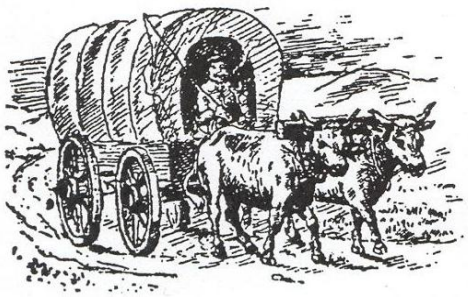
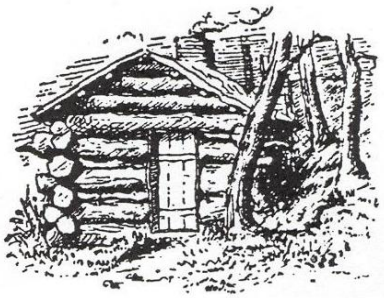


JUNIOR PIONEERS

OF NEW ULM AND VICINITY



Vol. 36 / No. 1 **JUNIOR PIONEER NEWSLETTER** Winter 2022

Junior Pioneers Winter Social
FRIDAY, February 25

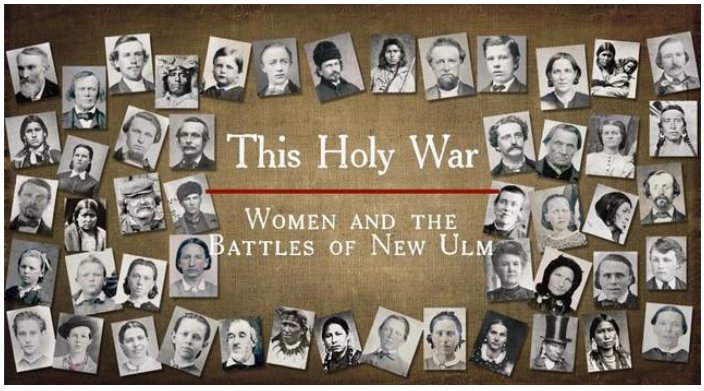
New Ulm Country Club
5:30 Social Hour
6:00 Hors de ouvre/Dessert
Program to Follow

Reservations due by February 22nd!

Historian Dan Hoisington

This Holy War: Women and the Battles of New Ulm

This program will look at the events of August 1862 through the eyes of the women of New Ulm, using contemporary sources.



As a historian and author, Hoisington has been honored with the Enoch A. Holtwick Literary Award from Greenville (Ill.) University, the David Stanley Gebhard Award from the Minnesota Society of Architectural Historians, and the Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History.

Hoisington has had a long love affair with New Ulm history. He is the author of A German Town: A History of New Ulm, Minnesota, See You at the Fair: A History of the Brown County Fair, and The New Ulm Battery. His work on the Brown County Historical Society exhibits, Never Shall I Forget: Brown County and the U.S.-Dakota War, and Loyalty and Dissent: Brown County and WWI, has been recognized by the AASLH and the Minnesota History Award. Among recent projects, he wrote National Register of Historic Places nominations for the Way of the Cross and the old New Ulm High School.

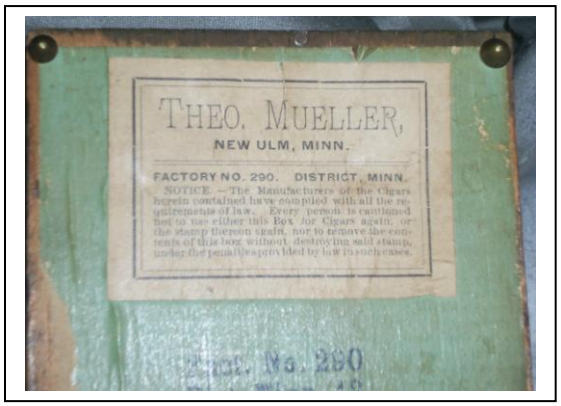
Hoisington serves on the boards of the New Ulm Turners and the Grand Center for the Arts. He is currently the National Historian for the American Turners.

New Ulm Smoke

Submitted by Harvey M. Haeberle

In 1913 U.S. Vice President Thomas Reilly Marshall famously remarked "What this country needs is a really good five cent cigar. "Marshall was not the only one saying this. In a sense he was making the general case for affordable, durable, mass-produced, manufactured goods and consumer goods of all kinds--to meet the daily needs of the rapidly growing working and middle classes in America. Starting in the last quarter of the 19th Century, New Ulm tobacconist Theodore Mueller did his part to provide the men of New Ulm and Brown County with a wide range of affordable, locally manufactured cigars, cigarettes, snuff and chewing tobacco products.

