A note by Tom Layloff also a former Madison, Il resident.

The publication A Centennial History of Madison, Ilinois, 1891-1991 by Ron Stern presents an excellent overview of the growth of the Village and later City. As noted in the publication the development Madison began as the industrial revolution was starting to reach its full potential. To forge this revolution large numbers of laborers were required and many men from various countries left their homes to take jobs to make a better life for themselves. They could not afford to bring their families so large numbers of unattached men lived in rooming houses proximate to their work with many rotating the use of beds according the shift work [1] to save money and because of the housing shortage that resulted from the rapid expansion.

The shift work, routine work and lack of housing also gave rise to the coffee houses, bars, gaming and pool halls, etc. for entertainment and excitement along with prostitution in the stratified community. In Madison the first block parallel to the industrial sites—State Street and Grand Avenue-- had the concentration of rooming houses and most of the associated "wild west" living. Madison Avenue was the dividing line for the family dwellings and sedate living. The fire alarm at City Hall was sounded at 9:00 PM every evening to inform the foreign elements to return to their residential strata and later to warn children to return home.

However the above "wild west" problems paled when prohibition brought to Madison and much of Southern Illinois massive corruption and crime to control the metro-St. Louis market for illegal alcohol products. In addition to the "speakeasies" there developed in parallel sophisticated gambling operations which also were illegal. Much of the activity likely was dominated by the more powerful and influential crime operations in Chicago. The corruption was not unexpected because any non-corrupt opposing elements were eliminated one way or another.

Having alcohol, prostitution and gambling illegal provided an excellent opportunity for organized crime to corrupt or destroy officials and amass large amounts of wealth and power. These "forbidden" activities continue to thrive in Nevada where the amassed wealth built Las Vegas. Gambling in Madison effectively ended with the development of Las Vegas in the 1950s and many of the gambling professionals migrated there to continue employment.

From Wikipedia:[2] "American organized crime figures such as Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel and Meyer Lansky managed or funded most of the original large casinos.[13] The rapid growth of Las Vegas is credited with dooming Galveston, Texas; Hot Springs, Arkansas; and other major gaming centers in the 1950s.[14] "

[1] For example see "The Eagle and The Stork," by Stoyan Christowe, Harper's Magazine Press (1976)

[2] See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Las_Vegas

A Centennial History of Madison, Illinois 1891-1991

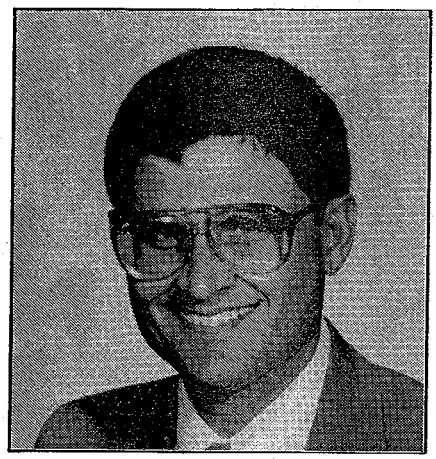
An independent paper
By Ron Stern, M.S. in Educational Administration
Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

CITY OF
MADISON, ILLINOIS

CELEBRATING OUR
100th
Anniversary
INCORPORATED NOV. 2, 1891

John N. Bellcoff, Mayor
1985 to Present

About the Author...



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College
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INTRODUCTION

Madison is a community with a colorful and interesting history. It was founded in 1891 and quickly became an integral part of the growing Metro-East region across the Mississippi River from St. Louis, Missouri. It quickly developed as part of the chain of communities known as the "Tri-Cities" that included Granite City and Venice.

The location of Madison between these two factory towns earned it a reputation as the "Hub of the Tri-Cities." Madison was accessible to both St. Louis and its little sister of East St. Louis via railroad and, later, highway.

As part of a growing industrial center, Madison soon attracted a rapidly expanding labor pool. Many of these workers came to America as part of the large influx of immigrants during the "high tide" of immigration in the late 1800's. Those coming to Madison were predominately from Eastern Europe and the Balkan States of Southeastern Europe. Most were of Slavic ancestry. As a result of so many foreign languages being spoken within the confines of Madison, it gained a nickname as a "City of Babel."

During this period of industrial growth and urbanization in American history, many cities developed a core of commercial enterprises that catered to the vices of a predominately male working class. Madison was no exception. The "silk-stocking district" along State Street became known as the "Monte Carlo of America" as a result of the predominance of brothels, saloons, and gambling establishments along that well-traveled boulevard.

Each of these will be explored in this paper. Along with these the reader will see how Madison developed a strong political machine, perhaps only second to the machine in Cook County in terms of continuity and strength. The social and cultural life of Madison will be examined by

looking at the schools, churches, and the state of ethnic and racial relations within the community. Its economic growth will be traced to see the changes that the city has undergone with the evolution of America from an industrial giant to amore service-oriented economy.

The reasons for writing this history are many. Growing up and spending a number of years in Madison, I felt there-was a story that needed to be told. I knew that no comprehensive history of the city existed. With the coming of the Madison centennial, I believed that if the story were not researched and written, it might never be told.

Looking around Madison, one could see a town that was aging and going through a metamorphosis that was changing the very core on which the town grew and developed to maturation. Many people would go to their graves and not see the story of their life written. I felt the story had to be told.

Madison has had a history of unique and colorful characters. Many of these people were contained in the story. I have endeavored to find the truth in this regard. In writing this history, I hope I have not offended anyone with what has been written. I have strived to be as accurate as possible, realizing that a lack of resources made it impossible to seek other interpretations. What has been written has largely been a matter of public record at one time or another. I have simply compiled the information in attempt to put it together in a coherent manner.

Finally, it is often said that we must understand our past in order to understand our present and future. I felt that Madison produced a different type of person than other communities that I lived in such as Highland and Normal, Illinois. Madisonians have always seemed to be rugged, individualistic, realistic people who were aware of the foibles in the world around them. These character traits seemed to account for some of the unique, colorful, and/or rough-and-tumble

individuals who have graced the history of Madison. It is also for them and about them that this history is written.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are many people deserving of thanks in helping me to put together this paper. I am deeply indebted to Dr. Mark Wyman of the History Department at Illinois State University for agreeing to allow me to do this project. His guidance and suggestions have proved to be very valuable.

Several libraries and librarians have proven to be a tremendous service. Judith Modrusic of the Granite City Public Library steered me in the right direction of several sources. The staff at the library have been very patient with my requests for sources and the use of the microfilm machine. Louise Lewis of the Madison Public Library helped me tremendously by providing several musty newspaper articles and antiquated campaign leaflets. They have been a big help.

A number of people have provided sources and clues that opened up new information that I had not previously heard. Ted Ostrenga, a walking encyclopedia of Madison history, has provided me with many useful tips. Others at Polish Hall, have given me numerous ideas and suggestions. Among these are Joe Liszewski, Tom Paskus, and Ed Forys.

Several people directed me toward others who helped by allowing me to conduct oral interviews. Rita Bradford from the First National Bank and Victoria Vasileff were very helpful in providing sources. I must thank Nick Vasileff, Helen Kuenstler, and George Smith for allowing me to interview them. Dan Kostencki, Superintendent of the Madison Public Schools, providing me access to several items of information. As a former history teacher at Madison High School, he has always been a person who I could always share ideas with and converse with on this paper.

There are others who I am sure I am leaving out and neglecting to mention. I apologize if I have missed anybody. Most of all I would like to dedicate this paper to my parents, my brothers, and my nieces and nephews.

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

A difficulty in doing the research for this paper was lack of a variety of sources. Very little was written on the early years in Madison history. This was especially true of the first two decades of this century. There were no public records available which made it difficult to find good primary sources. Another problem was the lack of living residents from the first thirty years of Madison's existence. This made it impossible to find oral sources for interviews. The few people that were possibilities for interviews were not physically capable of this task. For this reason oral interviews were limited.

The basic source of information for this paper was the Granite City Press-Record. This limited my ability to find out more about the day-to-day life in Madison during the early years. Diaries and memoirs were unavailable. Consequently, the primary emphasis in this paper is on the major events in the history of Madison.

FOUNDING OF MADISON AND ITS EARLY YEARS

Madison was an inevitable outgrowth of St. Louis. Many geographic and economic considerations had proven that the Mississippi River Valley would entice settlers to the St. Louis region. History serves as a guide in proving the desirability to develop the American Bottoms floodplain that Madison came to occupy, across the river from St. Louis in Illinois.

Mounds Indian culture shows that early native Americans occupied this region and developed an elaborate and sophisticated settlement at Cahokia Mounds over a thousand years ago. An abundance of fertile land and plenty of water made the Bottoms an attractive location. While there is no record of Mounds Indians occupying present-day Madison, it is known that the region was one of the earliest settlements in the United States.

Later explorers traveling along the Mississippi River and its many tributaries would witness the geographic advantages that the St. Louis region would offer. After Pierre Laclede established St. Louis as the site for a great city in 1764, others reported favorably on its location. Governor Trudeau of the Louisiana territory astutely realized this as early as 1798 in recognizing the location of mines in Missouri and Illinois near the St. Louis area. "The establishment of an excellent foundry and forge for the reduction of minerals to bars would be very convenient." His analysis was almost one hundred years ahead of the development of Madison, which ironically was predicated on the founding of the American Car and Foundry Shops.

Explorer Henri Schoolcraft, in 1812, expounded the virtues of the St. Louis region which later proved to be a commercial boon to the city of Madison. Once again geographic location and an abundance of resources helped to promote development. Schoolcraft saw a geographic location in the center of the North American landmass as beneficial. The branches of the Mississippi

River, including the Illinois, Missouri, and Ohio Rivers provided access to the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico. All are located within 250 miles of St. Louis. In turn, these provided access to the copper mines of Lake Superior, the lead mines of Prairie Du Chien, and the mines of iron, zinc, and manganese in the Great Lakes region. Markets were accessible in diverse regions of the country. The railroad would later provide connections with the coal mines of Southern Illinois. The flood plain east of St. Louis was destined to be developed for industrial purposes.[1]

Industrial development, and its consequent residential development, came to present-day Madison in 1891. Until 1877, the land was still being utilized for agricultural purposes. T.W. Blackman of St. Louis laid out a site for the town of Newport, which is commonly called West Madison. In April of 1858 there were only a few dwellings on this site, but it laid the foundation for what would become Madison. St. Louis industrialists wanted to lessen the costs of bringing Southern Illinois coal to St. Louis and decided to build the Merchants Bridge in 1891, located just west of Madison, for that purpose. Madison would now be linked to north St. Louis. These businessmen formed the Madison Land Syndicate and purchased the farm of William and Nancy Sippy for $117,800 and laid out the site of Madison.

The first industry was the Madison Car and Foundry, built in 1891 on State Street. This plant later became known as the "Car Shops" and formed the economic cornerstone of Madison, which was now wed to the larger St. Louis area.

Additional factories and industries followed suit during the 1890's. These saw the desirability of the site characteristics in proximity to the Merchants railroad bridge and located close to it. Among these were the Standard Oil barrel works, the Terminal Railroad Round House, Helmbacher Forge and Rolling Mill, Kettle River Tie and Lumber Company, Laclede Steel, and

the Tri-City Refrigeration Company. In much of urban-industrial America of the late 19th century, residential development occurred within walking distance of the plants, in order to give the workers access to the plants. While Madison was never considered a "factory town" in the sense of a Homestead in Pennsylvania, it nevertheless took on the characteristics of a working-class community. That image remains to the present-day.

October 12, 1891 marks the birthdate of Madison. A petition was presented to incorporate the site as a village and it was stated that it had at least 765 inhabitants. The first village canvass showed Dr. Charles Youree receiving 60 votes for Village President vs. 20 for Frederick Pierce. Among the first members of the Board of Trustees were Charles Skeen, Warren Champion, and Patrick Coyle, who later served as Village President. The first lawyer was T.B. Rhodes and the first Chief of Police was Patrick McCambridge. Streets located in Madison today bear the names of Rhodes, Skeen, and McCambridge.

The first birth and the initial first- grader was Bruce Champion, son of Warren Champion. The first church was the Presbyterian, located at Third and Ewing. Schools soon followed, with the first building at 1513 Second Street. In 1894, Harris School was built at Sixth and Alton. The first teacher was Susan Richardson. The origin of Madison High School was at Harris School in 1903. The high school had 23 pupils. Its first graduate was Edith Griffin in 1905.

Workers needed for the factories led to a migration of a multitude of various nationalities during the 1890's.

Among these were people from Indiana and "hillbillies" from the Southern Missouri Ozarks. A number of African-Americans migrated from the Old South and formed the foundation for Newport and West Madison, which remains African-American today. A large influx of

Europeans followed. The majority of these were Poles, but there were also many Bulgarians, Macedonians, Romanians, Croatians, Russians, Lithuanians, Czechs, Yugoslavians, Hungarians, Greeks, and a small number of Jewish people. Madison remains a classic example of a heterogeneous, multi-cultural, ethnically-diverse community.

Early Madison would not resemble a setting from the lifestyles of the rich and famous. Madison was not without its problems. Among these were no street lighting, mud in the streets, and no sidewalks. Wooden planks were used in lieu of sidewalks. The first paved streets and sidewalks came in 1905. Gambling and drinking were part of the social fiber of the town. Madison was regarded as "wide-open' and quickly gained the reputation as the "Monte Carlo of America".[3]

The establishment of the Car & Foundry Company marked the beginnings of the village of Madison. A Mr. Salveter of that company is credited for his efforts and foresight that led to the existence and progress of Madison. The company employed thousands of working men and made it possible for the promoters of real estate to lay a foundation for a city, which assumed a truly metropolitan character.

Unlike many municipalities, Madison experienced rapid growth in its early years. The Merchants Bridge served as the impetus to divert capital from St. Louis to Illinois. The Missouri Car & Foundry was started in 1890. Business development followed immediately. George Latch opened the first saloon, which would become a harbinger of things to come as Madison's houses of ill repute took on a character that would be associated with dens of iniquity. About the

time of the turn of the century, Madison had 68 taverns. An economic slump in 1908 caused much unemployment and reduced the number of saloons to 25, reflecting the economic crunch.

By 1912, the figure was back up to 67, estimated to be one tavern for every 75 residents.

Only about eight families initially lived in Madison; but about 2500 men were soon employed in the various industries. Most of the 2500 took the train back and forth to work each day. The car company erected two long rows of houses to be used as residences for the families of employees. A brick, three-story hotel, the Iron Age, was opened by Pleasant Ward. S.B. Rhodes became a pioneer real estate promoter.[4]

Public services, for which Madison has always been noted, soon followed. By 1894, the village had a hand-drawn fire truck which cost $250. The village hall on Third St. was erected in 1907. The volunteer fire department was reorganized in 1910, with a fire wagon led by two dashing horses substituting for the hand truck. A general sewer system was constructed in 1917 and 1918.

Educational services were expanded. In addition to Harris School, Blair and Dunbar Schools were constructed, the latter in 1905. Dunbar was expanded in 1911. Louis Baer grade school was built in 1922.[5]

Despite efficient services and a sound public school system, Madison took on a character more typically depicted with a frontier atmosphere. Violence--and violent death-- accompanied the birth and infancy of the community. There were numerous reports of suicide, usually by carbolic acid, and shootings and accidental deaths were common in the early days. An early case of strife took place in 1904 when a posse of citizens raided Madison pool rooms in an attempt to rid the city of vices and locations where gambling law violations were alleged to be occurring. Shotguns, revolvers, and Winchester repeaters were carried by the raiders and the crowd at the pool rooms, and over 100 shots were fired. Six men were wounded, and many arrests were made.[6]

Mother Nature also took its' toll on early Madison. The community incurred the wrath of the Mighty Mississippi in the famous Flood of 1903, which submerged much of Madison to a depth of five feet of mud and water. Several levees and railroad embankments broke, forcing many to flee their homes. Some families left by train for Springfield and other areas; some stood on railroad platforms clamoring to be taken to safety. Railroads began running excursions into neighboring Granite City to help citizens escape the flood. Growers and vegetable dealers from the surrounding areas sent out peddlers in rowboats to marooned housewives. Many homes were damaged or destroyed. Refugee camps were erected and national flags were raised designating nationalities--including England, Poland, Hungary, and Italy.[7]

Madison rebuilt from this disaster to become a vital cog in the economy of the growing region of Madison County. The city founders had faith in the future of the village. It was ideally situated within the region with transportation facilities that connected it with surrounding communities. Trains provided it with direct connections to the growing municipality of East St. Louis. It was linked with St. Louis by the Merchants! Bridge and by the new McKinley Bridge which provided electric lines between Venice and north St. Louis.

The village was becoming recognized as a growing force in the St. Louis region. The Madison County Centennial edition of 1912, celebrating the founding of the county in 1812, noted the ties of Madison to the region but also noted its problems. It accurately analyzed Madison:

> "...There is a large foreign element in Madison...and the citizens have serious social and civic problems to solve in the way of amalgamating the heterogeneous population. It is alembic of nations and will be watched with great interest by sociologists."

This analysis also proved to be prophetic as Madison grew along with its sister city, Granite City, which was rapidly mushrooming as a steel town with Granite City Steel to become the "Pittsburgh of the West". Madison would eventually become a bedroom community to Granite

City. Its location between that city and Venice would lead to its nickname as "The Hub of the Tri-Cities".[8]

Churches proved to be a civilizing influence to counter the rough-and-tumble effects of a factory town. Thus Madison became known as the "City of Churches". In modern times Madison seems to have as many churches as saloons. Both have been well attended. The people have seemed to need both to counter the effects of difficult, monotonous, industrial-era employment.

