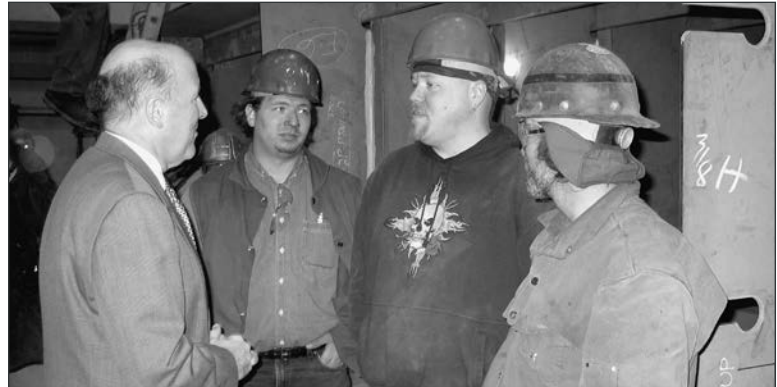


But what Wisconsin “is” is as vague as what makes the Middle West a “region.” Sometimes it’s so subtle that only people who live here know. “I can’t tell you what it is, but I know it when I see it,” residents say, when they’ve been gone a while and miss it. It can be nothing more than the smell in the air before a summer thunderstorm or an offhand reference to the political circus at the Capitol in Madison, or a verbal shot at Chicago’s Bears. Sometimes it’s outlandish, like plastic or foam cheesehead hats and intemperate beer-and-brat tailgate parties just outside Lambeau Field, Camp Randall Stadium, and Miller Park, where Vince Lombardi, Ron Dayne, and Robin Yount are still remembered as demigods. Sometimes it’s nothing more than the sound of cicadas on a hot summer afternoon or the smell of an open fire on a cold winter morning that brings to mind what Wisconsin is to those of us who live here. The “Wisconsin Idea” used to be famous, and should be again, though somewhat redefined. A laboratory of democracy is what we were during the Progressive Era, and perhaps we are/will be again. Read this book and others to know about our government and culture.

We share much with our close neighbors, but there are also things that differentiate us, even from the adjacent states of Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota. Whatever the differences are (or were), subtle or obvious, there is a strong sense of pride about what we are and have. The people of Wisconsin have a state loyalty rivaled only by that of Texas. We wear our pride on our hats, shirts, jackets, coffee mugs, car bumpers, and bridges—from La Crosse to Madison to Milwaukee and around the state.

This book represents that pride, the vital feeling for place, the special nature of Wisconsin’s people, its landscape and its history. This state’s story is told in visual images, as well as words, for what we are is, often, what we see. This collection of images and narratives tries to answer the question: “What is it that sets Wisconsin apart, making the spirit and products of its land and people vital to America and the world?”

Living Governors



From top left down: Gaylord Nelson, 36th, 1959–63; Patrick J. Lucey, 39th, 1971–77; Martin Schreiber, 40th, 1977–79; Lee S. Dreyfus, 41st, 1979–83; Tony Earl, 42nd, 1983–87; Tommy Thompson, 43rd, 1987–2001; Scott McCallum, 44th, 2001–2003; James Doyle, 45th, 2003–; Governor Doyle speaks with construction workers; Governors Warren Knowles (deceased), Martin Schreiber, Lee Dreyfus, and Tony Earl join hands; Paul Frederick—UW-Madison student and potential governor, 2004, photo by Mary Temp via Mike Temp. We are grateful to the governors and their staffs and families for contributing these photos. The portrait of Tommy Thompson is by David J. Marcou.





Wisconsin's Natural Heritage

Jim Solberg



A badger's curiosity, 2004, photo by Jim Solberg.

Crystal clear lakes, lush green forests, sparkling streams—these are some of the first images that come to mind when Wisconsin is mentioned. The Badger State does indeed offer a rich natural heritage. Modern Wisconsin presents a blend of world-class natural treasures, agricultural diversity, and municipal and industrial development.

It is an ever-changing scene that has been evolving over thousands of years. Up until the last few centuries, the face of Wisconsin was shaped largely by nature and relatively mildly by the presence



Landscape just north of Eau Claire, late 1980s, photo by Anna Motivans.

Swallowtail butterfly, photo by Mark Smith.





Two frisky squirrels, photo by Laurie Reed.

of Native Americans. The most profound physical features of the state were shaped more than ten thousand years ago by massive sheets of ice that periodically ground over the bedrock, leaving behind depressions that became our lakes and streams. The melting ice also left piles of debris that became hills and ridges of glacial soils, gravel, and boulders. The rugged features of southwestern Wisconsin—the Driftless Area—were missed by the glaciers, and are characterized by deeply dissected coulees tucked between sinuous ridges. Enormous glacial lakes burst their natural dams, creating massive floods that scoured the valleys of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers, further deepening the coulees that fed into these big river systems.

The original residents of the state, arriving as the ice receded, gathered the new vegetation and hunted animals, some of which—mammoths and mastodons—are now extinct. As the land eventually dried out, the giant creatures and vast treeless tundras disappeared. Wisconsin has gradually become a fascinating potpourri of environments, including northern pine forests, deciduous woodlands, prairies, river systems, lakes, and marshes.

For several millennia after the last ice age, small groups of these early people adapted to the changing conditions by hunting rabbit, elk, and whitetail deer and netting a variety of fish species. They also gathered nuts, berries, roots, wild rice, and many kinds of leafy plants from surrounding woods and fields. About a thousand years ago, some of these people learned how



Right: Buck, photo by Jim Solberg.



Below: Deer hunting cabin, Rhinelander area, photo by Gary Van Domelen.





Canoeist in timeless silhouette, photo by Jim Solberg.

to grow their own crops, such as beans, squash, and corn, allowing them to settle in larger, more permanent villages.

They showed their respect for the spirits within the earth and the creatures upon it in many ways. Some carved pictures into the rocky cliffs, while others built earthen mounds in the shapes of bears, deer, falcons, and even turtles. Some told tales that passed from generation to generation. And many, to this day, show deep respect for their wildlife brothers by naming their clans after them.

The first Europeans to interact with the original residents were the French fur traders and missionaries. They mingled closely with the Indians by building trading posts, intermarrying, and sometimes living in Native American villages. Later, pioneers from the newly formed United States moved in, and they soon began to change the countryside. The new settlers eventually took over much of the land and began to clear large areas to grow crops and pasture animals. Towns and cities grew to supply a place for homes and industries. And soon, these pioneers began the herculean task of removing virtually all of Wisconsin's vast virgin forests.



Above: Ducks in snow, photo by Carole Edland.



Left: One-time Wisconsin resident John Muir, grandfather of the U.S. environmental movement, photographer unknown, for the Wisconsin Historical Society (ID#3948).



Eagle in flight, photo by Jim Solberg.

Northeastern Wisconsin sunset, photo by Gary Van Domelen.



This rapid pace of human progress has continued unabated, but a renewed respect for the land is also growing. Like the Native Americans before them, many Wisconsinites now see our wild heritage as a treasure in its own right. Some thoughtful people from the state, such as John Muir, Aldo Leopold, and Gaylord Nelson, have even achieved worldwide respect for their insightful messages of conservation, preservation,



Left: Impressionistic tree reflection, Wyalusing State Park, photo by Paul Kosir, author, Wyalusing History.

Below: Sun, water, rocks, photo by Laurie Reed.





Reclining fawn, photo by Debbie Abraham.

and the wise use of wild lands and waterways. They have inspired the creation of national parks and the setting aside of large areas of wildlife habitat.

Today, many laws protect endangered wildlife, including plants, animals and habitats. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, along with many other organizations, continues to protect and restore the state's natural heritage. Creatures like the wolf, the fisher (marten) and the peregrine falcon, all gone for a while from the state, now roam freely once again. We can only hope that this spirit of Wisconsin, which has pervaded the lives of the original peoples through the millennia and has touched modern conservationists in the last few decades, will enable future generations to cherish and enjoy the rich treasures nature has entrusted to us.

That is Wisconsin's natural heritage.



Lighthouse, Fond du Lac, photo by Carl Liebig.



Portraits and Wisconsin*

Dale Barclay

People say a picture is worth a thousand words. Pictures, whether they are renderings of scenes or portraits of people, give the viewer insight into the times depicted. The historian in a person can pick up clues about the lifestyle, personality, and other things about an individual—or even a generation—without fully realizing it at first.

In 1859, Steven H. Carpenter, then curator of the Wisconsin Historical Society, defined a good portrait: “A speaking portrait will often live in the remembrance of the people, and serve to retain the memory of early pioneers, far more than any written description of themselves, their lives and their labors.” That is why pictures are regarded as our most prized possessions when they are threatened by tragic circumstances.



Antique photo of unknown Wisconsin woman, courtesy of the Werner and Jolene Engel Family.

