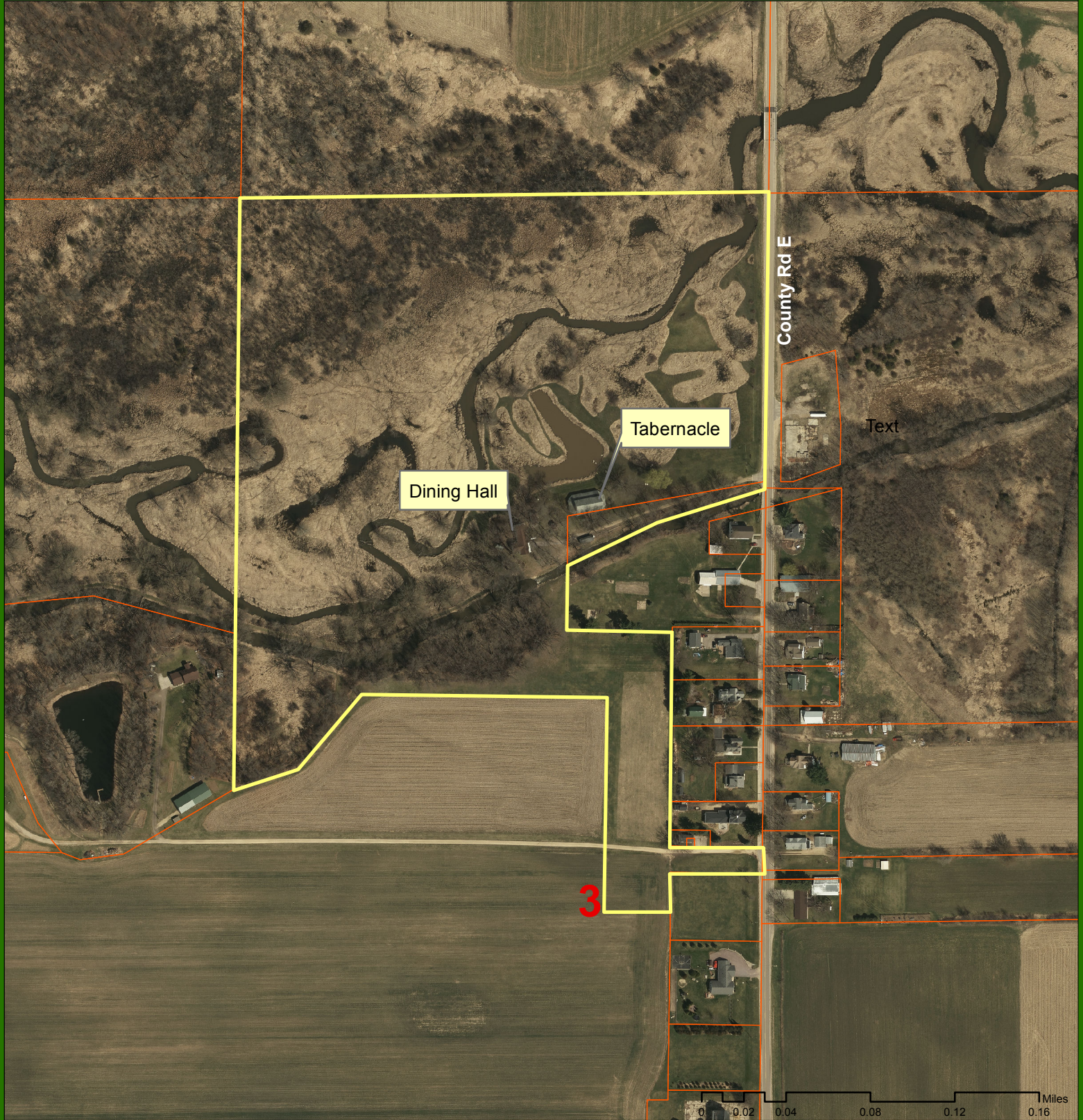


Witwen Park & Campground, LLC, Rezone/CUP Petition 13-2017



Legend

Road Centerline Layer Type

- Interstate
- Federal
- State
- County
- Town

Sauk Soils Agriculture Soils

- Class I Soils
- Class II and III Soils

Zoning

| | |
|-----|------|
| AG | RC35 |
| COM | RCOM |
| EA | RUC |
| IND | SFR |
| MFR | |

FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

Sauk County does not attest to the accuracy of the data contained herein and makes no warranty with respect to its correctness or validity. Data contained in this map is limited by the method and accuracy of its collection.

Sauk County
Planning & Zoning

May 3, 2017

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SAUK COUNTY CONSERVATION, PLANNING, AND ZONING COMMITTEE:

Dennis Polivka, E3681 County Road JJ, Spring Green, WI 53588
Eric Peterson, S9801 Exchange Road, Prairie du Sac, WI 53578
Judy Ashford, S6611 Bluff Road, Merrimac, WI 53561
John Dietz, S4821 Golf Course Road, Reedsburg, WI 53559
Richard Flint, E7189 Eagle Ridge Court, Reedsburg, WI 53959
Chuck Spencer, S5075 Lovers Lane, Baraboo, WI 53913

Hearing of a Rezoning Petition:

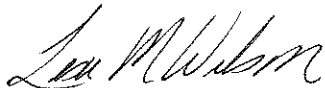
Petition #13-2017 Rezone/CUP. A petition to consider a rezone from an Exclusive Agriculture to a Rural Community zoning district pursuant to s.7.150 Ordinance amendments of the Sauk County Zoning Ordinance; and a petition to consider a conditional use permit pursuant to s. 7.031(2) and s. 7.035(3) to allow for an outdoor recreational facility and eating establishment with alcohol, liquor, or malt beverages. Said conditional use permit is located in the Town of Troy, Sauk County, Wisconsin.

Please take note:

A hearing on the above Petition has been scheduled for TUESDAY, May 23rd, 2017 at 9:15 a.m. in the COUNTY BOARD ROOM.

A copy of the Notice of Hearing is enclosed.

Sincerely,



Lisa M. Wilson, AICP
Director
Sauk County Conservation, Planning, & Zoning

Copy (with enclosure) to:

Sauk County Clerk, Sauk County West Square Building
Mary Zins, Town of Troy Town Clerk, E9699 Fuchs Rd, Sauk City, WI 53583(certified mail)
Dale & Cynthia Sprecher, Property owner, E8963 State Rd 60, PO Box 173, Sauk City, WI 53583
(certified mail)
Adjacent property owners



Staff Report
Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Committee
Witwen Park and Campground LLC, applicant/property owner
Rezone Petition 13-2017

Hearing Date: May 23, 2017

Applicant:

Witwen Park and Campground LLC

Staff:

Lisa Wilson, AICP, CPZ
355-4830

lwilson@co.sauk.wi.us

Current Zone:

Exclusive Agriculture

Proposed Zone:

Rural Community

Relevant Plans:

Town of Troy Comprehensive

Applicable Zoning Regulations:

7.150 Ordinance Amendments

7.031(2) Eating Establishments with
alcohol, liquor, or malt beverages

7.035(3) Outdoor Recreational Facility

Notification:

(by U.S. mail, except newspaper)

May 3, 2017: Newspaper

May 3, 2017: CPZ Committee

May 3, 2017: Town Clerk

May 3, 2017: Adjacent Landowners

Town Board Recommendation:

April 18, 2017: Approval of Rezone

Exhibits:

A. Map of area to be rezoned (cover)

B. Background information provided
by applicants

Request

Witwen Park and Campground LLC c/o Dale Sprecher, hereafter referred to as 'applicants,' are requesting a rezone from exclusive agriculture to rural community as well as a conditional use permit for an outdoor recreational facility with an eating establishment with alcohol, liquor, or malt beverages. The existing facility known as Witwen Park and Campground will include the following key operations:

1. Witwen July 4th parade and celebration
2. Memorial/Funeral services
3. Weddings
4. Fundraising events for non-profits
5. Church camp meeting gathering
6. High school graduations/celebrations
7. Camping
8. Fishing for local individuals
9. Summer free concerts
10. Birthday celebrations
11. Serving of food and beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic)

Most of the operations above require a conditional use permit under the Sauk County Zoning ordinance pursuant to:

s. 7.031(2) Eating establishment with alcohol, liquor, or malt beverages, and;

s. 7.035(3) Recreation facility, outdoor

The applicants have provided information regarding the long-standing history of the Witwen Park and Campground.

Legal Description of Area

Lands to be affected by the proposed rezone are located in part of the SE ¼ of the NW 1/4, and NE ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 3, T9N, R5E, Town of Troy, Sauk County, Wisconsin, and as further described in Petition 13-2017. Containing tax parcel #036-0454-00000 containing 37.21 acres more or less.

Town of Troy Recommendation and Comprehensive Plan

The Town of Troy approved the rezone request at their April 18, 2017 meeting.

Adjacent Zoning and Land Uses (also shown on the staff report cover)

| Direction | Zoning | Land Use |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Property | Exclusive Agriculture | Campground/Outdoor entertainment area |
| North | Exclusive Agriculture | Natural Area/Agriculture |
| South | Exclusive Agriculture | Agriculture |
| East | Exclusive Agriculture | Residences |
| West | Exclusive Agriculture | Woods/Stream |

Rezone Standards from Exclusive Agriculture

Wis. Stats. 91.48 allows for the rezone of land out of exclusive agriculture, providing the entity can find all of the following: Staff should provide brief findings here

- (a) The land is better suited for a use not allowed in the farmland preservation zoning district.

As can be noted in the materials provided by the applicant, the history of the Witwen Park and Campground is significant. The types of uses and events that continue to take place on the property have been doing so since the late 1800's. The exclusive agriculture zoning came long after the use was established.

- (b) The rezoning is consistent with any applicable comprehensive plan.

The Town of Troy noted in a memo provided by the Town Clerk that the Plan Commission had recommended and the Town Board approved the rezoning of the property from exclusive agriculture to rural community at their meeting held on April 18th, 2017. The rezoning is consistent with their Comprehensive Plan.

- (c) The rezoning is substantially consistent with the county certified farmland preservation plan.

Again, the uses on the subject property pre-date the County's certified farmland preservation plan. The proposed zoning is more consistent with the types of uses that have historically been located on the property.

- (d) The rezoning will not substantially impair or limit current or future agricultural use of surrounding parcels of land that are zoned for or legally restricted to agricultural use.

The use has been operating for a substantially long period of time. It has not, nor would it appear to have any detrimental effects upon past, current, or future agricultural use of surrounding parcels.

Conditional Use Secondary Standards

Pursuant to Sauk county Ordinance §7.035(3), the following Recreational Facility, Outdoor secondary standards apply:

1. Lighting. Proposed lighting installations shall integrate every reasonable effort to mitigate the effects of light on surrounding properties.

2. Operation. Hours of operation, including hours of night lighting, shall be specified as a condition of the conditional use.

