

City, Rural Folks Pitch In To Preserve Hyde Church Building

By JANET M. SCHLATTER

WHEN IS A church not a church? When, having served its day, it becomes a simple landmark, the focus for a community of city and rural neighbors.

This is the story of recent happenings at the one-room white clapboard structure, long unused, formerly Hyde Congregational Church.

Iowa County T north from Barneveld meets County H south from Arena at what was once a busy crossroads community named Hyde's Mill—now called Hyde. Swift little Mill Creek furnished the feed mill's power. Farmers for miles around traded at the bustling general store and patronized Lance Dodge's blacksmith shop.

There was from earliest times a burial ground, and in 1869 Hyde Congregational Church was built beside it. Ministers from neighboring towns served it.

Among them were the Revs. A. H. and Fred and Benjamin Schoenfeld, father and uncle of U. W. Director of Summer Sessions Clarence Schoenfeld. Clay Schoenfeld is a conservation journalist, author of the recent "Wisconsin Sideroads to Somewhere," and has a deep affection for the land. Especially for the Hyde country.

"You have to own a lot of hills to get enough land to farm," one Hyde resident puts it, but city folks who hanker for the outdoors have been buying the wooded bluffs for recreational purposes. Profs. Schoenfeld and Robert A. McCabe of the Wildlife Ecology Department are among these. They liked the solidity of the small Hyde church with its pine shaded graveyard.

One day, as Bob McCabe stood on his bridge watching the water swirl, Tom McCutchin, a Hyde resident and president of the Hyde Cemetery Association, stopped by with news—"The church is being sold." The Wisconsin Conference of United Church of Christ has a policy of selling and having removed its unused small churches. Hyde church was on the block.

Bob and Clay called together informally some local people to see how they felt toward the church. Several had relatives in the quiet cemetery, and they liked the idea of preserving the building. There was never thought of resuming any kind of church service.

So Schoenfeld and McCabe bought Hyde church, and with McCutchin's practical help organized a meeting of city and rural families to form a Hyde Community Association which would legally possess the building. Atty. Robert Brigham, Madison, whose family name is deeply associated with the area, contributed his legal services to the cause.

One condition of purchase was the official change to Hyde Chapel.

HCA members planned two workdays, one in fall and one in spring. The first, Sept. 24, 1966, had all the flavor of an old-time barn raising. It was a gray day, damp and chilly. Bundled in sweaters, jackets and head coverings, everybody came and set to work not bothering with introductions. Foresighted farmers had brought hot water in milk cans, and their wives included cleaning equipment. City women brought elbow grease.

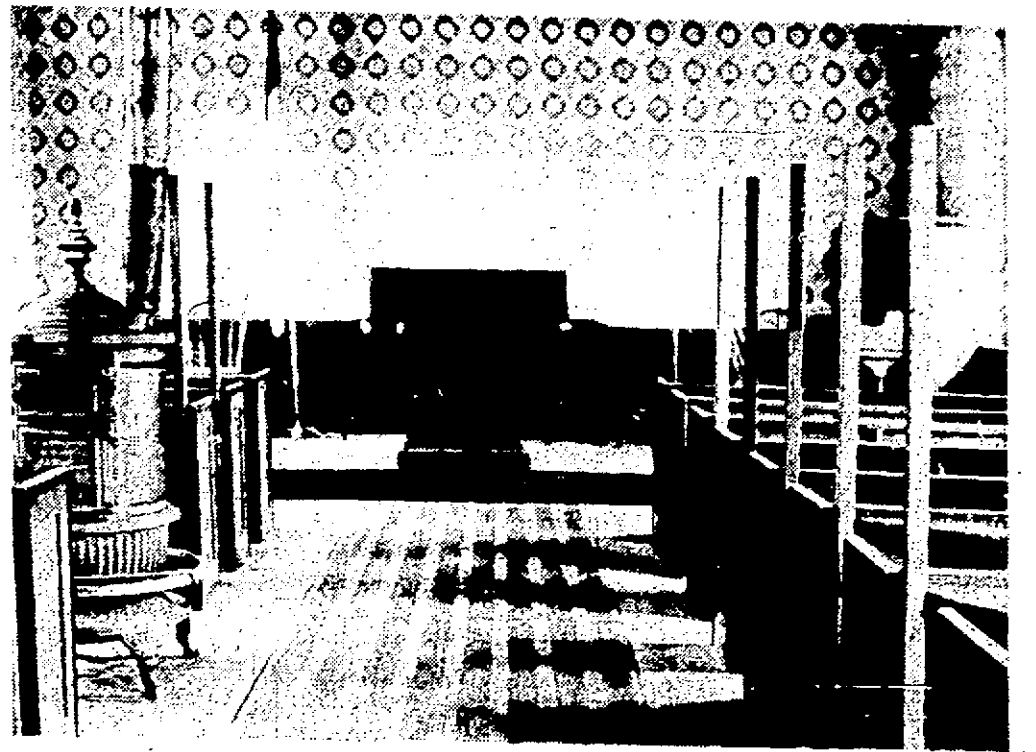
Men scraped, pounded and painted on its side, while the women mopped, scrubbed and waxed inside. The Barneveld hardware dealer took off for more window panes. A Ridge-way mason promised to chink the foundation. A Madison doctor's wife produced special wax for the worn pews.

