

## Home From School—1947



**Todd School  
as it looked  
in February  
of 1932**

*By Robert S. Burdick, November 2007*

When the bell rang at Todd School signaling the end of classes for the day, my second grade friends and I would strike out for home, and if the weather was nice, many times follow a **very** circuitous route. The memories of these adventures remind me of the routes taken by young Billy in the comic strip “Hi and Lois” when, on a simple errand or visit to a friend’s, the route taken by Billy is shown by a meandering dark dashed line.

Instead of going west on Strong Avenue to Milwaukee Road, we would go east on Strong Avenue to Colley Road to the base of the bluff where all the fancy homes on Sherwood Drive are located. We would then “sneak” along the base of the bluff behind and below all these fancy homes and explore whatever gardens, outbuildings, or other interesting “stuff” we might encounter.

My brother’s paper route included this part of Sherwood Drive and it was well known that one of his customers in this area had a mean, and less than friendly, Doberman. So, we were always aware that this dog might come after us. This heightened the excitement of our trip a lot.

On occasion we would cross the flat Turtle Creek floodplain to the Milwaukee Road railroad tracks. This was neat when and if a steam powered train passed by, and the faster it went, the better. We would walk along the tracks for awhile, throwing hunks of coal and stones at fence posts, signs, or whatever. Often we would contemplate putting a large rock on the track which, supposedly, would de-rail a train, but we never did it.

We would make our way to an area at the foot of Chapin Street where the entrance to Strong Stadium is located. At this place was a large garden with many flowers, a fish pond with a bridge over it and a small creek of sorts. The man who owned and operated this garden was, to us,

ominous, unfriendly and scary. I’m not sure of his name, but we called him “Stoney.” We would delight in throwing rocks to scatter his fish, push over a flower pot or two, and perhaps even pluck a choice blossom just to get him irritated. We would run like the devil when he chased us, reminiscent of Mr. McGregor in the Peter Rabbit books. At times the escape from “Stoney” would take us to the refuge of Strong Stadium with its tunnels, ramps and other neat places to hide, if necessary.



**Walter Ansel  
Strong  
Memorial  
Stadium**

When we were sure “Stoney” was gone we would explore this place, climb on the seats, and if we were lucky, watch the Beloit College football team practice. From the higher seats we could see the large, round, oil-blotted piece of ground about 150 yards east of the field where the Beloit College Grease Pole Fight occurred each year. But that event is grist for another story at another time.

Up the Chapin Street hill we would go and, instead of going straight to my house at 1103 Chapin Street, we would go left on Milwaukee Road heading nowhere in particular. On at least one occasion we were collared by a Mr. Wally Uehling of the Rosman, Uehling, Kinzer Funeral Home who was driving a brand new, shiny Cadillac hearse. At the time it was as scary to us as if we had been apprehended by the police. When he pulled over and called to us, we thought we were in big trouble (perhaps “Stoney” had asked him to “get” us?), but our worries were unfounded. Mr. Uehling really liked kids and offered us a ride in his brand new hearse. Why not? My parents were friends of the Uehlings, who lived just a block or so away from us on Chapin Street, and it was a large, new, very impressive vehicle with all the bells and whistles.

So off we went for a spin around several blocks. We were very naïve and didn’t recognize the incongruity of

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It's a **FREEMAN** shoe  
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# Ads of Old

These ads are from the 1954 Beloit Memorial High School Beloit yearbook.

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.. in Quick Energy!  
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AMERICA'S FINEST FOOD CONFECTION  
TAKE A DOZEN HOME TODAY

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**WM. A. HAMLIN**

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Some of you will continue in other schools, some will go into industry, and many to serve our country in all corners of the world—but wherever you are and whatever you may do we wish you success in your endeavors.

Wm. A. Hamlin  
Wm. Hamlin, Jeweler



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*Founded 1910*

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Newsletter edited by Sue Kurth  
Other contributors to this issue:  
Robert S. Burdick, Paul Kerr

**Date of Next Board Meeting:**  
January 17, 2008  
**Executive Committee Meeting:**  
January 10, 2008

The Newsletter, *Confluence*, is published quarterly for the membership of the Beloit Historical Society to inform readers of Society activities as well as educate them on the history of Beloit. The Beloit Historical Society manages two sites, Lincoln Center Museum with main offices at 845 Hackett St. and Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead 2149 St. Lawrence Ave. For further information please call (608) 365-7835 or e-mail us at pkerr@beloithistoricalsociety.com.

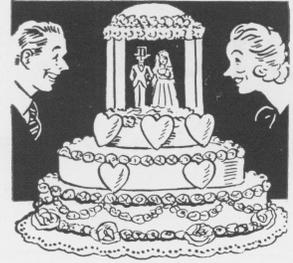
**Congratulations**

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**Bake Rite Bakery**  
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# Profile: Doug Pharo.....

Doug Pharo was born September 23, 1913 at Mauston, WI. He moved to Beloit when he was two years old.

Doug was an all-around athlete who excelled in all sports. In baseball he could play every position. He spent most of his time catching but was available for infield and outfield duty, and was an excellent pitcher. He played on several of the Goodall's championship teams in the Southern Wisconsin Baseball League.