Additional Considerations

Parking: Given the various types of uses and events that take place on the property, the parking requirement category that best fits is flex parking. Depending upon the use or type of event, the applicant will need to demonstrate that sufficient parking be provided to allow vehicles to park safely without obstructing traffic. It does not appear that this has been an issue in the past.

Septic/Sanitary: The property does have a privy on-site, which meets County standards. For special events, portable restroom facilities are provided on-site to accommodate the additional people.

Property Access: The property has access via the driveway from County CTH E into the property.

Committee Action Options

Approve Petition 13-2017, based on the facts of the request presented at the public hearing, that the proposed rezone from exclusive agriculture to rural community and conditional use permit appears to be consistent with respective plans, and that rezone met all standards and findings noted; and,

Disapprove Petition 13-2017, based on the facts of the request presented at the public hearing, the Town of Troy recommend disapproval of the rezone and conditional use permit, and that the rezone and conditional use permit does not meet the standards and findings noted.

Modify and Approve Petition 13-2017 Rezone/CUP. Not Recommended.

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

Sauk County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department
505 Broadway Street – Sauk County West Square Building
Baraboo, WI 53913
(608) 355-3245

Permit No. 13-2017

CUP Ordinance Section(s):

7.031(2) Eating Establishment with alcohol. Liquor or malt beverages; 7.035(3) Outdoor Recreational Facility

Present Zoning: Agricultural

Proposed Zoning: Rural Community

Parcel # 036-0454-00000

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Project Location: SE ¼ of the NW ¼ and NE ¼ of the SW ¼, Section 3, T9N, R5E Town of: Troy

Property Owner: Witwen Park & Campground LLC

Address: E8963 State Road 60

City, State, Zip Code: Sauk City, WI 53583 Phone: (608) 544-5362

SECTION II: STAFF REPORT/BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Witwen Park and Campground LLC is requesting a conditional use permit for the existing facility. See Appendix A for a map of the property and buildings/land to be utilized as part of the facility.

SECTION III: CONDITIONAL USE STANDARDS – Pursuant to Sauk County Code ch. 7, the Agency may approve an application for a CUP after consideration of the following factors:

Conditional Use Standards (general). In reviewing the conditional use, the agency shall follow these standards pursuant to Sauk Co. Code §7.151(5):

- (a) The establishment, maintenance, or operation of the proposed use may not be detrimental to or endanger the public health, safety, or general welfare of the occupants of surrounding lands.

Finding: The Witwen Park & Campground has been in operation on this property since the late 1800's, based upon documentation provided by the applicant. It does not appear that continuation of the use would be detrimental or endanger the public health, safety, or general welfare of the surrounding properties.

- (b) The use will be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained so as to be compatible, and be appropriate in appearance with the existing or intended character of the general vicinity, and that such use may not change the essential character of the area by substantially impairing or diminishing the use, value, or enjoyment of existing or future permitted uses in the area.

Finding: Again, this is an existing use that has a significant history on the property. Its continued use in the same fashion does not appear to change the character of the area or diminish the use, value or enjoyment of existing or future uses within this area.

Conditional Use Secondary Standards.

Recreation Facility, Outdoors; pursuant to Sauk Co. Code 7.053:

- (1) Lighting. Proposed lighting installations shall integrate every reasonable effort to mitigate the effects of the light on surrounding properties.

Finding: The applicant does not appear to be adding any permanent lighting as part of the proposal.

- (2) Operation. Hours of operation, including hours of night lighting, shall be specified as a condition of the conditional use.

Finding: Given that the type of events on the property vary, tailoring hours of operation may be difficult. When hosting events, the applicant must be mindful of noise, lighting, etc. that may affect surrounding property owners.

SECTION IV: FINDINGS OF FACT

Conditional Use Criteria. In reviewing the conditional use, the agency shall consider the following findings pursuant to Sauk Co. Code § 7.151(6):

- (a) The erosion potential of the site based topography, drainage, slope, soil type, and vegetative cover and mitigation of erosion potential.

Finding: The existing use does not pose issues for erosion.

- (b) The prevention and control of water pollution, including sedimentation, and the potential impacts on floodplain and wetlands

Finding: A significant portion of the property is located within the Shoreland District and the Floodway. The applicant would be required to meet the requirements of Sauk County Code Chapters 8 and 9.

- (c) Whether the site has adequate utilities including, if necessary, adequate disposal systems.

Finding: The site does have a privy and access to other utilities. When events do occur on the property, portable restroom facilities are brought in for the event.

- (d) Whether the site has access to road and highways.

Finding: The use is accessed via public road, particularly County Rd E.

- (e) Whether the site has suitable, ingress and egress.

Finding: There is a driveway accessing County Rd E.

- (f) Whether the site is designed to minimize traffic congestion, and the potential effect on traffic control.

Finding: Given the wide variety of uses, the flex parking standard would apply. The applicant would need to demonstrate that for events, sufficient parking areas are available, which allow vehicles to park safely without obstructing traffic.

Additional Findings of Fact.

Finding: The Town of Troy did provide written notice that the rezoning request was approved by the Town Board on April 18th, 2017.

SECTION V: CONDITIONS OF THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

1. The Property Owner shall apply for and be issued a Land Use Permit by the Department pursuant to Sauk Co. Code § 7.153
Land use permits: review procedure and standards.
2. Failure to comply with the standards and conditions of this Conditional Use Permit may result in the revocation of said permit and order for removal of any structures or discontinuance of any use thereby permitted by the Conditional Use Permit by the Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Committee of the Sauk County Board of Supervisors.

SECTION VI: CONSERVATION, PLANNING, AND ZONING COMMITTEE DECISION

Based on the above standards and findings, the Agency finds that that the proposed outdoor recreational facility and eating establishment with alcohol, liquor, or malt beverages is in the public interest.

This Conditional Use Permit is hereby approved, by the Agency this 23rd day of May, 2017. Furthermore, if the Permit is approved, the Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Committee hereby authorizes the Zoning Administrator to issue a Land Use Permit behalf of the Agency to execute said conditional use.

Dennis Polivka, Chair
Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Committee

Petition # 13-2017**2017 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION**

Sauk County Office of Conservation, Planning, and Zoning
 505 Broadway Street - Sauk County West Square Building
 Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913
 (608) 355-3245

GENERAL

1. It is strongly recommended that the applicant meet with a staff person prior to completing this application, with adequate time prior to an application deadline.
2. The applicant should complete and sign the form and provide all material listed within this application.
3. Please note: The application and attachments become part of the official public records of Sauk County and are therefore not returnable.

TYPE OF APPLICATION:
 (Please circle one or more)

RezoningConditional Use

Subdivision Plat

Zoning Text Change

ZONING:

CURRENT AG EAPROPOSED (if applicable) RUC (Rural Community)ORDINANCE SECTIONS: 7.031(2) 7.035(3)

NAME OF SUBDIVISION (if applicable) _____

PROJECT 37.21 acres
036-0454LOCATION SE NW & NESW Section 3-45 TroyAPPLICANT Witten Park & Campground LLC
Dale & Cynthia Sprecher
Don A. SprecherTOWNSHIP TroyPHONE NUMBER 608-544-5362 / CELL: 608-444-3712PROPERTY OWNER Dale & Cynthia Sprecher
Don A. SprecherMAILING ADDRESS P.O. Box 173 - Sauk City, WI 53583
Home: 608-544-5362 - Sauk City, WISIGNATURE OF APPLICANT Dale SprecherDATE 2.6.17 53583Fee Paid: (make checks payable to Sauk County CPZ) \$500 Receipt # ✓ (Credit Account # 10063-444240)
DL 777-Sprecher

County Clerk - For reporting at the next County Board of Supervisors meeting Y/N

County Supervisor District # _____

TYPE OF APPLICATION, FEES, AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

| Type of Application Fee Required | Project Facts (Please see Page 2) | Preliminary/Final Plan Site Plan | Other Information (As required) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Subdivision Plat \$300 plus \$20/lot (class 1) \$600 plus \$20/lot (class 1 & III) | Yes | Preliminary and Final Plat 1 reproducible copy | Development Plan Covenants/Bylaws Utility/Access Easements Other information pursuant to Sauk Co. Code ch. 22 |
| Rezoning/CUP \$500 | Yes | Site Plan 1 reproducible copy | Aerial Photo of Site# Utilities statement* |
| Zoning Text Change \$500 | Yes | No | |

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applications must be received by 12:00 noon by the Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department on the day of the application deadline. In order to be accepted, the application must contain all required items and information described in the application. Partial applications will not be accepted for placement on the Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Committee agenda

PROJECT FACTS

Please complete the following information. Contact a staff person if you need assistance.

| | <u>Existing zoning</u> | <u>Existing land use</u> | |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Subject Area | | | Total Site Area (Acres): <u>37.2 Acres</u> |
| North | <u>EA</u> | <u>A</u> | Total Site Area (Square Footage): _____ |
| South | <u>Ag - Exclusive</u> | | |
| East | <u>Ex. Ag</u> | | |
| West | <u>Ex. Ag</u> | | |

JUSTIFICATION STATEMENT

Please answer the following questions. Contact a staff person if you need assistance.

1. General description of the request.

We are requesting Witeren Park & Campground LLC to be removed from Exclusive Ag to Rural Community. Rural Community allows its historical use of past years to continue, as Grandfathered in since co-habited by Native Americans & early settlers.

2. Related background information on the project and site.

When the Town of Troy, Sauk County, needed to enact its land-use plan, Witeren Park & Campground LLC was included as Exclusive Ag. This put the area in conflict with the zoning.

3. Justification, special reasons or basis for the request.

On the recommendation of the Town of Troy, Planning & Zoning Commission and the Sauk County Planning & Zoning Commission, Witeren Park & Campground, LLC should be zoned as Rural Community, which would allow its historical & current use. Those past historical & current uses included are:

a) Witeren July 4th parades & celebrations by area UM churches. b) Memorial Funeral services c) Weddings d) Fund-raising events for non-profits - e) Church camp meeting gathering, f) High School graduation celebration g) Camping h) Fishing for local people i) Summer free concerts for past 15 years. j) Birthday celebrations.

The Campground Tabernacle is on Historical Register, as well as the Mill Race & Campground.

the uses provided under Rural Community zoning.

This zoning request would also provide for serving food, beverages (non-alcoholic & alcoholic).

SITE PLAN

Submit the following plan(s): Scaled site/plot plan showing: date, north arrow, graphic scale; location of property lines, rights-of way, easements, water courses; streets, driveways, intersections; outlines of all buildings, setbacks, dimensions; means of vehicular and pedestrian access; layout and location of all off-street parking; proposed location of requested land uses; metes and bounds legal description of area to be rezoned (when applicable) other information pursuant to Sauk County Code chs. 7 and 22.

SUBDIVISION PLAT

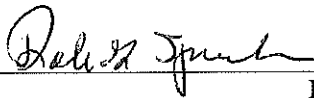
Subdivision plats shall be signed and sealed by a registered surveyor and should include a legal description, computation of the total acreage of the site and any other requirements as defined by Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 236 and Sauk County Code ch. 22.