Then came the bountiful country-style potluck lunch, spread out on McCutchin's flat-bed wagon parked by the church. Over heaping plates workers at last took time to visit and get acquainted.

After lunch the HCA formally organized, electing Tom McCutchin president. According to the broad based constitution adopted, HCA can engage in community projects if desired. Hyde Chapel, if needed for a small funeral, can be used. It cannot serve as a church.

As business drew to a close, one overalled member raised his hand. "I move we adjourn and get to work before it rains!" So they did.

Forty members and guests turned out Dec. 18 for the business meeting when HCA bought the church officially.



There's nothing fancy about Hyde Chapel. When it was an unused church, members of the congregation took home various furnishings for safekeeping. Now with its restoration they are bringing them back. The Bible is back on the pulpit, the old organ will be returned in the spring, and two original kerosene lamps will be in place. Restoration is for historic interest only.



Profs. Clay Schoenfeld, left, and Robert McCabe of Madison, ready for an excursion to Hyde. Prof. Schoenfeld's father and two uncles preached at the Hyde Congregational Church. Both men own recreational land in the area, and with Tom McCutchin, a Hyde resident, sparked organization of the Hyde Community Association.

Robert Peterson contributed a juniper for the podium—the true Iowa County Christmas tree. Red oak from Prof. Robert Ellarson's farm stoked the old stove. Mrs. Mary Bowden at the old piano accompanied carol singing. Then everyone attacked the long table laden with coffee and all kinds of fancy cookies—Swiss, Cornish, German and Welsh.

Members of HCA sometimes think back on what's happened. For one thing, emphasis on the secular, non-denominational aspect of the undertaking has succeeded. For another, everyone seems to appreciate the role of the restored little church as a historical monument and a picturesque bit of scenery.

One fact intrigues Tom McCutchin especially. This new influx of city people, which local residents viewed with suspicion, has turned out to be compatible with traditions of the countryside. He's already talking about a roadside beautification project that the group might sponsor.

Lance Dodge, Blue Mounds, who died this March, was then at 86 the oldest member of the HCA. He told how the church once had two stoves, one on each side. Men sat on one side and women on the other. Lance had lived a mile above Hyde on a 200-acre farm which his grandfather, working for 50 cents a day had bought for 50 cents an acre.

Listeners delighted in his tale of his favorite hunting and fishing pal minister. Beaver were protected, but the minister would occasionally get one and hide it in the church organ. Another minister walked three miles each way every Sunday to preach at Hyde, carrying his heavy Bible.

Next work day? Memorial Day weekend.

MARMADUKE



"From now on, just bring my slippers!"

