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30-Year business to close in the fall

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MONROE COUNTY HERALD

Your Local State Award-Winning Newspaper



Museum Board President Mary Monroe cuts the cake commemorating the museum's 25th anniversary. Herald photo by John Gessner.

Tomah area Historical Society Museum celebrates 25 years

By JOHN GESSNER Staff Writer

Following the Tomah 4th of July Parade, the Tomah Area Historical Society Museum held its own celebration — its 25th Anniversary. Located at 321 North Superior Avenue, the museum is quite recognizable by the Gasoline Alley sign, which stands out in front of the building. The museum was the brainchild of Forrest "Frosty" and Joyce Mades. Together, they had a love for local history, and they desired to preserve the historical items and records from the surrounding area.

In 2019, the museum moved to its current location, which was converted from a grocery store. Already busting at the seams, the museum has items and documents dating back to the Civil War.

When museum director, Jim Wienzatl, was asked what the newest "oldest" exhibit in the museum was, he pointed to a recently restored 1920-era gasoline pump. It is set prominently in the center walkway of the museum, which makes perfect sense, in that it leads into the Gasoline Alley exhibit of the museum. Early in the 1920s, when automobiles were making their debut, there was said to be a gas station on every corner of

Superior Avenue, hence the moniker, gasoline alley.

The famous cartoon strip "Gasoline Alley," was created by local cartoonist, Frank King, and appeared in the Chicago Tribune, as well as syndicating out to other publications. Similar 1920 type gravity gas pumps can be seen in the array of gas station photos, displayed at the museum.

Following a ribbon cutting, to commemorate the first 25 years of the museum, a proclamation was read by 4th ward alderman, Shawn Zabinski, who was there representing Mayor Mike Murray. The proclamation read in part, "The citizens of Tomah, local organizations, and outside entities have endeavored to preserve and protect the history of Tomah, in the Tomah Area Historical Society Museum, which are deemed to have historical significance ... [that] much consideration and effort has gone into educating our children and community, about the history of Tomah ... therefore, I, Michael Murray, Mayor of Tomah, do hereby proclaim July 4th, 2023 as a day of celebration and recognition, for the 25th

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An act of kindness in a hostile land

By JOHN GESSNER Staff Writer

This letter appeared in a Belgium newspaper on September 10, 1969, and later in a British newspaper in 1984. It was titled, "My First Dress."

[It was] 27th April 1945. The cannons thundered the whole night and it was early in the morning that American troops liberated our concentration camp near the village of Tuerckheim in Bavaria. No outburst surely in enemy country but for us the final certitude to be free and alive. Only fourteen years old and already for me to be aware of all human cruelty - I should say inhuman cruelty against us.

A little lost naturally - what to do with this new freedom? - I walked in to Tuerckheim looking for somebody friendly when a G.I. very tall addressed me sharply. I didn't understand English so I showed him my forearm on which he could clearly see my tattooed concentration camp registration number.

Then very simply without comment he took my hand and led me into a well-stocked clothes shop on the village place. Standing me in front of a mirror the G.I. gave me one dress after another one too long the other ugly. I was very moved with gratitude for this man who during this terrible



Marie Lipstadt-Pinhas in 1943 at age 13, before her arrest by the Nazis. Contributed photo.

war was concerned enough to want to find a nice dress for a young girl who was wearing rags after being liberated from concentration camp.

We took a dress without paying while the shopkeeper looked at us in a hostile manner. The soldier was apparently very satisfied to see that I was now nicely dressed. With a strong voice he said "Bye bye" leaving me and walking off into the distance. I don't remember his face but in my mind is imprinted the memory of this soldier who gave me back the appearance of a free girl.

If he is still alive - and I hope it so much - I would like him to know that I often think about him and it would be marvelous if he could recognize himself



Harry Hendersin on the internet skyping with Marie Lipstadt-Pinhas on June 13, 2010, just before the moving hands-to-screen gesture, connecting the two across the Atlantic ocean after 65-years. Contributed photo.

in this story. [Signed] Mrs. Marie Lipstadt-Pinhas Brussels Belgium. Liberated from Turkheim (Dachau) concentration camp on 27th April 1945 by the 7th U.S. Army 10th Armored Division.

