



McFarland Historical Society

5814 MAIN STREET MCFARLAND, WISCONSIN 53558 PH: 608-838-3992
Issue NO. 43 Feb 15, 2011

2011 Annual Meeting of the McFarland Historical Society

Gary & Jim Hess will make a presentation on March 13th, 2011, at 1 P.M. in the E.D. Locke Library

The 2011 Annual Meeting of the McFarland Historical Society will be held on Sunday, March 13th, 2011, at 1 P.M. in the E.D. Locke Library. Our Annual Meeting is open to all and a program is planned each year. Our program this year will be provided by Gary and Jim Hess from Madison. Their grandfather owned and operated the Frank J. Hess and Sons Cooperage factory, America's last cooperage factory that manufactured white oak beer kegs for the breweries.

Frank J. Hess Sr. was born in southern Bohemia on April 10, 1870. At age 14 he wanted to learn the cooperage trade. A cooper is a barrel maker. So he served a 3 year cooperage apprenticeship at the Pilsner Brewery in Pilsen, Bohemia. At age 19 he immigrated to America by ship and by train to Chicago. He worked as a cooper manufacturing white oak beer kegs for a short time in Chicago and Prairie du Chien. In Prairie du Chien he married Anna Stluka, and started his family.

Then in 1904, Henry Fauerbach of the Fauerbach Brewery in Madison, persuaded Frank Hess Sr. to move to Madison to start an independent cooperage business. His business, the Frank J. Hess and Sons Cooperage factory, was on Schenk's corners for 62 years. It was Wisconsin's largest independent cooperage. In state they they manufactured and repaired beer kegs for the Fauerbach, Hausmann, Breckheimer, Brunkow and Mueller, Beaver Dam, Baraboo, Columbus, Fort Atkinson, Potosi, Reedsburg, Stork, Slinger, Rhinelander, Portage, Sauk City, Watertown, Wausau, Janesville, Duluth, Jefferson, and Monroe breweries. Beyond Wisconsin they serviced kegs for the Star Brewery in Sioux City, Iowa, West End Brewery in Utica, New York, Hamm's Brewery in Baltimore, Maryland. They also manufactured and repaired wine and whiskey barrels.

Gary's presentation includes a power point presentations showing 76 Hess Cooperage photos.



Interior view of Frank J. Hess and Sons barrel-making factory, 1952 Atwood Avenue at Schenk's Corners. Pictured l to r: Frank Jr., Edward, Joseph, Tony, and Frank Hess Sr.

Living in the McFarland House

by Wes Licht

The new lobby theme for 2011 will feature our village's founding family. William McFarland established a depot stop here and built the McFarland House as an inn for travelers as well as his personal residence. Central to the exhibit will be items that were in the McFarland household and accompanying artifacts from that mid-19th century time period. If you have early photos and other related items that might be of interest for this exhibit, please call Wes Licht at 838-8178. Your help is greatly appreciated.

The William McFarland family on the lawn of their home about 1900. (at right)



2010 Donations to the Society

We would like to thank our many historical society members and people who contributed to the efforts of the McFarland Historical Society, including the Larson House fund and our general fund. We would also like to thank all those who made donations of baked goods for our Memorial Day Bake Sale. We could not keep the museum in operation without these funds. A special thanks to those who made donations of historical artifacts for the museum. We will make every effort to put these items on display. We are sorry if we missed anyone.

