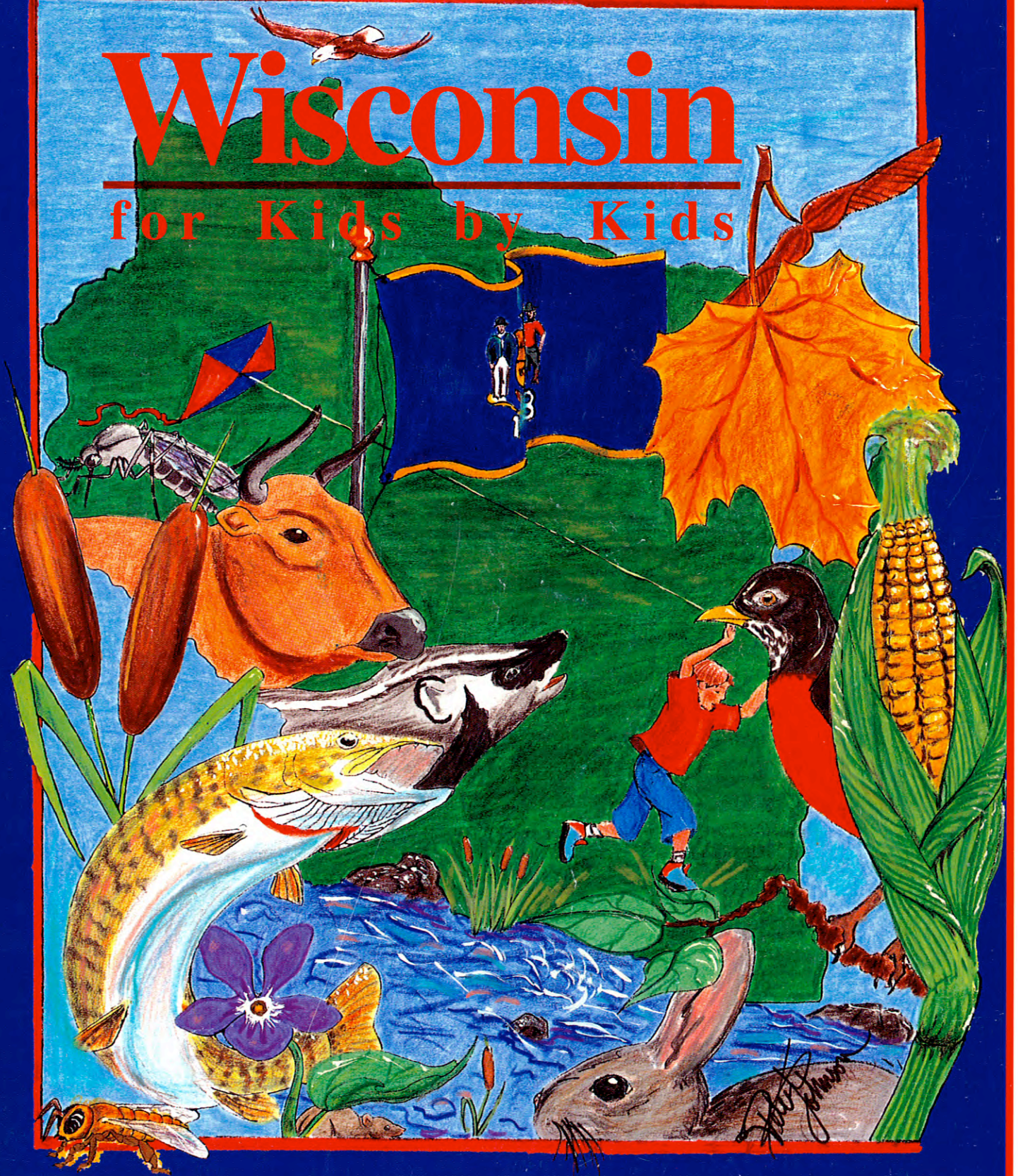


Wisconsin

for Kids by Kids



Written and illustrated by the students of Winnequah Middle School

Wisconsin

for Kids by Kids

Written and illustrated by
the students of
Winnequah Middle School
Monona, WI

Cover Illustration - Peter
Layout and Design - Erin
Project Coordinator - Patricia Howell
Consultant - Connie Lovett



Alex
Grade 8

Student illustrations on the title page and page 60 have been approved by the Office of Trademark Licensing at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

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Dedicated To

the children
of Wisconsin,
for they hold the
future of the state
in their hands.

The proceeds of this book will be used to develop a literacy program to help ensure that all of our students step into the future with strong reading and writing skills.

"Only the educated are free."

Epictitus, Greek Philosopher
Nearly 2000 years ago.

Acknowledgements

W

hen the idea to have Winnequah Middle School students write and illustrate a book was proposed to the teachers, the response was a “thumbs up”. That response turned into an amazing team effort that included all students, all teams of teachers, administrators, many parents and community volunteers and financial supporters. While it is impossible to recognize everyone who helped make *Wisconsin for Kids by Kids* become a reality, there are many whose contributions should be recognized. A heartfelt thanks goes out to them.

The core team of staff, Deb Dade, Ken Eeg, Susan Fox, Norma Hessling, Kim Kieck, Pam Kolb, Patti McGinnis and Pat Murphy worked to formulate a plan, communicate with the entire staff and make sure deadlines were met. Special thanks to Kim and Norma whose extraordinary efficiency kept us moving forward.

Miracle workers were needed to guide some 580 kids through the library and have them come out with interesting topics, factual information and documented sources. Monona Public Library, particularly Karen Wendt, and Dane County Library Service compiled a wealth of materials for the students. Winnequah librarian Norma Hessling and assistant Amy Jackson worked with teachers and volunteers to expertly guide students through the research process.

Art teacher Dick Klipsic and professional illustrator Connie Lovett inspired creative interpretation of the topics and taught the illustration process. Connie volunteered countless hours to share her love of art with her love for all kids. The creativity and motivation they generated was exciting.

Several community journalists helped our students rewrite, revise and double check facts. They included *Wisconsin State Journal* feature editor Sandy Kallio, editorial writer Charles Martin, assistant city editor Phil Glende, and *Madison Magazine* editor Brian Howell. A final review for historical accuracy was arranged by teacher Brian Fredrick and done by historian Matt Blessing of the Wisconsin State Historical Society.

Producing a book requires technological expertise. Our in-house computer experts and trouble shooters Vic Yonash and Tim Connery got us up and kept us running. A remarkable young woman, Monona Grove High School 10th grader Erin , volunteered much of her summer to layout and design the book.

The “W” design for our back cover required careful calculation by math teacher Reid Jorgenson and student teacher Aaron Rumach. Gregory Bleck of Gregory’s Photographic Arts volunteered to get the “team” on film.

Finally, our administrators, Principal Tom Van Winkle and Associate Principal Rob Baudhuin, provided the freedom and flexibility to accomplish our goal.

Teamwork was the fuel that powered us through the process of publishing a book. We are proud of our accomplishment, *Wisconsin for Kids by Kids*.

Pat Howell
Project Coordinator

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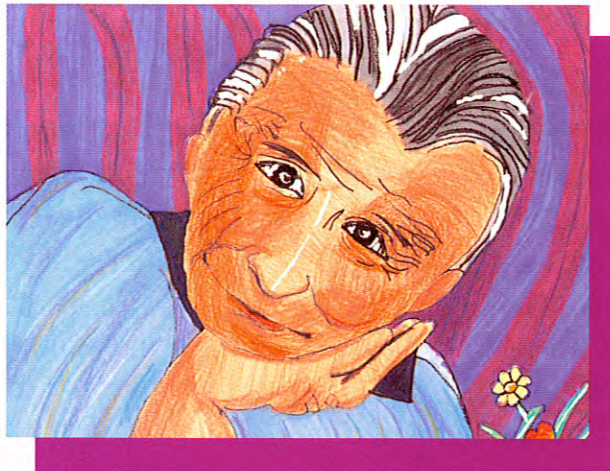
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People





By Kelty

B Black Hawk

Black Hawk was a Native American born in 1767 in Randolph County, Illinois. He was born a Potawatomi, but was adopted and brought up by the Sauk. He eventually became a leader of the Sauk tribe. He was also known as Ma-ka-tai-me-she-kia-Kiak.

Black Hawk did not like the white man, but he had an intense love for his land. When his father (the tribal medicine man) died, Black Hawk devoted himself to medicine. By the age of fifteen, he was a warrior and a leader among his people.

By the late 1820s, more and more settlers moved into Illinois. The government ordered the Indians to leave, claiming it was their land because of a treaty the Sauk signed in 1804. Black Hawk and his people moved to Iowa, but later tried to re-

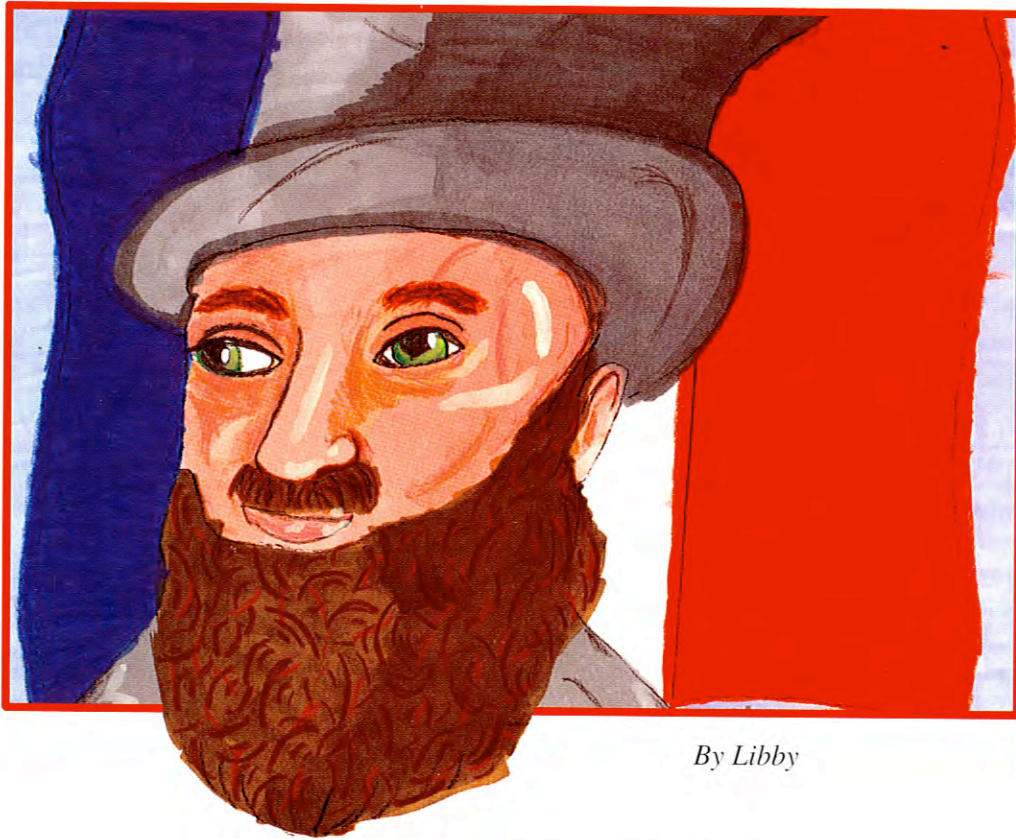
turn. They were attacked by soldiers.

Black Hawk and his people then fled to Wisconsin. There they were chased by troops. Black Hawk knew they could not defeat the soldiers. He tried to surrender but a soldier killed one of the Sauk. The Indians fired back. This started the Black Hawk War. Many of the Sauk died from fighting and hunger. Black Hawk was captured and taken prisoner.

Black Hawk died on October 3, 1838. The governor of Iowa Territory obtained his skeleton and kept it in his office. Later it was taken back by his people and buried properly.



Kelty



By Libby

Jean Nicolet

Jean Nicolet de Belleborne was one of the first French explorers in Wisconsin. He was also a fur trader and an interpreter. Jean Nicolet was born in 1598 at Cherbourg, France. In 1618, a fur trader and governor of New France, Samuel de Champlain, took Nicolet there. New France is present-day Quebec.

Champlain trained Nicolet to be an explorer and an Indian interpreter. He was stationed at Allumette Island, on the Ottawa River, where he learned the crafts and language of the Algonquin Indians. In 1633, Nicolet became interpreter at the Trois Rivieres. From there, he journeyed through the Great Lakes into Georgian Bay and the Straits of Mackinac, southwest along the coast of Lake Michigan to Green Bay.

In 1634, Nicolet landed at Red

Banks on the shore of Green Bay. His mission was to make peace with the “People of the Sea” and ally them with France. When he arrived in Green Bay, he thought he would meet Chinese leaders, but instead, he was greeted by the Winnebago (Ho-Chunk) Indians.

The Winnebago thought Nicolet had magical powers because he fired pistols, which they had never seen before. They made peace and the Indians prepared a feast. Several years later, Jean Nicolet was returning to Trois Rivieres when he drowned in the St. Lawrence River. No one knew he couldn’t swim.

Chad



By Monica

Jacques Marquette

Jacques Marquette was born in Laon, France, in 1637. He grew up there and attended Christian school. Marquette joined the Jesuit Missionaries in 1656. He spent ten years studying and teaching.

In 1666, he was sent on a mission to New France (Quebec). He planned to introduce the Indians to Christianity. There, he and Louis Joliet, a French Canadian explorer, learned Indian languages. He often heard the Indians talking about “The Great River.” He had a theory that it led to the Pacific Ocean and his goal was to find it. Marquette and Joliet planned to explore the region for France.

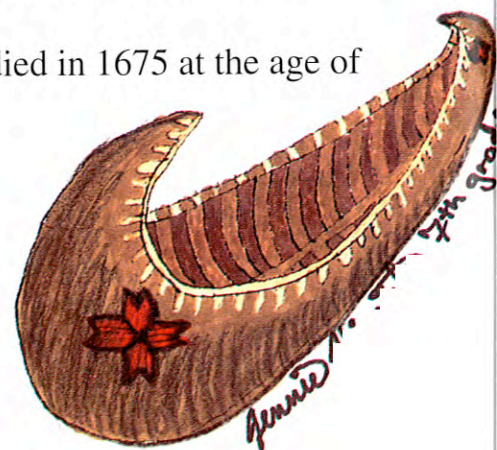
Traveling mostly by canoe, Marquette then traveled to the Fox River and was the first Frenchman to descend it.

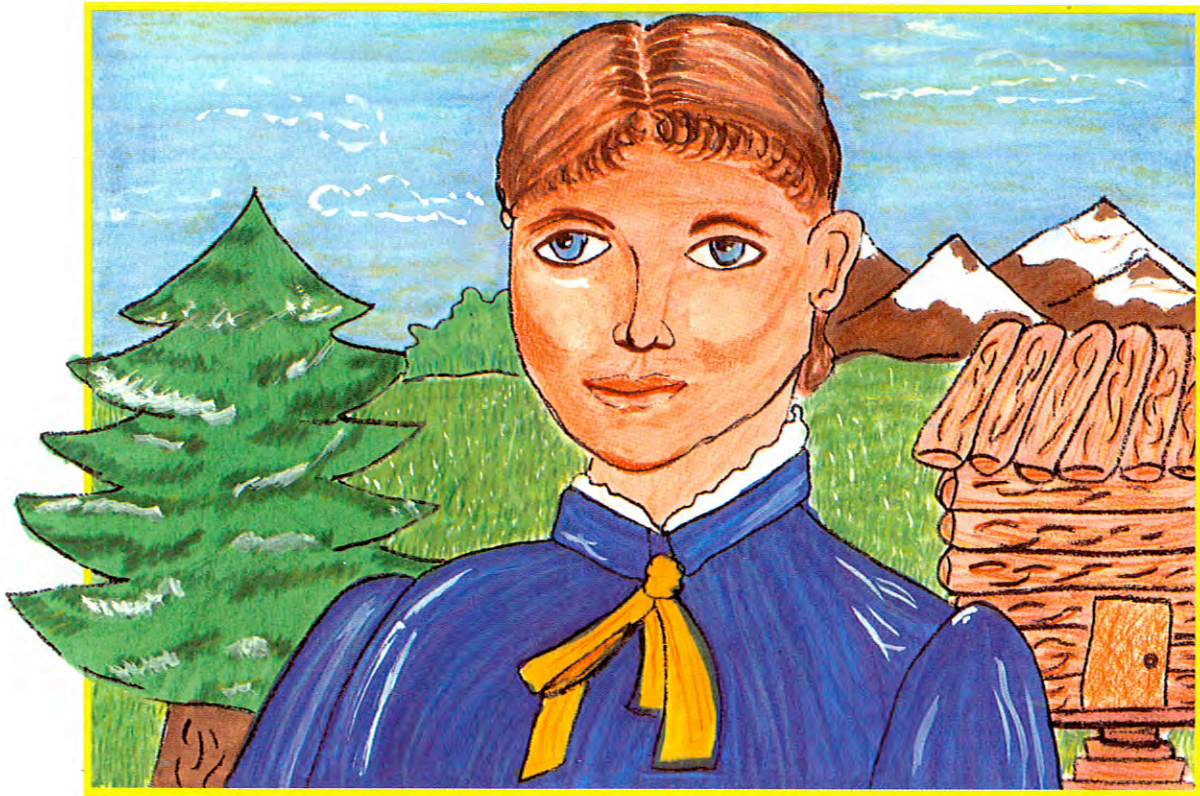
Later, he passed “The Great Winnebago” with the help of native guides. He floated down the Wisconsin River and entered “The Great River.” He called it the Mississippi in honor of the Indians. It was 1673 when he canoed down this gigantic river.

He traveled south to Arkansas and realized that this land was owned by the Spaniards. He figured that this gigantic river led to the Gulf of Mexico and not to the Pacific Ocean as he thought.

Jacques died in 1675 at the age of thirty-eight.

Amanda





By Amber

Laura Ingalls Wilder

Laura Ingalls Wilder was a writer who inspired her young readers with stories about her pioneer life on the farm. Laura wrote about her younger years in the big woods of Wisconsin, about ten miles inland from the Mississippi River near Pepin, Wisconsin, where she was born on February 7, 1867.

Shortly after Laura's birth, her family started moving to new places. Her favorite place was Plum Creek, Minnesota. After high school she became a teacher; she was only fifteen. Around the age of eighteen, she married Almanzo Wilder.

Laura kept her maiden name for a middle name. That is how her name

became Laura Ingalls Wilder. At age sixty-three, Laura's daughter, Rose, encouraged her to write books about her life. Laura wrote eleven books in all. Some examples of her work are *Little House in the Big Woods* (1932) and *Little House on the Prairie* (1935).



Laura Ingalls Wilder got a lot of attention from writing her books and they have been cherished for years. A national writing award was dedicated in her name called the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award.

Laura died on February 10, 1957, when she was 90 years old. The world was saddened when Laura Ingalls Wilder died, but her books live on.

Jenny & Ashley



By Heather

G Georgia Totto O'Keeffe

Georgia Totto O'Keeffe, an artist, was born on November 15, 1887, in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.

O'Keeffe enjoyed school, but not her teacher. One time O'Keeffe asked her teacher, "If Lake Monona rose up, way up, and spilled all over, how many people would be drowned?" She thought her teacher replied with an unsatisfactory answer.

When O'Keeffe was 11 years old, she took lessons from an amateur painter. At age 12, she enrolled in the Art Institute of Chicago. From 1907 to 1908, O'Keeffe studied at the Art Students' League in New York.

During her career Georgia O'Keeffe received numerous awards and honorary degrees. She was best

known for her lyrical paintings of terrain, buildings, and bleached animal skulls. She also created many flower paintings in both realistic and abstract styles. "I have things in my head that are not like what anyone has taught me," O'Keeffe said.