His professional baseball career took him to Ozark of the Alabama-Florida League; to Hopkinsville and Paducah of the Kitty League and Montgomery and Nashville of the Southern Association. He also starred as an outstanding hitter on the state softball championship team.



**Doug Pharo was an outstanding Beloit athlete.**

Doug played guard & forward in basketball and was renowned for his passing ability.

In addition to playing on the Beloit Fairies and other outstanding local teams, he traveled and played throughout the country as a member of Tucker's Bearded Aces, House of David. In 1937 the team split with the Harlem Globetrotters, winning one and losing two contests with them. Doug played in the National Basketball Tournament held in the Chicago Amphitheater.

## HISTORIC RECIPE

### Braised Duck *(from "Young Ladies Cookbook," compiled by members of First Congregational Church, 1896)*

Prepare a pair of fine young ducks, the same as for roasting. Place them in a stew-pan together with 2 or 3 slices of bacon, a carrot, an onion stuck with two cloves, and a little thyme and parsley. Season with pepper and cover the whole with a broth, adding to the broth a gill of white wine. Place the pan over a gentle fire and allow the ducks to simmer until done, basting frequently. When done, remove them from the pan and place them where they will keep hot. A turnip should then be cut up and fried in some butter. When nicely browned drain the pieces and cook them until tender in the liquor in which the ducks were braised. Then strain and thicken the gravy and after dishing up the ducks pour it over them, garnishing with the pieces of turnip.

### Home From School *Continued from page 1*

kids joy riding around in a hearse. But we could sure tell that Mr. Uehling got a kick out of it. He let us off in front of my house, but not being ready to go home yet, I went across the brick paced surface of Wisconsin Avenue to visit Mr. Elliott, an older, heavy set man who hated dandelions. In the spring and summer months he would literally crawl all around his yard stabbing at the darn things. Even though this was a little strange, it was always fun when he would get his like-new, 1932 Ford Model A out of the barn behind his house and give us a ride.

Back across Wisconsin Avenue to my house I'd go in and holler to my mom that I had just gotten home from school.

**INVITATION...** *The Beloit Historical Society is dedicated to the preservation, restoration and interpretation of Beloit's rich history. Please support us by becoming a member and receive membership benefits: the quarterly newsletter, free admission to Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead, complimentary passes for friends, affiliate membership in the Wisconsin State Historical Society and discounts on local Society activities & programs.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Family \_\_\_\_\_

**Beloit Historical Society,**  
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Other			

## UPCOMING EVENTS



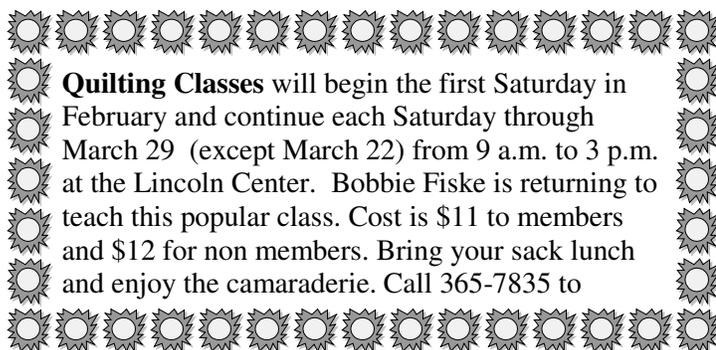
Saturdays in February and March—**Quilting Classes.** (See article below)

February 15—“**Experiences of the Titanic**” with actor/historian R. J. K. Lindsey, dinner at 6 p.m. (See separate flier)

March 12— **Business After Five**, 5-7 p.m. at the Lincoln Center, to celebrate opening of a new exhibit titled “**Signs of the Times**” which features signs and other artifacts depicting an era in Beloit history.

April 17—**Volunteer Brunch**, 11 a.m. A thank-you brunch for BHS volunteers, music by Linda Bachand. Phone in your reservation by April 11 at 365-7835.

April 23—**Annual Dinner Meeting**, 6 p.m. Program is “**Ringlingville U.S.A.**” presented by Jerry Apps discussing magnificent careers of the Ringling brothers. Program preceded by brief annual meeting. (See separate flier)


**Quilting Classes** will begin the first Saturday in February and continue each Saturday through March 29 (except March 22) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lincoln Center. Bobbie Fiske is returning to teach this popular class. Cost is \$11 to members and \$12 for non members. Bring your sack lunch and enjoy the camaraderie. Call 365-7835 to

<p><b>Wish List</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Copy paper</li> <li>◆ Director needs a red, sport coat size 46 to wear to Ambassador meetings. This membership is one of the ways he helps to keep Beloit Historical Society visible to the community.</li> <li>◆ Digital camera which is fairly up to date</li> <li>◆ Vacuum for Hanchett Bartlett homestead</li> </ul>
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**Confluence**  
 Beloit Historical Society  
 845 Hackett St.  
 Beloit WI 53511

<p>The Vision of the Beloit Historical Society is to make history a focal point of community pride and to serve as a constant reminder to the community of its great and diverse heritage.</p>
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