Martha Hollis	Earl M. & Virginia Anderson	Diane Michael Buhalog	Paula Niedenthal
Tom & Laurie Downs	Richard & Norma Kohl	Mike & Pat Zapp	Rodney & Lorri Helmke
Thelma Allen Mark and Judith Emmrich	Tim Mitchell	Barbara Balseiro	Pat & Don Johnson
Leland & Cheryl Ackley	Alvin & Dolores Mitchell	Theora Proctor	Keith & Judy Brockmiller
Phyllis Bengry	Bill & Joan Mitchell	Harvey & Patricia Hermsdorf	Homer J. & Elaine R. Vick Jr.
Timothy Krefit & Sara Rowe	Linda L. Coon	Mary Anne Davis	Kenneth & Eileen Brost
Donald Sabatke	Bob & Carol Dombroski	Ann Fisher	Barbara Sperle (Richard memory)
Barbara Sakrison	Donald & Lynn Kenney	Michael & Heather Popelka	Christopher J. & Theresa J Endres
Sharon & Jim Mogden	Hjalmer & Loraine Harried	Sharon Payne	Robert P. & Jacqueline D. Hepler
Greg Zier & Brenda Berlowski Zier	Virginia Dodson	Crane Family	Sheryl Renslo
Aaron & Becky Cohen	Wes & Jane Licht	First-Wil Inc.	Robert M. & Charlotte G. Edwards
Bobby Faulkner	Mary Ace	DBA Culvers Frozen Custard	Sara M. Aaron L. Sprang
M Carolyn & Peter Gehrke	Delyla Smith	Linda Budnar	Mrs. Roy Simmons
Michael & Kathleen Sweeney	Bert & Suzette Mullooly	The Medicine Shoppe	Scott R. Brown
Bonita Thomas	Gary & Marilyn Hess	Leslie A & Larry A Grenzow	Eugene & Jean Holzmann
Rick & Debby Sawyer	Robert & Mary Bean	Richard & Constance Reiter	Roger & Phyllis Kolseth
Gary & Pam Crapp	Charlene & Raymond Zier	Todd & Dawn Bolstad	The Maple Tree
Bob Hoekenga	Sarah E Berry	Richard & Sheila Plotkin	Victor & Lucille Shorette
Johanna Fabke	John & Barbara Obst	Ernest J. Peterson	John & Sandy Hefte
Roald Lokken	Noel & Heleen Hayden	Shirley Kaltenberg	Jim Hartman - State Farm Insurance
Myna Gibbens	McFarland Lioness Club Honorarium	Jerome C. Pribbenow	Giorgi Gaspar
Cynthia Siebert	Linda Scheid	Robert H. & Cathy Halpin	Rollin & Janette Cook
Lyman & Kathryn Lyons	Mary Dahlstrom	Eleanor Seekins	Kay Schroeder
Ruth & John Wendling	George & Marlene Richard	Leland & Cheryl Ackley	Renew-It LLC
Geralyn Marcum	Larry & Charlene Chatman	Joanna W. Thompson	Bradley & Julie Harrison
Kate Barrett & Alan Luloff	Ingrid Thompson	Corinne Niedenthal & Simon Niedenthal	Dale W. Marsden

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Plaque Program for McFarland's Historic Homes

by Jane Licht

A few years ago, Jackie Utter and Crystal Lokken had a conversation that galvanized the older woman (Crystal) into action. They talked about a proposal before the Village Board to establish a TIF district, tear down the old Blacksmith's Shop and the Theo Edwards Hardware store on Bashford and replace them with condos or apartments. They discussed how so many old buildings in the Village had already been destroyed with little thought for preservation. Jackie had grown up in the 1950's in McFarland and was in the first McFarland High School graduating class of 1965. Crystal had grown up in the 1940's in the Village so both ladies had vivid memories of the older buildings and businesses.

Crystal told Jackie about a plaque program for historic buildings that she had seen and Jackie thought it sounded like a good idea for McFarland. "Crystal and I both agreed that there should be visual indication of the significant historic buildings in our community." Both women served on the McFarland Historical Society Board of Directors and Jackie remembers how Crystal plunged into the project. She used Ron Larson's "Historic McFarland: A Walking Tour" as her guide to homes built in the Village from between 1857 and 1920. Crystal found Ron's Engraveables in De Forest and had him prepare a plaque for her own historic home to show the rest of the board members. They liked the handsome-looking plaque that Crystal designed and agreed that this was a worthy project.

The plaques would be given to owners who were interested in placing them on their homes and other buildings. The program would be purely voluntary with no obligations on the part of the owners. It was hoped that most owners would apply the plaque with a sense of pride in preserving their historic building.

The program was just getting going when Crystal Lokken died suddenly. Everyone on the McFarland Historical Society Board was shocked and saddened by the death of one of their most active and energetic members. Later in the spring, Jackie volunteered to take over Crystal's plaque program. She mailed letters to all the current owners of structures built through 1920 along with a scanned photo and description of their property from the Walking Tour booklet. Jackie also welcomed any additional information that the owners might have about their properties. She was pleased to hear from 35 out of 60 owners who were very enthusiastic about receiving a plaque for their homes. "Most of the properties are own-

er-occupied," said Jackie. "Only five are rental units and this may be why so many are welcoming the McFarland Historical Society's plaque program."

