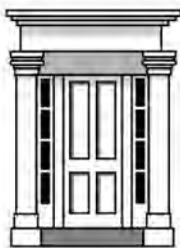


SHEBOYGAN COUNTY



HISTORICAL
RESEARCH
CENTER

Don't Forget!

**2017 SCHRC
Annual Campaign**

If you haven't made a donation
please give now!

Goal
\$35,000

**Annual campaign dollars
pay for 2017 with help with**

Library roof repair
Library ceiling repair
Library lighting replacement
Library carpeting
Exit light replacement
North door replacement
Exterior window sill replacement

and

Exterior Paint for Mill House



The Researcher

**The Newsletter of the Sheboygan County
Historical Research Center**

Volume XXVII Number 5 June 2017

Plymouth Walldogs



Plymouth Walldogs Mural - Wadham's Oil and Grease Company of Milwaukee was a chain of filling and service stations that operated in the early 20th century. Based in Milwaukee, the company was headed by Harger W. Dodge, who hired Milwaukee architect Alexander C. Eschweiler to design eye-catching stations. Inspired by Japanese culture, which was popular at the turn of the last century, he created Wadham's signature pagoda. Each building was unique, having a different roofline and floor plan. The pagoda-style roofs were made of stamped-metal tiles. Atop the gabled red roofs many stations had cupolas - often multi-tiered - with lanterns hanging from the corners. Wadham's built over 100 of these distinctive pagodas between 1917 and 1930. Plymouth's Wadham's stood on the northwest corner of Mill and Division Streets.

Plymouth Wisconsin was home to an invasion by the Walldogs in June of 2011. Twenty-one murals were painted during this event. Two more were added later. Plymouth now boasts a total of 23 murals.

From thewalldogs.com - Walldogs are a group of sign and mural artists from all over the globe. The tradition of painting wall advertisements dates back to the late 19th century. Evidence of this can be seen in the form of faded advertisements called "Ghost Signs" - found throughout communities of all sizes. These mural painters of old were often called 'Walldogs'. This nickname was

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The Sheboygan County Historical Research Center is located at 518 Water Street in Sheboygan Falls.

Open Tuesday through Friday, 9:00am - 4:00pm and Saturdays from 9:00am to 12:00 noon.

Closed July 1, 2017 through July 4, 2017 for Independence Day.

Phone: 920-467-4667

E-mail: research@schrc.org

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The Researcher is the official newsletter of the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, 518 Water Street, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin.

It is published six times per year in August, October, December, February, April and June.

The Research Center is the local history archive for Sheboygan County and areas surrounding the county. It is a repository for paper records of all kinds.

The Research Center is a sister organization to the Sheboygan County Historical Society and Museum which collects the artifacts of the county.

If you file it, it comes to the Research Center.

If you dust it, it goes to the Historical Society & Museum.

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**Check out
schrc.org**

**Website updates
weekly
Go to History News
under Collections
Great Stuff!!**

Go Paperless. Receive *The Researcher* via email. Save paper. Save postage and receive a more colorful newsletter. Contact Katie at research@schrc.org to sign up now. Catch us on Facebook— Updates daily.

Don't miss Sheboygan County History column in the Saturday *Sheboygan Press* or online Friday through Sunday each week.

SCHRC Summer Program Schedule

(full schedules can be found at schrc.org)

(History on the Move) Cedar Grove Memorial Library

131 Van Alstena Avenue, Cedar Grove, WI

6:00 to 7:30pm

Tuesday, July 25, 2017 - The Dutch in the Midwest

Three major immigration waves have brought Dutch-speaking people from the Netherlands to North America. During the first third of the seventeenth century, the Dutch West Indies Company sponsored exploring and colonizing voyages to the New World. The second wave, subsequently known as the "Great Migration," began during the 1840's, triggered by religious tensions in the homeland. The final wave of Dutch immigration followed the end of World War II, encouraged by the government of the Netherlands in order to help relieve pressing economic problems in the homeland. We'll talk about the two later waves that brought large number of Dutch settlers to the Midwest.