The huge influx of immigrants, especially from Poland, led to the formation of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. In 1912 the Bishop of Springfield Diocese appointed the Reverend William Wozniak as first pastor of the new parish in Madison, because he was familiar with the customs and manners of the Slavic people.[9]

Other churches followed. Madison was at one time the home of the United Hebrew Temple of the Tri-Cities. The Madison Baptist Church was built in 1908. In 1914, the Madison Methodist Church was dedicated. The Nativity of the Virgin Mary Eastern Orthodox Catholic Church was established at 416 Ewing Avenue in 1900. Reflecting the diverse character of the village were the following churches started over the years: St. Mary's Greek Catholic Church, Trinity Tabernacle, the Apostolic Christian-Congregation, Arbor Chapel, Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church, Church of Christ, Church of God, Church of God in Christ, Church of God of Prophecy, Galilee Baptist Church, Gospel Chapel General Baptist Church, Mount Nebo Baptist Church, Polish National Catholic Church, Quinn Mission African Methodist Episcopal Church, Refuge Church, Second General Baptist Church, Southern Baptist Church, and Temple Baptist Church.[10]

EARLY POLITICAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS

The varied origins and backgrounds of the people of Madison was reflected in its' political and business leaders during the early years. These people were the overseers of economic growth and development. Many certainly came to view Madison as a place to stake their fortunes and apply their business acumen to the entrepreneurial spirit that dominated the laissez faire philosophy of the industrial era.[11]

1) FERDINAND GARESCHE--he was born on 12/16/1875, in St. Louis County, Mo. He studied at St. Louis University until he left college for a position with the Missouri Car & Foundry Company. He was first elected as President of the Village Board of Trustees in Nov., 1905, and served in this position until 1937. Among his most important accomplishments were paving four blocks of streets and laying of four miles of sidewalks, building city hall, securing a fire department, and planting 1,500 shade trees. He left a legacy followed by other village presidents and city mayors: that of providing first rate public services for the people, the-constituents of Madison.

2) WILLIAM McMAHON--was a-member of the Board of Trustees, born on 6/6/1874, at Troy, New York. His career led him through various employment until he arrived in Madison where he was employed with the Helmbacher Forge & Rolling Mill Co. as a rougher. His life gave an insight to the early social and working life of Madison as he was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Amalgamated Iron, Steel and Tin Workers of America.

3) HENRY CONNOLE--was editor of the Madison Tribune, the town newspaper, and a member of the Board of Trustees. He was born on 7/26/1871, at Berden, Ill., moved to Carrollton, Ill., and later attended the Normal School at Bushnell, Ill. (Western Ill). After school he taught for eleven years in Greene and Jersey Counties, Ill. His career as a teacher was cut short as he served in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. After coming to Madison to work in the "Car Shops", he became editor of the Madison Tribune.

4) J.J. LAHEY--operated a boarding stable in Madison and served on the Board of Trustees. Mr. Lahey was born in Palmer, Mass., before his family moved to Decatur, Ill. He was an engineer for the Wabash railroad and was a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. He served on the Board of Trustees for 36 years and was a funeral director for Lahey Funeral Home for 39 years.

5) C.L. GIBBS--was a police magistrate and notary public of Madison and was of real New England Yankee stock. He was born on 4/17/1844, in Greenwich, Mass. He was a land agent for the Chicago-Rock Island & Pacific R.R. Co. at Des Moines, Iowa. He migrated to Oswego, Kansas, and Rodgers, Ark., before coming to Madison in 1892, where he was engaged in the real estate business.

6) PATRICK McCAMBRIDGE--was chief of police in Madison and served in that position through the early years of the city. He was born on 7/3/1864 in Bethalto, Ill. He owned considerable property in Madison.

7) W.J. FRANKLIN--was City Attorney of Madison. He was born on 9/1/1871, in Perry County, Ill. He attended Southern Normal School at Carbondale and taught in Clinton County, Ill, before coming to Madison in 1901. He established a precedent for political mobility that was followed by a number of his successors: serving as School Board President, a post which he held for four successive terms prior to becoming City Attorney.

8) GEORGE EVANS--was milk inspector of the village of Madison. He was born on 1/20/1879 at Little Valley, N.Y. He came to Madison in 1902, and associated himself with a Mr. Helfers, doing a general confectionery business and handling among other things: cigars, tobacco, ice cream, stationery and periodicals.

9) WILLIAM TURNBAUGH--street commissioner and plumbing inspector of Madison, was born 12/1/1865, in Pittsfield, Ill. He came to Madison in 1899, and worked for the American Car and Foundry until 1905 when he was appointed street commissioner. He was a member of the school board and owned considerable real estate.

10) J.M. HARLAN--owned a pharmacy that provided an endless assortment of drugs, medicines, toiletries, cigars, soda, perfumes, stationery, and patent medicines. He was born in Greenville, Ill., on 6/30/1854.

11) M.M. MEEHAN--operated a buffet at 3rd and Madison Sts. He was born in Morgan County, Ill., on 6/15/1869 and worked a number of jobs before coming to Madison in 1893 to work at the "car shops", afterward working for Anheuser Busch Brewing Co. in St. Louis. In 1915 he opened a saloon at 3rd & Madison, which grew to include a billiard and pool parlor and a lunch room. He opened another saloon several doors east of the corner of 3rd & Madison. Meehan also served two years as a city councilman.

12) JOHN BUSHELL--operated a buffet at 4th & State Streets. He was born on 4/18/1863 in Macoupin County, Ill. and came to Madison in 1900 to work at the "car shops" before opening his business in 1902.

13) D. FRIEDMAN--operated the Madison Tailoring Company, located in the Hilker Block. He was born on 8/1/1875, in Hungary, and came to the United States in 1891, before locating in Madison in 1895. His business made a specialty of tailor-made clothes, as well as repairing, dyeing, cleaning and pressing.

14) HARRY K. GREVE--operated a hardware store at 5th & Madison Sts., which was originally operated by a Mr. Reinemann. He was born on 8/10/1887 in Raymond, Ill., before buying his hardware store. He originally worked in the store as a clerk.

15) F. DUBINSKY--conducted a general cleaning and dry goods bazaar at 3rd & Madison Sts. He was born on 1/3/1879, in Russia before coming to America in 1888. He was educated in the St. Louis Public Schools and operated a dry goods store in North Venice before opening his store in Madison in 1903.

16) ERNEST HATSCHER & AUGUST MUELLER--were proprietors of the grocery, hay, and feed business of the firm of Hatscher & Mueller, located on 3rd Street. The firm was originally established under the name of Hatscher & Durer in 1898, later it was changed to E. Hatscher, and in 1903 was reorganized under the name of Hatscher & Mueller. Both men appeared to have considerable wealth, operating two stores, besides owning several warehouses in which they stored their large supply of hay and feed. The firm employed about 18 men and was in a position to process their orders promptly. It is believed that their extensive trade was the largest in the St. Louis-Southern Illinois area. Hatscher was born in Oldenburg, Germany in 1869, came to America in 1892, locating in Chicago, before coming to Madison. He was prominent in social and business circles and was vice-president of the Retail Merchants Association.

Mueller was born in Nessenburg, Germany in 1866, emigrating to the United States in 1883. He lived in Quincy for a short time and attended Shurtleff College in Alton before teaching in Madison County, acting as a principal for eight years.

17) THEODORE HARMAN & L.J. HARMAN--were the owners of Harmans' Meat Market, located at 5th St. near Madison Avenue. Theo. Harman was born in Baden, Germany in 1851 and emigrated to the U.S. at age 17 in 1868. He settled down at Waukegon, Ill., where he was a blacksmith. He later traversed across the Midwest, going to Chicago at the time of the Great Chicago Fire, where he remained for two years. Later he went to Green Bay, Wisconsin, and was reported to have walked from there to Indiana. In 1874, he located in Maquoketa, Iowa, and followed the teaming business until 1880. After a short period of farming, he went into the saloon business in Brown Station, Iowa, and Davenport, Iowa. On 12/12/1906, Mr. Harman came to Madison and started the butcher business with his son as a partner.

18) GEORGE E. COUDY & WILLIAM J. COUDY--were perhaps the most successful of all early Madison entrepreneurs, operating the firm of Coudy Bros., dealers in lumber, builders' hardware, and paints. They were the first firm established in Madison and took advantage of its' early growth, locating in 1888, before the Merchants Bridge was opened for traffic. They saw the potential for development of Madison, consisting at that time of a vast corn field and two houses scattered over a large tract of land. The third house built in the city was erected by W.J. Coudy, who cleared off a portion of the corn field to make room for the dwelling. It was located on State Street opposite the Terminal Railway Depot. George Coudy was the first postmaster of Madison, who for lack of a building in which to locate a post office, carried the mail on his person. In the early days the Coudy Bros. engaged in the real estate and construction business, putting up a large number of houses, selling them on monthly payments, thereby giving the laboring class a chance to gain possession-of a home.

In 1914 the Coudy Bros. started their lumber and hardware business on 2nd St. between State S.E. & Madison Avenue. Although their plant was twice destroyed by fire, they were able to rebuild and prosper in their business which was engaged in transactions that amounted to $40,000 per year by 1924. The firm employed seven people and engaged in furnishing material for houses erected by the laboring class, allowing them to pay on monthly terms.

They also rented over 30 homes but made provisions for working men to build his own dwelling and stop paying rent.

They also were very active in political affairs and worked to improve the conditions of Madisonians. They knew that the gambling houses and saloons took money out of the pockets of the working man and lessened the probability that she laborers would one day own a home of their own. Consequently, they joined the Madison Good Government League, which worked to rid the community from the degrading influences of the gambling and racetrack men. Failing to get the proper protection on the part of the state and county authorities (which more will be said about later) the Good Government people made up an armed posse and routed the lawbreakers.

George Coudy was president of the organization and was born in St. Louis in 1866, where his father was in the contracting business. As a young man he lost a leg and an arm in a railroad accident, crippling him physically, but not mentally, for life. He was considered a business hustler with a clear sense of business principles. Both brothers were engaged in the cattle business in Southwest Missouri before coming to Madison. Both were wealthy enough to own homes located away from early Madison, George owning a beautiful home on Edwardsville Road, and William living in Granite City. They later expanded their business operation to Granite City.

ENDNOTES

1. A View of the Lead Mines of Missouri, by Henri R. Schoolcraft, Arms Press New York Times Co., (1972), New York, 48

2. 75th Anniversary Program--"Madison Throughout the Years," by Austin Lewis, (1966)

3. Granite City Press-Record: "Granite City Progress Edition, (1924), 1

4. 75th Anniversary Edition--"Madison Throughout the Years"

5. Granite City Press-Record--"Madison Diamond Jubilee Edition," June, 1966

6. Ibid, early-life section

7. Ibid, 1903 flood section

3. Centennial History of Madison County, 1812-1912, by Norton, published by Madison County, (1912), 578

9. History of St. Mary's Parish, published by St. Mary's Church, (1954).

10. Granite City Press-Record: "Granite City Progress Edition"

11. Ibid, early leaders section

SOCIAL LIFE IN MADISON

Madison in the infancy of its early years depicted a frontier toughness and lawlessness that more closely epitomized the mythical frontier west than the more cultured, urbane, metropolitan city of the 20th Century. There were many hazards in addition to the saloons and gambling houses. Runaway horses presented a hazard, there were stabbings, horsewhippings, street car fatalities, plant injuries, electrocutions, drownings, labor riots, payroll holdups, highway robberies, falls from viaducts, and safe lootings.[1]

Disease from diphtheria, cholera, and lockjaw was an often too common malady. A report of diphtheria led to the home of Earl Skeen being quarantined in 1903.[2] A peculiar kind of epidemic was reported during the fall of that year in which several children died. Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Hindle and C.A. Lyles lost their young sons from the disease. Physicians were at a loss to understand it or its origins.[3] Many baby deaths in the early years were attributed to cholera infantum, and older persons died of lockjaw and blood poisoning.[4]

Carrying of guns was a typical practice and guns were so handy that arguments often turned into murders. Newspapers often carried reports of fights between workers, between various ethnic cliques, and within families. The stress of an impoverished life in a factory town was undoubtedly a cause of the friction that it produced.[5]

Natural disasters took their toll and inflicted their wrath upon early Madison. In addition to the Great Flood of 1903, the town was also hit by a tornado in August of 1904. In East Madison Mrs. Frank Beal was killed by the tornado and the Beal home was destroyed; the Interstate Cooperage Company's plant at Madison was badly damaged and one man was killed.[6]

Bank robberies were also a commonplace occurrence. The Tri-City State Bank was hit in 1918 and again in 1922. In the former, a trio of robbers locked Cashier Robert Studebaker and four others in the bank vault. The bank was robbed again in 1924 by three men who fled under a volley of shots. The Union Trust company was pilfered by perhaps the same trio only seven days later. The First National Bank followed its predecessors by being robbed in 1930 and again in 1931.

Reports of white slave traffic indicate a futility of a working-class existence for some Madisonians. It was a phenomenon that was characteristic of the larger cities of urban-industrial America. Teenage girls were the most likely victims. They were reported previously engaged in miserly occupations such as being an inmate of the county poor farm or working as restaurant waitresses.[8]

Life was not all a grim existence, however, as segments of the community proved that they knew how to throw a good party. A celebrated wedding took place in 1907 that attests to the changing ethnic character of Madison. Miss Mary Petrovo, a 17 year old Grecian "queen" in the Bulgarian community, was wed to John Boneff, a 32 year old Madison businessman, at the Russian Orthodox Church. It was estimated at that time that between 1000 and 1500 Bulgarians resided in Madison. After the marriage ceremony, about 500 Bulgarians and 150 Americans attended a reception at Boneff's Hall. The wedding itself was attended by over 1000 people. The wedding procession was over a mile long and was led by a carriage drawn by a snow white horse. There were 68 carriages in the cortege, and were followed by over 1000 people on foot. The fifteen carriages leading the procession were also drawn by white horses and decorated in wedding colors with long white ribbons streaming from each. The groom was a successful businessman

who had opened up a business in the recently erected business district at 14th and Madison Avenue where the hall for the wedding banquet was located.[9]

Another group of Madisonians proved themselves to be very risque by the standards of the early 20th Century. These people threw a Halloween pajama party in 1911 that gained the attention of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. The mixed party of men and women clad only in pajamas played "kissing games" as part of their festivities. The party was given at the home of Mrs. R.G. Engelmann at 1437 Third St. All over Madison the propriety of the mixed event was debated. The guests reportedly frolicked without giving a care for what the neighbors might think. There were married couples, sweethearts, maids and matrons in attendance. Jack-o-lanterns were lit. Giggles of embarrassment were reported when the men and women saw one another in their strange attire. It was also said that the greatest array of boudoir toilets was seen in Madison that night as well as pajamas of every known color and shade.[10]

MADISON DURING WORLD WAR I

Madison had an active participation in World War I. The sympathies of most Madisonians was solidly on the side of the Allies, particularly as a .result of its large and growing population of Slavic descendants. Their interests were in seeing their homelands in Eastern Europe freed from the threat of Germany and Austria-Hungary. With many Serbians, Croatians, and Bulgarians numbered among the population of Madison, the international conflict became for many Madisonians a war of liberation. However, there developed a group in the Tri-Cities, made up primarily of Germanic descendants, that cautioned against anti-German hysteria. Several Madisonians were included in their ranks.

The following is a partial list of Madison residents who served in the war. It is indicative of the ethnic mix of Madison by the time of the first world conflict. They include:[11]

Leo Alexander
Steve Barbick
Alpha Bolin
Jos. Carty
Anthony Conroy
Stanley Dixon
J.M. Fresham
Jakob Grabowski
Henry Hurbig
Dr. M. Hamm
Wm. Jackson
Oliver Kellano
Marko Kovaevic
Bert Krumanocker
Alex Kvatatakkoski
Frank Mance
Harry McCambridge
George Newton, Jr.
John Paskus
John Plamez
Jos. Baker
Leonard Barbour
J. Boran
Harvey Clark
Frank Diefski
Alex Dobrowolski
Felig Geneff
Wm. Grafske
Sidney Harper
Wm. Hill
Geo. Jaroszewske
Rex Keller
Sam Kowalczyk
Benj. Kurmann
Patrick Lively
Slava Mance
Eliza Milkovic
Wladjalov Nizinski
Sidney Pitts
John Planic
Joe Barliza
J.W. Bergrath
John Cain
Fred Clay
Ray Dishong
Louis Doman
Walt Glennville
Henry Gullic
Wm. Harris
Wuka Ivanich
Amos Kasevene
Ross Key
August Koyak
L.J. Luttel
Ignacy Milowski
Harry Owen
Wm. Phillips
Tony Pswinski
Wm. M. Putnam
Lawmen Reynolds
Harry Scott
Elles Shepard
Robert Story
High Wheeler
Fred Wood
Louis Zivodas

W. Rakestraw
Kozmac Rozycke
John Sebel
Basil Snider
Jas. Thompson
Hy Wilson
C.R. Wright
Mike Zowsa
Joe Rapalodies
Tony Sararo
Wm. Shea
Albert Stegmann
Chas. Ulanski
Frank Womack
Adam Zabatka
Ed Ykupchik

Madisonians not involved in the fighting were very patriotic in supporting the war effort. City hall served as something of a processing station for new recruits and inductees. The town vigorously supported the Liberty Loan campaign to help finance the cost of the conflict. A parade was held that ran through the town starting at Eighth and Madison Avenue, then marched north to Fourteenth Street and over to State Street, before heading down State to Market and in to Venice. After a tour through Venice the parade disbanded at the Madison airdome, where public speaking was held. The turnout was reported to be very large with every organization participating.[12]

Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, touched off a massive celebration throughout Madison and the Tri-Cities. The festivities started about 3:00 P.M. and lasted until past midnight. Merriment was the theme of the day as street scenes were a display of parades, flags, and noise makers. In an attempt to preserve order, the rare occasion of closing the bars was deemed necessary. Only once before was such action taken, because of fear of race riots as a result of rumors that blacks were going to take over the town during the East St. Louis race riots of 1917. Unruly crowds led to the bars being closed for Armistice Day.[13]

Nevertheless, Madison still had a good time. A small crowd from the AmeriCan Car and Foundry plant at Madison made a trip to Granite City by rolling a big car wheel all the way to that city and back.