* The pictures viewed in this chapter and book represent a selected sample of the wide range and colossal number of historical materials available to anyone interested in Wisconsin’s heritage. Undoubtedly, there are many others that should be cited in passing, but space doesn’t permit. Visit your local library for more information.



Reunion, Iron Brigade, Milwaukee Armory, September 1887, photo by H. H. Bennett for the Wisconsin Historical Society (ID #10695).

Group portrait, Coulee Region, Hmong New Year, courtesy of the John and Dee Medinger Family.





Rachel Horstman and kitten, Bangor, 1997, photo by tamara Horstman-Riphahn.

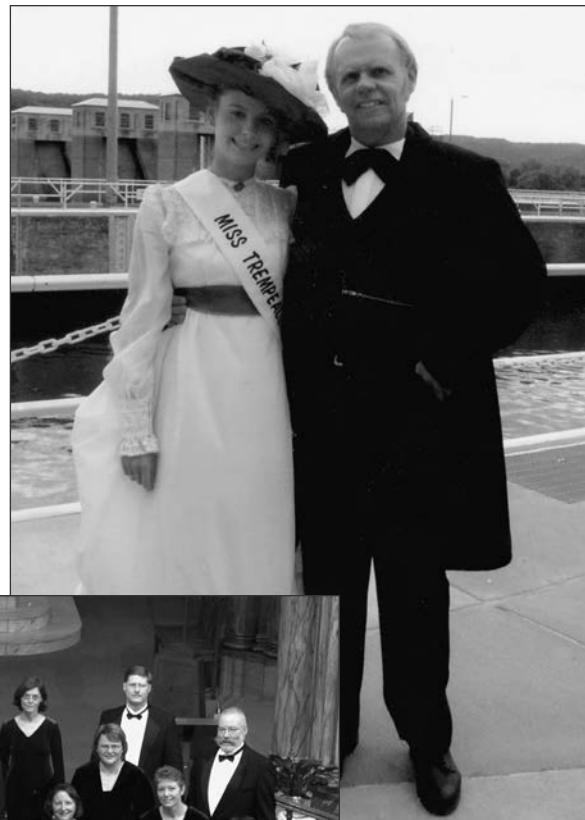
The first director of the Wisconsin Historical Society, James Draper, commissioned Samuel Brookes and his partner Thomas Stevenson to paint portraits of important people in Wisconsin history. Along with key portrait photographers, they recorded people and events relevant to nineteenth-century Wisconsin. Later, Milwaukee-raised Edward Steichen and others continued to record portraits on film and on canvas. Every state has famous people in its history, and Wisconsin is no exception, yet pictures of everyday people and their life and times are just as relevant to the state's history.

James Otto Lewis attended many important meetings with Wisconsin Indian tribes and painted portraits of these meetings under government contract in the 1830s. Returning to Philadelphia, he produced lithographs of them.



Governor, U.S. Senator, Progressive Party luminary, and presidential candidate Robert “Fighting Bob” LaFollette, Madison, circa 1915, photo by the DeLonge Studio for the Wisconsin Historical Society (ID #11015).

Steve Kiedrowski portraying President Millard Fillmore and Kestrel Jenkins, Miss Trempealeau, Grand Excursion, Trempealeau, 2004, courtesy of Steve Kiedrowski.



Chamber Chorale, St. Mary of the Angels Chapel, La Crosse, February 2004, photo by Professor Roger Grant.



Marcou family portrait, La Crosse, Memorial Day, 1997, photo by Matthew A. Marcou.

Immigrant photographer Andreas Larsen Dahl traveled by wagon to many Norwegian clients in south-central Wisconsin from 1869 to 1880 from his gallery in De Forest. He sold them stereopticon views (twenty-five cents each) of their farms, churches, pastors, and associations, and took portraits for their family albums.

Charles J. Van Schaick was a photographer who worked in the Black River Falls area in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He took formal portraits as well as snapshots of everyday scenes, including views of Winnebago people, families, funerals, workers, and women.

Wisconsin's tourism industry owes much to H. H. Bennett. His excellent photos of gorgeous rock formations around Wisconsin Dells helped draw early visitors there. His photographs suggested exotic lands no one had believed existed. Many people still tour that part of the Driftless Area. Bennett also photographed the everyday life of many types of people, often making portraits.

Oshkosh-born Lewis Hine became famous after moving to New York and photographing horrible working and immigrant conditions in the early twentieth century. He photographed



Julie Klein visiting the area of Wisconsin-based Scott Thompson's film Retroflex, Two Harbors, Minnesota, 2004, photo by Steve Kiedrowski.



Miss Wisconsin Jayme Dawicki, 2003, photo by David J. Marcou.



Peggy Baumgaertner painting a portrait of her husband, Jim, 2000, courtesy of Dr. James and Peggy Baumgaertner.

many informal, on-site portraits and scenes that resulted in groundbreaking labor reforms. He also photographed skyscraper builders up at the top, and has been called by Time Books (along with Jacob Riis) one of the two pillars of modern American photojournalism.

Edward Steichen fell in love with photography at age sixteen. A painter at an early age, he introduced the art of Rodin, Matisse, and Picasso to America. He directed photo units in two world wars and was chief photographer for *Vanity Fair* and *Vogue*. Among his subjects were Wisconsin natives Frank Lloyd Wright, Georgia O’Keeffe, and Orson Welles. Later, he became the first photography director of the Museum of Modern Art and curated the monumental Family of Man exhibition in 1955. When he died at age ninety-three, *The New York Times* called him America’s “most celebrated and highest paid photographer.”

La Crosse painter Peggy Baumgaertner respects traditional portraiture. A finalist in many national shows, she won Best of Show in the Portrait Society of America’s 2000 National Competition for “The Charlton Family.” Her portrait “Clare” was selected for the cover of *Best of Portraiture* (Northlights Books, 1997). Her commissions include Consulate of Malta Joseph Micallef, CEOs, Colin Powell, Tommy Thompson, the Beach Boys’ Mike Love and Carl Wilson, and Drs. Edwin Overholt, Eugene Mayberry and Robert Waller. Her paintings hang in collections around the world.

Melvin Diemer operated a photo studio in Madison and was also staff photographer for the UW-Madison College of Agriculture and Home Economics Department. He made informal portraits of workers and students from 1900 to the 1930s. His informal portrait of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesin East graces the back cover of this book.



Best of Show for the 2000 National Conference of the Portrait Society of America, "The Charlton Family," original painting by Peggy Baumgaertner.

Badger cheerleaders by Lincoln statue and Bascom Hall, UW-Madison, circa 2004, courtesy of UW-Madison.





Athletes, Artists, and Workers

Steve Kiedrowski and David J. Marcou

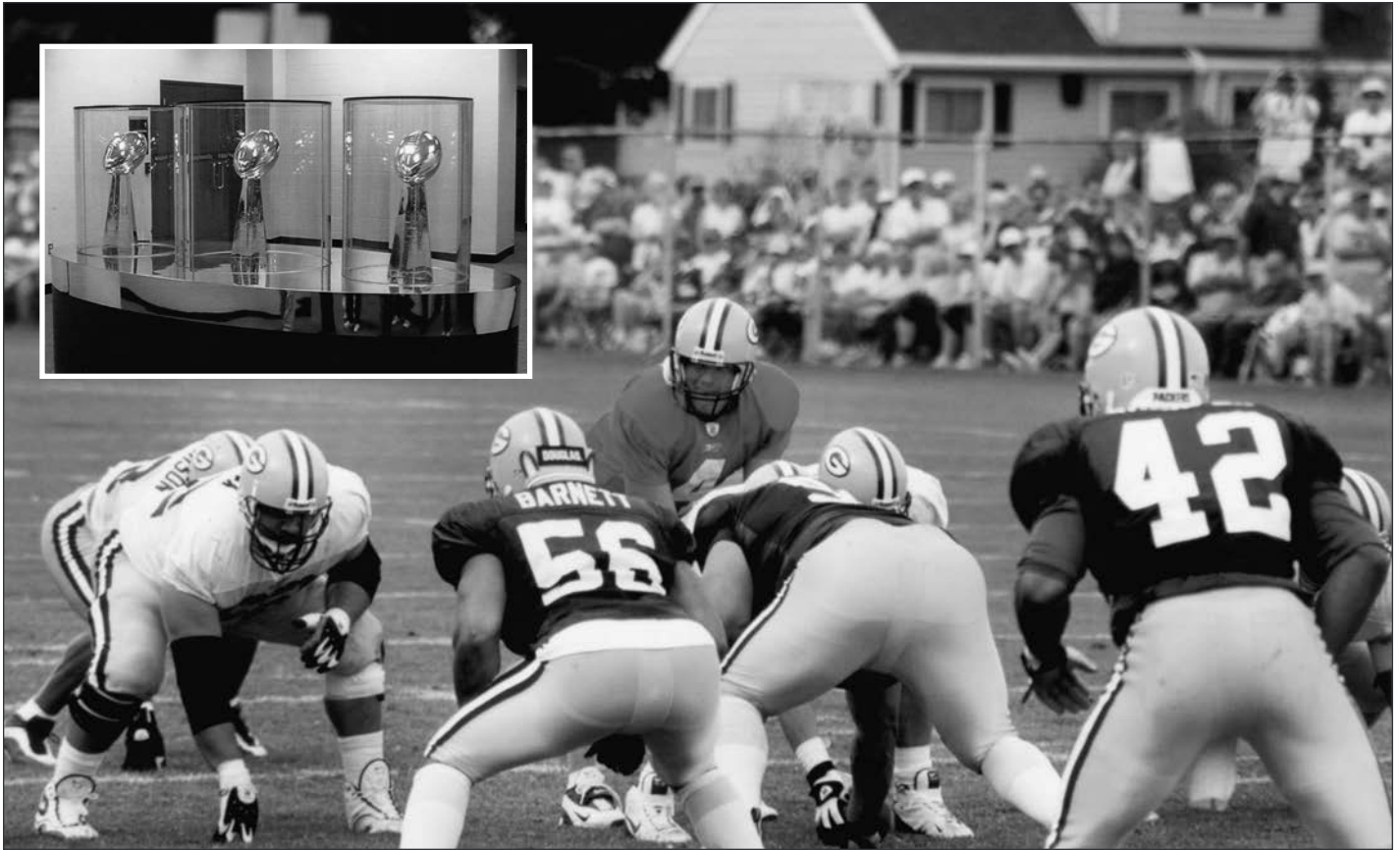
Thomas Carlyle wrote, “Blessed is he who has found his work; let him ask no other blessing.” Badger State denizens display a sound work ethic: we find our work and are blessed by it.