Unusual Home Remedies for common ailments from 1880 cookbook!

Nervous spasms are usually relieved by a little salt taken into the mouth and allowed to dissolve.

Sleeplessness, caused by too much blood in the head, may be overcome by applying a cloth wet with cold water to the back of the neck.

A drink of hot, strong lemonade before going to bed will often break up a cold and cure a sore throat.

A cupful of strong coffee will remove the odor of onions from the breath.

Sufferers from asthma should get a muskrat skin and wear it over their lungs with the fur side next to the body. It will bring certain relief.

Preventive health tips from 1890s

A New York doctor says that five-sixths of the people who come to him to be treated for catarrh can trace the beginning of it back to colds caught in an opera house. He adds that the theatre is a breeder of colds, sore throats, pneumonia, and consumption. He has no free pass. – (Detroit Free Press)

It is said that a small piece of gum camphor burnt on a hot stove, two or three times a day, will rid a house of flies and mosquitoes without the use of screens, besides purifying the air, and making the building more healthful.

Early American settlers had some pretty strange notions when it came to eradicating disease. . .

Gizzards cure diarrhea! ...

Dirty socks cure sore throats! ...

Tobacco cures earaches! ...

Chocolate-garlic cures memory loss! ...

Rattlesnakes cures rheumatism! ...

Cuckoos cure back pain! ...

Eggs cure bruises!

Barber Shop Quartet PARADE OF STARS

Vocational Auditorium, Saturday, April 26th, 8 P. M.



Featuring the **CHORDETTEs** Sheboygan, Wis.

HONEY DREAMERS
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

CARDINAL QUARTET
MADISON, WISCONSIN

FOUR KEYNOTES
APPLETON, WISCONSIN

KIWANIS QUARTET
MONTEVIDEO, MINNESOTA

PLUS THREE LOCAL QUARTETS AND A GROUP NUMBER BY
THE GLEE CLUB of the LOCAL CHAPTER S.P.E.B.S.O.S.A.

\$1.20, Including Tax . . . Reservations at Hebbard's

THIS AD SPONSORED BY

LA CROSSE LAUNDRY & CLEANING COMPANY
PHONE 4000

The ad at left appeared in the La Crosse Tribune of April 24, 1947. Notice how the Chordettes got top billing. The black lines in the ad are from scratches in the microfilm. (Courtesy of Scott Lewandoske)

A Bit of Chordette history

Courtesy Scott Lewandoske

The Chordettes finished April of 1947 with two shows in Wisconsin. On April 26, they were in La Crosse for a Barber Shop Parade of Stars, which was held at the Vocational Auditorium. Two days later, they were in Two Rivers.

Most of May 1947 saw an easy schedule for the Chordettes. On May 3, they appeared at a barbershop show held in Appleton, Wisconsin, at the high school. The Appleton Post-Crescent of May 5, said about the Chordettes appearance, two days earlier, "Into the strictly masculine sanctorum of the barbershoppers came the Chordettes of Sheboygan, four girls in smart black faille suits, whistle-provoking ankle-strap sandals and bright corsages, who demonstrated capably that anybody can sing barbershop harmony-if they have good enough voices. Their four numbers were well-suited to their individual talents, "Loveland," "When Day is Done," "Mean to Me" and "Carolina in the Morning."

However, the second week of May from the 7th to the 15th, saw the Chordettes performing six times in eight days. But, of these six shows, five were in their hometown of Sheboygan. On the 7th, the Chordettes took part in a scholarship concert in the Sheboygan North High School

auditorium, sponsored by the North High School Alumni Association.