The "car shops" were kept quite busy during the war. Workers held steady jobs producing needed equipment for the European conflagration. The American Car and Foundry Co. was awarded a contract to build 30,000 box and coal cars for the Railroad Administration. Although initially closed in early years of the war as a result of government control of the railroads, the contract put the Madison plant on 24-hour shifts to fill the contract. The Railroad Administration, in awarding the contract, specified that extra shifts of men must be employed in order to make the cars available by the winter of 1918-1919.[14]

MADISON DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Madison was not immune to the problems faced by the nation as a result of the Great Depression. Since the crash of 1929 greatly affected industrial communities, the difficulties in Madison proved to be, quite acute. By the 1930's Madison had grown to a population of 7,661. During the 1920's there had been steady employment for the workers, but in 1930, it was reported that a person could look in any direction and not see a wisp of smoke from any industry. The American Car and Foundry Company, Madison's first established industry, closed its doors permanently. Communities that were among the first to suffer from the depression were among the last to recover from its tragic effects.[15]

Madison attempted to deal with the problems brought on by the Great Depression by participating in the New Deal programs of President Franklin Roosevelt. An organization of citizens' committees for the purpose of sponsoring the National Recovery Administration (NRA) programs was formed by a group of prominent Madison business men in 1933. The initial movement in Madison was sponsored by the Rotary Club, which was advised to take steps to form a citizen's committee. B. Hohlt, president of the Rotary Club, appointed E.A. Friedman as chairman of the committee delegated to initiate the campaign. Hohlt was elected General in charge of the committee and Mrs. Ralph Johns was elected Lieutenant-General. Frank Hill; Jr. was chosen as Secretary.

Members of the advisory committee in addition to these were C.O. Shumway, J.J. Lahey, Morris Glick, Judge Henry Connole, Mayor Ferdinand Garesche, Mrs. Henry Connole, Henry Connole, Mrs. Dora Ashley, Mrs. Alex Lybarger, Dr. C.R. Kiser, Rev. Wm. Bohn, Father George Kenney,

John McElwain, Joseph Grenzer, and two African-Americans, William Jones and the Rev. Richard Raspberry.[16]

A large parade was held several weeks later with the purpose of drumming up support for the NRA. Approximately 5,000 persons, most of them riding in floats, trucks, and automobiles, participated in the event. It was estimated that 500 vehicles took part in the procession, which required an hour and 20 minutes in order to pass a given point. The parade formed at 14th and Madison Avenue, traveled south on Madison Avenue to Third Street where it turned east,.. disbanding at Madison High School.

After the parade an estimated crowd of 800 people gathered in the gymnasium of the high school for the speaking program. Mayor. Garesche introduced R.E. Hohlt, who in turn introduced the Rotary Club committee in charge of supervising the campaign. Mrs. Ralph Johns, under whose direction a corps of 50 women workers had passed out 1,500 cards, was introduced to the crowd. The purpose of the cards was to conduct a house-to-house canvass to secure statistics on unemployment and to urge the people to "Buy Now" from NRA stores. General Hohlt stated that over 99 per cent of the Madison stores had signed up with the NRA. These efforts were badly needed by the 919 families in Madison on relief rolls during the Great Depression.[17]

Life was very bleak for these people. While a sense of hopelessness and despair was not yet the order of the day, for many Madisonians the era was one of drudgery and limited opportunity. A Master's Thesis from Washington University in St. Louis, written by Madison School Superintendent E.W. Heob in 1935, described the pervading sense of lack of fortune in Madison:[18]

"Here, as elsewhere, the large family is no longer considered an asset by the parents, who formerly depended upon the older children for a large amount of the income. Today, these same

parents are telling the younger members of the family, those of working age, that they must provide for themselves. As a result boys leave home, with little or no money and start looking for work. Some hitchhike, others ride freight trains. One has only to go to some convenient railroad crossing, and watch the groups of boys of high school age, learning the practices of idleness that will, in years to come, cost the people much more than if these boys had been kept in school. Examples may be given of girls and boys, some not of high school mentality, who secure parental consent and are married, knowing that state or county relief is given more readily to a married couple than to the same children in the families."

In order to relieve suffering caused by the Great Depression, Madisonians came to the aid of those less fortunate. A Madison Relief Association was formed in 1931 to provide food and fuel for the poor. The wholesale purchase of these items was arranged through the cooperation of the Relief Association with local grocers and supply houses. Pearl Smith was the purchasing agent for the Relief Association. A total of 497 families representing 1,907 residents was provided with the necessities of life in 1931 through the cooperative effort. The following quantities of items were bought and distributed by the relief organization:

baking powder--350 cans
beans--1,370 pounds
carrots--345 bushels
coal--1,115 tons
corn meal--12,770 pounds
flour--22,610 pounds
lard--2,920 pounds
macaroni--1,390 pounds
meat--5,411 pounds
onions--9,765 pounds
potatoes--502 bushels
rolled oats--3,060 pounds
rutabagas--115 bushels
salt--350 boxes
shoes--$103.60
soap--2,239 bars
spaghetti--3,598 pounds
tomatoes--1,197 cans
turnips--174 bushels

Many residents of Madison showed their appreciation for the relief efforts. West Madison, in particular, showed their gratitude by volunteering to clean the residential section if provided with trucks and shovels. In a two day period they cleaned Newport spic-and-span, including the streets, sidewalks, vacant lots, and their own yards. The black residents of Madison were appreciative of the support for the self-help project that they undertook.

The volunteer spirit of the Madison Relief Association was able to raise funds from a variety of sources. A financial statement from November 20, 1930 until the 1st of April, 1931, shows the sources of these receipts:[19]

Individuals	$720.96
Organizations	47.25
Business Firms	557.00
Corporations	4,300.00
Madison Police Department	251.60
Hollywood Club	473.20
Madison Theatre Benefit	83.25
Benefit Lotto Party	14.25
Madison Benefit Dance	141.00
	$6,588.51

The executive committee of the Madison Relief Association consisted of the following people:

Mrs. Robert Dron--in charge of canvassing funds

Morris Glik--in charge of purchases

Joseph Kula--in charge of investigation of needy families

Fred Bonville--in charge of social activities and entertainment, fund raising, and medical attention and nursing

MADISON DURING WORLD WAR II

Tensions in Europe during the late 1930's and early 1940's provided a great source of consternation for many Madisonians. Events in their ancestral homelands of Eastern Europe, particularly Poland and Czechoslovakia, were watched with concern. Having just endured a local election in 1939, in which one party depicted the other as using Hitler-like tactics, only highlighted the awareness of many people in the newly-organized city.

The Golden Jubilee of Madison offered a respite from the carnage taking place in Europe. A Golden Jubilee Committee was formed to plan for the festivities. It consisted of Mayor Robert Dron, Bruce Champion, E.F. Wagner, J.R. Alcott, E.A. Friedman, Steve Maeras, Ralph Johns, Austin Lewis, and Francis Lahey.

The committee went all out and spared no expense in order to make the show a spectacular one. A number of bands were hired for dancing enthusiasts, an exposition by merchants, and a large circus were all part of the extravaganza. The exposition was housed in a huge tent 340 feet in length. The circus, which consisted of 10 headline acts, was staged in an open-air amphitheater. A trapeze equilibrist performed with members of a troupe. A team of comedy jugglers was a special attraction as was a tightrope walker.[20]

The very serious side of Madison was shown in the formation of the Madison War Council in 1943 to help aid with the war effort. Programs were designed to mobilize the city for the purpose of salvaging of materials, consumer service, transportation, nutrition, child care, War Bond Sales, and Civilian Defense.[21]

The Madison Public Schools did their part in supporting the community and the nation during the international fracas. Many women worked in factories to provide steel and armaments for the war. As a result the school district opened four nursery schools to aid mothers working in plants in war related industries.[22]

The military took strong action to protect its personnel from the vices of Madison taverns during the war. The Granite City Army Depot was located on the western edge of Granite City, less than two miles from the Madison city limits. The taverns had been declared off-limits and "out-of-bounds" to members of the armed forces. The ban was later rescinded.[23]

After the war Madison established a post-war planning commission to deal with the conversion back to peacetime production. The city was attempting to look ahead by looking backwards. The difficulties of other communities after World War I was cited as a need for the commission.[24]

MADISON IN THE 1950'S

Madison during the 1950's did not quite resemble Norman Rockwell's America as depicted in the Saturday Evening Post. Nevertheless, the city reached stability and maturity during the relatively quiet years of President Eisenhower. The city initiated a number of programs designed to provide needed services for the community.

A juvenile bureau was established to prevent teenagers from getting into serious trouble with the law. The basic goal of the bureau was to detect early symptoms of delinquency and to take effective action to eliminate the tendencies, before the individual could begin a life of crime. A special youth officer, in conjunction with the police department, coordinated activities and counseling sessions with the youth.

Youth crime consisted primarily of theft, vandalism, disorderly conduct, peace disturbance, and truancy. By the late 1950's, charges for these offenses numbered approximately one hundred per year.[25]

A teen town was established in the late 1940's and was operated successfully throughout the 1950's. The Memorial Recreation Center was the meeting place for activities three nights per week. Music and dancing were the centerpiece of these meetings along with social activities.[26]

Madison also constructed the first community outdoor swimming pool in the history of the city during the early 1950's. The years of operation for the pool were short in duration, however, as the pool was closed in the late 1950's after only seven or eight years of operation.

The closing of the pool was a reflection of the changing climate of race relations in America and Madison during the 1950'8. The civil rights movement was just beginning to come to the fore of

American politics and the public consciousness. Veteran Madisonians have told how the pool was closed rather than deal with the complex questions of integration and accommodation in public facilities. The pool remained an open and cracking eyesore throughout the 1960's. It was eventually filled in with dirt until tennis courts were built on the same grounds in the 1970's. However, burying the pool and removing the eyesore did not render out-of-sight, out-of-mind the problems of race relations within the community. The 1960's would prove to be a strenuous period for Madison as it was forced to deal with the hypersensitive questions of race. This proved to be very true in the schools. A chapter on the schools will look at this issue in more detail.

ETHNIC GROUPS IN MADISON

Madison has always had a very rich ethnic heritage. This was true at its birth and remains true through its centennial birthday. Thus it was an apropos description when Madison was dubbed the "Babel of Illinois" in metropolitan newspapers almost a century ago. That moniker was given to the community in 1908, when it was written that 42 different dialects were spoken in the village. Madison proudly retains that-ethnic heritage today.

Today, the town is more homogeneous, but still is noted for its unusual churches, varied neighborhoods, and European customs and festivals. A visitor can still go to the Polish Hall on a Sunday afternoon and partake in a polka dance festival, or to the Croatian Home and see the Tamburitza's perform, ethnic dances. Ethnic churches, such as the Holy Trinity Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church, Nativity of the Virgin Mary-Russian Orthodox Church, Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church, and Our Lady of Czestechowa-St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church.

A great influx of immigrants came to America to work at the American Car and Foundry Co., where wooden railroad cars were manufactured at what became known as the "car shops". By 1910, more than 3,000 people had come to Madison to live and work in the booming industries. Most of the new residents were immigrants from Eastern Europe. They settled in their own neighborhoods and built churches similar to those in Europe. Many of these people spoke no English and would answer "car shops" to any questions they were asked, since these were the only two words they learned because most of them worked in the shops.[27] Some came to work in the packing houses of East St. Louis. Names were often Americanized in order to get into the

country. Many came for political freedom, particularly Poles that came to escape King Franz Joseph of Austria.[28]

The community reflected the ethnic character of these people as the neighborhoods were homogeneous and segregated from one another. For reasons of support, trust, economics, and social comfort, these immigrants tended to settle among their own kind. This accounted for Madison having different ethnic neighborhoods, all within a small village.

The area along State Street, Washington Avenue, and Iowa Streets was inhabited primarily by Bulgarians and Macedonians; Romanians and Croatians lived on Grand Avenue; East Madison along Edwardsville Road, Reynolds Street, and Greenwood Avenue provided the abode for Slavs and Poles; Russians and Lithuanians lived in the same neighborhoods; while Czechs, Yugoslavians, Hungarians, and Mexicans tended to live in north Madison; finally, African-Americans were very segregated from the rest of Madison, living in West Madison-Newport.[29]

Some of these neighborhoods developed their own commerce in the form of mom-and-pop stores that serviced the ethnic community. An example of this was the Polish neighborhood along a four block area of Greenwood Street, where there were stores that were family owned and invested. These stores reflected the ethnic character of the hamlet with their names: Karpowicz, Owca, Sobeleski, and Zolner.[30]

Madison was a microcosm of the "melting pot" as reflected in the American Dream and the hope for a better life. For many it took two or three generations of working in the mills before the grandchildren, perhaps, had a chance to go to college and attain a professional, white-collar status. Others found it by servicing their communities, such as in the neighborhood stores and

markets. For many of these people family, church, and community were the corner-stones of their life.

A good example of this was in the Bulgarian community. A dedication of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church in 1929 listed leaders in their community, many of whom later rose to positions of prominence and power in Madison. The members of the Church board included names such as Tonkoff, Nenoff, D. Evanoff, John Kirkoff, P. Koseff, S. Shipcoff, O. Simeonoff, Boshkoff, Deneff, C. Veshuroff, D. Lazaroff, L. Goushleff, N. Poposky, D. Rounchoff, and L. Evanoff.

Members of the Finance Committee were successful businessmen. These included A.V. Andreoff, Cashier of the Union Trust Co., Christ Louis, proprietor of the Madison Coal and Feed Co., Dr. G.E. Gitchoff, Dentist, Boshkoff, a proprietor of a restaurant, Veshuroff, a proprietor of a dry goods store, D. Vasileff, proprietor of the Madison Restaurant, Markovsky, proprietor of a grocery and meat market, Popovsky, proprietor of Standard Calender Co., D. Lazaroff, owner of a dry goods store, Naum Belcoff, owner of Belcoff and Staycoff Grocery Co., Naum Lazaroff of Lazaroff General Store, and store owners by the names of Nicola, Evangeloff, Nicoloff, and Todoroff. T. Deneff was a general contractor in Madison and a man by the name of Nicoloff owned Sunlight Bakery in East St. Louis.[31]

These men, and others from various ethnic groups, came to Madison in search of the American Dream. At the least, most of them made life better for those who followed. Through hard work and loyalty to family, many of these made it possible for their children or grandchildren to move up the economic ladder in the American economic system.

One group that was not large in numbers but important to the development of Madison were the Jewish people. Many of these people came to Madison before World War I from Austria-Hungary, Russia, and Poland. Many were first generation immigrants. A number of them were very successful in commercial and retail endeavors within the community. Among these were Herman Schermer, whose sons Leo, Avery, and Stan operated Shermer's Supermarket at Twelfth and Madison Avenue. It remains Madison's only supermarket in 1991. Others were E.A. Friedman, proprietor of Friedman's Hardware at Fifth and Madison: Joseph Glik, founder of Glik's Clothing at Third and Madison; and Francis Nornberg operator of Nornberg's Clothing on Madison Avenue between Third and Fourth Streets. Glik's in Madison no longer is open although Glik's operates a successful clothing chain of stores in the Metro-East area of St. Louis. Nornberg's remains in operation today.

Most of the Jewish families lived on Third and Fourth Streets. Among the families on Fourth Street were those of Herman Steinberg, Friedman, Morton Kuenstler, Schermer, Lewis Levy, Jake Rosch, and the Nornbergs. On Third Street were the Harry and Meyer Weisman, and Wolf Diamond. Fifth Street was the home of Ignace Weiss and Joseph Friedman. A few Jewish families lived on State Street, including Walter Blumenfield and Joseph Glik.[32]

Madison became the home of a very attractive United Hebrew Congregation and Community Center Building at 1538 Fourth Street in 1935. The dedication ceremony for the building constituted one of the largest gatherings of Jewish people in Southern Illinois history. The new temple was the culmination of a twenty year dream held by seven men. They spent many an evening as far back as 1915 planning a building to house Jewish activities in the Tri-Cities.

When the project was first discussed, there were not enough Jewish families to justify the building. Undaunted, the men raised enough money to buy the land and build the temple. In 1932 they finally began to see their dream realized. A cornerstone was laid in 1933 before a crowd of 1500 onlookers. Work was completed in 1935.[33]

The officers of the United Hebrew Congregation were I.S. Eisen, President; Meyer Weisman, Vice-President; Charles Steinger, Treasurer; and Ignace Weiss, Secretary.

The synagogue was sold in the 1950's as the Jewish population in the Metro-East eventually declined and more of its members moved to St. Louis City and County.

A group that traditionally fared less well were blacks. Most have lived in the West Madison section of Newport. Today the Garesche and Grenzer public housing projects in Madison are completely inhabited by blacks. A few have sporadically moved into the white, traditionally ethnic sections of Madison. However, unlike neighboring Venice, East St. Louis, and Washington Park, there has been no mass migration of "white flight" from Madison as blacks have moved from "across the tracks."

The schools, as mentioned in another section, have always been a focal point of difference between the races. George Smith, the first black college graduate from Madison, pointed out several disparities between the races in the school system. He laid the groundwork for getting Dunbar School accredited. During the 1930's it lacked this recognition. By founding programs in business education, foreign language, and Negro history, Smith was able to help the school achieve accreditation in 1944.[34]

The black community of Newport was the scene of a major fire in 1943 that left twenty-seven families homeless. The conflagration swept an entire city block, destroying fifteen small cottages

and gutting Mt. Nebo Baptist Church. High winds damaged another six cottages as it was feared for a while that the entire section of the black community would be damaged. Four engine companies, including two from Venice, and one each from Madison and Granite City, responded to put out the fire. The Madison Canteen Service of the Red Cross set up temporary shelter for the homeless families in the Dunbar School-building. Cots and bedding were obtained from the Madison Civilian Defense Council as the community responded to the crisis.[35]

MADISON DEMOGRAPHICS

Population growth and decline in Madison has reflected that of an average human lifecycle. The village experienced an early period of rapid growth from uninhabited farmland to a quickly-growing city. From its founding in 1891 the village reached a population of 5,047 people in 1910.

During the period of World War I, a slight population decline was experienced, as in the rest of America, because of the war in Europe. In 1920 the population was 4,996. The prosperity of the "Roaring 20's' showed another Spurt in Madison's growth as its inhabitants reached a total of 7,661. Of these, 944 were native born white families, 623 were foreign-born white families, with a black population of 292.