Athletes

The Green Bay Packers’ Brett Favre overcame grief due to family deaths and his wife’s cancer to turn in another stellar season in 2004. This Ironman/Huck Finn is the only NFL player to win three Most Valuable Player (MVP) awards. The only NFL team owned by its fans, the Packers have won the most league titles (12). Henry Aaron holds the major league baseball record for career home runs (755); and his teammate, pitcher Warren Spahn, holds the record for the most wins by a lefthander (363), even though he missed three seasons while on military duty. Aaron and Spahn played for the 1957 world champion Milwaukee Braves.



Tribute to UW footballer Ron Dayne (#33) when he broke the NCAA career rushing record, Camp Randall, Madison, 1999, photo by Gary Coorough.

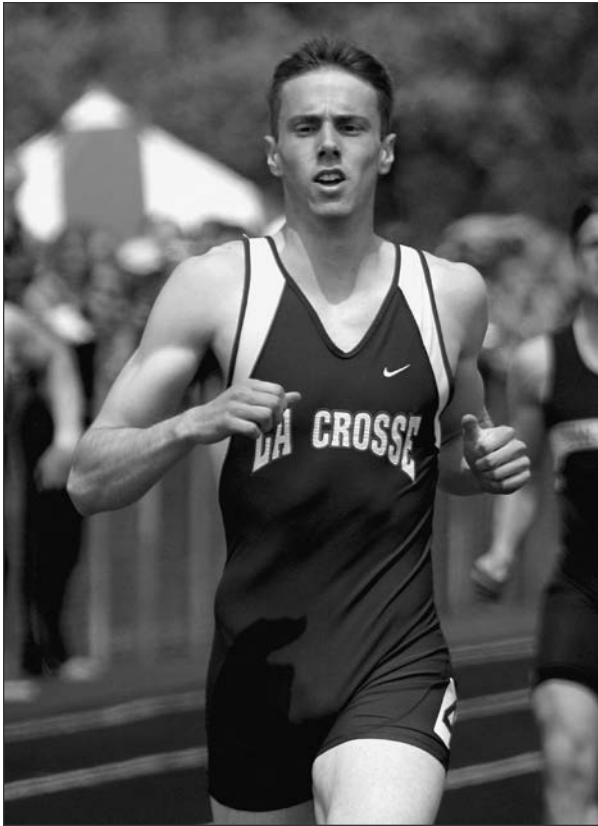


Top: Brett Favre in practice-red jersey leads Packer offense vs. Packer defense, Green Bay, photo by Chuck Dockendorff.

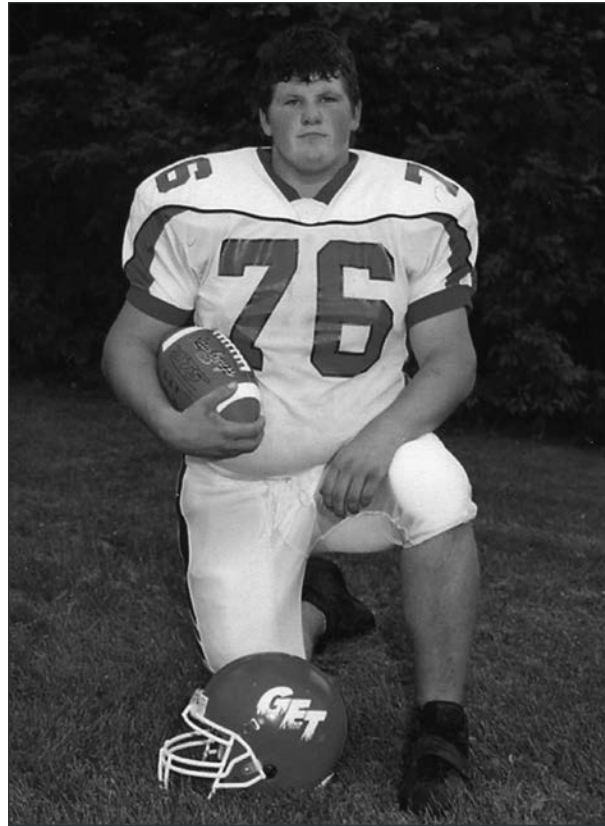
Inset: Three Packer Super Bowl trophies, Lambeau Field offices, Green Bay, 2004, photo by John Wiatt.

Right: Packer quarterback Bart Starr (15) after diving for winning touchdown behind Jerry Kramer's (64) block vs. Dallas, 21-17, Green Bay, December 31, 1967, photo by John Biever (copyright © Vernon Biever).





UW-La Crosse sprinter Andrew Rock a few months before winning a gold medal at the 2004 Athens Olympics, photo by Bob Mulock.



Gale-Etrick-Trempealeau High School's Coulee Region 2004 Lineman of the Year Andy Komperud, who died in a car crash just before he was to have learned of his award, courtesy of Steve Kiedrowski.

The Milwaukee Bucks' Kareem Abdul Jabbar led his team to an NBA title as scoring champ/MVP—then starred for Los Angeles's Lakers. University of Wisconsin system teams have won national titles, as have those of Marquette University; and UW-Madison footballer Ron Dayne broke the NCAA career rushing record in 1999. Madison's Eric Heiden won the Sullivan Award for five gold medals in the 1980 Olympics, where UW-Madison's Mark Johnson led the U.S. miracle hockey team. Dan Jansen, Paul Hamm, and Andrew Rock are also among Wisconsin's Olympic gold medalists. West Allis's Bonnie Blair was the most gilded American woman in Olympic history, with five golds. The first African American Olympic medalist, George Poage, graduated from La Crosse High School and UW-Madison, winning two bronzes at St. Louis's 1904 Olympics. And Cambridge's Matt Kenseth was a NASCAR driver of the year.

Artists

Film directors Nicholas Ray and Joseph Losey hailed from the Coulee Region. Ray directed James Dean in *Rebel without a Cause*, and Losey directed Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor in *Boom*.

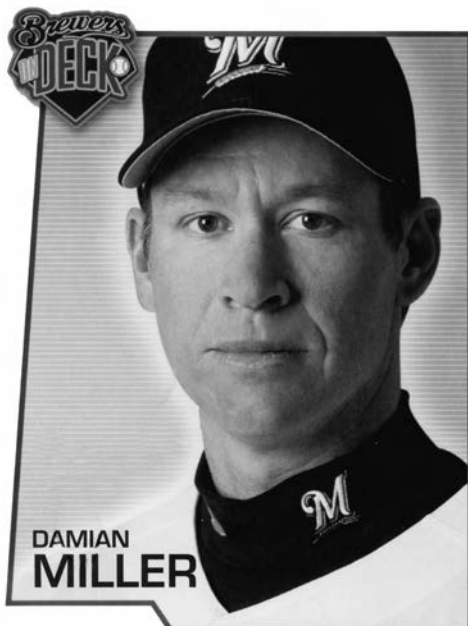


Top left: 2002 La Crosse Aquinas High School boys' state championship basketball team, Madison, courtesy of Aquinas High School.

