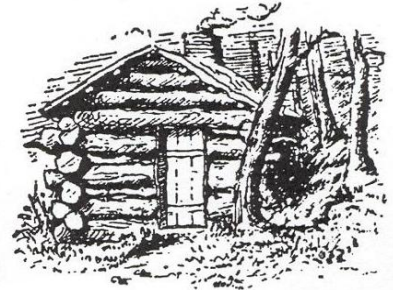




JUNIOR PIONEERS

OF NEW ULM AND VICINITY



The Junior Pioneers purpose is to "keep green the memory of the early pioneers who settled New Ulm and the vicinity; and to preserve as much as possible the usages and customs, language and ideals of the early settlers..."

Vol. 30 / No. 1

JUNIOR PIONEER NEWSLETTER

FALL 2017



Junior Pioneers Annual Meeting

Turner Hall, New Ulm

Friday, September 29th

6:00 Social Hour – 6:30 Dinner and Program

“Brown County Fair— 1917 to 2017.”

Our guest speaker this year is Dan Hoisington! We are so pleased to have him back to discuss his latest book, **Meet Us at the Fair: A History of the Brown County Fair**. 2017 was the 150th anniversary of the Brown County Fair—long recognized as one of the best in the state. Organized in 1867, it has been an important annual event for generations. Dan will tell us about who made this fair happen and past events at the fair! Come and enjoy some Junior Pioneer Fair Fun!! *See page 4 for ticket information.*



We hope to see you on Friday, September 29th!!

2018 is the 100th Anniversary of the Junior Pioneers owning the park property. Years back, it was an active social gathering park, however, for many years, the park suffered from neglect. The last few years, a group of dedicated Junior Pioneers, under the leadership of Lori Otis, have removed and controlled the invasive buckthorn. The picnic shelter was moved and renovated, and dead trees were taken down. Fencing was added for safety concerns along the perimeter next to the hillside. The lawn is being mowed and the park is becoming an inviting place that our members can be proud of.

Thanks to the Junior Pioneers and Lori Otis who have invested their time and talent to revitalize our park. This is an arduous undertaking. Also, we appreciate the Junior Pioneers who have supported us through their membership dues and donations.

Spring, 2018, is our goal to complete the fencing at the entrance of the park. We are asking you, our membership, to financially help with this project. The cost is \$12,000. Please consider a tax-deductible donation toward the restoration of our park. Any amount is appreciated. Thanking you in advance for helping improve our park. Upon completion, we will have an anniversary event. *See page 4 for donation information.*

*****Matching donor: An anonymous donor has agreed to match up to \$3,000 in donations that are made to the fence! DONATE NOW!!!*******

Elections To The Board Will Be Held

Three of our board members' terms are up this year. They are: Larry Mack, Gordon Palmer and Rose Mary Dittrich. They have all offered to serve another four years pending annual meeting member vote. Nominations will also be called for from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Please remember if you nominate someone from the floor they must be present and a current member of the Junior Pioneers. The business meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. following the social hour.

Help Junior Pioneers Go Electronic

Receive your newsletter electronically and help us communicate with you quick and easy via email. Send your email address to juniorpioneers@nutelecom.net

Find Us

Find us and LIKE us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/JuniorPioneersofNewUlm
Or, Junior Pioneer Parks Blog: <http://juniorpioneerpark.wordpress.com>



***Deceased Members**

Bruce Fenske	Calvin Backer	Randal Berdan
Thomas L. Furth	Nancy Naumann Williams	

***New Members**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Ancestor</i>
Teresa Gruber	<i>Guth</i>
Steven Holm	<i>Wagner</i>
Rhonda Goltz Olson	<i>Rosenau/Lambrecht</i>
Renee Goltz Legg	<i>Rosenau/Lambrecht</i>
Ruth Bastian Wines	<i>Siegler</i>

*** Memorials and Donations**

In memory of Carla Denali Fritsche King

Children: Steven & Heidi Seifert
Theodore & Christine Fritsche

In memory of Bruce Fenske

Lori & Bill Otis
Ruth McCrea Simpson

In memory of Calvin Backer

Keith and Tammy Henle
Bob & Cheryl Beussman

In memory of Mary Berg Patterson

Jim & Karen Kretsch
Tom & Kathleen Berg
Rita Saffert Brand
Sharon Brust Zins
Sandi Friahtm Karta
Patti Franta Payas
Diane Woratschka Olson

In memory of Shirley Oswald Schnobrich Panagini

Christine Rahn

In memory of Alice Henle

Brian & Mary Duehring
Bobby McFall
Julie Duehring

Park Donation

Lori & Bill Otis
Larry Mack

If we have forgotten or miss-credited anyone concerning; Memorials, Donations, Deceased Members or New Members, please notify the President Lori Otis at 507.359.2320 or any Board Member and we will correct it.

ACHTUNG BITTE / ATTENTION PLEASE:

The 2017 Oktoberfest Germanic - American Day Parade is scheduled for **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7**. It is sponsored by the German - Bohemian Heritage Society. You and your organization are once again cordially invited to participate. As in past years, we will assemble at the Glockenspiel at 10:30 a.m. Then march off promptly at 11:00 and amble along Minnesota Street to Center Street.

Submitted Story

Thank you Harvey Haeberle for his submission of this article. If you would like to submit a historical or family story, please do so by emailing it to Lisa Besemer at lisabesemer@newulmtel.net.

