



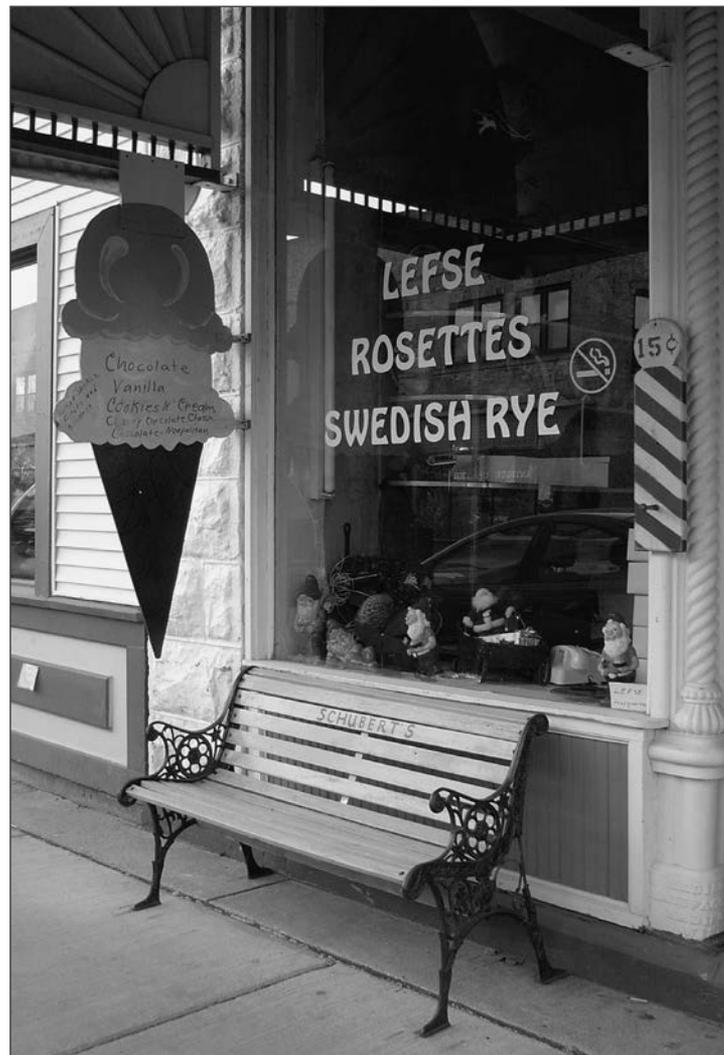
Communities and Families

tamara Horstman-Riphahn and Ronald S. Rochon, Ph.D.

Whether it's Friday night fish at a supper club in Barre Mills, fresh vegetable-filled spring rolls at a Hmong New Year celebration in Appleton, a brat with kraut steaming into the chill of Oktoberfest in La Crosse or Milwaukee, lefse-wrapped meatballs on a checkered tablecloth in Osseo, cheese curds at a pub in Green Bay, a walnut burger or catfish along the Mississippi River in Trempealeau, or a jumbled plate of spicy Somali curry chicken with lentils and rice on Capitol Square, one force brings strangers, families, neighbors, friends, colleagues, and communities together, and that is food.

No matter what our backgrounds are, the substances that we each choose to nourish our bodies serve as a vital representation of ourselves and our ancestors. No matter who we are, where we are from, or what our occupation is, each of us has a richness within and a recipe to offer. And when we come together to share our sustenance, in turn we share history, family, culture, and we build Wisconsin.

In the shadow of national and international tragedy and war, it would



Schubert's ice cream parlor and café, Mt. Horeb, 2004, photo by tamara Horstman-Riphahn.



Left: Four generations of Wisconsin females, circa 1900, courtesy of the Werner and Jolene Engel Family.

Below: Anna and Joe Motivans, Latvian-American couple, western Wisconsin, 1981, courtesy of Anna Motivans.





John Medinger's family early on, 1930s, courtesy of the John and Dee Medinger Family.

be easy to close our doors, barricade state lines, and foster suspicions of the “other.” However, it’s essential that even through the most difficult times, Wisconsinites continue to assist one another and contemplate our individual and local influence, strength, and responsibility to one another—what we can do and must do. Many times we strive to support and nurture those to whom we feel devoted, but in order to survive in the existing interdependent structure of our societies, we must also contemplate the ways in which we open our lives and provide opportunities for old and new alike.

Considering the future of Wisconsin communities, we must keep at the forefront of our minds what we want for our children. Our example teaches children what treatment they should expect and what actions they should perform. If we mock those we consider different, if we pollute our forests and rivers, or if we expect instant fulfillment of our wants, our children will repeat our examples—and far too often, will repeat our mistakes. However, if we offer eye contact with a genuine “How are you?” to those who serve, assist, and clean up after us, if we explore the distinction of local flora, or if we invite a family from “across the tracks” to enjoy a meal, our children will also replicate these examples, and traditions of generosity and compassion will develop.

Wisconsin has a history of valuing the ideals of enrichment and welcome. However, infused in these ideals is the principle of deliberative democratic dialogue. Wisconsin citizens have struggled



Above: Children in circle, photo by tamara Horstman-Riphan.

Left: Ron and Lynn Rochon's daughter and son, Nia and Ayinda, Onalaska, 2002, photo by Ronald S. Rochon.

Below: tamara and Peter Horstman-Riphahn's wedding party, West Salem, 2004, photo by Shelly Horstman.





Zita and Ed Pretasky on their golden anniversary, La Crosse, 2004, photo by Mary (Pretasky) Burke.

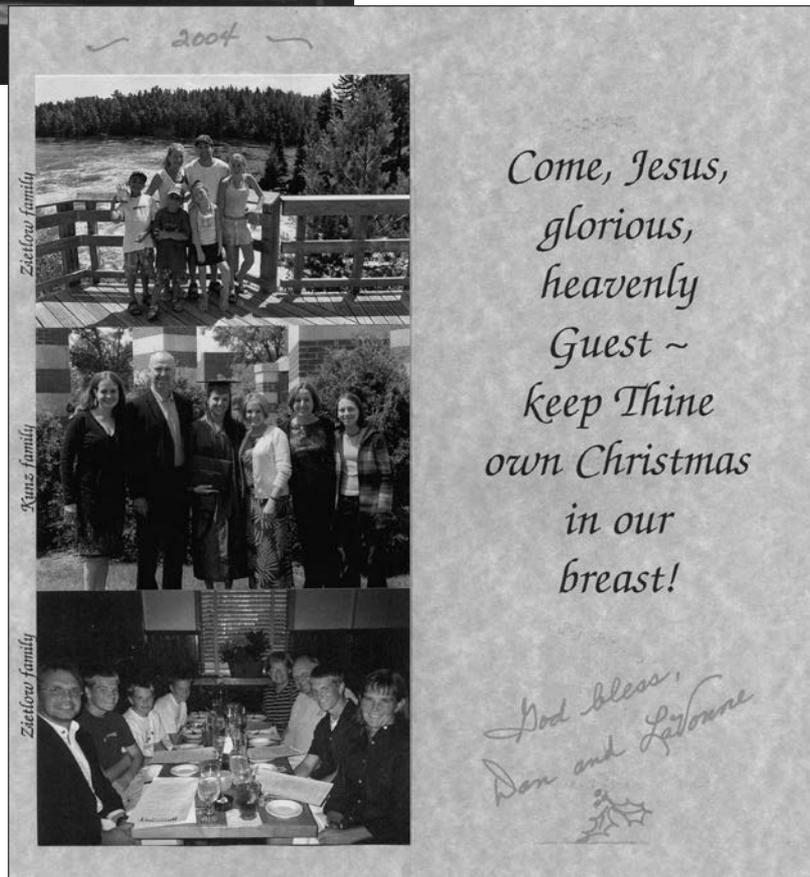
with the complexity of multiple positions on a host of issues, including assisting escaped African slaves through the Underground Railroad, welcoming Hmong refugees from repressive camps in Laos and Thailand, and debating the ethics of using Native American imagery for school mascots. During these historical struggles, many Wisconsin citizens have offered comfort and sustenance. These individuals understand and believe that it is through the inclusion of all voices that growth, responsibility, and enrichment will occur. Through the process of difficult dialogues and the welcoming of “outsiders,” the state of Wisconsin will continue to grow stronger and become a better state for *all* of its citizens.

If we consider communities and families within Wisconsin, we will recognize that it is through our encounters that we begin to understand the richness of varying experiences and cultures, histories and dreams, sacrifices and celebrations. It is during times of shared meals and extensive conversation that people connect to established as well as newly arrived residents. When we extend an invitation to a new colleague, neighbor, or classmate to join our friends and families for a meal, we are in essence opening avenues for relationships and supportive bonds to develop. And when we present these invitations to “strangers,” we are helping to build a new Wisconsin—a stronger Wisconsin. We break down barriers, we eradicate fear, and most significantly, we teach our children about



Left: Cousins Joe (L) and Matt Marcou, Myrick Park, La Crosse, circa 1999, photo by David J. Marcou.

Below: Zietlow Family Christmas card, 2004, courtesy of the Don and LaVonne Zietlow Family.

