



Brown Deer Historical Society, Inc.

NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Meeting

Date:

Thursday, October 23, 2014

Time:

6:30 pm Board of Directors

Where:

Lois & Tom Dolan Community Room
4355 West Bradley Road
Brown Deer, WI

Open To the Public and Society Membership

Brown Deer Historical Society Board of Directors

Officers

Joseph Klucarich President
Rose Klucarich Vice President
Robert Moranski Treasurer
Kathleen Schilz Secretary

Directors-at-Large

Barbara Bechtel Bernice Knurr
Tim Schilz Mary Buckley
LeRoy Knurr Barry Godshaw
Traci Schnell

Submit any newsletter articles or
historical acquisitions to:

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Brown Deer, WI 53223
browndeerhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
414-355-4182

BROWN DEER SCHOOLS- TRANSFORMATION

After several past attempts, in 2012 voters passed a 22 million dollar referendum allowing the school district to make needed changes. Some changes are quite visible as you drive past; such as the Novak Family field house, the landscaping, new signs and entrances to the middle/high school. Other changes are not so visible from the outside, like the wonderful splashes of color in the elementary school, the beautiful kindergarten rooms or the ultra-functional science rooms at the middle/high school. Some changes even involved what you no longer see, like Dean School and the modular classrooms. To see how far we've come, we need to look at where we've been. Of course, we have evidence in the 1884 Little White Schoolhouse, and the old Brown Deer Elementary school building (now a church) that schools existed in Brown Deer for a long time. All of these older buildings have gone through transformations, uses, and locations.



In the 1950's Brown Deer 's enrollment rose, corresponding with the end of WWII and the birth of the "Baby Boomers". The older school buildings were insufficient. Construction of Dean and Algonquin Schools in 1958 marked the beginning of one era and the end of another. At that time, the area was made joint school districts for grades K- 8th that fed in to Granville Union High School. Redistricting in the 1960's saw many of the smaller schools awarded to the City of Milwaukee School System. Schools remaining in our District were Algonquin and Dean School and Granville Union High School, renamed Brown Deer High School in July of 1966. The building which is now Brown Deer Elementary School was built in 1967 and originally served grades 4-8th as Brown Deer Middle School

Our district saw enrollment decline in the early eighties. The Algonquin school building was used by the Village of Brown Deer Park and Recreation programs, as well as the Brown Deer Senior Citizens Center. A surge in enrollment required the district to reopen the school for elementary grades, but costly maintenance led to the building's demolition in 2007. All elementary students then attended Dean School, as they had before. Modular classrooms were added to increase space; but Dean School also began to cost more to maintain. In the fall of 2013, it too was demolished.

The 2013-2014 school year began another era in the Brown Deer School District as a two-school District. The Brown Deer Middle/High School began serving students in grades 7 through 12 and the Brown Deer Elementary school began serving students in grades K4 through 6. The school district and its citizens have provided great spaces for learning. The district has excellent teachers and can begin new programs due to the reconfiguration of the schools. 7 and 8th graders have greater access to high school classes to advance in their studies. Students have a greater access to technology with desktop computers, laptops, and iPads available in all classrooms. We are now seeing significant effects on education in Brown Deer due to the building configuration and the efficiencies it has offered.

With gratitude to the community of Brown Deer, we look forward to the 2014-2015 school years. New programs are being developed that address personalized learning, formal after-school tutoring at both buildings, and a preschool program to prepare children for entrance into our 4K classes, as they begin their path through the excellent Brown Deer School district.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The new display case in the 1884 Little White Schoolhouse and Local Museum is now housing some history of the Granville and Brown Deer School district. The notable historical item is the complete collection of the high school's yearbooks from 1957 through 2014. Also of great historical interest is a significant collection of issues of our past local newspaper, *The Brown Deer Herald*, dating from 1961 through its final edition in 2005. There are two years of issues still missing, 1967 and 1968. *The Brown Deer Herald* documented the real history of the Village, its government, activities, organizations, clubs and school events. I don't know about you, but I really miss having a local newspaper that gave Brown Deer and its citizens the attention and identity it deserves.

We would like to thank Bob and Rita Radke for their donation of an early 1900's edition, *History of the World* book set. The history depicted in these books contains maps of nations no longer in existence, and illustrations of continents as they were known in the early 1900's. The set is in delicate condition and will be stored in a display case for protection.

The Open Houses held for the public this past summer were again popular and well-attended. However, as new visitors came and went, it became apparent that the Schoolhouse is in need of upkeep. We are in the process of getting quotes for the replacement of the front stoop/porch and railings, the east stoop/porch, plus replacement of the east entrance door, and a section of the "drip cap" on the east roof. The front door needs to be re-fitted, and the building needs to be scraped primed and re-painted. There are several other projects that are on the agenda that will be discussed at the October meeting, included in this newsletter. I hope to see you there!