Modest growth was maintained throughout the 1930's and 1940's as the population peaked at 7,963 in 1950, Madison's stage of maturity and adulthood. There was slight aging in the 1950's as the number of residents declined in 1960 to 6,861. Further loss occurred with school problems as the population declined to 6,285 by 1970. With the loss of industrial and factory employment during the recession of 1970's, there was less opportunity for blue collar employment. Plants such as Dow, Laclede Steel, and A.O. Smith in the Tri-Cities closed their doors either temporarily or permanently. Bruce Springsteen's ballad of "My Home Town," was apropos to the Madison of the 1970's and 1980's as the population according to the 1990 census showed a total of 4,629. Aging was a contributing factor in the decline from a total population of 5,302 in 1980, a loss of 12.7%.[36]

MADISON SCHOOLS

The Madison School system has had a long history, in some cases very proud, in others very controversial. The schools that have serviced the children of Madison were named after several prominent people. The first high school building was named after W.T. Harris, who was a prominent St. Louis educator. He later assumed educational duties in Washington. The name was suggested by teachers at the high school and approved by the board in 1910.

Blair School in West Madison was named after the State Superintendent of Schools. Blair's name was presented by the teachers of the school.

Dunbar School was originally the school for African-American students and was located in the black section of Newport. It received its name after Paul L. Dunbar, the black poet and orator, who wrote many poems. The name was suggested by instructors in the building.

Louis Baer Elementary School was named after the first Madison Superintendent of Schools. The building was dedicated in 1922.[37]

The Madison Public School System throughout the years has served an important role in providing upward mobility for students in an urban-industrial environment. For many of its early years the schools were a main source for socialization of immigrant children in providing course work in the English language and writing. It also provided a curriculum that emphasized the vocational skills necessary for entry into working class employment.

A Master's Thesis by former Superintendent E.W. Heob, on the subject "Curriculum Needs in the Small Industrial Community," pointed out this emphasis. After making a survey of curricula used in other industrial situations, Heob concluded with a chapter of "Important Factors in the School

Program of Madison, Ill." Heob pointed out that many homes were not attractive to the children and that the school, the library, the playground, and the streets have a greater ,appeal. With this in mind, Heob emphasized, leisure time and health were given much time in the Madison school curriculum. This would help to explain why the basketball team is so much a focal point for the citizens and students of Madison schools. Heob stated that:

"Economic considerations do not permit careful medical attention, and the result is that doctors and dentists are consulted only in serious cases. This neglect causes a great number of children to be absent from school and many of those in attendance are often too ill to do work. Teachers are obliged to act in the capacity of nurses."

Health instruction emphasized personal hygiene and sanitation. Other areas of emphasis included a science program that included health instruction, along with general science, biology, chemistry, and physics. A special priority was put on community needs.

Physical education in the elementary schools, interscholastic competition in which all students were given an opportunity to play, and athletic competition with other schools were important. Stress was placed upon those activities that kept children interested in school because the tendency was to drop out of school early if the school life was not made attractive. Heob felt that the lack of providing for proper recreation caused many young people to form habits that led to serious troubles later in life. According to Heob, "The Madison community is paying for this neglect and at present the schools are doing many things out of the classroom that are molding character and developing a much higher type of citizenship."

Classes in adult education were offered by the Madison School District during the 1930's to meet the needs of students that had dropped out. Heob enunciated that these were of greater interest to black students than to whites.

Home Management courses were of importance and emphasized the following: home relations, home decoration, home management, and home planning. Much stress was placed upon art appreciation, costuming, infant care, sex hygiene, managing the family income, food marketing, preparation and service of food, and clothing selection.

The teaching of commercial subjects reflected the needs of a small industrial community. Typewriting, shorthand, bookkeeping, mathematics, general business training, commercial arithmetic, and commercial law were examples. Business training supplied training in insurance, transportation, and communication.[38]

The accent on vocational, home, industrial education, and athletics has been the model for the educational system for the greater part of the history of the Madison School System. However, in recent years, under the leadership of Superintendent Dan Kostencki and high school Principal Bob Mehelic, there has been a change toward more of an emphasis on academics. Athletes must now undergo weekly reports and meet higher standards in order to remain eligible. Madison is attempting to go back to its pinnacle days of the 1950's-1970's, when students were geared more toward a college prep curriculum. During these years the schools provided training for upward mobility in the form of a more rigorous program that offered classes in foreign languages such as Latin, French, Russian, and Spanish, as well as traditional science and math classes. An accelerated curriculum in the humanities was started for gifted students. Many Madison High School graduates went on during these years to excel in positions such as law, science, medicine, and education.

However, many students still fell through the cracks of academia. In 1960, Madison's median school years completed was 8.4, significantly lower than the major communities of Madison

County, the state, and the nation. During these years Madison also suffered a "brain drain" as persons possessing higher levels of education left the community. A significant decline occurred in the number of residents who were employed in the categories of professional, managerial, and clerical. This has left behind an increasing number of students that would be described as part of the "underclass" of America, those less likely to succeed and excel in the educational process.[39]

By the 1980's the Madison Public Schools fell on hard times academically. In 1990, 60% of Madison students were from minority families. The graduation rate was only 46%, compared to the state average of 78%. Only 21% of students took the A.C.T., vs. 50% statewide. Those that did take the test, however, scored slightly below the state average with a 17.0 score, compared with a state score of 19.5.[40]

Superintendent Kostencki and Principal Mehelic are diligently working to rectify the situation.

MADISON SCHOOLS DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Madison Schools epitomized the difficulties and hardships of the Great Depression. Teachers, employees, and other creditors of the school district were caught in a dilemma of possessing "rubber checks."

In 1932 it was estimated that the monthly expense of the Madison schools was $11,000. The district had failed to produce that amount, which meant that teachers and creditors received uncashable checks over a six month fiscal period in that year. The district failed to produce the money after "losing it" with the closing of the Tri-City State Bank in 1930. The same predicament was faced by elementary teachers in the Granite City School District. There the situation was more acute, with many teachers holding as many as nine checks, representing a year's work, which they were unable to dispose of or get cashed.

Early in 1932, the Madison Board of Education borrowed $40,000 against 1933 taxes. Because of the enormous tax delinquencies, further credit was halted, which meant that future tax collections would not be nearly enough to pay off the $40,000 issued in anticipation warrants plus the "rubber checks" which were issued by the close of the school year.[41]

It was one year before teachers and employees were able to cash their checks in November, 1933. Payment of the salaries was financed through the sale of $20,000 worth of tax anticipation warrants to the First Granite City National Bank. After the employees cashed their checks, the balance of the sum was used to pay other creditors. The loan was made by the bank to enable the school district to meet current obligations, which had fallen two months in arrears, while the district awaited an opinion from a Chicago legal firm as to how much the schools could borrow

on tax anticipation warrants for the rest of the year. Many teachers were given a half hour recess in order to cash their checks at the bank.[42]

POLITICS AND THE SCHOOLS

The Madison school system has always been a focal point of politics. Numerous city officials, including two mayors, have served apprenticeships on the school board. The very lucrative political patronage in school district jobs was an inducement to gain political strength.

An example of this power was a new rule of eligibility for employment adopted by the board in 1939. Beginning in the fall of that year, every person employed by the board had to be a bonafide resident of the school district during the time of his or her employment. This rule would allow the board to control votes and jobs, not an uncommon practice.for many years in the district.

Another new rule provided for the immediate dismissal of any female teacher that married during the time she was employed.[43]

SCHOOL STRIKE OF 1935

Madison was the scene of one of the first school strikes in the nation in May, 1935. In a very conservative era, unlike the 1960's, this was very unusual. The issue that brought on the strike may have actually been political. Turmoil over the schools was the result.

The incident that ignited the strike was the firing of Madison School Superintendent E.W. Heob by the Board of Education. Heob had served as Superintendent for seven years and had proved to be quite popular. A special session of the board was called and Heob was voted out by a 4-3 vote. The deciding vote was cast against Heob by Board President Dr. R.A. Marshall.

Marshall had been a candidate for Mayor vs. Ferdinand Garesche in the April, 1935, just one month prior to the dismissal of Heob. Politics may have been the underlying motive in the firing, although Dr. Marshall argued that the grade schools had been managed inefficiently and that considerable improvement could have been made. According to Dr. Marshall "Many things occur during the school year that you know nothing about." In addition, Madison High School Principal S.M. Sprout was not re-employed.

Madison citizens and high school students began circulating petitions for presentation to the board, requesting reconsideration of the discharge of Superintendent Heob. At a meeting with the board, several students began to organize a student strike. Accusations were made against President Marshall that his dismissal of Heob was based on political reasons, the payment of a political debt, incurred by Marshall in his race for village president.[44]

The students went out on strike on May 14, 1935, carrying signs saying "Heob or Hell;" and "No Heob, No Books." Many prominent athletes and students took part. A parade of support for Heob

was led by the high school band. Marshall still insisted that the district needed a more progressive man.[45]

By the 16th of May, over 2,000 signatures were presented on a petition to Dr. Marshall in support of Heob. A boycott of the high school led to only three students in attendance out of an enrollment of 312. Almost 1,000 grade school students were kept out by the parents in support of the strike. However, only a few black students at the Dunbar School joined the movement.

Emotions were at a fever pitch as several people came to fisticuffs over the issue. Isaac Lewis, 46, a janitor at the grade school and a former board member, was charged with assault in a warrant obtained by Leonard Lybarger, a 17-year old student and son of a former board member. Lewis obtained a warrant against Lybarger for disturbing the peace, alleging that Lybarger had stopped his daughter from attending school.[46]

The school district was forced to deal with reality when a track meet for May 19th was cancelled. The students demonstrated their sincerity and determination by cancelling their junior prom scheduled for that weekend.[47]

The issue became a divisive one between many citizens and their elected leaders. Mayor Garesche denied charges that opposition to Dr. Marshall was started by the board president's political enemies, "I was in Southern Missouri when this started and knew nothing of it until my return."[48] Adults in Madison took steps to intervene in the strike, following unsuccessful conferences between board members and strikers. Several hundred citizens met at Greenwood Hall to form a Patrons' Association. Leo Schermer was elected chairman along with a full slate of officers and an agenda to confer with the board.[49]

Dr. Marshall remained indignant in his response to the strikers. He warned the parents that their children were required by state law to attend school. It was reported that striking students were jeopardizing their chances of promotion and graduation with the possibility that the last half of their study might have to be repeated.[50]

The general feeling in Madison seemed to be on the side of the students. Venice-Madison American Legion Post #307 adopted a resolution asking that the school board reconsider its action regarding Supt. Heob. The Patrons' AsSociation was expected to do the same. A committee of adults was to present the 2,000 signatures on their petition to the board. During one of the many parades by student strikers, a student was hit by a rock thrown by a black student as the parade passed through Newport, the African-American section of Madison. Dunbar School was the only school in the district that remained entirely out on strike. However, several additional organizations submitted protests in the form of resolutions. These included the Matrons Literary Club, Madison Junior Service League, Minerva Reading Club, Mothers Auxiliary of Boy Scouts, Mother Study Club, and the Junior Minerva Reading Club.[51]

The strike and debate continued through the end of the school year and into June. The high school students stayed out, returning only to take finals. A board meeting on Friday evening, June 7, ended with a fight breaking out among those in attendance. It was a near riot as several hundred in attendance engaged in a scuffle. Former Superintendent Heob was struck by a glancing blow on the face while trying to play the role as peacemaker. The board convened at 4:30 P.M. and conducted routine business until 7:00 when they finally considered the petitions in support of Heob and Principal Sprout. While the board engaged in this delaying tactic, citizens complained that the board was trying to "stall us off," adding that "we are here to the finish." They noted that the signers of the petitions represented two-thirds of the registered voters of

Madison. At the high school graduation the students refused to accept diplomas from Dr. Marshall, taking them instead from the ousted superintendent.[52]

The efforts of the strikers were all for naught and ultimately in vain. At the June 21st meeting, the board decided to hire a new superintendent. Rocks were thrown at the automobiles of board members as they left the high school building but no one was injured. Students were believed to have thrown the missiles. The residence of Dr. Marshall, the board president, was reported to have been peppered with rocks and one window was broken. This ended a very dark period in the Madison Public Schools. Classes started in the fall under the direction of a new superintendent .[53]

R.H. Hamilton succeeded Heob as superintendent. However, his tenure-was of limited duration. Political in-fighting led to a shake-up of the school board in the election of 1936. Robert Dron, village treasurer and backed by the Citizens Advisory Council, defeated Dr. R.A. Marshall in his bid for re-election.

A total of 3,376 votes were cast with Dron receiving 1,688. His slate of Charles Barnett and Guy Miller polled 1,651 and 1,688, respectively. Dr. Marshall finished with 1,542 votes. Several minor incidents occurred, including an exchange of blows between members of the opposing factions. Another disturbance happened when Police Chief Ray Bachman stopped Mrs. Marshall from entering the polling place a second time after she had already voted. Later on Bachman also stopped Dr. Marshall himself from entering the polls a second time.

The election was decided in the black precincts of West Madison. Dron did surprisingly well in what had traditionally been a Marshall stronghold. Marshall only carried the Newport district with a plurality of 750 against 558 for Dron. It was conceded that Dron would carry Madison

proper but Marshall did quite well there despite running against the Garesche machine. Expectations were that Dron would win Madison by a 2-to-1 margin. However, he only defeated Dr. Marshall, 1,130 to 770. [54]

After less than one year as Madison School Superintendent, R.H. Hamilton was succeeded by former Superintendent E.W. Heob, who himself had been disposed in the same manner the previous year. Just as the vote was 3-3 in 1935, leaving Dr.- Marshall, as President, to cast the deciding vote, his successor, Robert Dron, cast his deciding vote against R.H. Hamilton.

Supporters of Hamilton claimed the schools had made much better progress under his reign than under Heob. One predicted that "If you go through with this thing, I'm telling right now you are going to have worse on your hands than a student strike...Organized men are not going to permit a man to have charge of our schools, who has gone out and strapped a gun on himself to guard men."

Dron countered that since Hamilton had been in charge, warnings had come from the department of public instruction of the state that unless certain changes were made soon, there was a danger of the school being removed from the accredited list. Supporters of Hamilton hotly countered the insinuations against their man and demanded that Dron produce the letter he referred to. A search was made but the letter was not found. [55]

Heob remained as Superintendent of Schools until 1941.

MADISON SCHOOLS AND THE QUESTION OF RACE

The Madison Public School System had to confront questions of race as early as the 1930's. Segregation was the order of the day in American life. In this Madison was no different. Long before the U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1954 of Brown vs. Board of Education, Madison maintained separate schools. Madison had established the Dunbar School in Newport for the purpose of servicing the African-American community of that neighborhood in West Madison. Just as the court found in its landmark decision, facilities were separate but not always equal.

The disparity in schools was first pointed out as early as 1934. The school board was faced with a decision on how to house the growing black population in West Madison. Some blacks were sent to the East St. Louis school system at a cost of $90 per student. Two plans were developed to deal with the problem. One plan called for a consolidation of black students in Madison, Venice, and Brooklyn into one black school system. A second proposal was to simply send

all of the black students to Venice. Early in 1935 a group of blacks appeared before the board to appeal for new facilities as black students were being educated in makeshift facilities in a local church.[56]

Curriculum concerns were also addressed with questions raised on the lack of quality and opportunity for black students. In 1940, George Lewis, representative of the Dunbar Parent-

Teacher Association in West Madison, appeared before the board and protested for what he saw as discrimination in educational practices. He charged that not enough teachers were provided to handle the enrollment, that the high school laboratory was not equipped as well as that of the white high school, and that no foreign languages were taught at Dunbar High School. Lewis claimed that these discrepancies handicapped black graduates when they entered college.

Superintendent Heob admitted that the laboratory was in need of additional equipment to put it on a par with white Madison High School, but denied that there was any discrimination in the teaching load or in the curriculum. As stated earlier, the curriculum of the Madison Public School was not oriented toward college prep classes. The major issues of race would wait almost a quarter-of-a-century more before they would be addressed through pressure brought on by boycotts and strikes. It would be almost fifty years before state mandates would bring about a get-tough policy on academic standards.[57]

MADISON HIGH SCHOOL STRIKE OF 1967

Madison High School was the scene of a prolonged strike in the fall of 1967 that gained regional and statewide attention. It was a bitter strike that divided the community along racial lines and went through several cycles. The scenario of events started the first week of November and was not concludd until the last week of that month.

Racial tensions were high early in November of 1967. The nation as a whole had been experiencing the trauma of the civil rights movement of the sixties. Although the high school was integrated, Madison, once again was at the center of a debate over race. During that week a group of parents representing white students had met with Madison High School Principal Francis Dant to discuss "complaints growing out of last week's protests" by black students in front of the high school. There were no reports of violence at the lunch-hour demonstrations, although some black students shouted slogans of "black power."

Another session was called for a "follow-up meeting" of a delegation of parents of African-American students and representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), with Raymond Dragich, Madison Superintendent of Schools.

A number of issues provided the focus of concerns for the group representing the black students. The primary objection that touched off the racial tension was a demand for more black cheerleaders on the high school squad. Black students protested that only one of the six cheer-leaders on the squad was black although they represented roughly 40% of the school population. Other issues included bus transportation from athletic games at night and a request for more black help in the kitchen at the school cafeteria.

Another issue became a source of divisiveness between the two factions as the protest expanded. The school football team, which was divided approximately into 50% white and black, was split further by the removal from the team of the black players for boycotting practice sessions. The black players stayed-out of practice as part of the protest over the other issues. Superintendent Dragich denied that the removal of the students from the roster of the team had any connection with the protest issues. He said the boys were removed from the team strictly because they failed to show up for football practice "and for no other reason."

"The fact that these boys were taken off the team is due entirely to their violation of the rules," Dragich said, adding that "the boys understood this themselves and did not object to the penalty of their removal."[58]

The high school was shut down on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 7th & 8th, due to racial tensions and fear of disturbances. A meeting between parents, the school board, and Mayor Stephan Maeras that lasted until 2:00 A.M. Tuesday morning led to the decision to close the school. The meeting had started early Monday when separate delegations of whites and blacks called on school officials with opposing demands over application of rules and regulations pertaining to the relevant issues.