For years, Marie Lipstadt-Pinhas would visit Normandy, France and Bastogne, Belgium with a sign that read, "Thank you G.I.'s and Allied Forces, you liberated me from Concentration Camp in 1945." She would meet many soldiers returning to Normandy, but never the one who gave her the dress.

On the other side of the world, in June 2010, Phil Green of Sparta was preparing to escort WW2 veteran Harry Hendersin on an Honor Flight, to visit war memorials

in Washington DC. While visiting Harry in the Morrow Home residence, Phil learned of his WW2 experiences. Harry had parachuted into France, ahead of the D-Day operation. As airborne soldiers, they fought behind enemy lines, disrupting German units, until eventually linking up with allied ground forces. Harry continued to fight in France, parachuted into Holland, in the famed "Bridge Too Far," Operation Market Garden mission, and fought in Bastogne, Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge.

Both Harry Hendersin and Phil Green grew up in Leon, Harry being 23 years older than Phil. Both attended Leon

'KINDNESS' cont. on pg. 4



The Tomah Lions bring lots of equipment to sell beer at Downtown Thursday Nights. Herald photo by Kyle Evans.

Tomah Lions thrive from DTN

By KYLE EVANS Staff Writer

Before the Tomah Area Chamber of Commerce decided to start Downtown Thursday Nights (DTN), five years ago, they needed some help from the local organizations in the

community. The Tomah Lions Club stepped up to the plate and took the reins of selling beer, at the 6-week-long concert series.

Tomah Lions Club President, Jeff Cram said, "When we committed to this project five years ago, we committed that every dollar

that we profited selling beer, would go back into the Tomah community, directly."

Jeff Cram and the Tomah Lions are thrilled at the opportunity to help local businesses. "Downtown Thursday Nights really helps us help the community," said Cram. The Tomah Lions have

been able to help a multitude of organizations, from their volunteer work, of selling beer, at DTN.

Because of the large number of sales, the Tomah Lions were able to help over 20 local

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\$5,000 Sink a Putt Contest Courtesy CCF Bank Tomah, WI

CCFBANK

\$25,000 Hole-In-One Contest Courtesy Taphouse Twenty Tomah, WI

TAPHOUSE TWENTY

4 Person Team Scramble \$400 per team Includes 18 holes of golf and 8 dinner tickets.

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Your participation will continue to support local health care and wellness programs.



REGISTRATION DUE BY JULY 14

OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES

MARY E. BAGGO

July 5, 2023

TOMAH - Mary E. (Scholl) Baggot, 96, of Tomah, WI entered into eternal life on Wednesday, July 5, 2023.

Mary was born to Nick and Eva Scholl, and raised in Genoa, NE where her Catholic faith, work ethic and independence were instilled, nurtured, and encouraged. She came to Wisconsin by way of Marquette Dental School where she received her Dental Hygiene degree and met her husband, Dr. Jerry Baggot. They wed on June 28, 1952. They moved to Tomah in 1958 and began practicing dentistry and raising a family. They were active members of St. Mary's Parish and worked alongside each other in their dental office for over 35 years. Mary cooked, canned, sewed, gardened, and balanced all the needs of her family and job. After Jerry's death in 1994, Mary continued to work at Burnstad's Village Mall, the Tomah Cash Store, and she volunteered at the local food pantry.

Her family was raised in the name of faith, prayer, love, diligence, compassion, laughter, and humility. Mary was a friend to all, listening, guiding, telling stories, and laughing through life. But mostly, she was a woman of faith, deeply devoted to her Lord and the Blessed Mother. Even in her final years as she fought dementia, her rosary was never far from her hands, those familiar prayers still engrained in her memory. She has longed for the moment she would reunite with her husband and her Father in heaven. That time has come.