LOOKING Backward

by Frank CUSTER

Fifty Years Ago

WITH THE call for war resounding through the city, a local resident asks with patriotic fervor: "Do you know of a church in Madison that displays or owns an American Flag?" . . . Someone else says schools should display their flags . . . Lincoln School is closed when four cases of scarlet fever are found there; the school will be fumigated to protect the other children . . . The Wayside Inn, boarding house near the corner of State and Gilman St., advertises home cooking for \$5.50 a week . . . Madison Real Estate Board in a straw vote shows membership is 13 to 1 against the saloon . . . Mrs. Anna Stehr and her son, Louis, have given up their home at 113 N. Charter St., and have gone to live with Mrs. Stehr's daughter, Mrs. H. G. Liebetrau, 437 Lorch St. . . . Albert E. Smith Music Co. advertises a new Victor recording of Amelia Galli-Carci singing an aria from Romeo and Juliet.

Forty Years Ago

The revolt of youth, which is causing the wiseacres so much worry is the young people's misunderstanding of liberty, says the Rev. George E. Hunt, Christ Presbyterian Church; "the heart of man is a lover of liberty. Sin is the misuse of right things, and liberty is one of the common things most often misused" . . . Rabbi Solomon Landman of Hillel Foundation says that everything today receives a square deal except religion . . . D. R. De Haven, popular young orchestra player, is pleased when he is informed by O. P. Berg, proprietor of the Musician's Service Shop, 9 W. Main St., that his gold saxophone has been found; the sax had been missing for three weeks from his car. . . "Party who took a boy's bicycle from the rear of 564 W. Millin St. is known to police. Return immediately to avoid arrest!" reads an advertisement. . . Harris and Reddick is editor of the Platteville High School publication, "The Tailings".

Twenty Years Ago

D. A. Forsberg, president of the Forsberg Paper Box Co., is elected to the Board of Directors of the Folding Paper Box Association of America. . . The State Senate Committee on Labor and Management recommends the appointment of William F. Whitney, Madison, to the state Public Service Commission. . . Melva Jean Tredennick is chosen the DAR good citizenship representative at Linden High School. . . Mrs. William Stebbel is named general chairman of the Sun Prairie Health Council; Mrs. A. J. Delwiche is secretary; Mrs. William Vincent, treasurer.



Hyde Chapel, once Hyde Congregational Church but long unused, is being restored by the new Hyde Community Association as a simple landmark and the focus for a community of city and rural neighbors.

THE CAPITAL TIMES GREEN

MADISON, WIS., Monday, March 27, 1967



What Are the Northern Lights?

Win a valuable prize. Send your question, name, address and age to TELL ME WHY? Care of the Capital Times, The Britannica Junior, 15 volume encyclopedia for school and home, will be awarded for the letter selected. In the case of duplicate questions, the author of "Tell Me Why?" will select the winner. Today's winner is: Eugene Kozel, 14, Edmonton, Alberta

TO BEGIN with, did you know that there are also "southern lights"? In the northern hemisphere they are called aurora australis.

The northern lights may be seen almost every clear night at a latitude of about 60 degrees. In the regions where they are brightest, a faint arc of light is seen in the dark northern sky after sunset.

Suddenly the arc breaks up into parallel rays of light. The colors in these rays, which are usually pale green and red and yellow, become deeper. Sometimes the parallel rays take a form that seems to look like a curtain or drapery. These draperies, together with long streamers of light, may cover the whole sky.

This display lasts only a short time, perhaps only a few minutes, but it may be repeated several times during a single night. Sometimes the rays come together overhead to form what is called the "corona", or crown. The finest effects of the aurora usually appear at an altitude of 50 to 100 miles above the earth.

The aurora borealis is seen at its best in Alaska, in Canada around the Hudson Bay region, in southern Greenland, and in Norway. Sometimes it is seen farther south in the United States, where it appears as a faint reddish glow.

The theory that scientists have to explain these northern lights is that they are caused by electrically charged particles coming from the sun at high speed. When these particles meet the earth's magnetic field, they are turned aside toward the earth's poles. If the particles then collide with the atoms of the earth's upper atmosphere, some of the electrons

are removed from the atoms. When these atoms combine again with other electrons, they send out the glowing light of the aurora.