APPLICANT ACCOUNTABILITY AGREEMENT

Upon signing this document, I take the full responsibility and agree to the following:

- A) I shall obtain all necessary permits, from all appropriate governmental units, including any applicable land use and sanitary permits from Sauk County, and any Town, State, and Federal permits.
- B) I hereby certify that all information contained in this document and provided with the application for a Rezone, Conditional Use Permit or Subdivision Plat, is true and correct. I understand that no construction, including, but not limited to, the pouring of a foundation, basement, or the construction or alteration of any other structure, may occur before the issuance of all necessary permits. Further, I understand that if construction does occur before I have obtained all necessary permits, additional fees, forfeitures, and removal of the non-permitted structure(s) may be assessed against me.
- C) I shall allow representatives from the Sauk County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department to access my property to inspect the project's design, layout, construction, operation and/or maintenance.

Signed by: _____



Property Owner

Date: _____

4-25-17

Revised 1/7/16

REAT LAKES JACKIE BAND NO. 2 COMING TO PRAIRIE DU SAC APRIL 23.

According to a schedule received by station Agent Frank Miles, dated Chicago, April 9, 1918, the Great Lakes Jackie Band No. 2, in a liberty loan campaign will be in Prairie du Sac on Tuesday, April 23. The band will arrive here on the noon train and will remain until 10:30 p. m., when they will turn to Mazomanie and go west to Jacobel, Lone Rock and Richland Center. The band travels in a Pullman 12 section drawing room sleeping car.

This band is from the Great Lakes, (Mich.) Training station and will appear in U. S. navy uniform. Arrangements for a big day at Prairie du Sac on Tuesday, April 23, are already under way. People from the vicinity are invited to be present. All business places and residences should fly the stars and stripes on that day, and other appropriate decorations should be conspicuous. More next week.

Church Notes.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH.

Our conference year will close next Sunday. This year has been the most prosperous in the history of the congregation. Our mutual labors were signally blessed by God. Our people have been zealous in the good work; God has blessed them. Our annual conference will convene at Norwalk, Wis., next week, and these powers to be will seek, if the pastor is to continue his work here. Services next Sunday will be an appropriate climax to the year's work. Rev. G. B. Kimball, D. D., Springfield, Ill., professor in the Evangelical Theological Seminary will be the guest. He will preach an English sermon in the morning and address the Sunday School Teachers' Training class in the afternoon. The union evening service, at which everyone should feel at home in a service. It is your service. Bible school for everybody Sunday, 10:00 a. m. Divine worship, English sermon 10:45 a. m., 16 minutes earlier than usual. Y. P. A. 6:45 p. m. Union service, graduation of the Sunday School Teachers' Training class, 10 p. m. You are always welcome to our services.

PHILIP SCHNEIDER, Pastor.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.
Services will be held in the local church on Sunday forenoon at 10:30. Sunday School at 9:45. (New time.) Services in Mazomanie in English in the afternoon.
With cordial invitation,
F. LAMBERTUS, Pastor.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
S. S. at 10:00 a. m.
C. E. 6:45 p. m.

Village Board Proceedings. (Official publication)

March 26, 1918.
The village board met in regular session, all members responding to roll call, excepting Edwin Steidtmann. Minutes of last meeting were approved as read.
The following bills were allowed and ordered paid:

GENERAL FUND.
Win City Tel. Co., material and rental \$26.45
V. Page, insurance on library building 93.50
M. Tarnutzer, labor 67.55
Hert Giegerich, publishing and printing 90.55
W. Stephens, help and shoveling 54.15

WATER FUND
Tarnutzer, gasoline 7.02
Essler & Wagner, material 2.70
M. Johnson, help 14.77
Sandusky F. & Mach, Co., material 20.00
M. Steam Gauge & Valve Co., material 10.00
F. S. Darley & Co., material 15.00
Motion made, seconded and carried that John Gallus be hired to sweep the brick pavement at a salary of \$30.00 per month until the board sees fit to discontinue the work.
Upon motion the board adjourned.
J. L. P. ACCOLA, Clerk.

What We Must Have At Once To Win The War.

—More ships.
—More food.
—More guns and bullets.
—More men.
These things cost money—millions of money.
The men are ready—thousands are being trained as fast as time will permit. Other thousands are ready to be trained.
The big need right now is for ships and food.
The farmers of the northwest are putting in the greatest wheat crop ever seeded in this country. That is their answer to the call for food.
And now comes the third great demand for money to pay for ships, food and guns.
Uncle Sam waits.
To Borrow Every Dollar You Can Spare.
He doesn't want donations.
He wants you to loan him money on the strongest security in the world.
—War Savings Stamps.
—Liberty Loan Bonds 3rd Issue.
These are the two big ways in which Uncle Sam must finance the war.
Every one of us must do our very best—our bit isn't enough.
If we lose this war, we can't begin to imagine the things that will happen to us.
We must and will win if every one does his and her very best.

Sauk Co. Young Men Leave.

The following is the list of the men who left Baraboo last week Wednesday for Fort Stevens, Oregon, where they will go into military training:
Louis Nobale, Devils Lake.
Frank H. King, Baraboo.
John L. Stanton, Reedsburg.
Arthur G. Hildebrandt, Baraboo.
Angelo Thomaselli, Ableman.
Harry C. Ott, Reedsburg.
Lewis P. Schanke, Kilbourn.
Aug. Steinhorst, Loganville.
Rudolph Kable, Lyndon Station.
Roy J. Mason, Reedsburg.
Waldo E. Steidtmann, Sauk City.
Christian O. Gasser, Baraboo.
Walter B. Meyer, Baraboo.
Martin Meyer, Reedsburg.
William A. Kuball, North Freedom.
LaVern West, Baraboo.
Enrico Vibesch, Devils Lake.
Geo. E. Demakey, Loganville.
Harry Kohlhaap, Baraboo.
Vivian B. Douglas, Baraboo.
Ernest F. Erdman, Sandusky.
Frank Draper, North Freedom.
Hugh Sarahan, Baraboo.
Ezra H. Foster, Baraboo.
Edwin F. Keller, Baraboo.
Wm. H. Kamenzky, North Freedom.
Leoni Giuseppe, Devils Lake.
Edward L. Lassallette, Reedsburg.
Henry G. Felix, Prairie du Sac.
James H. Norton, Baraboo.
Clarence Williams, Reedsburg.
Floyd S. Carr, Reedsburg.
Guy Selden, Loganville.
Hansen F. Blank, Reedsburg.
Orren D. Fuchs, Reedsburg.
Joseph A. Bemmerl, Spring Green.
Richard M. Gassen, LaVale.

Marklein-Willey Nuptials.

Herman Marklein and Miss Erna Willey were united in marriage at the St. Aloysius Catholic church in Sauk

Child Welfare Work.

Mrs. Lloyd Tarnutzer has been appointed chairman of the Child Welfare Work in this city. The work began April 6 and will continue for 60 days. The work as already stated was begun by the woman's committee of the state council of defense, and will be carried out through the aid of sub-committees, the purpose of the movement being the conservation of the health and welfare of the rising generation.
Miss Helen Merk of Sauk City has been appointed chairman for the township of Prairie du Sac and has appointed the following helpers, who will again appoint their helpers: For Dist. No. 3, Mrs. Ed. Grass; Dist. No. 2, Mrs. Chris. Gruber; Dist. No. 7, Mrs. John Koberstein; village of Sauk City, Mrs. C. M. Koch; village of Prairie du Sac, Mrs. Lloyd Tarnutzer.
Prairie du Sac was fortunate in getting Mr. Hintzmann of the Child Welfare Department of the U. W. Extension division to explain this child welfare work. Mr. Hintzmann spoke before the Red Cross ladies Tuesday afternoon. He sees no reason why the people of our city should not follow out the desires of the Council of Defense and when the appointed time arrives be very willing to have their children weighed and measured.

Books at the Library.

Birdsall, Jack of all Trades.
Burnett, Through one Administration.
Churchill, The Crisis.
Cruik, John Halifax, Gentleman.
Davis, In the Fog.
Davis, Three Gringos.
Delacombe, Boys' Book of Airships.
Fiske, American Revolution Vol. 1.
Greene, A Lincoln Conscript.
Hall Chester, Panama and the Canal.
Harrison, Home Nursing.
Hopkins, Twentieth Century Magic.
Humphrey, The Indian Dispossessed.
Jewett, Betty Leicester.
John, Old Man's Belle's Secret.
Kingsley, Heroes.
Kipling, Jungle Book.
Klickmann, Artistic Crochet.
Knibbs, Overland Red.
Larned, Talks About Books.
Laut, Pathfinders of the West.
Lindsay, Daniel Boone, Backwoodsman.
Macomber, Jewel City.
Miller, Second Books of Birds.
O'Shea, Six Nursery Classics.
Perkins, The Dutch Twins.
Quick, Yellowstone Nights.
Reed, Lavender and Old Lace.
St. Nicholas, Part I.
St. Nicholas, Part II.
Seawell, Paul Jones.
Sharer, Young Japan.
Smith, Peter.
Smith, Three Little Marys.
Tomlinson, In the Hands of the Redcoats.
Tompkins, Dr. Ellen.
Waller, Wood Carver of Lympus.
Waltz, Pa. Gladden.
Phelps, Oath of Allegiance.
Warner, Susan Clegg, Her Friends and Her Neighbors.
Webster, Just Patty.
Webster, When Patty Went to College.
Wright, Princess Flower Hat.

Trunk Line Sections and Men Who Work Them.

The trunk lines in the county have been divided into thirteen patrols and the sections will be carefully watched in order to keep the roads in the best condition possible. The following have been appointed patrolmen for the thirteen sections:
Section 1—H. H. Gibaut, Juneau county line to LaVale, about seven miles.
Section 2—J. W. Hyslop, LaVale to Richland county line, 6 1/2 miles.
Section 3—A. A. Gibaut, LaVale to Reedsburg, about 6 1/2 miles.
Section 4—Edd Meyer, Reedsburg to Blacks Corner, town of Excelsior, about 6 miles.
Section 5—Albert Bender, Blacks corner to N. H. Smith corner, town of Baraboo, about 6 1/2 miles.

Local Talent Makes Hit.

Prairie du Sac young folks have proven themselves artists in the entertainment world during the past week. The high school class play at the gymnasium Friday evening and the concert by the Ladies' Glee club of the Evangelical church on Tuesday evening were both largely attended and the productions were enjoyed by the audiences and their rendition gave pleasure to everyone in attendance from the first curtain rise until the final scene. Members of both organizations are a subject of congratulation for the pleasing manner in which they rendered their lines. Some of the parts were quite difficult and required high grade acting or musical ability which was furnished by those upon whom the parts devolved. Everybody speaks in high praise of the performances and that of course is satisfactory to the participants and to those who had patiently and earnestly trained them.

