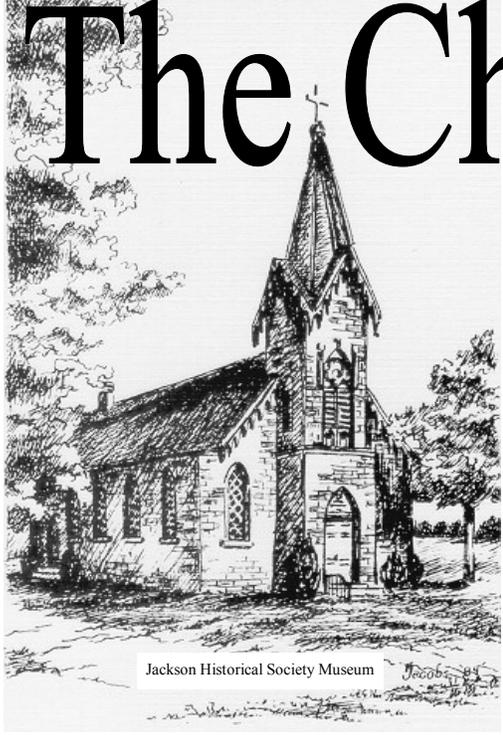


The Church Mouse



Jackson Historical Society Museum

Volume 17 Issue 3 Jackson Historical Society November 2012

THOSE EIGHT SIDED BARNS

Once upon a time, there was a man named Ernst Clausing. He was, among other things, an ambitious individual with a knack for constructing useful objects; the kind that come in handy around the house or in the yard.

So it was, in the late 1800's, when Clausing got hooked on building outstanding objects called "octagonal barns" throughout Ozaukee County and the surrounding area.

At the time, Clausing's efforts earned him a respected name among the region's agricultural community. Today his building projects have become historical landmarks.

Clausing, son of a German farmer, undertook the building of no less than a dozen octagonal barns between 1890 and the early 1900's. Each measured at least 60' in diameter and rose to heights in excess of 50', from the ground to the top of the cupola.

Today, two barns remain standing in Ozaukee County. Another can be found in Washington county.

"Why eight sides?" "What's wrong with the old rectangular barn?" In truth, there is no set answer, nor is there one recorded by Clausing himself. Frequently cited advantages of octagonal over rectangular barns include: a geometrically strong structure to endure tough Lake Michigan winds and uniformly resist drifting snow; a self-supporting unit with cheaper construction and material costs; ability to herd cattle into a circular stall pattern, affording easy feeding and cleaning; greater accessibility for loading and forking hay on and off of the upper loft, without interference from interior beams.

Ernst Clausing likely built his first octagonal barn on his father's original farm on the west corner of Port Washington Rd. and Pioneer Rd. in 1887 or 1888. He probably built his next two barns in 1889, including the largest of a dozen or so. That barn which stood south of Highland Rd. at Lake Shore Rd., Mequon, measured 72' across with side wall sections of 18' x 32' and basement stone walls two feet thick. In 1953, the

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Your annual **\$15** dues cover a calendar year starting in January. The current year for your membership is shown on The Church Mouse address label to the right of the zip code.

Due to increased costs, it has become necessary to increase our dues to **\$15** per year..

JHS MEETINGS TIMES

The Jackson Historical Society meets the 2nd Monday of every other month, Jan/Mar/May/ Jul/Sep/Nov, at 7:00pm.

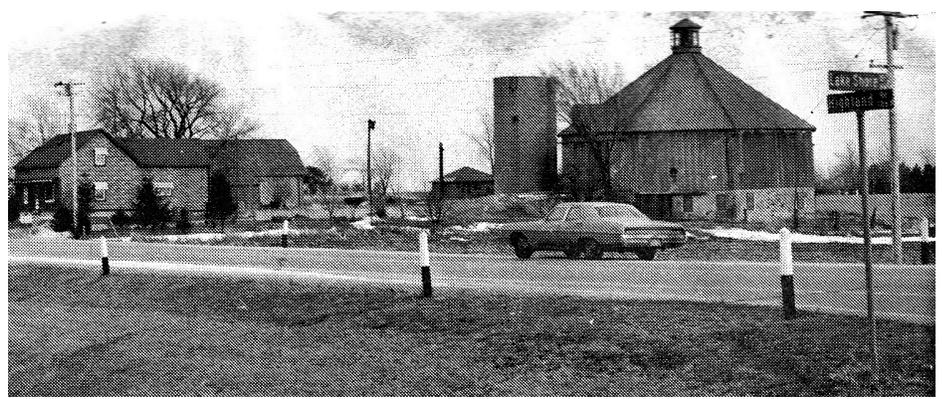
JHS meetings are held at 1860 Mill Road, Jackson, in our restored, Karl Groth log home. Visitors are welcome.