The money raised went towards scholarships for three graduating students of North. In an interesting note, the Chordettes did not receive top billing in the program that evening. They were listed third in the program, out of eight. The Sheboygan Press said about the Chordettes, in the next days newspaper, "Then came the much-traveled Chordettes-Alice Mae Buschmann, Janet Buschmann Ertel, Dorothy Hummitzsch and Virginia Cole Osborn. Their numerous appearances throughout the United States and the resulting enthusiasm for harmonized singing was matched in their home city. "I Had A Dream, Dear," "When Day Is Done" and "Carolina In the Morning" were their program offerings, but they added another, "I'd Love to Live in Loveland" because the crowd wanted more. Their voices have beautiful blend, and they know how to captivate with smiles and mannerisms."

Joyland kept Sheboygan kids entertained in the '50s

SAVE on JOYLAND TICKETS

15 TICKETS \$1

This Special Offer
ENDS MAY 25
Good by Mail Only!

At Grounds . . . Regular Price 12 for \$1.00.

Send money with self-addressed envelope to
George L. Thompson, Route 3, Sheboygan

JOYLAND OPENING

SUNDAY, MAY 13, weather permitting

•See and Ride in Our New Streamlined Train

•Pony Rides •Merry-Go-Round •Boat Rides

•Ferris Wheel •Concessions

SPECIAL RATES FOR PICNICS AND LARGE GROUPS

For groups purchasing more than \$15.00 worth of tickets — admission reduced to 5c for children under 12 years.

JOYLAND

Across from the Quarry
on Hwy. 42

Summer entertainment for kids has changed a great deal in the last five decades. A favorite childhood field trip that's disappeared are the little neighborhood amusement parks that once dotted the country.

Pony rides, miniature trains and beautiful carousels were standard fare when children's amusement parks first appeared in the 1920s. Kiddie Park, established in 1925, outside San Antonio, Texas proclaims itself to be the oldest children's amusement park. It has survived by preserving its 1920s style and by maintaining all of the original rides.

Kiddieland, perhaps the best known kids' park was located in the Chicago suburb of Melrose Park. Starting out in 1929 with six ponies, it offered rides as an escape for parents reeling from the Great Depression. But, it met its end in 2009 when it was closed to make way for a new Costco.

Sheboygan had its very own kids' amusement park for a short time from 1952 to 1956. Named Joyland, it was located in Evergreen Park across from the quarry on Calumet Drive.

A Sheboygan Press article from May 29, 1952 announced that "Joyland consisted of five rides and refreshments and was owned and operated by George Thompson of Sheboygan." It was later run by Leroy Schrader and his wife, Nellie. The Schraders were veterans of the Dory Miller Show, a traveling circus, he was a canvas man and she was a trick rider.

Joyland was open every weekend. Rides were 9 cents and 14 cents. Every Friday was penny day if you brought four of the following paper cartons of Verifine products: skim milk, orange drink, chocolate drink and buttermilk. By 1956 Fridays were five cents.

The five rides were a roller coaster called the Little Dipper, a merry-go-round, a miniature steam train, boat rides and pony rides. A Ferris wheel was later added. With the exception of the train and the roller coaster the rides were all just for children. The train and the roller coaster could accommodate adults.

Three ponies were available that first year. Over time ownership of the ponies and management of the park were taken over by Jack Grandlic.

The boat rides were taken in small crafts afloat in a large aluminum tank containing 1900 gallons of water.

The merry go round accommodated 24 children. It had 20 horses and 2 sleighs. Although the horses were small in stature, the sleighs could handle adults.

An exact replica of a large locomotive, the engine of the Evergreen Park Joyland Railroad burned real coal and traveled one-half mile each trip. Tracks for the mini railroad covered one-fourth mile on the grounds but two circuits were made for each ride. It had a little water tower and its own tender. There were no covers for the train cars, so coal pieces and smoke would occasionally assault the riders in the first few cars.

Thompson had eight assistants among them a couple named Hank and Ruth. Hank ran the train. Cotton candy, cold drinks, popcorn and ice cream were available for hungry riders.

