

Price \$1



"IT'S ABOUT THE PEOPLE"

Togetherhness | Helpfulness | Friendliness

*We Remember
We Celebrate
We Believe*

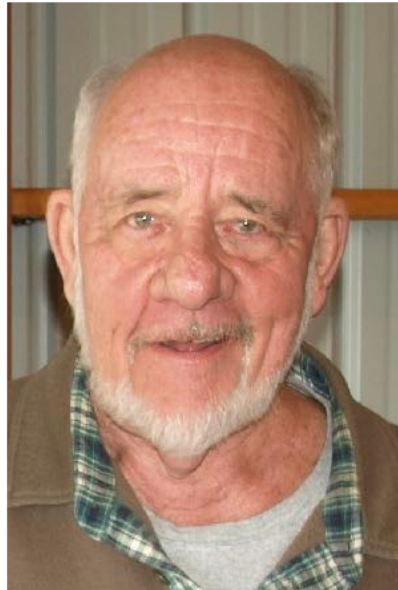
The Couillardville Years An Interview with Ken Couillard

About Ken's Interview

Ken was interviewed in 2008 as part of the interviews of members of the families of Couillardville.

Ken was a wonderful storyteller with a great capacity to remember and tell with clarity the defining moments in his valuable life. This newsletter includes only excerpts from the interview with Ken.

The full interview is available in the book entitled "Sam and Matilda Couillard Family."



Kenneth "Ken" Couillard 1935-2022

the South River Road and Thome Road. We lived there up through late 1941. Doug was born during that time.

Our Move to Milwaukee

We stayed there until after Pearl Harbor when my dad went to Milwaukee to get a job. Jobs were pretty scarce around here and everybody was going to big cities to work in the so-called war effort at that time. He got a job at AO Smith. We had neither electricity nor telephone, were pretty isolated with my mother not being well at the time and having three relatively young kids. Our Dad then moved us to the Presbyterian parsonage at Couillardville. We lived at the parsonage and he went off to Milwaukee and worked with the intent that we would live at the parsonage until he found us a place to live in Milwaukee. That turned out to be the summer of 1943.

I'm Ken Couillard. I was born in Oconto Memorial Hospital on October 28, 1935. I believe my parents lived in a house at the corner of College Avenue and 7th Street in Oconto. The house originally belonged to my grandparents on my mother's side. We lived in the house until possibly 1939 when we moved out to the Sam Couillard homestead in Couillardville. The Sam Couillard homestead, 40 acres of sandhill on the southeast corner of what is now

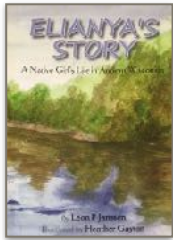
Inside this Issue

Ken's Interview	Pg 1
Our Move to Milwaukee	Pg 1
Books for Sale	Pg 2
The Farm.	Pg 3
Family Values.	Pg 4
Fun on the Farm	Pg 4
Sam Couillard Family Book	Pg 4

Continued Page 2

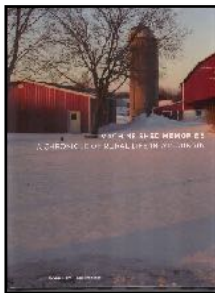
Continued from Page 1

**Find a shady tree
and explore some
local history!**



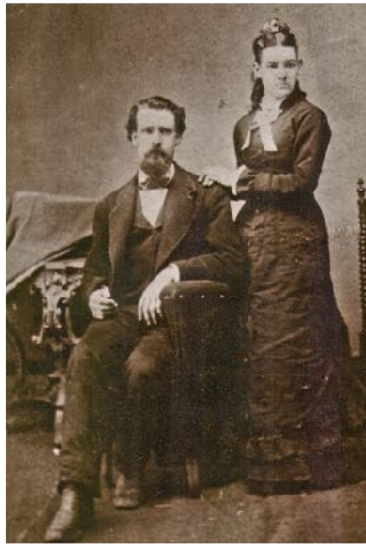
Set around the year A.D. 1000, long before the arrival of non-Native settlers in the region, "Elianya's Story" paints a picture of what daily life may have been like for a young girl growing up in the traditional culture of that era. Though the episodes are fictional, they are based upon careful research into the likely social conditions of that time and the landscape of the area.

This book is being used in schools around WI to support 5th grade Wisconsin history.
www.elianyasstory.com



MACHINE SHED MEMORIES - A Chronicle of Rural Life in Wisconsin
www.machineshedmemories.com
\$29.95.

Contact Leon Janssen if you have questions at leonpjanssen@yahoo.com or 262.442.6447.



Sam and Matilda Matravers Couillard

That's how scarce housing was because everybody was migrating to the city. He finally found a little house we could live in. We moved there and after the war, of course, then everybody got laid off and then people were going elsewhere looking for jobs. We ultimately bought the former Art Detaege farm on South River Road which is about two miles east of Couillardville Corners. We moved there in May of '47. So that's where we took up farming when we got back to the Oconto area.

My grandparents on my dad's side were Sam and Matilda Matravers Couillard. Sam was a son of Thomas Howard Couillard Jr. who had lived on what is more recently known as the Joe & Vi Detaeje farm. Matilda was the daughter of John and Mathilda

Matravers. I never met Sam. Sam died in 1932. I was born in '35. My Grandma Matilda lived with us at the house in Oconto where we lived when I was born. She passed away in 1938 and I very vividly, to this day, remember that. About 6 o'clock in the evening when they came. She had passed away and they came to take her out and I screamed and yelled at all these people and said you can't take my grandma. Never forgot it.