Theodore Mueller was born in New Ulm in 1866. He was called "Theo" by his fellow townsmen. Coming of age, Mueller learned the cigar trade from several employers and then entered into the cigar trade himself, first in Sleepy Eye, and then moving to New Ulm in 1884, operating a growing tobacconist retail shop at several successive locations in the city. In 1898 he was able to build a brick building in the 200 block of North Minnesota Street at a cost of $3,500, a building which remains today. The resulting cigar factory and retail storefront billed itself as "the leading dealer in cigars and smokers' articles west of the Twin Cities." Upstairs from the retail store his crew of up to 22 employees processed the Havana leaf into cigars for his several house brands. "The Perfection," was his leading ten cent cigar, which in 2022 currency would cost about $2.80. Some of his other dime cigars were: Eagle Mills, Ramola and Dan Patch. A few of his nickel cigars were: Speaker, Citizen's Five, Little Master, Town Boost, Black and Tan, Sweeper, Brown County, John Burns, Franklin, Henry Clay, Shamrock and Yellow Ribbon. Real Havana leaf arrived in bundles by rail car and were picked up at the Railway Express office and brought to the upstairs shop. The leaf was destemmed, chopped, misted, blended and rolled into cigars using a variety of tools. Finished cigars were placed in special two-piece wooden presses to form the desired shape, and to make sure the wrapper leaf would stay in place. Purchased paper cigar rings and colorful boxes rounded out the production for an attractive display. One newspaper account put his annual factory production at 300,000 cigars per year at one point. Smoking by workers was forbidden at various industrial sites: grain mills, wheat fields, hay mows and barns, railroad yards and out on the track lines. Men in such occupations had to console themselves with snuff or chewing tobacco out on the job. "Chaw," (chewing), and plug tobacco and dipping snuff in tins were a necessary alternative for farmers and a lot of working men. Big brass cuspidors (called spittoons) were in many public places such as railroad stations, hotels, the post office, offices, and banks as late as the mid-1950s.



The Perfection and similar smokes at ten cents were not everyday enjoyments for many. The cost was relatively high considering the wages paid in those days. A nickel cigar sounded a bit better. A good cigar and a mug of beer at a tavern were a popular duo, as was the treasured after dinner smoke at home. Starting in the 1880s and until around 1910, Theo Mueller would take a load of cigars and smokers' articles by horse-drawn wagon into the small towns of western Minnesota and South Dakota, selling his wares to taverns, hotels and general stores. He was often gone several weeks at a time and would send penny postcards back home to the family noting his whereabouts and including an estimation of his return trip home. Theo Mueller liked advertising and promotion and mimicked the big tobacco stores in "The

Cities". The new store on North Minnesota St. had a big display window and was filled with the kind of bric-á-brac that tobacconists carried up until the 1960s: little American flags, rustic birch wood humidors with Indian chief heads, nickle-plated cigar clippers, countertop mechanical cigar trimmers, souvenir ash trays, post cards, briar pipes, and the like. He had "magic lantern" colored advertising slides for showing at the local silent movie theater in town. Before the main feature of a silent movie, the projectionist would screen a succession of glass slides with advertisements for the wares of local merchants.

Businessmen used a cigar clipper (most often carried in a vest pocket) to make a proper hole in the end of a cigar. Working men outdoors simply bit the end off and spat it out. Smoking was permissible in many public places--church and court excepted. Cigarettes were less popular with men, the cigar remaining the smoke of choice. "Tailor made" cigarettes were expensive, so men often "rolled their own." Pipes were popular enough if you could carry around the equipment. Starting in the 1920s, daring women were just beginning to smoke (in public) and cigarettes were the most popular choice for the ladies. Some brands targeted women specifically. Cigarette holders for the ladies came into use as a mark of refinement, a fashion lasting until the 1940s when they rapidly went out of style. After a long and prosperous commercial career, Theo Mueller sold his business and retired in the mid-1930s. He passed in 1958 at the age of 92.

Find Us

Find us and LIKE us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/JuniorPioneersofNewUlm

Deceased Members

Mary Burghardt

Willard Kuester

New Members

Name	*Ancestor*
Jodi Schugel Runck	Guth
Jacqueline Pollei Neese	Ochs/Forster
Herbert Brunner	Brunner
Abigail Saffert	Manderfeld/Ochs/Tauer
Mary Jean Bushard Kretsch	Matsch
Nathaniel Henle	Henle
Emma Henle	Henle
Colleen Franta Kretsch	Franta
Patrick Kretsch	Kretsch
Wendy Parsons	Mack
Elizabeth Cooper	Zischka
Dolly Opel	Peterson
Daniel Fritsche	Fritsche
Taylor Scherr	Sprenger
North Cartier	Sprenger
Nathan Marti	Marti/Alwin

Memorials & Donations

Margaret Oswald – *General Fund Donation*
Andy Biebl—*General Fund Donation*
Randal & Carol Schroeder—*Memorial in honor of Henle Zangl*
Paul & Denice Furth—*Memorial in honor of Pearl Savoy*

If we have forgotten or miss-credited anyone concerning; Memorials, Donations, Deceased Members or New Members, please notify the Lisa Besemer (Secretary) @ 507-766-1991 or any Board Member and we will correct it.