At the reopening Thursday morning, all students were called into an assembly at the high school where officials outlined the results of a meeting held Wednesday night with a mixed crowd of about 300 whites and blacks in the school auditorium. The assembly session was called in compliance with a request by the parents that "the children be informed of what is happening so that they know as much about the situation as we do."

A meeting called for Tuesday night was cancelled by school authorities because of information that "outside interference" was being organized to disrupt the meeting. Mayor Stephan Maeras was called into the problem after an irate, but orderly, mixed crowd gathered at the high school and refused to accept the cancellation of the meeting. The school was locked but they told the police they would not leave until "the school board shows up." Police Chief Emmitt Pazia appeared before the crowd of about 250 people. When Mayor Maeras relayed a message to Pazia over the police radio inquiring of the advisability of his coming to the school, the crowd began calling for the mayor to come to the high school. The mayor arrived within five minutes.

Maeras told the crowd that the meeting had been cancelled because he had learned that "undesirable outsiders" were being organized to attend the meeting, and that such a situation would endanger the safety of everyone. He reported that he had learned from, “reliable sources" of the planned invasion by outside groups "that have nothing to do with the Madison High School or with Madison."

He also said that he wanted the Mayor of Venice, Dr. John Lee, to attend the meeting, because "75% of our Negro population in the school comes from North Venice." It was true that Madison bused in a large percentage of black students. The mayor explained that the Madison High School was not strictly a Madison agency, pointing out that the Madison School District took in much territory outside of the Madison city limits.[59]

The Wednesday night session, however, was orderly throughout and conducted under a question-and-answer procedure. The moderator, Dr. Steve Geroff, called on board members and authorities best qualified to answer.

After a parent asked the question whether the school board was running school affairs or whether they were run by school officials, board member Chester McManaway told the crowd:

"In the past the board has depended upon the word of the school administrators and has more or less let them control operating policy...however, let me say that as a result of this situation, I can assure you that so far as I am concerned, it will not continue this way...there will be much progress by the board in the handling of school affairs. Had we been more vigilant, we would not be here tonight."

Mrs. Thomas Weston, President of the Madison branch of the NAACP, told the board:

"If we have all this disturbance and excitement over a little issue like we have, even causing you to close the school, what are we going to do when we start integrating all of the Madison schools, which we plan to do soon."

Another parent, William McCunney, made a motion for the parents to form a 16-member committee, eight white and eight black, to meet with a high school faculty committee of nine members and the school board to work out the issues and to consider alternatives suggested by the parents, including the formation of a high school Parent-Teachers Association.

The need for rules and regulations were also discussed. Board member, and present mayor of Madison, John Belcoff, told the parents that from that point rules and regulations "will have some teeth in them and you can tell your children when they come back tomorrow that this is no longer a playhouse."

Divisions within the community and the extent of segregation had been so profound that school leaders had been forced to meet with separate groups of blacks and whites. The Tuesday night meeting was arranged by about 150 white parents in a meeting with Principal Francis Dant, while black parents and NAACP representatives were meeting at the same time with Superintendent Dragich. Neither group was aware at the time that the other meeting was being held.

Some white parents were upset that, in their opinion, the rules for athletic participation seemed to change in mid-semester. The board eventually cancelled the last football game of the season, scheduled for Friday night, November 10.[60]

Madison school board members met for 11 hours on Saturday night and early Sunday morning in an attempt to resolve the dilemma and forestall a planned black boycott of the schools scheduled for Monday morning. A six page statement was issued by the board Sunday afternoon and distributed to residents of the school district. It followed the distribution of a handbill by the Action Committee of the NAACP, listing seven demands. The board advised against demonstrations and warned that any student engaging in the boycott "will be dealt with according to the powers and provisions of the Illinois School Code."

Their efforts were to no avail. Picket lines were set up by the Action Committee and black attendance at the schools on Monday morning was reduced to a "mere handful." The pickets were orderly-at Madison High School, the junior high school, and Dunbar, Blair, and Louis Baer grade schools. The banners proclaimed: "The Need is Urgent-We Want Equal Education Now."--"Act Now for Better Schools, The Promise Wasn't Kept."--"Open Your Eyes. Fight for Equal Education." --"Kill the Turkey for Thanksgiving, But Don't Kill Civil Rights."--"Stop. Don't Run from it. Stand and Protect Your Rights." White attendance was reported to be "near normal," although a few stayed away, presumably out of fear of racial disturbances.

Several pickets carried signs in front of the business office of Mayor Stephan Maeras at the Fijan-Maeras Insurance Agency at 419 Madison Avenue. When warned by the mayor that they were picketing a private business enterprise and liable to a lawsuit for hurting his business, a woman was quoted as saying "Go ahead and sue, I don't have anything, anyway."[61]

In order to attempt to get the schools operating back to normal, Superintendent Raymond Dragich announced that he would call on the State Department of Public Instruction and the Madison County Superintendent of Schools for advice and supervision in meeting the situation. Dragich said that he intended to call the office of Ray Page, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Wilbur Trimpe, Madison County Regional Superintendent.

The black boycott lasted for five days during the third week of November. By this time 1300 students were participating in the action. Two hours after a Wednesday night, November 15 meeting, a large cross was burned on the high school lawn, reminiscent of the Ku Klux Klan. NAACP leaders set up a series of "Freedom Schools" modeled after those established in the South and other regions of the country during the civil rights movement of the 60's.[62]

The board met on Friday, November 17, and rescinded their earlier decision by voting to reinstate the black athletes. This led to a counter-movement by the white students in which hundreds of them stayed out of school. Parents said the walkout of white students was "because they are sick." Petitions were distributed calling for the resignation enmasse of all seven board members. Almost 90% of the 450 white students remained out of school as the crisis headed into its third week.

The justification given by the board for their actions in reinstating the black athletes was that the purpose of the schools to educate was being defeated by the boycott:

"The purpose of schools is to teach and render an education. All of the students of the district must be considered. When 1300 of approximately 2900 students are not in school, the prime purpose of education is defeated.

Schools cannot continue under such conditions. To fail 1300 students for not attending school is not the true purpose of the educational system.

To file charges against 500 to 600 parents for allowing the children to boycott would not stop it, and there are not enough jails to hold them. Parents do not belong in jail.

In the interest of public safety, not only the students, faculty, but all citizens, and all business places--conscience and courage--now dictates a frank appraisal of the situation.

Frankly, the board's first decision, may have pacified some parents, but it did not end the boycott; it did not return the students to class, it did not subdue rumors of violence; it did not subdue the threat of violence, riot damage and personal injury as exhibited in other cities.

Today, the board had the benefit of the testimony of a man, who has seen violence, its after effects and scars-- his business is violence. That man is Captain Emil Toffant, commander of this State Police District.

He along with the local police would have the great responsibility of curtailing violence. If it could not have been controlled, then a request for the National Guard may have had to have been made.
How much school?
How much education?
With a ring of armed men around our schools!
Would this really happen? Who really knows, other than those who have seen it and cities that have lived it?
Is it really worth it?
The board feels no!
The board realizes this decision will not be agreeable to all. But its previous actions did not bring a solution. This then, had to be done![63]

The urgency of the situation was pointed out by a call from Captain Emil Toffant of the State Police when he reported to School Board Attorney John Gitchoff and the board that events had become dangerous. He described the damage resulting from recent East St. Louis rioting and urged the board to take any action it could to stave off a similar occurrence in Madison. Gitchoff was reported to have called Mrs. Weston to arrange a personal meeting. Capt. Toffant and Gitchoff met at her home to outline the hair-trigger atmosphere and urge Mrs. Weston to do whatever she could to avert violence. City and school officials told of reports that they had received of an expected invasion of outside blacks from East St. Louis and St. Louis. Whether or not the boycotts would lead to violence remained pure conjecture as no widespread violence was reported.

Raymond Howard, a St. Louis attorney acting as spokesman for the NAACP, addressed black concerns on the issues. He charged that the board had "done absolutely nothing" toward settling the situation and claimed that board members and white parents were prejudiced against black students. "The problem is simply one of equality for Negro students," he said. At one point in his remarks, he told the board:

"Black power advocates were wanting to come here from St. Louis and East St. Louis and burn the town down. We have been doing everything we can to keep them out. The action of this board might spark Madison into a riot, either now or later on. The entire city of Madison will be harmed, and this board will be responsible. You have the unique opportunity of preventing a riot before it starts."

Howard stated that the whole problem could be solved by a reinstatement of all the students and establishment of a parents committee, with board representation, to work out the problems. According to Howard, "The boycott has dramatized the Negro situation in the community."

Howard's remarks drew the ire of Associate Circuit Judge Austin Lewis, who felt that Howard resorted to intimidation and fabrication of the problem. Judge Lewis pointed out that Howard had advocated unlawful means and that he was violating his sworn duties as a lawyer to uphold the law. He also pointed out programs that white parents were involved in that benefited black children. Howard made attempts to interrupt Judge Lewis in a finger-shaking episode that approached physical violence before it ended.

Howard compared the)Madison situation with those in Mississippi and Alabama and said that southern boycotts were held by the courts to be legal.

Shortly thereafter, the board reversed its decision. They agreed to include black students in the school color guard, to provide transportation for athletes after games and from school sponsored activities, the inclusion of black ministers and educators in graduation and baccalaureate

Services, to provide a black assistant superintendent, to provide for more black cheerleaders, and reinstatement of all athletes without any punitive action."

By the last week of November the strike was for all intents and purposes complete. Members of a parents committee prepared a statement in which they expressed the hope that the people would "use our new-found knowledge in the right way at the right time to insure that it never happens again." They explored a number of questions' before calling on County Superintendent Trimpe to discuss the procedure for removing board members:

"...As parents, we sought to find the answers our children could not find. This answer was so evasive that it almost destroyed a town. This answer was so evasive that it took a large body of people and split them in half--each actually believing they were right..."
"They argued with each other, they debated, they were forthright and honest with their remarks, their goals and their compassions. However, when all efforts were exhausted, the final decision was reached by a group of men who at the beginning were supposedly, completely unaware that a problem existed..."
"Can we as parents, look our own children in the eye and tell them we are not aware how our schools have been run? Or should we do the decent and honest thing and tell them that we turned our heads because there are consequences involved in facing the truth? Do we teach them freedom of speech and not yet practice it?"
"Consequences! Do we teach them right from wrong and explain to them that to practice right, you may have to suffer the consequences mentally, physically or financially; therefore, do wrong because it is more profitable and less risky?"
"Do we teach them to think and make their own decisions, or to conform and do as they are told without question?"
"Consequences! Do we 'teach' them to be a shepherd, or 'train' them 'to be sheep'?"...
"This statement was not written with malice or bitterness, but with the hope that others will share with us what little we have learned; and that we should not assume that people are against people, but that sometimes circumstances can create this illusion."[65]

Some, however, were bitter. Several parents of white students set up a picket line on Monday, November 27. They felt betrayed by the board's actions and carried signs which read: "Rules and Regulations Which Must Be Obeyed," "We Want Safe Schools," "We Have Seven Benedict

Arnolds," "Back Our Coaches and Faculty" and "Send Our Children to Schools Nearest Their Homes."

Meanwhile, County Superintendent Trimpe consulted with Ray Page, Illinois Superintendent of Public Instruction, in order to attempt to resolve the problems.

By December the strike was over and attendance was back to normal. The bitterness left from the strike, however, continued for many years as white and black students at the high school engaged in a number of confrontations and fights. Perhaps the worst incident took place in a riot in June of 1969 in which nine students were sent to the hospital as a result of injuries. Fisticuffs were thrown, bottles were hurled, and locks on belt buckles were swung as groups from the two races confronted one another in a schoolyear-ending battle. Tensions remained high in the school throughout the early 1970's. These feelings subsided in the mid-70's. By the 1980's race was no longer the major problem or question facing the Madison schools. Issues of literacy, drugs, and student performance became more pertinent concerns, the same as in many schools in America.[66]

MADISON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #12

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS	
Louis Baer	(1902-1915)
J.W.Jackson	(1915-1917)
H.S.Stice	(1917-1919)
J.K.Elwood	(1919-1921)
H.S.Stice	(1921-1928)
E.W.Heob	(1928-1935)
R.H.Hamilton	(1935-1936)
E.W.Heob	(1936-June ,1943)
George T.Wilkins	(1943-Nov,1947)
E.J.O'Leary	(Mar.,1948-July, 1949)
H.D.McCain	(1949-1952)
Wensel L.Brown	(1952-Aug.1966)
Raymond Dragich	(1966-Nov,1970)
Fred A.Riddle	(Nov.1970-July 1973)
John L. Palcheff	(July 1973-Dec.1986)
Daniel S. Kostencki	(Jan.1987-
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS	
John Palcheff	(1969-1973)
Wade James	(1973-1985)
Richard Spillers	(1985-
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS	
John Palcheff	(1967-1969)
Don Purkaple	(1967-1969)
Wade James	(1969-1973)
Dan Kostencki	(1986)
Dolores Folkerts	(1987-
MADISON JR.HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS	
Olin Hileman	(1952-1957)
John Palcheff	(1957-1959)
Don Purkaple	(1959-1967)
Earl McClanahan	(1967-1980)
CURRICULUM DIRECTORS	
Marguerite Connole	(1974-1981)
Dolores Folkerts	(1981-

HARRIS SCHOOL PRINCIPALS	
E.A.Smith	(1902-1910)
T.J.Mussong	(1910-1914)
J.W.Jackson	(1914-1915)
A.J.Rendlemen	(1915-1916)
H.E.Jackson	(1917-1918)
Charles Nash	(1918-1934)
Eliot C. Long	(1934-1954)
John Palcheff	(1954-1957)
Raymond Dragich	(1957-1960)
Francis Dant	(1960-1963)
John Palcheff	(1963-1967)
Porter Cawly	(1967-1981)
David Becherer	(1981-
BLAIR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS	
Ernest Smith	(1902)
Sam Franklin	(1905-1906)
E.A.Smith	(1909-1912)
Ernest F. Krost	(1912-1916)
Harry E. Jackson	(1916-1917)
Charles Nash	(1917-1918)
Dr. Bertha B.Adams	(1918-1922)
Eliot C. Long	(1922-1934)
Treffie Cox	(1934.-1942)
Thaddeus Baxter	(1942-1943)
Claude Williams	(1943-1945)
Olin Hileman	(1945-1952)
Kenneth A. Williams	(1952-1960)
Richard L. Spillers	(1960-1976)
Charles McCaskill	(1976-1979)
Bernard Long	(1979-
MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS	
Earl McClanahan	(1980-1986)
Kenneth Perkins	(1986-
MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL ASS'T.PRINCIPALS	
Richard L.Spillers	(1980-1985)
Thesis Franks	(1985-

DUNBAR SCHOOL		MADISON HIGH SCHOOL	
J.E.Patterson		H. H. Janssen	(1912-1919)
E. Johnson	(1905)	Charles Martin	(1919--1920)
J.E.Patterson	(1905-1914)	C.E.Lemme	(1920-1923)
W.E.Kelly	(1914-1925)	L.A.Winsor	(1923-1928)
Wm. Terry	(1925-1933)	Wm. R. Reich	(1928-1929)
George H. Lewis	(1933-1937)-Grade	Sam M. Sprout	(1929-1935)
John Windom	(1933-1937) - High	I.K.Juergensmeyer	(1935-1936)
George L. Mann	(1937-1940)	J.B.Ogg	(1936-1942)
George L. Smith	(1940-1946)	Treffie Cox	(1942-1944)
Joshua Johnson	(1946-1959)	James White	(1944-1948)
Wade E. James	(1959-1970)	Clint Kelly	(1948-1951)
Bernard Long	(1970-1979)	Fred A. Riddle	(1951-1959)
LOUIS BAER PRINCIPALS		John Palcheff	(1959-1963)
C.W.Nash	(1922-1934)	Francis Dant	(1963-1968)
W.A.Brien	(1934-1948)	Richard Brown	(1968-1974)
Russell Shaver	(1948-1950)	Richard Corbin	(1974-1978)
Kenneth Williams	(1950-1974)	Daniel S. Kostencki	(1978-1986)
Robert Barnhart	(1974-1987)	Arthur Carter	(1986-
Roger L.Benway	(1987-	MADISON HIGH SCHOOL ASS'T.PRINCIPALS	
		Joshua Johnson	(1962-Jan.1963)
		Glendle Pickering	(1967-68)
		Reese Hoskin	(1968-1970)
		Arthur Carter	(1970-1986)
		Robert Mehelic	(1987-

MADISON HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Athletics has always been a source of pride for the Community in Madison. As in many working-class towns, athletics is seen as an avenue to social acceptance and a form of upward mobility for those that may desire to use it for college athletics. Sports has remained a strong feature at Madison High School throughout the years. It was true when the teams were manned by ethnic children and their grandchildren. It has remained true over the last 35 years as African-Americans and their descendants have been at the center stage of the athletic arena.

The athletes that have enjoyed tremendous success at Madison High School are legion. Some have gone on to greater athletic endeavors in college and the professional ranks. Among these are the following:

JOHN "CHAMP" SUMMERS--was a very good tennis and basketball. player. His greatest success, however, came later in college and major league baseball. After leading Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville in scoring in basketball, he led the baseball team there before going on to play professionally with the Oakland A's, Chicago Cubs, Cincinnati Reds, and Detroit Tigers. He is presently the hitting coach of the New York Yankees. (Class of 1964)

DALE TURNER--was an outstanding All-State basketball player who is second in all-time scoring and third in rebounding. (Class of 1966)

CECIL BELL--was an outstanding All-State basketball player in 1963 and 1964 who is fourth in all-time scoring.

DON FREEMAN--was an All-State basketball player in 1962 and was later All-American at the University of Illinois. He is third in all-time scoring. Freeman achieved more success after college than any other basketball player as he was a pro for eleven years with the old American Basketball Association and with the Los Angeles Lakers and Philadelphia 76'ers of the National Basketball Association.