My grandmother on my mother's side I never met. She was Wilhemina Kittler when she married my grandfather Louis Funk. She passed away in 1932.

When we moved to the parsonage at Couillardville, Grandpa lived there with us. When we moved to Milwaukee, he stayed behind in Oconto.



Ken, Doug, Grandpa Louis, Jim

Continued from Page 2

When we moved back to Oconto in '47, Grandpa Louis came and lived with us again. In 1950, which turned out to be a traumatic year in my life -- I was 14 -- Jim was 11 and Doug was 8. My dad passed away on the 24th of July that year.



Alice and Andrew Couillard

My grandpa Louis's brother Otto, who is the father of Ted Funk, passed away on the 10th of August and my grandpa passed away on the 29th of August, so in a period of five weeks we lost the three of them, so that was quite a traumatic year. We got up to Oconto and my dad was not in a good health. He had a lung collapse when he was 18 years old, so he was pretty limited to what he could do and probably shouldn't have been on the

farm with the dust and all and the hard work and so on to start with. Dad lasted three years after we were on the farm.

Our Farm

And so, then I guess memories of my mother -- I think of how hard she worked after my dad passed away. We stayed on the farm for another eight years or so. I was 14, as I said. Jim was 11 and Doug was 8 at the time Dad passed away, so we were pretty young. We stayed there and tried to make a go of it and did eke out a living for those years and certainly a lot of thanks for what we did goes to fellow neighbors in the Couillardville area. It was a lot of help from a lot of people that came

down there with their machinery and worked our fields on occasion. I don't know how many times it happened, but it happened more than once, that I recall and something that I will always be grateful for the help. I think that speaks well of the community and I think it's unfortunate that those feelings just are not there any more. I think it's a chapter in life that we'll never see again. They were great years. We worked hard. I remember when we were haying and so on, a big deal, and mother would say "well, you if you get that last load of hay unloaded before dark, we'll go into the root beer stand and get a root beer" and if you really worked hard you got the big one that cost a dime! Continued on Page 4



A recent photo of the Andrew and Alice Couillard Farm

Continued from Page 3

The little one I think was a nickel at that time. That was a big deal back then. So, it certainly is different from today.

Family Values

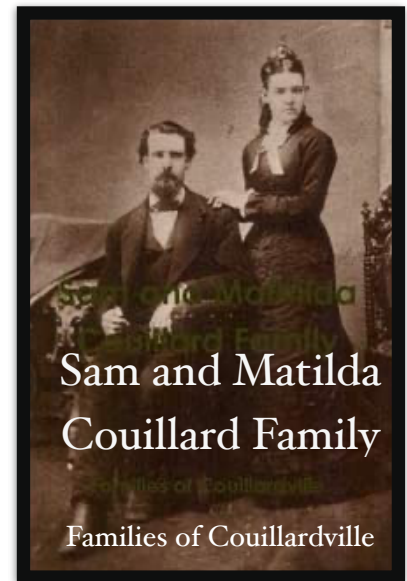
I think just **family** was important to my Mother and Dad, earning a living for the family, taking care of the family. One thing that I probably have been somewhat sorry about in my later life is that I didn't follow up like I probably should have and now gotten back to it, you know, is church. Church was very important to them. We never missed church and we dressed up. We put our suits on. We had little neck ties. Our shoes were shined, "You got your shoes shined? Get 'em shined. We're going to church. We gotta leave in such and such..." You got dressed up and you got your shoes shined and you went to church and that was very important to them at that time. Going out on a picnic or something was a big deal for entertainment. Going to a movie. I remember seeing some Gene Autry and Roy Rogers movies in the theater in Oconto when I was young.

The values my parents passed on could be summed up in a few words. I guess just working hard and there are no free lunches. Nobody owes you anything in this world. Work hard for what you get and respect other people. I think an attitude of live and let live probably sums it up pretty well.

Fun on the Farm

We had a lot of fun times. I remember times playing ball with the Detaeges. Of course, they were our next-door neighbors. I remember we used to play in their pasture next to the house we had a ball diamond. We'd go over there on Sundays and play baseball and in the fall they'd come over to our house and we had a long area alongside the west side of our house that was lined with elm trees spaced out about 20 or 30 feet apart. It just happened there were just enough of them that every elm tree was another ten yards for the football field, and we used to play football games out there on Sunday. At the end of the field were two elm trees growing up and the telephone wires ran right outside them, so that was the goal post. We had an elm tree here and an elm tree there and the phone wires, and that's where we

kicked our field goals and our extra points. We had a lot of fun in the afternoon football games out there in that yard. We had a great time. Detaeges would come over, sometimes kids would come down from further, anybody that was around. If they heard there was gonna be a football game, but there might be kids coming from quite a distance to play and we had a great time.



Contents - Full transcripts:

- Doug Couillard
- Ken Couillard
- Tom Kussow
- Etta Couillard

[lulu.com](https://www.lulu.com) search on Couillardville available in print or e-book

HOLD THE DATE
Machine Shed Reunion
2022 (#20)
Saturday, August 27th,