Kelty

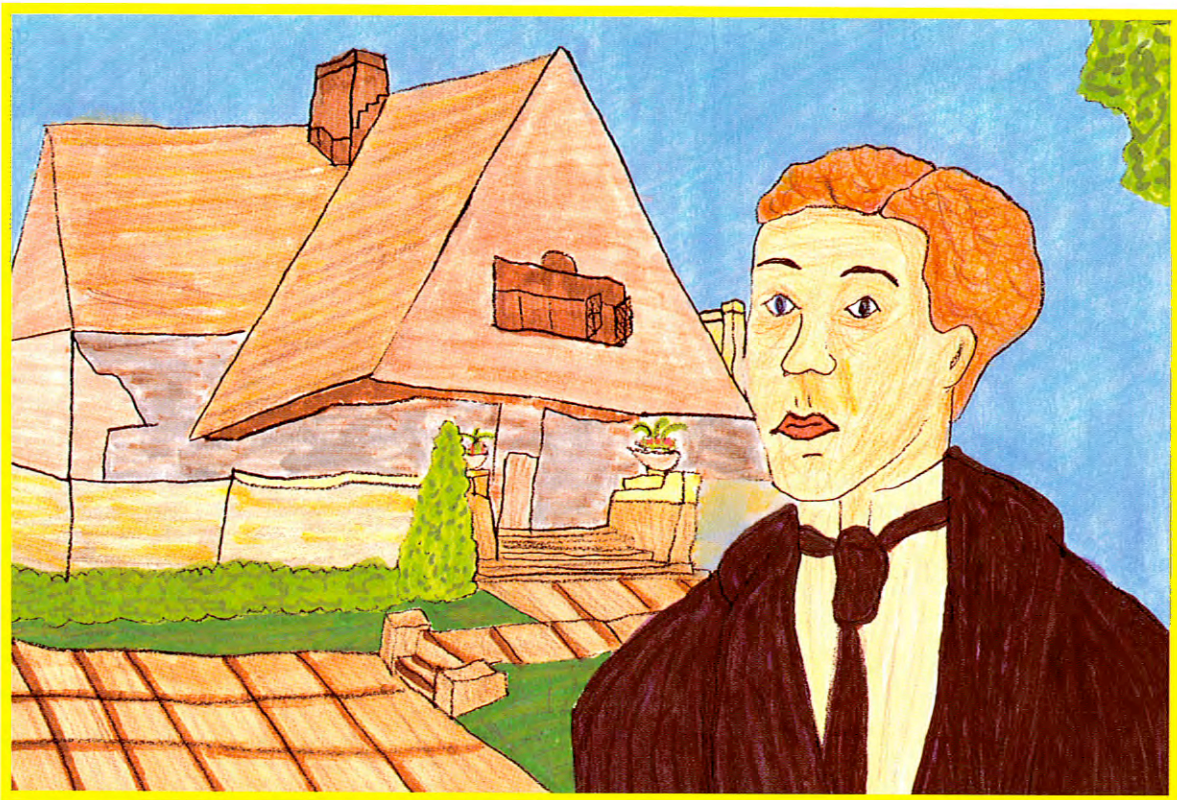
O'Keeffe was so well known that her signature didn't need to be on her artwork. One of her techniques was painting with oil on canvas. Her drawings were shown in New York studios.

Georgia Totto O'Keeffe married Alfred Stieglitz on December 11, 1924. Together, they ran an art gallery.

O'Keeffe died on March 6, 1986, at age ninety-eight in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Samantha

& Sarah



By Reina .

Frank Lloyd Wright

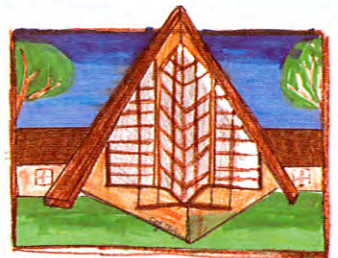
Frank Lloyd Wright was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin, on June 8, 1869. He enjoyed a happy boyhood in Spring Green, Wisconsin. When he was six, his family moved to Weymouth, Massachusetts. They moved to Madison, Wisconsin two years later. When they were in Madison, Wright's father abandoned his family.

Wright left high school without graduating and enrolled at the University of Wisconsin. Later, he left the University and moved to Chicago. He got a job as an architect at Joseph Lyman Silsbee. A few months later, he left to work at Louis Sullivan's, then left again to establish his own firm. He was married four times. Another woman he planned to marry, Mrs. Cheney, was killed by the hired chef.

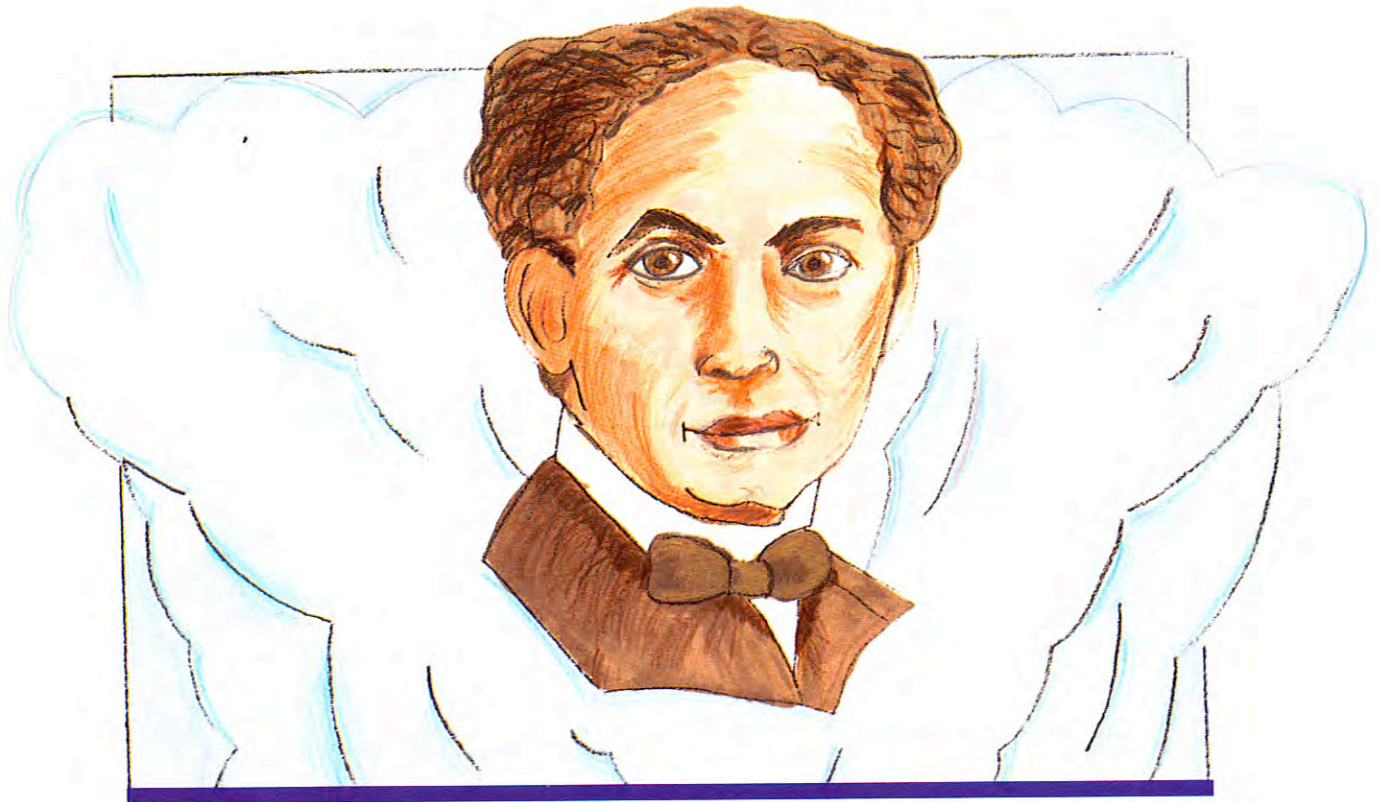
During this period, Wright designed several buildings in Wisconsin. He called his work "organic" architecture because of the relationship between his buildings and nature. Some of the buildings he designed included Taliesin and the Hillside Studio and Theater in Spring Green, SC Johnson Wax Building in Racine, the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Milwaukee, the Seth Peterson House at Mirror Lake, the A.D. German Warehouse in Richland Center, and the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

Wright died in April, 1959 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Joe and Reina



Cody



By Brian and Kelty

H Harry Houdini

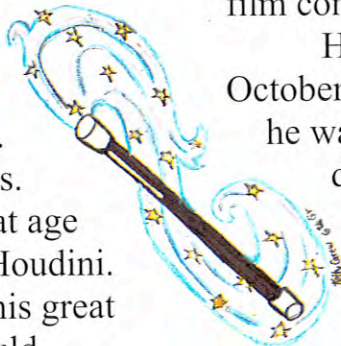
Harry Houdini was one of the greatest magicians of all time. Historians argue about whether he was born in Budapest, Hungary, or in Appleton, Wisconsin. Houdini said that he was born April 6, 1874, in Appleton, but records show he was born in Hungary, and his family emigrated to Appleton when he was young. His real name was Erich Weiss. When he became a magician at age seventeen, he took the name Houdini.

Houdini was famous for his great death-defying escapes. He could escape from handcuffs, jail cells, crates, and straitjackets, all with ease. His most famous trick was the "Chinese Water Torture Cell." Houdini was immersed upside down in a tank full of water with his feet

secured in stocks. He had no trouble escaping.

Houdini had many other talents. As an aviator, he made his first flight in Australia in 1910. He appeared in many movies and established his own film company.

Houdini's last show was October 24, 1926. The night before, he was punched in the stomach to demonstrate how strong his abdominal muscles were. He was suffering from appendicitis, but insisted that the show go on. He later died on October 31, 1926.



Lars Nick, Ben, and Jordan



By Ryan

Ringling Brothers

The “Greatest Show on Earth” started with Albert, Otto, Alfred, Charles, and John Ringling in their hometown of Baraboo, Wisconsin, on May 19, 1884. The Ringling Brothers combined with Phineas T. Barnum and James A. Bailey in 1919 to create the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, the largest circus ever.

The circus had so many breathtaking acts that seven performances would go on at once under the big tent. For many years the circus made a fortune, but by 1956 the circus took down its tent. On July 1, 1959, the circus moved to its old headquarters in Baraboo. Circus World Museum has become a national landmark in honor of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus. One of the most exciting exhibits is Howard Circus, a miniature

of the circus during its tent era. The museum also has many antique circus wagons, including the largest wagon ever built called the “Two Hemispheres Band-wagon.”



Will

P. T.

Barnum once said, “There’s a sucker born every minute.” For more than 100 years the circus has enthralled millions of people, suckers or not, and is sure to charm millions more, young and old alike, in the future.

*Nathan
Will.
Ryan*



By Alix

Liberace

Showman and musician Wladziu Valentino Liberace was born May 16, 1919 in West Allis, Wisconsin. Liberace was born into a musical family; his mother played the piano and his father played French horn with the Milwaukee Philharmonic Orchestra.

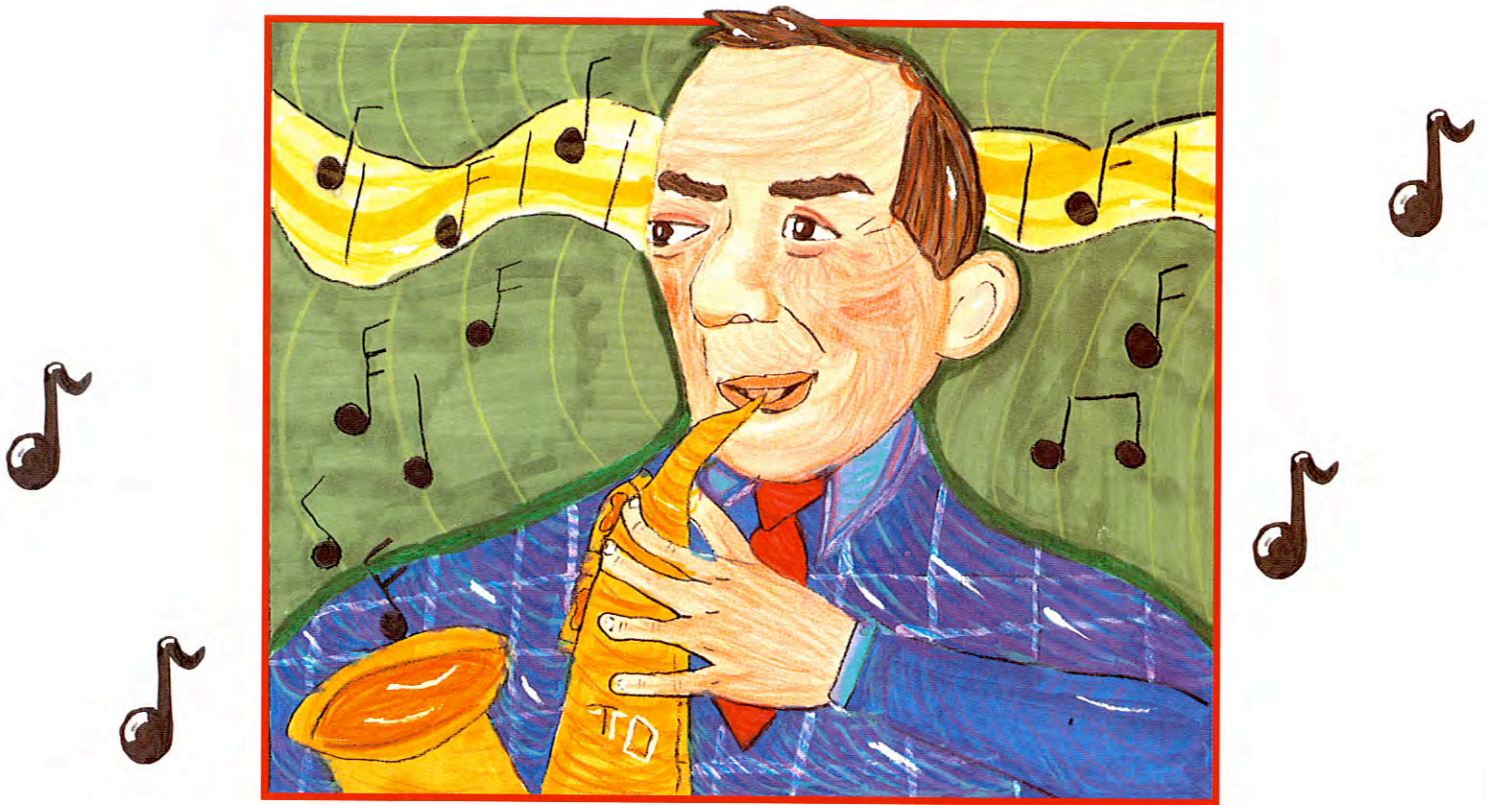
Liberace started piano lessons at age four, and he won a scholarship to the Wisconsin College of Music at age seven. As a young teen, he played piano for silent movies and in speakeasies.

Over his lifetime, Liberace had many accomplishments. In 1936, he made his first solo appearance with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. In 1940, he played intermission piano for singers at New York's Plaza Hotel Persian Room. Liberace was famous

for his flamboyant costumes, often covered with shells, diamonds, rhinestones, and other flashy objects. Some of his costumes weighed as much as 200 lbs. He spent most of his career as a piano player and a showman in Las Vegas.

Liberace died of heart disease and emphysema in 1987. A generous man, Liberace spent his money on his friends and on bizarre costumes. He also donated money to create the Liberace Museum in Las Vegas. Besides his costumes, "Mr. Showmanship" is also remembered for the trademark candelabra he placed on his grand piano, and for his phenomenal ability to turn a recital into a show full of magic, glitz and great energy.

Erin



By Maija

Woody Herman

Woody Herman was born in Milwaukee in 1913. At nine years old, Woody Herman was labeled the “Boy Wonder of the Clarinet”. Obviously, he discovered his love for music at an early age.

That early love for music stayed with Woody Herman always. He turned his passion into a successful career as a musician and a bandleader. In 1936, he had his first big band called “The Band That Played the Blues”. Three years later, he became famous for his recording of the song, “Woodchoppers Ball”. After that, he started two bands that helped change the style of music at that time.

Mr. Herman played a special style of music called “Bebop” or “Bop”, which influenced many other musicians in the 1940s. The first 40s

band was known as the “First Herd” and was popular from 1944 to 1946. The next band was the “Second Herd”, and they played in 1947 and 1948. The members of his band were known as the “Four Brothers”. Many musicians who played in his band later formed their own groups.

Often, talented musicians play more than one instrument and Mr. Herman was no exception. He played both the saxophone and the clarinet.

Woody Herman died in 1987. He was a popular bandleader for more than forty years, and his music influenced American jazz styles.

Tanya



By Joelle

N John Muir

Naturalist and explorer John Muir was famous for helping found the Sierra Club and promoting the development of national parks and forests. He influenced the U.S. Congress to pass the Yosemite National Park Bill in 1890 and later legislation to establish Sequoia National Park. A redwood forest near San Francisco was named Muir Woods in 1908 in his honor.

He was born in 1838 in Scotland. In 1849, when John Muir was eleven, his father emigrated to a farm in Wisconsin. Mr. Muir loved nature and wildlife. Every time someone cut down a tree, he wanted another one planted.

Mr. Muir explored much of America's wilderness. He once was gone for six years exploring the

forests and glaciers of the Sierra Nevada and Alaska, where he discovered Glacier Bay. He also penetrated the swamps of Florida in search of rare plants and animals. He would sometimes appear suddenly in factories or on farms to get supplies and food. He died in 1914.

Mr. Muir helped people become aware of the need to conserve natural resources. As he once said, "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and places to pray in, where nature may heal and cheer, and give strength to the body and soul alike."

Kyle



By Elli

W Aldo Leopold

Wisconsin resident Aldo Leopold is known for his research, writings, and work in land and wildlife conservation.

He was born January 11, 1886, in Burlington, Iowa. He was the oldest child of four. His parents taught him to appreciate the wild. He would discover wildlife, keep a journal and make maps of his discoveries. He soon knew his life's work would be in forest conservation.

Leopold married Estella Bergere. They moved to Madison, Wisconsin in the 1920s where they raised four children. They often spent weekends on their Sand County farm, which they purchased in the mid-1930s.

His many accomplishments included teaching wildlife ecology at

the University of Wisconsin, organizing a game survey that won him an Outdoor Life medal, and teaching that wilderness was an asset to civilization. Many of his essays were published in the Sand County Almanac.

Leopold restored farmland into the beautiful Arboretum in Madison. Up until his death, Leopold worked with organizations such as the National Audubon Society and the Wisconsin Conservation Commission.

Leopold died on April 21, 1948, while fighting a grass fire. He is remembered for his ethic that when humans want to alter the environment, they must think beyond the cost in dollars.

Lindsay Wood
6th Gr.



Elli, Eland & Josh

Wisconsin Speed Skaters

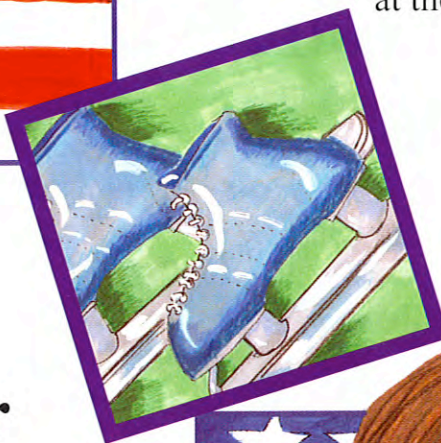
Bonnie Blair, Eric Heiden, and Dan Jansen are some of the greatest speed skaters to ever compete in the Olympics. These skaters have received a total of eleven gold medals at the Games. Together, they established various regional, state, national, and world records.



