

THE MENASHA TIMES

April



2016

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MENASHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A Language Problem

My immigrant parents traded their home in the Town of Menasha for a farm at Pulaski, Wisconsin. Unfortunately, they lost both. The family returned to Menasha and rented a house at 745 Racine Street on the northeast corner of Seventh Street.

Although Gerhardt and I (Alfrieda) could not speak the English language, we were enrolled at Butte des Morts Elementary School. What a big building on Tayco Street I was to attend! As we walked along, Mama and Papa told me I should be good and learn well. We parted at the door entrance and happily went to our rooms. I was placed in kindergarten and my brother, Gerhart, in first grade when school began in the fall of 1932.

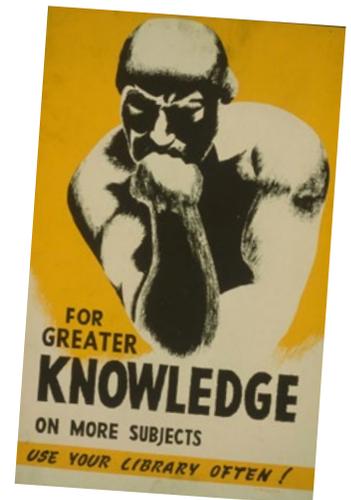
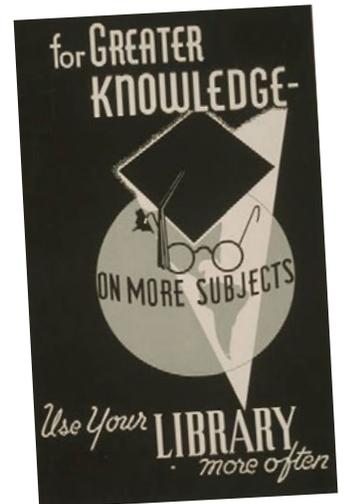
Everything went fine until the teacher handed me a mat and told me it was time for a nap. Being a stubborn German, I told the teacher in German, "My mother sent me to school to learn something; sleeping I can do at home."

As a consequence, the teacher sent a note home, requesting an adult to be present. After finding somebody to explain the note, my oldest brother took me and Gerhardt to school the next day. My teacher sent us to the office of the principal. Here a kind lady greeted us and asked me to tell her what I had said to the teacher yesterday. I repeated the phrase I heard many times before in German. This lady smiled and said, "This little girl is eager to learn; we'll try her in first grade." My brother, Gerhardt, was moved to second grade. The principal took us to our new rooms. Oh, how happy we were to find a person that could understand German!

I anxiously did my best and finished first grade and was promoted to second grade at the end of the school year in 1933. Learning the English language from classmates was easier than I thought. Later we helped our parents with learning and understanding their new language as they studied to become citizens. - *Alfrieda Hintz Meiers*



1st Grade Class Photo from Menasha Historical Society archives



WPA Posters

April 28th Program The Menasha Post Office



You are invited to join us as we present a program on the history of our post office dating back to the 1860's. Following the presentation, our new Postmaster will lead us on a "Behind the Scenes" tour of the rest of the magnificent building. The Racine Street building is currently the oldest post office still operating in the Fox Valley. We invite you to join us for what we believe will be an interesting and informative program. Details as follows:

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2016

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Lobby of the Menasha Post Office

(Chairs will be furnished for those who may have difficulty standing)



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Did You Know?



April 25, 1945, is the day Soviet and American troops met at the Elbe River, near Torgau in Germany, marking an important step toward the end of World War II in Europe. This contact between the Soviets, advancing from the East, and the Americans, advancing from the West, meant that the two powers had effectively cut Germany in two.



LEMON BARS

1 1/2 cups flour
2/3 cup powdered sugar
3/4 cup butter (softened)
Mix well and pat into greased 9"x13" pan.
Bake for 20 minutes at 350 degrees.
Remove from oven.

Mix and beat until frothy...
1/3 cup lemon juice
1 1/2 cups sugar
3 eggs
3 tbsp. flour

Pour over hot crust. Bake 20-25 minutes until golden. When cool, sprinkle with powdered sugar.

- from Kathy Humski

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