



Families of Couillardville

Togetherness Helpfulness Friendliness
It is about the people!

Tenth Edition—Spring 2015

Price \$1.00

Machine Shed Reunion 13

Saturday
August 29, 2015



12:30 **Arrive**
 1:00 Lunch
 2:00 Program
 3:30 Social Time

Bring a dish to share

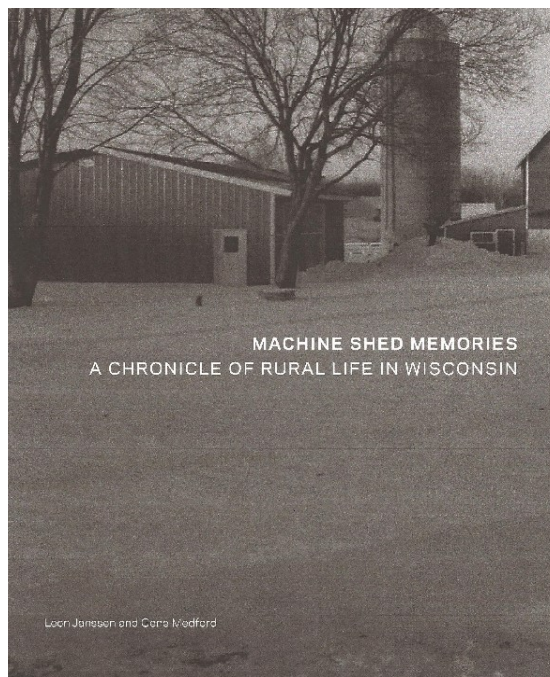
Appetizer
 Salad
 Baked Dish
 Or Dessert



**Bring Your
 Antique Tractor**

New Guests

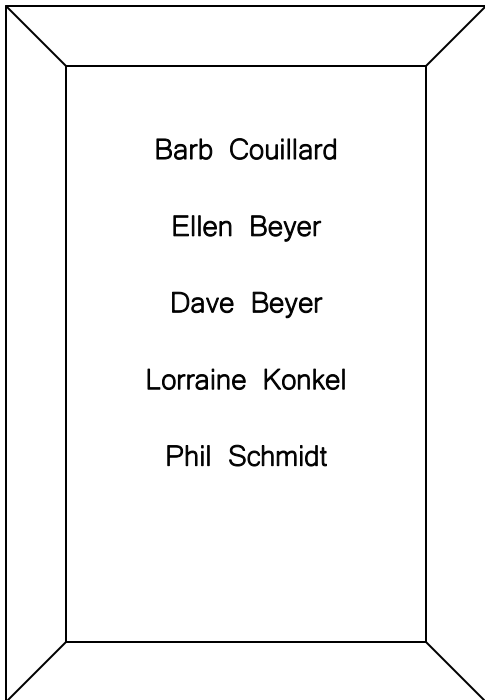
The MSR is not a public event. Individual are invited to attend. If you know someone who has lived in Couillardville or has been a part of a Couillardville organization like 4H or Community Club, or is a descendant of someone from Couillardville contact Leon and he will extend the invitation to attend.



We Remember...
We Celebrate...
We Believe!

New Honorees

Each year the families of Couillardville gather to remember those who have gone before us and who contributed significantly to enriching our lives. Since our last gathering in September 2014 five of the attendees at that Machine Shed Reunion have joined the ranks of those whom we come together to honor. In the Fall Edition of the Families of Couillardville Newsletter we remembered Barb Couillard and Dave and Ellen Beyer. In this issue we give special recognition to Lorraine Konkel and Phil Schmidt, two of our most devoted attendees at the annual Machine Shed Reunion.



Barb Couillard
 Ellen Beyer
 Dave Beyer
 Lorraine Konkel
 Phil Schmidt

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Philip E Schmidt



Son Parin photobombs a great shot of Phil and daughter Lynnee at MS 12

They lived in suburban Lombard where they raised their two children, Parin (Andrea), and Lynnee (Joe Valley), who blessed them with five grandchildren (Kye, Bo, Kaen, Kayla, and Kevin). Following their retirement, Phil and Lucy Ann divided their time between their retirement home in Couillardville and their winter cottage in Apache Junction, Arizona. Phil was widely known as a talented do-it-yourselfer, having built the couple's first home in Wisconsin and conducting numerous remodeling projects over the years. He also was a dedicated tinkerer with a keen interest in most things mechanical, especially automobiles and tractors. Other favorite pursuits included reading, travel, woodworking, gardening, and music

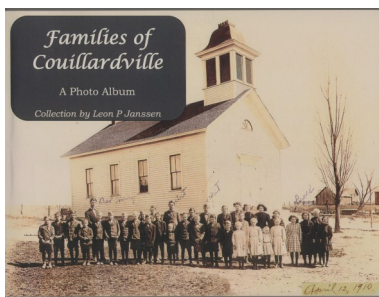
Phil Schmidt, 85, husband of Lucy Ann (Thome) for 56 years, passed away on February 26, just seven months after his wife's death. The couple resided in their retirement home on Thome Road in Couillardville, just across from the farmstead where Lucy Ann grew up. A native of Ladysmith, Wisconsin, Phil was born on November 17, 1929, one of Walter and Harriet (Zuck) Schmidt's three sons (Keith and Gail). He grew up helping run the family farm and was active in both the 4-H and Future Farmers of America. His life-long interest in agriculture and agronomy led to his early career as an agriculture instructor.

It was while teaching at Oconto High School that he and Lucy Ann, also a teacher, were married. The couple had met a few years earlier at the Gillett 4-H County Fair where Phil was handling the dairy cattle and Lucy Ann, still in teacher's training, was a food judge.