Matt

Dan Jansen

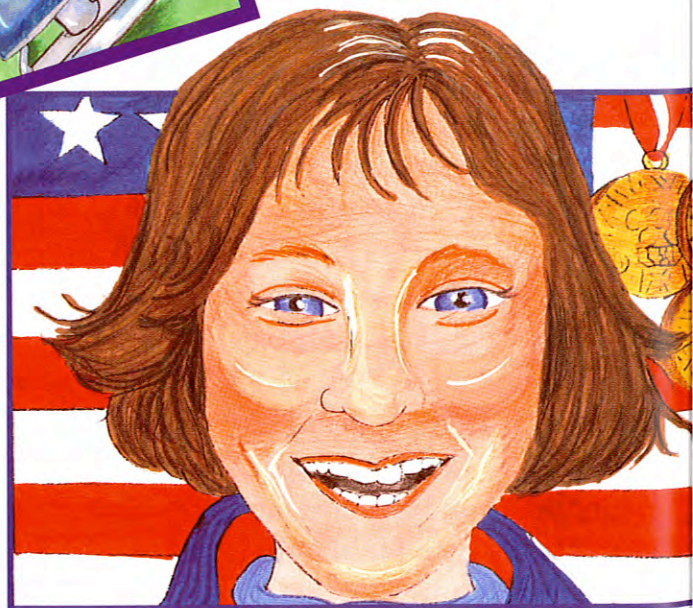
Dan Jansen was born in West Allis, Wisconsin, on June 17, 1965. On February 18, 1992, his sister Jane passed away of leukemia. Dan stopped skating for a short time. Later, he came back and won the gold at the Olympics in 1994.



Lindsay

Bonnie Blair

Bonnie Blair was born on March 18, 1964, in Cornwall, New York. Blair was the winner of five gold medals at two different Winter Olympics, 1988 and 1992. Blair now coaches children at a skating rink in Milwaukee. Blair makes generous donations and made more than one hundred appearances for United States charities.



Sara

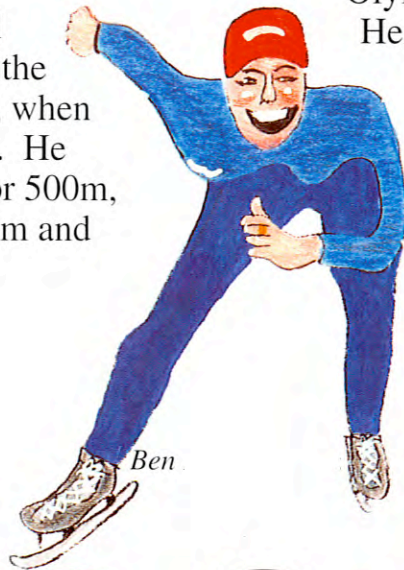


Suzanne

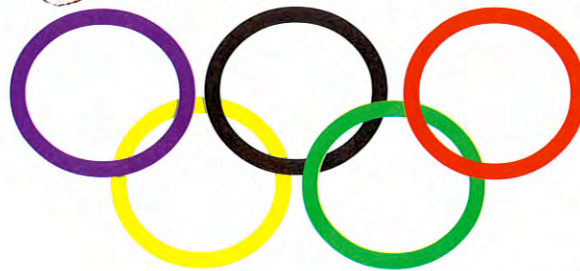
Eric Heiden

Eric Heiden was born on June 14, 1958, in Madison, Wisconsin. Heiden did his best skating ever at the 1980 Winter Olympics, when he was just twenty-one. He won the gold medals for 500m, 1,000m, 1,500m, 5,000m and

10,000m races. He broke five Olympic records and a world record. Heiden now lives in Sacramento, California, where he is an orthopedic surgeon specializing in sports medicine.



These three Olympic speed skaters are great Wisconsin athletes and fantastic role models.



*Ashley
Suzanne
Sarah
Jeff.*



Tom

O Elroy “Crazylegs” Hirsch

ne of the greatest football players of all time, Elroy “Crazylegs” Hirsch, was born June 17, 1923, in Wausau, Wisconsin. After high school, Elroy attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison. In 1943, he transferred to the University of Michigan where he lettered in football, basketball, track and baseball. He was the first Michigan athlete ever to win four letters in one year.

After graduating from college, he joined the Chicago Rockets football team. Elroy played with the Rockets from 1946 to 1948 and then played for the Los Angeles Rams from 1949 to 1957. In 1951, he made ten out of seventeen catches, all deep end zone passes. Elroy was a master of the over the head finger tip catch.

Elroy was nicknamed “Crazylegs”

because of his running style. When he ran he seemed to churn his legs in four directions at once. “Crazylegs” was so good because he could fake, vary his speed, change direction, and outmaneuver players like no other receiver.

“Crazylegs” career record is 378 catches for 7,029 yards and 60 touchdowns for 405 points. “Crazylegs” married Ruth Stahmer on June 27, 1946. Elroy “Crazylegs” Hirsch is still active in Madison affairs. Today, Madison hosts the annual “Crazylegs Run” named in his honor. Elroy “Crazylegs” Hirsch is one of the best football players of all time.

Kevin



By Kate

V Vince Lombardi

Vincent Thomas Lombardi was born in Brooklyn, New York, on June 11, 1913. As a child, he loved to play football. When he grew up he became a great American football coach.

His football career got started at St. Francis Prep School in the 1930s. He joined the Green Bay Packers in 1959 as their coach. He coached the Packers from 1959-1967. In that period of time they won eighty-nine games, lost twenty-nine games and tied four. They won five NFL titles: 1961, '62, '65, '66 and '67. The Packers also won the first two Super Bowls in 1967 and 1968. When Lombardi wasn't coaching he liked to golf. Religion was important to him too; he prayed every day.

Vince Lombardi thought the Super Bowl trophy represented the

ultimate achievement in professional football. However, Vince's goal wasn't to win a Super Bowl, it was to go for the Triple Crown and he made his goal. He won the Triple Crown.

Lombardi died on September 3, 1970. In 1971

Vince Lombardi was inducted into the Professional Football Hall of Fame for being a great coach. Two of his most famous sayings were, "There's no place for a loser," and "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing." Sayings like those inspired his players to do their best.



By Kelly

Kate & Jessie



By Jenna

Robert M. La Follette

One of Wisconsin's most famous politicians, Robert M. La Follette, was born June 14, 1855 to French immigrant parents. He earned a degree in law from the University of Wisconsin in Madison in 1879.

Mr. La Follette entered politics as a young man in 1880. At age twenty-five, he won the Republican nomination for Dane County District Attorney. He earned himself the nickname "Fighting Bob" because he was such a strong spokesman for the Republican Party. He was known as a progressive reformer and he caused a rift that divided the party into two factions: Stalwarts and Progressives.

La Follette won a seat in the U.S. Congress in 1884 and served for three terms. He then returned to private law practice. He ran for governor twice,

first in 1896 and again 1898. He lost both times. He was finally elected governor in 1900, and re-elected in 1902 and 1904. In 1905, he was elected to the U.S. Senate. He later was a third-party candidate for president for the Progressive Party in 1924. In 1957, the U.S. Senate named Robert La Follette one of the five most outstanding senators in the U.S.

Robert M. La Follette died June 18, 1925 at the age of seventy, leaving a significant legacy for the people of Wisconsin.

Alex



By Brian & Kelty

Billy Mitchell

Billy Mitchell was born in 1879, in Nice, France, but his family was from Milwaukee. His father, John Lendrum Mitchell, was a wealthy U.S. senator.

Mitchell's mother was his greatest influence. She taught him to be courageous, do his duty and encouraged him to join the army.

When the Spanish American War broke out, Billy Mitchell joined the army at age eighteen. He quickly became a lieutenant. Mitchell was transferred to Cuba and then to the Philippines. He was assigned to a unit that put up telephone lines. He learned to touch his tongue to telephone wire and get Morse Code messages sent by the enemy. He earned high praise.

Mitchell became a pilot in 1915. After becoming a pilot, he urged the

military to use air power. Later, he became commander of the American aviation forces during World War I.

After WWI, Mitchell wanted more air power for the military, but many Americans wanted to reduce the armed forces as a way to have peace. Mitchell argued publicly against his superiors. In 1925, he was demoted and put on trial. He resigned from the military in 1926, but continued to speak about the need for a strong air force.

Billy Mitchell died in 1936. After his death, he was awarded the title Major General and the Medal of Honor. Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee is named after him.

Phil



By Tiffany

Golda Meir

Golda Meir was born May 3, 1898 in Kiev, Russia, into a Jewish family. Her parents wanted to move to America because of such bad treatment to Jews. In 1903 Golda's father went to America to find a peaceful home. Three years later, the family joined him in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

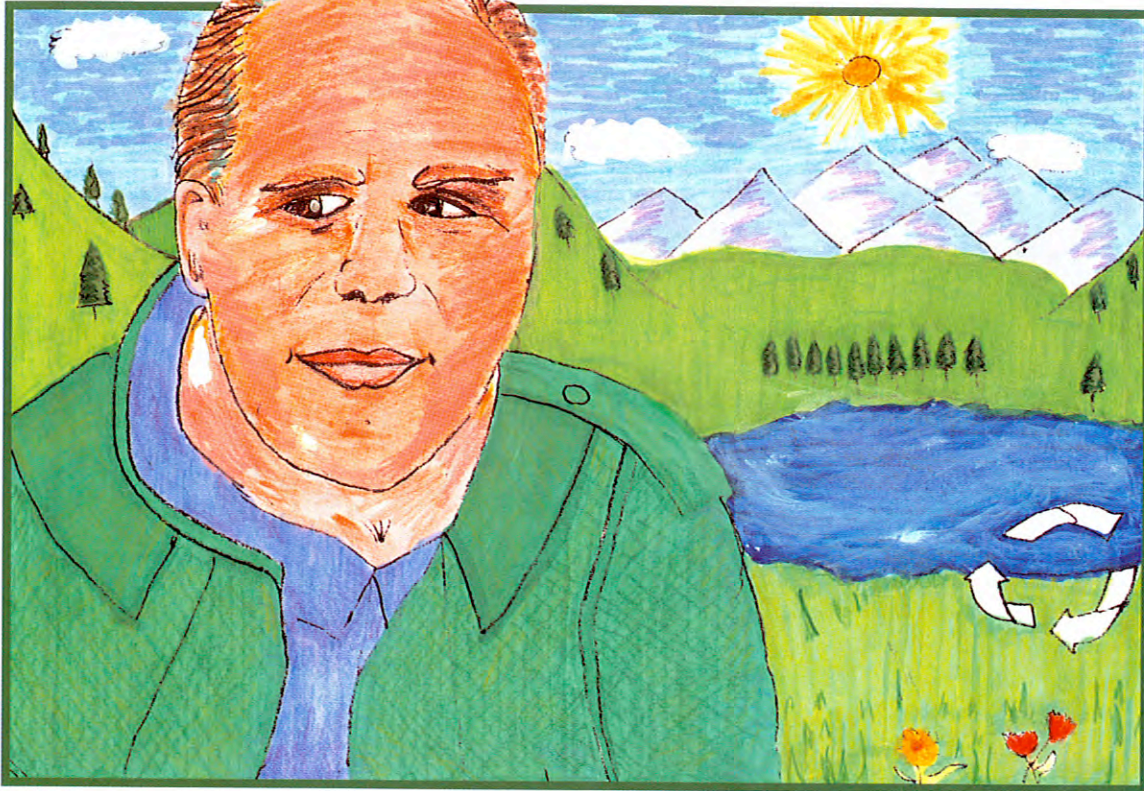
In Milwaukee, Golda began her education. She went to North Division High School and worked at the Boston Store. Golda's dream was to become a teacher, but at age fourteen her mother arranged a marriage. Golda ran away, but returned two years later and finished high school. Later, she went to Milwaukee State Teacher's College and then taught in a public school.

Golda became interested in politics. She joined the Poalei-Zion, a

group that hoped to build a Jewish state in Palestine. In 1917, she began work for the group full time. That same year she married Morris Meyerson. They moved to Palestine and had two children.

In the following years, Golda Meir continued to work for the Zionists. She helped Jews escape the Holocaust and get to Israel. In 1948, Golda signed the Proclamation of Independence for Israel. At age seventy, she was elected Israel's first female Prime Minister. She was awarded an honorary degree from the University of Wisconsin. Golda died of cancer in 1978. Clearly, Golda Meir was an excellent political leader.

Jennifer, *Maija*, *Alix*, *Lyndsay*



By Chase

Gaylord Nelson

Gaylord Nelson, born June 4, 1916, in Clear Lake, Wisconsin, has been a powerful influence for Wisconsin. He served four years as governor and was a U.S. senator from 1963 to 1980. As governor, he developed a state commission on aging, worked for the benefit of public education, and the rights of women, minorities and the disabled.

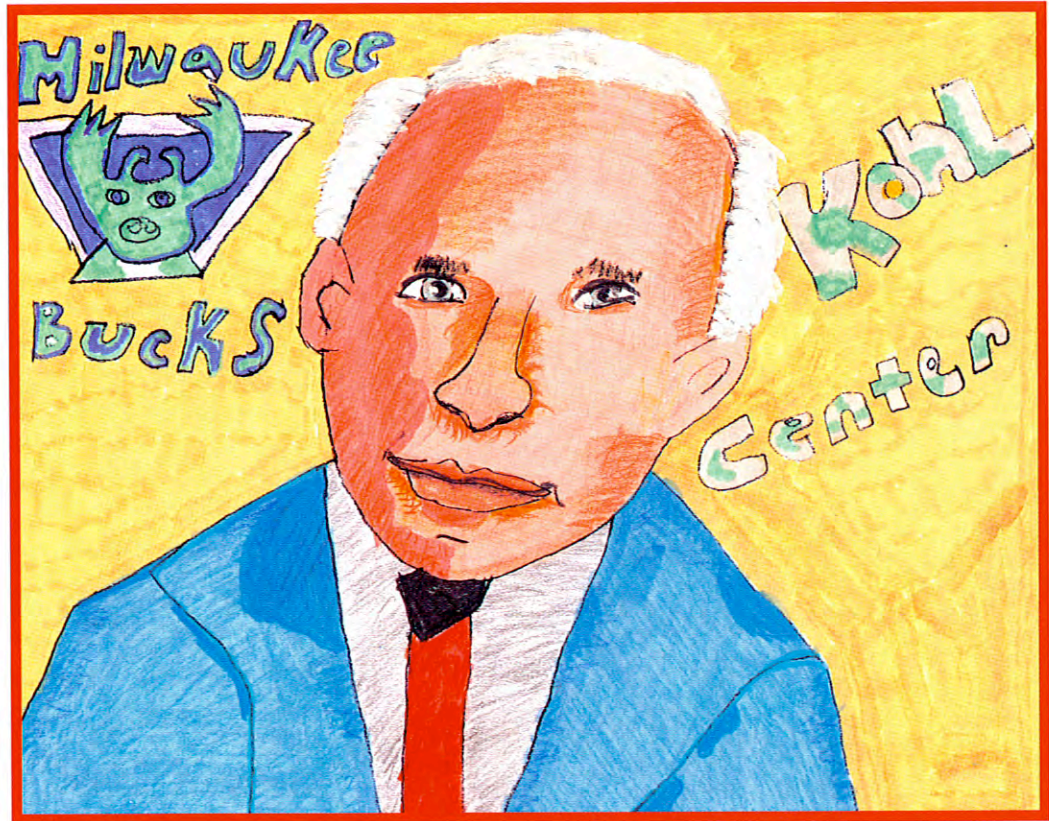
After his governorship, he went to the U.S. Senate. During this time, he achieved his greatest accomplishment when he created Earth Day. This became a national day to recognize the Earth's beauty and to clean up the environment.

The first Earth Day was April 22, 1970, and was considered the biggest national demonstration ever. Thousands of people picked up litter,

collected and sorted garbage to recycle, and wrote to federal officials to make new pollution laws. In Tacoma, Washington, one hundred high school students rode horseback down a highway to raise awareness of automobile pollution.

Gaylord Nelson is respected for his friendliness and honesty. The Governor Nelson State Park near Madison is named after him and in Clear Lake, a museum documents his life. Mr. Nelson will always be remembered for his contribution to our nation's environment. He once said, "Earth Day achieved what I had in mind. The environment became, for the first time, part of American politics."

Chase



By Sammy

U Herb Kohl

.S. Senator Herb Kohl was born on February 9, 1935, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. After graduating from high school, he went on to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After two years, he transferred to Harvard University, where he received his degree in business administration in 1956. He also served in the Army Reserve from 1958 to 1964. He is the former president of a large Wisconsin grocery business. Today, he lives in Milwaukee.

Mr. Kohl was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1988, and re-elected in 1994. Today, his office is in Washington D.C.

Mr. Kohl has received many awards, including the 1986 Humanitarian of the Year Award. He received this award for his generosity to the

city of Madison, Wisconsin. From his Washington office, he regularly answers student's questions on the Internet.

Mr. Kohl has also been a heavy contributor to Wisconsin sports. He is the owner of the Milwaukee Bucks basketball team. For his contributions to sports, he was named the Sports Personality of the Year in 1985 by a group called the Pen and Mike Club. He later donated \$25 million to build a new sports arena at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. In his honor, they named the new arena, which opened in 1997, the Kohl Center.

Doug



By Phil

W Tommy Thompson

Wisconsin's longest serving governor, Tommy Thompson, was born and grew up in the small town of Elroy. His father owned a gas station with a general store. Tommy's first job, when he was six, was sorting and polishing eggs in his father's general store. His mother was a teacher.

In 1963, Mr. Thompson earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In 1966, he got his law degree from the UW-Madison, as well. Mr. Thompson was elected to the State Assembly the same year. He said he knocked on almost every door in a three-county area. Thompson beat a man who had been in that position for almost twenty years.

While Mr. Thompson has been governor, his main focus has been the

economy, ending welfare, education reform, the environment and crime.

Under Governor Thompson, Wisconsin's prison capacity has doubled. He promoted adding 1,200 beds to keep convicts off the streets. Another Thompson policy, welfare reform, required people to get off welfare after only two years, and off food stamps after three years. Then they had to get a job.

Voters seem to like him, and voted him back into office for an unprecedented three terms. In 1998, he ran for a fourth term and won again.

Nathan



Ashley



Places





By Gretchen

Al Capone's Hideout

Do you want to go to a gangster's hideout? In most cases, probably not, but you might want to make an exception for Al Capone's.

The hideout has not been in use since the roaring 20s. Today, people can go on tours of the area where the famous Chicago gangster spent some of his time. It is located in Couderay, where Capone built his hideout because it was a good place for him to do his illegal activities, such as gambling and transporting bootleg liquor into the United States.

There are tours of the lodge, where Capone spent most of his time. In the lodge, there is a fireplace made out of stones and a spiral staircase that was custom made in Chicago. A lot of the original furniture is still there. To protect "The Boss" from his enemies,

there is a gun tower where his fellow gangsters would keep watch with machine guns. The walls of the cabin are eighteen inches thick, and no bullets could get through them.

Al Capone's hideout is a really great place to visit. You can go to the bar where Capone and his gangsters gathered, see Cranberry Lake, where Al Capone killed some of his enemies and where airplanes landed that carried bootleg liquor from Canada.

Gretchen



By Emily

The Birkebeiner

Since 1973, thousands of people have come to Northern Wisconsin each year for the American Birkebeiner, the longest, most important cross-country ski race in the United States. It takes place each February between two small Wisconsin towns. Skiers race from Hayward to Telemark Resort in Cable. To fit in, call the race “Birkie”, since that’s its nickname.

