

# Le Journal d'Allouez

## Shantytown Footprints

Vol. VIII Issue II Official Newsletter of The Historic Allouez Society, Est. 2007 Summer/Fall 2015

The following article appeared in the August 29, 1933 issue of the Green Bay Press-Gazette

### THE TOWN OF ALLOUEZ

SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF A REMARKABLE COMMUNITY

By Bert Claflin

It is human nature to seek the pot of gold at the foot of the rainbow, just as it is to deprecate our own worth and see out neighbor's lands as far more valuable than our own. A striking example of those peculiarities is the indifference shown by the residents of the Town of Allouez when it comes to laying claim to real distinction, multiple things of interest and real values.

A bit of investigation reveals the fact that the Town of Allouez is remarkable in many ways. Let us consider some of the outstanding features, perhaps I should say, possessions, of this remarkable community. It has a millionaire, whose home is a showplace of the middle west. It has been said of the Frank Murphy estate that no finer exists this side of Detroit. In the town of Allouez, which extends from the Odd Fellows Home on the north to the city limits of De Pere on the south, and which is approximately two miles in width, there is more non-assessable property than in any other region in the state of equal size; in fact, it has more than has the entire county of Brown outside of its own boundaries.



The Odd Fellow's Home

The Town of Allouez has more doctors than any like area in the state; and it has more lawyers - - - not that they are needed to keep peace and see that justice is meted out within the confines of the town - - - they reside there from choice. In fact, there are more lawyers and doctors in Allouez by far than were in the entire City of Green Bay when it boasted a population of 20,000 people.



The 1st Allouez School

#### Has Two Schools

It has District School and a Catholic School, both well known for the ability of their faculties; it supports a fine public golf course which is visited by people from all over the country chiefly because of its being located



Town & Country Golf Club



Polo Game



Hocker Brick Yard

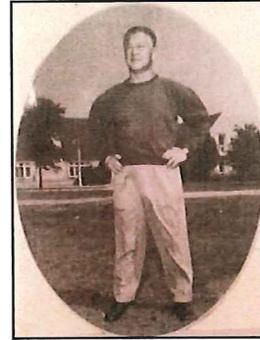
right on highway 41, one of the most extensively traveled thoroughfares in the state. It has a polo ground, the only one so far from the big metropolitan centers; it has one of the finest brick yards in the state, and a riding school of the most approved kind. It sports one of the best baseball teams in the state, and a most unusual thing - - among the residents is the greatest football coach in the United States, and the Bishop lives in Allouez, too.



Unknown Riders



Unknown Ball Player

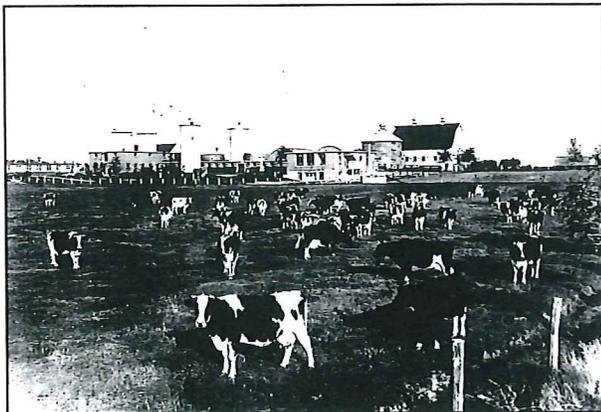


Curly Lambeau

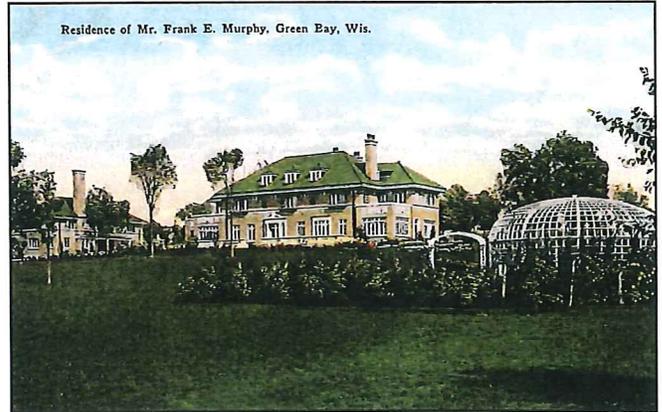


Chancery - The Bishop's House

The finest Guernsey and Holstein Friesian cattle make their home in the confines of the Town of Allouez. They have been awarded the highest honors for pure-bred cattle in the state; on the Murphy estate are also some of the very best poultry to be found anywhere in the whole country. As high as two hundred dollars was paid for a single pair of pigeons that grace this grand estate; profusely blooming flower tracts are evident in many spots of the town; and the gardens, because of the peculiarly productive soil, are pleasure to look at. They are unsurpassed anywhere in the entire country.