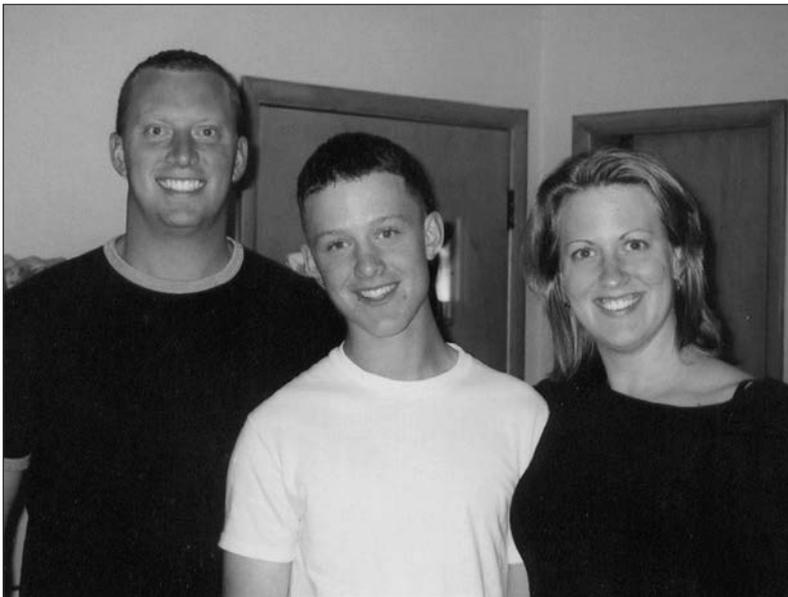
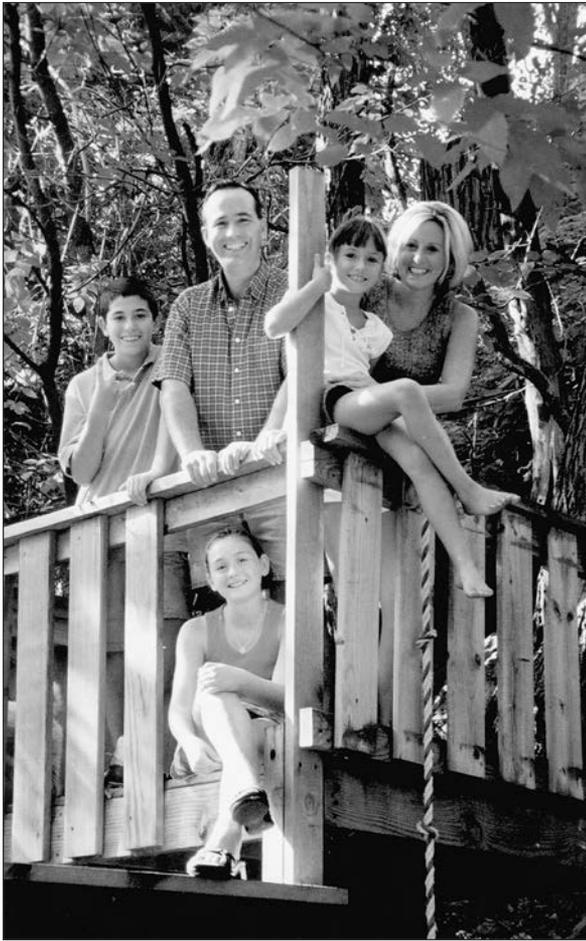




the importance of sharing, accepting, and community building. When we rely on each other, we become more than just a collection of individuals involved in individual endeavors; rather, we truly become a community.

Over bleached oak family tables passed on through generations, slightly wobbly restaurant tables cloaked in linen, café countertops littered with condiments, or faded picnic tables etched with lovers' names, we come together to gossip, debate, laugh, and learn while we eat. It is while breaking bread that community members build an understanding of the beauty in our individual distinctiveness and learn to recognize the human spirit within one another.

Nancy's grandson Dietrick, West Salem, circa 1997, photo by Nancy Horstman.



Top left: The Dirk and Shiela Slaback Family in a tree fort, western Wisconsin, 2004, photo by Laurie Reed.

Top right: Maid-Rite café next to Sweet Shop, La Crosse, 2003, photo by Tamara Horstman-Riphahn.

Left: Tim and Kati Freiberg with cousin Jon Kuehl (center), Brown Deer, October 2004, photo by Chris Freiberg.



Wisconsin in La Crosse

Anita Taylor Doering

Nestled along the eastern shore of the Mississippi River, La Crosse was built upon a sand prairie guarded on the east by bluffs—a gift of the Driftless Area during the Ice Age. The unglaciated area became known as the Coulee Region (*coulee* meaning valley). Early French explorers traveled the Mississippi and labeled the site where the Mississippi, Black, and La Crosse rivers converge as Prairie à la Crosse. As legend has it, the explorers observed native peoples, probably Ho-Chunk (Winnebago), playing a field game that reminded them of the French game of lacrosse. While the locale was not a permanent settlement for Native Americans, it was a meeting ground and thought to be used occasionally as a campsite.

*Lacrosse Players statue by Elmer Petersen
and clock, Main Street, photo by
Dr. Carole Edland.*





Boat and houseboats, Black River, six-part join-up photo by Bob Mulock.

Delta Queen moored near two bridges, Mississippi River, 2004, photo by Sam McKay.

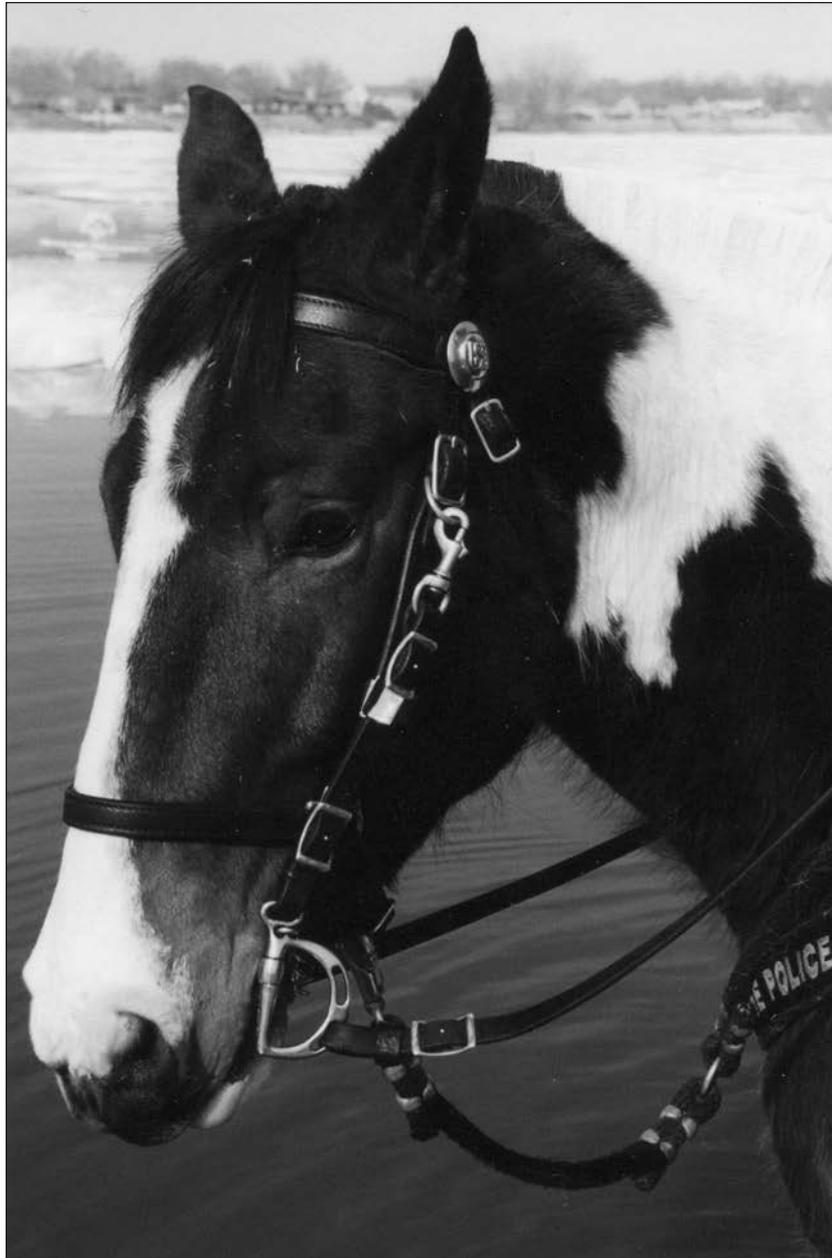


Police horse, photo by Mark Smith.

After the defeat of the Sauk and Fox native peoples in the Black Hawk War of 1832, the land that included western Wisconsin was cleared for white settlement. Nathan Myrick, considered to be the first permanent white settler in La Crosse and its first postmaster, shortened Prairie à la Crosse to simply La Crosse. Myrick and his first partner, Eben Weld, began a fur-trading post on Barron's Island in 1841. The next year, young Myrick and a new partner, Harmon J. B. Miller, moved their trading post across river to the site of present-day La Crosse. Trade was brisk in muskrat, raccoon, mink, and other furs and silver coins for goods.

In 1836 Wisconsin's territorial boundaries were formed from Michigan Territory, and in 1848 Wisconsin became the thirtieth state, when La Crosse was still an infant. Early in the 1850s, Yankees—British-American migrants from the East Coast—began to come west and settle in the pioneer state of Wisconsin. European immigrants from Germany, Norway, France, Switzerland, Bohemia, and other countries followed in turn. Many of the Yankees pressed on farther west, but not before the city of La Crosse had been chartered in 1856 by the state legislature. La Crosse experienced rapid growth in the nineteenth century as a center of commerce and a place to distribute goods.

Agriculture and lumber were the two mainstays of the economy in the nineteenth century. Most immigrants wanted their own land to farm but needed cash quickly. The pioneers soon learned to





Top: La Crosse Loggers baseball game, photo by Paul Abraham.

Right: Recovery Room 1992 city champion softball team, courtesy of Dennis A. Marcou.





Left: Former State Assemblyman and Mayor John Medinger at Hmong New Year's celebration, courtesy of the John and Dee Medinger Family.



Right: Bicyclist at WKBT-Channel 8 TV, 2005, photo by David J. Marcou.

squelch prairie fires to protect their property, and row crops and livestock took the place of grasslands and prairie chickens. Oxen were the work animals of choice initially. Dairy farming caught on after William Hoard published *Hoard's Dairyman* and promoted dairy farming in the state. Wheat was the cash crop of the 1860s, but it soon gave way to hay, oats, and corn, as they were used to feed livestock. (Wheat also depleted the ground of nutrients and made the land useless if proper crop rotation was not practiced.)

La Crosse served as the outlet for giant pine logs that were timbered from the Black River forests and floated downriver. Already in 1848, Myrick had counted eleven sawmills along the Black River. Major mills were located along the Mississippi River in La Crosse, which fueled the pocketbooks of many former New Englanders. By 1890, the city's population had grown to second highest in the state, after Milwaukee. When the lumber supply was exhausted around 1900, the lumber barons moved west or south. Agriculture kept the area going, though physical growth in the city stalled.



