The (not so) Plain and Simple Correspondent: Apathy... or a Path Onward? -

Katie Green, Columnist

Choices, choices, too many choices. At a restaurant, after attending a fabulous symphony concert last week, the bewildering array of choices on the menu induced brain paralysis. It was a strain to finally settle on something. Similarly, the waning days before the midterm election has fostered indecision in the minds of some as they scan the menu of left, right, and centrist hopefuls running for public office and weigh the promises, claims and accusations. My own rule of thumb, as a person who spends lots of time thrashing about in the kitchen, is to choose the candidates who will create a casserole layered with chunks of what is holy, merciful, just, and kind ... if – and

EDITORS' COLUMN



We often make light of the blessing and curse it is to not own our own press — and we've been open about our pressing delays, some of which relate to the press and some of which relate to graphic design bottlenecks. If anyone thought printing a publication was like clicking print on your printer at home, you're in for a surprise. Last edition, we experienced fortune and misfortune that was truly the epitome of owning a small business: going in on the ground floor, seeing every aspect of what it takes to put out a product (and getting your hands dirty and sorting papers from the refuse box when you find out you're 500 short!) — all while other deadlines loom for other jobs.

We've been printing this little independently-owned community publication for two years, as of last edition. Its printing was the first time the stars aligned (albeit through misfortune) and we were able to see the press in action.

We got to meet Chris, a press operator and manager for 25 years - the guy who ensures the paper is crisp and colorful each edition, and we got to see him light up when we told him all the wonderful things you all share with us when you think an edition looks particularly nice and colorful.

I hank you to everyone that supports us and our passion to build community every edition. We know we've been busy, we know we have so much more to do, improve and build — so, truly, thank you for joining us on this journey.

— Nicole Aimone, Editor-in-Chief and Taylor Scott, Managing Editor

ON THE COVER

"Cast your ballot" (2021) Photo, by Nicole **Aimone**



Submit your artwork or photography for cover consideration:

editor@valleysentinelnews.com

Cover image traced by Taylor Scott, *Managing Editor*

it's a big if – one can discern accurately from the welter of "information" bruted about out there concerning the demented souls who run for this and that. Once decisions have been reached, no matter how agonizing, and marks made by names, one will have fulfilled one's duty as citizen, as is our hard-won privilege, and one can only hope the collective vote will serve up the savory best, not a mess of pottage. It's a gamble. Who knows what the ramifications will be until the political machine rolls on into next year and the next, cranky and imperfect. Maybe we will have helped shoot ourselves in the foot, maybe helped save our bacon (to mix a few metaphors).

I am concerned that apathy will be more of a problem this election than inflated partisanship or indecision. In fact, one commentator stated that young black men are especially apathetic about participating in what they see as the mockery of elections and one can hardly blame them. What has this country done for people of color but alternately punish and neglect them, hardly ever granting them anything but tenuous citizenship which can be snatched back with each new administration. In the apartment house where we live, since politics are rarely discussed openly, some of my fears of apathy were laid to rest when, toward the end of one of the debates, I roamed the halls and could hear from behind closed doors the sound of televised candidate voices. I don't know what side these folks are coming down on or if they are still dithering, but at least they are listening, considering.

Returning to the symphony concert, there is no better metaphor of how the world could be if it only would. People of all ages, sizes, colors, and nationalities playing instruments that take momentary turns in the spotlight then blend back into the ensemble again. Weaving, weaving, led by diverse composers – on this particular program a German Jew expounding on Scottish themes, an American-born composer living in Switzerland who created a



Katie Green

violin concerto for a Ukrainian virtuoso, a monumental tone poem by a German who was accused of being pro-Nazi but was a-political, as was later proved by a post-war commission, and was only trying to shield his Jewish daughter-in-law and his grandchildren by appearing to go along with the Reich. Music exists in its own cosmos and we can all get lost happily among those glittering galaxies, no matter the genre. Its appeal is universal. Some scientists hypothesize that music may have even existed before human speech.