Jackie had plaques prepared for the 35 buildings, from the McFarland House built in 1857 to homes built in 1920. The Society is making and distributing the plaques at no charge, though some owners have donated even more than the actual cost. "The owners of the former blacksmith shop were especially excited to know that they will be receiving a plaque identifying the structure as an historic building," said Jackie, "and I was so pleased since I remember it as a working blacksmith shop many years ago." The plaques are ready to distribute and Jackie is only waiting for warmer weather to deliver them.

This is only the beginning of the program as there are plans to offer plaques to owners of other McFarland struc-



Jackie Utter showing one of the new plaques to be placed on homes in the village this spring.

tures not covered in the Walking Tour, such as homes in Edwards Park and along Lake Waubesa. More research is needed to identify them and home owners are encouraged to contact Jackie at 838-8885 if they feel their home might qualify.

Jackie said that the 25 owners who received a letter but did not respond will be contacted again and given a second chance to ask for a plaque. Jackie Utter serves as Treasurer for the McFarland Historical Society Board of Directors so lately she has been receiving donations for the preservation of the Larson House. Jackie enjoys her work on the board and said that others interested in serving should contact president Dale Marsden at 838-3992. For general information about the McFarland Historical Society, visit www.mcfarlandhistorical.com.

Display Updates

by Wes Licht

The “Early Automobiles” exhibits were of much interest to many visitors coming to the museum. We are indebted to Dave DeYoung for all his help with supplying items for our window display on Model T parts and to Don Lawler for the loan of his 1926 Model T chassis which was the center piece for our lobby display. Other contributors to the exhibit on the Model T and Model A were Don Berryman, Ralph Stromquist, Dick Markelewski, Fred Heiman, Ray Peters, Mary Dahlstrom, Tim Mitchell, Don and Jack Everson. Our thanks to them.

One group which came expressly to see the “Early Automobiles” display was the McFarland High School class studying “Air-cooled Engines.” Teacher Dan Klecker brought his students to the museum after preparing a specialized lesson for them. Using photos of the chassis and some Model T parts, he reviewed ideas covered in the classroom and compared them to the 1926 model on display. He indicated this “hands-on” lesson was a valuable part of this curriculum. We hope all the students enjoyed their visit to the museum and used this experience out of the normal classroom to ace their tests.

The new lobby theme for 2011 will feature our village’s founding family. William McFarland established a depot stop here and built the McFarland House as an inn for travelers as well as his personal residence. Central to the exhibit will be items that were in the McFarland household and accompanying artifacts from that mid-19th century time period. If you have early photos and other related items that might be of interest for this exhibit, please call Wes Licht at 838-8178. Your help is greatly appreciated.

McFarland’s First Annual Chocolate Fest

by Meg Nielsen

We are happy to report that the Chocolate Fest brought in about \$3,500 through ticket sales, the Silent Auction, and private donations towards the preservation of the Larson House. With the proposed matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and an anonymous donor, our total benefit was about \$7,000.

We are extremely grateful to Featured Baker Jane Paulin for providing her amazing chocolate creations. They were professionally crafted and presented as well as being decadently delicious. We also wish to thank everyone who baked and brought their best chocolate desserts to the event. We are grateful to the musicians who donated their time by performing easy-listening music for the enjoyment of all who attended the event. We are also grateful to the individuals and businesses of McFarland and southeast Madison for contributing items to our Silent Auction and to McFarland State Bank and the Associated Bank of McFarland for selling tickets. Kudos to the McFarland House Café for donating Ancora coffee and Door Creek Orchard for donating the apple cider.

We are thankful to all the volunteers who helped organize, set up, serve and clean up after the event, including the custodial staff of the McFarland Municipal Center who helped us out with the clean-up.

It has been a joy and a privilege to be a part of the planning and creation of McFarland’s very first Chocolate Fest. Special thanks to the McFarland Historical Society Board of Directors for their willingness to say “yes” to this project and to all who embrace the idea of a beautifully restored Larson House at the center of our beloved community.

High School Visitors

by Wes Licht

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McFarland 101 Years Ago

By Gini Nichols

The Stoughton weekly newspaper printed a "Neighbors" column in each edition. The following are excerpts from the "McFarland" section.