Top: Doc Powell's building/corner, as seen in 1887, is now in the Historic Downtown District, courtesy of La Crosse Public Library Archives.

Right: Then-Mayor John Medinger (seated left) and other principals in Jazz on the Green's Causeway group, courtesy of the John and Dee Medinger Family.





From left: Writer/archivist Anita T. Doering, Historical Society president George Italiano, State School Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster, and library patron Richard Dugar, La Crosse Public Library, March 20, 2005, photo by David J. Marcou.

Breweries became a key type of business here, especially G. Heileman's (today's City Brewery), and eventually more companies began producing new products, like La Crosse Rubber Mills and La Crosse Plow Works. By the outbreak of World War II, the Electric Auto Lite Company, Trane Company, Northern Engraving, and other companies had garnered government contracts to help U.S. armed forces succeed. Eventually industry began to wane despite efforts by the city to develop industrial parks nearer to transportation corridors and away from the downtown area.

Since the 1970s, however, with its large urban renewal projects, La Crosse's commercial growth has again changed. Like many other cities, its economy has turned away from industrial production and it has become a service and technology center. The growth of the universities and technical college, as well as consolidation and growth of the area hospitals, has led education and health-care leaders into vital relationships, and La Crosse has become a destination for post-secondary students. And instead of new immigrants to La Crosse speaking Norwegian or German, today they often speak Hmong. There is renewed interest in historic preservation, neighborhoods, and community

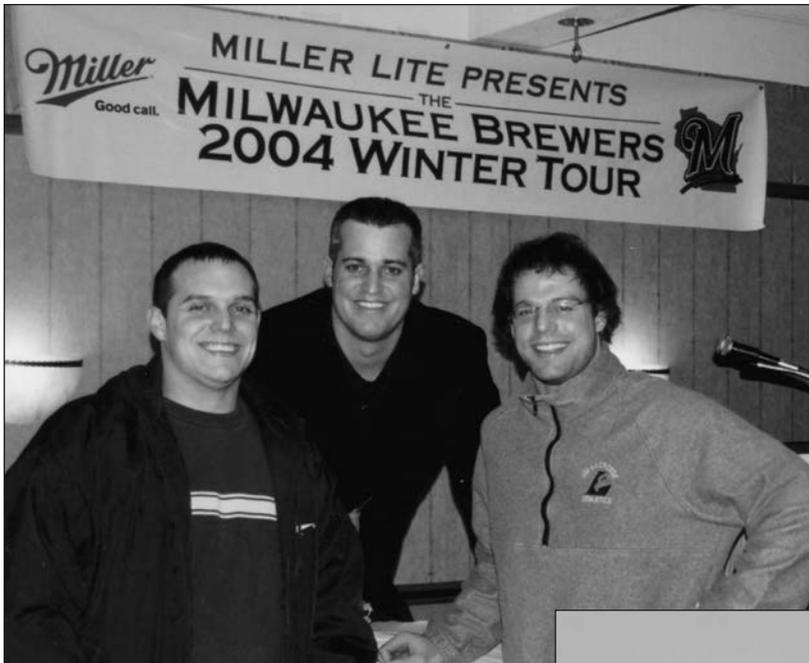


Restored auto's Pearl Street reflections, photo by John J. Satory Jr.



Giant City Brewery/La Crosse Lager 6-pack, 2003, photo by Robert Joseph.

involvement. People are energized by community projects, such as Rotary Lights, the Skyrockers' New Year's Eve fireworks shows, Riverside Park Friendship Gardens, and Sister City relationships with Dubna, Russia; Epinal, France; Luoyang, China; Bantry, Ireland; and Friedberg, Germany. City universities continue to bring diversity and cultural events to La Crosse and its people.



Left: Ryan and Andy Kiedrowski with Milwaukee Brewers announcer Darren Sutton, 2005, photo by Steve Kiedrowski.

Below left: Mark Johnsrud is sworn in as mayor by City Clerk Teri Lehrke, April 2005, photo by Larry Lebiecki.

Below right: Grandad Bluff, photo by Dave Larsen.





Wisconsin in America

Roberta Stevens



Governor John Reynolds, President John F. Kennedy, and Earth Day founder, governor, and senator Gaylord Nelson, Apostle Islands, early 1960s, courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord Nelson, the Wilderness Society, and the UW Alumni Association.

Wisconsin was one of the first areas in the Middle West to be visited by European explorers and fur traders from France, Spain, and England. When Frenchman Jean Nicolet landed on the Green Bay shores in 1634, he found a wilderness of trees, rivers, streams, and Native Americans. Early French explorers noted that the native word for the principal river was “Ouisconsin.” The name probably comes from a Chippewa word translated as “gathering of waters.” Thus did the area that would become the state of Wisconsin get its name.



Onalaska's Roberta Stevens and former Atlanta Mayor/ U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young, NAACP Convention, Rochester, Minnesota, circa 1989, courtesy of the Dr. Mark and Roberta Stevens Family.

Mayor John Medinger (third from left) and Congressman Ron Kind (right) with President Bill Clinton and entourage, January 1998, courtesy of the John and Dee Medinger Family.





NBC's Katie Couric and Whitehall's Mrs. Calista (Newt) Gingrich, courtesy of the Werner and Jolene Engel Family.

The Wisconsin area was under French control from 1634 to 1763, until it was won by the British. It was ceded to the United States by the Treaty of Paris in 1783, but it wasn't until after the War of 1812 that Americans had a real presence there. Treaties with the Native Americans from 1829 to 1833 opened up the state, but immigration was held up briefly during the Black Hawk War of 1832. This area became part of the Wisconsin Territory (formerly the Northwest, Indiana, and Michigan Territories) in 1836, and on May 29, 1848, President James K. Polk signed the bill making Wisconsin the thirtieth state in the Union. In 1837, Madison (then a town on paper), was selected as seat of Wisconsin's government and the first brick was laid for the Capitol building.

In the early 1800s, when most of the state was still Indian land, white settlers came to the lead mining areas of southwestern Wisconsin. Many of these settlers were New Englanders, Southerners, and immigrants of almost every European nationality, with Germans most numerous, followed by Poles, Norwegians, British and Swedes. There were smaller groups who came from southern Europe, the Netherlands, Belgium, French-Canada, Finland, and Switzerland. They were mainly Lutherans, Roman Catholics, and non-Lutheran Protestants.

During the Civil War (1861–65), Wisconsin furnished 52 regiments of infantry to defend the Union against the South. They comprised about 92,000 soldiers, including 79,934 volunteers, 11,445 drafted men and substitutes, 130 sailors, and 165 black men for the Negro regiments. Some of the more famous regiments were the 2nd, 6th, and 7th Wisconsin of the Iron Brigade. The 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry sustained the greatest percentage of losses (killed and died of wounds)



Boat Cave, Wisconsin Dells, photo by H.H. Bennett for the Wisconsin Historical Society (ID#7566).



Margaret Kiedrowski (later Brom) and then husband, Art Kiedrowski, Trempealeau County, courtesy of Steve Kiedrowski.

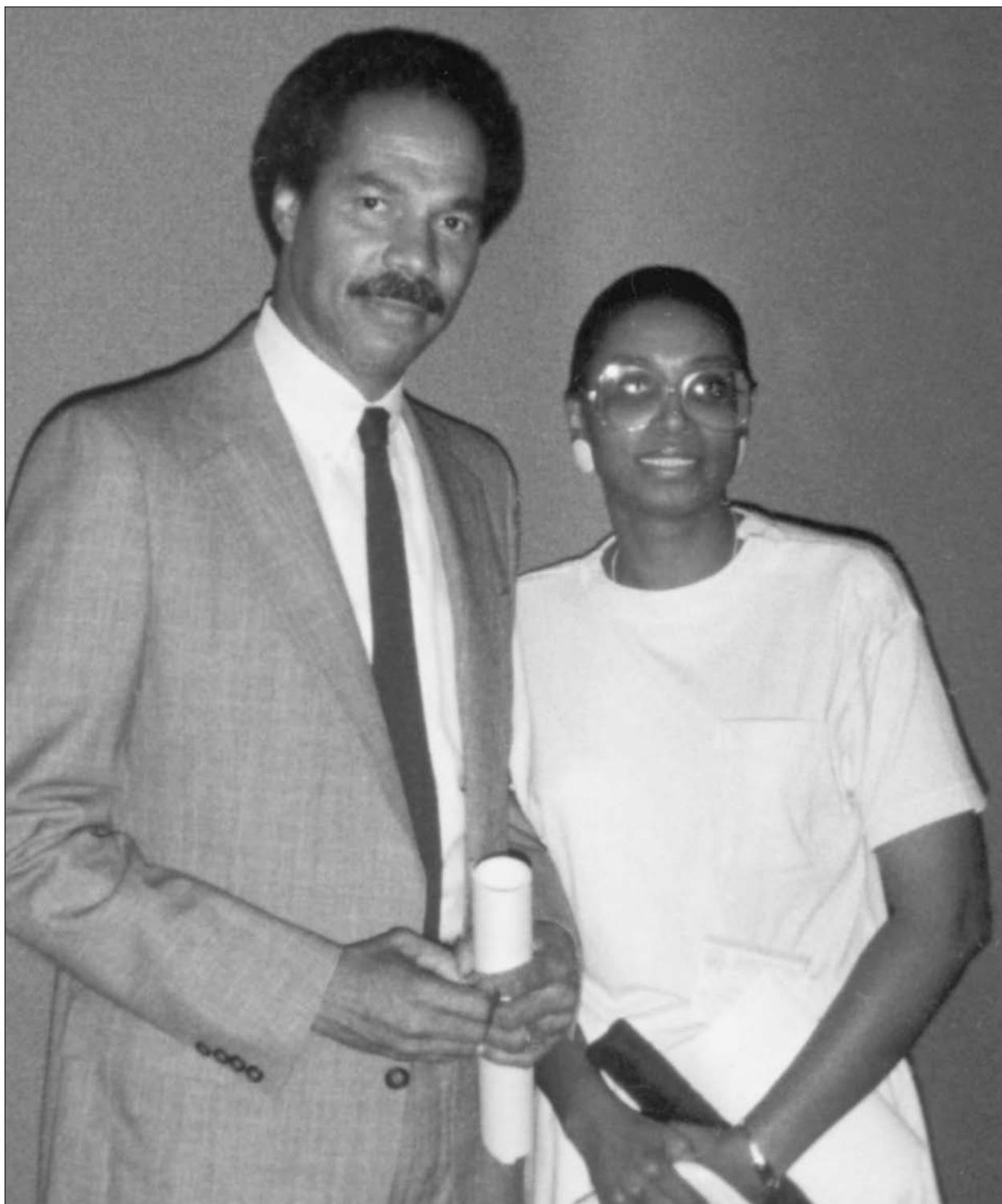
of any of the 2,000 regiments in the entire Union Army. At Gettysburg, it lost 77 percent of those engaged in battle, though it played a key role on the first day of battle.