JUNIOR PIONEER PARK

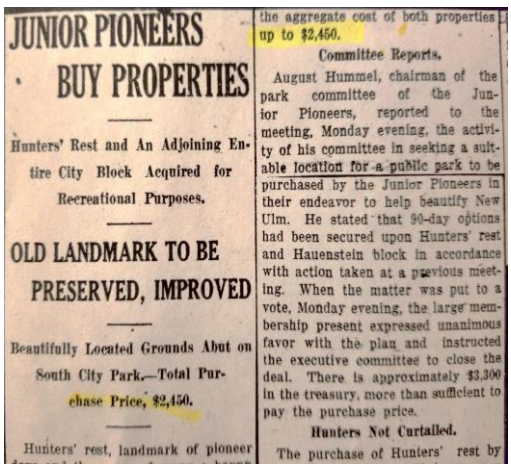
The Junior Pioneers of New Ulm and Vicinity (JPNUV) formally organized on February 25, 1912, to begin developing plans for a pioneer home-coming during the 50th anniversary observance of the U. S. Dakota War of 1862. The JPNUV continues to thrive today to carry out its mission to "*Keep green the memory of the early pioneers who settled New Ulm and the vicinity*".

In keeping with its mission, in 1918 the JPNUV constructed a log house in Turner Halle Park. The structure paid tribute to the pioneers of the area; it housed artifacts that helped tell the story of the past.

Log house constructed at Turner Halle Park by the JPNUV in 1918 in memory of the pioneers.
Photo courtesy of the Brown County Historical Society.

Following the 60th anniversary commemoration of the U. S. Dakota War of 1862, the JPNUV had $3,000 remaining in its treasury. The organization determined the leftover funds should be used to purchase land for their organization's members, future members and descendants to gather. They moved forward and acquired land for what is known as Junior Pioneer Park.

Jaeger's Ruhe/Hunters' Rest
Photo courtesy of the Brown County Historical Society.



JUNIOR PIONEERS BUY PROPERTIES

Hunters' Rest and An Adjoining Entire City Block Acquired for Recreational Purposes.

OLD LANDMARK TO BE PRESERVED, IMPROVED

Beautifully Located Grounds Abut on South City Park.—Total Purchase Price, $2,450.

Hunters' rest, landmark of pioneer

the aggregate cost of both properties up to $2,450.

Committee Reports.

August Hummel, chairman of the park committee of the Junior Pioneers, reported to the meeting, Monday evening, the activity of his committee in seeking a suitable location for a public park to be purchased by the Junior Pioneers in their endeavor to help beautify New Ulm. He stated that 90-day options had been secured upon Hunters' rest and Hauenstein block in accordance with action taken at a previous meeting. When the matter was put to a vote, Monday evening, the large membership present expressed unanimous favor with the plan and instructed the executive committee to close the deal. There is approximately $3,300 in the treasury, more than sufficient to pay the purchase price.

Hunters Not Curtailed.

The purchase of Hunters' rest by

The Land for the Park In the early 1870's, a group of 14 hunters purchased four- and one-half acres located on the north bank of the Big Cottonwood River and named it Jaeger's Ruhe/Hunters' Rest. The group included founders: Charles Brust, Sr., John Hauenstein, Sr., Henry Spoerhase, Frank Grebe, and Peter Mack and additional members: Henry Loheyde, Ernst Brandt, Fred Jahnke, August Quense, Peter Herrian, Sr., John H. Schapekahm, Henry Mueller, Charles Winklemann and Nick Nenno.

The objectives of this group of hunters were to preserve this property for their children and their children's children, to preserve the natural beauty for posterity, and to accommodate people who wanted to enjoy time away from the humdrum of daily life.

The JPNUV purchased the Hunters' Rest for $700; each of the original founders or shareholders received $50. Additionally, approximately four acres were purchased from the Hauenstein Brewing Company. Also, a strip of land known as "Schell's Point was acquired for $100 to add to the park.

The parcels of land were purchased and improved to serve as the Junior Pioneer Park, a place to gather to celebrate the shared heritage of the JPNUV members. The park serves as a memorial to the Junior Pioneers past and present.