The first automobiles came through McFarland about 1910.

Jan. 14 1910: Ice will be scarce next summer unless the weather changes, as the ice on Lake Waubesa is only from two to five inches thick.

Feb. 11, 1910: Hilda Cleven, aged 18 years, oldest daughter of Mrs. S. Cleven, died Saturday afternoon after an illness of but a few days.

Mar. 4, 1910: There was considerable excitement Sunday when the noon train came in nearly on time and it ended in several persons missing their train.

Mar 11, 1910: Farmers are busy hauling in their tobacco for shipment. A dockage of 10 and 15 percent seems to be universal.

April 8, 1910: Election day passed off quietly here, a very small number of voters being out. We are very glad to know that our neighboring town-Blooming Grove-voted their saloon out for the coming year. It is always a cause of rejoicing to have more dry territory in our immediate vicinity.

Apr. 15, 1910: Freeman Eighmy, a pioneer of Dane county, and an honored citizen, died at his home in the village of McFarland, Sunday, of apoplexy.

May 28, 1910: The following children were confirmed in the Lutheran church Sunday: Carrie Christopherson, Bertha Sime, Cora Thompson, Agnes Vick, Laura Harrison, Celia Thompson, Benetta Dyreson, Amy Sperle, Georgia Johnson, Florence Thompson, Lena Skogen, Aleda Kleven, Edna Hoff, Elmer and Clifford Helgeson, Elmer Hovland, Tester Olson, Henry Lythjohan, Bennie

Foss, Alvin and Oliver Edwards, and Andrew Ronnel.

July 8, 1910: Tollef Olson, of McFarland, died in Stoughton the first week of July. Later articles mention that he was one of the wealthiest men in Dane County, leaving an estate of \$399,460.81.

July 22, 1910: Funeral services over Ole A. Bakke, who died Sunday after several months' suffering from diabetes.

July 29, 1910: A baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Joe McFarland Wednesday morning.

Sept. 16, 1910: A large number of our people visited the camp of the 27th Infantry at Williams' Point, Lake Kegonsa, on Sunday.

Oct. 28, 1910: The village fire department has recently added a water tank on wheels to its equipment, and a roof ladder.

Nov. 11, 1910: Dr. W. G. MacLachlan and family are enjoying the excellent hot water plant which has been installed in their remodeled residence.

Dec. 2, 1910: Mr. and Mrs. B. Larson celebrated their golden wedding, Sunday, Nov. 20th. Rev. Brandt delivered an address to the worthy couple.

Dec. 16, 1910: Mr. B. Hass, the efficient manager of the McFarland creamery, took the first prize in Wisconsin and the second prize in United States at the recent dairy exposition in Chicago.

Dec. 23, 1910: The residence of Nels Johnson caught fire in the kitchen last Sunday noon.

Member Obituaries

Crystal (Carol) Harriet Helmke Lokken, age 80

Crystal passed away Sunday evening, March 14, 2010.

While her life began and ended in McFarland, Crystal spent most of her adult life in California. There, she joyfully raised her family, creatively taught school, passionately expressed herself in the arts and copiously began research on the Vikings. Crystal earned a bachelor's degree in art in 1951 and settled in Berkeley, California



where, her husband, Sigurd, was Lutheran campus minister at the University of California. Crystal, who in 1969 earned a masters degree in education from UCB, was a teacher in the Berkeley school system for 26 years. She was a board member of the American Art Education Association, a position that enabled her to travel as well as extend her artistic expression.

Crystal had many hobbies and interests dancing and performing with the Nordahl Grieg Leikkarring Scandinavian troupe. She was a long-time member of Nordic 5 Arts She was predeceased in 1991 by her husband of 39 years, the Rev. Sigurd Thomas Lokken.

Museum Tours Given To Third Graders

By Wes Licht

Between October 22 and October 27, 2010, museum tours were given to all eight third-grade classes at Waubesa School in McFarland. Thanks to Wes Licht for organizing and leading tours and also to Dale Marsden, Gini Nichols, Jane Licht and Meg Nielsen for leading small groups of youngsters through the museum.