A Wisconsinite who made a national reputation for himself early on was Robert “Fighting Bob” La Follette Sr., a governor of Wisconsin (1901–06) and U.S. Senator (1906–25) noted for his support of reform. The Progressive Party he organized was a short-lived independent political group assembled for the 1924 presidential election due to dissatisfaction with the conservative attitudes and programs of both Democrats and Republicans. The Progressive Party chose La Follette as its presidential candidate. The 1924 Progressives pledged a “housecleaning” of executive departments, public control of natural resources, public ownership of railways, and tax reduction. President Calvin Coolidge and the Republicans won the election. The Progressive Party dissolved when La Follette died in 1925.

Led by the La Follette family—including also Bob’s wife Belle and sons Robert Jr. and Phillip—Wisconsin pioneered worker’s compensation, vocational education, unemployment compensation, and state income taxes. More recently, several Wisconsin governors and senators have made national names for themselves. From the McCarthyism of disrespected Senator Joe McCarthy and the wry Golden Fleece Awards of Senator William Proxmire, McCarthy’s more humane successor, to ambassador and cabinet appointments for contemporary politicians, Wisconsin has often appeared in the national spotlight.

The nickname “Badger State” comes from Wisconsin’s lead miners. They were called “badgers”; as they reached a new site, they dug into the hillsides, much as badgers dig their burrows, and lived underground. Another Wisconsin nickname is “Copper State,” referring to its northern copper mines.

“America’s Dairyland” (yet another state nickname) has been a leader in producing milk and milk products since cheese factories multiplied in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Wisconsin’s economy had been based on wheat until soil became depleted, among many problems, and farmers turned to dairy farming. Wisconsin cheese is now a very popular national and international delicacy. Also, the state leads the nation in sweet corn processing and is one of the top two states in cranberry production. About half the state’s land is used as farmland. Wisconsin is also among the leaders in manufacturing machinery, turbines, and engines. Fifteen million acres of forests here are strictly conserved to ensure a steady lumber supply and natural beauty.



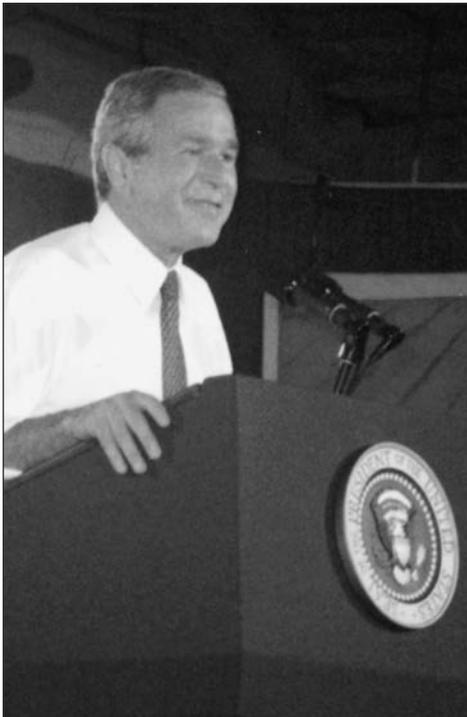
TransAfrica founder/Defending the Spirit author Randall Robinson and Roberta Stevens, NAACP National Convention, Washington, D.C., 1988, courtesy of the Dr. Mark and Roberta Stevens Family.



Clockwise from top left:

- *Senator Kerry works the crowd in front of the flag, La Crosse, Election Day, photo by Professor Roger Grant.*
- *Wisconsin votes, November 2, 2004, photo by David J. Marcou.*
- *Nick Coorough and actress Natalie Portman at Kerry rally, Madison, 2004, courtesy of Nick Coorough.*
- *Senator Kerry shakes hands, Election Day, photo by Professor Roger Grant.*

Both major presidential candidates visited Wisconsin often before the 2004 election. The Badger State was pleased to meet both men, their families, friends, and many celebrities. President Bush visited the La Crosse area in May and October, and Senator Kerry visited the area in July and on election day. The President won reelection by three percentage points, while Senator Kerry took Wisconsin.



Clockwise from top:

- *President Bush schmoozes with a fan, May 2004, photo by David J. Marcou.*
- *President Bush's daughters appear during a state visit, November 1, 2004, photo by David J. Marcou.*
- *Laura Bush speaks before a crowd in La Crosse, photo by David J. Marcou.*
- *President Bush speaks, Onalaska, October 2004, photo by Carole Edland.*



America's Dairyland

Patrick Slattery



Early years of the Engel family farm, Fountain City area, circa 1920, courtesy of the Werner and Jolene Engel Family.

America's Dairyland is Wisconsin—our license plates tell us as much. Wherever you go in the United States, mention Wisconsin and the usual response is talk about cows and cheese (or the Green Bay Packers). Interstate travelers along I-90/94, or even those who have never set foot in this land of milk and honey, are likely to think of Wisconsin as a handsome Eden.

When it comes to agricultural pursuits, Wisconsin is an especially fine place to sow and reap. Its green hue is due to the 30-plus inches of rainfall here annually. While only the southern third of the state is bona fide corn-belt country, what grows best in this state from north to south are forage crops—alfalfa, clovers, and grasses that are harvested as hay, whether by being ensiled, bagged,

Right: Laura Knoll feeding cows on her parents' farm, Sparta area, circa 1996, photo by Debbie Abraham.



Below: Hoeth family portrait, Hoeth farmstead, Goose Island, 1903, courtesy of the Don and LaVonne (Hoeth) Zietlow Family.





Charles Hass Dairy wagon in Oktoberfest parade, 2004, photo by Laurie Reed.

or baled. Cows' stomachs can transform these fibrous feeds into one of humankind's most valuable proteins—milk—and this bovine fermentation process makes possible one of Wisconsin's pre-eminent industries. The Northern Europeans, especially the Germans, who settled here in large numbers, had a long association with dairy cattle, and so it was a match made in heaven.

Dairy cows first came to the Americas with Christopher Columbus. Today, six main dairy cow breeds are raised in Wisconsin: Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey, and Milking Shorthorn. From these cows flow 40 percent of the nation's cheese production and 20 percent of its butter. In the 1850s and '60s, John Smith and Chester Hazen developed the first widely marketable state cheeses, and 400,000 pounds of cheese were made in Wisconsin in 1859. Today, state cheese-makers turn out more than 2.1 billion pounds annually. More than three hundred varieties of cheese are made in Wisconsin, and it takes about ten pounds of milk to make one pound of cheese. England's and Wisconsin's favorite cheese, cheddar, was first made in the seventeenth century near Cheddar Gorge, Somersetshire, England.

Long before Wisconsin became known as a dairy state, wheat was the main cash crop. Early Yankee settlers brought their wheat-growing techniques with them to Wisconsin, supplying one-sixth of the wheat grown in the United States from 1840 to 1880. The chinch bug that hit the Baraboo area between 1858 and 1860 reduced farmers' wheat yields, and, along with depleted soil



Top: Draft horse competition, Interstate Fair, 1980s, photo by Debbie Abraham.



Right: Filling up tractor, Vernon County Kwik Trip store, 2004, photo by Jim Solberg.



Horse, Amish buggies, and farm, Vernon County, 2004, photo by Professor Roger Grant.

and low prices, caused a change of course in Wisconsin's farming concentration. Dairying became the predominant agricultural enterprise south of where the forest took over (roughly, south of Highway 8 in the northern third of the state). As late as 1950, Wisconsin counted nearly 150,000 commercial dairy farms. Chickens, hogs, a few sheep, and beef cattle are also raised in the state, not to mention specialty animals like llamas, emus, and buffalo.

William Dempster Hoard (1836–1918) was instrumental in facilitating the shift from wheat to dairy farming by advocating the use of silos, refrigerated shipping, and government inspection of dairy products. His magazine, *Hoard's Dairyman*, reached tens of thousands of farmers nationwide. He also served as Wisconsin's governor from 1889 to 1891.

Today, Wisconsin's milk output continues to rise due to much more milk being produced per cow, although there are fewer cows and only about 15,000 dairy farms in the state at present. Along many rural roads, the empty barns far outnumber those that are still in business, and of the latter, many have expanded and modernized. The newly built dairies, with their milking parlors and free-stall barns, are far more complex in their operation than those used in the old red barns of the not-too-distant past.



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

Bottom: "Afghan" oat shocks, Vernon County, 2004, photo by Professor Roger Grant.





Farm silhouette at sunset, western Wisconsin, 1980s, photo by Terry Rochester.

Will only a few thousand dairy farms survive in Wisconsin? Some knowledgeable dairy experts say that's inevitable. But think of Wisconsin's wheat fields more than a century ago, and don't bet the farm that things can't change. Consider, for example, the tremendous rise of late in organic agriculture, a field in which Wisconsin plays a leading role, especially with Governor Jim Doyle's "Grow Wisconsin" initiative. The nation's largest organic cooperative, Organic Valley, is based in tiny La Farge in Vernon County.

Might the demand for beholding beautiful natural places make Wisconsin a worldwide green destination for tourists? Whatever the future holds, we can be certain that Wisconsin will forever be proud of its cows and the natural beauty of the land, and we are determined that it will always remain that way.