Reformatory Farm Yard



The Murphy Estate

Railroads run full length and across this remarkable town, yet they are almost unnoticeable to the casual onlooker; there are less roadhouses in Allouez than in any other like area in the state; yet, a short time ago within its midst existed “one of the blindest pigs” in the whole state, as a resident facetiously put it, not that he was proud of it, but he was enthusiastic. He could even boast of a “blind pig”. \*

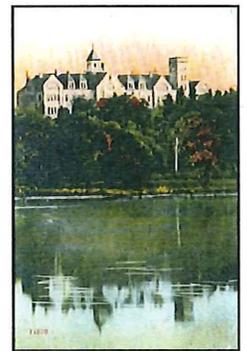


The McCormick Home

### More Real, Live People

This public spirited resident went on to say, “Talk about remarkable possessions of a town, Why, we’ve got more old people in Allouez than live in the entire country.” He referred to the McCormick Home. He went on to say, “And we’ve got more real, live people here than they’ve got in New York City; and for that matter, more dead ones, too,” referring to the fact that two cemeteries exist in Allouez.

“Oh yes,” he continued, “did you know that we’ve got more orphans in Allouez than in any whole county of Wisconsin?” This time he referred to the St. Joseph Orphan Asylum. “We can’t leave them out, you know. They’ve got to live, too, and speaking of other remarkable possessions, there are more criminals in Allouez than in the whole state outside of Waupun,” meaning of course the “residents” of the Wisconsin State Reformatory.



St. Joseph Orphanage



Wisconsin State Reformatory

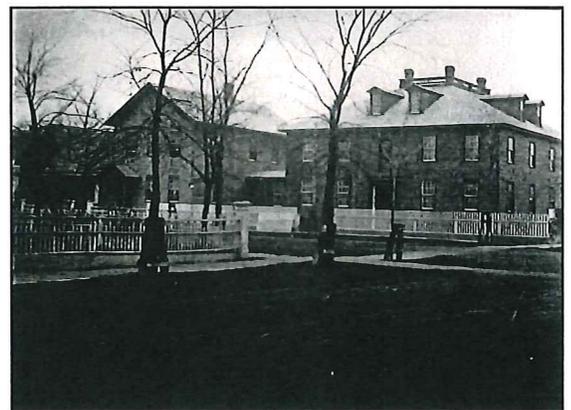
“And here’s something else I’ve got to tell you about. There are over twenty-five widows living in Allouez, and what is just as valuable, but not so well known, there are twenty-two old maids living here, too. And lots of ‘em are good prospects.”

At this point a listener spoke up, “And don’t forget,” he said, “that we’ve got one of the greatest horsemen in Wisconsin living in Allouez. Have you seen that stepper he’s got?” We surmise that he referred to Jack Miller. Everybody knows Jack.

In speaking of the remarkable town of Allouez we must not overlook one of its best known residents who lives on highway 41, just beyond the entrance to Miramar. His name is John Brighton.

### Grandmother Related to King

Mr. Brighton’s recollections of early days, and his keen knowledge of events connected with the region in which his father was a great factor in developing, are remarkable. In speaking of the dim past, when old Fort Smith stood on the banks of Fox River in Allouez, he said, “While there wasn’t much law administration in the days when my father lived here, still the first court house in Wisconsin once stood a bit south of my place. The first Mission House was built in Allouez, too. Where I now live, the home of John Mead once stood. Mead, you know, was burned to death when his home was destroyed in incendiaries.



The Cadle Mission

Mead was an important character in this community. That was in the days when Colonel Dickenson was in charge of Fort Smith. John Mead once gave my father a shotgun that was made in England. It is now in the Neville Museum. You can see it there. That was in 1847. My father was a great hunter, as were most all of those old timers. He shot thousands of wild ducks on the Fox River with that old gun that Mead gave him, and just as many woodcock along the banks, and plenty of deer, too. I've heard my father tell of them being in droves along the banks of the river.

"By the way, did you notice a few nights ago in the column in the Press-Gazette entitled "This Curious World" a picture of a soldier leaving the ranks to chase some kind of a rare butterfly? Yes? Well, that man was my great grandfather. His name was Edwards. My grandmother was related to King Edward of England, They belonged to the House of Edwards.

### **Changed Route of Road**

"Let me go a bit father, too. Mary Todd, wife of Abraham Lincoln, was a member of the Edwards family. So, you see, Lincoln was related to the Royalty of England, which is something most people do not know."

"Oh yes," continued Mr. Brighton, "here's something that may be of interest to you. Did you know how the Manitowoc road came to run in Green Bay? Well, I'll tell you. Dick Brighton, that was the name my father went by, came to this country from Canada when he was only eighteen years old. He went to Sheboygan shortly after and got together some men to cut a trail from Manitowoc to De Pere. That is the Manitowoc Road. When they had reached a point, which is now known as Biebel's Corners. And instead of continuing on to De Pere, they laid out the line which brought the road to Green Bay. That's why there's a peculiar jog in the road out there. The men who went with my father to meet the crew there were well known characters. Among them were Johnny Moran, old man Jordain and Dickenson of De Pere. I have heard my father say many times that he could never understand how they who knew every inch of the country could become confused and run the road to Green Bay, instead of to De Pere as originally planned, but that is just one of the queer things that happened in those early days.

