
LINDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COMMUNITY BUILDING LINDEN VENUE FOR MANY YEARS

In the spring election of 1955 village of Linden voters passed a referendum to issue bonds in the amount of \$20,000 for construction of a new community building to be used as a village hall and for other community wide uses.

Since then the familiar structure on Main street has been used for high school and grade school basketball; banquets; reunions; wedding receptions; play performances ; fundraising benefits and much more. It is hard today to imagine Linden without it.

But in 1955 not everyone welcomed the new building. The building that was intended to bring the village together instead temporarily divided it. The referendum to build passed by a vote of 105-69 in April and the dissent continued pitting neighbor against neighbor for months afterward.

In September, 1955 a letter signed by 35 village residents was presented to the village board. It stated, "We, the undersigned tax payers of the Village of Linden, wish to obtain the services of legal talent to determine the legality of the methods used by the village President and Village Board to raise funds and use present village funds to promote building of a so called community building and to investigate previous spending of village funds."



The Linden Community building as it appears in 2019.

COMMUNITY BUILDING, CONTINUED

The investigation appears to have delayed the building project. Linden village clerk at the time, James Perry, was required on December 27, 1955 to write Mr. Tough and reassure him of the viability of the venture. Perry wrote, in part, "I have been authorized by the Village Board here in Linden to straighten this matter out. Yes, the Village does expect you to follow through until the completion of this community building. I certainly hope this straightens the matter out for those concerned."

After the legal entanglements were resolved the grand opening of the new Community building was held on March 2, 1957 with a dance sponsored by the Linden Fire Department. Originally the community building was designed with a stage on the North end but it is believed that was deleted due to expenses and litigation the village incurred with the opposition movement.

Unfortunately resentment lingered in early 1957 and a few people in favor of the building project hung in effigy the opposition leaders Gribble and Faull. Clinton Gribble moved out of town in 1956 while Clyde Faull ran unopposed for Village President in 1961. Also on that 1961 village board were Jack Dorner, Bud Faull and Bob Rickard.

The \$20,000 cost of the community building in 2019 dollars is \$188, 720. In contrast the village hall/fire station adjacent to the community building cost \$650,000 of which \$350,000 was grant money.

The controversy and strife over the construction of the building faded away and the new structure was quickly used for both school and community functions. Linden High School's basketball team was only able to use the gym

floor for two years for practice and home games. Prior to that home games were played at Cobb and sometimes Mineral Point. A *Wisconsin State Journal* sports reporter once referred to Linden's basketball squad as the "homeless team."

The Linden grade school basketball team used the community building for practice and games. The grade school also made good use of the building until it was closed.

The auditorium space on the top floor of Tyrus "Bud" Faull's store was used for basketball practice and other school assembly functions before the community building was constructed. The expense ledger for the Linden school district shows the final payment to Bud Faull for the 1955-56 school year at \$226.00. Starting in February, 1957 the school district paid the village of Linden \$850.00 for an annual rent of the community building.

Going back even further the February 17, 1910 *Linden Conservative* newspaper reported, "The High School basketball boys have formed a club of ten members. They have rented the vacant building west of Roy Lovelace's store, which has a large square room in front with a hardwood floor suitable for practice games of basketball, also a room for club meetings."

In 1981 major renovations were completed on the community building which included a new roof, exterior siding, insulating, furnace repairs and interior painting. The resulting energy efficiency improvements greatly helped pay for the upgrades.

MARCH MADNESS BASKETBALL INCLUDED LINDEN NATIVE AS COACH

Don Gardner grew up in Linden and graduated from high school here in the class of 1933. He served in the Air Force in WW II, graduated from LaCrosse State; received a Masters degree at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He taught and coached at Ridgeway, New Glarus, Brooklyn, Platteville and Ashland. He settled in as coach at Racine Park where he was known and respected as a “mild mannered person and coach.”

