

Pearl's Car

Pearl Geary Williams was a well-known Middleton resident who was born in Chicago in 1889. She married a Middleton barber named Frank Williams. Pearl died in 1989, leaving many documents and artifacts to the Middleton Area Historical Society.



Pearl in her 1933 Plymouth Coupe

One large artifact gifted to the Society was Pearl's depression era 1933 Plymouth coupe, which she had purchased new. As the years went by and money and space were at a premium, the Society decided it was necessary to sell Pearl's car.

Recently the current owner of the car paid a visit to the Middleton Area Historical Society. He was able to give us some information about Pearl's car which is now housed in Marin County, California. He states, "it's an extremely solid and a time warp kind of car. The car runs and drives very well".

It is the original car including a majority of the black paint and mohair interior. The paint has a great patina as does the interior. The car has a working vacuum fan on the steering column, original 6 cylinder and 3 speed manual. All gauges and lights are in working order and windows function as they should. Parts of the car have been replaced including the master cylinder, brake cylinders, hoses and new front shoes. The car has the original wooden spoke

artillery wheels with original striping and only 31k original miles. No rust can be found on this car.

The 1933 Plymouth was the first year for hydraulic brakes and fully pressurized engine with an oil pump and the last year for wooden wheels. This particular car has the \$40 high speed wheel option. Included in the car was the original jack, engine crank, tools and owners manual. The car also retains the original 1933 dated spare tire.

Also found in the car's glove box was Pearl's driver's license that she left there when she stopped driving.



Pearl's original 1933 Plymouth Coupe

DID YOU KNOW?

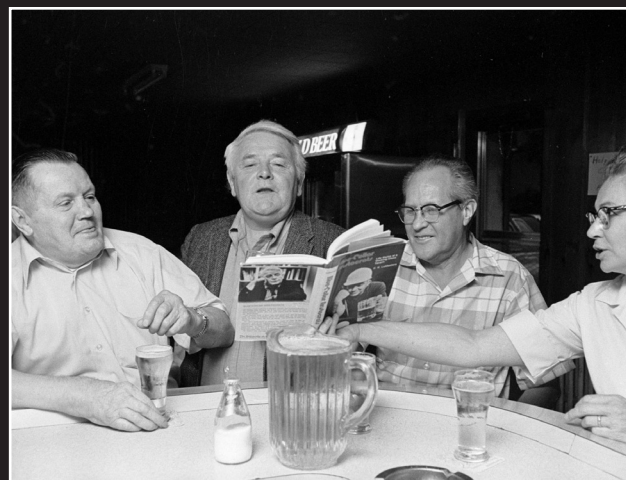
Our Wisconsin

WHEN DR. ANTINOUS PRESCRIBED FRESH AIR, HE WASN'T FOOLING



In this season of sniffles and respiratory raspings, it's good to know that even pneumonia is a lot more comfortable than it used to be. For there was a time and a place in Wisconsin when pneumonia was treated by sticking a foot through the window! Oldtimers of Dane County used to reminisce about Dr. Antinous Rowley, one of a succession of Rowleys who practiced for 100 years at Middleton. First was Dr. Newman C., whose shingle read: "Surgeon & Horse Doctor." (He was called for horses as often as for humans.) Dr. Antinous battled a pneumonia epidemic a century ago. It seems his pioneer patients didn't share his enthusiasm for fresh air in wintertime. Fearing night air and cold, they kept their windows sealed with strips of paper and doors plugged with rags. Dr. Antinous insisted on fresh air for his pneumonia patients. So, as first step in his treatment, he'd kick out a window in the sickroom. "This causes some protest," he conceded, since the pioneer farmers were often too poor to afford a new window. But this fact also insured that the fresh air wouldn't be shut off. Dr. Antinous would pick up the tab for the broken window, "after the patient gets well."

Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin



Shown above are patrons of the Club Tavern with Sociologist E. E. McMasters, who authored the book "Blue Collar Aristocrat", based on workers who frequented the Club Tavern. McMasters is identified by his white hair. Can anyone help us identify others in the photos? If you know them please email Carolyn at: cmattern@wisc.edu

Reminder: June 21st

PIE AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL



Middleton Area Historical Society's

Pie and Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 5 - 8 pm
Lakeview Park (Allen Blvd. at Mendota Ave.)