"Keep the ropes tight and don't let the bed bugs bite."
Wes Licht explains the trials of the early settlers in the Skare log cabin. (above)
Wes Licht explaining the workings of the model T Ford to third graders. (below)

Wes gave an introduction and a hands-on presentation about the lobby display, which in 2010 was "Early Automobiles." The children got to see and touch a 1926 Model T Ford chassis on loan to the museum, plus lots of other early automobile equipment. Then half of the group went with Wes to the log cabin behind the museum. The other half of each class was divided again into small groups of 5 or 6 children led by an historical society docent.

The children displayed good attention, asked many questions and according to their "thank-you" notes, they really appreciated the tours.

"Thank you for showing us the museum and the log cabin. It was very awesome and cool. It was interesting that the ladies made clothes out of flour bags."

"Thank you for showing me around the museum. My favorite thing was the Indian village. I also liked the arrowheads."

"I had a great time learning about how people used to learn and how they shop, eat, sleep and have fun in their spare time. I really loved seeing the log cabin and the way they dressed back then."

"I had so much fun seeing all the cool stuff. How did you get everything that's in the museum? Did you buy it from people?"

Any McFarland Historical Society member can become a museum docent and give tours to school classes and other groups. Let Wes Licht (838-8178) know if you are interested.



Member Obituaries (cont.)

Upon moving back to McFarland, she quickly and deeply involved herself in the McFarland Historical Society and had hoped to see the McFarland Historical Society successfully acquire the Larson House for a permanent museum.

As an artist as well as an art teacher, Crystal expressed herself in oils and watercolors. She also was accomplished at jewelry making, silk screening and knitting. Curious about the world and independent in her pursuit of understanding it, Crystal amassed friends along the way and long maintained contact with them.”.

Her energy, enthusiasm, ideas, and the countless contributions to all her endeavors will be greatly missed. Crystal was the inspiration and guiding light behind the idea to purchase and restore the Larson House as a house museum for our time and for future generations.

Special thanks to those who gave donations for the Larson House in memory of Crystal Lokken.

Sadie Grabow Powers, age 87

Sadie passed away on Wednesday, Jan.13, 2010, at Skaalen Nursing Home in Stoughton. Sadie was born Nov. 4, 1923, the daughter of Carl and Eda (Severson) Grabow. Sadie grew up in Cottage Grove on the Severson family farm. In order to attend high school Sadie had to live with relatives in Madison. She graduated in 1946 with a bachelor's degree in education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After graduation from college she taught high school in Barneveld and Blue River, where she met and married Willis H. Powers. They moved to Madison and then McFarland to raise their daughters. Sadie returned to the University of Wisconsin to continue her education earning a master's in library science. Sadie was the McFarland Elementary School librarian for a number of years until her retirement.

Sadie was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Madison and McFarland chapters, at one time serving as president. Sadie was an active member of the McFarland Historical Society where she spent many Sunday afternoons. Sadie was a faithful, longtime member of the McFarland Lutheran Church. She was a member of the Sarah Circle, served on the church council, taught Sunday School and established the church library. Sadie loved to travel. She visited Mexico, Europe, Norway and Alaska. In 2002, she took an especially meaningful trip to the Holy Land with her church family.

Ruby Victoria Larson, age 96

Ruby, died on Saturday, March 6, 2010, at Oak Park Place, where she resided for the past year. She was born Ruby Williamson on November 27, 1913, in a farmhouse outside of McFarland, of parents, Dagmar Marie and Hans Peter Williamson, both from Denmark. The doctor on call arrived by horse and buggy. That doctor's house later became Ruby's home for 68 years. Ruby attended

McFarland Grade School before transferring to Madison East High School, where she followed the secretarial program with great success. Ruby's clerical skills served her well when she was hired by the newly formed Badger Petroleum Company, managed by Arnold O. Larson. Later, Ruby would joke that she married the boss. The two of them worked together to rebuild the company after a catastrophic fire in 1937. Ruby continued as head bookkeeper until Arnold's retirement in 1965.

After the births of their children, she worked in offices created in the Larson residence across the street from "The Badger," then located on the present site of Arnold Larson Park. Ruby Larson was an active member of the McFarland Lutheran Church; teaching Sunday School and Bible studies, serving as one of the first women on the board of directors, reading scripture during services, attending Bible courses at Bethel Lutheran and various Lutheran colleges, participating in the activities of the Sarah Circle, and for decades, counting and banking the Sunday offering. Over time, Ruby held every officers position at the McFarland Historical Society, some several times. She was honored by the Wisconsin Historical Society for her dedication to State and local historic preservation. Ruby loved flowers and gardening, an activity she shared with her husband. She also loved travel abroad and made trips to England, Austria, Germany, the Holy Land and Denmark, many with her daughter, Carol. Her greatest joy and legacy is her family.