JHS OFFICERS

- Nancy Ebeling—President
- Jerry Prochnow—Vice President
- Lenore Kloehn—Treasurer
- Jim Kliese—Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

All JHS Officers, Russ Hanson, Royal Natzke, and Elmer Kloehn



(Clausing Barns continued on page 2)



WASHINGTON COUNTY'S ONLY OCTOGONAL BARN

The Hardt family is never surprised when folks driving by on Western Ave. stop to look at their eight sided barn.



This unusual barn is one of many octagonal barns likely built by Ernst Clausing in the 1880's through the early 1900's. Of the Clausing barns remaining today, two are located in Ozaukee County and one in Washington County.

Octagonal barns are built stronger and are better suited to withstand strong winds compared to rectangular, broadsided barns.

The barn is 60' x 60' wide and has a large storage space upstairs for grains, hay, and equipment. The cattle were kept in the barn's basement area.

So, if you're driving by the farm on Western Ave., slow down and take a look at this historic barn.

For more information on these barns, contact the Ozaukee County Historical Society on the internet at www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/OCHS/archives.htm. Click on "Barns" to learn more..

Information for this story was taken from an article written by Ann Murray that appeared in the Germantown Press of December 21, 1977.

(Clausing Barns continued from page 1)

property was sold to the Sisters of Notre Dame School.

The octagonal barn which rests on the Hardt property on Western Ave. in the Town of Jackson was probably built by Ernst Clausing. The barn is 60' across with walls 16' x 24', with a large granary on the upper floor and a sectioned ground level.

Around 1889, Clausing built an octagon barn for farmer Fred Tempe., on Port Washington Rd. , just north of Bonniwell Rd. In 1898, Clausing built a barn for his cousin, Julius, on N. Port Washington Rd. It has since been torn down. After 1900, he coordinated the construction of a barn for another cousin, William, near the intersection of Port Washington and Mequon Rds. The William Clausing barn later was moved to Old World Wisconsin in Eagle, WI.

Built for Harry Voke in the late 1890's and still standing today, an octagonal barn on Pioneer Rd. just west of Port Washington Rd. is near Ernst Clausing's father's farm, site of the first octagonal barn built.

The last of the surviving Clausing barns was built after 1900 for Theodore Clausing, another of Ernst's Clausing's cousins, on Lakeshore Rd., Lakefield.

For more information on Ernst Clausing's barns, and where they can be seen today, contact the Ozaukee County Historical Society at www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/OCHS/archives.htm. Click on "Barns" to learn more.

Information for this story was taken from an article that appeared in the Ozaukee County Guide of March 16th, 1977. It was written by Steve Ostermann.

THE JACKSON STATE BANK

1907—1922

Our neighboring village of Jackson is to have a state bank in the near future and it will be known as The Jackson State Bank.

The capital stock of the bank will be \$20,000, all of which is already subscribed for. Among the largest stockholders are Rev. F. P. Leich of Jackson, George Brumder of the Germania, Milwaukee, Theodore Sydow of the town of Jackson, and Hon. Wm. H. Froehlich of the Hoehn-Froehlich Co., Jackson. With the backing of such men as these, a banking institution is a positive guarantee for the safety of the funds deposited therein.

The establishment of this bank has been contemplated for almost a year, but the matter was deferred from time to time. The department of banking of the state, has approved of it and Commissioner Bergh signed the application on February 16th. The exact opening of this institution is not known, but it will be some time in May or June. We wish them success.



This article appeared in the West Bend News on Feb. 20, 1907.

The Jackson State Bank operated from 1907 to 1922. The Jackson State Bank building, currently a residence, is located on Main St. next to the former Bank of Jackson building which is now a self-serve laundromat.



**RASPBERRY
FESTIVAL HELD
SEPTEMBER 9th**

Our fall Raspberry Festival was held on a sunny afternoon, Sunday, Sept. 9th, 2012, on the society's grounds, 1860 Mill Road.



We offered music by the Festival Trio,. Oliver Tucker on the accordion and Brian Kloehn on guitar joined in for a set or two.



We enjoyed delicious raspberry pie and Honey Grove ice cream, brats & hot dogs, Bublitz vegetables and



hot buttered sweet corn and Eickstedt's honey. Oliver Schowalter's

Miniatures, antique cars from the Kettle Moraine Model T Ford and Vintage Car Club were on display.