Top right: Manager Charlie Freiberg holds his team's championship softball trophy, Wausau, August 2004, photo by Chris Freiberg.

Below left: West Salem native Damian Miller's return to Wisconsin to lead the Milwaukee Brewers to the team's hoped-for championship status is one of the leading sports stories of 2005, courtesy of Steve Kiedrowski.

Below right: Winningest lefthanded pitcher ever, Milwaukee Braves' Warren Spahn, 1950s, photo by Milwaukee Journal Sentinel for the Wisconsin Historical Society (ID#6224).





Trans-Wisconsin crew led by UW-Madison professor John Sharpless, which traced the Marquette-Joliet voyage of discovery along the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers from Lake Winnebago to Prairie du Chien, 2002, courtesy of Professor Sharpless.

Racine's Fredric March and Ellen Corby; Kenosha's Orson Welles and Don Ameche; Milwaukee's Spencer Tracy, Pat O'Brien, and Gene Wilder; Beaver Dam's Fred McMurray; Madison's Chris Farley, Brad Whitford, and his wife, Milwaukeean Jane Kaczmarek, became great actors. Welles starred in or directed many classic films, like *Citizen Kane* and the 1938 radio spoof that spooked a nation, *War of the Worlds*, about a Martian invasion. Beloved stage couple Lunt and Fontanne built their home, Ten Chimneys, at Genesee Depot; their friends included the Queen Mother, Helen Hayes, Katharine Hepburn, Noel Coward, the Redgraves, and Sir Laurence Olivier.

Other famed artists had state ties. Architect Frank Lloyd Wright was born in Richland Center and built Taliesin East near Spring Green. His Fallingwater House, Johnson Wax Building, Guggenheim Museum, Imperial Hotel, Monona Terrace, Usonian homes, and Unity Temple elevated all the arts. In photography, Milwaukee-raised Edward Steichen became the most famous portraitist of his era and directed the huge *Family of Man* exhibit in 1955 for New York's Museum of Modern Art (MOMA). Ashland's John Szarkowski, a UW-Madison graduate and superb photographer

Top: La Crosse Community Theatre Director Morrie Enders (L) instructs actors during rehearsal for It's a Wonderful Life, 2004, photo by Steve Kiedrowski.

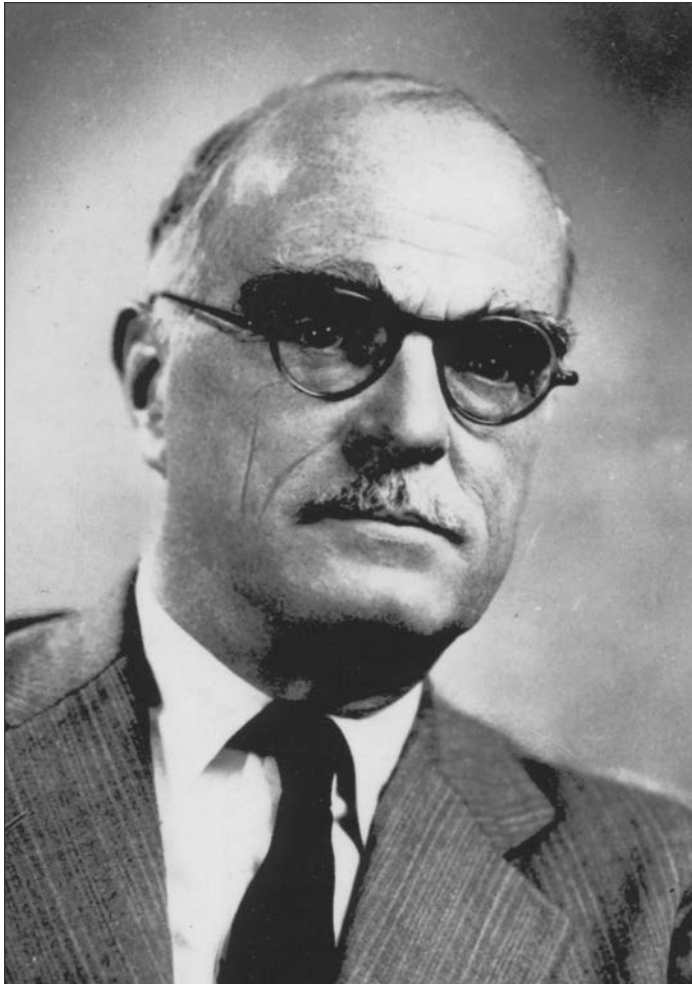


Middle: Mars (the "red planet" that inspired Orson Welles's and Steven Spielberg's renditions of H.G. Welles's War of the Worlds and site of exploration by Rover "Spirit" and "Opportunity") and Moon, computer illustration by Mike Kiedrowski.



Bottom: Cast and crew of Scott Thompson's film The Last Bridge Home, 2003, photo by David J. Marcou.





Madison-born Thornton Wilder, three-time Pulitzer Prize winner, one for the classic drama *Our Town*, photo for the Wisconsin Historical Society (ID #2655).

himself, was Steichen's successor for twenty-nine years as MOMA's director of photography.

Madison-born Thornton Wilder won three Pulitzer Prizes for writing the plays *Our Town* and *Skin of Our Teeth* and the novel *Bridge of San Luis Rey*. West Salem's Hamlin Garland and La Crosse's John Toland were also among Pulitzer Prize-winners from Wisconsin, as were two female writers, Zona Gale for *Lulu Bett* and Edna Ferber for *So Big*. Portage-born Gale graduated from UW-Madison. Ferber was a teenager in Appleton and became a journalist and author. Many of

her later novels and plays became movies, including *Show Boat*, *So Big*, *Dinner at Eight*, and *Giant*, with James Dean. UW-Madison's Esther M. Jackson wrote the first book-length critique of Tennessee Williams's plays. UW-Madison's Daniel T. Rodgers won the Frederick Jackson Turner Award for *The Work Ethic in Industrial America, 1850–1920*. Children's author Laura Ingalls Wilder was born near Lake Pepin, and author August Derleth was born and raised in Sauk City.

Sun Prairie-born Georgia O'Keeffe set high standards for modern painters with her wondrous flowers, cattle bones, crosses, and clouds. She'd been trained by nuns in Madison, and was unique. She married art impresario Alfred Stieglitz, the one man she couldn't win an argument with.

Magic-genius Harry Houdini was born in Hungary and came as a toddler to Appleton; his father was first rabbi there. Britain's *Daily Mirror* savaged West Allis-born pianist Wladziu Valentino Liberace, just short of calling him homosexual. His tiny court award elicited, "I cried all the way to the bank." Ko-Thi Dance director Ferne Caulker, a native of West Africa, inspired her group, based at UW-Milwaukee. Among hit TV series set here were *Happy Days*, with Ron Howard and Henry Winkler; *Laverne and Shirley*, with Penny Marshall and Cindy Williams; and *That '70s Show*, with Topher Grace and Ashton Kutcher. Others entertainers born or bred in Wisconsin include Agnes



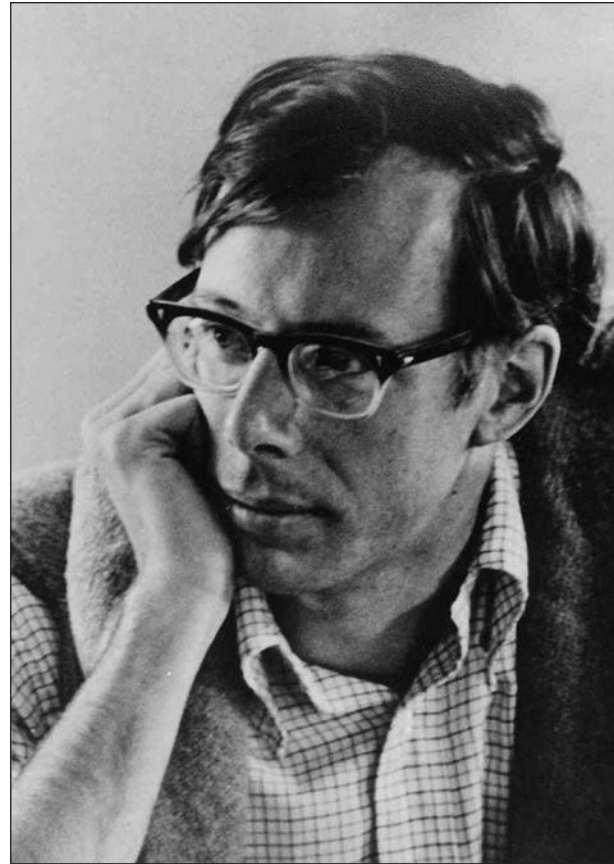
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lloyd Wright reading at home, Taliesin East, Spring Green, 1936, photo by Melvin E. Diemer for the Wisconsin Historical Society (ID#3976).