PAUL LUSK--was an all-conference basketball player in 1966 and still holds the single game rebounding record with 25 in a game vs. New Athens as well as career rebounds with 710. He later played for St. Louis University and coached Wesclin High School in Trenton to an Illinois State championship in 1990.

GARY LUSK--was an All-Stater in 1967 and 1968 and still holds numerous school basketball records. Among, these are single season points with 784, single season scoring average (30.3), and career points with 1790. He later started at guard for the University of Iowa.

JIM SCOTT--was all-conference in both football and baseball in 1968-69. He holds the single season passing records with 12 touchdown passes as well as career with 15.

JOHN ERVIN--was an all-conference end and All-Metro linebacker in 1969. He holds the single season receiving mark with 699 yards as well as the career record with 977.

BILL CAMPBELL--was an all-conference tackle in football as well as a catcher in baseball. He later was a hitting star as a catcher-first baseman with Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

ED CHANDLER--was an outstanding three-sport athlete. He set the school record in the 100-yard dash, was third in all-time rushing in football as well as the leader in receptions for a season with 27 as well as average receptions at 42.4 per catch. He once scored 44 points in a basketball game on his way to a single-game record for field goals with 21. He once rushed for 296 yards in a game vs. Dupo as well as running a kickoff back 100 yds. vs. Roxana and running a touchdown pass for 80 yards vs. Eureka, Mo.

DAN REILLY--was an excellent all-around athlete in football, baseball, and basketball. He was all-conference in baseball and football and still holds the school hitting records for a season .491 average, 34 hits, and 27 R.B.I.'s. His career average was over .400 along with 88 hits.

STEVE MAERAS--was an outstanding basketball player on the 1924-25 team as well as being a three-year starter.

VASIL TANASE--was a Southwestern Conference champ as well as a state finalist in wrestling.

TAL FISK, Sr.--was a state wrestling finalist in the 1930's.

BOB DANT--was a three sport athlete who played semi-pro baseball in the Cubs organization during the 1950's.

ED ZABOTKA--was an outstanding baseball player who played in the old St. Louis Browns organization.

ANDY CONKOVICH--was state wrestling runner-up in the 1940's.

RICH KRIESCHOCK--was a good baseball and football player who set the interception return record of 99 1/2 yards vs. East St. Louis in 1947 and later played for Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

QUILLAN BRAZEL--was an outstanding mile runner whose 4:48 time held up for 40 years until finally broken in 1979.

WILLIAM KELIO--set a remarkable long jump record for his era in 1940 with a distance of 23' 3 1/2".

BOB PAGE--was the outstanding ballhandler and guard of the 1951-52 team that went to the Sweet Sixteen when it was one class. He was All-State in 1952-53.

JIM GREER--was another good all-around athlete. He was the leading scorer of the 1952 state team and later played semipro baseball.

DAVE HYRASKO--was the third leading career scorer in basketball as well as setting the single game scoring record of 47 vs. East St. Louis Assumption. He was All-State in 1957.

LARRY FERGUSON7-was an All-American running back at the University of Iowa, and later played as a pro with the Detroit Lions. He holds the school rushing career rushing records with 3,183 yards as well as scoring with 377 points. His season records include 1,683 yards rushing, for an average of 11.5 yds. per carry, and 171 points in a season. He once scored 49 points in a game vs. Cahokia in 1957.

ED WALKER--was an outstanding three-sport athlete in football, basketball, and track. He was all-conference in football and basketball for both his junior and senior years. He was the sixth leading scorer and second leading rebounder for a career in basketball. (Class of 1960)

CLAUDE JENKINS--was an All-Metro and All-Conference end on the outstanding 1957 football team.

RON JONES--was a standout basketball player who was All-State in 1976. He later played for Illinois State University at Normal and set the single season assist record while there. He was drafted professionally by the Cleveland Cavaliers.

RANDALL JONES--brother of Ron, he was the All-State center of the 1977 Illinois state championship team and later played at Western Illinois and Southern Illinois at Edwardsville.

EARNEST DAVENPORT--was an outstanding track athlete who set school records in both the 220 and 440 yard dashes as well as being on three record-holding relay teams. He was a two-time state champion in the 440 at the state meets in 1978 and 1979.

JAMES HEARD--was a three-sport standout in football, basketball, and track. He was All-State in basketball and track in 1978.

JOHN HENKE--was a very good pitcher in baseball who set the single season strikeout record in 1974 and later starred at Texas Wesleyan with an 8-0 mark in 1978.

JOE PIECOCINSKI--set the school punting record of 41.8 yds. while being named All-Metro in 1977.

ANTHONY KING--was the point guard of the 1977 state championship team before being named All-State in 1978. He set the school career assist record with 310.

KEN STANLEY--was an All-State basketball player in 1979 and later went on to star at Southern Illinois at Edwardsville.

MORRIS HUGHES--was the All-State Center of the state championship team of 1981 who outplayed fellow All-Stater Walter Downing in the semi-finals.

PATRICK HATTER--was an All-State guard on the 1981 state championship team.

Beside individual success, Madison has experienced a significant amount of team success over the years, particularly in basketball, with state championship teams in 1977 and 1981. Other sports have enjoyed varied success. Among the teams of significant accomplishment are the following:

BASKETBALL:

1925-26--it finished 27-3 under Coach Paul Rohe and was led by center and future mayor Stephan Maeras.

1951-52--made it to the state finals under Coach Francis Dant with a record of 28-5. It was led by Jim Greer, Bob Page, and John Doneff.

1958-59--was another State Finalist team that finished 16-12 under coach Charles Mueller and a team that was dominated by underclassmen. Two of its starters off of that team transferred later to Collinsville while one changed schools to Granite City. Those two players formed the nucleus two years later of a state championship Collinsville team while Madison still finished with a very respectable 19-5 record.

1961-62--was the top-ranked team in all state polls before losing in the sectional at Belleville. It was led by Don Freeman and a balanced cast with six players averaging in double figures. It finished with a 28-1 record and averaged a school record of 81 points per game. This famous pressing team was coached by Earl McClannahan.

1966-67--was a top-ranked state team in the days of the one-class playoff system. It was led by Gary Lusk and finished with a record of 23-2 and set a school record of 113 points in a game vs. Highland. The coach was Earl "Bear" McClannahan.

1975-76--was led by Ron Jones but denied a chance to go to state when it was upset by Lebanon on a mid-court desperation shot at the buzzer. The coach was Larry Graham.

1976-77--was the Illinois High School Association champions. It was led by Randall Jones, Anthony King, James Heard, Rodney Davis, and Ron Williams. It was coached by Larry "Bud" Graham.

1978-79--this was another Elite Eight team coached by Larry Graham and led by Kenny Stanley.

1979-80--finished fourth in the state tournament under Larry Graham.

1980-81--won the Illinois High School Association championship with key players Morris Hughes, Patrick Hatter, and Charles Claggett. It was coached by Larry Graham.

1982-83--this team made it to the Elite Eight at Champaign under the coaching of Rodney Watson.

1991-92--made it to the Sweet Sixteen under the coaching of Al Collins.

FOOTBALL:

1955--this team finished 7-1 and was coached by Francis Dant and led by the running of Larry Ferguson.

1956--this team finished at 6-2-1 and was led by Coach Dant and Ferguson and had a fine all-conference offensive lineman in Stan Wojcik.

1957--perhaps the best team in Madison history with a record of 8-1. It was coached by Dant and led by Larry Ferguson and Claude Jenkins.

1961--this very good team finished at 6-1-1 and was led by quarterback Mick Graville, running back Kenny Griggs, and linemen Sam Dymas and John Onesky. It was coached by Glenn Pickering.

1969--it was the only undefeated team in Madison history and was led by quarterback Jim Scott, running backs Dwayne Shaw, Harold "Bunkie" James, and Willie Akers, end-linebacker John Ervin, and linemen Bob Scott and Tony Young. It was coached by Al Vonder Haar.

TRACK:

1978 and 1979--these teams both finished in the top four at state and were coached by Charles Steptoe and led by Earnest Davenport.

BASEBALL:

1942--this was the only team in the history of Madison High School to go to the state baseball,tournament.

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THE "MONTE CARLO OF AMERICA"

It did not take Madison many years to earn its' well-deserved reputation as the "Monte Carlo of America" as a result of its pool businesses, gambling dens, saloons, and houses of ill-repute. With a working-class, immigrant population, vultures of human vices were soon waiting to prey on a vulnerable, susceptible clientele. Many attempts at reform took place over the years but it was not until the 1950's that establishments catering to individual frailties were abolished. A remnant of this ugly past reared its loathsome head again during the 1970's but was erased through governmental adjudication. Often those employed in positions to uphold the law were the people involved in undermining the morals of the populace.

An early example of vice in Madison was the "Pool Room." It was opened in the Village of Madison when the old race track was closed. When opposition to it became too strong, the pool room was moved across the street to the city of Venice. After being closed for over a year, a new building was erected in the fall of 1902, located on the Illinois Central right of way, in the southeast part of the Village of Madison. About the time the building was completed, for some reason, it was moved to the north about 100 feet, partly on Illinois Central Railroad property, and partly in the Village of Madison. The gamblers opened up in this building on Thanksgiving Day, 1902, and continued to run, contrary to State law, every day except Sunday, until April, 1903.[1]

As the pool businesses operated quite openly, a group of businessmen, obviously feeling threatened for their fair share and opportunity for this money, challenged these gambling operations. This led to open fighting and an exchange of gunfire.

The pool rooms were located just outside the city limits.

A few members of the Business Men's Improvement League, with Police, led a raid in February, 1904 against the pool rooms. Over one hundred shots were exchanged between the citizens

and the pool room operators and frequenters of the place. The raiders were led by Constable J.H. Glass of Edwardsville and were armed with a handful of warrants. The warrants were issued by Justice Eisenmayer of Granite City and drawn up for the operators and employees of the pool room.

Madison residents W.J. Coudy, J.R. Beale, and O.S. Schooley, members of the Business Men's Protective League of Madison, led the Friday afternoon raid and were met at the door of the pool by City Marshal Pat McCambridge and refused admittance. The posse walked back to Madison to enlist the services of a number of others and returned with renewed vigor and a determination to close the rooms and arrest the leaders. There were an estimated 25-30 deputies in the second party, many armed with Winchester repeaters, shot guns, and revolvers.

The posse filed in and Constable Glass attempted to serve his papers on the men. Marshall McCambridge, instead of upholding the law, interfered and politely informed Mr. Glass that he had placed them under arrest and would not allow anyone to interfere with his work. He also added that he would not turn any prisoners over to Glass. While they were arguing a man named Harris, an employee of the room, ran out from behind the petition and grabbed J.R. Beale. He struck Beale in the face and grabbed his gun. A shot was fired and the melee exploded. Reportedly everyone in possession of a gun pulled it. Shooting erupted with the result of six men being shot. More would have been injured when the shooting began, but the exits became crowded and there was a wild scramble, with the majority of those present dropping to the floor to escape the bullets.

After the affair was over, the posse returned to town and the pool room discontinued business. There was only one arrest. H.C. Cooper of St. Louis. He was arrested by Coudy. On the way back to town the Madison police arrested the three Coudy brothers and William Schooley, members of the posse, and locked them up.

Mayor Patrick Coyle telephoned the State's Attorney and asked him what he should do with members of the posse. They were arrested and required to pay bond, On Saturday the citizens made another attempt to raid the rooms with a larger posse but the raid fell through. However, the rooms did operate with a smaller crowd. Many people may have been scared as the operators of the pool rooms brought with them from St. Louis a gang of about twenty "Butler Indians" who carried revolvers in their pockets and were bent on killing anyone who may have interfered with their operations.

One of the people put on trial after the raids was William Coyle, son of Madison Mayor Patrick Coyle. He was charged with, assault with intent to kill against Lee Harlan. Young Harlan alleged that Coyle shot him in the head without provocation during the raid. Harlan had been deputized for the raid.

The Granite City Herald was outspoken in its opposition to Mayor Coyle and the poolrooms. Concerning the raids, it said:

"The fact about the poolrooms and arrest are in a nut shell this: Coyle is Mayor of Madison and there is an element there who are fighting him. Of course this is the better element of the city. Take Coyle out of the Mayor's chair and we venture the assertion that the poolrooms could run night and day, 365 days a year, and the people would have no objections. While we must all agree that the rooms are in direct violation of the state laws, still they are not in Madison and the citizens there have no authority to interfere…The Sheriff and State's Attorney should do their duty...the citizens of Madison are after Coyle's scalp and they will get it if they go about it in the right way--beat him at the polls."

The Madison Business Men's Improvement Association was critical of Coyle for claiming he knew nothing of the Pool Room being run in the village, yet during this time his brother kept the saloon connected with the Pool Room, and Coyle's son was a bartender in the saloon. At the same time one member of the village council was regularly employed as a night watchman at the Pool Room, and one village policeman ran a lunch counter in connection with it. The Improvement Association of businessmen called upon the voters to assist them in helping to see that the law would be enforced by honest men. They claimed that the operators of the gambling establishment controlled the grand jurors, making it an impossibility to challenge corruption.[2]

The pool rooms were long a source of irritation for many in Madison County. According to some, it was a corrupt practice condoned by higher officials. The Highland Journal, in 1904, asked the question, "When is a Grand Jury, not a Grand Jury?" The answer, in the opinion of the paper, was "When Madison pool rooms are under consideration." It claimed the "gambling dens will continue business at the old stand and the proprietors will wax fat at the expense of deluded men, whose love for the ponies exceed in intensity their self-respect." So horrified was the paper that it blasted the newly-found village and its leaders by saying, "It is a disgrace to the people of Madison and Madison County that these men are permitted to flaunt their nefarious business in the face of the public and scoff at the puny efforts made to enforce the law. There is graft in Madison County and it is being turned out in big chunks in the west end."[3]

One prominent businessman of Madison put it more succinctly, stating that if "a net was cast over Madison to catch those who were in league with the pool rooms you would be surprised to see the fish caught."[4]

Even a legal summons did not guarantee compliance with state law. It could also be hazardous to the health of the warrant officer. Attacking the messenger for delivering the message was not an unknown practice in early Madison. Afterwards, Judge James E. Dunnegon of Alton was appointed special state's attorney to investigate the poolrooms.

Charles Cowgill, a Venice township constable, was severely beaten and roughly handled in 1910 for attempting to serve papers on J.J. Dooling, a saloon keeper at Fourth Street and Madison Avenue. Cowgill received a badly lacerated nose, and both eyes were blackened and swollen shut, and he reportedly suffered considerably from nervous strain following the assault. The onslaught by Dooling necessitated the attention of a physician for Mr. Cowgill.

Blatant disregard for the law was exhibited by Dooling, who when served the summons by Cowgill stated that "I know more about the suit than you do." It also indicated that Dooling had inside connections somewhere in the city or county. Cowgill stated that Dooling told his bartender to throw the constable out of the saloon, whereupon the bartender seized him, and at the same time the proprietor struck the constable, knocking him down. Others joined in the melee, and Cowgill was kicked and thrown from the saloon.

As Cowgill struck the sidewalk, his revolver fell from his pocket, and he attempted to retrieve it. A citizen standing by reportedly wrestled the revolver from Cowgill's hand before he could use it. Charges were later filed against Dooling.[5]

GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION AND RAIDS OF 1912-1913

A grand jury investigation was convened in 1912 to examine the gambling houses in Madison and the role of civic officials in their operation. The Granite City Press-Record led the charge for the fight against what it termed the "Most Wide-Open and Wickedist City in the State of Illinois." The paper demanded a thorough cleanup and called upon the people of the Tri-Cities to lead the fight. It was particularly critical of Madison's having 67 saloons for a population of 5,000, or one for every 75 inhabitants.

The article was in particularly critical of the city administration and Mayor Ferdinand Garesche. It stated:

"Gambling has not only flourished in every part of the city but it has been flaunted in the faces of the people, the mayor of the city and his entire administration. Crap games, poker games, and slot machines were in abundance and--- a visit to most any saloon disclosed these conditions. So well have the gamblers been protected they have thrown away the key of the front door of their saloons and defiantly placed their gambling machines in plain view of the people.
Madison has been so open and the city administration is so brazen that it has allowed its police force to conduct a. carnival which abounded in crime and gambling, the proceeds of which went to the police fund...
Ferdinand A. Garesche...is responsible for the wickedness of Madison...no city can run wide open as Madison without the knowledge and sanction of its Mayor. He appoints the chief of police, who is Patrick McCambridge, and every patrolman on the force...
The saloon business is a mere subterfuge and a snare to catch and fleece the weak at the gaming tables...
During Mr. Garesche's reign the gamblers have ruled Madison, controlling its municipal affairs and in some instances the better class of business men. They have been so well fortified they have put men out of business, covered up graft and corruption and played prominent parts in many of the affairs of Madison County...
Thousands and thousands of dollars, earned by hard work in our mills and factories pass over the gambler's table..."[6]

The article made two points of contention that were a harbinger of political life in Madison throughout its first one hundred years. The first is that the city administration has always exerted great control over the police force. The second is that the village and city of Madison has

consistently played a prominent part in the affairs of Madison County. This remains true through the present-day. More will be brought out about these aspects of Madison history later in this section.

The raids took place in 1913 and were led by State's Attorney James Bandy against Fred Fuger's hotel in Madison. Constable Charles Cowgill reported that Chief of Police McCambridge and Captain William Street allowed the inmates to escape. It led to a call to reconvene the grand jury to investigate-- the. actions of local officials.

Cowgill and six special deputy sheriffs entered the bar room, walked to the bar, and asked for Fred Fuger, the proprietor of the hotel. Captain Street was standing at the bar and demanded to know what they wanted. When Cowgill replied that he had a warrant Street replied that he would get Fuger's bond. As the deputies opened the door leading to the rear room, McCambridge and Street interposed their police authority, saying that there was no trouble there. Both of these Madison police officers were large, imposing figures, with Street having the reputation of being the biggest police officer in the state of Illinois His nickname was "Big Bill" Street.