Ragatz's orchestra which filled in between acts is another of Prairie du Sac's organizations which entertains whenever it appears. Its excellent music was much enjoyed at both the class play and the concert.

Will Erect Tabernacle at Witwen.

The ministers and lay delegates of the Prairie du Sac, Honey Creek and Black Hawk churches of the Evangelical association met at the Ragatz church Tuesday afternoon and organized the Sauk County Camp Meeting association. Presiding Elder Effmeyer of Madison acted as chairman and Rev. Philip Schneider of this city as secretary of the meeting.
The new organization has leased the old camp ground in Witwen, where a large tabernacle will be erected this spring. The building will be a frame structure 60x88 feet in size set on a concrete foundation. Filling and leveling of the ground has already begun, and the building is to be ready for the June meeting. Contractor John Schless of Black Hawk will do the building. A building fund is being raised by selling \$5.00 shares to the amount of \$4000.
The officers of the organization are Pres., Presiding Elder of the Madison district; Vice Pres., Honey Creek minister; Sec., Prairie du Sac minister; Treas., Black Hawk minister. Executive committee—two members from each of the four fields, including Baraboo—J. P. Witwen, Martin Sprecher, Chris Gasser, Tobias Clavadtacher, John Felix, Herman Unke, A. G. Leindorff and W. J. Steuber.

Gingles' Jingles.

Back On The Farm.

By Lorin H. Gingles.
We have manured the fields of grain, we've milked a bunch of cows, to the shocks while pitching bundles we have made a million bows; we have beat it through the stubble with our bare feet scratched and sore, we have bumped the hard heads with our toes—bumped them until we'd roar. We have seen the rain and sunshine, seen it all back on the farm but we cannot say it hurt us, that it did us any harm; neither can we say we liked it, the appeal was cold and gray, it was humble every minute till we beat it for the hay. And it seemed as though we'd hardly loose ourself to pleasant dreams, 'till a wild array of noises, shouts, hurrahs combined with screams, would assemble us for action; bring us back to earth—once more—duty calls, "right shoulder pitch forks," would be shrieked within our door. And that 4 a. m. old rooster, with his tenement near ours, for a bird was sure some yodler in the dawn's small early hours; but mid-noises that disturbed us let him warble in the dawn, be the early bird and yodler—we should worry now we're gone.

Protect Your Garden From Frosts.

One of the most important questions confronting the nation is to increase the production of food crops. Your gar-

Native Americans and Early Settlers Camped together on these grounds





Fishing in Honey Creek

0045294 003
 74 © CH
 H H N

Dale Sprecher

09/12/2010

Inside Tabernacle
Within Campground
& Park

09/26/19

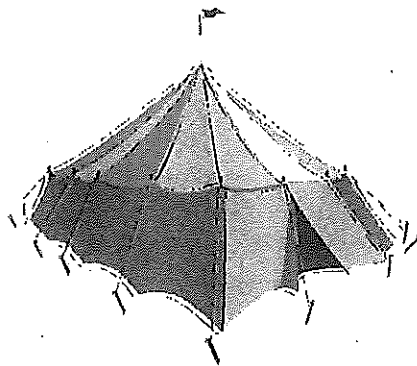
1957年 10月 1日 星期六



Picnic given at Witten
Campgrounds

NO. 12, 1914
N. H. H. 100
1914

Dale Sprecher



GOODLY TENTS

A History of Camp Meetings
in Wisconsin

*"How goodly are thy tents,
O Jacob, and thy tabernacles,
O Israel"*

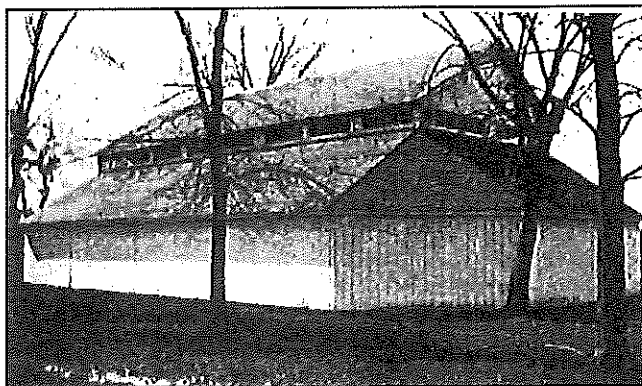
Numbers 24:5

by Lois C. Olsen

Lois C. Olsen

that their neighing and stomping would not disturb the meeting or the sleepers at night. As a prank, one time a youthful joker, wishing no doubt to test the tolerance of the religious community, brought a very heavy horse with a peculiar bronchial cough and tied it as close as possible to the activities, which it proceeded to disturb with its noisy breathing and odd cough.⁵⁴

The fifth location of the Camp Grounds is the present location of Witwen Camp meeting. This had been a great camping ground for Native Americans who came here in winter to trap muskrats. The Ringling tent was pitched here for two years until the tabernacle was built in 1918. Later dormitories and a dining hall were built.



The Witwen camp continues to hold a yearly camp in the tabernacle. The meetings are sponsored by the United Methodist churches in Blackhawk and Denzer.

1853 OSHKOSH

Our recently held Camp meeting was a blessed time. It was the first meeting of this kind to be held in this neighborhood among these people. So the inquisitive attended as well as those who 'longed for mercy' and they came from far and

1853 C

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BUILDING EARLY WISCONSIN COMMUNITY

The 150-Year Story of Mills on the Honey Creek

Philip Hasheider

Chapter 4

WITWEN MILL THE WITWEN BROTHERS

Long before the Witwen area became associated with a mill and a small community, it was the hunting grounds and camping area for local Native American Indians. Even in the early days of the mill in the 1860s, they came regularly, spring and fall, to hunt and trap for several weeks. They camped along the trees and were, in fact, welcome visitors by the millers.

Muskrats could do considerable damage to the mill pond and dam, so the millers paid a bounty of ten cents for each muskrat caught, although the millers had to devise a way to make sure that the same muskrat was not presented more than once for payment. The women made lovely baskets and sold them in the neighborhood. After the area became too public, the Indians discontinued their visits.⁷⁸⁶

The story of the Witwen Mill involves an immigrant Swiss family whose descendants still live in the Sauk Prairie area. Gaudenz and John Peter Witwen were brothers who built and then owned the Witwen Mill for twenty years.

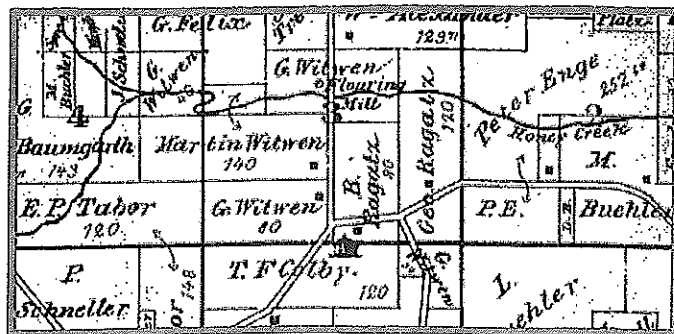
George Mertens

The land on which the Witwen Mill would be built had been purchased by George Mertens, an early Sauk prairie settler. He was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1822, the son of a city attorney, and came to America in May 1847.⁷⁸⁷ He traveled to Sheboygan, Wisconsin, where he lived until the spring of 1849 when he came to the Sauk prairie.

Mertens started as a clerk in a general store owned by J. S. Tripp, the local merchant, lawyer and banker, until January 1852 when he moved to Baraboo after being elected clerk of the circuit court. Mertens held this office for four years while developing an abstract title business which he kept for fifty years.

During his time in Baraboo, Mertens also had an insurance business, was chairman of the town and of the county board of supervisors for several terms. For a year and a half he was director and president of the First National Bank after helping organize it. He retired in 1908. He had married Jane S. White at Sauk City in September 1853, and died in May 1914.⁷⁸⁸

Mertens had acquired the property soon after coming to the area. He sold the eighty acres to Peter Massueger for \$100 on August 25, 1851.⁷⁸⁹



The Sauk County Plat Map of 1877 shows the location of the Witwen Flouring Mill in Troy Township.

The year 1912 was a milestone year in the life of the mill. The winter of 1911-12 was one of little freezing until December and saw little snow until then. As a result, the creek level had dropped significantly so that in February 1912, Nick Schneider had to hitch his gasoline engine to the feed mill to keep it grinding.⁸⁴⁶

By June the electric lights were wired from the mill to the campgrounds. "The picnic given by the Witwen band Friday evening [May 30] was largely attended. The electric lights that were wired from the Witwen Mill added greatly to the pleasing appearance of the grounds."⁸⁴⁷

End of an Era

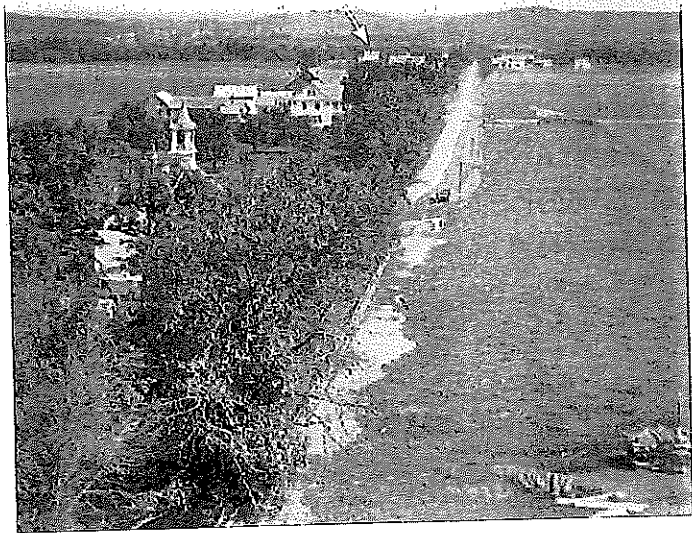
In November 1912, John Peter Witwen died, and one month later his brother, Gaudenz, died. Gone now were the two men who built the mill and helped develop the community.⁸⁴⁸ But the mill continued and in December 1913, a new feed grinder and corn cob crusher were installed.⁸⁴⁹

Between 1914 and 1915, several men were employed at the mill including Leslie Klebesadel, Andy Hackbush, Joseph Peterson and A. Lemke. Hackbush left to work at Joseph Meyer's blacksmith shop. Peterson returned to Rockford, Illinois. Lemke, who also worked at the local creamery, "had an accident on June 10, while coming back from Prairie du Sac with a load of butter tubs for the Witwen Creamery. While he was sitting in the front, one of his horses stumbled coming down the hill near the mill. The shift in weight knocked him down between the horses. He was dragged for some distance. He broke one shoulder and required several stitches on his head but otherwise avoided any life-threatening injury."⁸⁵⁰