*Former UW-Madison, now Princeton University Professor Daniel T. Rodgers, winner of the Frederick Jackson Turner Award for his book *The Work Ethic in Industrial America, 1850–1920*, Madison, 1970s, courtesy of Professor Rodgers.*

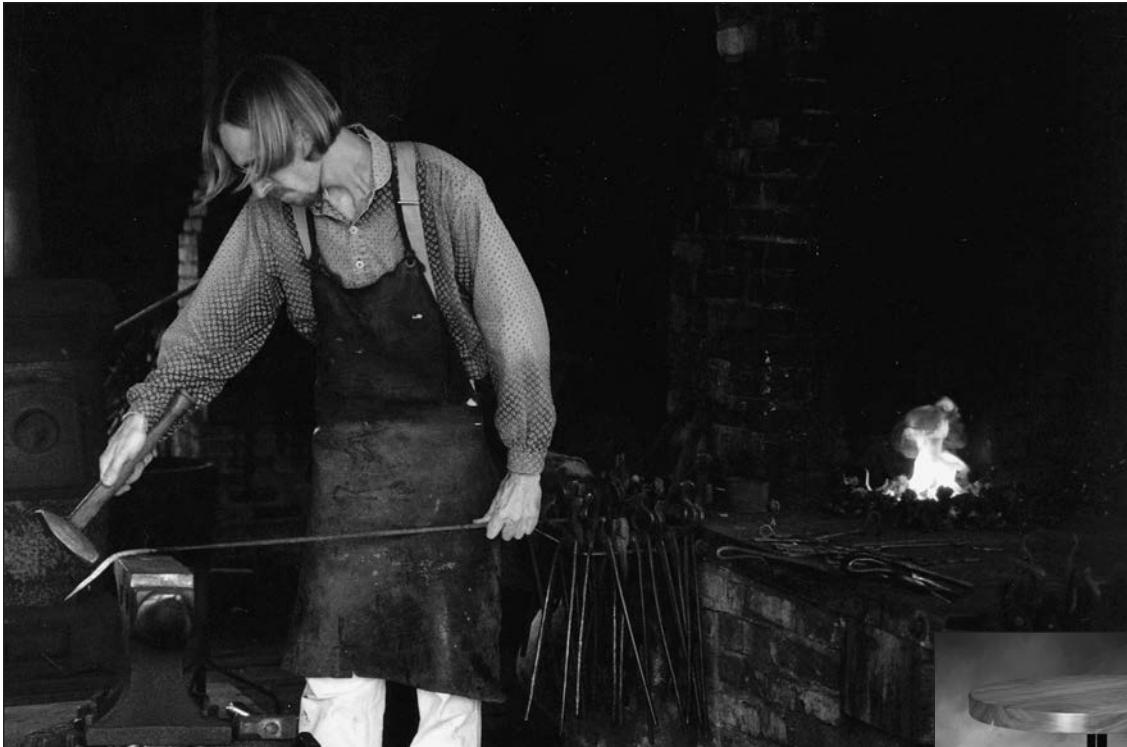
Moorehead, Les Paul, Al Jarreau, Jerry Beck, Tom Wopat, Jerry and David Zucker, Willem Dafoe, Heather Graham, and Scott Thompson.

Workers

Wisconsin's workers have labored as hard, cursed as loud, laughed with and loved their families and colleagues as much as any workers anywhere—and in this book, readers will see many workers of one sort or another. Everyday public and private sector workers, entrepreneurs, and their companies have also helped Wisconsin to excel. Pabst, Miller, Heileman/City, and Schlitz breweries, J.I. Case, International Harvester, Harley-Davidson, Milwaukee Road, Sentry, Alan Bradley, Evinrude, Trane, Kohler, Kohl, IGA, Kwik Trip, and other big employers have been or are still strong in the state. Hi-tech companies and construction firms are advancing rapidly. And Wisconsin's small businesses show ingenuity and effort in producing quality goods and services at reasonable prices. All have much to do with Wisconsin's being a strong and diverse world leader.



Train, truck, and factory, Wausau, 1998, photo by David J. Marcou.



Blacksmith, Old World Wisconsin, historical restoration near Milwaukee, 1997, photo by Peg Jerome.



Above: Art table created by Galesville blacksmiths Patrick Nichols and Brad Nichols (no relation), courtesy of From Forge to Form, LLC.



Left: Standard Oil's La Crosse staff, 1920s, courtesy of James Grenisen.