Within a few years, Phil's professional interests led the couple to Madison where he earned master degrees in agronomy and, later, business. After graduating, they moved to Chicago where Phil launched a 32-year career with the National Safety Council as an administrator and educator.

Most importantly, Phil was a man of steadfast faith who was active in church leadership as a deacon and elder over the years. Truly, he was a man who led by example throughout his long and productive life.

By: Gene Medford



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- 1928 by Mary Ann Couillard
- 100 Tough (price \$15.95)
- The Norbert and Grace Carey Family
- Sam and Matilda Couillard Family
- Now available as e-books \$3.99**
- Joseph and Julia Jacquart Family
- 1928 by Mary Ann Couillard
- 100 Tough
- The Norbert and Grace Carey Family
- Sam and Matilda Couillard Family

Available - You Tube FREE

Anthony O. Carey
Yankee Soldier (Civil War story of John Matravers)

Contact

Leon Janssen
MBF Publishing LLC
821 Lynnewood Dr.
Waukesha,
WI 53188

leonpjanssen@yahoo.com

262.442.6447

Couillardville Chronicles

Lorraine Konkol



Lorraine with daughters Leona (Pat) and husband Bob and Mary Ann and husband Keith at MSR 12, September 13 2014.

When the people we love are taken from us the way to have them live on is to never stop loving them. -Unknown.

My name is Mindy. As far as I know, I am the 29th grandchild in a long line of many. Where do I begin to speak about a woman who has done so much and touched so many. The past few days I've learned even more about the strong, spunky woman I call Gramma. In her youth she was actually an acrobat, however what she really wanted to be was an actress. It's strange how life goes sometimes... I'm sure even she was surprised that she ended up on a farm with 16 children. After Grandpa passed away, she realized her love for travel. And she did love to travel...and travel...and travel... and travel. She had a lifetime of adventures. One being that she survived lock jaw! She enjoyed a good card game and doing volunteer work, you know, driving old people to the doctor, right up until she was 93. Her infectious laughter and great sense of humor are just some of the things we will all miss about her. What an honor and privilege it is to have known her and to be a part of her legacy.

written by : Daughter Irene Rymer, Granddaughter Terri Rife and Granddaughter Mindy Roesch (read by Mindy Roesch 2/6/15)

Lorraine Emma Pearl Prah Konkol, long-time Couillardville resident, died on February 3, 2015, age 100 years, 9 months, and 29 days. Considering everything she accomplished during her exceptionally long life, she didn't waste a minute of it.

Lorraine was born in Milwaukee on April 5, 1914, the daughter of Emil and Mary (Petry) Prah. She and her husband-to-be, John Konkol, met there and were married on April 25, 1931. For the next ten years, they rented a small farm on the southwest side of the city, raising young chickens for the popular tavern trade and selling eggs to support their rapidly growing family

"Rapidly growing" hardly describes the Konkol clan. By the time the final count came in, Lorraine and John were the proud parents of 11 daughters and five sons!

Their comfortable, though hard-working, life together experienced a major change when their landlord suddenly sold the Milwaukee farm. Some friends who had earlier moved to Wisconsin told them about a nice farm that was available along the Oconto River near the village of Couillardville. They liked what they saw and moved north in September, 1941.

The Konkol's new farm on Stiles Road soon became known as one of the most progressive and productive in the community. They were always up-to-date on the most current dairying and farming practices and willing to experiment with new ways to increase yields, especially the cash crops.

Their frugal lifestyle and shrewd management skills eventually allowed the Konkols to purchase the adjoining farm, expanding their dairy herd and bringing additional feed and cash crops under cultivation. Meanwhile, they had also become the Couillardville "bean station" for The Larsen Company, handling contracts with local farmers, collecting the beans come harvest time, and paying the farmers for their crops.

After John's death in 1976, Lorraine continued to live on the Stiles Road homestead for a great many years. She remained in vigorous health until the end.

Lorraine is survived by ten daughters, four sons, 47 grandchildren, 97 great grandchildren, and 33 great great grandchildren. Perhaps her greatest satisfaction of all was welcoming her great great grandson – Eli Robert DePouw—into the family last year. She was interred at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Stiles. By Gene Medford

Rural Life and Values Through the Eyes of the Grandchildren

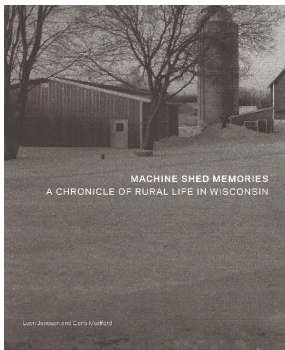
A discussion of rural life and growing up in the country generally starts with a description of the times on the farm, the work, school and the hardships and good time and leads to reflection on the values lived and learned from our families. As we witness the passing of the last generations of our families to have been born and raised in defining environment of the first half of the 20th century in rural Wisconsin we wonder if those values learned and lived are being passed to the next generations. If these values are being passed on it seems the best opportunity that we have to witness that is through the eyes, hearts, minds and memories of the grandchildren or this generation. We wonder how they remember Grandpa and Grandpa, what was important to them, how did you know? What were the family traditions that you have continued? In what ways are you like your grandpa and grandma? Which of your values do you trace to your grandparents. What are the family stories that are repeated in your family. What is the moral of the stories. These are just some of the questions that I would like to ask the grandchildren of the families of Couillardville. Now I need your help. Please encourage your children or grandchildren to spend

(continued)



time with me. I am eager to learn just how the rural values learned in Couillardville are being passed down to the next generations in your family. Please contact me so that we can discuss how to proceed to interview your family members who did not personally grow up on the farm but who have clear memories of grandpa or grandma. Please contact Leon at leonpjanssen@yahoo.com or 262.442.6447.

Please
RSVP
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for
MSR 13
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