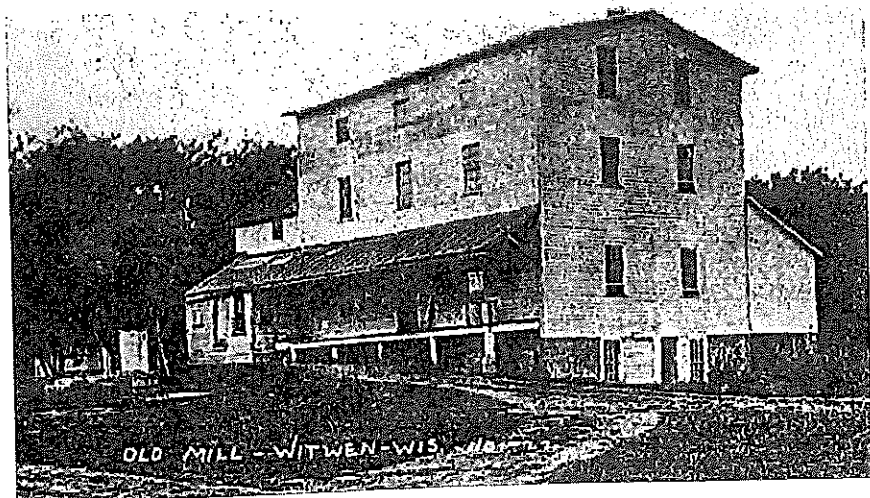
In February 1916, Witwen & Nold bought the machinery of the Okee Roller Mills which had been out of commission for some time due to the back water flow of the new dam at Prairie du Sac.⁸⁵¹ In September they installed a new dynamo at the mill to make electricity available to the residents of Witwen.⁸⁵²

John Edwin Witwen died December 3, 1919, and because Andrew Hackbush had returned to work at the mill in January 1917, the milling continued.⁸⁵³

After his brother-in-law and partner's death, John Nold moved to Milwaukee in 1920 with his family and where he became involved with real estate. Before Nold left he rented his share of the mill to Walter Sprecher, who had been running the



Witwen as seen from the south, ca. 1905. This Frank Eberhardt photo shows the road leading into Witwen. The mill is the white building to the left of center in the distance. Present County Highway O is in the foreground intersection to the right (east). Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society



Witwen Roller Mills, ca. 1910. Author's Photo Collection

THE

STORY

OF

MY

LIFE

HARVEY W. SCHLOSS

and lived with his lovely wife in Minneapolis (she nearly always accompanied him to the annual conferences held in our area); Dr. Harry Kalas, president of Westmar College; Dr. Wayne K. Clymer, president of Evangelical Theological Seminary; Professors E. F. George, Francis Boelter, Eugene Wenger and Paul E. Keen of E.T.S.; also Dr. John R. Knecht, president of United Seminary.

During the fourteen years I was pastor at Black Hawk I was the treasurer of the Campmeeting Association. Many years before we moved to Black Hawk, the congregations at Honey Creek and Prairie du Sac together with the Black Hawk congregation held campmeeting annually in Peter Witwen's woods. People would come in wagons and buggies and set up tents and in a larger tent they held evangelistic services. There was great emotionalism evident in the meetings, but no doubt this was one way the church grew as new converts were won.

When I served on the campmeeting board we engaged many denominational leaders as our speakers; some of them came back a second year. We rented rooms in the dormitory above the dining hall for those who wished to stay. I engaged cooks and waitresses and purchased the food supplies that were not donated. We served three meals a day. However, the last years I was there no one stayed nights and we only served supper meals to a few. Mostly, the meals were served on the Women's Society day and Youth day and Sunday. When Dr. Dewey Eder was the speaker after World War II he vividly portrayed the plight of our churches in Germany, many of which were destroyed. We raised \$2,200.00 and some of the Black Hawk members donated a total of nine bred heifers which were sent overseas to Europe to help restock farmers' depleted herds. I went around among the farmers and ear-tagged the heifers for shipment after they were tuberculin and brucellosis tested. Merlin Sprecher hauled them free of charge to Nappanee, Indiana, where the Church of the Brethren shipped them to seaports and then overseas.

Once when a migrant family was burned out in a shack on the William Sprecher farm and the father and a boy died from severe burns, our congregation raised over \$600.00 in cash and donated food and clothing for the survivors. On another occasion when Art Accola broke a leg getting out firewood, the men of the congregation came to his rescue and cut down trees and sawed it into firewood lengths and split and piled it ready for use. They also took care of his daily farm chores for many weeks.

For two consecutive years after the new church was built we grew sweet corn as a cooperative venture to help pay off on the indebtedness; once we had eighteen acres near Honey Creek, and the other time thirty acres at Cassel. The net income from this project over the two years materially helped in reducing the indebtedness on the new building. It built good fellowship and a fine spirit among the men and teenage boys who helped, all of which was good for the life of the congregation.


While I was pastor at Black Hawk I was elected a member of the new Conference Board of Missions, which came into existence with our union with the United Brethren Church. The Board organized and I was elected the first executive secretary, which office I held for two consecutive terms, or eight years. After my second term I was elected a member of the Conference Trustee Board. When they 43

celebrating Wisconsin's
Sesquicentennial

HONEY
CREEK
HAMLETS

DENZER-
LELAND-
BLACK HAWK
WITWEN
1848 ~ 1998





Lowell and Gertrude Wilhelm

Lowell and Gertrude Wilhelm have brightened their corner of the world with music since their youth. Gertrude, an only child of Leonard Gasser and Lydia Unke Gasser, was born and brought up on a farm east of Witwen. Lowell, the son of Herman Wilhelm and Lillia Hatz Wilhelm, was also born and brought up on a farm. He had two brothers, Harvey and Allen and three sisters, Lydia Luck, Rose Hasheider and Esther Mueller.

Lowell and Gertrude were friends since they were in a one room rural school together and graduated in a class of 12 students, a record number of classmates in a one room rural school. The young musicians sang in the school chorus and played in the band.

While Lowell became a farmer he continued his musical pursuits and sang in musical groups, including the Sauk County Male Chorus, of which he was the director for some years. He also was a piano tuner.

After high school Gertrude also pursued her musical interests. She graduated from The Wisconsin School of Music in Madison and gave many students in the Honey Creek area piano lessons through the years.

While Lowell sang in the Sauk County Male Chorus Gertrude was one of the accompaniists.

Lowell and Gertrude were married in 1945.

The Wilhelms have been staunch supporters of the Honey Creek Ragatz Church. Gertrude explained, "The Honey Creek United Methodist Church celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1994. This church was the mother church to the area churches including Black Hawk, Denzer, Concordia, Baraboo Emmanuel and other churches in nieghboring states. The Ragatz, Felix, Accola, Mueller, Luck, Hatz and Gasser families were the early founders and some of their descendants continue to worship there today.

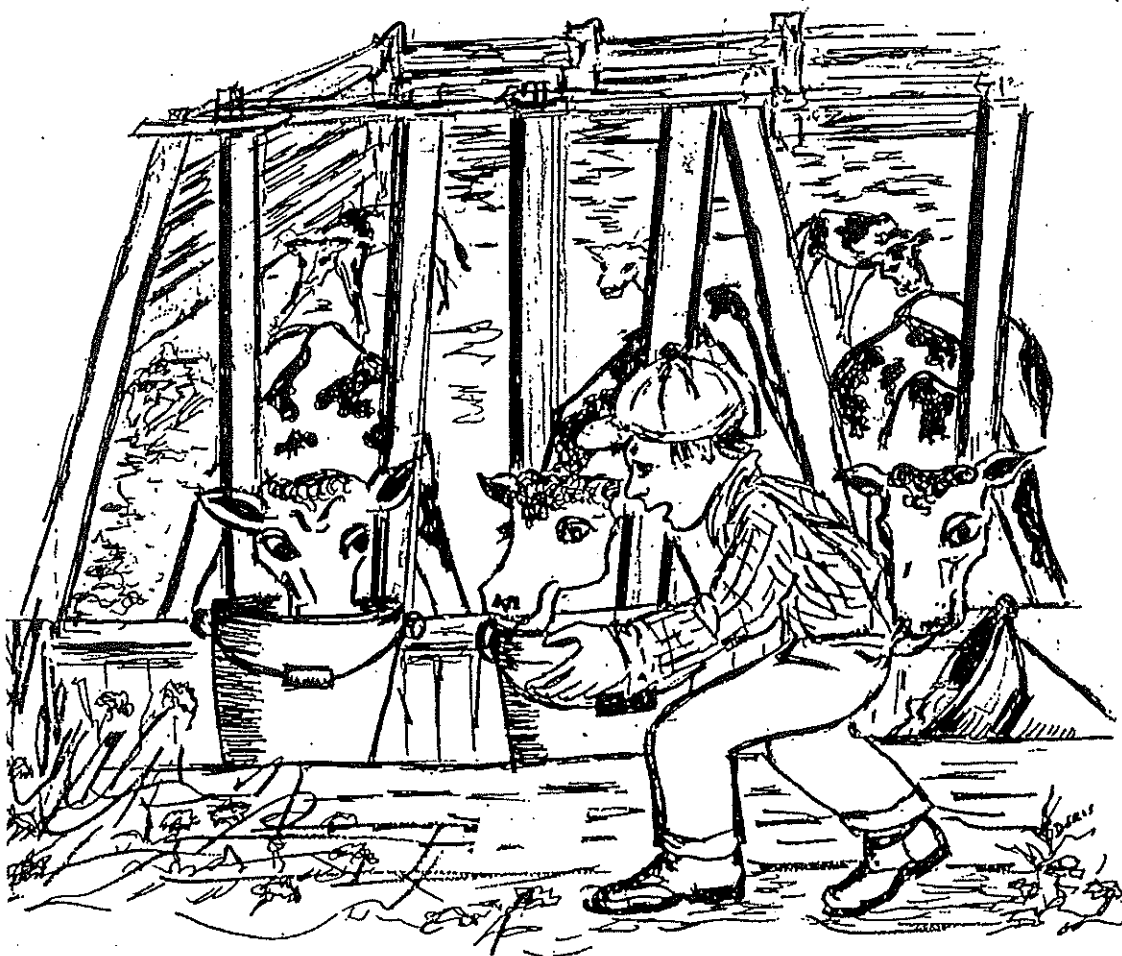
Witwen Camp Meetings which included the above mentioned churches were held every summer since 1918. Guest ministers delivered inspiring sermons and music was an important part of the events. Gertrude, along with Nita Enge and Marcella Sprecher brought the spirit of the services to life with their piano and organ accompaniments, for choir anthems and hymns and congregational singing. Gertrude recalled that earlier accompaniists included Kathryn Meng Hunsader and Ruth Trautman.

Wilhelm

Gertrude and Lowell were active participants in Toby Clavadatscher's Fourth of July band at Witwen. Gertrude thinks the Fourth of July has never been the same without Toby and his band and the band stand performance during the picnic dinner and festivities. In recent years the local churches share the responsibility of preparing the bar-be-que dinner. Every year Lowell gets the big bar-be-que going.