By way of illustrating how important music is to our species, our California son was visiting last week and while we were meandering around the UW campus one afternoon we saw two rather scruffilydressed, impressively hirsute men on a bench engaged in an animated exchange,

nose to nose. They were generating a little heat, gesticulating energetically. I tensed. As we neared them we overheard that they were disputing some fine point about Johnny Cash! A little difference in interpretation, it would appear. At our house we sometimes disagree on the merits of certain pieces, but politely, or so I maintain, since the decibels never soar on the subject, nor do I reach for the rolling pin ... but I have been known to roll my eyes toward heaven and He sometimes throws his napkin in the air.

The worldwide lectionary reading from the Bible for the church-going contingent this week included the parable of the pestiferous widow who wouldn't take no for an answer in asking for justice against her opponent. She tirelessly knocked, and pounded on the door of the judge "who neither feared God nor had respect for people". The judge finally "said to himself ... because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice so that she may not wear me out by continually coming." Well I ask you, can we do less? I can think of a few judges, not excepting the highest in the land, who deserve to meet up with a gaggle of demanding widows set on wearing them out, (a terrifying prospect). Apathy, indifference, is the reverse. It is the dried up mud puddle, sere and lifeless, while persistence can lead down the path to the powerful, thundering Niagara Falls of justice.

VOTE

Katie, who until recently lived in Plain, has been writing for fun and profit since childhood. Self-described as opinionated, she writes in the interests of a more loving, better-functioning world for all. *She may be reached at katiewgreen@* icloud.com.

Our Fragile Democracy — Part 8: The Bill of Rights - The Origin -

Beverly Pestel, Columnist

"Our Fragile Democracy" is a series of thought-provoking columns by retired local professor Beverly Pestel exploring the history and struggles of our nation's form of government from its founding to our current social, cultural and political *tensions* — *looking at solutions and means* of learning to work with one another, in hopes of preserving our democracy.

If you want to have a unvarnished view of the significance of civil rights, go to the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) founded in 1920 "to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to every person in this country by the Constitution and laws of the United States". I do, so I did.

Their take is this: "The Constitution was remarkable, but deeply flawed. For one thing, it did not include a specific declaration – or bill – of individual rights. It specified what the government could do but did not say what it could not do. For another, it did not apply to everyone. The 'consent of the governed' meant propertied white men only."

Previous columns have dealt with the expansion of voting rights covering about 175 years that finally brought American citizens of every race and gender eighteen years and older into the consent column. That was huge, but there is so much more at stake.

The Bill of Rights is the name given to the first ten amendments to the Constitution ratified in 1791, three years after the Constitution was ratified. So, why the three-year delay between the Constitution and the Bill of Rights? Why not do it all at once and get it over with?

The Founders were certainly concerned with individual rights, they said so in the Declaration of Independence: "We hold

these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." It does seem, however, that the "among these" and the "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness" issues could have benefitted from a little flushing out in the Constitution.

During the writing of the Constitution the issue of a bill of rights focused on two opposing points of view. The most straightforward position came from those



Beverly Pestel

who were afraid of a strong centralized government, and consequently argued for a bill of rights that would guarantee that this new government would not trample on the freedoms recently won from the British. The other side argued that a bill of rights was unnecessary. Unnecessary? A motion to have a bill of rights included in the Constitution was defeated without debate. That definitely needs some flushing out. And why did those opposed to a bill of rights win the argument in 1787 only to lose in 1791?

To be fair, after independence had been declared in 1776, states immediately began writing constitutions and bills of rights.

Many of the rights enumerated in the state bills were those citizens believed were naturally theirs and that one of the most important tasks of governments was to protect them. The argument that a federal bill of rights was unnecessary stemmed partially from the fact that these rights were addressed in the state constitutions.

In 1789 the First Congress of the United States prepared a Joint Resolution. Transcripts read: "The Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution."