The Birkebeiner is named after two Viking warriors who lived in the early 1200s during a civil war in Norway. The two warriors rescued an infant prince, Haakon Haakoson, who was in danger. To reach safety the two warriors skied over two mountain ranges. In Norwegian, birkebeiner means birch bark leggings, worn by the warriors for protection. Thanks to

the first “birkebeiners”, the infant prince later became king. The Viking’s trip with the infant prince was thirty-one miles, and that’s the length of Wisconsin’s Birkie.



*Gabe
Mara*

The week-long Birkebeiner festivities are Hayward and Cable’s biggest tourist attraction. Skiers must survive hills, crowds and sometimes harsh weather. This race is not just for adults. Thousands of children ski distances of 1 kilometer, 2.5 kilometers or 5 kilometers in the “Children’s Birkie”. At the finish line every child gets a medal, cookies and hot chocolate. Thousands watch as people do their best to conquer Wisconsin’s Birkie.

Mara & Terry



By Nathan

Cave of the Mounds

Located in southwestern Wisconsin near Mount Horeb, the Cave of the Mounds is about a million years old.

It was discovered on August 4, 1939 on the Brigham Farm, after a dynamite blast revealed a limestone cavern more than twenty feet high.

The cave opened into eighteen caverns, all containing numerous limestone formations. Less than a year after it was discovered, owners installed lights and wooden sidewalks, and opened the Cave of the Mounds to visitors.

The caverns were formed by underground water and contain limestone formations like stalagmites and stalactites colored with lines of red, orange, yellow and brown. These formations

grow at the rate of one inch every two hundred years.

There are eighteen caverns. A special attraction in one cavern is a rare formation of crystallized white limestone with black stripes running across it. Another cavern features

large quantities of cave

onyx, which is course stone found on the walls of caves that is colored

white, green, red and brown.

Tourists can also see a fossil of a cephalopod, an ancient squid-like creature that was the largest animal of the Ordovician Period.



Alex

Brenda , Mandy & Bobbi ,

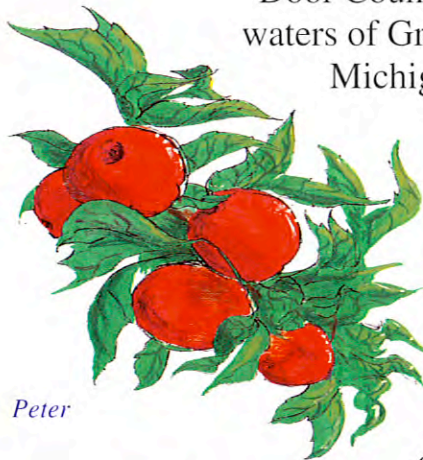


By Peter

Door County

One of the oldest settled regions in Wisconsin is known as Door County. It is also one of Wisconsin's most popular tourist areas. It features many old Victorian homes and restored shops.

Door County juts into the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan and has a



Peter

maritime heritage of fishing and boating. Door County also has many picturesque cliffs, sandy beaches, dunes, and numerous apple and

cherry orchards, which also are a big tourist attraction. They give Door County its nickname, "The California of the North." Kids in Door County

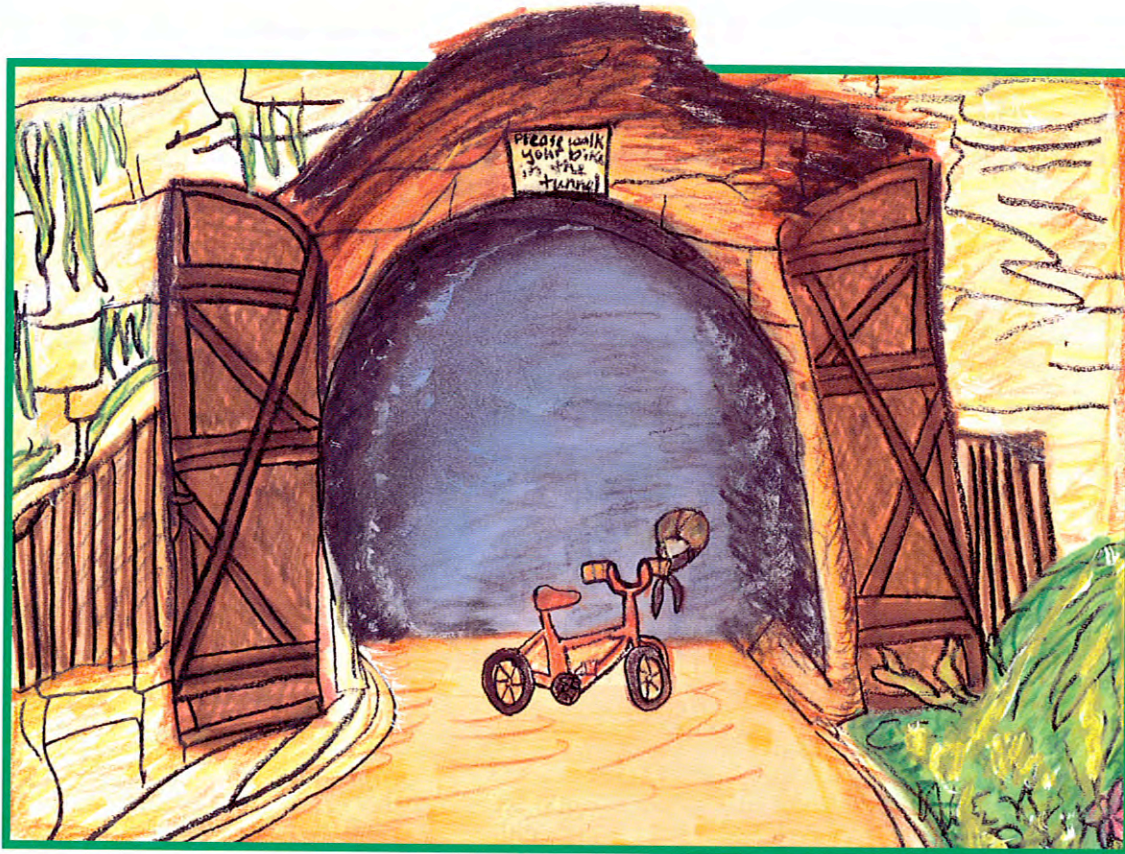
often go to summer camps to pick apples and cherries until school starts in the fall.

The lake currents between the tip of Door County, which is known as the "Top of the Thumb," and Washington Island are described as "Porte De Mortes," French for "Death's Door." The currents gave it this name because many ships have sunk while trying to cross.

A tradition in Door County is the outdoor "fish boil". The people of Door County get together every year to eat this mixture of fish, potatoes, and onions after they are boiled to perfection.

Clearly, beautiful Door County is an area rich in culture and tradition.

Melissa & Rachel



By Mai.

Elroy-Sparta Bike Trail

The Elroy-Sparta Bike Trail is one of the most popular trails in Wisconsin, stretching from Juneau to Monroe counties. The Elroy-Sparta Bike Trail is a very good family trail. The five towns, a campground, and dozens of resting spots along the way allow people to set their own pace.

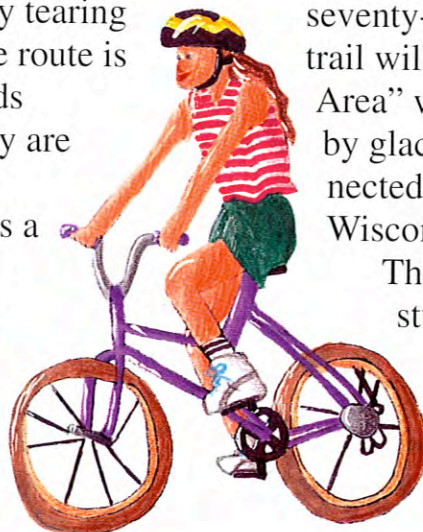
The trail was built by tearing up railroad tracks, so the route is fairly flat. The trail winds through five towns. They are Elroy, Kendall, Wilton, Norwalk and Sparta. It is a thirty-two mile bike trail with three dark tunnels. Two of the tunnels are one-third of a mile long and the other tunnel is three-fourths of a mile long. Natural stone

walls were used to create these arched-ceiling tunnels. It took workers seven years to bore through the bluffs to complete the project.

Soon the Great River State Trail and the La Crosse River State Trail will be connected to the Elroy-Sparta Bike Trail to form one long trail about seventy-five miles long. This bigger trail will go through the "Driftless Area" which is the area not touched by glaciers. When this trail is connected it will be the biggest trail in Wisconsin.

The scenery along the way is stunningly beautiful. For summer fun, give this trail a try.

By Samantha



By Kirsten



By Nick

Fort Crawford

If you are interested in medical history, stop by Prairie du Chien, which is the home of Fort Crawford Medical Museum.

Fort Crawford was the site of early ground breaking medical research, starting in the 1800s. It was operated by the State Medical Society of Wisconsin. Both Zachary Taylor, who later became a U.S. president, and Jefferson Davis, who became president of the Confederacy, were once stationed at Fort Crawford. It was one of the most important outposts in the United States, especially during the Black Hawk Indian Wars in 1832.

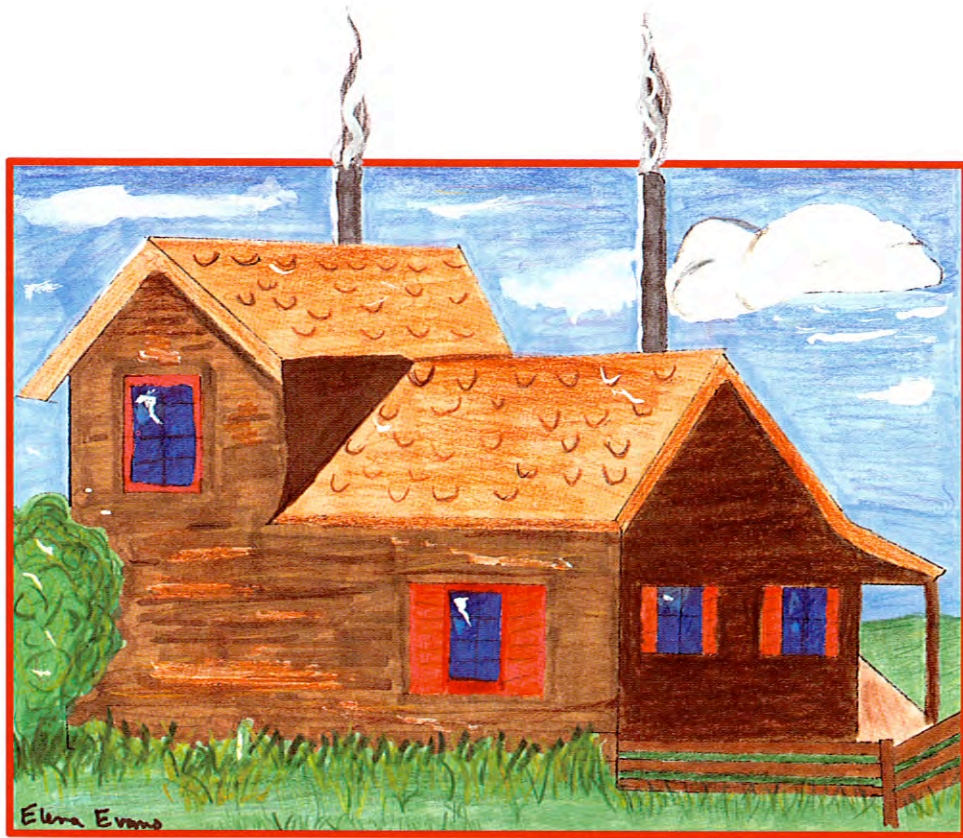


By Matt

At Fort Crawford, a doctor named William Beaumont once cared for a young French Canadian who had a hole shot in his stomach. Dr. Beaumont performed experiments on the man. One day he put food on a string, put it in the man's stomach and withdrew it for study. His findings were instrumental in opening a whole new medical field on the digestive system.

The museum is a restoration of the hospital where Dr. Beaumont worked. It includes some of his findings, surgical instruments and medical devices.

Zach.



By Elena

D Home of Colby Cheese

Developed by Joseph F. Steinwand in 1885, Colby cheese has grown to be one of the most popular cheeses from Wisconsin. Stocked in grocery stores all over Wisconsin, Colby is a mild, moist, soft, cheese. It was named after the town where Steinwand's father, Ambrose Steinwand, Sr., had built the first cheese factory in northern Clark County three years before. Shortly after the 20th century hit, Colby became one of the great cheese producing centers in the nation. Since then, Colby cheese has grown popular world wide.

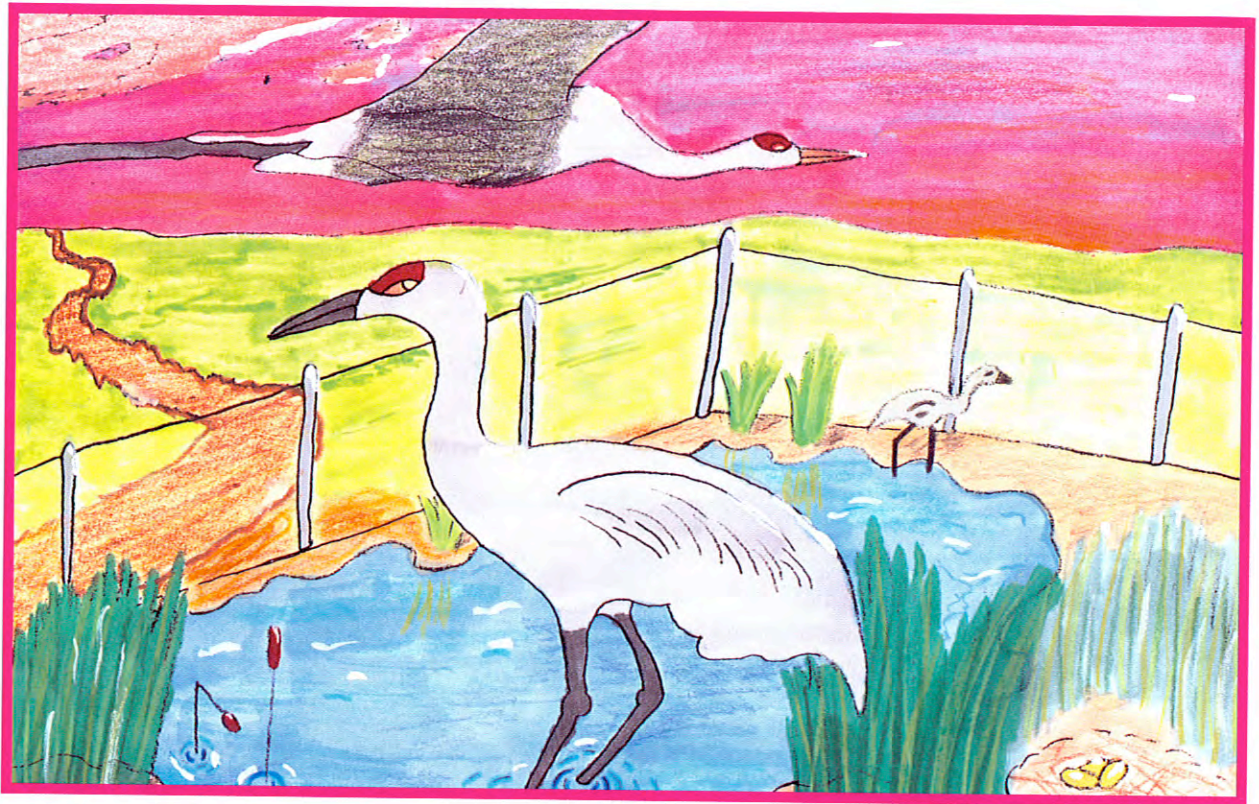
In the 1890s and early 20th century, cheese making was a process that took an entire day. The most milk was usually produced by the cows in June, when the grass was at its full green and cows were still hungry from the winter. Every day farmers milked their cows

then hauled the milk needed for making cheese to the factory. Farmers would usually use a horse and a wagon to get their milk to the factory by 9:00 or 9:30 in the morning, then wait in line to unload their milk. This gave the farmers time to talk about the local news, their crops, or life on the farm. Today, the dairy farmers of Wisconsin make it the top cheese producing state.



Jennie

Jerome



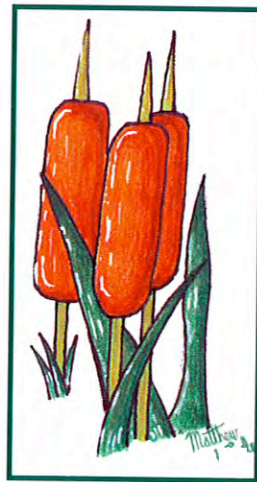
By Rob

The Crane Foundation

The International Crane Foundation was founded at Baraboo in south central Wisconsin in 1973 by Ron Sauey and George Archibald. Both of these men were interested in protecting cranes and their natural habitat. This foundation is dedicated to preserving cranes from around the world. The Crane Foundation has some of the rarest and most beautiful cranes in the world.

The Crane Foundation started with a few cranes donated by zoos throughout the world. Today, the foundation contains fifteen species of cranes along with sixty-six breeding pens.

The Crane Foundation has four

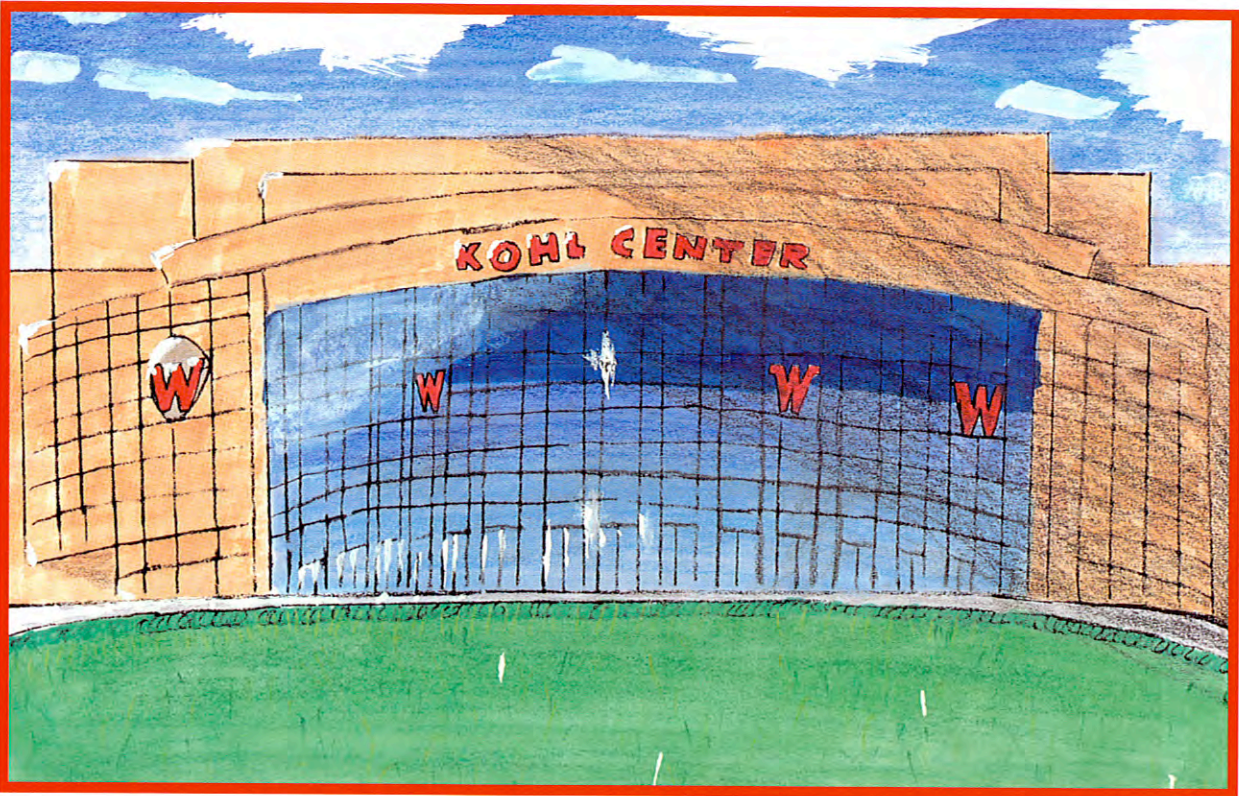


Matt

main goals. These goals are restoring wetlands (the cranes natural habitat), breeding cranes, releasing cranes into the wild and researching cranes. The Foundation has been effective. In fact in 1939, there were only twenty-four Whooping Cranes left in North America. Today, there are one hundred forty-four.