Mary is survived by her children, Betsy (John)

Gilner of Crystal Falls, MI; Kathy (Tom) Stilwell of Franklin, NC; Mary Allen of Amherst Junction, WI; Eileen Dutter of Eau Claire, WI; Andy (Holly) Baggot of Middleton, WI; Maureen Huerter of Tomah, WI; Gerald (Karen) Baggot, Jr. of Chicago, IL; John (Ann) Baggot of Madison, WI; Teresa (David) Pierce of Tomah, WI; and David (Shelly) Baggot of Tomah, WI and 29 grandchildren, 31 great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. She is further survived by brother-in-law, Jack Breitnauer and sister-in-law, Gail Baggot. She will be fondly remembered by two lifelong friends, Dodo and Ellie. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Gerald; sons, Joe and Matt; son-in-law, Art Allen; sisters, Kathy (Carl) Troia and Loretta Breitnauer; brother-in-law Joseph Baggot, and sister-in-law Mary Claire (Louis) Kutzke.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, 11:00 AM at the Queen of the Apostle's Parish at St. Mary's Church, 315 W Monroe St., Tomah, WI 54660. Father Mathew Bowe will officiate. Private burial services will take place at a later date in the church cemetery.

Relatives and friends are invited to call at the church on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, from 9:00 A.M. until the time of the service. The Sonnenburg Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to www.sonnenburgfamilyfh.com

Sonnenburg Funeral Home

MERLIN RAY GREENO

Nov 23, 2022

Merlin Ray Greeno, age 75, passed away Nov 23, 2022, in his home surrounded by his family after a battle with kidney cancer. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, July 15, 2023, from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM at Pizones, 202 Superior Ave., Tomah. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Tomah Health Hospice Touch. Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home, Tomah is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be offered by visiting www.sonnenburgfamilyfh.com

Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home

JEFFREY C. FUNKHOUSER

July 7, 2023

SPARTA - Jeffrey C. Funkhouser, 71, of Sparta, died July 7, 2023 at his home.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later time. Online condolences may be offered at www.schanhoferfh.com

Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation, Sparta, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation

REUBEN A. FOTH JR

June 25, 2023

TOMAH - Reuben A. Foth Jr, 89, of Tomah, Wisconsin formerly of Crystal Lake, Illinois, died on June 25, 2023, and his devoted wife Barbara (Wildes) Foth, 76, of Crystal Lake, IL passed away on January 1, 2022.

A Visitation for Rueben and Barbara will be held on Friday, July 14th from 9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon at the Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home, 801 E Monowau St, Tomah. A private family burial will take place at Oak Grove Cemetery. Online condolences can be sent by visiting www.sonnenburgfamilyfh.com. The Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home

SCOTT T. GORDON

July 8, 2023

TOMAH - Scott T. Gordon, 58 of Tomah passed away on Saturday, July 8, 2023.

A Funeral Service will be held on Thursday, July 13, 2023, 11:00 AM at Tomah Baptist Church. Pastor Aaron Smith will officiate. Burial will be in the Oak Grove Cemetery. Relatives and friends are invited for a time of visitation on Weds from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM at the Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home, 801 E. Monowau Street, Tomah and at the church on Thursday from 10:00 AM until the time of the service.

Online condolences can be offered by visiting www.sonnenburgfamilyfh.com

Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home

KINDNESS

Continued from Front Page

"Graded" school and Sparta High School. Harry was a mentor to Phil for 4-H and other activities. Harry enlisted in the army in 1942 and joined the new and experimental parachute units, eventually assigned to the 101st Airborne Division — the famed "Band of Brothers." Due to their long history and friendship, it was a natural fit for Phil to escort Harry to Washington DC on the Honor Flight.

In April of 1945, the 101st Airborne Division was moving through Bavaria, Germany and came across the horrors of the German concentration camps. Shortly thereafter, Germany surrendered to the Allied forces, on May 8th. In November of that year, Harry returned to the United States and was discharged from the army.