Annie Jerome, riding competitor, Interstate Fair, July 2002, photo by Peg Jerome, her mother.



**THRESHING
PARTY**



For many generations, farmers have gathered to “thresh,” a process whereby grain is separated from straw. The grain is used for food and the straw is now used for animal feed, although it was once also used to make mattresses, dolls, hats, etc. Father Michael Gorman, rector of La Crosse’s St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral, grew up on his parents’ farm in Richland County. His parents have passed away, but his family and friends still help him farm.

On September 4, 2004, their day began with a meal, followed by afternoon threshing, after everyone had gathered. Charlotte Nesseth, the Cathedral’s liturgical coordinator, joined the group and enjoyed the day,



Threshing photos by Dennis McDonnell; badger photo by Jim Solberg.

You’ve seen this critter someplace before.





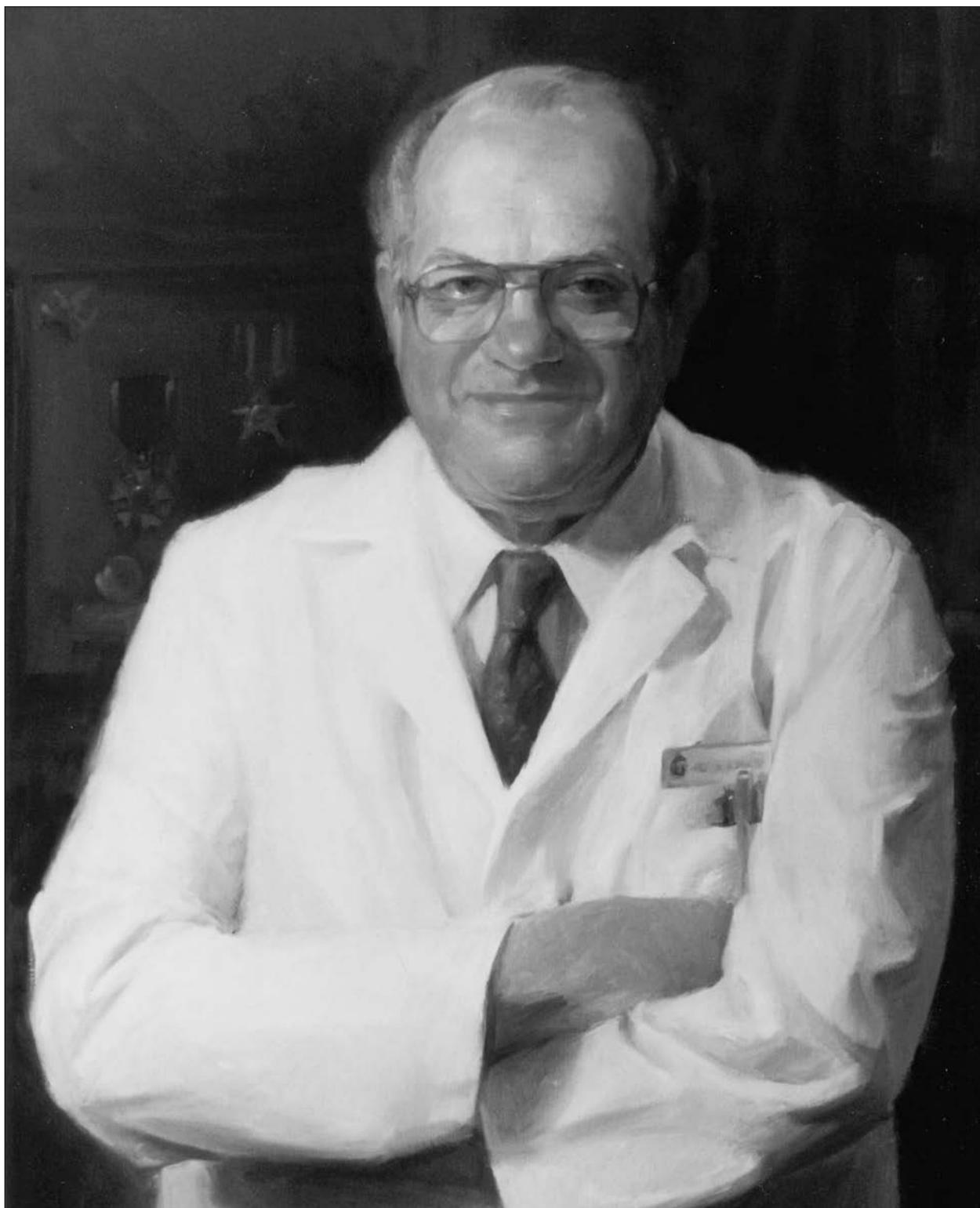
Health, Education, and Philanthropy

Kelly Weber



Physician's tools, Stonefield Village, circa 2000, photo by Paul Abraham.

Wisconsin's first hospitals were established in the early 1800s. Located at Fort Crawford in Prairie du Chien and Fort Howard in Green Bay—both built shortly after the War of 1812—the medicine practiced at them was rudimentary. Even Dr. William Beaumont, world-famous for his human digestion research, spent most of his time treating malaria caused by Fort Crawford's close proximity to the river, and could only conduct experiments during the winter.



Dr. Edwin Overholt, Gundersen-Lutheran, circa 2000, original painting by Peggy Baumgaertner.

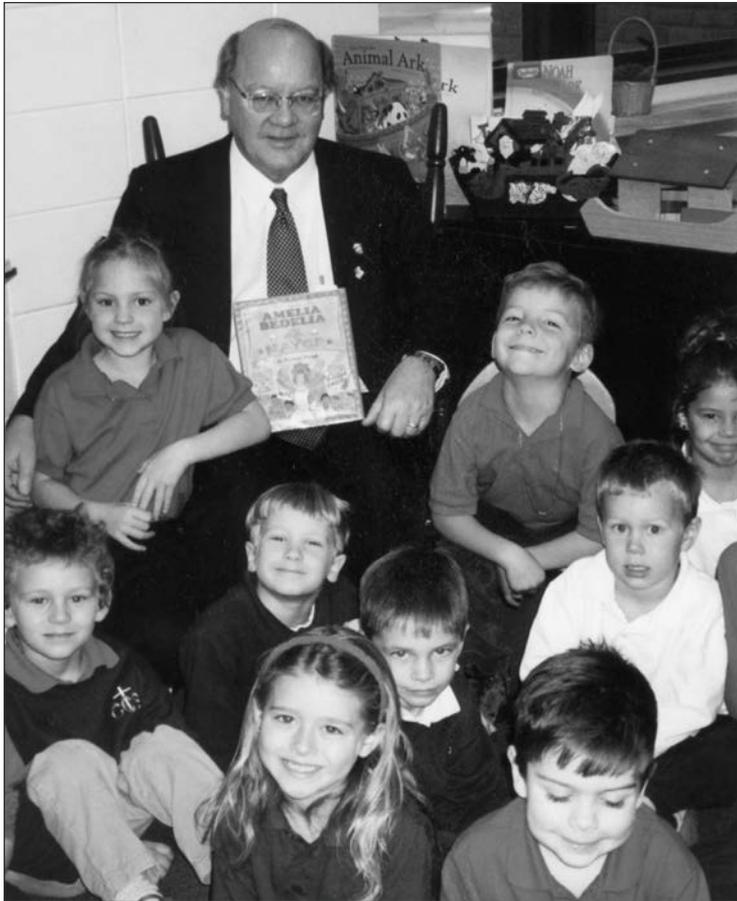


Historic schoolroom, Stonefield Village, circa 2000, photo by Debbie Abraham.

But hospitals flourished in Wisconsin in the late nineteenth century. The state's first non-military hospital, St. John's Infirmary (now Columbia–St. Mary's), opened in Milwaukee in 1848. By 1900, there were fifty general hospitals in the state. The number of patients multiplied. When Madison General Hospital (now Meriter Hospital) opened in 1898, it had nine beds. In 1903, it saw 228 patients. In 1910, it saw 738. The hospital was overflowing and would need to add space eleven times over the next sixty years.

In that period, Wisconsin witnessed revolutionary medical advances. Medical professionals were developing areas of specialization to deal with the emerging complexities of practice. In more densely populated areas, doctors of different specialties often joined together in clinic-based groups to provide a variety of medical services to patients. In the 1920s, Wisconsin had more clinics than any other state in the country. Today, Wisconsin has 120 hospitals employing more than 212,000 healthcare professionals. Together, they see more than 12 million patients yearly.

Unlike medicine, education was slow to develop here. Although the first educational efforts by European settlers can be traced back to missionaries who accompanied fur traders in the mid-1600s, their primitive and often nomadic lifestyle created little need for formal education. In 1816, the two military forts were still the only places in the territory with organized schools. And it was



Mayor John Medinger with Cathedral School kindergarten students, circa 2001, courtesy of the John and Dee Medinger Family.



The Ranch, a vocational training organization for disabled youth, December 19, 1968, photo by Robert L. Miller for the Wisconsin Historical Society (ID#11446).



Visiting African professor Yaw Bredwa-Mensah, 2002, photo by Ronald S. Rochon, Ph.D.

not until 1849, against strong opposition, that Wisconsin's first free public school system began in Kenosha.

Institutions of higher learning also started slowly here, despite the basis for a system of higher education having been established in 1787. "Schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged," wrote the creators of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, which established the territory's governance. Familiar with East Coast universities like Harvard, which was 150 years old then, these early legislators knew the value of higher learning. However, it was another 63 years before the University of Wisconsin began. UW's first chancellor, John H. Lathrop, earned an annual salary of \$2,000.

But Wisconsin had key national firsts. Margarethe Schurz, wife of German-American legislator and journalist Karl Schurz, opened the country's first kindergarten, in Watertown in 1856. The first vocational, technical, and adult education (VTAE) network began in Wisconsin in 1911, and its apprenticeship programs served as a model for federal legislation.

Today, Wisconsin has nearly 3,200 public and private elementary and secondary schools that stand as an example of educational excellence. The performance of the state's more than one million



Top: Father Roger Scheckel visiting a school for blind children partially sponsored by the La Crosse Diocese, Calcutta, India, 2004, courtesy of Father Scheckel.