### **Editor's Note:**

\*Although a blind pig was usually a low-class dive where only beer and liquor were offered this particular one was known as a house of ill-repute also.

At the time of this article and decades beyond, Allouez was one of the most desired places to have a home. Many doctors, lawyers and company owners settled here. Sometime drive down St. Francis Blvd., Arrowhead Drive, Webster Avenue, Oakwood Avenue, around Sunset Park and down DuCharme Lane and Miramar Drive and you will see homes that were built during this time by very significant members of the community. It was also not uncommon to have an affluent family living next door to a farm family. Allouez had much to offer those that lived here.

# 1930s Map of Allouez Places of Interest

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ALLOUEZ AVENUE

Odd Fellow's Home



Schroeder's Flowers

Woodlawn Cemetery



Cotton House



St Joseph Orphan Asylum



Bishop's House



Allouez Catholic Cemetery



Allouez School

Cadle Mission

Murphy Estate

McCormick Home

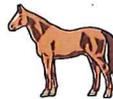


St Matthew School & Church



Kellogg's Woods

Rufus Kellogg Percheron Farm



Reformatory Greenhouse



Wisconsin State Correctional Institute



Reformatory Barns and Fields

COOLIDGE STREET



Town & Country Golf Course

CURRENTLY HOFFMAN ROAD

Hocker's Clay Quarry



Hocker Brickyard



Polo Club & Fields 1931-36  
Minahan Stadium 1937-2009

Polo Resto



Hocker House

The Old Dutch



Mander's Log Tavern (Kegler's Club)

Hobo Jungle



Hochgreve Brewery

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## H.A.S. Annual Picnic: Were you there?

If you didn't attend the H.A.S. annual member picnic (which was free to you and a guest) here's what you missed: Rita Houston and President Dave Sielski's duet about the Webster Avenue trolley, board member Jane Temp and member Jim Charneski greasing the water slides with key-lime Jell-O, Treasurer Betty Sielski and board member Matt Kopperud's efforts to start a conga line, and member Jack Brusky's karaoke impression of Michael Bolton -- not to mention the massive stampede to the buffet line that resolved itself without incident.

OK, maybe not quite.

But if you weren't there to know the actual truth, here's what you really did miss at the Aug. 11 social at Green Isle Park:

Tasty grilled burgers, Sunny Hill sweet corn with hot melted butter, summery salads and (old Biebel family recipe) baked beans from Biebel's Catering, owned by our members Barbara and Paul Biebel;

Yummy member-provided desserts,

Unexpected door prizes provided by our President, Dave Sielski;

Our name-that-local-historical-monument game;

Conversation and fellowship provided by everyone there and

A chance to mingle with your fellow Allouez history buffs.

Although not quite a stampede to the buffet bar, between 35 and 40 attendees between the ages of 16 and 88 took advantage of the opportunity to visit with each other and talk about "what used to be" in our little village.

Jealous yet? Don't worry, we'll have another picnic next year, and you're invited.

Thank you, Paul, Barbara, Dave and all of the members and guests who came early to set up or stayed late to tidy up.

Anyone interested in volunteering at future H.A.S. events may email us at

[HistoricAllouezSociety@gmail.com](mailto:HistoricAllouezSociety@gmail.com)



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

October 22, 2015

Historic Allouez Society Annual Meeting

Details to be announced—watch your mail please



**Historic Allouez Society**  
**Board of Directors**

Dave Sielski, President  
Barb Kopperud, Co Vice President  
Holly Dudley, Co Vice President  
Betty Sielski, Treasurer  
Lee Reinsch, Secretary  
Barbara Biebel  
Rita Houston  
Matt Kopperud  
Joe Kraft  
Jane Temp



Jane Temp would like to hear from anyone who is aware of serious illnesses or deaths of members or their family. She will send appropriate sympathy expressions. She can be contacted at 437-2558 or [jtemp7@new.rr.com](mailto:jtemp7@new.rr.com)

**A LITTLE ABOUT H.A.S.:** Historic Allouez Society was founded in Fall 2007. The board meets the fourth Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at The Allouez Village Hall, 1900 Libal St.

Meetings are open to general membership and members are invited to speak during the New Business portion of the meeting. Members are asked to please let a member of the executive committee know in advance of the meeting if they will be attending.

**PLEASE HELP:** Historic Allouez Society is always looking for talent to help on our committees. If you are interested in volunteering for any number of duties, please email us at: [historicalallouezsociety@gmail.com](mailto:historicalallouezsociety@gmail.com)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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