NEW ULM ICE COMPANY

There were few electric home refrigerators in New Ulm homes prior to the onset of World War I in 1914. Although available as early as 1900, early electric models were quite expensive --almost double the price of a new 1914 Model T Ford at \$440.00. From the arrival of German immigrant families in 1855 up until the 1940s, many New Ulm city homes and businesses relied upon the modest ice box to cool butter, milk, eggs, cream and other perishables. Packaged frozen foods were non-existent for consumers until 1929 when the first Birdseye brand frozen foods appeared in local grocery stores. Mass-produced electric refrigerators gradually came into use in the 1920s and 30s, and with it began the gradual decline of the trusty kitchen ice box in New Ulm. At the same time, in larger metro areas, ice produced by mechanical refrigeration competed successfully against naturally harvested ice.

The New Ulm Ice Company was started in the late 1880s by New Ulm resident Leonhard Haeberle to serve the refrigeration needs of the community. The business model that he established endured for more than 60 years. With the passing of Leonhard Haeberle in 1909, the business fell to his eldest son Elmer H. Haeberle, until his own passing in 1955, after which the business was sold.

In January of each year company employees would drive teams of draft horses pulling large cargo sleds over the unplowed roads to a pre-selected pond-like area of the *Cottonwood River* to begin the annual ice harvest. This was a labor-intensive activity in temperatures that regularly went below 0°F. Snow was cleared away from the surface of the ice (known as the "field,") using an 8 ft wide Boston scraper operated by a plowman and pulled by one sure-footed horse in harness. The ice had to be about 18" to 24" thick. Special 5 foot ice saws purchased from the Gifford-Wood Company of Hudson, New York, were manually operated by ice sawyers to saw out the blocks of ice in the field. A surprising number of very specialized heavy-duty forged steel hand tools were needed for the work crews to prepare the floating ice blocks for extraction from the field. Tongs were applied to each floating block and skidded out of the river by a draft horse, and placed on the sled. The team was re-hitched and slowly pulled the heavily-loaded sled along the streets back to the company ice house located in town near the *Minnesota River*. The ice house was a large stone-and-cement building with walls approximately 3 ft thick, and with a substantial basement excavated out in order to hold the many blocks of ice that would be used in the city throughout the year until the next harvest season. As each layer of ice blocks was laid inside the ice house, a layer of wood sawdust would be placed between layers to keep the blocks from melting into each other.

In the 1920s much of the strenuous manual labor of ice harvesting and transport was reduced with the adaptation of a Model T internal combustion engine on skids, driving a large circular ice "buzz saw." Teams of horses were replaced with the advent of automotive trucks.

The usual place for the domestic ice box was the home kitchen. A drip pan was placed under the unit to capture the melted water, or in some cases, a rubber tube passed through the floor to a basement drain. Until after WWII, most New Ulm families had only one automobile, and the homemaker was almost always at home throughout the day. The homemakers monitored the melting of the block in the upper compartment of the ice box throughout the week, and at a certain point a new block would be

needed. Each customer had a cardboard sign that was red on one side and blue on the other. The sign was posted in a window facing the street so that the ice man on his route could tell at a glance if the home needed ice that day. Displaying the red side meant you needed ice and the blue side meant that you did not require ice. Upon seeing the red sign, the iceman would stop on his regular route, and using his substantial ice tongs, pull a large, heavy block (about 22 in x 28 in) of ice off the truck bed. Wearing a special canvas cape designed for the purpose, he would shoulder the load and bring it into the house to the ice box at the direction of the homeowner, remove the spent ice block and place the new block in the upper ice compartment. The spent ice block was unceremoniously thrown onto the lawn to melt. The arrival of the ice man in the neighborhood on hot summer days in the time before television was a magnet for small children who would invariably assemble curbside and pester the ice man for chips of ice to suck on. This was done with a few deft strokes of the ice pick. It has to be mentioned that in those days the *Cottonwood River* was relatively free of pollutants!

Thrifty families would sometimes discontinue ice service during the cold months and install a metal or wood box with door into a sash window in order to get natural refrigeration for a few months; or they could use an unheated kitchen pantry area for the same purpose.

In the days before mechanically refrigerated railroad cars, perishable produce from California and Florida was brought year round to the nation in railroad "reefer" cars. Reefer cars had compartments to hold shaved ice used to keep the cargo compartment cold until the car was unloaded at its destination. As domestic electric refrigerators became more prominent in homes starting in the 1930s, a substantial part of the New Ulm Ice Company revenue was contracts to provide ice to the railroads.

Junior Pioneers 2017 Annual Meeting/Program

Name(s): _____

Banquet Tickets(s): _____ Number Attending: _____ \$25.00 each: _____

Reservations are Due by Tuesday, September 26th.

Payments can be made at the door, but reservations are required prior to September 26th

You can also send checks to: Junior Pioneers, PO Box 22, New Ulm, MN 56073 or email juniorpioneers@nutelecom.net

Questions? Reservations: Lisa Besemer at 766-1991 or lisabesemer@newulmtel.net

Time to pay your 2018 Annual Membership fees

Single Membership	\$20 _____
Joint Dues (<i>Husband & Wife both qualify for membership</i>)	\$30 _____
Surviving Spouse	\$20 _____

*Send checks to: Junior Pioneers, PO Box 22, New Ulm, MN 56073
Questions? Lisa Besemer 766-1991 or lisabesemer@newulmtel.net*

Park Fence Donation

Name(s): _____

Optional: In memory of: _____

Amount: \$ _____

Please send checks to : Junior Pioneers, PO Box 22, New Ulm, MN 56073

Junior Pioneers
P.O. Box 22
New Ulm, MN 56073
(Return Service Requested)

Junior Pioneer Board of Directors - 2017

Lori Otis, President

Kathleen Berg, Vice-President

Rose Mary Dittrich, Treasurer

Lisa Besemer, Secretary

Cheryl Beussman

Dave Weldy

Larry Mack

Jim Kretsch

Judy Zahn

Ruth McCrea Simpson

Mark Furth

Gordon Palmer