Thompson had a career as an elephant trainer for many years, he appeared in Hollywood and vaudeville productions with his elephants met his wife when he came to Sheboygan with the circus. The elephants were sometimes part of the fun at Joyland shaving each other with whipping cream and a giant wooden razor.

The kids from Kiddie's Camp were regulars at Joyland because Mr. Thompson generously presented 1800 tickets for free rides to the camp.

Joyland experienced financial problems by 1955. The city agreed to slash its fee for property rental from 13% to 5% of gross earnings. But, by this time it was too late.

The popular park closed in 1956. Its finale came over Labor Day Weekend of 1956. Great advertising managed to fill the last weekend to capacity, but it was too late to turn things around financially.

Thanks to Jack Grandlic and Jim and Charmaine Mohr for material for this article.



Movies, TV and the Drive In-Theater

Bill Wangemann



The Star Dusk Theater just before demolition.
Located on South Twelfth Street just north of Weeden Creek Road.

It has often been said that the era between the two world wars was the “Golden Age” of the movies. With such marvelous classics such as “Citizen Kane” “How Green Was My Valley” and “Lost Horizon” who could argue with this statement? During the Great Depression the American movie industry developed into an art form that set the pattern for the rest of the world to follow. During the darkest days of the depression some of the happiest and most joyful movies were produced. It was also the time of the great movies palaces, all of which was intended to get people’s minds off their troubles, even if it was just for short period of time.

Here in Sheboygan, the magnificent Sheboygan Theater was constructed. As a boy I was escorted to my seat by a uniformed usher. I felt like a king. How well I remember my father giving me a quarter, a sizeable sum in those days, on a Saturday afternoon for an excursion to the movies. With 25 cents in my pocket I could take a bus downtown for a nickel, spend 13 cents for the movie, take a bus back home and still have 2 cents left for penny candy. Or if I wanted to walk each way, I could use the extra dime to buy fresh potato chips dripping in cooking oil, at the “Hi Hat Potato Chip Shop” on Michigan Avenue. In the days before we all were too frightened and worried about cholesterol or eating too much salt we munched our way through a large bag of the crunchy, greasy, overly-salted, still warm, and perfectly wonderful chips without the slightest trace of apprehension.

As the dark clouds of conflict rolled across Europe eventually drawing America into the war, the movie industry stepped forward with movies intended to foster patriotic passion in the movie goers. Movies such as “Mrs. Miniver” (1942), “Wake Island” (1942) and “Back to Bataan” (1945) all were intended to do just one thing, stir up hatred toward our country’s enemies; and they succeeded very well. Between films the

newsreels were shown to packed houses. Here in Sheboygan in those pre-TV days newsreels were the only way we could view the horrors of war. I can remember vividly watching the war unfold before my very eyes, some of the reels were only a few days old. During the playing of the newsreels every eye in the darkened movie house was riveted to the huge silver screen.

But even in those dark days humor was not lost. Comedians Abbot and Costello produced “In Society” in 1944 and played to sold-out theaters. People needed to laugh in a time when there was very little to laugh about. I can very well remember going to an Abbot and Costello movie at the Sheboygan Theater and finding a line that extended north on Eighth Street to Niagara Avenue, then around the corner down Niagara Avenue and then south on North Ninth Street.

When the war ended, the movie industry shifted away from the war dramas. People had had enough war. Movie attendance dropped during the 1950s all due to a small very expensive flickering box called television! Predictions were made that the end of the movie industry was close at hand. Even though here in Sheboygan TV antennas seemed to sprout from almost every roof top overnight, the movies were far from dead. The industry was going to put up a fight.

