



An unidentified man rides a boat in Neville during the early 1900s.

Newville history

Continued from page 18

the area through holding services in log school houses or in settlers' homes. Farmers brought their families to church in lumber wagons often pulled by oxen. One man, it was reported, brought his family on a grain drill.

Most settlers in this new land left behind grieving families they would never see again. After Joseph returned and they were married, Eliza wrote in her diary of their farewell: "I saw the quivering lip and tearful eye of my poor mother. I strained my eyes for a last glimpse of (family). God alone knows if I shall ever again be permitted to return."

One note here: Besides the usual household possessions to stock a new home, Eliza - who was a gifted vocalist and pianist - bought a piano for her home in the wilderness. How it traveled, the account doesn't say - but it did survive the rough journey. The couple went by train to Buffalo and then bought passage through the Great Lakes to Milwaukee via Detroit. From Milwaukee to Chicago was by stagecoach and another coach carried them to Janesville.

From Eliza's diary: "This ride I shall ever remember for the fright and anxiety it caused me. The road was almost impassible and many times the coach was lifted from the ground. With difficulty, we avoided turning over."

The couple bought land and settled half-a-mile from Cooksville-in the northern part of what eventually became Porter Township.

Talk to long-time residents of Newville and one of the first things

they will mention is that Newville almost became the state capital. It came in second to Madison, then just a "wide spot in the road," presumably because, to quote Mark's article: "The owner of the Madison town site, James Duane Doty, sweetened the deal for the territorial fathers. He greased the political wheels by providing at least 15 legislators with "choice" Madison town lots. Doty later became one of Wisconsin's first governors."

However, Newville residents do not hold the same grudge against Governor Doty as some of the old timers in Mineral Point. Back in 1829 Mineral Point became the county seat of the newly formed Iowa County. At the time, because of its mining industry, the town had a greater population than both Milwaukee and Chicago combined. On July 4th, 1836, Henry Dodge was inaugurated there as the first governor of the newly formed Wisconsin Territory. The citizens fully expected Mineral Point to become the state capital. More than 150 years later, doing a story on the town for the travel page of an Illinois newspaper, I was advised by my historian/ guide not to tell anyone my last name.

Mark: "There were at least two Rock River ferries at Newville, dating back to the early 1850s to middle 1960s operated by two Newville pioneers, William Anson Good-rich and Thomas Goldsmith Richardson. Richardson was a transplanted New York state shoemaker and farmer whose family members later ran a Newville limestone quarry and apple

orchard.

"Both of these ferries were located slightly downstream from the mouth of Lake Koshkonong, where the river was shallow and the current not too troublesome."

The first bridge, a wooden toll bridge, was built in the late 1860s.

One-room schools, as well as the churches, helped define the rural communities and small villages of the late 1800s and early 1900s. Rural teachers rarely had college degrees but were high school graduates required to pass a fairly tough exam to receive a teaching certificate.

The once-upon a time one-room school house of Newville is still standing. Another school, the old North Hillside Road School was active until the mid-1950s. From the early 1960s to the mid-1970s, the building was used as a general store. A third school, dedicated in 1959 but eventually absorbed into the Edgerton Public School District became the location of the Grace Baptist Church.

Two highways - Route 59 that crosses the latest bridge over the Rock River and Interstate 90, roads that would disrupt the farming practices of several Newville families, carry thousands daily through and into Newville's business strip of taverns, marinas, restaurants -including the largest Culvers in its chain-and service stations.

Few of those traveling through are aware of the small pioneer village lying on either side of this strip. And, one suspects, this suits the long-time residents just fine.

Tobacco Day Schedule of Events

Friday, July 18

8 a.m. - City Wide Rummage Sales

Downtown

8 a.m. - Junior Tennis Tournament Rain Date, High School Courts (rain date is Thursday, July 17 at 8 a.m.)

8 a.m.-5 p.m. - Book Sale, Tri-County Community Center

4 p.m.-7 p.m. - Fish Fry, Masonic Temple

Racetrack Park

9 a.m.-7 p.m. - Edgerton Little League Tournament

5 p.m.-8 p.m. - Edgerton Care Center

6 p.m. - Girl's Alumni Softball Tournament

6 p.m. - Men's Slow Pitch Softball Tournament

7 p.m. - Albion Tiger's game

7-11 p.m. - Main Music Stage, Crud & Cary

Saturday, July 19

Downtown

7 a.m.-3 p.m. - Classic Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show

9 a.m.-3 p.m. - Book Sale, Tri-County Community Center

9 a.m.-4 p.m. - Food Booth, Train Depot

11 a.m. - Tobacco Plant Judging, Reporter Building

4 p.m.-5 p.m. - Registration Gravity Racers Classic, Albion St. by Veterans Building

School Grounds

9:30 a.m. - Big Wheel Race (9 a.m. registration, 3-6 year-olds)

Central Park

9 a.m.-4 p.m. - Arts in the Park (live music, crafts, food and children's entertainment)

9 a.m. - Pie & Ice Cream Social (until sold out)

2:15 p.m. - Coin Toss, City Pool

Racetrack Park

8 a.m. - Rascal Run/Walk (6:30 Sign-up)