From the President

Since it is June, the annual MAHS Pie and Ice Cream Social can't be far off! This year, the date is Wednesday, June 21 and plans are in full speed to provide another great evening of delicious baked goods, ice cream and your favorite music. Of course it is a great opportunity to mingle with friends and perhaps convince any "non-members" to join MAHS and help us preserve Middleton's history.

I hope some of you "bakers" are planning to donate a pie (or pies), cake, cookies or other items to help make this evening a great success. We count on your support every year and couldn't do this without the involvement of many MAHS members. If you do plan to donate a baked item or two, please plan to bring it (them) to Lakeview Park by 4:00 PM ... this will give our servers time to get everything ready for the big crowds we hope will attend. We are again fortunate to have the New Horizons Band join us and they start playing around 6:30 PM. As usual, serving starts at 5:00 PM and goes till 8:00 PM. We hope you will plan to join us !!

In April we hosted two groups of visitors to Rowley House. On April 6th a group of 25 seniors from the Milwaukee area toured our facilities including the Depot Museum, and on April 18, about 125 eager young historians from Sunset Ridge Elementary School toured the House and spent about 5 minutes in each of our 8 rooms while exhausting our able tour guides with non-stop questions. However, we love having young folks visit and we already have 3 similar tours planned for this fall.

Another activity that is planned for the summer months is also focused on young visitors. We are partnering with Culvers to offer elementary-aged kids a token for free custard if they stop by and complete a fun scavenger hunt at Rowley House. So bring your children or grandchildren and visit the museum sometime this summer.

See you for pie and ice cream on June 21 !!

Jeff Martin- Middleton Area Historical Society Board President



School Children Visit the Rowley House Museum

New Happenings at the ROWLEY HOUSE



Many volunteers donated their time and talents to transform the Carriage House and prepare the Rowley House for the upcoming summer season. Volunteering with the Historical Society can be fun and rewarding. Please consider donating some time and please plan on visiting us this summer and see what their hard work has accomplished.

Remember: Saturday
Rowley House hours have changed.
Sat. hours 10 - 1
Tues. hours 1 - 4



In order to create an environment to protect Historical Society artifacts, walls have been insulated and the Carriage House will now be heated and cooled to a constant temperature.



A new doll display in the children's room at the Rowley House focusing on Middleton's doll company--The American Girl Doll Company.



New storage area located on the second floor of the carriage house

June 21 --- Pie and Ice Cream Social !

If You Grew Up In Middleton Do You Remember...?

by Mary Lamm Feltman

In the 1950s, students in Wisconsin were given goiter pills. Scientists believed that people were low in iodine, which could cause thyroid problems. They started giving children chocolate (sort of malt) tasting iodine pills. Some children thought they tasted good while others hated them. I'm wondering if the parents had to sign a permission slip in order to have their child take the pills. I cannot imagine schools passing out these little pills to student today!



How many of you remember goiter pills students were given in school?

- They used to give to give then to us once a week. They were supposed to taste like chocolate. They were awful. I never ate one and instead I gave them to a boy that liked them. I should have eaten them, as I did have thyroid disease.
- I remember the awful texture/taste. Never understood why I was eating it just knew it was required!!
- We had them at Elm Lawn. Someone was picked to pass them out. I'm sure some kids ate 5 or 6 at a time while others ate none. I can still see the container they came in.
- I thought they did taste like chocolate and I liked them. I think we got them every Friday at St. Bernard's.
- I just ate them because they told me to. Still think they were poison so we could accept everything else they told us.
- I loved them. My dad worked for the State Board of Health so we took them over the summer, too.
- I remember them well. Some kids collected them in their paste jars.
- I wonder how many of us in the goiter belt (that's what they called our area) do have thyroid disease.
- At Middleton Junction, the best-behaved student was selected to pass out the goiter pills. I never passed them out.
- I remember the yucky goiter pills very well! We had to take them all through grade school at Elm Lawn on Hubbard Avenue!
- We got them at St. Bernards... I have to say I liked them.

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For those who itemize their taxes:
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