The first drive-in theater, or passion pit as teens called them, appeared in Sheboygan in 1949. On June 18, 1949 the Star Dusk Theater on Sheboygan’s far south side-South Twelfth Street and Weeden Creek Road, opened with “When my Baby Smiles at Me” starring none other than Betty Grable. Admission was 60 cents. Wednesday night was buck night. For the price of one dollar you could bring in as many people as you could stuff into your car. I have many wonderful memories of putting the kids into their pajamas, making a huge bag of popcorn and filling an ice chest with soft drinks for an inexpensive night at the movies. The Star Dusk Theater was sold in February of 1985 and the site became a mobile home park.

For a short time beginning in 1953 3-D movies were popular. They included “The House of Wax”, “The Creature from the Black Lagoon” (1954) and in 1955 the forgettable “Revenge of the Creature”. All were shown in the much advertised 3-D format requiring each patron to wear a set of special cardboard-framed glasses. Many people complained the format caused headaches and 3-D movies disappeared from theaters rather quickly.

Today some fifty years after its predicted demise the movie industry is alive and well!

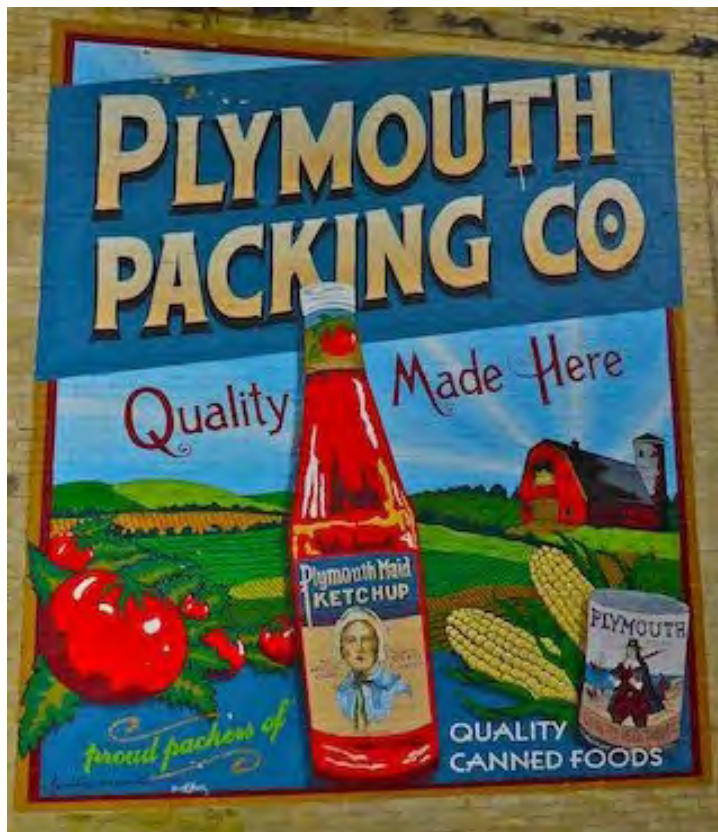
Today’s Tidbit: The screen at the Star Dusk Theater was just over 80 feet high and 50 feet wide, making it one of the tallest structures in Sheboygan County.



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adopted by today's modern mural painters. Along with the title of Walldog, today's mural artists have also adopted many other traditions that show in their work, from the colors they use to the design styles they practice; these murals capture that sense of nostalgia and historic significance.

The Walldog movement began in Allerton, Iowa during the late summer of 1993 and was hosted by Nancy Bennett.

Once a year, hundreds of Walldogs gather in one lucky town or city to paint multiple murals and old-fashioned wall advertisements. This meet – or festival – is usually held during the span of 4 or 5 days ending on a Sunday.

Typically, a Walldog Festival is held in conjunction with other local events to help draw in spectators and to also share event resources. After the festival is over and the artists pack up their brushes and head home, The Walldogs leave behind beautiful, handcrafted and professionally painted murals depicting that town's rich history.

At left: This Plymouth Packing Co. mural is found on the west side of Studio 55 on Mill Street at Division.