By this time both police officials drew their revolvers and followed the special officers into the wine room where a score of men and women were drinking. Captain Street stood at the door with revolver in hand and called on the patrons and workers to pass out of the way as they were not going to be arrested. Slowly the customers came forward and passed through the door to the street under the protection of the Madison police official.

The state's attorney recalled the grand jury for a new investigation of the Madison police officials. The Granite City Press-Record once again led the outcry to stamp out the rooming house:

"...the people of Madison County, especially Madison, Venice, and Granite City, have openly wondered why the authorities allowed this rooming house, wine room, and saloon to operate. It is in plain view of one of the street car lines and so situated that every automobile passes directly by it enroute either to or from St. Louis. It has been a stench to the general public, and openly condemned by many people... The place is not only a black eve to Madison but to Madison County..."

The newspaper also criticized Eugene McNight, editor of the Madison Republic, for defending

Chief McCambridge by saying that McCambridge should be a "superintendent of a Sunday

School and is well able to conduct the affairs of Madison."

Fuger's license was later revoked by Mayor Garesche.[7]

INVESTIGATIONS OF GAMBLING IN 1916

Several attempts were made in 1916 to put a damper on the operations of the gambling houses. The first of these was a lawsuit designed to oust Madison officials by charging them with neglect of duty. The bill named as defendants Mayor Ferdinand Garesche, John Malone, J.J. Lahey, Warren Champion, Milo Clinton, Dr. M. Hamm, and T.C. Vermillion. The petition was filed on behalf of Waldo Hines and Dowell Gross and charged the defendants "knowingly permit gambling, slot machines, and other gaming devices to be conducted, and that the dramshops are open Sundays and all hours of the night on week days."

Saloons alleged to be involved in operations of gambling were Beck and Resico s Place at Third near Madison Avenue, ‘Jimmy’ Burns on Fourth and State, `Fatty's Bar' on Fifth and State, and `The Monarch' located at Third and Madison Avenue.[8]

The Press-Record reported that the St. Louis Republic foretold of a grand jury indictment of the "higher ups" behind the notorious Madison and Venice gambling games. The newspaper stated that prominent St. Louis and East St. Louis attorneys and private detectives had secretly collected evidence to place before the grand jury. St. Louis men were stated to be the "higher ups."

The grand jury investigation was prompted by a St. Louis woman's visits to the gambling dens where her husband reportedly lost $6,000, which she felt was the cause of the destruction of her home life. Her husband's gambling was so severe that he was alleged to have spent several thousand dollars of the General Electric Company, for which he was a cashier. The article gave a sense of the daily excitement of the gambling houses by claiming that the lady would:

"...tell of waiting from early night until dawn was breaking on the outside of the dens of Vice, and of hearing the shouts of men flushed with excitement over their winnings or their groans of despair when they emerged with downcast heads and slunk away...
She will tell...how...he was induced to join a party who had made frequent pilgrimages to the gambling houses: how the fever grew on him, and when he had lost all of his own money and some of his employer's, how he longed to escape the toils that he knew were enmeshing him.

The recital will include the elation he felt for the time when he was permitted to win a little, and he could see the disgrace and ignominy he so dreaded, depart when his winnings grew, and he felt that in a little while he could replace what he had taken and once again be free. Then how the tide would turn and his temporary winnings be swept away, and he be more deeply involved than ever...
In this investigation, which will be the most sweeping ever pried into gambling conditions, not only the hired `minions' but the men `higher up' will find themselves enmeshed."

The grand jury investigation is believed to have had little, if any, effect on gambling in

Madison.[9]

THE CLOSING OF FRED FUGER'S SALOON--1917

A temporary injunction closed Fred Fuger's saloon and dance hall as a result of a federal investigation into gambling in Madison and St. Clair County in 1917, as America went to war.

A number of witnesses were called by the prosecution, in the ensuing case. They told of conditions in the dance hall. Evidence showed the dance hall was often packed with 400-500 people. They told of some of the dances by black entertainers employed at Fuger's. It was also reported that minors were served liquor. The entertainment reportedly went on to early morning hours after bars in St. Louis closed.

Fuger introduced several witnesses in an effort to prove that his establishment was a moral one.

The Granite City Press-Record reported that one of the favorite muscular movements was the "Shimmyshewobble," which was comparable to dances such as the "hoochie-coochie."

The paper recommended that the building should remain "boarded up or tear out the fixtures and let the building be used for turning out supplies for our soldier boys."[10]

THE GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS OF 1919

The Madison County grand jury system continued its relentless pursuit of the gambling saloons in the village of Madison with the indictment of five saloon keepers in 1919. This did not keep the Granite City Press-Record from being critical of the grand jury system in Madison County. It was very critical of the fact that no indictments were handed down against Madison village or county officials, although it was alleged that the-gambling saloons operated with the contrivance of these officials. The paper felt that the grand jury encountered too many obstacles in its efforts to weed gambling out of the Tri-Cities. The state's attorney had placed at the disposal of the grand jury the resources necessary to aid in cleaning up the despicable situation. However, the grand jury members felt the constant machinations of "unseen influence" in the county. Consequently, the saloon keepers had their names tarnished while the officials that allowed the dens to operate remained with their names and records unblemished.[11]

MADISON DURING PROHIBITION

Madison passed its own version of the Volstead Act during the era of prohibition and the "Roaring 20's" with, an ordinance that made it a finable offense to sell, give away or manufacture any intoxicating, malt, vinous, mixed, or fermented liquor. It provided for a penalty of from $100 to $300 for each violation. The law guaranteed compliance with the 18th Amendment but was also designed to raise revenue for the city coffers.[12]

As in many communities and cities throughout America during prohibition, Madison was not able to totally stem the tide of drinking in this fabulous era. There were some curbs on the openness of drinking. However, saloon owners and drinkers ran circles around the law and enforcement officials.

A raid on Madison "joints" took place in 1923 in which thirty women were jailed. The Granite City Press-Record reported that the Madison police denied that a raid had taken place upon the immoral joints and resorts. However, the Madison jail was reported to be overflowing with women on that Saturday night in June of 1923.

The Madison resorts, most of them the back room of some so-called soft drink parlor, had been running wide open for months since the establishment of the 1922 ordinance. The women inmates were openly plying the oldest of all professions on what appeared to be a scheduled beat. They would lead the customer they had solicited back into the soft drink parlor where he could be cajoled into paying for many rounds of drink, 75 cents a drink for bootleg whiskey, 50 cents for home-brew beer, before becoming intoxicated.[13]

Inflation pounded the price of whiskey in Madison during prohibition. Initially legal whiskey cost $2 per gallon. Within six months after the start of prohibition, bootlegging prices reportedly reached $75 per gallon.[14]

There was very little interference on the part of the Madison police, the cop on the beat walking nonchalantly past the open door of the soft drink parlor. The girls could be seen cavorting around some table, with their escorts buying the drinks. Drinking in Madison did not suffer during the era of prohibition. However, it was reported that blacks were more likely to be arrested for possession and fined. A parched throat could be satisfied in Madison during the era of the "Roaring 20's."

It was with a note of irony that the government attempted to prohibit drinking during this era. Only a few years prior, the citizens of Madison had voted overwhelmingly to remain a "wet" town. Both men and women voted in a large majority in 1916 to retain the status of a drinking town. Northern and Central Illinois generally voted "dry," including Joliet, Bloomington, and Decatur. Southern Illinois coal mining towns, such as Christopher and Herrin, voted dry. Madison went along with "river towns" such as Alton, Quincy, Venice, and Granite City, to remain "wet."[15]

MAYOR DRON CLOSES THE BROTHELS--1939

An attempt was made in 1930 to put a damper on prostitution in Madison by closing the brothels. Mayor Robert Dron ordered his new chief of police, Pat Lindsey, to close all houses of prostitution and see to it that the harlots employed by these establishments leave town. "Conditions were just getting too bad," Mayor Dron said. "The women also must leave the village as we will not permit them to loiter around," he concluded.

Most of the-houses of ill-repute were on State Street and were operated in connection with taverns. In a survey of venereal diseases conducted by the Granite City Press-Record, physicians reported numerous cases originating from these places. One combination tavern and brothel, identity unknown, was cited as the source of a majority of venereal disease cases.[16]

STATE GAMBLING RAIDS OF 1950

The years of 1950 and 1951 were dramatic and eventful ones for the city of Madison. It was during that time that Madison gained state-wide attention as several prominent state politicians led raids on the gambling houses within the city. Another rather unknown and obscure newspaper editor gained local fame and prominence which would later serve him well as he gained regional, statewide, and nationwide fame.

Illinois State-Police, on orders from Governor Adlai Stevenson, organized a raid on the 200 Club in Madison. It was one of several raids in Madison and Venice. The Club was chosen because it was reportedly the largest gaming house in Illinois and operated in defiance of the law. When contacted, Mayor Stephan Maeras said that he did not know much about the raid as he was out of town. The raid took place on May 12, 1950.[17]

The call for an investigation into crime in Madison County was led by Paul Simon, then a 22 year-old editor of the Troy Tribune, and presently United States Senator from Illinois. This was the beginning of Senator Simon's reputation as a moral crusader and a fighter against corruption. Simon accused Madison County Sheriff Dallas Harrell and State's Attorney Austin Lewis of Madison of tolerating gambling in the county. The matter was brought to the attention of the U.S. Senate's Kefauver Crime Investigation Committee into rackets and organized crime. The committee was asked to investigate a "close tie-up between politics and organized crime" in Madison County.[18]

The county grand jury was also called to investigate nonfeasance charges against Mayor Stephan Maeras and Police Chief Barney Fraundorf. Desk clerks from the Madison Police force were called to appear before the grand jury. No indictment was handed down but the grand jury

pointed out that "there has been a great laxity on the part of county and municipal officers in the enforcement of gambling laws."[19]

The issue became a focal point of the 1953 mayoral election as Dr. Henry Cohan, candidate against Maeras, ran on a program to permanently rid the city of "commercialized vice, gambling, and loose women." His efforts were to no avail as he was soundly defeated. However, the openness of the gambling establishments and the prostitution houses, and their ability to flaunt the law, were drastically curtailed. Madison was to lose its wide-open reputation and its image as the "Monte Carlo of America."[20]

THREE POLICE INDICTMENTS IN 1978

One of the most publicized and controversial trials involving vices in the City of Madison and Madison County took place in 1978 with the indictment of three Madison policemen. Before the trial was over, the Mayor of Madison and the Sheriff of Madison County had their names tarnished by allegations of wrongdoing.

A federal grand jury in April of 1978 indicted Madison alderman and former policeman Ronald Grzywacz, Police Sgt. Richard Krieshok, and former policeman Edward Goclan on charges of racketeering and perjury. The indictments alleged that while all three were Madison policemen, between January 1971 and July 1974, they received payments from taverns and business establishments in return for allowing prostitution, late tavern closings, and other illegal activities by the businesses.

The indictment also alleged that Grzywacz "would utilize his relationship with the office of the sheriff of Madison County, Illinois, to ask, seek, solicit, and accept payments from business establishments within the jurisdiction of the Madison County sheriff's office."

The seven-page, four-count indictment also alleged that the three conspired together "and with persons unknown to the grand jury...to conduct and participate in the conduct of affairs of the enterprise through a pattern of racketeering activity." They were charged with using their official positions as policemen to seek payments in return for being influenced on enforcement of certain laws. An additional charge was that they forced business establishments "to pay money to the defendants and to provide sexual favors for 'protection' and to avoid harassment by the defendants," according to the- indictment.

The document alleged "certain business establishments in the city of Madison and in Madison County would be permitted to house prostitution operations, in violation of the laws.." Additional charges were made concerning their allowing establishments to operate past closing hours and countenancing other illegal activities and refraining from interfering with these activities.

The final allegation of the first count charged that they "would attempt to recruit other law enforcement officers to participate in-the criminal objectives of the enterprise."[21]

The three Madison policemen were tried during the summer of 1978. As the trial developed, it appeared that a larger question arose as to who was really on trial. Innuendo implicated larger and more powerful figures to be involved in wrongdoing. Allegations were made against higher-ups in the Madison County sheriff's department. Much of the testimony centered around Ron Grzywacz's allegedly picking up "payoffs" from some taverns which housed prostitution. His attorney, Norman London of St. Louis, repeatedly contended that his client was collecting the money as an undercover agent conducting a corruption investigation at the request of Madison resident, and Madison County Sheriff, John Maeras. He was the younger brother of former Madison Mayor, Stephan Maeras. Sheriff John Maeras did not back Grzywacz's contention.

Witnesses called by the prosecution included Madison Mayor Mike Sasyk and Major Robert Rizzi, chief deputy of the sheriff's department. Sasyk answered questions related to his control over the Madison police department and regarding attempts he said he had made to clean up ,the city's prostitution and gambling. Sasyk said that in early 1974 he spoke with Madison Detective Paul Bargiel. The indication seemed to be that there. was quite a bit of gambling and prostitution in the city. Sasyk reportedly told Bargiel that "In a small town like ours, someone has to be

giving approval to these things." Sasyk claimed he then asked Bargiel to conduct an investigation without the knowledge of the other officers.

The mayor testified that later "the town straightened out" without raids or other actions.

A few months later prostitution and gambling again reared their ugly heads. Sasyk reportedly requested undercover aid from the sheriff's department, which resulted in a raid at Big Jennie's Little Place in Madison. Grzywacz and Goclan resigned a short time later and Krieshok was demoted from lieutenant to sergeant, Sasyk recalled. At the time, the Madison police board declined to link the two departures and the demotion with any specific conduct other than contending that Krieshok had failed to provide adequate supervision of night officers.

Rizzi testified that he had ordered a search of all the sheriff's department evidence slips for anything which could prove such an investigation had been conducted for the sheriff by Grzywacz. Officers were unable to locate anything put into the evidence on the issue. The attorney for Grzywacz said that prior to 1974, "everyone" had free access to the evidence area and that evidence compiled by Grzywacz and the sheriff could have been overlooked or removed along with the evidence slip. Another witness claimed that she saw Grzywacz receive, from several people, evidence Grzywacz claimed was being turned over to Sheriff John Maeras.

Witnesses for the prosecution testified that they were threatened with harassment if they did not give payments in return for protection from the police. It was alleged that Grzywacz's connection with Sheriff Maeras would give the operators of the prostitution houses the assurance that they would be allowed to remain open in return for payments.[22]

Several tavern owners also testified they made weekly payments in return for allowances in violating laws such as illegal liquor sales after closing hours. One Madison tavern owner stated

that when she purchased her tavern from the previous owner she was told she could stay open late if she "paid off." She testified she was promised "protection" in return for $50 a week. In one incident she reported going out to a police car occupied by the three policemen. After another establishment was raided, she stopped making payments to the police. She stated, "All my troubles started when the payoffs stopped."[23]

A sidelight of interest developed in the case when the same tavern owner implicated Madison Mayor Mike Sasyk with a conflict of interest in the case. She alleged that the Mayor controlled liquor licenses in the city while profiting from vending and game machines in taverns. Consequently, Mayor Sasyk controlled both the machines in her tavern and her liquor license. He also prohibited her from selling her tavern while her license was suspended. Sasyk told her she could not sell the tavern for one year, under state law, since the license had been revoked. She testified game and vending machines, a jukebox, pool table, and cigarette machine were all supplied by Madison Amusement Company. The company was officially owned by Sasyk's brother but the Mayor was alleged to have an interest in the company. She testified "I knew that you couldn't bring another one (jukebox) in town, because I tried. My husband tried to get another one. We used only Sasyk's machines." Asked by the defense attorney if she felt Sasyk controlled her tavern, she stated, "Sir, he had control over it the day I bought it."

Mayor Sasyk strongly denied any conflict of interest between his regulation of taverns and his provision of machines used in the business establishments. He blamed the tavern-related law violations on unauthorized lenience by others. Sasyk also testified that he considered Grzywacz a political opponent during the period under investigation. Under cross-examination Sasyk stated that he was a partner in the Madison Amusement Company and had vending and bowling

machines in most taverns in Madison. However, Sasyk denied the allegations of a conflict of interest.[24]

Another issue discussed in the cross-examination of Sasyk was tavern closing hours. The Mayor said the city in 1971 reduced tavern closing hours from 4 a.m. daily to 1 a.m. weekdays and 2 a.m. on weekends. He told the police to use good judgement in closing taverns and allow a 15 or 20 minute "grace period" to get customers out. Sasyk recalled a raid at the Croatian Home when the Chief of Police, the city treasurer, and a couple of alderman were inside after closing hours. The defense attorney contended there was "somewhat of a stink raised" by the raid, which was followed two days later by the resignation of the policeman who led the raid. Sasyk denied pressure had been brought to bear on the policeman, Peter Kostecki.[25]

In a letter to the Granite City Press-Record, dated April 14, 1977, Kostecki indicated that he was criticized, but he did not say by whom. He denied a rumor that his resignation was requested. However, he wrote, "I was condemned for doing my job as a police officer and was told that I should have not made the arrest because it was election night...My primary reason for resigning was due to the fact that--since I am unable to do my duty as a police officer without being condemned--I feel I do not need or want to be part of a politically-controlled police department."[26]

Sasyk was also asked if there was a "lug" or political contribution required of city employees and Sasyk said, "That was before I was elected." He testified he did ask for.$3 a month from city employees. Of that, he said, $2 went to the United Way and $1 to cover food and beverages at functions for city employees. He also attested that officials and department heads were requested to contribute to a political re-election fund.

The relationship between Sasyk and Maeras remained unclear. It appeared that they were politically connected. Sasyk had indicated to the federal grand jury investigating Madison County officials that he would not discuss Sheriff Maeras because he was Sasyk's friend and the county was "not my jurisdiction." He denied discussing the federal grand jury or FBI probe of the county at length with Maeras. Sasyk also said his brother, who was a partner in the Madison. Amusement Company, had helped the proprietor of Big Jenny's Little Place to get a loan to get the business started.

Sheriff John Maeras of Madison refused to testify by pleading the Fifth Amendment. This led to calls for his resignation. Eventually he was sentenced to prison but succumbed to cancer shortly afterward.