Joe K.

October Meeting Agenda

1. Attendance
2. Persons desiring to be heard
3. Minutes of July 24, 2014
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election: Board of Directors
6. Old Business
 - a. Open Houses in 2014
 - b. Picture hanging
 - c. Living Schoolhouse sessions
7. New Business
 - a. Fundraising ideas
8. Other
9. Adjourn

Board of Directors Meeting

1. Call to Order
 - a. Attendance
 - b. Election of Officers for 2015
 1. President
 2. Vice President
 3. Secretary
 4. Treasurer

We appreciate those of you that consistently support our efforts with your annual membership. We rely on your membership dues for printing, delivery costs, and upkeep of the 1884 Little White Schoolhouse. Please renew your membership for 2015 this month! Fill out the card and return it with your dues today.

Brown Deer Historical Society 2014 Board of Directors

Officers

Joseph Klucarich	President
Rose Klucarich	Vice President
Robert Moranksi	Treasurer
Kathleen Schilz	Secretary

Directors-at-Large

Barbara Bechtel	Mary Buckley
Bernice Knurr	LeRoy Knurr
Tim Schilz	Barry Godshaw
Traci Schnell	Open

BADGER METER - THE MANGER

Christmas time and its associated trappings has always been important at Badger Meter. As early as 1960 at the Brown Deer location the administration building was adorned with the Nativity Scene on the West lawn (now part of the Bank Mutual Grounds), a two story real decorated Christmas tree stood in front of the building, and a 24 person animatronic choral with actual singing choir members standing on the steps of the building.

Over the years we have had Santa, his sleigh, and reindeer on the roof of the administration building. The choir has moved to different locations including the West lawn and East lawn. And numerous Christmas trees of various heights and quantity populated the front of the property.

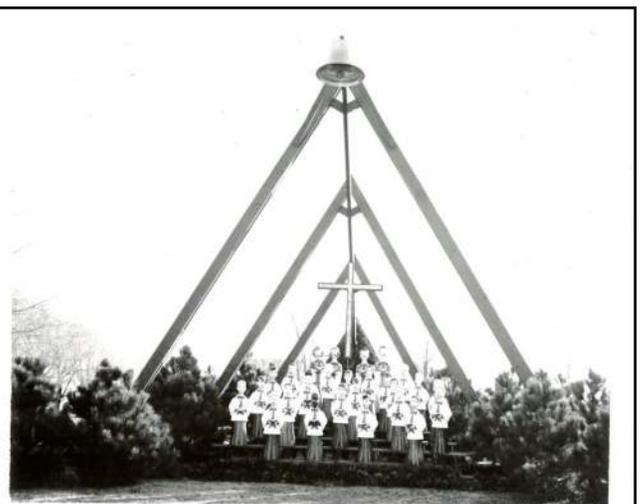
We no longer have the animatronic choral. Its advanced mechanism (for 1960) that allowed the entire choir to move and sing needed repair and was retired sometime after 1967. Santa hasn't been seen for awhile, nor the sound of eight tiny reindeer on the roof thunder down through the halls of administration building.

However, from Badger's earliest days in Brown Deer to the present day the nativity scene has prevailed. From just after thanksgiving to the beginning of the year, the whole gang comes out of hiding. The life size figurines (Joseph is six feet tall), adult and baby sheep, the wise men and their trusted camel steeds (nine feet tall at the head of the riders), an angel (lately it is a trumpeter), the manger, numerous lights, and real straw bales are arrayed on the East lawn.

Early in their history the scene was built at the edge of Brown Deer road, until due to traffic congestion and the risk of injury we were forced to move it away from the edge of the street. Later after the fence was installed we had to assemble the manger behind the fence.

The nativity grouping has had three different face lifts over its lifespan so far. Each time the original unique artwork was repaired, resurfaced, repainted and resealed. The group had to be crated and shipped across the country to their original sculptor for refinishing

Information provided by Brian Rogers of Badger Meter



More Badger Meter Christmas decoration photos from 1967



CHRISTMAS SCENES AND DECORATIONS--1967



DID YOU KNOW...?

Here is a notable bit of information that might test your knowledge of history.

Cadillac

This car perpetuates the memory of a man might have otherwise been forgotten. Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac was not such a big deal in his native France, but when the petty nobleman came to the New World, he did what he could to hold the American west for his French king as an envoy of France.

In the region of the United States that is now Michigan, he set up a trading post on a lake, now named for him. He then became the governor of the immense Louisiana Territory.

At the same time, Henry Ford's pioneer Detroit Automobile Company was a small operation when it was acquired by new owners. They wanted a more aristocratic name for their business, and so changed the name to the Cadillac Company. In time, it would become a unit of General Motors.

The car is now a perennial favorite representing affluence, class and comfort, something Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac would have appreciated.¹

¹Abrided from "Why You Say It", by Webb Garrison