The JPNUVs have a rich tradition of keeping green the memory of the early pioneers who settled New Ulm and the vicinity. *The legacy continues as the JPNUV moves forward with plans to construct a Park Shelter and make other improvements at the park.*

Park Donations received as of January 15, 2022:

Carol Ackerson	Garry Anderson
Kathleen Backer	Jean Backman
Thomas & Kathleen Berg	Lisa Besemer & Family
Bob & Cheryl Beussman	Matt & Jody Boisen
Mary Borstad	Joel Botten
Betsy Oswald Bradford	Rita Brand
Jenna Carlson	Betty Christiansen
Andy Danforth	Charlene & Jerry Dannheim
Bob & Norma Dempsey	Charlton Dietz
Florian & Rosemary Dittrich	Robert & Mary Ellen Domeier
Pat & Nicole Eckstein	Steven & Frani Fesenmaier
Rosemary Franta	Tom & Mary Jo Fritsche
Bill & Eileen Furth	Herbert Furth
Paul Furth	Darla Cordes Gebhard
George Glotzbach Estate	Dan & Mary (Gulden) Groebner
Thomas Haubrich	Mary & Kevin Henle
Michael Henle	Delores Mack Holden
Loren & Pat Kraetz	Eugene Kruschke
Sandra Kuester	Larry Mack
Makepeace Family Fund	John & Linda Massopust
Jyneal McCrea	Dave & Ruth Mecklenburg
Vianna Moody	Richard & Mary Niemann
Margaret Oswald	Bill, Lori & Taylor Otis
Gordon & Ruth Palmer	Robert Paulson
Duane & Vickie Piere	Karl & Patricia Preuss
Keith & Trudy Richter	Elizabeth Russell
Kenneth & Jeanie Saffert	Don & Diana Schaefer
Seth & Jamie Schaefer	Sharon Oswald Schamber
Kathryn Scheurer	Dean & Suzanne Schilling
Alan & Barbara Schmucker	Jeff Schmucker
Jelaine Schreiner	Ruth McCrea Simpson
Carol Heers Sislane	Reuben & Ruth Stoll
John Strate	Karl Sturm
Diane & Al Swintek	Charles Tausche
Leon Treml	Jerry & Maggie (Dittrich) Ubl
Lee & Yvonne Weber	Dave Weldy
Jerry Weldy	Penny Williams
Gary Wiltscheck	Jamie Windhorn
Tom Wyczawski	
In Honor Of John & Minnie Lauterbach & Harriet Lauterbach Wittaker	
In Honor of Richie (Richard Pfaender) Runck by Ann C. Vogel—his longtime friend	

Remember the park is available for use! Contact the Junior Pioneers via facebook to gain access to the gate code!

Junior Pioneer PARK DONATION/PLEDGE

I/We wish to support the Park Shelter Project with a one-time gift of $_____. Full amount is enclosed.

I/We wish to make a 2-year pledge in the amount of $_____. Amount Enclosed: $_____.

Donor Information:
Name (as you would want it listed): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

_____ I/We wish to remain anonymous (Your name will NOT be listed in recognition lists)

Make checks payable to Junior Pioneers and return to: Junior Pioneers, PO Box 22, New Ulm, MN 56073

*****

Meet the NEW Junior Pioneer President, George Downs!

George's Mom was born and raised in New Ulm and was related to Wilhelm and Albert Pfaender and Jacob Neumann.

George was born in Montana where his Dad was a geologist in the oil business. It was the Great Depression, and he was very proud to be earning $100/month AND had a tar paper shack to live in!

After graduation George joined the Navy and became an ocean engineer. He worked all over the world. At age 60, he started his own company and retired at age 76. In 2017, George and his wife, Patricia, decided to settle where they had roots….New Ulm! Just recently he bought the house where his Mom was born and where she married his Dad—619 Center Street!

***Missing Members!!**

We do not have current addresses for these members so mail is not reaching them. Might you have an address or a contact? If so, please contact Lisa at 507-766-1991.

- Esther Morgan *(descendant of Bergman)*
- Susan Gibson *(descendant of Mueller)*
- David Heymann *(descendant of Heymann)*

***Updated Website**

We are currently working with Adam Towles from Foresee Studios to develop a new website. Please keep watching the newsletter for updated information. If you have any suggestions, please contact George or Lisa.

Thank you to Carolyn Marti Smith for this beautiful picture of Junior Pioneer Park!

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

Junior Pioneer Board of Directors - 2022

George Downs, President	**Rebecca Flizsar**	**Ruth McCrea-Simpson**
Mark Furth, Vice-President	**Jeff Gulden**	**Gordon Palmer**
Mary Ellen Schanus, Treasurer	**Jim Kretsch**	**Dave Weldy**
Lisa Besemer, Secretary	**Carolyn Marti-Smith**	**Judy Zahn**