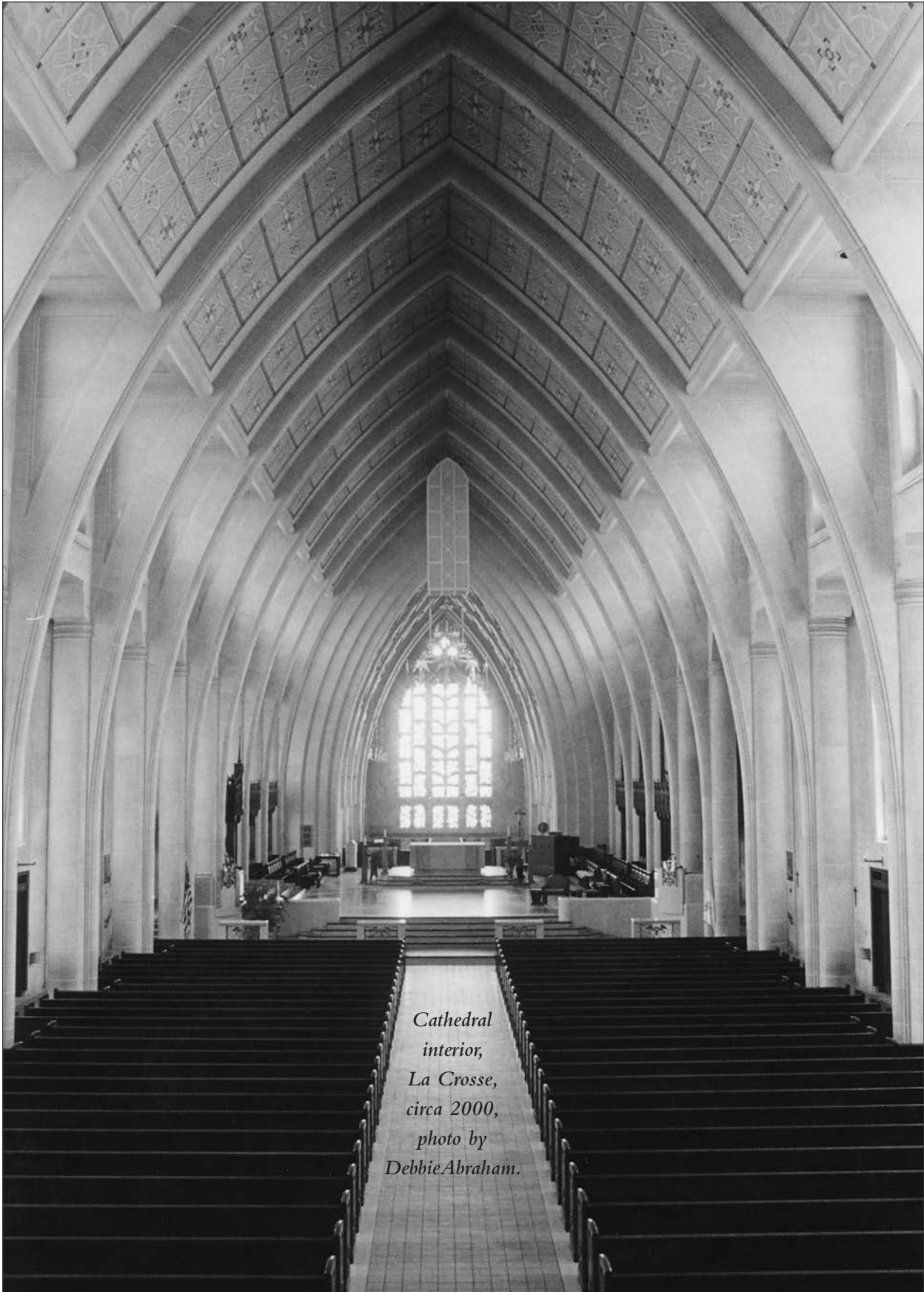
Faith in Wisconsin

Fr. Bernard McGarty

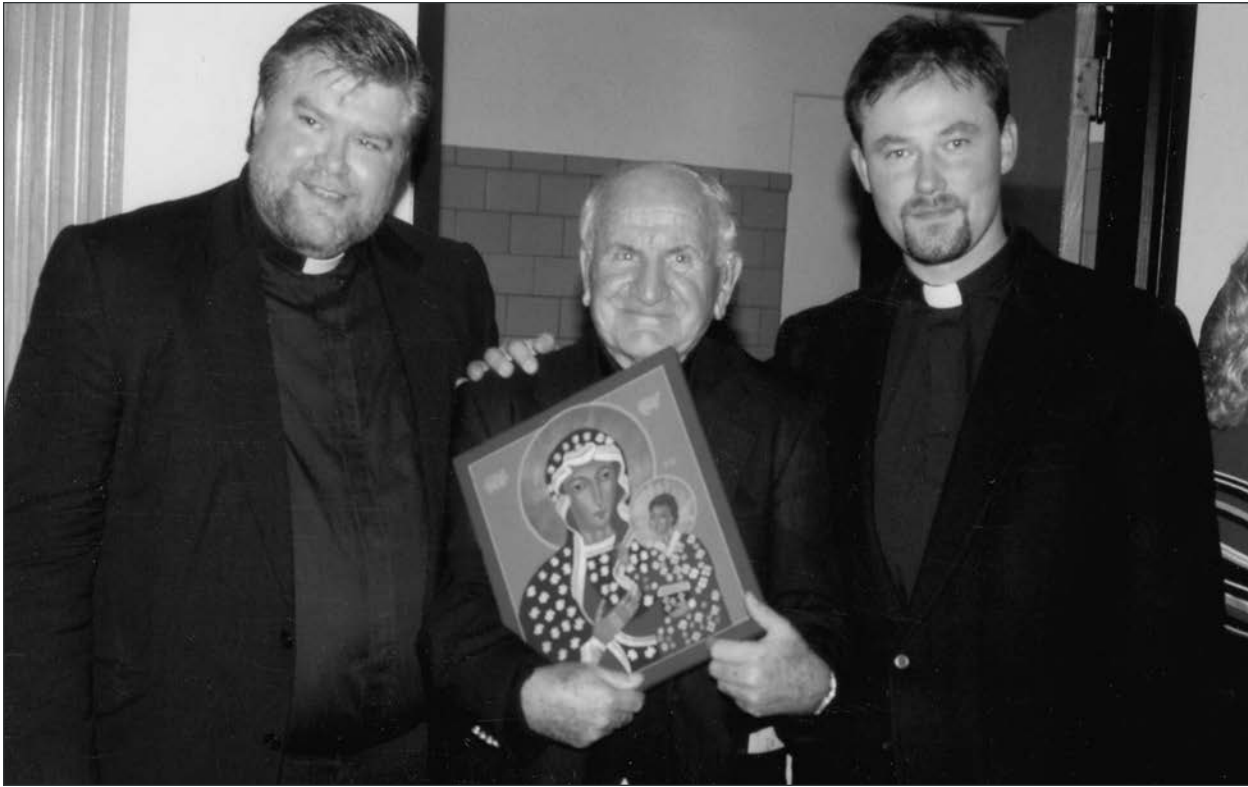
Archeologists identify the Oneota as living near La Crosse and Lake Winnebago ten thousand years ago. Early artifacts at their tombs indicate they believed in life after death. Other pre-Columbian peoples who were here or eventually came here are identified as Potawatomi, Kickapoo, Ho-Chunk (Winnebago), Menominee, Ojibwe, Mohican, Oneida, Brothertown, Sioux, Sac, and



Congregation Sons of Abraham Synagogue, La Crosse, 2005, photo by Robert Joseph.



*Cathedral
interior,
La Crosse,
circa 2000,
photo by
Debbie Abraham.*



Fathers Roger Scheckel, Joe Walijewski, and Sebastian Kolodziejczyk, courtesy of Father Scheckel. Fathers Walijewski and Kolodziejczyk operate an orphanage sponsored by the La Crosse Diocese, Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II, in Lurin, Peru, near Lima.

Fox, recognizing a Great Spirit, Manitou, corresponding to the European God. Manitou—creator of the gifts of land, sky, sun, moon, and water—produces life and growth. Dance and chant still are liturgical forms. A tall pole with maize at the top is traditionally offered to Manitou.

The French period, 1634–1763, began when Jean Nicolet, dressed as a mandarin expecting to find China, landed at Red Banks near today's Green Bay. Catholic missionaries followed—Jesuits Rene Menard, Claude Allouez, and Jacques Marquette, who catechized the natives and named the Apostle Islands, Madeline Island, La Pointe, and the Bay of the Holy Spirit (Chequamegon Bay).

Most early European explorers and fur traders were Catholic, like Nicholas Perrot, Pierre-Esprit Radisson, and Medart Chouart des Groseilliers. Churches were erected at La Pointe, Green Bay, and Prairie du Chien, serving French and natives. Father Louis Hennepin, OFM, skirted western Wisconsin as his group traveled the Mississippi until their capture at Lake Pepin.

British domination, 1763–1815, followed the French defeat at Quebec. Captain Jonathan Carver took control of the western Wisconsin area. Fox and Indian wars inhibited settlement and there were no Catholic clergy after 1728 for one hundred years. The Church of England became the established religion until the Revolution; the established religion after that was Episcopalianism. The U.S. Constitution established freedom of religion, accommodating a variety of missionary



Above: The Flying Nun actress Sally Field and friends in the TV series inspired by Wisconsin novelist Tere Rios Versace's book The Fifteenth Pelican, photo by ABC Press Information for the Wisconsin Historical Society (ID #11051).

Below: Father Roger Scheckel places flowers on the tomb of Blessed Mother Teresa during his tour of an Indian parish sponsored by his church, Calcutta, India, 2004, courtesy of Father Scheckel.

Right: Paul Granlund's "Damascus Illumination," St. Paul's Lutheran Church, La Crosse, 2005, photo by Robert Joseph.





Above: Exterior of the Chapel of Mary of the Angels seen from the air, St. Rose Convent, photo by Carl Liebig.

Right: Stairway spiral of the Melk (Austria) Abbey, a former base of operations for the La Crosse Boychoir, photo by Professor Roger Grant.



societies from Eastern states. Foremost were the Congregational, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, and Episcopal.

After the Wisconsin area was taken over from Britain in 1815, and after statehood in 1848, the number of religions increased. The 1850 census listed 365 Wisconsin churches—including 110 Methodist, 64 Roman Catholic, 49 Baptist, 40 Presbyterian, 37 Congregational, 20 Lutheran, 19 Episcopal, 6 Universalist, 4 Christian, 2 Dutch Reformed, 1 Union and 11 other sects. Rock County had the most, 52, and Milwaukee 38. The general population was 305,391. Immigrants from Germany were Catholic and Lutheran; from Wales, Methodist; from Ireland, Catholic; from Scandinavia, Lutheran; from New England, Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Congregational. Mormons going west settled briefly near La Crosse and Black River Falls. Mainline Christian Churches did not preach much against slavery before the Civil War, unlike Universalists and Quakers.



Left: Raymond L. Burke, former La Crosse bishop and new St. Louis archbishop, receives the pallium from Pope John Paul II, the Vatican, June 29, 2004, L'Osservatore Romano via Father Roger Scheckel.



Right: Pope Benedict XVI addresses the crowd the day of his election, Rome, June 20, 2005, retrieved from television in Wisconsin.



Left: New La Crosse Diocesan Bishop Jerome Listecky entering from the Cathedral vestibule for his installation, La Crosse, March 1, 2005, photo by David J. Marcou.



Right: Drs. Robert and Carole Edland meet John Paul II. Carole is a Rite of Christian Initiation Director in western Wisconsin and Director of the Butterfly Ministry, a grief support group. 1995, courtesy of the Edlands.



Cancer patient Devyn Marie Doughty with her puppy, Chelsea, a few months before Devyn passed away, Eau Claire, 2001, courtesy of her maternal grandparents, Drs. Robert and Carole Edland.

The Swiss, Dutch and Belgians came to Wisconsin in discrete numbers with specialized trades and were Evangelical, Lutheran, Baptist, or Catholic. Industrial jobs and farming attracted Poles, Bohemians, French Canadians, and Austrians, who were largely Catholic. By 1880, 30 percent of the population was foreign-born. Blacks and Baptists were in the minority, as were Jews. By 1900 the population of Wisconsin was 2,069,042.

In the twentieth century, mainline Christianity was augmented by Seventh Day Adventist, Salvation Army, Pentecostal and Disciples of Christ denominations. Then, in 1956, Congress opened immigration to people from the Middle East and Asia. In 2001 there were 7 million Muslims in the country, with 7,798 in Wisconsin. The Amish began buying state farmland in 1960. Today there are about 12,000 here. Jews have worshipped in Wisconsin for two centuries; their number now is 28,230.