At Ridgeway High School, in the old Iowa County league, Don was both basketball and baseball coach and must have enjoyed facing his hometown Linden teams.

His 1955 Platteville basketball team reached the state tournament at a time when all schools were in just one division regardless of enrollment. Don was a math teacher at Platteville as well as coach. In the first game of the 1955 State tournament, Platteville lost a close and hard fought game against Superior Central.

At Racine Park he took several teams to the state tournament from an area of the state that produced several high caliber players and teams. Two other Racine high school's: Horlick and Case were perennial basketball powerhouses and rivals of Gardner's teams.

Don Gardner's first team from Racine Park to go the eight team State Tournament was in 1960. Gardner was voted coach of the year while at Racine Park in the powerful Big Eight conference in 1963 and 1967. Don Gardner was named to the Racine County Sports Hall of Fame and in 1981 was inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

ACQUISITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

LHS member Catherine Hawke Whitford donated a book to the Linden Historical Society, *Love Wisconsin, Stories from the place we call home.*

From the foreward, “The book is part of a larger digital storytelling project called Love Wisconsin, and its full of diverse, first-person stories from all over our state. In these pages, you'll find everything from short, charming anecdotes celebrating Wisconsin pride and Midwest culture to deeper more intimate stories of personal transformation, community involvement and cultural identity.”

Catherine is featured on a two page spread with a color portrait on one page and short profile on the opposite page along with another photo of her. The first paragraph of her profile states, “I am Catherine Hawke Whitford, and I am a full-blooded Cornish woman. I live in Mineral Point, Wisconsin—my second home—after having been born and raised in Linden, six miles away. At one time Linden was the largest Cornish settlement in all of Wisconsin.”

ACQUISITIONS, CONTINUED



The seven paragraph article from the interview on Catherine tells an anecdote of growing up with her dad and the love of her Cornish heritage, which she will gladly share with anyone who walks in the door of the Mineral Point Collections Shop on High Street.



PHOTO ALBUMS OF GILMAN AND PAYNTER

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of three photo albums from Diane Gilman. Her husband Jack passed away recently. Many Linden residents, no doubt, remember Gordon and Martha (Paynter) Gilman and their children: Carlton, Anna May, William, Jack and Richard, long time residents of Linden.

An early photo of Gordon and Martha Gilman. They lived on a farm just southeast of Linden until Gordon passed away in 1963 and Martha moved into Linden.



GILMAN AND PAYNTER FAMILIES, CONTINUED

Martha Gilman's grandmother was Harriet Bowden Rickard, two surnames familiar to Linden and her brother George Paynter married Ruth Hawke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William T. Hawke. Her grandfather Josiah Paynter was one of 21 children and Josiah and his wife had 11 children so keeping track of everyone genealogically requires serious concentration.

One of the album photographs, reprinted here, shows what is believed to be the first gas station in Mineral Point started by Martha Gilman's grandfather, Josiah Paynter.

Josiah was both a miner and carpenter in Mineral Point. The gas station building still exists on private property. The structure was manufactured by Milcor Steel Company of Milwaukee in sections and shipped by rail to Mineral Point. Here it was assembled and put together by the Grange & Paynter Hardware company. Josiah operated the station under the name of Cities Service Oil company, and ran the business until his death in 1934.



AERIAL PHOTO OF 1975 EAGLE PICHER MILL AT LINDEN

Donated by Jim Jewell to the Linden archives is this picture of the zinc processing mill of the Eagle Picher company which operated an incline mine East of Linden and trucked the ore to this mill on the North West edge of Linden. The mine shut down in October, 1975 due to lower zinc prices and increased State of Wisconsin mining regulations. In 1981 the mine was officially closed and the mining equipment and mill were sold at auction. The buyer of the mill had it dismantled and lifted in pieces onto flatbed trailers. It had a new home at a silver mine in New Mexico.



MONETARY DONATIONS RECEIVED - THANK YOU!