Hmm. "[A] number of States...expressed a desire..." Put more plainly, New York and Virginia specifically had refused to ratify the Constitution until a pledge was made to add amendments to the Constitution addressing rights. Since arriving at 100% ratification of the Constitution was considered essential, this pledge had been made and the Joint Resolution addressed this promise. Alexander Hamilton expressed it this way in Federalist Paper No. 9: "A FIRM Union will be of the utmost moment to the peace and liberty of the States, as a barrier against domestic faction and insurrection." So, how did the Bill of Rights folks prevail over those who had opposed its inclusion in the original Constitution?

Those opposed to a bill of rights in the original Constitution did not do so because they opposed the principle. States, after all, already had bills of rights.

continued on page 4



EDITORIAL

Lone Rock has some explaining to do, potential violations of open meetings law

It has come to Valley Sentinel's attention that there may have been deficiencies in notice of recent Village of Lone Rock Board of Trustees meetings, potentially in violation of Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

On Oct. 31, the Village held a joint special meeting of the Public Safety Committee and the Village Board to purportedly go into closed session "for the purpose of discussing employment and performance evaluation data related to the police chief."

On Nov. 1, the Village held a public hearing regarding the proposed 2023 budget, followed by a Village Board meeting to purportedly take action on the proposed budget as well as the fire district budget, hiring of a public works director, accepting bids on a truck, tractor and ambulance, among other

At this time, it does not appear Valley



Photo via the Village of Lone Rock

Sentinel received any notice of the Oct. 31 special meeting, and received less than one hour notice for the Nov. 1 meeting, potentially in violation of Wis.

Stat. § 19.84(1)(b), among others. An initial, cursory review failed to find the required class 1 notice of the proposed budget and hearing in recent editions of the Home News.

We are looking into the procedures followed by the Village and have submitted public records requests to ascertain whether or not proper notice was given to the public.

Wis. Stat. § 19.84(3) requires that every public notice of a meeting be given at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting, unless "for good cause" such notice is "impossible or impractical." If "good cause" exists, the notice should be given as soon as possible and must be given at least two hours in advance of the meeting, according to the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law Compliance Guide published by the state attorney general's office.

If you had interest in attending these meetings and believe you failed to receive proper notice, please let us know at editor@valleysentinelnews.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Love for Wisdom

Dear Editor,

I physically grew up next to my first school. I attended Roosevelt Grade School, kindergarten through third grade. The school was closer than a stone throw, I could literally jump out of my bedroom window, with some pain, and land on the school playground.

During the '50s and '60s teachers were loved and respected and education was a privilege. Although I was born with dyslexia and I still struggle with it today, I knew early on that education, as difficult as it was for me, was a part in becoming a complete person.

I am saddened today to see so many disrespected teachers being underpaid and taken for granted. The main reason for so much ignorance towards education is the lack of wisdom in today's society. In college I majored in philosophy,

not the most useful study to major in. However, it was there I learned a definition for philosophy was the love for wisdom. Our society today is in a dumbing down mode because we lack the wisdom to understand the importance of education.

Among many in our society the love of wisdom is being kicked around like a soccer ball. I grow weary of politicians, some churches and ordinary citizens mocking wisdom as if it were the enemy. Education and wisdom are not the enemy. The enemy is the opposite of wisdom, foolishness, having a deaf ear to the assault going on with the poor, the pollution of our planet, disrespect for the rights of women,

Foolish people think they can do what they want according to the amount of money, power and influence they have.

Foolishness leads to careless speech, an incorrect understanding of the world we live in, prejudice, racism and the many other ism's.

Students of wisdom value life, strive for a healthy community for all, understand that life is good, that we are entrusted to care for the world,

Education alone can lead only to the gathering of facts to put another in their place. When we embrace wisdom and combine it with education, we are offered abundant life, a kinder universe in which to live. With the coupling of education and wisdom we strive to have a better relationship with our creator, have a better relationship with all creatures and a well- ordered world in which to live.

We are in an urgent time when the foolish and the simpletons seem to be winning the race. This trail will only lead

us to misery and death. Wisdom teaches we are all connected with one another in a moral coherence.