A performance by the famous Pommerscher Tanzdeel Freistadt entertained our many visitors. Folks toured our restored church, 2-story log home, and joined classes in our one-room schoolhouse. And, of course, our silent auction was very popular again this year.

A nice afternoon was enjoyed by all. Thanks for coming.

BOOK DONATED TO JHS

Ardeen Krueger generously donated an 1892 arithmetic book to JHS. It will improve our collection of old school books. Thanks for your kind donation.

**PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB
"SHOOTS UP" JHS**

Wehr Nature Center Photography Club members visited the Jackson Historical Society site on a cool 6th of October for a photo shoot. JHS members, Jerry Prochnow and Russ Hanson acted as guides for 25-30 photographers. Pictures were taken all around the JHS grounds and in our historic buildings. Our fully restored 1850's log home acted as a warm break room for the photographers. Club members plan on sharing their best photos of our historic site with JHS. We look forward to seeing them.

DID YOU KNOW?

Historical Presidential Happenings

As we have just completed the 2012 presidential election, a few interesting facts about earlier presidents may be in order.

After George Washington retired from the Presidency, Vice President John Adams was elected President and Thomas Jefferson became Vice-President. The two men had disagreed politically during the Washington Administration, and were only both elected because in those days, whomever came in second in the Presidential vote became Vice-President. Thomas Jefferson defeated John Adams in 1800 to become the 3rd American president.

After leaving office, both men lived until 1826, with both Adams and Jefferson dying on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a document drafted by Thomas Jefferson in committee with John Adams (and Benjamin Franklin).

However, the story is not yet complete.

Five years to the day after Adams and Jefferson died, on July 4, 1831, the fifth President, James Monroe, passed away. So three presidents have died on the same historic date: July 4th.

As the Christmas season is almost upon us, here's another interesting presidential fact.

In addition to the trio of presidents Adams, Jefferson, and Monroe passing away on the same day, a pair of Presidents died on the same day in December. Harry Truman and Gerald Ford both passed away on December 26th, Truman in 1972 and Ford in 2006.



HISTORY OF THE JACKSON FIRE DEPARTMENT 1892-1992

Part 2

1960's—This decade saw a new way of answering calls for help from the Fire Department. The Telephone Company came up with a system that put "fire phones" in the homes and businesses of key fire department personnel. Whenever a fire call came in, all the telephones in the system would ring with a special ring sequence and could be answered by any of those phones. Also included was a special switch that allowed any one of these telephones to blow the siren to alert the firemen.

1970—Communication became more of a concern during the start of this decade. All the trucks were equipped with 2-way radios and Ken Klumb built the tower on the Village Hall and licensed the Fire Department to have its own radio base station.

1970—A spectacular fire in August of this year destroyed the fertilizer plant owned by Swift & Company on South Center Street. The thick black smoke rose straight into the air on the calm day and drew spectators from miles around. The plant has been rebuilt and is now known as Estech.

1971—The Department bought a 1971 International truck and installed a 2400 gallon tank.

1972—The firemen were still called to fires by the blowing of the siren. Some of the Fire Departments had the County blow their sirens and alert some firemen on a Low Band radio system. After convincing the Jackson Fire Department on High Band paging, Ken licensed a Local Government frequency for the Village of Jackson and the Fire Department bought High Band pagers. Another nice feature that was added was the connecting of the paging system to the now upgraded fire telephone system so that whenever the siren would blow, the pagers would be encoded also. This system served the Fire Department very well until 1985.

1972—Room! Where do we find it? The Jackson Fire Department is restricted as to the kind of equipment it can buy by the size of its present quarters. After a search for suitable quarters with the right location, it was decided to buy the Libby, McNeil & Libby Field Office on South Jackson Drive. The fire department added two truck bays, remodeled the interior extensively, and moved to the new site in late 1974. Even after we were at the site, Norb Boegel and Ed Podjaski did a lot of carpentry work in the offices, meeting room, and maintenance room. It was the fourth location for the Jackson Fire Department Station.

1976—The Jackson Fire Department rescue squad made its first run on January 4th.

1976—RED, WHITE AND BLUE. The U.S.A. is 200 years old! Everybody is celebrating and we should be too. But, Washington County is hit with the worst ICE STORM in recorded history. No Electricity; power and telephone lines are down; trees and branches block the roads; and people are in need of help. JFD hauls water for farmer's cattle, pumps out flooded basements, checks on the elderly, and maintains a 24-



hour vigil on the Village of Jackson. The Jackson Fire Department kept the 24-hour watch for three days with the firemen working in shifts and volunteering their time. The electricity was restored in a few days in some places and more slowly in others.