Every community in Wisconsin is enriched by church architecture that includes Colonial, Greek

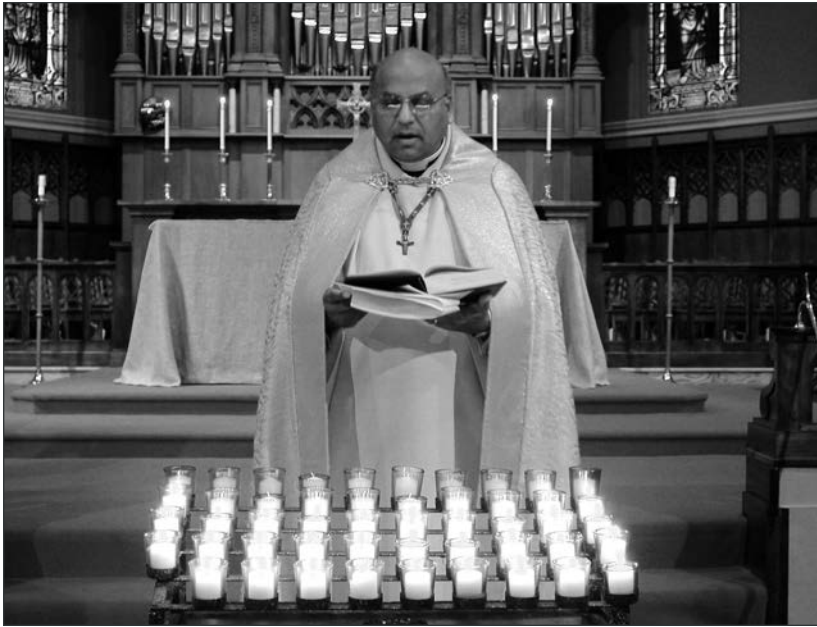
Revival, Romanesque, Victorian, Gothic, Prairie, Spanish, Oriental, Eastern, and more modern styles.

Education is also integral. Nashota House is a nationally recognized Episcopal seminary. Concordia and Carthage colleges are prestigious Lutheran institutions. There are sixteen church-sponsored colleges and universities in Wisconsin, with Marquette University (Jesuit), having the largest enrollment (7,775). About 145,000 students attend religious/independent primary and secondary schools, or one of every four students.

Social services include hospitals, of which thirty-six are operated by church bodies. Nursing homes and self-care units are operated by the Seventh Day Adventists and other mainline faiths. All churches reach out to the poor. Many offer counseling, adoption services, and halfway houses.

The civil rights movement of the 1960s saw Father James Groppi in Milwaukee lead marches for fair housing. Most churches fought discrimination, following Martin Luther King's lead. He visited the state several times then. The morality of the Vietnam and Iraq wars is questioned by individual clergy and laity and by the Quakers.

A state report in 2000 listed sixty-one religious bodies in 4,841 congregations with a total of 3,191,834 adherents. The state population in 2005 is about 5,472,000. If statistics are true, more than half of Wisconsin's residents participate in religion, compared to one-third in 1850.



Above left: The Rev. Canon Patrick Augustine, candlelit peace ceremony, Christ Episcopal Church, La Crosse, photo by Professor Roger Grant.

Above right: Wheelchair madonna and child, St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral, 2003–04, photo by David J. Marcou.

Left: Amish wool socks on clothesline, Vernon County, 2004, photo by Professor Roger Grant.

Below: Frank Lloyd Wright's First Unitarian Church, Madison, photo by Donald Sylvester.





Wisconsinites Who Serve

La Crosse Police Lieutenant Daniel J. Marcou

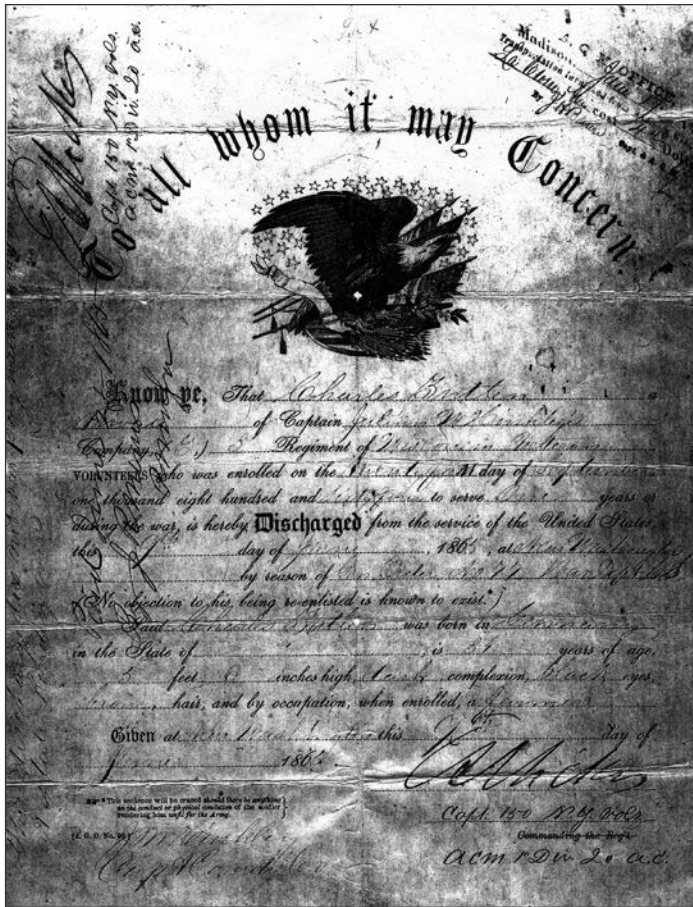


Half-staff sunrise service, French Island Cemetery, Memorial Day, 2004, courtesy of James Grenisen.

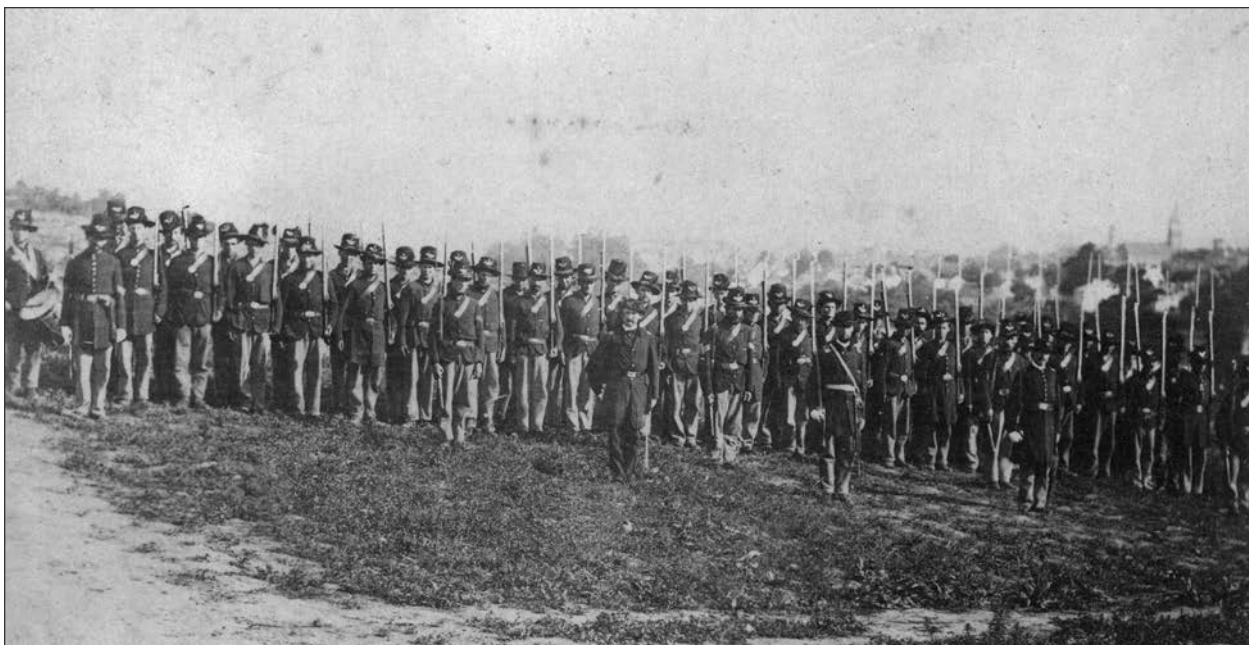
The common definitions for “service” fall short of quantifying the dedication, devotion, and bravery of Wisconsinites who serve the public. They are Heroes.

At eighteen, Arthur MacArthur enlisted in Milwaukee to save the Union and end slavery. He was a first lieutenant in the 24th Wisconsin Regiment, and on November 25, 1863, General Grant’s Army was under siege in Chattanooga. Grant ordered troops to take the Confederate rifle pits at the base of Missionary Ridge. This assault was a feint to aid General Sherman’s faltering main assault.

Civil War honorable discharge papers of Charles Zietlow, courtesy of the Don and LaVonne Zietlow Family.