Crane experts offer tours of the foundation. Here, you can see humans teaching cranes to fly, or humans teaching cranes to live in the wild on their own. Besides learning about cranes, at the International Crane Foundation you will learn about nature and the restoration of Wisconsin's beautiful environment.

Dane



By Matt

Kohl Center

In 1998, athletic fans said goodbye to the University of Wisconsin's Field House, where basketball and volleyball games, boxing matches, tournaments and camps had been held for almost seventy years. Fans will long remember sitting on the red and white benches, smelling the popcorn, and hearing the pep band belt out "On Wisconsin".

However, it wasn't just an end; it was also a beginning, because on January 17, 1998, the Badgers moved into a brand-new home: the Kohl Center. The whole center cost nearly \$76 million dollars, and without the \$25-million donation from Senator Herb Kohl, the entire project wouldn't have been possible. The Kohl Center seats 17,142 for basketball, 15,682, for hockey, and 17,300 for concerts.

Considered one of the best arenas in the country, it has eight locker rooms with study areas, and thirty-six luxury suites featuring food, beverages, cushioned furniture, and television.

In a halftime ceremony during the last game at the Field House, UW basketball players past and present were honored in center court, following a rendition of Sarah McLachlan's hit song "I Will Remember You". Even though fans may miss the Field House, they'll no doubt develop even stronger feelings of excitement and pride at our new Kohl Center.

Go Badgers!!

Kathleen



By Emily

Little Norway

The Norwegians were the second largest European ethnic group to migrate to Wisconsin. A well kept memorial to these immigrants exists in Dane County, three miles west of Mount Horeb and two miles east of Blue Mounds. The memorial is called Nissedahle, meaning “valley of the elves,” by the people who live there. To us, it is called Little Norway.

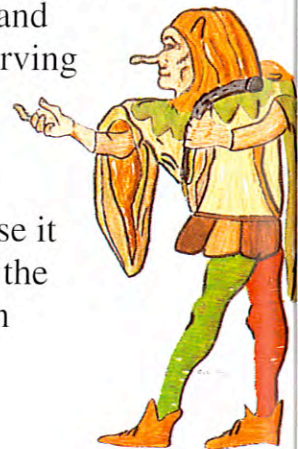
Little Norway is a one-hundred year-old village that visually teaches how Norway was when these people migrated to Wisconsin. Buildings common to Norway, like houses made of timber with sod roofs, small barns, sheds, and outhouses, were built in this village. Little Norway also has beautiful footbridges that wind around throughout the village and the swamps and streams. It has many chapels and

churches, but the most extraordinary and artistic of them all is the twelfth century Stavkirke. This church was brought over from Norway, dismantled and put together five times in five different cities, and finally rebuilt to stay in Little Norway.

It is a wonderful place to visit. The guides are friendly and dress in authentic clothes. They demonstrate old world crafts and skills, such as wood carving and playing Norwegian instruments.

If you ever get a chance, go visit, because it is splendid, and one of the many exciting places in Wisconsin.

Kirsten



Gabe



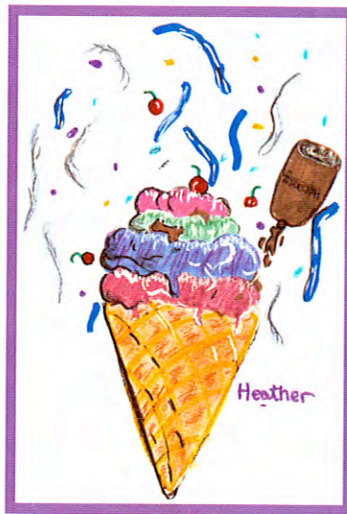
By Eric

Merrimac Ferry

Just south of Baraboo lies the city of Merrimac. Merrimac is home to the Col-Sac II, better known as the Merrimac Ferry. The ferry is called the Col-Sac II because it connects Columbia and Sauk counties.

The Merrimac Ferry is one of the few state-owned ferries left in the United States. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation maintains and operates the ferry. The Col-Sac II acts as a “bridge” connecting the two counties via Highway 113 across the Wisconsin River. It is a free ride that runs from the time the Wisconsin River thaws to the time the ice returns to the river in the winter.

On the southern side of the Wisconsin River, there is a park and picnic area and the ferry’s restroom facilities. The ferry is a 10-minute ride to the other side. On the north side of the river, there is an ice cream stand. The stand offers many unique types of ice cream, including elephant ear ice cream.



Heather

Rob



By Brenda

O Milton House

ne of the most famous stops on the Underground Railroad in Wisconsin was the Milton House. It was built in 1844 by Joseph Goodrich. He also founded the town of Milton and its small college. The Milton House is located on Fort Atkinson Street in Milton.

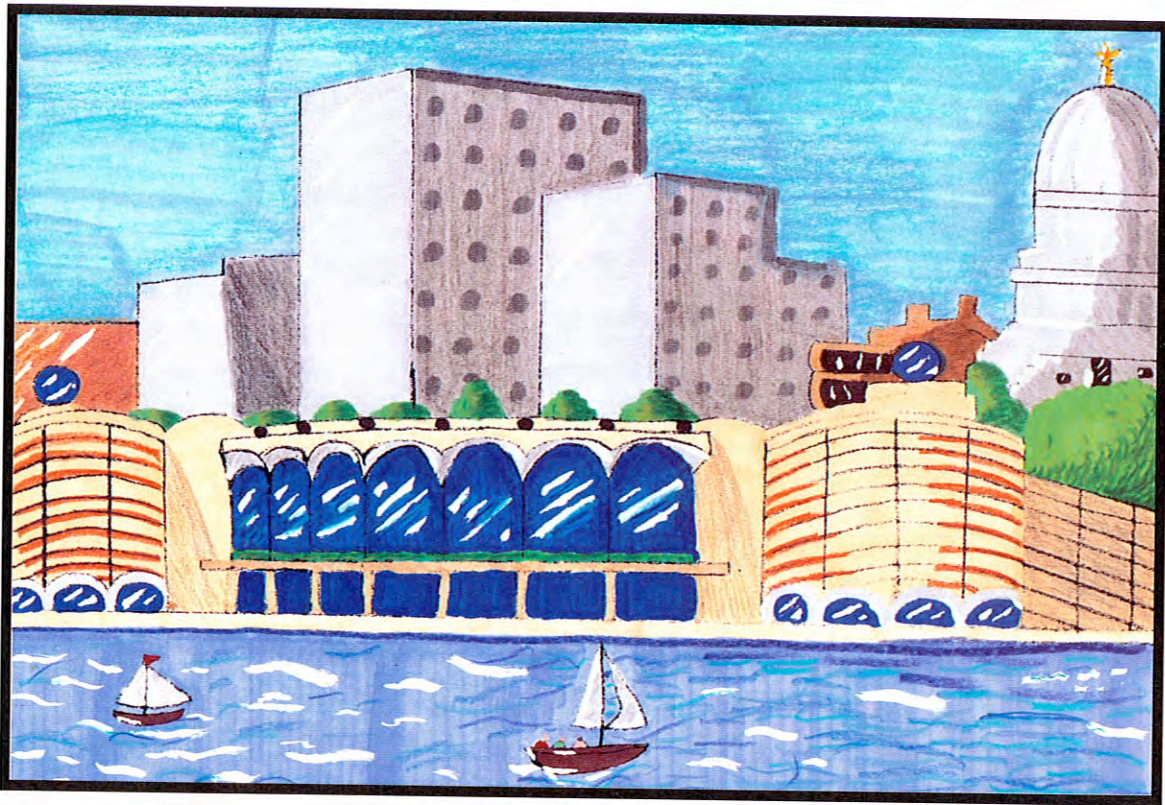
At first, Goodrich built a small cabin where his family could live. Then as the roads grew busier, he thought it would be a good place for an inn. His family moved into the inn, which is now called the Milton House. He also kept the small cabin. When slaves were fleeing for freedom and needed places to stay, people would hide them in their houses for protection from slave owners. In the Milton House, there was a small tunnel that connected the inn to the small cabin,

where slaves were hidden.

The Milton House was the first monolithic cement building in the United States. The hexagonal shaped building is three stories high. It is made out of grout. Grout is a mixture of gravel, lime and water.

Now, along with the old country inn and small cabin, there is a general store. All are open to the public, so if you ever go to Milton, visit the Milton House. It is a unique place in Wisconsin!

Lisa



By Andrea

Monona Terrace

If you look across the lake, you'll see grace, luxury, perfection, and accuracy, in the form of Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center. Madison's newest architectural wonder, located on the western shore of Lake Monona, was finally built sixty years after it was first proposed.

The renowned architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, thought the Lake Monona site would be "the great chance at the foot of Monona." Actually, he chose Lake Monona because of its beauty and location.

Wright's original plan was to include a performing arts center, exhibit space, galleries, a railroad station, and even a jail. What became reality was a 250,000 square-foot convention center for public recep-

tions with meeting and exhibition space. To be true to Wright's tradition of architecture, Monona Terrace had to blend in with its surroundings. For example, the arched windows were designed to compliment the Capitol in the background. The building itself extends ninety feet over Lake Monona and has a 75,000 square-foot rooftop garden, satisfying Wright's hope that it would be both enjoyable and accessible.

The building that Frank Lloyd Wright first proposed in 1938 was dedicated and opened to the public on July 18, 1997. Someday, anyone looking across the lake would have to think that the picture would not truly be complete without Monona Terrace.

Josh



By Amy

New Glarus

New Glarus is small Swiss founded community. The people came from Canton Glaru, Switzerland. Most came around 1845 because of famine and unemployment. Surely, they had good reasons to move.

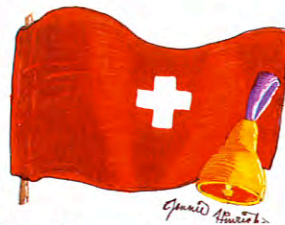
The village of New Glarus has European style buildings and is surrounded by farmland with many green hills. It lies in Green County on the Sugar River. Today, many townsfolk demonstrate their Swiss heritage with their skills as bell ringers, yodelers, flag throwers and Alpine horn blowers. Some even put bells around cow's necks. No wonder New Glarus is sometimes called "Swissconsin".

New Glarus has many interesting attractions. One is the New

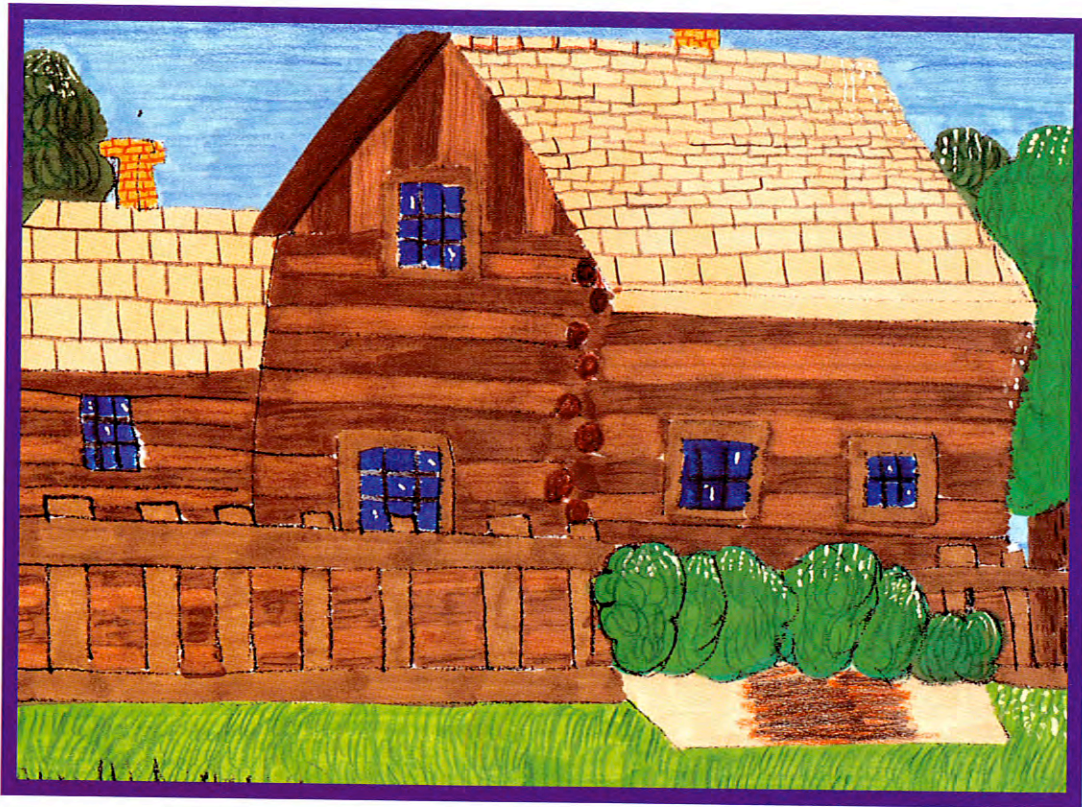
Glarus Woods with forty acres of oak trees. Long trails lead, or did lead, to zinc and lead mines. Another is the Swiss Miss Factory, where Swiss lace is made. If you like museums, the Swiss Museum Village and the Chalet of the Golden Fleece have many interesting old-world exhibits.

Annual festivities, introduced with an Alpine horn, also reflect the Swiss background of New Glarus. The festivities include the Polkafest, Octoberfest, the New Glarus Community Festival, the Volksfest of the Swiss Men's Chorus and the William Tell Festival. Clearly, New Glarus and these celebrations show the Swiss influence in Wisconsin.

Becky



Jennie



By Erin

Old World Wisconsin

Old World Wisconsin is an outdoor museum located near Eagle, Wisconsin. It celebrates Wisconsin's ethnic heritage. If you like history, Old World Wisconsin is the place for you because it's a place where people show you how the settlers lived in Wisconsin.

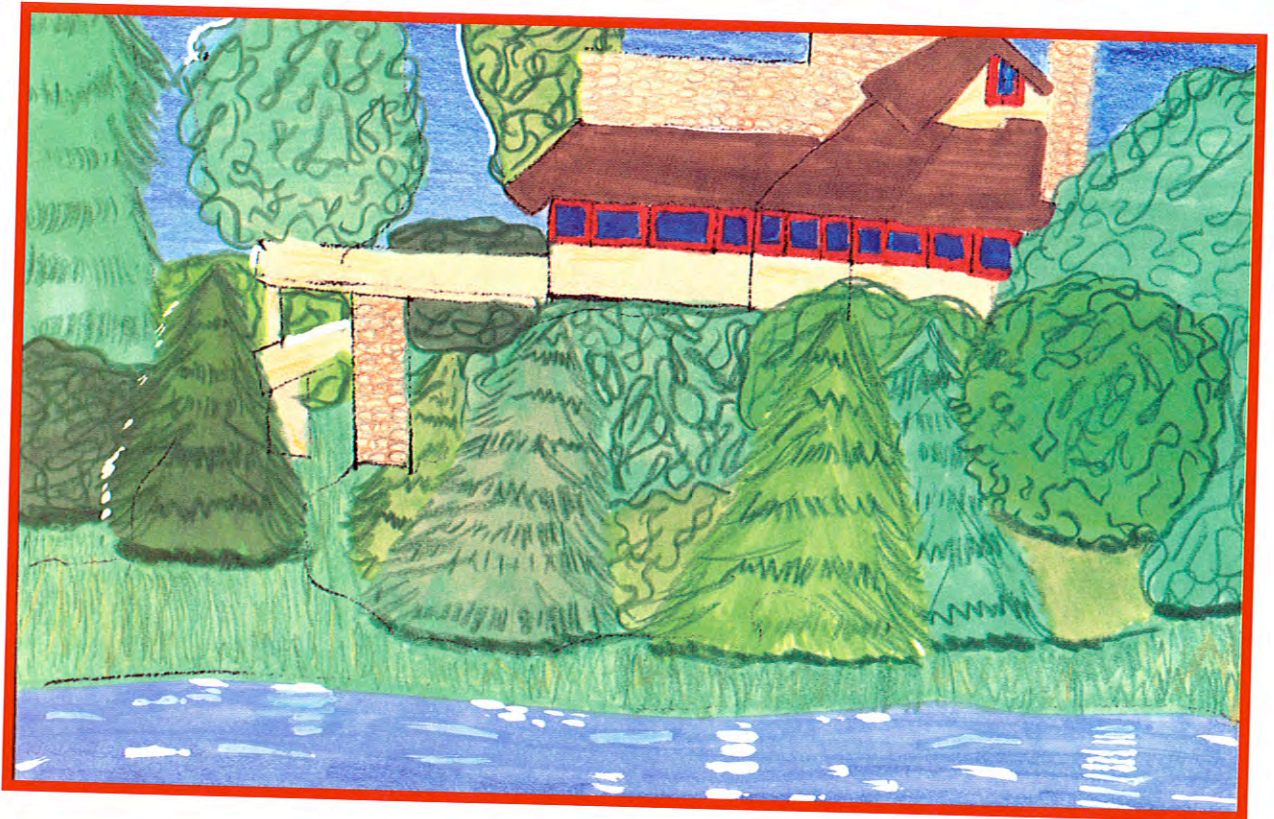
Everything old is new again at Old World Wisconsin. The State Historical Society took old buildings from all over Wisconsin and put them in this park to recreate a village originally made by early immigrants from Europe and the eastern United States. There are examples of buildings from Norway, Finland, Denmark, Switzerland, Poland, and Germany. The buildings include churches, schools, town halls, houses, and business places. They even have a working

blacksmith shop where you can watch the blacksmith make horseshoes and farm tools.

When you take tours, guides show you what people did in the 1800s. The people who work in the buildings are dressed in nineteenth century clothing. They also have farm animals and crops that are regularly cared for. Goats, sheep, cows, chickens, and horses can be seen in the farmyards. They use tools that the first settlers would have used in the 1800s.

You can learn all about our state's history and can compare Wisconsin then and now with a trip to Old World Wisconsin. It's a trip you'll never forget.

*Andrea
Devon . . . ; 7th Gr.*



By Katie .

F Taliesin

Frank Lloyd Wright's Wisconsin home in Spring Green is named Taliesin. It's named after a Welsh poet whose name means "shining brow." Wright's mother gave him two hundred acres to build Taliesin. Taliesin sits on a brow above one of the banks of the Wisconsin River. "No house should be on a hill," Wright once said, "it should be of the hill." Taliesin was built into the hill with limestone, wood, and plaster.

There actually have been three Taliesin's in Wisconsin. The first was built in 1911, and was destroyed by fire. The second was built in 1914, and also burned. The current Taliesin was rebuilt in 1925, and had many additions during Wright's life. There is also a Taliesin West in Arizona.

