
LINDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LINDEN BUSINESS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE PROGRAM AT ANNUAL MEETING, SATURDAY MAY 18



A view of downtown Linden just over 100 years ago.

A powerpoint presentation showcasing the Linden business community past, present and a discussion of the future of businesses in Linden will be a program sure to interest everyone.

Take a whirlwind tour of the history of the downtown via a powerpoint program from our collection of photos and historical research on Saturday, May 18, at 1:30 pm at the Linden village hall/ fire station. The time period covered will be from 1900 to today.

The golden years of business variety were from 1905-1925. During those two decades Linden had two hotels, a local newspaper, a Rexall pharmacy, two hardware stores, a grocery store, a general merchandise co-operative, two blacksmiths, several car dealers, furniture store and funeral home, mens and women's clothing stores, doctor, dentist, restaurant , jeweler, lumber yard, doctor and dentist, veterinarian, trades people, a movie theatre and even more!

LINDEN, PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE, CONTINUED

In the early 1900's mobility was limited, many people did not own either a car or horse and buggy, for those who did own conveyances travel was difficult due to bad roads. Local businesses in Linden had a chance for success to draw from customers within the village and from area farmers. In the 1920's cars became more commonplace and easier to afford, mining jobs declined and the erosion of the business community accelerated in the 1930's with the great depression.

Even in the best of times owning and operating a business took courage. The turnover rate of businesses was high for a number of reasons. Lack of capital sometimes did not allow a business to stay afloat; for many years linden businesses would extend credit to customers and this posed a problem at times; buying habits and societal changes could also doom a business.

The May 18 program will start at the site of the Vivian furniture store and funeral home where the community building is today and continue up the street to the west and circle back down on the opposite side where the American Legion is now located.

Each site of business in Linden had a story. The funeral home was a 22 by 56 foot , two story frame structure built in 1877 for John Vivian and W. H. Phillips. The lower level was a furniture store and display area for caskets. In the back room bodies were prepared for burial. It was long a tradition

for funerals or visitation to be held either in the home of the deceased or in one of the two churches here.

The upper story of the Vivian building was used by the Masonic lodge for their headquarters. In later years the large open room upstairs was used for other functions such as meetings and performances. The Pollard hotel, Hicks hotel and the Hancock building also had second floors devoted to the use of local organizations and traveling performers. When the Linden school burned in 1912 all four of these second story areas were quickly transformed into classroom space for Linden students until a new school was built.

Fred Oldenburg was the last funeral director in Linden. He came to America with his parents as a young boy from Germany. He voted in every election for over 50 years and held many village offices. He discovered, late in life, that he was not a U.S. citizen and quickly made application for legal citizenship but died shortly before that happened. The bottom line in his obituary read, "Mr. Oldenburg will be missed by many as he was a very kindly and honorable man."

Randy Baker and the editor of this newsletter will be presenting the program and the details are being worked out with archival photos and research. We hope to see you there, tell a friend or neighbor and bring them along!

TOM FAULL RETIRES FROM MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO LINDEN

Tom Faull has been a familiar face around Linden for many years but one place you will not see him after the April 2nd election is on the village board.

Tom is stepping down after serving over 50 years on the village board. Tom's main legacy in his years as village President are the series of matching grants he has helped secure for Linden's infrastructure.

In 1989 Tom worked with his brother Tyrus "Bud" Faull, who was village President at the time, to get a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$470,000 to help with municipal well and water main improvements.

They both canvassed every home in the village to get the necessary information and comments required by the grant. Bud, sadly, passed away before the grant was received. Tom stepped in as village President and has been re-elected to that position over and over.



Tom Faull will be retiring from over 50 years of service on the Linden village board.



Memory etched in stone on the latest CDBG project.

A series of matching grants since then has enabled Linden to improve in a number of areas normally difficult for a small community to accomplish. In 1997 a \$300,000 grant helped build the new fire station and village hall. In 1999 two major grants were used for the wastewater treatment plant, a CDBG grant for \$246,000 and a USDA Rural Development grant for just over one million dollars.

TOM FAULL, CONTINUED

Linden has been Tom's home, with the exception of two years in the Army. He was in the last graduating class of Linden High School in 1959 where he was on the basketball and baseball teams. His parents were Glen "Babe" and Hilda Faull. Tom and his wife, Joan have been married for over 50 years and are the parents of Dr. Tom Faull and Janean Faull.

Tom was a lineman for Wisconsin Power & Light (now Alliant Energy) for 39 years including the crippling 1976 ice storm that knocked out power for days.

While Tom will not be sitting on the village board anymore you might still see his familiar face at the Masonic hall breakfasts, American Legion functions or as a volunteer in the SUN program where he helps prep and deliver meals to senior citizens.

IN MEMORIAM

Charlotte Ann Rule

Charlotte Ann Rule passed away on January 28, 2019 at the age of 62 at her home near Linden. She was the daughter of Charles and Virginia (Whitford) Noble. She was married to Charley Rule on October 22nd, 1983. She was an adoring mother of two children, whose lives hers revolved around.

She was preceded in death by her father, Charles Noble. She is survived by her loving husband, Charley; children, Kyle (Ashley) Rule and Samantha (special friend Jordon) Rule; and grandchildren Carter Rule and Halle Rule. She is also survived by her mother Virginia Noble; brothers, Gregory (Karen) Noble and Mark Noble; sister, Rebecca (James) Godfrey. A celebration of Charlotte's life was held on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at the Congregational United Church of Christ in Mineral Point.