Like most members of the "Greatest Generation," they returned to their homes and reassumed civilian life. The other aspect of that generation is that they were the "quiet generation." The war was behind them, and they got on with their lives.

Many didn't speak of the horrors of war they had seen and experienced, but also didn't speak of the great things they had done, like the kindness of a new dress that had a tremendous impact on a liberated 14-year-old girl.

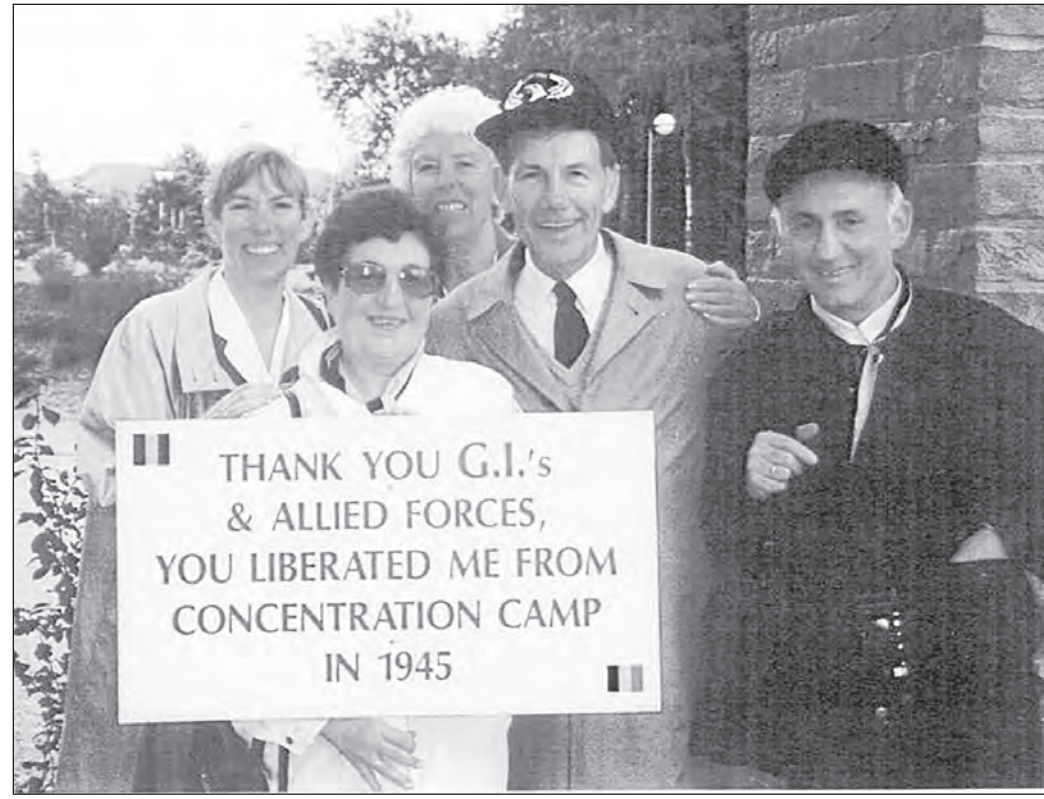
For his service, Harry was awarded the Bronze Star for heroism, the Purple Heart for wounds in combat, Airborne wings with combat jumps - designated by bronze stars on the wings, and the prized Combat Infantryman's Badge, along with other campaign medals.

He joined several Veterans organization, including the 101st Airborne Division Association, serving on the board of governors. He was also part of the Sparta VFW Post 2112, and Sparta American Legion Post 100, where he served as Commander, from 1972-73.

The realization

Prior to the June 2010 Honor Flight, Phil Green was going through Harry's wartime effects, when he came across a letter written in 1984, by none other than Marie Lipstadt-Pinhas, who had written about the dress. Phil questioned Harry if he was the man who took the girl to the dress shop. Harry responded in a hoarse and gravelly voice, with a simple, "yes."