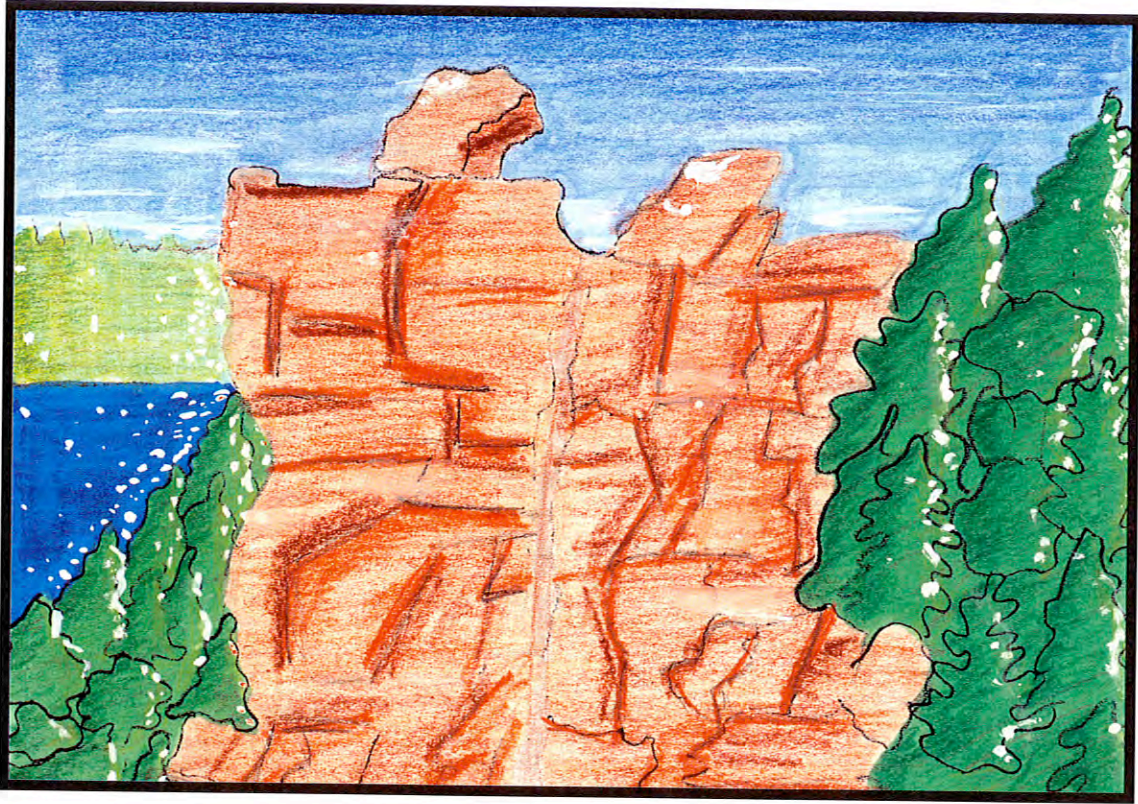
Currently Taliesin is running

many tours of the house and surrounding land. Taliesin is still the Midwest site of the Taliesin Fellowship, Wright's school for architects.

Taliesin has a beautiful view of the valley. Behind Taliesin is the Romeo and Juliet windmill. Wright built the windmill even though skeptics said it would fall. There are several great views of the windmill throughout Taliesin.

The garden design was Frank Lloyd Wright's last addition to Taliesin. It was built for his wife in the summer of 1959, the year he died.

Katie & Nick



By Jena

D Two State Parks

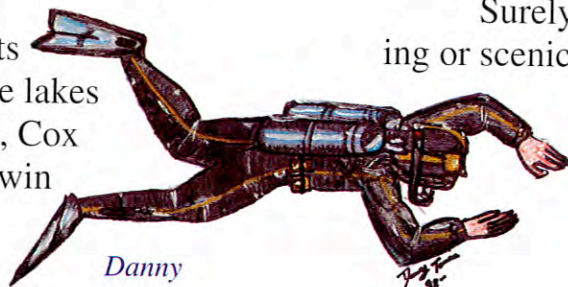
Devil's Lake and Governor Dodge State Parks are two popular parks in Wisconsin. They have many similar features. Both have pristine lakes, extensive hiking trails, good fishing, camping, and huge rocks good for climbing.

Governor Dodge State Park is just miles west of Madison. Over the last four hundred million years, wind and water carved its rugged landscape. The park was untouched by the great glacial debris. Before it became a park, it was a refuge for Native Americans, who made camp under its rock overhangs. The lakes in Governor Dodge, Cox Hollow Lake and Twin Valley Lake, were formed by man-

made earthen dams.

Devil's Lake, located near Baraboo, became a state park in 1910. Devil's Lake is surrounded by quartzite rock formations, some over five hundred feet tall. The rocks were formed over billions of years when several different rivers flowed through what is now the lake and deposited sand on the ground. After a few billion years the sand got compacted so tightly that it turned into quartz. People enjoy the spring fed lake's clear water for swimming, sailing, and scuba diving.

Surely, if fishing, hiking, camping or scenic beauty is what you are looking for, these parks are a wondrous piece of Wisconsin.



Danny

Elena, Tony, Tim



By Carl

Villa Louis

The Villa Louis Mansion is a restored Victorian house in Prairie du Chien, along the Mississippi River in the southwestern part of the state.

In 1870, the second Villa Louis was built over an old Indian burial site by Hercules Dousman after the first mansion burned.

The first Villa Louis was built by Hercules Dousman Sr., an enterprising fur trader who came to Prairie du Chien in 1826. He made his fortune from trading beaver pelts, railroading, and steamboating. Dousman, who died in 1868, is supposed to have been Wisconsin's first millionaire.

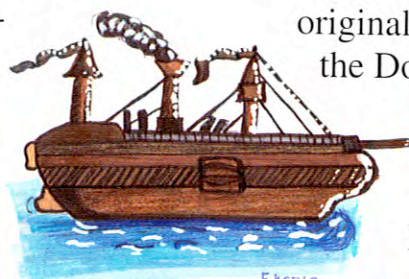
Today, the Villa Louis is one of the most beautifully restored Victorian

houses in the United States. Inside the Victorian mansion are numerous original furnishings and art work of the Dousman household. In addition to these historic items, there is the Museum of Fur Trade and the Museum of Prairie du Chien.

Not only is it beautifully furnished, it has a splendid view. If you stand on the back porch, you can see the Mississippi River. Between Villa Louis and the Mississippi lies the site of the only battle fought in Wisconsin during the War of 1812. Nearby are the ruins of Fort Crawford, an army garrison.

This lavish Victorian mansion and the nearby war sites are an important part of Wisconsin history.

Emily & Nicole



Elizabeth

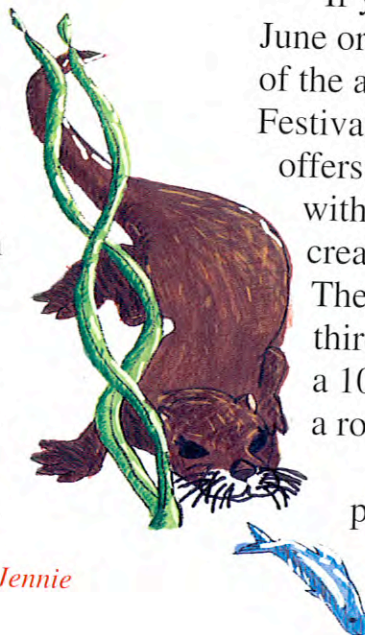


By Veronica

W Waupaca

Waupaca is an exciting recreation center in central Wisconsin, with cozy lake cottages, bed and breakfasts overlooking the Chain O' Lakes, and Hartman Creek State Park where you can hike, swim, fish, bike, or just kick back and relax.

If you're the more adventurous type, you can kayak or canoe the Crystal River. You can also rent a boat in Clearwater Harbor, or hit South Park for a swim in the lake. For a leisurely morning, try the area golf courses, or take the kids to JR's petting zoo. Later, visit the nearby Hutchinson House Victorian Museum, a tiny house that takes you back in time. Have a



Jennie

Jennie

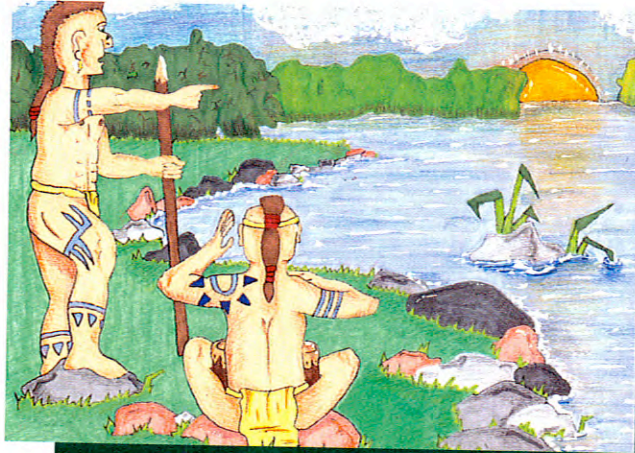
quiet dinner, or go to the Indian Crossing Casino, which looks out upon the beautiful Chain O' Lakes. Finally, end your evening with a stroll downtown to the small shops and live classical music at the gazebo.

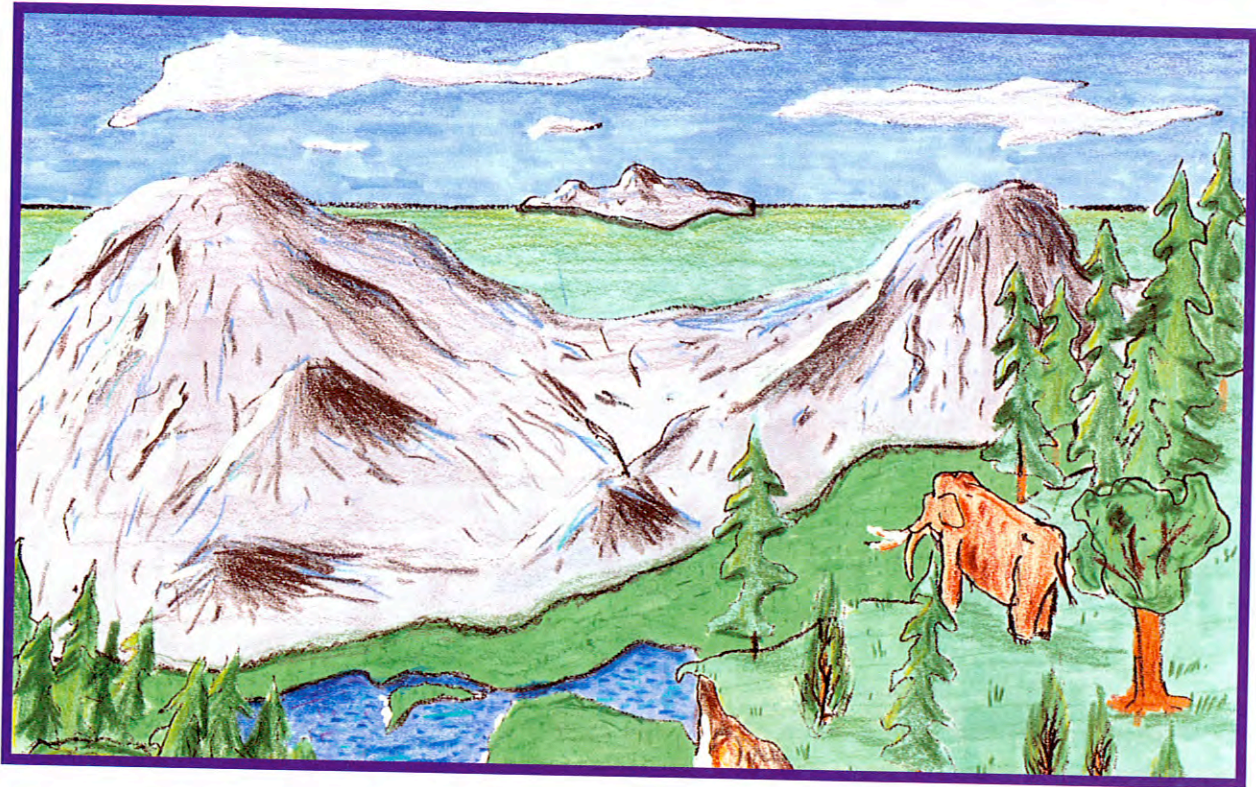
If you are visiting Waupaca in June or September, you may catch one of the annual festivals. The Strawberry Festival, held the third week in June, offers a fifty-foot angel food cake with strawberries and whipped cream, plus crafts and contests. The Fall-O-Rama Festival, the third week in September, features a 10K run, fall sports, games and a road rally.

Waupaca is the summer place to be.



Past





By Alex

Wisconsin's landscape owes its great beauty to the power of erosion.

W

Glaciers

Wisconsin's landscape owes its great beauty to the power of erosion.

About one and a half billion years ago, Wisconsin was an unknown territory covered by glaciers hundreds of feet tall. The glaciers that hit Wisconsin originated in Canada. These glaciers covered almost the whole state. The southwest corner of the state was untouched by glaciers. This part of Wisconsin is called the "driftless area."

Glaciers have covered Wisconsin at four different time periods. During each of the four periods, the glaciers cracked and split the granite bedrock by sheer weight of the ice, and formed enormous depressions into the landscape. These depressions became what are now the Great Lakes.

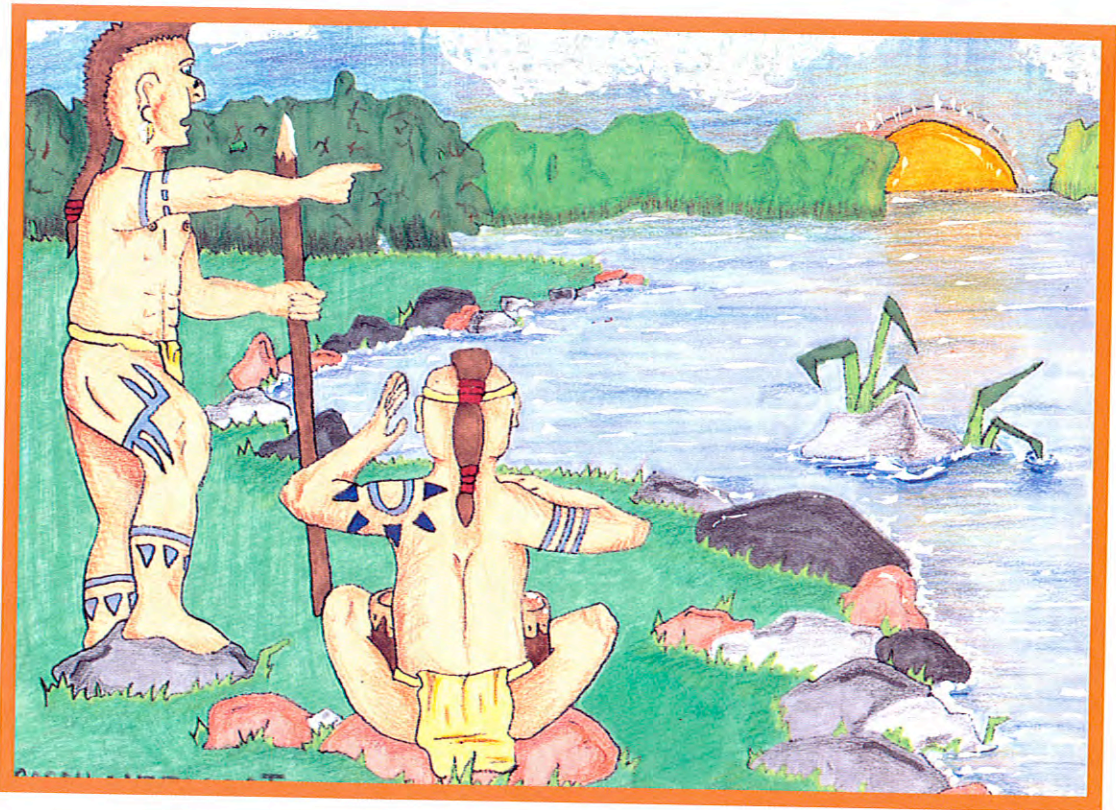
Two-thousand years after the glaciers stretched southward as far as they

could, they began receding northward at a rate of three hundred and five feet per year. This withdrawal left a lot of changed land. One of the major examples of what the glaciers did is the land near the Wisconsin Dells. There, the glaciers dug a groove through the land forming these beautiful bluffs which are similar to the ones that line the great Mississippi. Stevens Point, Wausau, and Devils Lake's land was carved out from glaciers.

About eleven-thousand years ago rolling hills appeared to rise above the ice covered land. As the glaciers retreated, the shape of the land we see today was revealed.

Adam

& Carlos



By Casey.

Native Americans

The first people in Wisconsin were the Paleo Indians. They arrived around 10,000 B. C. as the glaciers moved north into Canada. The Paleo made shelter under rock cliffs along the Wisconsin River. They hunted woolly mammoths and caribou and fished for northern, muskie, walleye, trout, and panfish. As the climate warmed, pine and birch trees began growing. The Indians learned to make jewelry and tools from natural materials. Over thousands of years, the Indians formed different tribes with their own cultural and spiritual beliefs.

The Winnebago, or Ho-Chunk Indians, and the Menominee Indians occupied Wisconsin in the Great Lakes Region when the French explorers arrived around 1634. In the mid-seventeenth century, most of the tribes were killed by disease and

warfare. Later, the population started to grow. However, after two-hundred years of contact with French and British traders, the Winnebago and Menominee tribes never regained much military strength.

Another influential tribe, the Ojibwa, or Chippewa, tribe, migrated to Wisconsin from north of Lakes Huron and Superior. As trade grew, the tribe was forced to give up much of its land. In the late 1700s, the Ojibwa occupied villages in northern Wisconsin and Minnesota. They remained there until the Removal Act of 1830, which forced many Indians to move westward. Today, there are seven bands of Chippewa in northern Wisconsin and Minnesota.

These and other tribes helped shape Wisconsin's history with their people and culture.

Kelsey.



By Amy

M Maple Sugaring

Maple sugaring is one of the oldest food gathering activities in Wisconsin.

Native Americans were the first to discover it. They would cut a hole in a tree and catch the sap in a tightly sewn birch basket. To cook syrup down, the Indians would place hot rocks in the baskets and keep the baskets in a sugar shed.

Maple syrup season starts in February and runs through March. Trees are not tapped until they are ten inches in diameter, and one tap hole in a mature tree can produce forty to eighty gallons of sap. It takes thirty gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup.

Different types of maple trees produce different flavors of syrup. The best syrup comes from the sugar

maple or “hard maple”. The sugar maple is the Wisconsin state tree.

Wisconsin still rates very high in maple syrup production. Companies now tap the trees and use miles of plastic tubing to transfer sap to huge evaporation setups. Then they boil down the sap in huge boilers, making the process more efficient.

The Native Americans of Wisconsin created a tradition that is still going after more than 150 years.

Amber, *Andy* and
Reon



By Adam

N Fur Trading

ot many people know about fur trading in Wisconsin, but it was very important to the formation of the state. Fur trading began with the French and the Native Americans in the early 1600s and continued to the 1820s. All of the Great Lakes states were involved with fur trading. The Europeans either hunted and trapped with the Indians or traded European goods to the Indians for animal skins.

The most popular animal skin was the beaver pelt. The beaver pelts were taken back to France, made into hats or many other things, and then sold in Europe. Europeans considered the beaver pelts “soft gold” because there was such a craze for the beaver skins back in Europe.

The British decided they wanted to control the fur trade in the Great

Lakes region. Fighting broke out because everyone wanted to get the money from the “soft gold.” In 1763, the British defeated the French and took over the fur trade. The British controlled the fur trade until the War of 1812. At this time, the Wisconsin territory became a part of the United States. The Americans controlled the fur trade until the trade declined in the 1820s.

Fur trading was important in the history of Wisconsin. It brought many people to Wisconsin, which in turn helped in the formation of the state.

Kate



By Elizabeth

W Early American Settlers

Wisconsin's culture would never be as rich as it is today if it weren't for its immigrants.