May we all strive harder through education coupled with wisdom to be more mindful of the people and other creatures around us, where we create a place for love and understanding where we study the world, dialogue with the world, and learn from the world. Wisdom has the ability to take information and transform it into something beautiful. When wisdom is used properly it can guide our thinking, our attitude, our mindset.

Wisdom leads to understanding. And understanding leads to acceptance, tolerance, and love.

Dennis Siebert Sylvan Township, Wisconsin

DONATION

Recently we received word from our press that costs for materials have risen over 19% in the past few months and that our printing cost will go up accordingly.

If we charged \$1 for each copy of Valley Sentinel, just half of the copies that are picked up each week would entirely cover our printing costs — however, we are committed to remaining a free publication with an accessible, hybrid model that allows anyone that wants to read local news to have access to it. We do not believe financial ability should be a barrier to reading local news. We may be a free paper, but unfortunately it's not free to print

Valley Sentinel will stay a free and truly independent and accessible paper. Please frequent our local businesses and let them know you read Valley Sentinel each week.

What does independent news mean to us? It means NOT influenced by corporations or government, NO big corporate backers, NO corporate umbrella organizations, NO big money investors. Just a handful of people with a dream to build community.

Valley Sentinel is all-volunteer, independently owned and operated by its editors and is a majority woman-owned business. Community fueled and community focused. We only succeed if the

> For more about Valley Sentinel and our model, visit us at valleysentinelnews.com/about

If you are able and enjoyed this week's edition, please consider donating \$1' today.





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EDITORIAL

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Commentary/Opinion Column

Deadlines: The display and classified advertising deaddesign team to design the ad then please allow extra time

for the creative process and proofing.

Ad team: ads@valleysentinelnews.com

CONTRIBUTORS IN THIS EDITION

Barb Garvoille

Commentary/Opinion Column Katie Green

Have graphic design experience or interested in meetings, events or writing and becoming a community contributor? Let us know. Thank you to all of our contributors for believing in our community.

LOWER WISCONSIN RIVER

Editorial Policy

On certain topics in areas of great community interest, the editors of the Valley Sentinel may take positions they believe best represent and serve the interests of the community. Any opinions or positions taken by the editorial board are separate and distinct in labeling and substance from the community journalism that appears in the rest of the publication and does not affect the integrity and impartiality of our reportion.

Letter to the Editor Policy

Letters submitted for consideration are subject to fact-checking and editing for space and clarity. Submissions must have a compelling local community interest. Letters to the editor must fit within a 500-word limit, and include name, city and phone number. Phone numbers are for office use only and will not be published. Letters of a political nature, without chance of rebuttal, will not be published the week before an election.

Column Policy

Editors may feature opinion columns written by public figures, members of the public or other publication staff. Columns reflect the opinions of the individual contributors and do not represent positions of the publication. Guest columns of an anticipated length more than 500 words should seek prior editor authoriza-

Full and up-to-date policies available at: www.valleysentinelnews.com

Community Discussion Policy

From time to time the editorial board may select letters to the editor of a particular compelling community interest where a public figure or accountable public action is the recipient of criticism and allow, in the same issue, the subject of the criticism chance for rebuttal, with expounded independent input. The format shall be point, counterpoint and expert analysis. This community discussion shall serve as a moderated dialogue that presents multiple views of important community topics.

Est. 2020 igne conflatum

Forged in Fire"

Valley Sentinel is an independent, editor-owned, all-volunteer, free bi-weekly news publication, available on newsstands in the area.

Covering Arena, Lone Rock, Plain, Spring Green and the surrounding areas in Sauk, Iowa and Richland counties.

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Member, Wisconsin Newspaper Association

Chris Hardie's 'Back Home' column' Ladies and gentlemen...the beetles-

Chris Hardie, Columnist

It's as certain as the trees changing colors and the inevitable decline towards winter – the annual invasion of the Asian lady beetles.

A warm day after the first hard frost is usually when the Harmonia axyridis invade. They are also called the harlequin, but don't mistake these bugs for romantic



Chris Hardie

fiction. Hordes of the stinky bugs fly in from the soybean fields and infiltrate every crack, cranny and crevice they can find.