9 a.m. - Slow Pitch Tournament

9 a.m.-2 p.m. - Trap Shoot

9 a.m.-3 p.m. - Open Air Market

9 a.m.-3 p.m. - FFA Petting Zoo

9 a.m.-8 p.m. - Edgerton Little League Tour Tournament

12 p.m.-6 p.m. - Edgerton Care Center

11 a.m.-2 p.m. - Main Stage Music: Lip Sync Contest

1 p.m. - FFA Kids Pedal Tractor Pull

1 p.m. - Major League Softball Consolation Game

2:30-6:30 p.m. - Main Stage Music: Liam Ford

3 p.m. - Cow Bingo

3 p.m. - Major League Softball Championship Game

4 p.m. - Car Show, King & Queen announced

8 p.m.-midnight - Main Stage Music: Killer Cars

Sunday, July 20

Downtown

11:30 a.m. - Parade - Edgerton Care Center and ends at Central Lutheran Church (see route on map below)

Racetrack Park

9 a.m.-8 p.m. - Edgerton's Little League Tournament (Rain Date)

Noon-5 p.m. - Edgerton Hospital Tent

Noon - Truck & Tractor Pulls (11 a.m. registration)

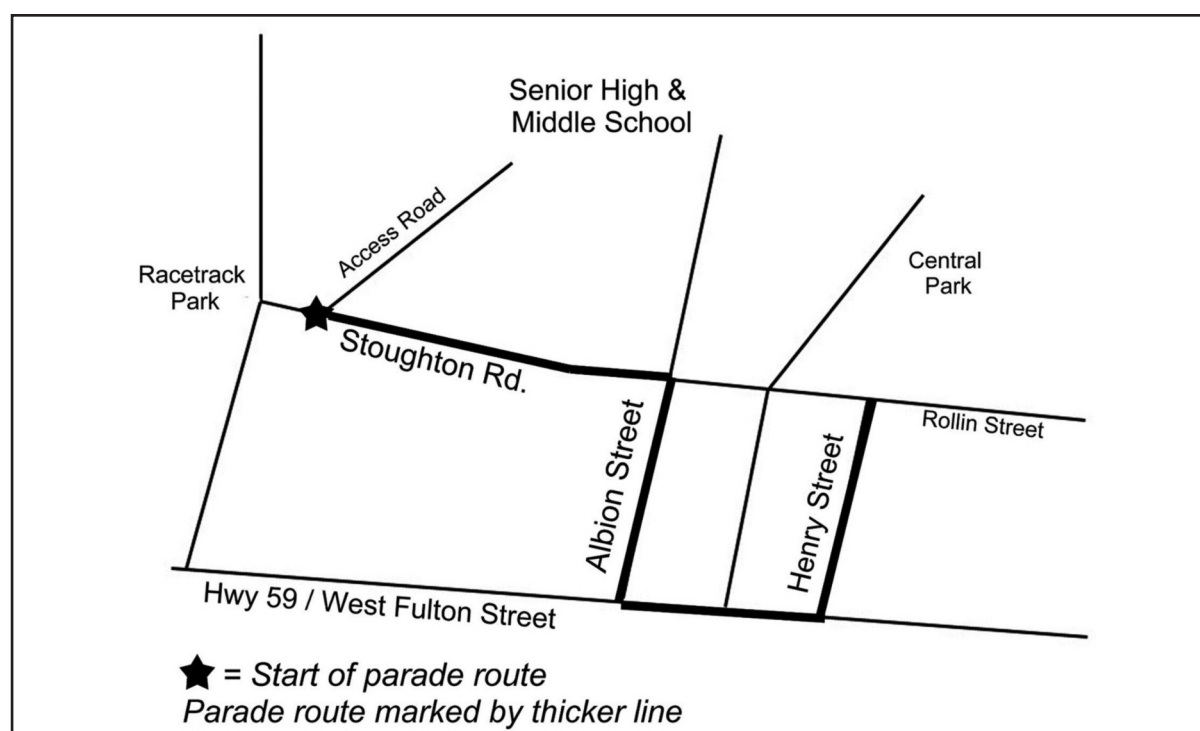
1-4 p.m. - Main Stage Music: Mad Tadders

3 p.m. - Pie Eating Contest

3:30 p.m. - Adult Games/Ax Throwing

4 p.m.-8 p.m. - Main Stage Music: Dan Reilly

8 p.m. - Drawing for Raffle Prizes



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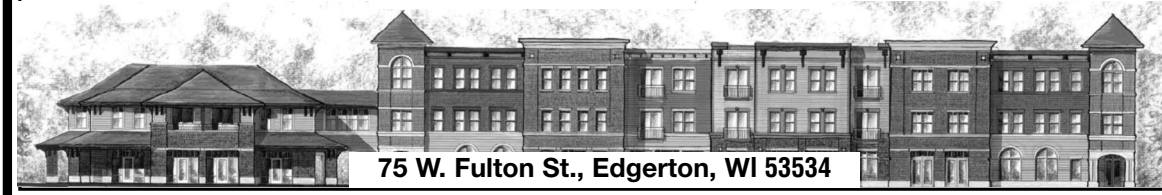
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Left to Right: Seth, Bethany, Whitney, Wendy, Shane

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