Foreigners arriving in the early 1800s were mostly from northern Europe. European immigrants came mostly from Germany, Norway, Ireland, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. They left home because of shortages of land and jobs, low wages and high taxes. Wisconsin's cheap land and rich soil attracted them. Sailors found work on the ships of the Great Lakes; others turned to farming. They could plant vegetables, grain and fruit trees like the ones they left back home. They helped build cities, railroads, factories and schools.

Many immigrants settled together in communities and made valuable contributions to Wisconsin's culture.

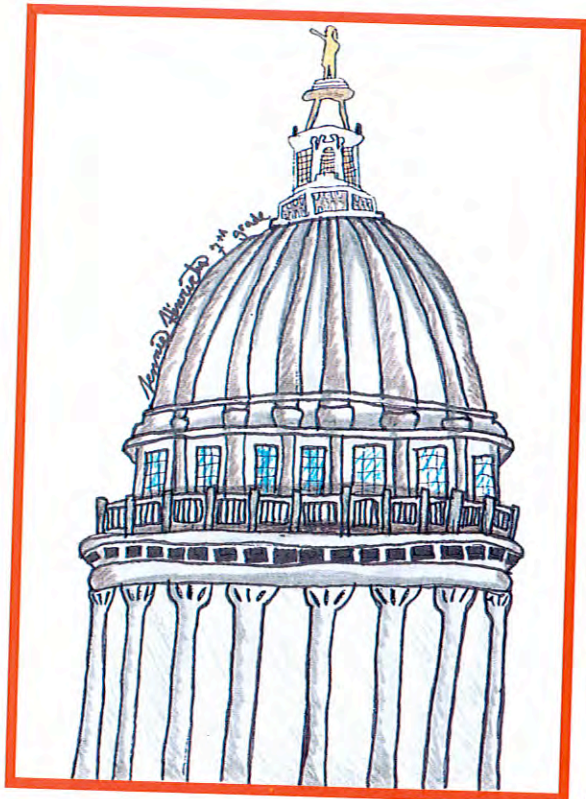
For example, the German's love of music, dancing, bratwurst and beer are still popular. Syttende Mai, Norway's independence day, is celebrated annually in Stoughton. Many communities serve Norwegian lutefisk and Danish kringle. The Danes who settled between Racine and southern Door County, the Swiss of Green County, the Irish, Italians, Greeks and Poles, who settled in Milwaukee and elsewhere, all have influenced Wisconsin culture with their traditions.

Recently, the Hmong people of Southeast Asia have settled in Wausau, Madison and other communities. Mexicans and Tibetans have settled here, too. Together, these groups continue to shape our state.

Dana , Dustin
 Dustin ; Beth
 Nicole



Joseph



Jennie

Becoming a State

Frenchman Jean Nicolet, the first explorer to reach the area that is now Wisconsin, arrived in 1634. He brought other Frenchmen and the beginning of the fur-trade era. The French controlled Wisconsin fur trade from 1654 to 1763.

In 1763, the area that included present day Wisconsin became part of the British colonial territory. The fur trade flourished as British traders exchanged furs and goods with Native Americans. During British control, Charles Langlade, a French Indian, became the first permanent settler at Green Bay. After 1783, the area officially became a U. S. territory called the Northwest Territory. The British remained in the region illegally until the War of 1812 ended.

After the War of 1812, the begin-

ning of the lead mining industry brought many European settlers and Americans from the east and south. Lead mining flourished from 1821 until 1861.



Ashley

On July 3, 1836, Wisconsin became an official territory of the United States. Henry Dodge, a pioneer in the lead mining region, was appointed governor of the territory. Belmont became the first capital. Later, it was moved to Madison. Dodge began the process to attain statehood.

The territory was eligible because it had reached a population of sixty thousand non-Indian settlers.

On May 29, 1848, President James K. Polk signed a bill making Wisconsin the thirtieth state admitted to the United States.

Tricia , Kelli , & Neil



By Ryan

Wisconsin Agriculture

Wisconsin is one of the largest producers of dairy products in the nation. It supplies sixteen percent of the nation's milk and twenty-five percent of the nation's butter.

In the early years of statehood, all farmers grew primarily wheat. Gradually, more and more farmers began raising dairy cattle. Almost nine out of ten acres were used for grain and dairy farming in Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin cheese business may have started as early as 1856, when Ann Pickett, a farm wife from Jefferson County, made cheese out of her surplus milk and sold it in Milwaukee for supplies.

In 1919, Wisconsin took the lead in milk and dairy products. Today, there are almost two million dairy cows in Wisconsin, which produce

nearly three billion gallons of milk each year. Wisconsin cheese factories produce about forty percent of all the cheese made in the United States.

Today in Wisconsin, farmers grow cucumbers, beans, sweet corn, cranberries, potatoes, wheat, soybeans, tobacco, apples, and peas. They also grow corn, oats and hay for a variety of livestock, including dairy cows, beef cattle, pigs, and chickens.

Agriculture has always played an important role in Wisconsin's history. For more than a century Wisconsin has been known as "The Dairy State."

Ruth and Cole



By Ryan

A College Rising

Today more than 43,000 students attend the 920-acre UW-Madison. The first university plans had been to build in Belmont, the original capital. When Madison became the territorial capital in 1837, the plans changed. The city was small, but growing. Political leaders wanted to build factories and develop industry. Instead, it was decided to build a university.

A man named Aaron Vanderpoel owned a great amount of land in Madison. Upon his death, he bequeathed enough land to double the size of the original campus.

Bascom Hall, named after the first president of the UW, John Bascom, was the first building on campus. In



Alex

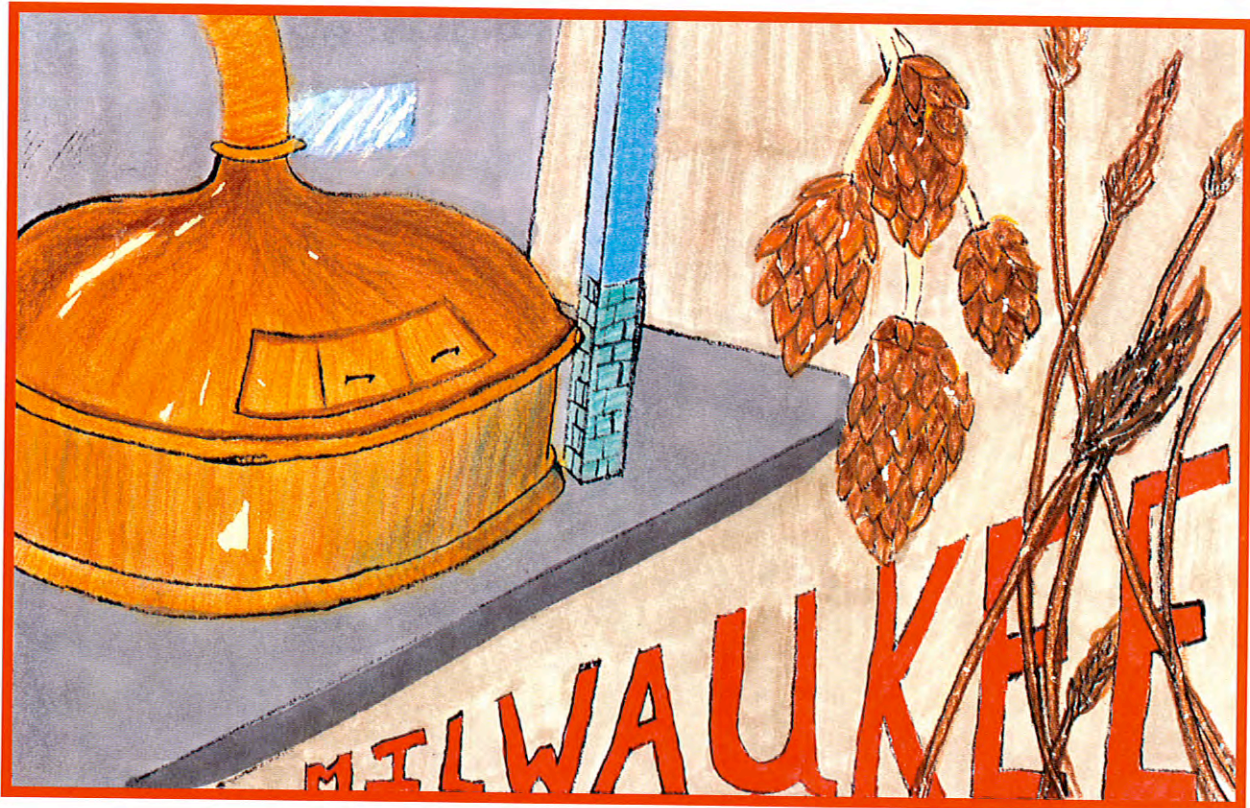
1850, there was only one teacher for the three students, and the curriculum was merely college prep. The first graduating class in 1854 had only two men. The University soon grew and became very popular and was soon to be the first choice for many college students.

In 1997, 40,000 students studied at the UW, and there were 2,209 faculty and 5,294 academic staff. The UW had grown into a one hundred-building university.

Within one hundred years, the UW-Madison expanded in many different ways, going from a few students at one campus to about 150,000 students at twenty-six campuses.

Tina

& Tony



By Chris

Breweries

It is no surprise that agricultural Wisconsin is home to some of the best breweries in the country.

Jacob Best started Best's Brewery in 1844. In 1853, he died and his son Phillip took over. Later, Phillip's daughter Maria married steamboat captain Frederick Pabst and Phillip brought Pabst into the beer business. In 1889, Pabst took over Best's Brewery and named it after himself. Pabst's slogan was "He drinks best who drinks Pabst." Today, his company ranks sixth among breweries in the nation.

Schlitz brewery was founded in 1858 in Milwaukee by bookkeeper Joseph Schlitz, when he married a widow who owned a small brewery. Eventually, it made Milwaukee famous. In fact "The beer that made

Milwaukee famous" became the company's slogan. Joseph Schlitz died in a shipwreck on his way to Germany to show off his wealth and success. His six step-nephews, the Uihlien brothers, inherited the company and made a fortune that was soon well over \$200 million dollars.

In 1880, a German named Frederick Miller came to America with \$9,000 in gold. He bought the Plank Road Brewery in the Menominee River Valley for \$8,000. In the first year, Miller made 300 barrels of beer. His brewery is now ranked No. 2 in the nation behind Anheuser Busch. Clearly, Wisconsin is home to successful breweries.

Jason ; & Chris .



By LeAnne

W Cranberry Harvesting

Wisconsin ranks first among the states in the production of cranberries, the tart, red berries used for sauces and juices. But if it hadn't been for the American Indians, we might not know how to grow cranberries today.

The cranberry industry goes back in history to the 1860s. The harvesting of cranberries for marketing was started by Edward Sacket, who learned to harvest from the Native Americans. Some Indian tribes used the cranberries for medicine. The Menominee Indians sweetened and ate them with maple syrup.

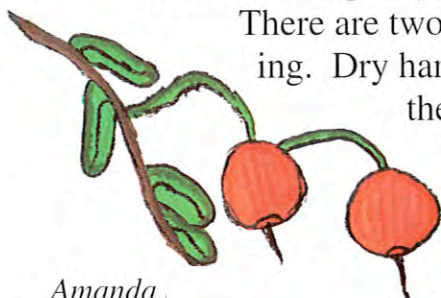
There are two kinds of harvesting. Dry harvesting is used in the Southeastern United States. It is used for frozen and fresh

cranberries. Wisconsin uses wet harvesting, which is best for berries used in sauces and juices.

In wet harvesting, when the berries are the size of a half-dollar, the cranberry bog is flooded with water. They flood the bog because the cranberries float to the top of the water. They then use water reels for freeing the berries from roots and vines. They collect all the cranberries, sticks, and vines. The cranberries are separated from the vines and roots. A farmer can bring in as much as two acres of berries a day.

After the harvest, the cranberries are put in big trucks and shipped to processors, who make the cranberry products that end up on our tables.

Steve and Amy



Amanda



By Ken

The Ice Industry

In the late 1800s, before refrigeration, people would get their ice from lakes. Every winter when the temperatures dipped below zero, workers would find a lake with ice at least four inches thick. They would pick a spot and make 2-foot-by-4-foot squares with a horse-drawn plow. Then, they used saws and ice picks to break off chunks. The ice was packed in crates with sawdust to keep it cold. It was then sent to ice houses, packed in hay, and shipped by train to Milwaukee breweries and to other major cities.

Before the invention of freezers, people had to keep getting new ice. Wagons delivered large ice blocks to the farms. Kids liked the ice man, just like kids today like the ice cream man. They would run up to the ice wagon and get chunks of ice to eat. The

wagon drivers sat in cushioned seats because of the long delivery days.

The ice industry had some health hazards. People got sick from swallowing frozen algae. Laws kept ice harvesting off some of the dirtier Wisconsin lakes. Ice harvesting was illegal on the Milwaukee River and in Sturgeon Bay.

In the 1920s, ice machines replaced ice harvesting and the industry vanished forever.

David , Liz ;
Jennifer ,



By Paul

One of the worst fires in American history destroyed the village of Peshtigo, Wisconsin on October 8, 1871. The fire started in a forest just north of Green Bay in Marinette County.

The Pestigo fire occurred during a severe drought, when winds whipped small fires and blew them from tree to tree. The fire swept across the countryside faster than a man could run, and overtook the village of Peshtigo.

The Pestigo fire occurred during a severe drought, when winds whipped small fires and blew them from tree to tree. The fire swept across the countryside faster than a man could run, and overtook the village of Peshtigo.

In less than five minutes, fire was everywhere. Strong winds lifted roofs off houses, toppled chimneys, and showered the town with hot sand and coals. The town was in complete chaos.

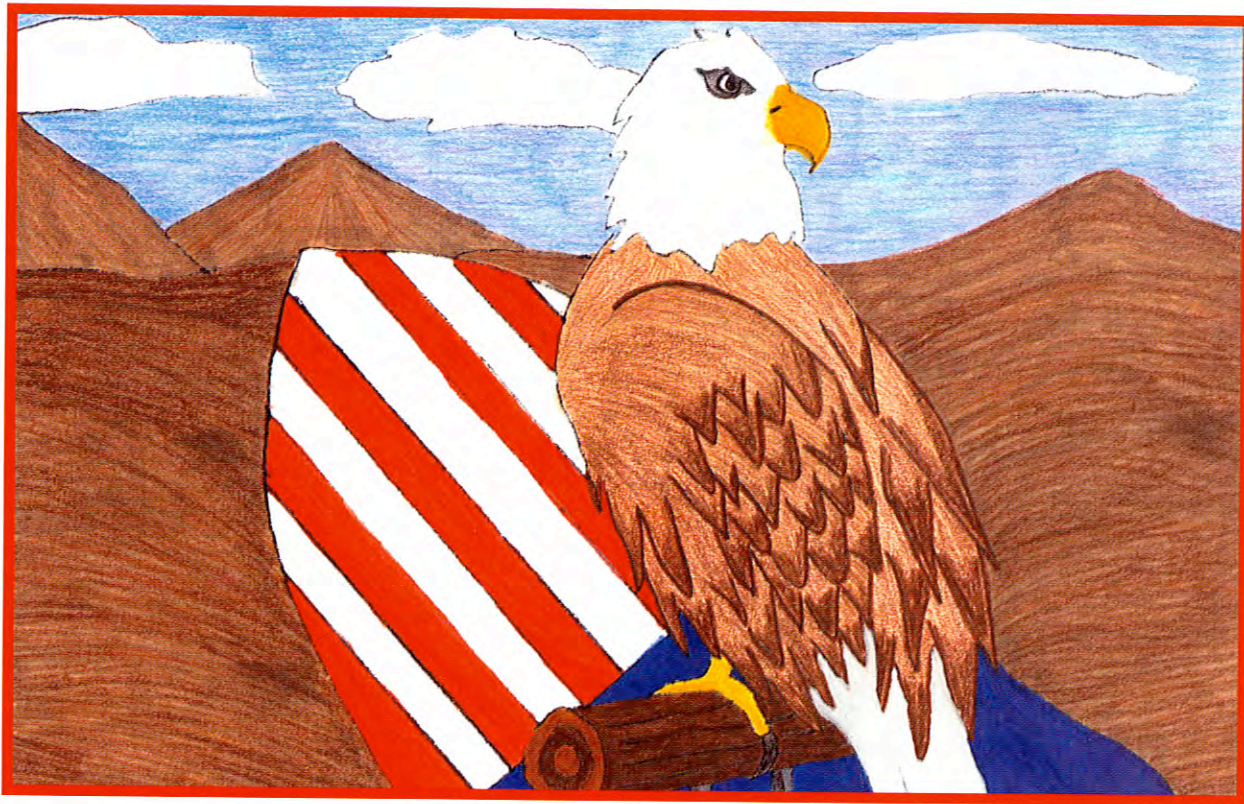
To escape the flames, residents jumped into the Peshtigo River for safety. While in the river, they

struggled for their lives because the river was overcrowded with people, cattle, and horses. Many were burned by a rain of fire sparks.

The village of Peshtigo was completely wiped out. The great fire killed more than 1,200 people. Help didn't arrive until a day later, on October 9th. One Peshtigo writer wrote this poem in memory of the great fire:

*“Cities in ashes,
towns swept out of sight.
Millions on millions
destroyed in one night.
The eighth of October
for long years ahead,
Remembered by many
that longed for their dead.”*

Brittany & Heidi



By Andrew

Old Abe the War Eagle

Old Abe, a pet eagle, belonged to Dan and Margaret McCann. They got him from Native Americans in trade for a bushel of corn. As Old Abe got older he was no longer suitable as a house pet.

When the Civil War started, the McCann's donated Old Abe to a Wisconsin army unit as a mascot. The regiment, called the Eau Claire Badgers, changed its name to the Eau Claire Eagles when it received Old Abe. Later, it was designated the 8th Wisconsin Regiment and Old Abe was part of the group.

The 8th Wisconsin Regiment's first Civil War battle was near Shiloh, Tennessee. They were part of the Union force, about 3000 soldiers strong, defending against a Confederate attack. During the battle, Confed-

erate forces fired at the Union soldiers with the Eagle Regiment taking the brunt of the fire. Old Abe followed the 8th Wisconsin through the whole war perched on a long pole. He was a veteran of thirty-seven battles and skirmishes.

After the war, Old Abe became property of the state of Wisconsin. He was kept in the basement of the Wisconsin State Capital, but was often taken to state fairs, state functions and veteran's gatherings. He died in 1881 from smoke inhalation when a small fire broke out in the capitol's basement.

After his death, Old Abe was mounted. Currently, he is kept in the Wisconsin State Veterans Museum.

Scott



By Lindsay

H The First Ice Cream Sundae

Human curiosity led to the first ice cream sundae. It all started in 1881 in Two Rivers, Wisconsin at an ice cream shop operated by Edward C. Berners. At the time, a plain dish of ice cream cost only five cents.

One customer, George Hauller, ordered a dish of ice cream and asked Berners to put chocolate syrup used in making soda, on it. A surprised Berners figured it would ruin his ice cream, but he gave it to the man anyway. The customer liked it so much he ordered another dish. Then others tried it and enjoyed it too.

Charles Giffey, an ice cream operator in Manitowoc, heard about sundaes and wanted to investigate. He told Berners he was selling the ice cream too inexpensively and that it would ruin their business. They came

up with an idea to serve ice cream sundaes only on Sundays, for only five cents. That's where the ice cream sundae got its name .

One day, a girl came in and wanted an ice cream sundae, but it wasn't Sunday. She argued until she finally got one. Soon it was served every day.

Today, the ice cream sundae is served all over the United States and in most parts of the world.

Amanda
8th Gr.



By Jesse .