The bugs release pheromones that alert others that they've just found a great place for the winter, which is what attracts others. It's the same reaction that some humans have for moving to Florida or Arizona.

The insects were first released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in California in 1916 and then again in 1964-65 for biological control of pecan aphids. The bugs are beneficial in that they feed on aphids and other insects that can damage agricultural crops. So more were released in other states and the lady beetles invaded Wisconsin and Minnesota in the 1990s and have been a plague ever since.

The bugs have few natural predators because they are aposematic, having



Photo by Chris Hardie

Beetles come into contact with spray and then die in the window sill.

a red body color that alerts animals to stay away. Our chickens wouldn't touch them. And when they are disturbed or feel threatened, they secrete a yellowish, stinky fluid that deters predators and makes your vacuum cleaner – one of the best weapons to extract them from inside the house -

We use chemical spray around the windows and doors, but there are always a few that find their way into the house. This year the bugs upped their nuisance game by setting off our smoke detectors three times. We have 12 smoke detectors that are all hard-wired, so when one detector screams, they all do, which is quite enjoyable when you are awakened from a

I took some advice from a friend who used to work for a pest control business and wiped down the detectors with some spray to hopefully prevent them from crawling around on them. So far that has

And even though the bugs stink and bite, I'd rather put up with them than the other plague of nauseating, negative political ads that unfortunately won't end until the Nov. 8 election.

According to a September estimate from OpenSecrets.org, spending in just the federal midterm elections – not including state or local – is expected to exceed \$9.3 billion.

I'm not an economist, but it seems like that kind of spending from folks who say they are going to take care of our inflation concerns is enough by itself to keep inflation cooking along. It's especially disgusting when most of the ads are full of

the same ingredient that I've often forked from the barn.

As far as the lady beetles, they've come in several waves this year, following the same roller coaster ride as the weather, which recently went from 15 degrees to 75 degrees in just a few days.

But I expect the worst is behind us now, as the nearby soybean fields have been combined. It's just one of the seasonal challenges of living in rural Wisconsin.

Chris Hardie spent more than 30 years as a reporter, editor and publisher. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and won dozens of state and national journalism awards. He is a former president of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association. Contact him at chardie1963@gmail.com.

Your Right to Know: Don't pay too much for that photocopy!

Tom Kamenick, Wisconsin FOIC

How much does it cost to copy one piece of paper? If you ask records custodians in Wisconsin, many will tell you 25 cents. At least that's what they

Is that number accurate? Commercial printers charge half that for small jobs, and bulk printing jobs can get as low as two cents per page. One would assume that they are making a profit, even at this low rate. So why do some public officials charge so much?

Most custodians haven't actually calculated their per-page costs. Instead they use 25 cents because they look around and see other government agencies charging that much. That price likely goes back to the Attorney General's Compliance Guide, which until 2018 said that "anything in excess of \$0.25 cents may be suspect." Custodians saw that as permission to charge up to 25 cents, so many did.

But state law says custodians can only charge the "actual, necessary and direct cost of reproduction."



Tom Kamenick

What does that mean? It means they can't make a profit. It means they should be looking at what they actually pay for supplies, using receipts. It means the costs they charge must bear a direct relationship with those they

As an attorney who specializes in open government legislation, I deal with

this issue all the time. Last month, in a case I litigated against the town of Worcester, in Price County, a judge ruled that the town had committed several violations, including charging too much for copies.

The town was charging 50 cents per page. The judge determined that the town arrived at this figure by including costs like maintenance, insurance and other computer equipment that were not "necessarily direct and actual." Using evidence of the town's actual expenses for paper and toner, we showed that its cost per page was about 1.8 cents.

That low number might surprise you, but it's in the ballpark of what the Wisconsin Department of Justice in 2018 calculated its per-page cost to be: 1.3 cents. The agency released guidance stating that "copying fees should be based on the actual costs of the copy machine or contract, and the actual cost of paper."