Seeing the horror of the German concentration camps, it was natural for the Allies to harbor a great hatred against the Germans. This explains why the German shopkeeper was so hostile to Harry when he walked out of the store without paying for the dress. After all, Harry had the gun and the shopkeeper had profited during the war years. Phil said, "So, Harry, you



Marie Lipstadt-Pinhas, in Bastogne, Belgium, holding her "Thank you" sign, in a 1994 meeting with a former 101st Airborne Division soldier, Chuck Gudbrandsen and family, from Lake Forest, Illinois. Contributed photo.



Harry Hendersin's final resting place in Leon Cemetery highlighting his WW2 service and Bronze Star and Purple Heart Medals. Herald photo by John Gessner.

basically committed armed robbery in stealing the dress."

Harry smiled and said, "Yes, I guess I did." Then he said, "They knew," meaning the people in the town knew what was going on, but did nothing about it.

Phil's wife, Lorrie, accessed the internet and within minutes had located Marie. Phil said, "From there, the roller coaster ride went into full speed."

Enter Lieutenant Colonel John Jacobi, a historian with the 88th Regional Readiness Command (RRC) at Fort McCoy. After 65 years, Harry and Marie were about to reconnect, using Skype, on June 13th, 2010. Through her daughter, who was present at the reunion, Marie told Harry that she "was very grateful that he got me the dress at a German store because I was very badly dressed at that time. I was dirty and ugly (after the time in the concentration camp) and I would like to thank you for the dress."

Marie Lipstadt-Pinhas often speaks to school students in Belgium about her experiences in the concentration camp and mentions Hendersin's

kindness. "Harry is well-known in Belgium," her daughter said. Lipstadt-Pinhas' daughter said her mother never forgot Hendersin, and for many years, she attempted to find and thank him. As a parting gesture, both Harry and Marie put their hands on the computer screen, holding hands across the Atlantic Ocean after 65 years.

Marie was scheduled to travel to the United States later that year, but about five weeks after the moving skype call, Harry passed away on August 21, 2010. His obituary said that he was buried with full military honors, but there was much more to the story than that.

Phil Green contacted the commanding general of the 88th RRC, to see if an honor

guard could be arranged. Major General Franks said, "Give a few days to set something up." A quick phone call to the 101st Airborne Division commanding general at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, yielded an honor guard fitting of one of the charter members of the 101st. As the hearse turned into Leon Cemetery, dozens of airborne beret clad, bloused booted paratroopers from the 101st, lined the street, presenting a final salute to one of their pioneers of airborne operations.

Channel 8 TV News covered the story about Harry and Marie's reunion, airing on August 25 & 26, 2010. To view the video footage of Harry & Marie's story, go to A Soldier and the Dress Part 1 and A Soldier and the Dress Part 2 on YouTube.

BENJAMIN M. PATH

December 12, 1985 — July 5, 2023

ONALASKA - Benjamin M. Path, 37, died July 5, 2023, at his home in Onalaska. He was born December 12, 1985 to Tom Path and Karen Schreier, in Sparta.

A Memorial service will be held at 11:30A.M., Saturday, July 15, 2023, at Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation, Sparta, with Father Eric Berns officiating.

A visitation will be held from 9:30A.M.-11:30A.M., Saturday, at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be offered at www.schanhoferfh.com

Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation, Sparta, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation

ARDIS M. BRANDAU

July 8, 2023

TOMAH - Ardis M. Brandau, 67 of Tomah passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, July 8, 2023, at her home.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, July 15, 2023, 11:00 AM at St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 4285 US-12, Warrens, WI 54666. Pastor David Weber will officiate. Relatives and friends are invited for a time of visitation on Friday from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM at the Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home, 801 E. Monowau Street, Tomah and at the church on Saturday from 10:00 AM until the time of the service.

Online condolences can be offered by visiting www.sonnenburgfamilyfh.com

Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home

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