The Wilhelms have passed their musical talent on to the next generation. Their son, Jerome, sings in the chorus and plays in the community band and tunes pianos in Antigo, Wisconsin. His wife is Mary Mueller and they have three children. Jerome is also the Antigo assessor and building inspector.

Gertrude continues to give students piano lessons, while Lowell cares for the church grounds and cemetery, which he has done for around fifty years.



The blacksmith shop long was a vital service to the farmers, Ferdinand Patka was not the first blacksmith, but this skilled workman operated it for many years. Early morning to late at night the sounds of forging or the sharpening of the sickles and the sights of the 'sparkling' of the welder filled the air as he worked long days to keep the farmers machinery in good working order.

The original Witwen Creamery was established in 1895 as a private enterprise. It later operated as a cooperative 'Troy and Honey Creek Creamery Co-op' and closed following a merger with the Sauk City plant. As one of few places for non farm work, its closing meant the end of Witwen as an economic entity.

Yet, Witwen did have what its three sister hamlets did not have, and this was the telephone operation, known as the Witwen Exchange. It was first operated by Elias Witwen in his farm house and moved to his new home in Witwen where it remained indirectly even after WW II.

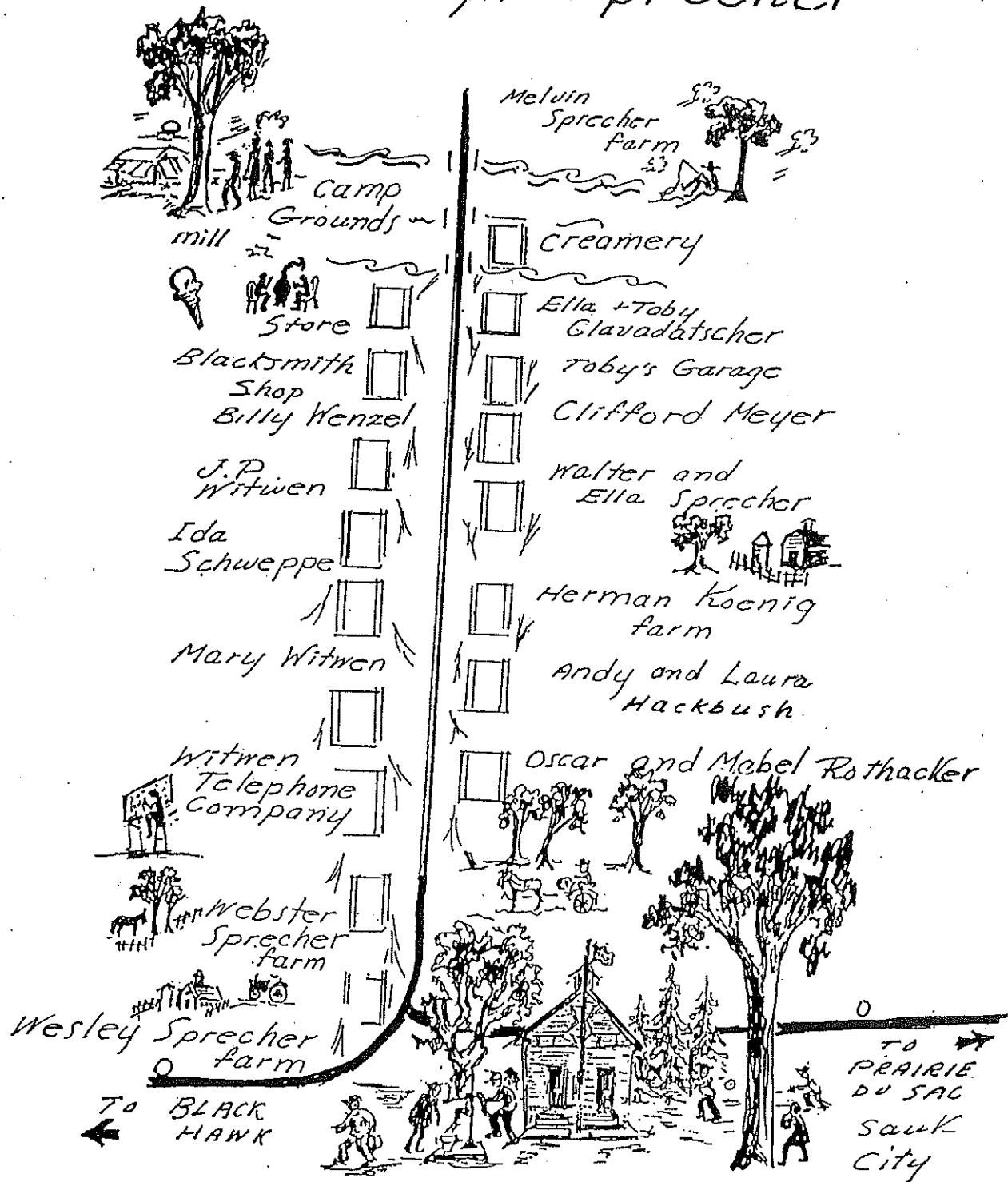
The Witwen School District No. 7 Town of Troy was organized October 7, 1854. Still familiar names like Ragatz, Witwen, Enge and Schneller appear in the early records. In 1862 a new school was built on a new site; presently the Witwen wayside. It, like Black Hawk School, closed in 1955 upon consolidation. A friendly rivalry between Witwen and Black Hawk extended beyond school, including soft ball.

Witwen has no 'church' structure, but the settlers' faith of their fathers is reflected and continued in the summertime use of the tabernacle. Built in 1918, this unique structure is the oldest and the only centrally-used landmark remaining in Witwen. 'The Camp Grounds' on which it is located was originally just that; a great camping ground for the Indians who came in the winter to trap muskrat in the 1800s, perhaps even earlier.

It is on July 4th each year that Witwen mushrooms; maintaining a long standing tradition begun by the Black Hawk Church. The community celebrates Independence Day in a uniquely patriotic way, unique enough to rate national attention. Replacing the old style 4th of July picnic, is a chicken barbeque. The parade with its simple, home made floats with themes of home, family, religion and country remains the touch stone of the observance. Thus Witwen continues this annual renewal of a community's love for its country and freedom.



A Visit to Witwen 1930 With Virgil Sprecher



paid a bounty of ten cents for each musk rat caught. Of course it had to be proven that the same musk rats were not presented more than once. The squaws made lovely baskets and sold them in the neighborhood. After the parks became too public the Indians discontinued their visits.

The trees in the park were replaced when storms broke or uprooted some. A bandstand was erected to properly accomodate the Witwen Band. A cottage was built for campers by J. P. Witwen, Jr. Picnics were common and finally camp meetings were held there. A tabernacle was built, then a dormitory with kitchen and dining room. In 1946 the United Brethren pastors, built an addition on the dormitory and the dining room. In 1947 more improvements were made including a large electric range in the kitchen. This is now a permanent camp grounds where annually inspiring sessions of several weeks of camp meetings are conducted by the Evangelical United Brethren Church. Throughout the summer other union services are occasionally held by the surrounding congregations.

And thats the way it was in 1947:

In March 1-1948, the Cooperative Farmers Creamery is a comparatively large industry; Clifford Meyer owns and operates the general store, Toby Clavadatscher owns and operates the garage, Ferdinand Patka owns and very efficiently operates the blacksmith, shop and Herman Koenig operates the farm in the "village limits." The population of Witwen is thirty six according to the census of March 9, 1948:

And, that's the way it was in 1948:

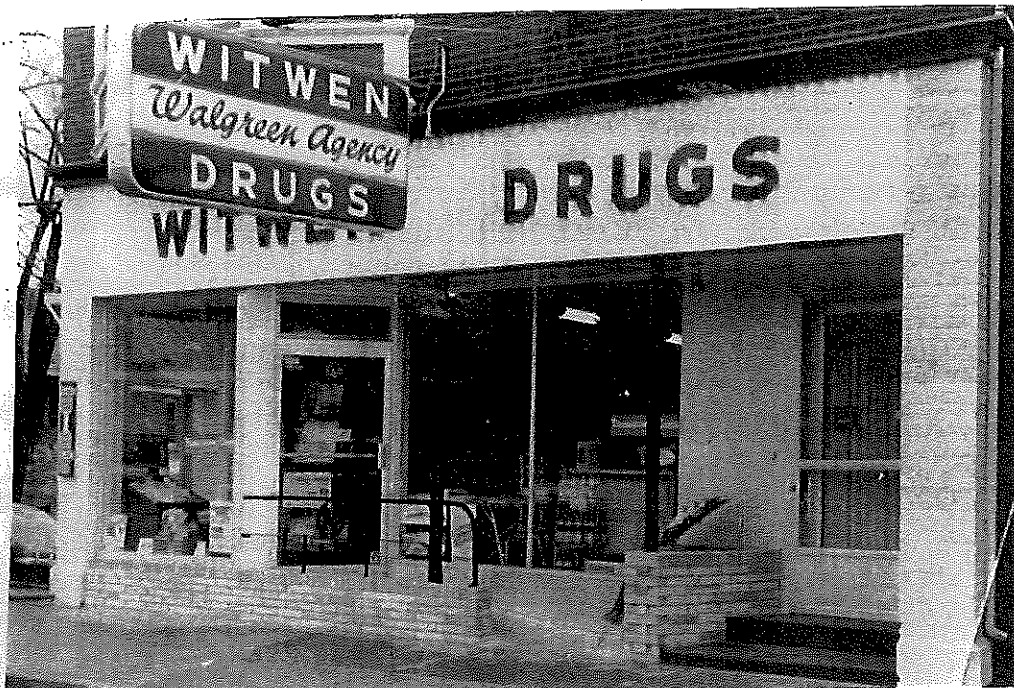


Photo by Carmie Thompson

That little store that had been a school house and also a meat market, was moved to where Randy and Tammy Smith now live.

"Witwen sold the grocery business to Schneller and Felix of Prairie du Sac, who owned it until 1917, when Joe Meyer took over. He and his wife, Kate, ran it until the late 1930s and that's when Clifford, Joe's son, took over. He and his wife, Naomi, ran the store until Clifford's death in 1959. Then Roman and Doris Koenig bought the store and operated it until 1966."

Wally added, "The store was used for school programs and get-togethers in wintertime. Every month there'd be community meetings. Carl Enge was a great one to get a discussion going around the wood burning stove, and then he'd back out and listen and there were some heated discussions that went on there. It was a gathering place Saturday nights. Any night of the week was important because the store was always open. When Clifford was in the store he controlled the village lights. So, when he closed the store the lights went out. It was best for one to be off of the streets before the store closed if one wanted to see his way home."

Bologna and sardines and crackers provided a good lunch at the store, along with water, before the days of soda pop. Later on in the evenings, card games were held regularly and on occasion when it was exceptionally cold, they'd play all night. Clifford was afraid the fruit would freeze. He just kept firing in and the men kept playing cards.