Sometimes, I hear custodians say that 25 cents includes the cost of labor.

But no court has ever ruled labor can be included in a copying charge. And commercial printers – including labor, supplies, overhead, and a profit – charge half that. If it really costs governments 25 cents to print every piece of paper, they should contract those services out and save taxpayers huge amounts of money.

So if you request paper records (remember, you are entitled to electronic copies of electronic records if you ask), and a government custodian tries to charge you 25 cents per page, push back. Show them the attorney general guidance and ask to see their actual receipts for paper and ink or

Your Right to Know is a monthly column distributed by the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council (wisfoic.org), a group dedicated to open government. Council member Tom Kamenick is the president and founder of the Wisconsin Transparency Project.

Our Fragile Democracy — Part 8: The Bill of Rights - The Origin continued from page 2

The argument that a bill of rights in the federal government was unnecessary was based largely on the premise that this new federal government would be one of enumerated – and limited – powers only. Individual rights would be protected by the (sovereign) states. It was also presumed that the federal government would be prevented from abuses because of the

structures that had been put in place. The three branches of government and the checks and balances imposed between them presumably assured a separation of powers that would prevent abuses initiated at any one branch.

The determining factor, however, for those previously opposed to accepting the Bill of Rights appears to be the fact that the amendments were written so it was obvious that they applied to action by the

federal government only, not to actions by the states. States' rights were at the core of the argument against a federal bill of rights, just as it had been in determining the structure of the Senate. The freedom of states from having to worry about a federal bill of rights was confirmed in 1833 in a Supreme Court decision when Chief Justice John Marshall ruled that the Fifth Amendment was intended "solely as a limitation on the exercise of power by

the government of the United States, and is not applicable to the legislation of the states." As it turned out, that was not so obvious to others, but that comes later...

Beverly is a retired professor. She lives in a remodeled farmhouse and tends 40 acres of woodland in Richland County. When not in the woods she spends her time reading, writing and enjoying the beauty of the Driftless Area.



Reflections from Lost Horizon Farm — Chores & Milking

Barb Garvoille, Columnist

Each edition, retired dairy farmer Barb Garvoille brings her musings on dairy farm life from her own years of experience on Lost Horizon Farm with her late husband Vince "Mr. Farmer" Garvoille. This mooving memoir focuses on 1980-2000, join Barb as she rises with the herd.

An Introduction to the Milk House

If the milking operation on the farm was a body, the milk house would be the heart of that body. Within its glass board covered walls were: 1) a stainless steel bulk cooler into which fresh milk flowed and was immediately chilled; 2) stainless steel double wash sinks for larger cleaning tasks as well as a stainless steel bar sink for handwashing; 3) a hot water heater and a hanging milk house heater to keep the milk house temperature above freezing during cold weather; 4) a vacuum tank and a milker pump with motor and v-belts, meters for measuring things like vacuum and freon levels, thermostats; 4) all manner of cleaning supplies: CIP (Clean In Place) acids and detergents, chlorine, bar soap as well as liquid soap, long-handled brushes, hand scrubbers, milker hose brushes, air hose brushes, a coiled garden hose with pistol grip sprayer; 5) assorted milking/herd health supplies: teat dip, iodine, glycerin, liniment, teat dilators, spray bottles, dipping bottles, paper towels, pipeline filters, CMT (California Mastitis Test) paddle; 6) spare parts for milking machines including: inflations, pulsators, domes, springs, o-rings, lengths of clear milker hose; 7) small tools (a vice grip was always handy) for quick repairs, 8) the stainless steel milking cart from which hung the milking machines 9) plastic pails of various sizes, fresh cow milkers, quarter milkers, multi-colored leg bands to mark dry cows, fresh cows or treated cows; 10) supplies for calf feeding:

bottles, nipples, and emergency tube feeder; 11) another tractor radio; 12) a closed "sock box" for dispensing elongated milk filter socks and 13) clipboards holding sealed documents:



Barb Garvoille

the farm's license to produce milk, the manufacturer's chart that equated the bulk tank's calibrated stick reading with pounds of milk, the milkman's chart for recording pounds of milk per pickup date as well as the latest Federal or State milk inspection report. Because the milk house held a product for human consumption, all lights had to be Teflon-coated. Storing everything that needed to be in the milk house was a challenge because space was at a premium. To comply and try to exceed the Grade A requirements of both the state and federal milk inspectors, every item in the milk house had to be kept extraordinarily clean, be in compliance with the law, and exemplify a high degree of organization.