FUN TIME (The Riddle Box)

1. What inventions have helped men get up in the world? 2. When a boy falls into the water what is the first thing he does? 3. What must one do to have soft hands?

(Answers) 1. The alarm clock and the elevator. 2. Gets wet. 3. Nothing.

THE PUZZLE BOX



This represents a geographical location. Can you figure out what it is? See Tuesday's paper for the answer.

To win the Britannica World Atlas or Yearbook of Events, send your riddles, jokes in: Riddles, Jokes, "Tell Me Why?" Give your Zip Code. Today's winner is: Fay Brown, Godfrey, Ill.

Walked 5 3/4 Miles On Flight from London to N.Y.C.

BOMBAY, India (UPI)—Miss Champa Malkani, 24, walked 5 3/4 miles the other day at an average speed of just under 600 miles per hour. Miss Malkani, an Air India hostess, carried a pedometer during a London-New York flight as part of a company experiment to see how much walking their hostesses do.

On the subsequent return journey to London, Miss Malkani walked only 3 3/4 miles, but it was a late night flight and the hostess did not have to serve drinks or dinner.

STRICTLY BUSINESS by McFeeters



"All I know is the boss suggested we change places and went off with my mop!"



The late Lance Dodge, Blue Mounds, was at 86 the oldest member of the Hyde Community Association. He attended the Dec. 18 meeting and reminisced about old days at Hyde's Mill, when the church was functioning. Mr. Dodge was the man who, while drilling blast holes, discovered Cave of the Mounds.

QUESTION OF THE DAY

By TOM BARLET (Of The Capital Times Staff)

The Capital Times will pay \$2 for each question used in "Question of the Day." Today's winner is Harry Mitchell, 1305 E. Johnson St.

THE QUESTION Do present high school courses really prepare the student to go out into the world on his own?

WHERE ASKED East Madison Area.

THE ANSWERS Mrs. Charles W. Bates, Stoughton, Housewife—First,

I would like to say that the students of today are getting a much better education than they were in my time. However, I think in the next 10 or 20 years the entire system will undergo a major overhaul. I feel that the present school system is not compatible with today's living conditions. Too many students are unable to correlate their school learning with their plans for the future.

Rod Bott, Route 1, De Forest, Operating Engineer—I should think that with the general basic education the high school student receives today, he should be able to fit into most any type of work.

The biggest problem facing a young man starting out today is not one of education. It is the military draft situation. This is why I favor the straight lottery draft system. I am opposed to student deferments because it places the brunt of the problem on the youth who does not want to go on to college.

Terry Nordness, 223 Jackson St., Truck Driver—I think there is room for expanded vocational training to take care of the youngster who does not want college. Young people today have far more opportunity to get the education and training than we did in my time. Parents are in a better position to allow their young-

WORLD ALMANAC FACTS



San Marino is the smallest republic in the world and claims to be the oldest in Europe. Founded in the 4th century A.D., it is completely surrounded by Italy and is about half the size of Washington, D.C. According to The World Almanac, the 1962 population was estimated at 17,000. San Marino uses Italian or Vatican money but has its own stamps and coins.

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Students to continue with their schooling. I think if the young person is willing to take advantage of the opportunities, they will have no trouble getting started in the world.

Mrs. Beverly Swope, 6308 Midwood Blvd., Homemaker—Just

judging from the actions of my high school daughter, I would say that the schools sponsor too many extra-curricular activities. She seems more interested in these things than in her actual studies. However, I will say that the courses she takes are more complicated than when I went to high school. I think it is much harder for boys, since they not only need advanced education, but must also worry about the draft.

Robert McMahon, Janesville, Manufacturer's Representative—I know the situation has improved a lot over the years, but I think the high schools still overemphasize college prep courses while overlooking the vocational aspect. I personally feel that there are too many college students who would be better off learning a skilled trade. Of course, a lot of this is due to the student deferment. If they are going to defer college students, they should do the same with young men working in an apprentice program.