Now Year's Eve was oyster stew time at the store. The cooks invited Walter Sprecher and he arrived perplexed. His cow hadn't given any milk that evening. The prankster cooks, unknown to Walter, milked

his cow, made oyster stew out of the milk, and invited Walter to his own treat.

Norma continued, "Augie Derleth was a regular visitor of the store. He liked to come out here on the Fourth of July, too. He liked to visit with Cele and Addie Schneller and he liked to walk along the mill race."

"Yes," Wally said, "he mentioned Witwen in his books several times and always in a good way. By the way, the community meetings ended here in 1955 when the Black Hawk School was built."

It was wonderful for Ella to just

walk across the street to do her shopping through the years. She recalled, "That was fun. Sometimes when they needed help in the store I worked there."

Wally reviewed, "At the time we were married I was driving truck for Kuhnau and Hosig and later on I ran shovel for them. They hauled crushed lime and we traveled around the country, moved from one quarry to another. Then, after we were married I worked at the creamery down here and later transferred to the Wisconsin Dairies in Sauk City, where I did maintenance work."

Norma recalled, "During the powder plant days we all worked at Badger. First I worked in the rocket powder line. Later I tested water in the lab. I had to drive all over the plant area and get samples of water for testing."

Ella remembered, "I worked in the cafeteria at Gate 10. Toby worked in maintenance. Wally worked at the plant when it was being built, before he went into service."

Speaking of work, Ella added, "I worked at the creamery a long time, wrapping cheese. Oh, brother, we wrapped every pound, three, four hundred pounds every day except Saturday and Sunday. Then, I worked in the office when Art and Geanne Jepsen were there. I'd have to count the cheese and the butter every night when the guys, the haulers, came in, oh, keep track of everything. Now the creamery is a highway shop."

Wally continued, "I started working in the creamery in 1950 and worked until 1963. I drove truck hauling whey and butter and cheese. I'd help a little in the plant when they needed me. I managed to keep quite busy when the schools were consolidated. I started driving school bus into Black Hawk and they also asked me if I would do the maintenance on the busses. I later did the maintenance on the busses for Tower Rock. The busses were owned by the schools. We had a

good safety record. I wouldn't put a bus on the road if it wasn't in good shape. I worked nights and on occasion I never got to bed." Norma added, "When Wally worked at the creamery, he'd drive the bus in the morning and I would drive in the afternoon. The first creamery was located just north of Witwen. That burned down and in 1905 a new creamery was built. It was called the Troy and Honey Creek Creamery. It was enlarged in 1947 when they started making cheese. Then, it was named Honey Creek Valley Dairy Co-ops."

"We should mention the Witwen Mill because that was really the beginning of Witwen. Back in 1886 Gaudenz Witwen started the mill with his brother, John Peter. Farmers would come with their horses and wagons and later truckloads of grain to be ground."

Wally continued, "In earlier years they ground wheat into flour, but that stopped. It died out because it was a little far to get to the railroad. But, the grinding of the grist went on into the late 20s. Andy Hackbush was one of the later ones to run the mill. His widow, Laura, who we remember as a dear Witwen resident, lives on Sycamore Street in Sauk City. A few years later the mill was torn down and made into Wallace Enge's Colonial style home, which later burned."

Norma reviewed, "The band stand over here on the campgrounds was built between 1910 and 1915. Later in 1918, the tabernacle was built. Before the tabernacle was built people came to camp out and the grounds would be dotted with tents."

Wally recalled, "There were great turnouts in the tabernacle. In fact, on Sunday afternoons, the side doors would be raised and propped open and people would be sitting out on the lawn. In the evenings there would be the smell of sawdust from underfoot and the frogs would be croaking in the nearby marsh adding their ams to the songs and sermons."

Norma and Wally have a special concern for the Witwen Camp Grounds. They have been maintaining the buildings and caring for the grounds for approximately 35 years.

Fourth of July at Toby's day. He's strike for the parade with Sousa and there we unequaled joyous pal that spread through. Toby didn't quit with "The Band Played On" stand for much of the evening. When "Tob granddaughter, Rita," to band for a time, but her ties in Horicon mad hearsals in Witwen t nient.

Before the days chicken Ella took her with the other wo church, making hot di and cakes for the pic ladies scurried about food ready to serve in a camp out, make which all added to t picnic. The men w their station, too, cream, soda pop, h hamburgers.

Norma became fam taining her Fourth c Charles Kuralt from lated, "He was in our in our house! He was to-earth man. In 1980 feature a small town l brated the Fourth of J fashioned way. Those on the evening news t the map. That was th the living flag. I enjo of the living flag. Tl did a rerun of the pro cial feature." The li become a tradition i parade and Norma is i nal member of the grc

Through the years tended an invitation and friends to join he and, along with ch ages, enjoy the fest day.

Ella said, "It's shat morning. I put law: There are many old fi the parade. We have a

Just south of Witw is another old time Wi ident, Ruth (Mrs) Sprecher, who also ex tation to share her law enthusiasts.

Ella Clavadatscher year old hostess, p friends back again t July.



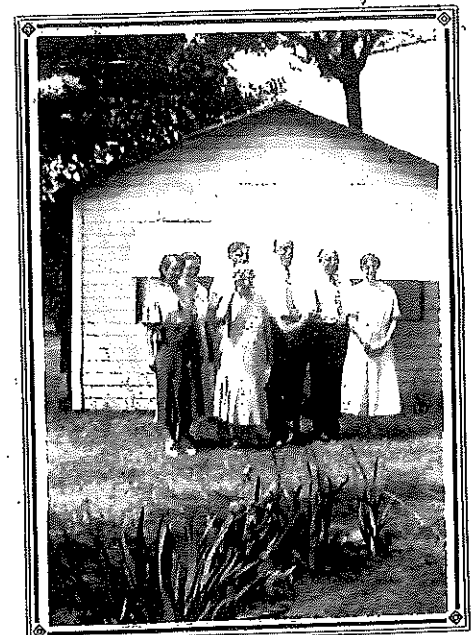
WITWEN CAMP GROUNDS Norma Clavadatscher

In 1918 J. P. Witwen, John E. Witwen and John G. Nold leased a two acre parcel of land at the edge of Witwen to the Sauk County Camp Meeting Association- later re-named Camp Witwen Association. The first camp meetings were held in tents, one borrowed from the Ringling Brother's Circus. Later that year the Evangelical Congregation decided to build a tabernacle. The next year they added a dining room with an upstairs that was partitioned into rooms for those who stayed the two weeks to attend meetings an/or prepare meals. An addition was added in 1945.

A beautiful old bandstand was also built in the early 1920s, but was torn down several years ago when some thought it to be unsafe. Friends of the congregation recently replaced it with a gazebo placed in that familiar spot.

There are two little buildings on the Camp Grounds. One was built by J.P. and Emily Witwen near the dormitory for visiting ministers. It was partitioned into four parts. The partitions are now removed and the little building is used for a food stand at the 4th of July and is fondly referred to as the "Hamburger Stand."

The other little building is on the bank of Honey Creek. Once used for Sunday School classes and youth meetings during Camp Meeting Sessions, it is now referred to as the "Pop Stand" at the Fourth of July celebrations.



Cottage for Visiting ministers

The ministers in the picture are from Indianapolis, Ohio, Reedsburg, Wi., and Puerto Rico.

Star
article

Witwen
March
15
1990



with
Virgil and Evelyn Sprecher

Through the years, mild-mannered Virgil Sprecher persistently clung to the idea of supporting the small, family farmer to the point where he participated in a dramatic nationwide NFO milk dumping in 1967 in an attempt to get fair prices through collective bargaining.

Virgil was a country boy who grew up in Witwen roaming about and exploring the creek banks in his own Huckleberry Finn style.

He was the first born to Walter Sprecher and Ella Schneller Sprecher in 1916. Four years later his red-headed sister, Verna, was born, and a few years after that he had the honor of parading her up and down Main Street Witwen. (Verna is now Mrs. Kenneth Nott of Rock City, Ill.)

Virgil has nostalgic feelings about his early days in Witwen, located nine miles west of Sauk Prairie. He recalled, "In the early twenties the population of Witwen was 36. Going north on Highway E the people on the right side of the street were Oscar Rothacker, Andy Hackbush, Herman Koenig, Walter Sprecher, Joe Meyer, a service station and a garage and Toby Clavadatscher, the owner. Across the bridge was the Troy and Honey Creek Creamery Co-op. On the left side of the street going north was Newton Witwen, who operated the Witwen Telephone Company upstairs in his house. My favorite telephone operators were Wanda

Bloedau and Lilah Schneller. Then came Ida Schweppe, Pete Witwen and Lawrence Tamutzer, later it was William Wenzel and Armand Post, then the Blacksmith Shop run by Ferdinand Patke. and then Joe Meyer's Grocery Store and back a few yards, the grist mill, three stories high with different bins to hold oats, barley and wheat, run by Andy Hackbush. Across the bridge was the Witwen Camp Grounds and Tabernacle, complete with pop stand, band stand, a two-story kitchenette and boys and girls toilets.

"Everyone on the right side of the road had some cattle, from Oscar's down to Toby's, 26 in all. Also, there were four horses, two belonged to my dad. Cap and Jerry were their names. There were five cows and three horses and ten pigs

on the left side of the road and many chickens and not many dogs. I visited all of these people and animals many times. Sometimes I got some cookies and sometimes a full meal. My job was to pump water by hand for the two cows and two horses that my dad had. The horses were used to haul cream on the long cream route over to Plain and back to the Witwen Creamery. I remember once my dad didn't get any milk from his cows one night and he found that Bill Wenzel milked them a little early and then invited our family and some other neighbors down to Meyer's Store for an old-fashioned oyster stew.

"I got to help a little bit at the store. I helped candle eggs, also helped catch a few roosters and put them in crates and also helped pile a little wood. My wages were of the nickel variety, like a bottle of pop and an ice cream cone. I spent a lot of time in that store. It had candy bars, popcorn and peanuts to nibble on. I also met a lot of the boys who came with their dads to get their corn and oats ground at the mill. The farm boys that I got acquainted with were from Eugene Engle's, Herb Hager's and Otto Rosenbaum's farms. After their trip to the mill their dads would buy them a bottle of pop and an ice cream cone and sometimes they would buy me one, too."

Anguish fell upon the Walter Sprecher home when 6-year-old Virgil became a victim of rickets and double pneumonia. Gaunt and emaciated Virgil struggled for life. He explained, "There was no penicillin, but there was a Dr. Lalor in Sauk City and my good parents didn't give up. They took me to Dr. Lalor many times. I remember one trip in the winter when they borrowed a one-horse sleigh from Elias Witwen and took me to Sauk City. I was dressed in all kinds of warm clothes and also there was a hot stone to keep my feet warm. I only went to school three days that first year. I turned to skin and bones and had to learn to walk all over again. There was some sadness across the road as Nooky Tamutzer, the same age as I, the only child of Lawrence Tamutzers at the time, died of the flu."