William & Lois Ralph \$1,500

Jerry Homes \$50

IN MEMORIAM

Dorothy E. Reddell

Dorothy E. Reddell, age 98 of Dodgeville, passed away on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at Upland Hills Health. Dorothy was born on July 7, 1920 in Linden township to Benjamin and Vina (Avenell) Tredinnick. Dorothy graduated from Linden High School and UW Oshkosh. Dorothy taught school for 29 years at Sheboygan, Oconomowoc and at Iowa-Grant.

Dorothy married Philip T. Reddell of Highland township on November 6, 1948. The couple farmed on Mt. Hope Road until his death on January 10, 1992. Dorothy married Earl Sarver of Prairie du Sac on September 21, 1996. Earl preceded her in death on September 8, 2006. Dorothy was always very interested in Linden history and her amazing recall of historic details was most welcomed and informative.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; her siblings, Letha (Merle) Anderson; Hobart (Mary) Tredinnick; Charles (Dorothy) Tredinnick; William (Frances) Tredinnick; Alvin Tredinnick and an infant sister, Lenyce Tredinnick.

Dorothy is survived by two sons, Gregory of Dodgeville and Robert (Patti) of Janesville. Memorial services were held at the Dodgeville Methodist Church on October 26.

Barbara M. Crapp

Barbara M. Crapp, age 95, of New Glarus, formerly of Linden, passed away on November 25, 2018 in Monroe. Barbara was born on September 9, 1923 in Linden township to John and Gladys (Rule) Harker. She married John C. Crapp of Linden on February 14, 1947. The couple lived in Linden, Mt. Horeb and Lake Mills before settling in New Glarus in 1965. Barbara was a teacher for over twenty years. John preceded her in death on September 6, 1994. Barbara was a lifelong member of the Linden Methodist Church.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a daughter-in-law, Diane Crapp; a granddaughter, Brenda Daino and two sisters, Pauline Harker and Virginia Brown.

Barbara is survived by two sons, Greg Crapp of Lake Delton and Ted Crapp of New Glarus; two grandchildren and three great grandchildren as well as nieces, nephews and friends. Funeral services were held on November 30, 2018 at the Linden Methodist Church with burial in the Linden cemetery.

Dickson, C. Faull

Dickson C. Faull, age 79 of Middleton, passed away December 29, 2018 at St. Mary's hospital in Madison. Dick was born July 12, 1939, in Linden to Whitford and Marguerite (Dickson) Faull.

Dick is survived by special friend, Sharon Dresen of Middleton; daughter, Theresa (Don) Dummer; and son, Rick of Cottage Grove; grandchildren; sister Joette (Arnie) Doye of Dodgeville; and niece, Joelle of Dodgeville; cousins and friends.

Graveside services were held January 4, 2019, at the Linden cemetery.

***** PHOTO AND DOCUMENT DONATIONS ALWAYS APPRECIATED *****

If you have any photos or documents on Linden area history we would love to make a copy for our archives. Photos and documents can be scanned and returned to you if desired. Contact either the President or Vice-President listed below. Membership in the Linden Historical Society is \$10 per year, lifetime membership \$100. Make check payable to Linden Historical Society and send to Treasurer Robin Lindner.

HOW TO CONTACT US

President & Newsletter editor:

Jim Jewell, 2073 Sunny Slope Road, Mineral Point, WI 53565. Phone: (608) 623-2772

Email: minerjim7@gmail.com

Vice-President:

Randy Baker, 2212 Sunny Slope Road, Mineral Point, WI 53565, Phone: (608) 574-4067

Treasurer:

Robin Lindner, 3465 Sinbad Road, Dodgeville, WI 53533

Secretary:

Florence Wasley, 415 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533

Board member:

Lisa Springer, 2776 Wearne Rd., Mineral Point, WI 53565, Phone: (608) 341-8686

LINDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2073 Sunny Slope Road

Mineral Point, WI 53565