Right: Gathering of western Wisconsin religious, educational, and philanthropic leaders, circa 2003, courtesy of the Drs. Robert and Carole Edland Family.



Frank Lloyd Wright's home and architectural school, Taliesin East, Spring Green, photo by Carl Liebig.

students has consistently ranked it among the smartest states in America. And 160,000-plus students are enrolled at the University of Wisconsin's 26 campus locations, along with numerous others at the state's many private universities and technical colleges.

The ultimate success of Wisconsin's health and educational systems is due, in large part, to the compassionate nature of its people. When Paul Samuel Reinsch, UW alumnus and former U.S. minister to China, was asked to describe the Wisconsin spirit in the 1920s, he spoke of its generosity and nurturing. "The broadening view of human relationships, the idea of the State as a big family, the devotion of the best talent therein to work for the general good, the testing of all rights by their just subservience to human welfare, these aims [are] so clearly expressed in the Wisconsin Idea," he said.

In fact, the philanthropy of Wisconsin is incredible. More than 30 percent of Wisconsin's families have reported charitable contributions on their tax returns over the past 10 years, and household giving increased by more than 60 percent from 1997 to 2002. Meanwhile, corporate donations accounted for more than 17 percent of the state's total charitable giving, well above the national average of 4.3 percent. Finally, this state contains more community foundations than any other American state. It is driven by the true spirit of Wisconsin.



*Homeless
Thomas Matty
and a friend,
western Wisconsin,
2004, photo by
David J. Marcou.*



Firsts and Bests

Nelda Liebig

We point with pride to pioneers who created firsts and bests in Wisconsin.

France's Louis XIV appointed Father Jacques Marquette to adventure with Louis Joliet; they discovered the Upper Mississippi River at present-day Prairie du Chien.

Jean Nicolet was probably the first European to view Lake Michigan. Thinking he'd reached China, at Green Bay, he stepped out of his canoe firing pistols, in Chinese damask robe.

Fort Clark, first fort on the Mississippi, was close to present-day Prairie du Chien and near today's historic Villa Louis, fur trader Hercules Dousman's mansion (now museum).

A group of fledgling legislators founded territorial Wisconsin's government in 1836, in Belmont, passing forty-two laws and establishing a judiciary. They established Madison as permanent capital, too.

In 1840, the settlement of Stanley's Tavern got a post office and permanent name. French trader Robert Grignon, desiring to befriend the Menominee, had the hamlet named for their chief, Oshkosh.

Statue of Jean Nicolet, the first European to view Lake Michigan and Green Bay, Red Banks, photo by Carl Liebig.





Left: U.S. flag, photo by Brett Vermeul.



Below: Little schoolhouse where the Republican Party was born, Ripon, photo by Carl Liebig.





Little Red Schoolhouse, where children learned reading, writing, and arithmetic until the 1960s, Wausau, photo by Carl Liebig.

On March 25, 1854, about fifty men met in a Ripon schoolhouse. Said one, “We went into the little meeting Whigs, Free Soilers, and Democrats. We came out Republicans, and we were the first Republicans in the Union.”

In 1856, German immigrants Margarethe Moyer (Mayer) Schurz and husband Karl Schurz started the nation’s first kindergarten, at Watertown.

In 1868, Christopher Latham Sholes of Kenosha and Milwaukee patented a time-saving device that changed writing forever—the typewriter.

A dubious claim to fame, Peshtigo’s fire was the world’s largest such loss of humans (more than a thousand), animals, property, and forests. In nearby Harmony, tombstones say, “Perished Oct 8, 1871.” This holocaust happened the same day as the more famous but far less destructive Great Chicago Fire.

At Stony Hill School in tiny Waubeka, teacher Bernard J. Cigrand and his students held the first recognized “Flag Birth Day” on June 14, 1885. President Wilson proclaimed it a national observance on June 14, 1916.

In Oconto, north of Green Bay, stands a pretty frame building—the first church structure ever built for Christian Science services. Dedicated in 1887, it preceded the Mother Church of Boston by seven years.



Tombstone with the simple, omnipresent Peshtigo Fire date, Harmony, photo by Carl Liebig.





SS Meteor, the last remaining whaleback ship, built in 1896 by Captain Alexander McDougall, photo by Carl Liebig.

The whaleback ship *SS Meteor*, formerly the *Frank D. Rockefeller*, designed and built in 1896 by Alexander McDougall, is the last remaining whaleback. It's permanently berthed near Superior.

In 1899 salesmen John H. Nicholson and Samuel E. Hill met in Beaver Dam to help Christian travelers, forming the Gideons. Their volunteers still distribute scripture worldwide.

The state's oldest standing house is the Tank Cottage in Green Bay. Built in 1776 by Joseph Roi, a fur trader and one of Green Bay's first settlers, it was obtained in 1850 by Niels Tank, a rich Norwegian missionary. In 1908 the Tank Cottage was moved from along the Fox River to Tank Park, Mrs. Tank's gift to the city in memory of her husband. It now stands in Heritage Hill State Park.

Pendarvis House is a restored building in Mineral Point, the site of Wisconsin's first lead and zinc mine. Miners swarmed the hills, living in "badger holes," thus Wisconsin's nickname, the Badger State. In 1971, Mineral Point became the state's first city to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In Ephraim, a 40 by 24-foot chapel was slowly winched up the hill from the lakeshore by means of horse and turntable. It is incorporated in the present-day Moravian church overlooking the village and bay.

It's often assumed that Harry Houdini, the great escape artist, was Appleton-born, a myth he perpetuated. He was actually born in Hungary; the family emigrated to Appleton when he was a toddler. He died of peritonitis from a ruptured appendix—not movie myth's underwater escape.



Top: Tank cottage, the oldest standing house in Wisconsin, built in 1776, Green Bay, photo by Carl Liebig.

Left: First Christian Science church built anywhere (1887), Oconto, photo by Carl Liebig.



Pendarvis House, a restored building in Mineral Point, the first Wisconsin city listed on the National Register of Historic Places, site of the state's first lead and zinc mine, where hillside shelters were called "badger holes," hence Wisconsin's nickname, photo by Carl Liebig.

Baraboo was site of the first Ringling Bros. show, in 1884. Baraboo's Circus World Museum long staged the largest history-based event in North America, the Milwaukee Circus Parade, now held in Baraboo.

One- and two-room schools operated here until the 1960s. The Little Red School House in Wausau is one such historic structure where dedicated teachers instructed rural children.

The thirty-seven-room Pabst Mansion is a Milwaukee jewel. Former sea captain Frederick Pabst, a beer baron, real estate developer, philanthropist, and arts patron, displayed pride in his German heritage. The 1890s were known as "The Pabst Decade" in Milwaukee.

A stand of old-growth white pine in Nicolet National Forest was a gift from Lucey Rumsey Holt, lumber baron W.A. Holt's wife. In the 1920s, she insisted that seventeen acres remain natural so



This building housed the country's first kindergarten, begun by immigrants Margarethe Moyer Schurz and her husband, Karl, Watertown, photo by Carl Liebig.

Christopher Latham Sholes of Kenosha and Milwaukee patented his invention, the typewriter, in 1868, and his daughter, Lillian, was the first typist, drawing courtesy of the Wisconsin Historical Society (ID#3196).





Roche-A-Cri State Park's most conspicuous and beautiful rock formation provides a seat for the Liebigs' daughter, Harriet (R), and friend, Adams County, photo by Carl Liebig.

future generations could see woods as they were before lumbering. A heron rookery now rests atop the pines.

Perhaps the most beautiful state rock is Roche-A-Cri in Adams County. And a tourist magnet is the Dells of the Wisconsin River. Boat tours move through narrow canyons, providing views of magnificent formations created by water and erosion.

Washington Island draws the most seekers of brilliant sunsets—the island is off the tip of Door County, and the sun sets over Green Bay.



The Pabst Mansion, built by Captain Frederick Pabst, a real-world renaissance man, Milwaukee, photo by Carl Liebig.



Sunsets off Washington Island in Door County draw tourists to the shores of Lake Michigan, photo by Carl Liebig.