LeRoy "Bud" Jewell

LeRoy "Bud" Jewell, 92, of Dodgeville passed away January 17, 2019 at the Veteran's hospital in Madison. He was born in Dodgeville, son of the late Melvin and Blanche (Evans) Jewell. He graduated from Cobb High School and after graduation enlisted in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He started a television repair business in Prairie du Chien and then moved the business to Edmund. Bud and his wife Verna farmed for several years North of Edmund. Funeral services were held on January 20, 2019 at Gorgen-McGinley funeral home in Dodgeville with burial in the East Side cemetery in Dodgeville with Military Graveside Rites.

IN MEMORIAM, CONTINUED

Phyllis L. Reddell

Phyllis L. Reddell, 78, of Linden passed away on February 26, 2019. Phyllis was born on November 28, 1940 in Linden to William and Merrilda (Dixon) Stacey. Phyllis worked as a Nursing Assistant at the Iowa County farm where she met her future husband Roger Reddell. They married on June 6, 1959 and they lived and raised their family in Linden. Phyllis also cooked at the Linden and Cobb Grade Schools, Iowa-Grant High School and at Bloomfield Manor. She retired from Lands' End where she worked in Mail Processing. She was preceded in death by her husband, Roger; her parents; her stepfather Walston Scott; her brother-in-law, Robert Larsen and a nephew, Ronnie Peat.

Phyllis is survived by three children, Teresa (Rex) Wepking of Highland; Scotty (Pam) Reddell of Dodgeville and Janalyn (Phil) Welsh of Linden; eight grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren; her sister Joy Larsen of Linden; her brother, Joe (Trudy) Scott of Linden; sisters-in-law, Janice Gumz and Gail Reddell as well as many nieces, nephews and friends. Funeral services were held on March 1, burial in the Linden cemetery.

Carol J. Wasley

Carol J. Wasley, 81, formerly of Linden, passed away on January 26, 2019 in Cuba City. She was born to Homer and Evelena (Reger) Wasley. She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Emery Wasley; two sisters, Joyce (Jim) Finley and Betty (Bill) Long; a nephew David Wasley and a great nephew, Andrew Droessler.

Carol is survived by a brother, Clarence "Jim" (Donna) Wasley of Madison; a sister, Jacqueline (James) Heuer of Verona; a sister-in-law, Florence Wasley of Dodgeville; and many special nieces, nephews and friends. Private family services were held with burial in the Linden Cemetery.

Alice "Merfy" (Rule) Jacobson

Known as "Merfy" to everyone in Linden Alice passed away recently. No details are available at this time as to burial. She was a member of the Linden Historical Society.

WEBSITE UPDATED TO INCLUDE OBITUARY LISTING

A total of 1,836 names of obituaries will soon be added to our website as part of our on-going digital records. More information in our next newsletter.

LINDEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS THREATENED STRIKE IN 1938

A popular school superintendent's contract was not renewed by the Linden school board in early May, 1938 for failure to maintain proper discipline. Superintendent A. L. Moore was in his third year at Linden and when students learned of the outcome they called for a walk-out strike at school. The proposed strike, very unusual for the time period, prompted headlines in state newspapers.



The school board received a petition bearing the names of 200 people who protested the non renewal of Moore. However, school board Treasurer, Clyde Faull stated in a Wisconsin State Journal news story, "I don't know how many names are on that petition I have, but lots of them are names of children and persons living outside the school district."

Within the Linden school district the firing of Moore created controversy, so much so that Charles Williams, school board chairman resigned. The third person on the school board was Ed Trudgen.

LHS student activists were ahead of their time with a proposed student strike.

HIGH SCHOOL STRIKE, CONTINUED

The student strike was delayed almost a week because as Freshman Kervin Alton and Sophomore Earl Crapp, stated in another news account that the students wanted to stay eligible to play in the Iowa County league baseball tournament.

The man in the center of this storm, A. L. Moore, emphasized that he would not fight for his job and that the student strike was unwelcome to him.

School board President Charles Williams withdrew his resignation and when the board met again and in a unanimous vote refused to consider the petition to keep Moore on board.

A meeting was then scheduled to have another school board meeting the following night to explain their reasons for dismissing Moore. Unfortunately our Linden archives do not have those meeting minutes.

The board also voted to hire Curtis H. Austin from Highland as new school superintendent for the next school year.

The signed contract from Mr. Austin caused the students to call off their strike. The Wisconsin State Journal reported, "Since a new man has been hired, there's no use in striking, but it's too bad we didn't at least call a protest strike for a couple of days," said Earl Crapp.

The State Journal article ended, "Ed Trudgen, clerk of the school board, expressed satisfaction that the fight had come to a peaceful conclusion. Moore, the ousted teacher, said that he was 'glad that there had been no strike' and that he was not fighting the action of the board."

ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM SATURDAY, MAY 18

Hope to see you on Saturday, May 18, 1:30 PM at the Linden village hall/fire station on Main street in Linden. The business part of the program will start promptly at 1:30 with three board members agreeing to seek another term. Members up for re-election are Florence Wasley, Lisa Springer and Robin Lindner.

The program, as outlined on the front page, will be on the downtown Linden business community past, present and future. Be sure to mark your calendar!

***** 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.

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