1976—The total pumping capacity of the Fire Department must be increased to properly protect the rapidly growing population of the village. Hours and hours of planning and bidding went into the biggest (so far) major fire truck purchase. The truck is a 1976 I.H. 1000 GPM mid-ship pump with a top mounted control panel that was built by Pierce of Appleton, Wisconsin. When it was all completed, the cost was over \$50,000.

1978—The rescue squad is getting busy and a new vehicle is needed. A 1977 Chevy chassis is found and purchased. The truck is used for fund raisers for the squad, driving men on their door-to-door canvassing, and is put on display. After many different types of fund raisers were completed, a total of almost \$10,000 was raised. The truck was taken to Marion Body Works for the rescue squad body with excellent results.

1978—A 1975 4-wheel drive Chevy was purchased and equipped with a fiberglass tank and became our grass-fire truck.

1980—The Town of Jackson and part of the Town of Polk had their contracts renewed many times during the last 40 years and an excellent relationship with the towns was always strived for during the negotiations. In order to provide adequate protection for the rapidly growing towns, a 2,400 gallon tank truck was purchased. The chassis is a 1980 Chevy dual-

(JFD Continued on page 5)



(JFD Continued from page 4)

tandem, V-8 powered, with an automatic transmission. Automatic transmissions are now standard on just about all the fire trucks.

1981—The cost of ALL fire equipment is rapidly increasing. Up to this time in history, all major purchases (building and remodeling fire trucks and rescue squad) were bought with borrowed money. Starting with the 1981 budget, the treasurer, Ken Klumb, included a fund for major purchases. Now, instead of borrowing and paying interest, we could save and receive interest on the money put into the fund. It was a much better way!

1984—The grass fire truck needs a lot of maintenance, so a new one was purchased. It's a 1984 Chevrolet 4-wheel drive with a 250 gallon tank installed. Seats and a railing backrest make transporting the firemen to the scene easier and faster.

1985—The major budget addition started in 1981 pays off. The fire department needs room to get specialized and additional equipment to the scene so an equipment van is purchased. The van serves a dual purpose in that it is also our command HQ at major incidents and is equipped with multi-channel scanning low band and high band radios and a cellular telephone.

1985—The Jackson Fire Department is still answering all the emergency calls for the fire department and rescue squad and is adequately served by its own paging system. But it is getting harder to find people who are willing to commit to providing answering service on a 24-hour basis, so the officers decided to buy new pagers and have the County do our dispatching for us.

1986—40 years of effort—all for the village park. Up until this year all the profits made by the fire department and other organizations involved in Jackson Parks, Inc., at the annual "Action in Jackson" celebration were used as operating funds to maintain the park. None of the organizations benefited monetarily from the picnics. This year the village takes over the park operation. Without the vision of the future of those men of 40 years ago, and thousands of hours of donated labor, there might not be a village park today!

1987—With nine pieces of equipment, JFD has run out of room once again. The station size was almost doubled as a "community room," increased office space and engine bays were added. Once again the Fire Department plans for the future as the community room gains in popularity as it is rented out at a nominal fee for celebrations and meetings and the village now uses it as their new voting place for elections.

1988—Additional air masks are purchased, older units are updated and an air compressor to fill air tanks for the masks is purchased.

1989—January 1st, 5:30am, Wisconskis (formerly Laufer's Skating Rink) called the JFD to an early morning fire. The residence quarters of the building were fully involved with heat and smoke making entry nearly impossible. The building was later determined to be a total loss and was torn down.

1989—The village was really growing in population now and in order to keep the level of fire protection at a high standard, a new 1500GPM pumper was purchased. It features a fully enclosed crew cab,

now mandated by N.F.P.A. regulations, a mounted foam educator, a mounted deluge set, and the department's first diesel. The truck fund started in 1981 shows its real worth as the \$170,000 cost of this vehicle was paid for without borrowing any money. The truck officially went into service beginning in 1990.

1989—A "Jaws of Life" unit and Air Bags (and extraction device) were purchased and are carried on the new pumper. Whenever the rescue squad gets a call for a vehicle accident, industrial mishap, or a firm incident, this equipment along with a full crew automatically responds ready to assist the ambulance personnel.

1990—Due to unforeseen non-repairable mechanical difficulties, the ambulance purchased in 1978 has to be replaced. The unit purchased was a demo unit and saved the Fire Department over \$10,000, but the cost to put it on the road is still over \$50,000.

1990—A defibrillator/heart monitor was purchased for the rescue squad. Personnel were trained (their title is now EMD-DA) and the unit was put into service in the early part of the year.

1991—An elevated device (aerial ladder, snorkel, etc.) for the department was being looked into. Hartford was selling its old 75-foot aerial ladder and the Jackson Fire Department bought it and now has its elevated device. It provides ease and safety with fighting chimney fires.