A Wisconsin regiment of the famed Iron Brigade, known as the "Black Hats" for obvious reasons, Virginia, September, 1862, photo by Matthew Brady for the Wisconsin Historical Society (ID #4978).





Marine Robert Emmett Dwyer, who served loyally in the Pacific Theatre with Carlson's Raiders, June 6, 1944, courtesy of Sean Dwyer.

Troops including the 24th Wisconsin took the pits after a bitter fight, but then they were blasted by cannon fire from atop Missionary Ridge.

Without orders, the men launched an assault on the nearly impregnable heights. MacArthur saw a flag bearer killed by bayonet and a second decapitated by cannon ball. He picked up the flag and advanced, shouting, "On Wisconsin!" and led the charge up Missionary Ridge. When he reached the top, he firmly planted the flag. He infused spirit into the charge; the day was won. MacArthur won the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions and eventually retired from the Army a general. He raised a son who also won the Medal of Honor—Gen. Douglas MacArthur (http://www.homeofheroes.com/hallofheroes/1st_floor/flag/1bf_mac.html).

During World War II, Poplar, Wisconsin's Richard Ira (Joe) Bong became the most successful fighter pilot in American history. He flew two hundred combat missions, shooting down forty Japanese planes and many enemy troops and sinking several ships. Bong died testing a new jet—a P-80—the same day the A-bomb fell on Hiroshima. A journalist-witness said Bong could have parachuted early and lived but held onto the controls longer to avoid hitting homes.

Before Joe Bong's time in the service, Milwaukee pilot Billy Mitchell was top ace in World War I. Later, as a general, he tried to persuade authorities that future wars depended on airpower. His warning was not heeded, and lack of air power proved deadly when Japanese planes overwhelmed U.S. air and sea forces at Pearl Harbor. By

Les and Ann Olson on their wedding day, Granada, Mississippi, June 10, 1944, courtesy of Dan and Vicki Marcou.





General MacArthur at presentation of Congressional Medal of Honor to Poplar, Wisconsin's very own all-time No. 1 U.S. flying ace, Richard Bong, The Philippines, December 12, 1944, U.S. Signal Corps for the Wisconsin Historical Society (ID#11076).



Vietnam vets on parade, western Wisconsin, circa 2000, photo by David J. Marcou.

World War II's end, though, U.S. airpower had won. Today, General Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee is named for this warrior-seer.

Wisconsin's own have served in all branches since 1848. Private Lester A. Olson, of West Salem, fought his way across Europe in Patton's Third Army. Marine Robert E. Dwyer, of La Crosse, went on the "Long Patrol" behind Japanese lines at Guadalcanal with Carlson's Raiders. A general's stories are written in ink, a soldier's in blood.

In Korea, two western Wisconsin soldiers fought especially valiantly, killing many enemy before being killed themselves—Cpl. Mitchell Red Cloud, a Hatfield Ho-Chunk who had also served in Carlson's Raiders in World War II, and Mindoro's Pfc. Stanley R. Christianson were posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. They were brave and able, as was Marine Cpl. Frank Devine, of La Crosse, who won the Silver Star at Seoul.

Many also serve bravely at home. Police officers give their all 24-7 for little pay or respect. On November 24, 1917, Officers Fred Kaiser, David Obrien, Paul Weiler, Albert Templin, Charles Seehawk, Frank Laswin, Steven Stecher, Henry Deckert, and Edward Spindler of the Milwaukee Police Department died when a package a boy dropped off at the department's central precinct blew



Trooper John Satory receives the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam, early 1970s, courtesy of the John and Beth Satory Family.



Police officer Joseph Donndelinger's funeral after he was shot and killed in the line of duty, old St. Joseph's Cathedral, December 1937, courtesy of the La Crosse Police Department.

up. Anarchists were to blame. It was the worst day for police in state history, and it is the only time in U.S. history that a police dispatcher has been killed in the line of duty.

Firefighters serve, too. From battling the largest, deadliest forest fire in North American history—the Peshtigo Fire of October 8, 1871 (which killed more than a thousand people, far more than the Great Chicago Fire that occurred the same day)—to fighting fires today with better equipment, techniques, and pay, dangers still exist and firefighters face and overcome them daily.

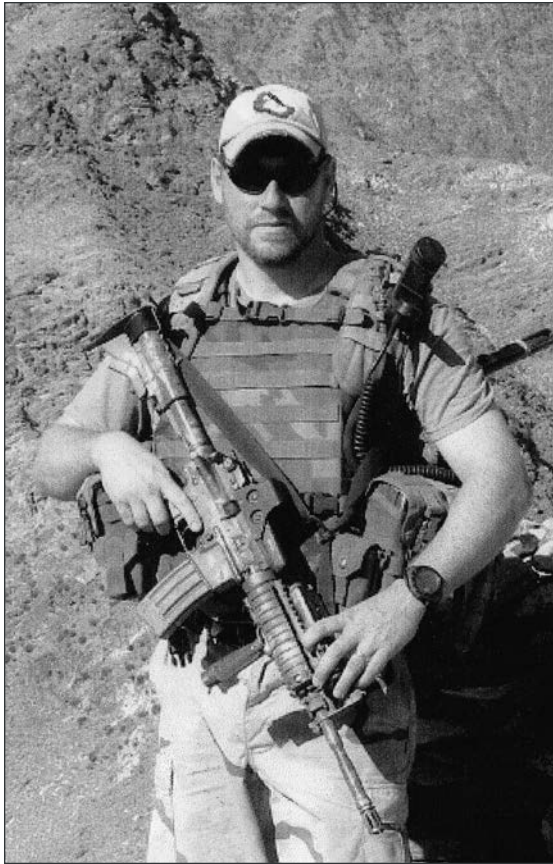
And politicians serve, too. Mayor Wilson Colwell, of La Crosse, served very well. He could have been in City Hall the day he died, but on September 14, 1862, Captain Colwell led his La Crosse boys up South Mountain and was killed by a rebel bullet. That day, Colwell's brigade earned the sobriquet “The Iron Brigade.” His regiment returned home physically depleted but spiritually undiminished. These best, bravest riflemen of the Army suffered the highest killed-in-action ratio of any Union regiment, but the Iron Brigade was proud that it always moved forward and never took a step backward in battle unless ordered. (Note that our state motto is “Forward.”)



Firefighters with their hoses at the Oscar's Restaurant fire, Onalaska, 1988, photo by the La Crosse Tribune via the Terry and Cheryl Smith Family.

La Crosse Police SWAT unit, City Hall, 2003, courtesy of the La Crosse Police Department. Lieutenant/Training Officer Dan Marcou, co-recipient with an Oak Creek officer of the 2004 Wisconsin SWAT Officer of the Year Award for his work preventing further killing by a hostage-taker, and author of two histories of the department, is third from left in front next to Police Chief Edward Kondracki (center front).





Top: Wisconsin native Army Special Forces trooper Chad Miller, Afghanistan, 2004, courtesy of Cory Miller.

Bottom: Wisconsin native Private/Medic Michelle Witmer, courtesy of the official Michelle Witmer memorial website.



Other brave men and women have worked in the Peace Corps, VISTA, Americorps, and other nonmilitary service organizations. Governor Jim Doyle—and his wife, Jessica, both of whom sprang from famous Wisconsin political families—served in Tunisia in the Peace Corps after graduating from UW-Madison and then worked on a Navajo Indian reservation in Chinle, Arizona, after graduating from Harvard Law School. Governor Doyle has served Wisconsin well in-state for more than twenty years since; Jessica Doyle has been a dedicated teacher during that time. And it would be imprudent not to mention “Fighting Bob” LaFollette, whose very nickname and life epitomized the spirit of Wisconsin, though he opposed U.S. involvement in World War I, a war whose uneasy treaty led to World War II.

Recently, a guardswoman joined the ranks of those who have served from Wisconsin and paid the ultimate price. Private/Medic Michelle Witmer, of New Berlin, and her two sisters served well in the Iraq War. Michelle died in an enemy attack on Baghdad on April 9, 2004. She served with the National Guard’s 32nd Military Police Company and was the first female National Guard soldier in the nation ever to be killed in combat as well as the first

Wisconsin National Guard soldier killed in combat since World War II. She is missed, along with all of the other troopers from Wisconsin who have given their lives for freedom.

The next time you hear “On Wisconsin!” sung at a Badger game, take the time to remember—there was a moment when many good men and women from Wisconsin, boys and girls at heart with big dreams, were serving their state and country when those were the last words they heard.



Pfc. Jon Kuehl of Brown Deer is with the 2nd Marine Division, 7th Battalion. His pictures were taken in Iraq from March to September, 2004. His base was on the outskirts of Baghdad, so the scenes are from that area.

Sunset over Iraq, 2004, photo by Jon Kuehl, USMC.