Fests, Fairs, and Fun

Terry Rochester



*Governor Tony Earl
and the Circus Train,
July 1985, photo by
Dal Bayles.*

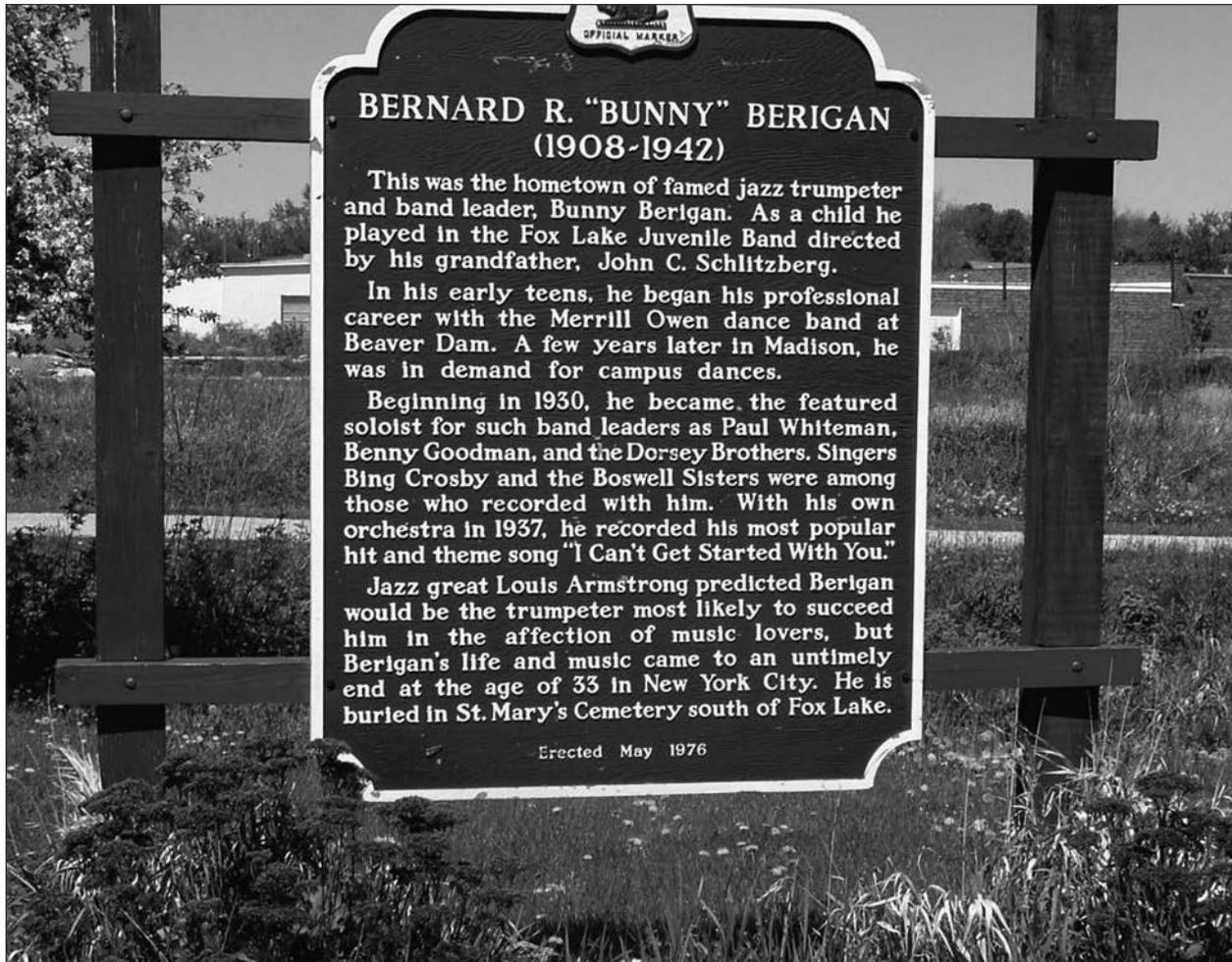
If you try really hard in Wisconsin, especially from spring through fall, you can find a fest or fair to enjoy not only every weekend, but every DAY! Besides music fests and art fairs, we have fests celebrating cranberries, corn, apples, cherries, sunfish and catfish, sawdust, and yes (of course in Wisconsin), cheese and beer. And Milwaukee celebrates, well—just that it is Summer!

There are jazz fests, such as the Capital City Jazz Fest, in Madison in late April; La Crosse's Great River Jazz Fest held in August; and the Kettle-Moraine Jazz Fest, in West Bend (near Milwaukee) in September.

Right: Onalaska Anglers, a social club, Sunfish Days, Onalaska, circa 2000, courtesy of the Terry and Cheryl Smith Family.



Ella Fitzgerald at the Milwaukee Jazz Fest, late 1970s, photo by Terry Rochester.



Bernard R. "Bunny" Berigan marker, a jazz legend remembered, near Fox Lake, photo by Sam McKay.

A bluegrass/gospel fest is held in Viroqua in July. Rock and country fests and several polka bashes are also held in the state throughout the summer.

There are folk fests, like the Great River Folk Fest in La Crosse—held the last weekend in August. Blues fests are held in Superior and Prairie du Chien (the Prairie Dog Blues Fest in July).

Summer outdoor art fairs are also prevalent in Wisconsin, including Milwaukee's Lakefront Festival of Arts in June; Madison's Art Fair off the Square in July; and La Crosse's Art Fair on the Green on the UW-La Crosse campus in July.

The largest music festival in the state is Summerfest in Milwaukee at the lakefront festgrounds, during a two-week period around July 4th.

Most of the other fests and fairs are seasonal. There are the Badger State Winter Games and the Snowflake Ski Club's International Ski Jump in February near Westby, where many Olympic skiers from around the world have jumped. And there is the Ghost Ships Festival in Milwaukee in February and the Flake Out Festival in Wisconsin Dells in January. Polar bear plunges also are held in various



Above: *The Oktoberfest Singers, 2004, photo by tamara Horstman-Riphahn.*

Below left: *Giant Festival Foods shopping cart in Oktoberfest parade, 2004, photo by Laurie Reed.*

Below right: *Roberta and Mark Stevens, courtesy of the Stevens Family.*





Kate Jerome with/in group photo display at the Wisconsin State Fair, circa 1997, photo by Peg Jerome.

parts of the state. The only other winter events are hard-core sports, the rec-fests, and camper, fishing, and building shows in bigger cities.

Outdoor fests and fairs begin in earnest in May, when one can be reasonably sure frost is not prevalent. One of the first events in spring is the Norwegian celebration of Syttende Mai, the seventeenth of May, with the usual great baked goods and handiwork. One of the largest celebrations is in Westby, where it seems that most people love to act Norwegian.

On the last weekend in May, Onalaska celebrates Sunfish Days. Many June Dairy Days celebrations occur in early June, with one of the largest in West Salem. Two large air fests draw big crowds: the International Experimental Fly-In Air Show in July in Oshkosh and the Deke Slayton Air Fest in La Crosse in June.

Then come many festivals that celebrate harvests of land and water—the State Fair in West Allis in August tops the list, plus River Fest in La Crosse around the 4th of July; Catfish Days in Trempealeau in July; the La Crosse Interstate Fair in July; the Northern Wisconsin State Fair in Chippewa Falls in July; and many county fairs throughout the state.

Other festivals include Kornfest in Holmen in mid-August; Apple Affair in Galesville in October; Sawdust Days in Altoona every summer; Strawberry Festival in Cedarburg in June; Cranberry Festival in Warrens in September; cherry blossom festivals in spring and harvest festivals in fall in Door County.

Fall brings the largest Oktoberfest outside Germany to La Crosse during a week and two weekends every early October.



CCC men play pool at Camp Nelson Dewey, now Wyalusing State Park, 1930s, courtesy of Paul and Lilly Kosir.



*Gunfighter plane
at the Oshkosh
Experimental Fly-In,
circa 1999, photo by
Matthew A. Marcou.*

*Rising
balloons,
Coulee
Region,
photo by
Debbie
Abraham.*



Many spectacular fireworks displays thrill observers on the Fourth of July, including those on Lake Shore during Summerfest in Milwaukee and in many other state towns and cities.

One of the longest traditions is the firing of pyrotechnics from Grandad Bluff in La Crosse at midnight every New Year's Eve. This endeavor has endured heavy winds, snow so heavy the fireworks could hardly be seen, and weather so frigid the fireworks hardly fired. But most years, it is a spectacular way to usher in the New Year for another annual round of fests, fairs, and fun in Wisconsin!



*Fireworks,
photo by Paul
Abraham. Trio
that can boost
a fair, photo by
Dave Larsen.*



Seasons and Metaphors of Life

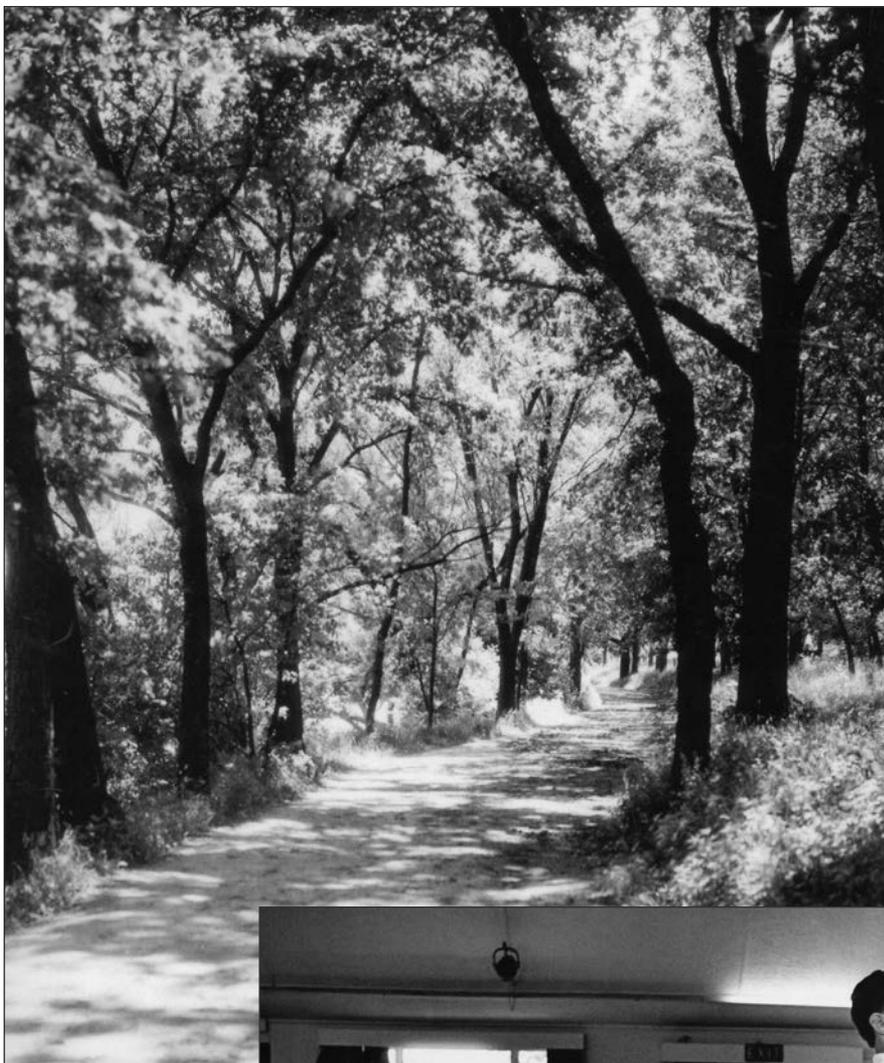
Essay by Karen K. List with Assistance on Captions from Anna Motivans.