By Jenifer

Log Jam of 1886

The logging industry played a large role in the development of Wisconsin as a state. Logging wasn't always easy though. Loggers lived in terrible conditions with vermin infested clothing, unwashed bodies, animal and human waste, and crowded living conditions.

Logs were floated downstream for easy transportation to lumber mills. As production increased, the rivers began to be crowded with logs. In 1886, the biggest log jam that had ever occurred happened on the St. Croix River near the town of Angle Rock.

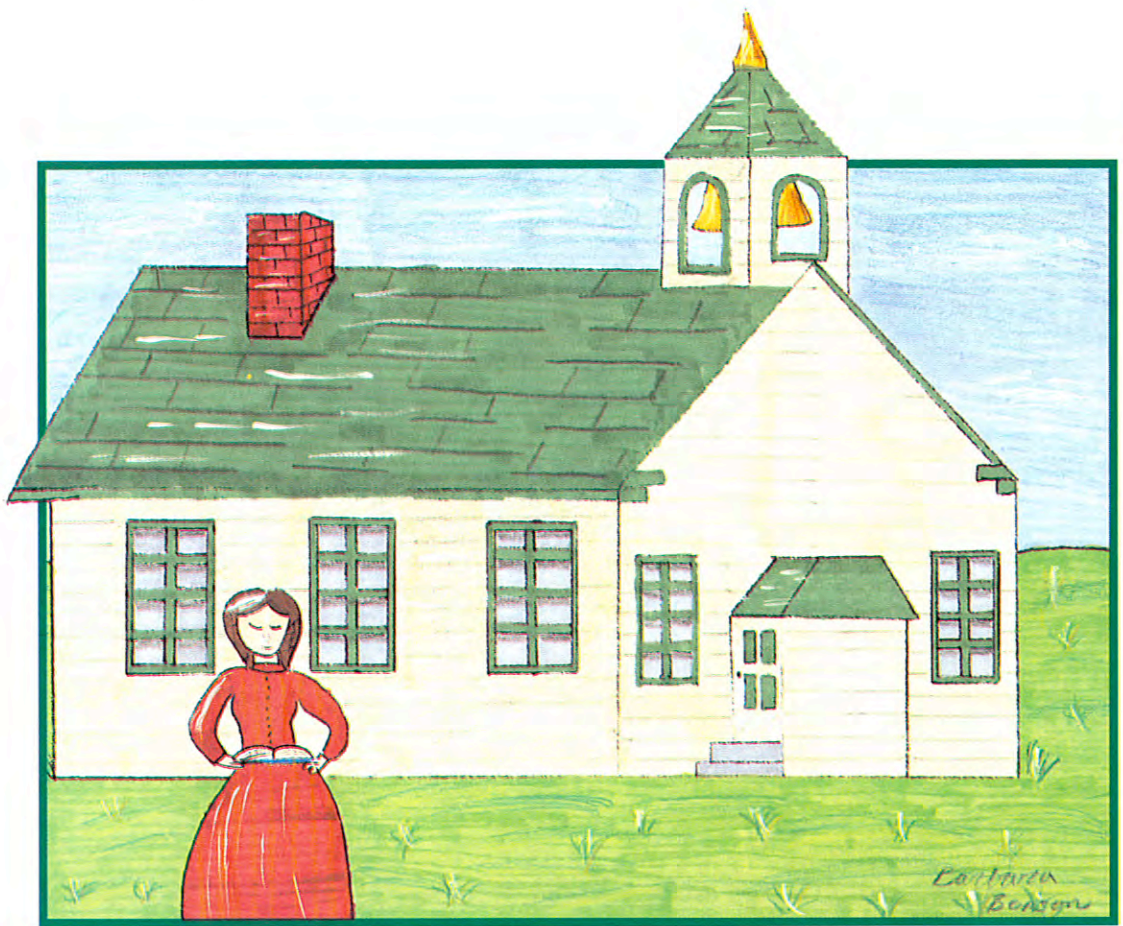
It all started at Clam Lake, when Robert Davidson blew up his neighbor's dam because it was flooding his land. That caused various jams around the St. Croix River's tributaries, to flood and rush down stream,

flowing over dams and locks.

Along the way, logs got wedged in locks while the loggers were sleeping in their tents. The lumberjacks ran out in their underwear, shorts, and shirts. They used axes, poles, and peavies, a lumberman's lever that has a pivoting hooked arm and metal spike at one end, to loosen the jam, but failed.

By June of 1886, the jam was two miles long and fifteen to two hundred feet wide. It took one hundred men, and three steamboats, six weeks to dig a channel through the jam. On July 8, 1886, the channel was finished and the log jam of 1886 was gone forever.

Jenifer & Anthony



By Barbara

W Early Wisconsin Schools

Wisconsin schools have changed drastically over the past century. In the early 1900s, students usually walked to school. When the morning bell rang, students filed into school, sitting down on benches. Each of their classes lasted fifteen minutes. During this class time, they filed to the front of the room and were called up to the blackboard to answer questions that the teacher wrote. When the students did their homework, they spoke out loudly so the teacher knew what they were doing. If a student got caught speaking without raising his or her hand, they would be punished. Such punishments were sweeping, beating erasers, cleaning chalkboards, and occasionally a spanking, if needed.

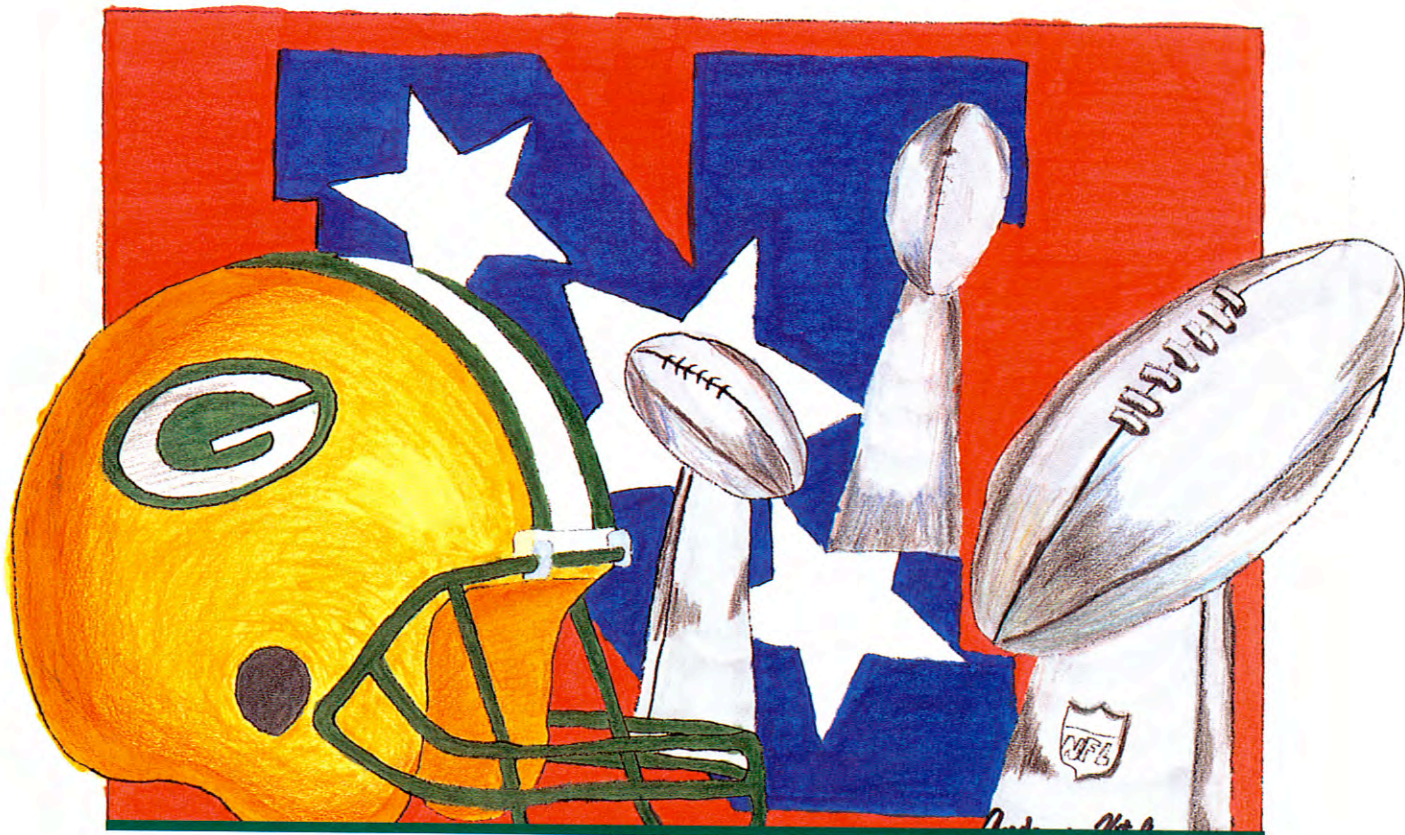
The boys only attended school

until the spring farm work started. Then they dropped out for the remaining portion of the year.

The teacher was usually a young, single woman who roomed near the school with the family of a student. The teacher taught all the students through eighth grade and had lots of responsibilities. Teachers had to do such things as maintain the buildings and make sure the furnace fire was started and kept going all day long.

Since the early 1900s, schools have changed a lot. Today, the teachers are more qualified, the classrooms are larger and better equipped, and students have access to more information through books and computers.

Megan ;
Amy |



By Andrew

A Team for All Ages

In 1919 a legend was born when Earl “Curly” Lambeau had the idea to start a football team. Little did he know that his team would become one of the most beloved teams in football, the Green Bay Packers.

Mr. Lambeau worked at a packing company in Green Bay, so he named his team “The Packers.” He started on the team as running back, and played from 1919 to 1930. Then he was the Packer’s head coach until 1949.

In the first Super Bowl in 1967, the Packers defeated the Kansas City Chiefs 35-10. Legendary coach Vince Lombardi led the Packers to victory.

One of the Packer’s most famous games was the “Ice Bowl,” which was

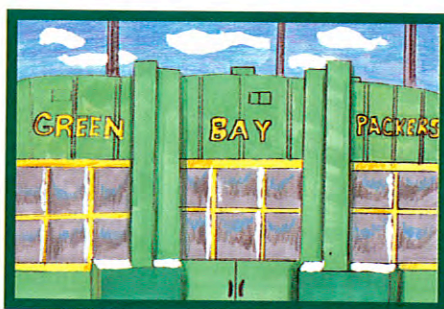
a National Football League Championship played on December 31, 1967 against the Dallas Cowboys. With sixteen seconds left, the Packers were on the Dallas one yard line. Bart Starr scored the winning touchdown to earn a trip to Super Bowl II. Mr. Lombardi again led the Packers to victory.

The Packers didn’t return to the Super Bowl

until 1997. During Super Bowl XXXI, a highly talented team helped the Packers to a 35-21 victory over the New England Patriots.

There have been many memorable moments in Packer history and there are sure to be many more.

Lindsay ; Brian ;
John ; & Becky



David



By Michelle

T Women's Suffrage

Throughout history, women everywhere have had to fight for their rights. It has been no different in Wisconsin. From the days of early settlement, women had a tough time in their fight for equal rights.

One woman who took the lead was Belle Case La Follette, wife of Robert La Follette and the first woman graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School. She fought for increased educational opportunities for women and campaigned for women's suffrage, the right to vote. In 1912, she worked hard for the women's suffrage referendum. It was defeated.

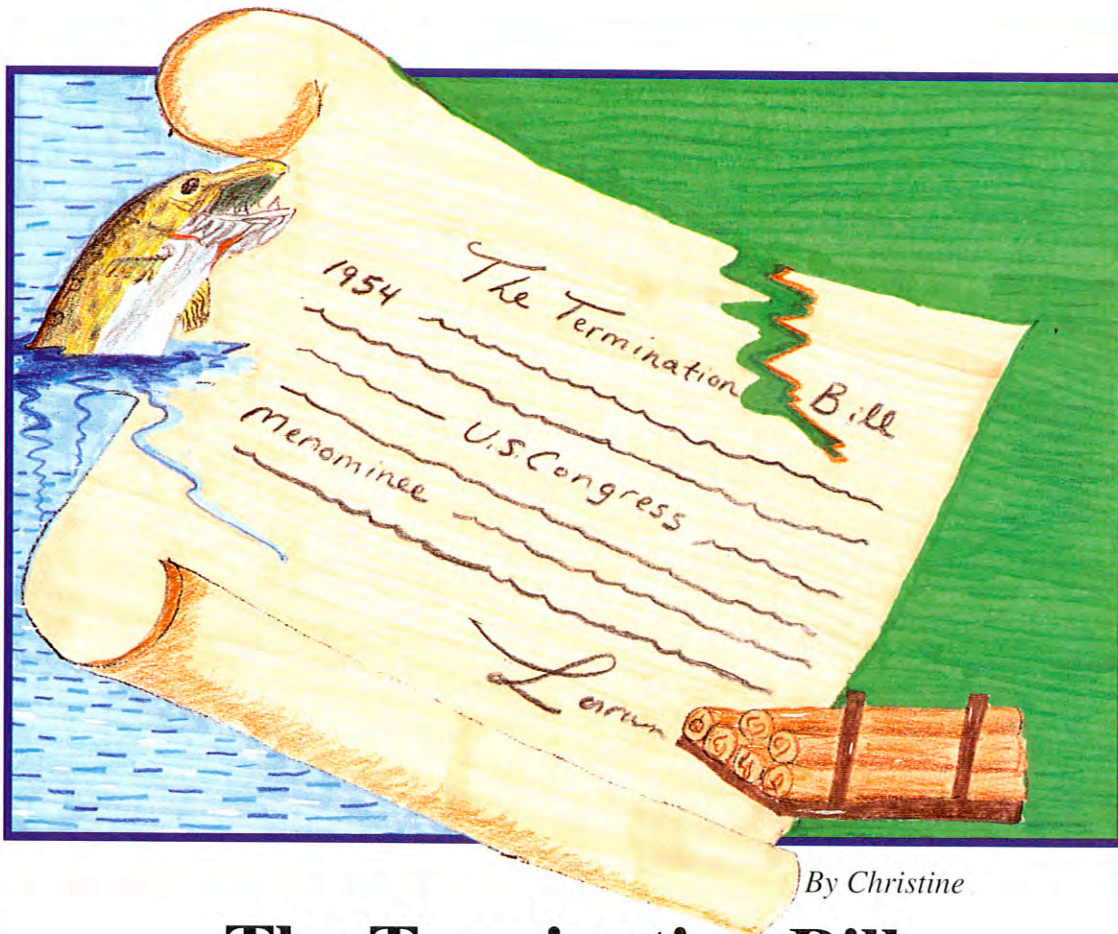
Finally, by the summer of 1920, thirty-six states had approved the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. To most women this

was a great victory, but not for everyone. In 1848, the Milwaukee Sentinel published an article saying "Women are angels and angels don't vote." After seventy-two years some people still felt that way.

As time went on, women's rights in Wisconsin expanded. One example was Miss Rhoda Lavinia Goodell, who became the first woman admitted to the bar in Wisconsin. Later, she practiced law before the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Discrimination against women doesn't happen as much as it used to, but in some ways, like receiving equal pay for equal work, men and women aren't yet equal. Hopefully, one day they will be.

Kyla ~ & Rachel



By Christine

The Termination Bill

In 1954, Congress passed the Termination Bill, which stopped the flow of money that the government had been giving the Indians for schools and medical assistance. The Menominee Indians lived in the woodland area near the mouth of the Menominee River. The name Menominee means "wild rice people".

The Menominee Indians of Wisconsin were among many tribes that lost government assistance. Although the Menominee people were allowed to vote on the bill, many didn't understand how it would affect them. Some voted for it because they were already running low on money and feared the government wouldn't pay them unless they voted yes. Many were forced to move off their lands because they couldn't afford to buy the land that the

government owned. Within a few years, many Menominee lands were sold. The main source of income for the Menominee was a lumber mill, and it was temporarily closed because it was unsafe. Other rights, such as the ability to hold tribal meetings and celebrations, were lost.

In 1971 a group of six hundred Menominee people walked two hundred twenty-two miles to Madison to ask for the return of their rights and their reservation. In 1972, President Richard Nixon lifted the order, ending nearly twenty years of suffering for the Menominee people.

Alicia



By Mike

The Milwaukee Braves

The Milwaukee Braves were a professional baseball team from 1953 to 1966. The franchise had been previously known as the Boston Braves. The Milwaukee Braves went to two World Series, one in 1957 and one in 1958. Both times they battled the New York Yankees. In the 1957 World Series, the Braves won.

One reason they got to these World Series games was because of great players like Eddie Mathews and Warren Spahn. Eddie Mathews was drafted by the Boston Braves as a third baseman in 1952, the year before they moved to Milwaukee. During his seasons with the Braves, he had a .422 on base average. He also had 135 runs batted in, which is still the National League

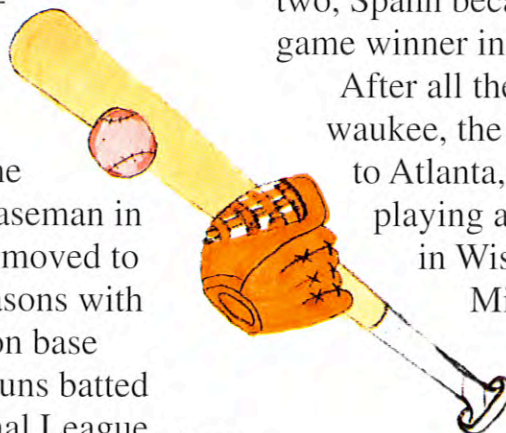
record for one season. Mathews is the only player to play regularly on the same team in three different cities: Boston, Milwaukee and Atlanta. He played until 1968.

Warren Spahn was a pitcher for the Braves for twenty years. When the Braves were in Milwaukee, Spahn was the first National League southpaw to win 300 games. At age forty-two, Spahn became the oldest twenty game winner in history.

After all their great years in Milwaukee, the Braves moved down to Atlanta, where they are still playing as good as they were up in Wisconsin. Now

Milwaukee's team is the Brewers.

Ben



Jesse



By Kelly

B Civil Rights Movement

eginning gradually in the 1910s several thousand African-Americans migrated to Wisconsin from the southern states. In fact, the population of African Americans increased from 12,158 in 1940 to 74,546 in 1960 with most settling in Milwaukee, Beloit, Racine and Madison.

After World War II, fifteen percent of Milwaukee's population was black. Most had semi-skilled jobs such as cooks, waiters, hospital orderlies, dishwashers and bartenders. Schools were segregated and opportunities for equality were limited.

The 1960s brought civil rights issues, like equal opportunities in education and housing, to a head. On August 28, 1963, Milwaukee blacks organized Wisconsin's first modern civil rights demonstration. In May of

1964, there was a well organized boycott against segregated schools.

Up until 1967 the struggle for civil rights was nonviolent. But on July 30, 1967, Milwaukee's central city erupted. Police cars and white owned stores were hit with rocks. There were four deaths and fifteen hundred arrests. Police called the National Guard for help. This eight-day riot was considered one of the worst in the history of civil disorders.

Progress to change has been slow. In 1976, the Wisconsin Supreme Court declared Milwaukee schools to be illegally segregated. The work for civil rights is not over.

Kelly , & *Chandra* .

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Wisconsin's beautiful landscape, its abundant natural resources and its diverse people have intertwined to weave a rich and interesting history. That history provides the roots for who we are and the springboard for what we will become. Winnequah Middle School students from the communities of Cottage Grove and Monona embarked on a project to write a book about the people, places and past of the state they call home. Wisconsin for Kids by Kids explores the Badger State through the eyes of some of its children. The writings and illustrations of the Winnequah Middle School students provide a fresh, delightful glimpse of Wisconsin and an assurance that the future of the state will be in good hands.

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