1992—Happy 100th anniversary, Jackson fire department. The two tank trucks are being upgraded this

(JFD Continued on page 6)

**WHAT HAPPENS TODAY WILL BE
HISTORY TOMORROW!**

HELP JHS PRESERVE YOUR YESTERDAYS

AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES EVENTS

RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY Christmas at the Mill, 4399 Pleasant Hill Rd., Saturday, December 1, 2012, Noon to 3:00pm. Contact www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Sinter Klausen Christmas Concert, December 4th, 2012. Please contact the society at : <http://germantownhistoricalsociety.org/calendar.html> for more information.

POMMERSCHER VEREIN FREISTADT This celebration of a Pomeranian Christmas is always a highlight of the year. Bring the children and a dessert to share on Dec. 14th at 7:30pm. Call 1-262-781-7155, or e-mail wvairl@wi.rr.com by Dec. 12th for reservations.

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Christmas at The Old Courthouse Museum, Saturday, December 8, 2012, Song, dance, refreshments, Santa and the opening of the Zinn Dollhouse Exhibit! 9:00am-1:00pm. Please contact the historical society at <http://www.historyisfun.com> and scroll down to *Upcoming Events* for more information.



The Editor welcomes comments on the newsletter. Please mail all suggestions for articles, etc., to The Church Mouse, 1921 Hwy. 60, Jackson, WI 53037, or phone (262) 677-3888, or e-mail jhsheritage@sbcglobal.net. Russ Hanson, Editor

(JFD Continued from page 5)

year. A new 1992 IH chassis with a 2200 gallon “poly” tank is replacing the 1971 International tanker. A new 2200 gallon “poly” tank is also being installed on the 1980 Chevrolet tandem chassis. The advantage of using the high density poly-vinyl for a tank truck is strength and NO RUST! In fact, the tanks are guaranteed for the life of the vehicle and beyond.

1992—This year ushers in a new era in regard to volunteer fire departments in the area. In 1991, the JFD Rescue Squad made a commitment to the Jackson area residents to provide a higher level of service by being certified as defibrillator (heart monitor/stimulator) operators in order to provide this service on a 24-hour basis, a full time Firefighter/EMT-DA was hired. Other tasks assigned to this person include fire inspections, maintenance, and fire prevention.

1992—The Jackson Fire Department has 40 members of which 14 are EMTs.

1992—The list of vehicles includes: 1931-300GPM Pumper (antique), Chevy; 1964-500 GPM Pumper, Chevy; 1967-75-foot Aerial Ladder, GMC; 1976-1000GPM Pumper, International; 1980-2200 Gallon Tanker, Chevy; 1984-4-wheel drive Grass Fire, Chevy; 1985-Equipment Van, Chevy; 1989-1500GPM Pumper, Ford Diesel; 1990-Rescue Squad, Fore Diesel; 1992-2200Gallon Tanker, International.

Thus ends the *History of the Jackson Fire Department, 1892-1992*, The first one hundred years!

JACKSON'S SUPERHIGHWAY

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is planning for the “new” Hwy. 60 linking Hwy. 45 with Grafton. In meetings held at the Jackson Area Community Center attended by many concerned citizens, WisDOT presented options for locating the “new” Hwy. 60. A public meeting is planned for late 2012 or early 2013.

Options include substantially widening Hwy. 60 through the Village of Jackson, or constructing a northern or a southern bypass. Project maps are available on the internet at www.dot.wi.gov/projects/seregion/60. Inform yourself. Look at these maps. See how the community will be affected by each option. Would you like to see a different route or highway design? Do you feel that this *Superhighway* through Jackson is really necessary?

WisDOT expects to pick an option in late 2014 and begin the final planning for “new” Hwy. 60.

The Jackson Historical Society is concerned that this *Superhighway* as proposed will destroy or marginalize much of the greater Jackson community, including many historic structures. Your Village of Jackson and Town of Jackson governments have both passed resolutions against construction of the “new” Hwy. 60 as proposed.

If you wish to voice your concerns about the effects of this construction on your community, you may contact Beth Blum, Project Mgr., WisDOT-Southeast Region at 1-262-548-8644, by mail at P.O. Box 789, Waukesha, WI, or by e-mail at beth.blum@dot.wi.gov, or Dan Dupies of CH2M HILL at 1-414-847-0206, by mail at 135 S. 84th St., Suite 400, Milwaukee, WI 53214, or by e-mail at dan.dupies@ch2m.com. Your concerns should also be shared with all your elected representatives. **Let your voice be heard, NOW!**