A day in spring might be the first time you see a lady slipper. Or at least it was for me. The winter's cold had gone so deep, I'd lost hope of seeing spring again, even by May. I was walking on a Door County trail with my yellow slicker pulled tight, trying to keep the raindrops from my eyes. And there it was beside me, fit only for a fairy's foot, a delicate yellow lady slipper, bobbing at the end of a welcoming green stalk. I'd never seen one before. But there it was—proof that life was awakening, that even a thing as ethereal as this precious flower could bloom again. You wait for the day when the sun has warmed earth enough to lie flat on it—just as you would if you were making a snow angel in winter. And you lie stretched and still, letting the warmth from the ground radiate into your bones. A song drifts through your mind—“If I ruled the world, every day would be the first day of spring; every heart would have a new song to sing.” You watch every living thing take its first deep breath, to be followed by blossoming, cavorting, singing those new songs and looking ahead to what life has in store. That could be anything, and everything.

Those fresh spring days are followed soon by summer's fullness. Or at least they were for me. I was sitting on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi near La Crosse; I could have sat there forever, watching the river roll by. The great thing about it is that the river moves, while you lie still and



Yellow lady slipper, a nationally protected orchid species, Door County, photo by Sue Knopf.



Howard M. Temin Lakeshore Path, UW-Madison, 1930, photo by Melvin E. Diemer for the Wisconsin Historical Society (ID #24222).



Young dancers, universal spirit, photo by Jon Tarrant, British AWPA member.



The Wisconsin Singers, 2004, photo by Gary Coorough.

drink in the moment. You can afford the time now; summer is endless. “Summertime, and the livin’ is easy.” The breeze has warmth and heft enough to rock the blowsy pink peonies on their bushes and make the shade trees sway. Boats and clouds sail by. But you have the luxury to stay still, contemplate, put down roots, start your life’s work with purpose and savor the time now and ahead when spring dreams come true. Even the Fourth of July and fireworks in Milwaukee don’t rock your boat or shake your faith. Summer is endless, remember? Forever young.

Then comes fall and you wonder—how? Or at least I did. A drive down country roads shows green trees turning red, orange, yellow. Just a few leaves at first, and they, along with that first chill, always bring a pang of grief, since you know others will follow. Suddenly the radio is playing “September Song” and you hear it—“When the autumn weather turns the leaves to flame, one hasn’t got time for the waiting game.” You can scan to another station, but you can’t stop the geese gathering on Horicon Marsh. You can’t stop them from flying south again either. So when you hear their mournful honking and see the squirrels bustling through the yard, storing nuts against the cold, when you touch the frost on the pumpkins and see the corn in shocks, you know to hurry. You read in the newspaper



Left: Mike Carrell, traditional New Orleans jazz musician, photo by Sam McKay.

Below: UW-Madison tubas, most popular at home football games' "Fifth Quarter," photo by Gary Coorough.





Windmill, farm, sunset, Vernon County, 2004, photo by Professor Roger Grant.

that a woman just had twins at fifty-six, that a writer published her first novel at seventy, that eighty- and even ninety-year-olds are pumping iron and wearing high fashion. It must be true; you read it in the newspaper. So you force yourself to focus, step up the pace, store up accomplishments, large



Right: Stream and trees after heavy snowfall, Rhinelander area, photo by Gary Van Domelen.



Below: Rotary Christmas lights—a charitable fund-raising activity, La Crosse, circa 2003, photo by Dave Larsen.





Hixon House, Christmas 2003, La Crosse, photo by Professor Roger Grant for the La Crosse County Historical Society.

and small, like a squirrel storing nuts against the winter, because all too soon winter is here. But something tells you, Life is still Good.

I always knew when I took my winter walks by Madison's Lake Mendota that the ice went deep—to the other side of the world. I knew because I could feel it in those same bones warmed not long ago by the spring sun. Not much sunshine now. Only bitter cold and bodies wrapped up against it, so you forget what people look like. All living things now go to ground, taking their physical beings with them. Those who have wits about them hibernate. The rest pull their chairs closer to the woodstove and try to catch warmth. But there is dryness, brittleness, to this kind of heat. Still, you



Background: Easter children Sophia and Vince Bodoh, photo by Michelle Grenisen.

Top left: Father Roger Scheckel and his mother, Evelyn, courtesy of Father Scheckel.

Top right: Laurie's mother, Jeanne Reed, circa 2000, photo by Laurie Reed.





Sunflower, photo by Bob Mulock.

settle in and draw comfort, perhaps from where you're going, but more so from where you've been. "And in the gray of the morning," the Moody Blues sing, "my mind becomes confused between the dead and the sleeping and the road that we must choose." On those gray mornings, it's easy to forget whether someone is dead or sleeping or if it matters.

Then comes an instant when the ice is so thick, the cold so piercing, your reverie so deep, you're not even sure about you. Are you dead? Or sleeping? And while you're trying to decide, somewhere along a path in Door County, a yellow lady's slipper, fit only for a fairy's foot, appears at the end of a welcoming green stalk. And the world begins again, as it does for all who believe . . .



Oshkosh Experimental Fly-In smiley face, circa 1999, photo by Matthew A. Marcou.



UW-Madison Ph.D./UM-Amherst professor and writer Karen List, courtesy of Professor List.

Building Bridges of Destiny

Yvonne Klinkenberg

*An old man and his grandson sat down one day
after a walk, to talk,*

*And what they spoke was worthy of respect in how
they taught and sought.*

BOY: Grandfather, did you see the Capitol
Building in Madison, standing straight
and tall?

MAN: Grandson, did you stand on Grandad's
Bluff, listening to an eagle call?

BOY: Look at the Blue Bridges stretching
across the sky.

MAN: Or the geese that fly in a V-formation on
high.

BOY: Look at all the stores, standing side-by-
side.

MAN: And the prairie grass growing ever so
wide.

BOY: Did you see the Milwaukee Zoo, filled
with animals like the badger and bear?

MAN: Did you learn that you shouldn't surprise
a beaver chomping on a poplar rare?

BOY: On interstate highways, we can ride
wherever we want to go.

MAN: But on horseback, you can go fast or take
it slow.

BOY: There's water in faucets to drink
wherever we may be.

MAN: Yes, but the Mississippi once ran clear and
cold for you and me.

BOY: Now you don't have to hunt and plant
berries that are so sweet.

MAN: Yes, but we know what we need, and can
follow the signs along trails to read.

BOY: Wouldn't you rather go to a store to buy?

MAN: No, we were born to Nature; we know
how to live and die.

BOY: But look at the big hospital that could
take care of us so.

MAN: But we know plants and herbs our
women learned to grow.

BOY: We have a lot of fishing gear and boats to
save us from care.

MAN: But you've never learned the patience to
catch a fish with hands so bare.

BOY: But we have nets and coolers to keep the
fish fresh.

MAN: But can you start a fire to cook them for
a leafy dish?

Yes, the boy did listen as the old man talked.

Slowly, they stood up to take another walk.

MAN: Someday, Grandson, you will read all
about the life I had; today I'm just an
old man, half-sad. I was a Warrior Indian
once, but today I am your Grandad.

BOY: But Grandad, without your wisdom,
where would I be?

MAN: Grandson, go to what you call a Library.
About us in Wisconsin my life and yours
you will see. Use the pictures of the mind
as if you were talking to me, of my life
as a man and a place I once roamed free.
Use your ears, eyes, and mind. Look at
the pictures and you will always find,
all your proud ancestors of yesterday
and today. And know the growth of
Wisconsin, the land, its people, and the
fray, so when your grandchildren ask you
what Wisconsin was like when... Help
them, too, to understand. Red, yellow,
black, and white—we all have to find the
way that's right.

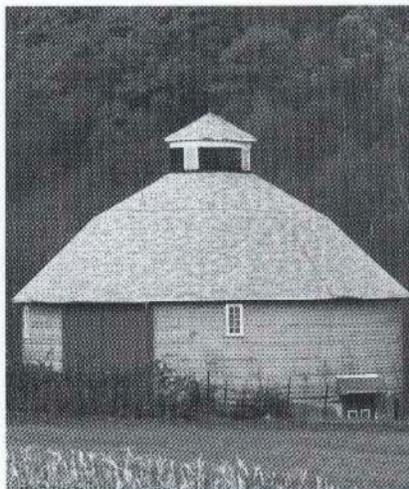
BOY: Thank you, Grandfather, I will. With our
talks, I could never be still.

MAN: Grandson, remember the tone of my
voice as much as the contents of my
choice. Life needs bridges, and with you
going ahead, the world will never wholly
rid itself of... me and you... and our
destiny of being read.

"The Dells, Apostle Islands, Door County, two Great Lakes, Wisconsin River Valley, and Driftless Area are well-known wonders Wisconsinites try hard to preserve, but the writers and photographers in *Spirit of Wisconsin* remind us that this state is also America's Dairyland, that the Republican and Progressive Parties started here, that Green Bay and Milwaukee are home to world champions and Baraboo, to the Ringling Brothers Circus. Born or bred here were luminaries Aldo Leopold, Gaylord Nelson, Tommy Thompson, Edward Steichen, Georgia O'Keeffe, Frank Lloyd Wright, Liberace, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Eric Heiden, and Spencer Tracy, plus many of the units of the famed Civil War Iron Brigade, victims and survivors of the Peshtigo Fire, notable Native Americans, Hmong refugees, and other immigrants from around the world. 'On Wisconsin,' the UW song, and 'Forward,' the state motto, epitomize the spirit these diverse groups bring to the Badger State."

—RICHARD BOUDREAU

Professor Emeritus, UW-La Crosse, Editor of Two Volumes of The Literary Heritage of Wisconsin



S*pirit of Wisconsin* is the tenth book by the recently renamed American Writers and Photographers Alliance (AWPA), which David J. Marcou has directed for twelve years. The group's sixth book, *Spirit of America*, won the top book award in 2002 from the September 12th Initiative. Included among creative contributors in this series have been La Crosse Mayors John Medinger and Patrick Zielke; Fr. Bernard McGarty; photographic greats Henri Cartier-Bresson, Bert Hardy, Margaret Salisbury, Jon Tarrant; and three-time Pulitzer Prize nominee Rick Wood. New contributors include Governor James Doyle; Green Bay Packers photographer Vernon Biever; *Sports Illustrated's* John Biever; La Crosse's John Zoerb; Madison's Zane Williams; and Professors John Sharpless (UW-Madison) and Karen List (UM-Amherst). This book is a history of the Badger State in words and pictures, without footnotes, but it could not have been accomplished without its sources.



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