Posted in the milk house was a chemical accident chart that described both emergency and first-aid procedures. Mr. Farmer and I knew that mixing cleaners and sanitizers could cause serious injury, and we respected the science. One example: If liquid chlorine comes in contact with detergent, deadly chlorine gas forms.

Because of the high humidity in the milk house, anything not stainless steel

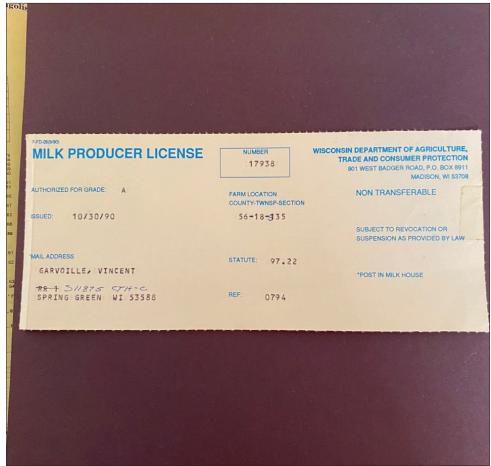


Photo contributed by Barb Garvoille

State license posted in milk house.

was apt to rust. It was never a good idea to keep something like a hammer in the milk house for very long. In the summertime, the milk house was like a sauna; in the wintertime, cold air coming from underneath the milk house door would freeze any moisture nearby and make footing treacherous.

Morning Chores — The Milk House before Milking

Each milking required a readied milking cart. Two five gallon pails fit into the base of the cart; one would be filled with hot soapy water and one would be filled with rinse water. The six milking units would be pulled from their cleaning ports and hung from the cart on their pegs as would teat cups filled with teat dip and sprayer bottles

filled with sanitizer. Paper towels would be added to fill the cart's towel box. A quick check would be done to ascertain that all plugs, the pipeline arm, valves, clamps, and gauges had been moved into the proper position for milking. The milking switch would be thrown, and the milk cart was ready to be pulled into the prepared barn...

Barb has called Lost Horizon Farm, just north of Spring Green, her home for the past 42 years. She is fond of all creatures (including snakes). Her joy stems from being able to be outdoors every day observing and treasuring the plant and animal life on her small piece of this planet. She loved milking cows and is proud to have been a dairy farmer.

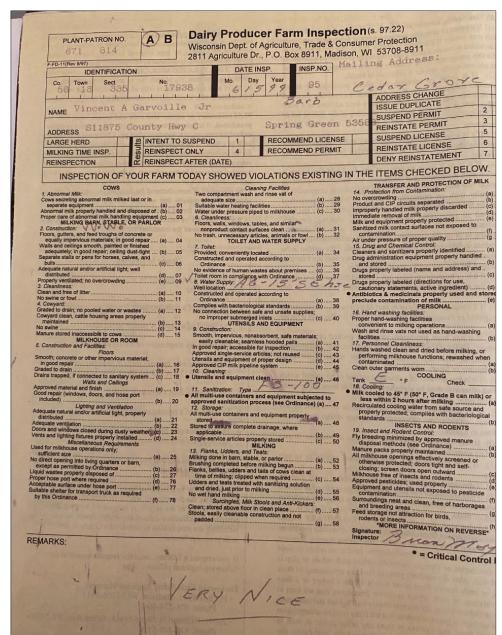


Photo contributed by Barb Garvoille

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Photo contributed by Barb Garvoille

Card from cheese factory recording pickup date, stick reading, pounds of milk produced, temp.