David W. Crane, age 72

David W. Crane, , passed away peacefully at his home on Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2010. He was born in Baraboo on March 25, 1938, the son of Alvin and Stella (Astle) Crane. David graduated from Baraboo High School in 1956. On Sept. 26, 1958, he married Kay Griffin in Dubuque, Iowa. David worked for the phone company for 35 years and retired in 1991.

He moved to McFarland in 1970 and quickly became involved in the village government, serving more than 20 years in various capacities including involvement on every committee and serving as trustee and village president. David loved spending time with his grandchildren. He enjoyed caring for his dogs and riding his horse.

Peter Hadley Pierce, age 86

Peter died Sunday, June 20, 2010. He was born in Elkhorn on Jan. 25, 1924, to Henry and Ella Jo (Hadley) Pierce, graduated from Fond du Lac High School, and attended college at UW-Madison, Dartmouth (Navy V-12 program), and Oregon State University. He was commissioned an ensign at Columbia University, serving during World War II on the LST 779. His was the first ship to land on the beach at Iwo Jima and supplied the flag seen in the famous photo of the flag raising. After the war he

A Very Special House Gets a Second Chance



This shows the Larson House in its early days - notice the windmill for bringing up water from the backyard well and the railroad materials along the tracks.

An Invitation To Participate

The McFarland Historical Society board is actively involved in the first of two phases of the fundraising program for the Larson House. **Phase one involves efforts to raise \$150,000 by April 1 toward the purchase and restoration of the property.** Phase two will follow detailed plans for renovation and restoration. Board members are seeking participation by businesses and area citizens in both phases of this special community project. Donations should be sent to: **The McFarland Historical Society at Box 94, McFarland, WI 53558**, and earmarked for the Larson House. **All donations for the Larson House are tax deductible.** Gifts of \$1,000 or more will receive name recognition in the house museum.

Contact our fundraising chairperson, Ken Brost at 838-7142, or for more information, please contact Dale Marsden at 838-3992.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

The McFarland Historical Society board has taken action to purchase one of the most beautiful early homes in the village. We see the attractive Queen Anne style house as we stop at the intersection at Farwell and Exchange Streets. This landmark structure, known as the Larson House, has a venerable history. It was built for E. N. Edwards in 1898. The second owner was Tollef Olson Foshein. After residing there for about 10 years, Tollef sold it to John Larson in 1911 and it has been in his family ever since.

The McFarland Historical Society intends to preserve this early home as a house exhibit. Because of its beauty and location, it will serve as a memorial to the pioneering spirit of early McFarland settlers, including the Larson family, which settled here as early as 1862. As a house exhibit, the Larson House will be a wonderful addition to McFarland's historic downtown. It is anticipated that it will be a candidate for designation to both the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Restoration of the Larson house will take place after detailed planning. The house retains the original light fixtures, put in just after the coming of electricity, as well as many other historical features. Members of the Larson family have been invited to provide photographs to help with the planning. A few items of furniture remain in the house, but additional furniture from the turn-of-the-century, other period furnishings and clothing will be needed to bring the house to life. A community-wide fundraising drive has begun to help with the purchase of the house and grants are being written to assist with its restoration.

Member Obituaries (cont.)

earned A and E and pilot's licenses. On Dec. 3, 1949, he married Huldah Jean Hyers in San Bernadino, Calif. They moved to Madison in June 1950, and to McFarland two years later.

He worked for Wisconsin Central Airlines, Wisconsin Power and Light, and in 1986 retired after 31 years with the Research and Machine Development departments at Oscar Mayer. His greatest satisfaction came from helping others. He served as president of the McFarland School Board, McFarland Cemetery Association, and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity for 21 years in Green and Dane counties. He was named Wisconsin Fraternalist of the Year for his work, through Lutheran Brotherhood, in the relief effort after the Barneveld tornado. He was active in McFarland Lutheran Church, serving as a deacon, Sunday school teacher and superintendent, Bethel Series teacher, and church council president.

A loving husband and family man, he took real pleasure in the accomplishments of his children and grandchildren.