Virgil's recovery found him on the banks of the creek pulling weeds and helping himself to ripe plums in the area. Virgil reminisced, "I can remember the names of the three teachers I had in the Witwen Rural School. They were May Sprecher, Gladys Calloway and Leona Mather, and all of those are still among the living and were very good teachers. The games we played at recess were Anti High Over and Blind Man's Bluff. We also would go on hikes during the noon hour. And before the noon hour was over we had picked bouquets of double pronged yellow and pink flowers called Dutchman Britches. This also reminds me of those beautiful flowers that I picked while going from the Witwen Mill to the dam. They were large, yellow Marsh Merry Golds. They were a lot of pussy willows in the springtime. Sometimes I hiked to the dam alone, but usually I went go with Andy Hackbush, who ran the Grist Mill. We went along the Witwen Creek, south of the Camp Grounds for one-fourth of a mile to where the water widened out to a three or four acre plot bordered by the land of Web Sprecher and Walter Lohr. On the east side of the mill was the dam, blocked off by three large wooden gates and that is where Andy and I would either pull one gate or all three, depending on how we were to control the flood of water in the spring of the year. Even though we had the dam gates, sometimes the

water would flood some 30 acres of creek and marshland and go to Highway E road to the last bridge, the middle bridge and the first bridge, which ran over into the creamery.

There were many times when I would go down to the creamery late in the afternoon on my bike and tell Armand Post and Bill Wenzel what the score of the baseball Cubs was, especially when they played the St. Louis Cardinals."

In search of adventure Virgil was lured to bike the graveled roads to other communities, Black Hawk, Harrisburg, Leland and Denzer. He observed, "Denzer was the most interesting with the crossroads in the middle of town. People referred to Denzer as the town of the four ATIONS. There were the poles when they created legislaTION. There was the school where you could get an educaTION, the church where you could get salvaTION and a tavern where you could get damnaTION."

Back in Witwen, Virgil had his first opportunity of driving a team of horses at the age of 9. He recalled, "The men were hauling rocks out of the John Clavadatscher stone quarry. They would put a chain around the back wheel of the lumber wagon to control the speed and, when I got to the bottom of the stone quarry they would disconnect the chain for me and I could drive to Witwen some two miles down the road. When I got to Witwen two men dumped the 2x6 planks loaded with stones and again I had an empty lumber wagon and could drive all the way back to the quarry to get another load. That was the first day that I thought I was a man and could do a day's work. The horses belonged to my uncle, Ed Sprecher, and were named Maude and Dan.

"I recall the muddy roads that the cream haulers had to travel through, coming from the north with the teams of horses pulling their loads of cream, driven by Johnny Boettcheider, Julius Alwin, Johnny Klipstein and James Meier. Sometimes the ruts were so deep that Walter and Eugene Enge would hook their horses on ahead to get them to the Troy and Honey Creek Creamery Co-op.

"Then, in the late twenties and early thirties I tried to help some farmers drive in the oats, barley and wheat fields. I managed to drive teams of horses for nearly every farmer in the Witwen district. This threshing crew in the Witwen district, comprised of Ed Accola, George Ambler and John E. Schneller Farms. Then came Henry Nolden and then George L. Schneller farms. Then, I went to the Wesley and Webster Sprecher

farms. Then I had to get on my bicycle and go to the Ed Sprecher and Bob Hehenberger farms and from there I went to the Leslie Klebesadel and John Clavadatscher farms. That was the end of the district and the end of the threshing crew. I was lucky enough to get dinner at each of these homes even though I had to eat with the women. I got good meals and no pay."

Fishing and hunting were not Virgil's forte. When he had free time he would wander around the creek banks and find a spot to enjoy reading books and magazines. He recalled, "When I got bored I would take off my clothes and go for a swim. Then I almost drowned once. I did teach myself how to swim. I didn't have a swimming suit and it just took about a half an hour or an hour to get my suntan for the day and get my clothes back on."

Winter in Witwen had its own kind of intrigue. Virgil remembered, "The winters were rough and cold and large chunks of ice blocks were hauled to the creamery from the area above the dam. The teams of horses pulled large blocks of ice on sleds over the Witwen Creek. One day a sled full of ice chunks broke through the Witwen Creek and the drive was Eugene Enge. That was exciting to watch how the driver would get his horses, tangled in harnesses, out of the water which was four to five feet deep. Those ice cubes weighed two to three hundred pounds each and were sorely needed and stored for the next summer's use at the creamery.

"The Witwen community had three events to remember and be proud of. One was the community meetings held in a hall upstairs at the Witwen Store. They were held four or five times during the winter months. Each meeting had a committee that would formulate an agenda of special music, a speaker and even some debates. The crowds were very large and came from Black Hawk, Harrisburg, Leland and Denzer. I recall a most popular trio of cornet musicians, Newton

Witwen, Clifford Meyer and Toby Clavadatscher. We had duets by two good Swiss yodelers, Mrs. Charles Enge and Mrs. Sam Gasser. And, there were other musical numbers too numerous to mention. I remember one heated debate on capital punishment. The ones involved were Henry Ochsner and John Gasser against Roman Koenig and Virgil Sprecher. Most meetings, ended with piling up the chairs and clearing the floor making room for fellowship games such as Rats in the Sugar Bowl and Skip Come a Lou My Darling.

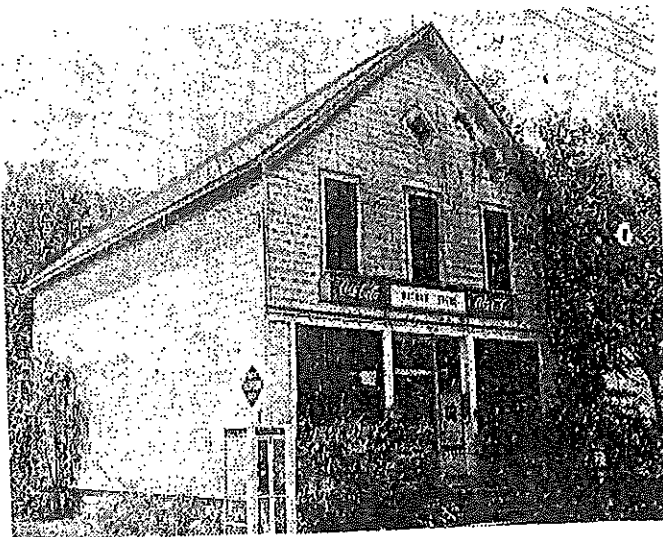
"Another big event was the Fourth of July Celebration and people came from far and near to watch the parade, listen to the program and watch the band led by Toby Clavadatscher. There were no policemen at these celebrations and Walter Sprecher acted as marshal. The regular band members were always there and ended up playing in the band stand in the evening. Band members I remember are Butch Wenzel, John Clavadatscher, Walter Baumgarth and Gus Federman. We had soloists like LeRoy Schneller and Wally Jaedike and a well-known trio, Adeline, Evelyn and Lorna Jaedike. There were games for all ages and even a tug of war across the Witwen Creek. There were prizes given for the champion floats and winners of the races.

Winners could collect at the pop and ice cream stand. In the evening there were fire works. I can't forget the ball games between Witwen and Black Hawk, that was real competition. There is one incident that happened that I will never forget. Eighty-year-old Pete Sterbein emptied his pockets of all his change and three the pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters between the pop stand and the band stand. It might have been only two or three dollars worth, but you should have seen the children scramble to get their share. In those days of depression, dollars were hard to come by.

"Last, but not least, there was camp meeting held at the Witwen Camp Grounds. This took place either the first or second week in June. It was sponsored by the Evangelical churches of Black Hawk, Prairie du Sac, Denzer and the Ragatz church. In my childhood days the crowds were tremendous. It usually started on Sunday and ended on Sunday. In the early days we had tents erected for the younger children. The tabernacle could not hold the crowds some years so they camped out in the side banks where they had blankets and a picnic-like atmosphere. We had loud speakers outside so everyone could hear the message. Many people brought their picnic lunches and stayed for the day and evening. For many years the word was out that camp meeting brought many blessings; one of which was rain. Sometimes it would seem as though the minister would dwell too much on the size of the collection plate. One got a little over enthused and said, 'Throw in your Ford car keys.' The nights were most eventful. Besides the singing, praying and preaching you could always hear the croaking of the frogs in the marsh and see an endless stream of fire flies at night. The call to the altar came almost every night, gave a chance to seek forgiveness, an opportunity to accept the challenge of being born again and a chance to become a community leader. Some carried the messages in their hearts and made their commitments in their homes at a later date."

Unlike some of his peers, who had their own cars, Virgil found himself rumbling along on the Federman School bus during his high school days. The busses were operated by George and Ed Federman from the Black Hawk Garage.

Virgil, a graduate of Prairie du Sac High School, shared memories. "I always liked sports and playing ball was my fondest dream. I thought I was good enough to make the basketball team. All at once, Principal R. S. Babington told me



*Witwen
Store
Built in
1894*

Capital Times Photo

Memorandum

To: Steve Sorenson
CC:
From: Mary Zins, Clerk
Date: 4/19/2017
Re: Witwen Park & Campground

Enclosed is correspondence disclosing that the Town of Troy approved the rezoning of said campgrounds. I thought you should have some documentation indicating approval by the town board.


Mary Zins, Clerk

RECEIVED
SAUK COUNTY
APR 21 2017
CONSERVATION PLANNING
AND ZONING

TOWN OF TROY



Town of Troy

Mary Zins, Clerk
E9699 Fuchs Road
Sauk City, WI 53583

Phone: 608-544-3549

April 19, 2017

Planning & Zoning Department
West Square Building
505 Broadway, Ste. 232
Baraboo, WI 53913

Re: Rezoning Witwen Park & Campground

To Whom It May Concern:

At the regular board meeting held on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, Dale Sprecher and Steve Sorenson approached the board requesting approval to rezone the Witwen Park and Campground located on Parcel #036-0454, Sec. 3, T9N, R5E, Town of Troy, Sauk County, WI.

With the recommended approval of the Plan Commission and Mr. Sprecher, the board unanimously approved the rezoning of said campgrounds from exclusive agriculture to rural community. There were three ayes and zero nays. The motion carried.

Sincerely,
TOWN OF TROY



Mary Zins, Clerk

Enclosure

c: Steve Sorenson
Dale Sprecher

Wisconsin State Campground Licensing Requirement states that 3 sites, with overnight camping and no advertising, does not require a license or permit.

If you have an event with more than three campsites you need a Special Events Permit. That you get from Sauk County Health Department. That contact person is Brian Becker.

1) Entrance to campground at S9855 County Road E.

CUP 13-2017



2) Vacant lands to the north.



3) View to the south, the village of Witwen.

CUP 13-2017



4) Lands on the east side of County Road E.