The case went before the jury with a great deal of fanfare and publicity. Norman London Defense Attorney for Ron Grzywacz, attempted in his closing arguments to implicate the Mayor and Sheriff with responsibility for the sordid affair. He said his client was responsible for "shaking this little playpen Mayor Sasyk and Sheriff Maeras had going for them." The attorney further suggested that Sasyk had a political vendetta against Grzywacz since the former policeman had become a city alderman in the Mayor's council. London asked the jury: "Who is Sasyk's friend? Maeras. He (Sasyk) was his (Maeras') campaign manager," London stated. In closing, the defense attorney attempted to implicate both men further by saying, "There is a cancer growing in your community...(prostitution operators) and politicians want to go on their merry ways. It's up to you to get rid of these people and people like them."

Thomas Turner, Assistant U.S. Attorney, painted a different picture of the accused, arguing that the conspiracy theory of local politicians wasn't logical. He cited a tape recorded-conversation that quoted Grzywacz as saying, "All the officers got money, booze and women from Big Jen's."

The three former policemen were convicted of rackets charges and sentenced to prison. Though Sheriff Maeras was later sentenced, Mayor Sasyk was exonerated of any alleged wrongdoing and served as Mayor until 1985.[28]

In a note of irony, the city of Madison in 1941 passed an ordinance designed to curb the racketeering monopoly of juke boxes. The fact that the mayor was involved in these operations in the 1970's was perhaps more a reflection of changing norms than a violation of community mores. The law of 1941 was designed to regulate noise from juke boxes which were then replacing slot machines as a source of revenue for the city. It made it unlawful for any person to engage in lending, leasing, renting, or distributing any kind of automatic or coin operated devises dispensing "canned" music, such as "juke boxes," without having first obtained a license to do so. The Press-Record reported even then that one person, who was not named, controlled a monopoly of all the juke boxes that were in practically every saloon, confectionery, and restaurant in the village. It seems the more things changed, the more they remained the same in Madison.[29]

Since 1978, Madison has been relatively quiet in regard to the vices. It appears that the amusements that once made Madison the "Monte Carlo of America" have gone the way of the five-cent candy bar. The city and its leaders are looking for more long-term, stable forms of economic growth and development.

MADISON AND THE GREENLEASE KIDNAPPING/MURDER

One of the most famous kidnappings in American history was that of Bobby Greenlease in September of 1953. The six-year old boy, son of very wealthy parents, was kidnapped from his private grade school in Kansas City by a degenerate convict, Carl Austin Hall, and prostitute, Bonnie Brown Heady. Both were ultimately executed in the Missouri gas chamber. They murdered Bobby Greenlease despite the parents paying a ransom of $600,000.

In a book published in 1990, A Grave for Bobby, by James Deakin, (Morrow & Co.), the events of the kidnapping and murder are detailed. Madison and several of its inhabitants are mentioned for their roles in the story.

It is estimated that $300,000, one-half of the ransom money, disappeared and was never fully accounted for in the aftermath of the capture of the kidnappers. It is known that they went to St. Louis and spent freely on booze and entertainment. When two St. Louis police detectives were tipped off as to the whereabouts of Hall and Heady, the intrigue of the case became even more mysterious.

Eventually the two St. Louis policemen, Louis Shoulders and Elmer Dolan, were convicted of perjury as a result of their explanation of how they moved the found money to the police station. The $300,000 was missing.[30]

Long-time Madisonians will tell you that rumors persist as to what happened to the missing money. Some speculate that some of the money ended up in Madison in the "silk-stocking row" of saloons and brothels on State Street in Madison.

A prostitute that Hall met in the aftermath of his free-Spending spree was one Sandra June O'Day- She was very close to Garland E. McGarvey, who operated a "restaurant" at 800 State Street in Madison. She knew that McGarvey took male customers down into the basement of the "restaurant."

It was explained to her that the women working at the "restaurant" augmented their incomes in this manner. McGarvey explained to her that he "kept the girls' money and give to them when they asked for it."

Sandra O'Day took men to the basement as well as having "the nicest room in the basement." In 1951 she was arrested in McGarvey's and charged with vagrancy by reason of prostitution.

McGarvey himself was an ex-convict who kept a pistol and a blackjack with him. He reportedly was a big drinker with a bad temper. He was good friends with Sandra O'Day

and treated her as a member of the family. She called him "Papa." They seemed to enjoy a close relationship.

Between 1953 and 1958, Sandra O'Day spent time in DuQuoin, Illinois, South Bend, Indiana, and Los Angeles. In April of 1958, she returned to Madison and shot Garland McGarvey. She said it was unintentional. On the evening of April 3, McGarvey was drinking heavily and became very mean. When he began cursing his family, his wife called their son. The younger McGarvey tried to persuade his father to go to bed. The father went to get a pistol, but it was missing, so he got his blackjack instead. The mother gave her son a blackjack to defend himself from his father. Seeing father and son squared off in the hallway, Sandra O'Day shot the elder McGarvey. She had beaten him to the gun.

Two Madison officers, Chief of Police Barney Fraundorf and future Chief Frank Dutko, testified after the shooting that O'Day said she "hated McGarvey and wished she had killed him." In an interview with author Deakin, she stated she shot McGarvey "because he was trying to get the Green-lease money from me." He was convinced she had the $300,000 or knew where it was, and was pressuring her to cut him in on it.[31]

One other notable event took place in Madison related to the Greenlease case. On New Year's Day, 1954, hoodlum John "Buddy" Luger was killed gangland style on Collinsville Avenue in Madison. He was reported to have been questioned in connection with the missing Greenlease money.

At the time of his death, Lugar's wallet contained numerous calling cards of St. Louis lawyers, union leaders, and the U.S. Marshall of St. Louis. Police believe that the execution was carried out by someone unfamiliar with the area because it took place in a residential area. Less than 100 feet away was an area of high weeds and railroad embankments, an area perfect for carrying out such an act. Residents nearby thought the crime was committed with the use of a machine gun.[32]

There are questions that remain unanswered concerning the Greenlease kidnapping/murder. The whereabouts of the missing ransom money remains a mystery. The involvement of Sandra O'Day is still unclear. On the day she shot McGarvey, she said he frequently cursed Madison officials and the Madison police.

Mayor Stephan Maeras had refused McGarvey a liquor license, and during World War II had revoked a tavern license of McGarvey's wife, Sarah. After the war Maeras refused to grant a restaurant license to McGarvey. The McGarvey establishment was raided at least twice by

Madison police. Sandra O'Day had twice been found guilty of vagrancy. The incident renewed interest around Madison in the Greenlease case.[33]

Endnotes

1. Granite City Press & Herald, Mar. 24, 19yy

2. Granite City Press, February 4, 1904

3. Granite City Press, February 25, 1904

4. Granite City Press, March 3, 1904

5. Granite City Press & Herald, November 15, 1910

6. Granite City Press Record, October 4, 1912

7. Granite City Press Record, November 21, 1913

8. Granite City Press Record, October 3, 1916

9. Granite City Press Record, November 17, 1916

10. Granite City Press Record, November 30, 1917

11. Granite City Press Record, February 14, 1915

12. Granite City Press Record, April 25, 1922

13. Granite City Press Record, June 25, 1923

14. Interview with Nick Vasileff, March 28, 1991

15. Granite City Press Record, April 10, 1914

16. Granite City Press Record, August 7, 1939

17. Granite City Press Record, May 15, 1950

18. Granite City Press Record, January 25, 1951

19. Granite City Press Record, April 16, 1951

20. Granite City Press Record, April 28, 1953

21. Granite City Press Record, April 3, 1978

22. Granite City Press Record, June 29, 1978

23. Granite City Press Record, July 3, 1978

24. Granite City Press Record, July 3, 1978

25. Granite City Press Record, July 3, 1978

26. Granite City Press Record, April 14, 1977

27. Granite City Press Record, July 6, 1978

28. Granite City Press Record, July 6, 1978

29. Granite City Press Record, May 22, 1941

30. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, January 28, 1990

31. "A Grave for Bobby," by Richard Deakin, William Morrow & Co., New York, 1990, pp, 80-86, 245.

32. Granite City Press Record, January 4, 1954

33. Granite City Press Record, April 4, 1958

POLITICS IN MADISON

Madison has had a colorful and stormy political history. It is the most continuously fascinating and controversial aspect of life in Madison through its first one hundred years. It has been, and remains, one of the most hotly debated topics of conversation whether over a few beers at a bar, in private homes, or any place where two or more people may be gathered.

Politics, in Madison has not been an undertaking for the weak-of-heart. It is hardball at its best, or worst, depending on the perspective of the person involved. Most native Madisonians would tell you that Madison is a "little Chicago" in terms of political intrigue. The Madison political machine in both the city and Madison County seems only to have been rivaled by the Chicago machine of former Mayor Richard Daley. It has controlled and dominated politics in Madison County for most of the twentieth century. That Madison had two mayors, Ferdinand Garesche and Stephan Maeras, with only a brief interlude by Robert Dron, for most of its first 80 years attests to the power of the Madison political machine. That numerous sheriffs and county political appointments have come from the city of Madison is further proof of the legacy of this machine. The county sheriff's department, the county courthouse, and other county departments have been staffed with large numbers of Madisonians. Leaders within the county board and the Democratic party have come from Madison. These include former Madison Alderman Chris Costoff, Mayors Ferdinand Garesche, Stephan Maeras, Mike Sasyk, and present Mayor John Bellcoff. Sheriffs from Madison have included Barney Franudorf, John Maeras, and Emil Toffant. The present County Auditor is Fred Bathon, who also serves as the City Treasurer for Madison. Former Mayor Garesche was at one time a candidate for Lieutenant Governor in Illinois.

As with the Daley Machine in Chicago, or any political machine, the Madison machine became powerful by controlling jobs, favors and votes. Madison, particularly under Stephan Maeras, was able to "bring in the vote" downstate for the Democratic Party. It has had a lot of influence, going back to its beginnings, based largely on its ethnic character. According to long-time resident Clarence Green:

"Here were People, trying to make a living to take care of families from Europe; they didn't speak much English and didn't understand local government, so that's why I think sort of a1 political machine began here. We all needed leaders."

While the machine has diminished somewhat in strength as the city has grown older, it nevertheless remains a viable force in local and county politics. It has undergone periodic splits within its ranks. However, many of the central figures remain the same. The machine can still "get out the vote."

A St. Louis Post-Dispatch article explained how the system of political influence works:

"The best way to get elected judge in Madison County is to go to Besserman's Tavern, hat in hand and $10,000 in your pocket...referring to the 'lug' system in which Democratic candidates gain party backing by giving the party thousands of dollars at election time. Democratic party business is sometimes conducted at Besserman's in Madison, a favorite watering hole of party officials."[2]

One final ingredient in the political formula helps to explain the success of the Madison machine. Another analogy with the Chicago political machine suffices in this case. Just as with the "Windy City," Madison city administrations have been examples of a city "that works." Services in the community have been top-notch, from the early years of the Garesche administration, through the machine years of Mayor Stephan Maeras, to the recent management of Mayors Sasyk and Bellcoff.

Residents of Madison have enjoyed outstanding services. The Madison Volunteer Fire Department has been recognized as an example of a well-run operation since its inception. The police department, despite patronage problems and some corruption, has always provided adequate protection for the citizens of Madison. Major street crimes have been minimal. Streets and homes have been well-maintained and the alleys have been paved. The sanitation department keeps the city clean in appearance and trash and weeds have not inflicted Madison as is the case in many older cities.

Just as in Chicago, political patronage has gone hand-in-hand with providing these services. A major reason that the machine has been able to maintain itself is by having dependent workers who provide these services. Workers have always been able to get relatives and friends out to work and vote for the re-election of their employers. The same has been true for county employees. Madison remains an example of a political patronage bureaucracy "that works."

The rivalry for controlling the political spoils and preserving the machine has also contributed to the very colorful political history of Madison. Disputes over elections go back to the infancy of Madison. As early as 1903 there were examples of alleged political machinations. In that election a petition for control was filed by J.M. Bandy, candidate for Mayor on the Independence Ticket, charging that the election judges were favorable to the rival Improvement Party and that they fraudulently prevented the Independence Party from having challenges at the polls. The petition also stated that judges went so far as to enter the booths and mark the ballots of illegal voters.

Constable Fossieck went to Madison and demanded the ballots but his demand was refused. At the election 800 ballots were cast, but 418 legal voters were reportedly ready to swear they voted

for Mr. Bandy. A newly elected official of Madison remarked a few days after the election that he "supposed they (the defeated side) would let the administration rest for another two years."[3]

Patrick Coyle was elected Mayor but not first without a challenge. The case went before the Circuit Court in Edwardsville. Over 100 people took a special coach attached to the Wabash train to the County Courthouse. There were only six witnesses examined for the defense and over sixty for the plaintiff. The courtroom was reported to be crowded with spectators and was very lively.

Plaintiff J.M. Bandy attempted to prove that the ballots in the election, which were supposed to be sealed in a sack or envelope and not molested, were tampered with and provided witnesses to attest to his charges. They testified that they had followed the ballots after the returns had been announced and had seen them taken to the Houston Brothers saloon and placed in a desk. The ballots were brought into the court where it was demonstrated that they had been tampered with as they were strung on wire face up while witnesses swore they were filed face down. A member of the grand jury presented a statement from over 400 voters in Madison swearing they had supported Bandy for mayor, a sufficient number to elect Bandy. However, Coyle remained Mayor.[4]

Patrick Coyle served as Madison Mayor for almost ten years until his defeat by Ferdinand Garesche in 1905 in another disputed election. Coyle was an interesting case study in an early Madison politico. He was one of the early settlers of Madison, locating there in 1890. Some time afterward he was elected councilman, under the Mayorship of Dr. Youree. After his decade of presiding as the chief executive of the city, he was defeated by Garesche in the contested election. The count turned in showed Coyle to be elected. Garesche contested and court ordered

a new election, which was put in charge of the sheriff. The night before the election Coyle departed from Madison and never returned. While "King Coyle" was mayor the race track at the edge of the city was operating at full tilt. Coyle reported to run the town as a dictator. When the race track closed Coyle seemed to lose his grip on the city. He died in East St. Louis in 1905.[5]

Ferdinand Garesche served as Village President, or Mayor of Madison for over thirty years. He did not lose an election from 1905 through 1935. He ran the city through its youthful years as it changed from a dusty village with dirt streets and wooden sidewalks to a village replete with paved roads, a modern sewer system, and a core of workers providing needed services. Madison also started to grow in its connection with the larger area. It became the "Hub of the Tri-Cities," taking its place of prominence between Granite City and Venice.

There were controversies during the Garesche era. One of these included the indictment by the Madison County grand jury of four prominent Madison citizens for fraud in a primary election. A supervisor and an assistant supervisor of Venice Township in the village of Madison, a Madison policeman, and an official of the American Car and Foundry Company were charged. They allegedly allowed a number of foreigners to vote in Venice Township precincts although these foreigners were not qualified to vote. It was charged that they were not citizens of the United States at the time they were said to have voted.[6]

One of the most colorful and controversial figures in early Madison was Patrick McCambridge. He served for many years as Police Chief. The major thoroughfare in Madison is named after him. McCambridge reportedly ran his department with an iron hand and was involved in several major controversies during his tenure.

The first of these was the shooting and killing of Village Treasurer, Samuel Houston, in 1905 by McCambridge. A warrant was issued for the arrest of the chief and bond was set at $4,000. The shooting occurred in the saloon of Houston and his brother, James, and was the result of a quarrel about the location of a street carnival. It was the climax of a heated political discussion between James Houston and Chief McCambridge. James Houston had threatened trouble unless the carnival was located close to his saloon at Sixth and State Streets. The carnival manager went to Venice, which upset McCambridge because of the loss of revenue to the town. Samuel Houston was reportedly not involved in the discussion but attempted to act as mediator. He went to the back of the bar to get a revolver. When McCambridge saw Houston he leaped at him and, with the revolver less than a foot from' Houston's face, began to shoot. Houston was shot four times, suffering a shattered jaw, a pierced plural cavity, a shot in the groin, and a final bullet in the hip.

The three men had been close personal and political friends for years. The shooting was the result of drinking which led to an argument over politics. Such was the rough-and-tumble nature of early politics in Madison.[8]

A second incident involving McCambridge took place fourteen years later in 1919. He led a group of Madison policemen in a raid of organized workers from the Madison Car and Foundry, the "Car Shops." One man was shot in the shoulder with McCambridge alleged to have been the shooter.[9]

The workers were reportedly meeting in a hall on Edwardsville Road, believed to be the Polish Hall, well removed from the "Car Shops." An effort was being made to organize the carpenters at the shops into the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen. There were no reports of trouble at the

meeting and the workers were not armed nor were they expecting trouble. However, the men reported that McCambridge appeared to be drunk and followed several of these men into the hall where he snapped his gun in an attempt to intimidate them. The safety catch on his gun exploded but the gun jammed when he had it shoved against the stomach of one man. The man jumped out the window and escaped. McCambridge then went to the door and was said to have fired a shot from his pistol that hit a pedestrian, Joseph Wedgic, as he was passing the hall. Wedgic was struck in the lungs but survived.[10]

The U.S. Department of Labor investigated, hearing the testimony of some fifty witnesses. McCambridge was charged with assault with a deadly weapon and attempted murder in a case that would prove difficult to carry to its end. The state's attorney promised to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law. It was expected that the investigation would show that it had been the policy of the car shops to keep the Garesche Regime in power in order to keep the city as a village. If the village incorporated into a city it would mean that the car shops would have to pay a corporate tax.[11]

Toward this end, a number of Madison officials were employed by the car shops. Mayor Garesche was a paymaster at the firm. Andy McDonald, formerly a member of the Madison Police Department, was the head watchman. Big John Cowan, a member of the police force, was formerly a special policeman for the car shops. On special occasions Madison police officials were detailed to work at the car shops.[12]

McCambridge was found guilty on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon, sentenced to serve four months in the county jail, and assessed a fine of $500. The victim, Joseph Wedgic, filed a

suit against the city for his injuries. However, the Appellate Court, Fourth District of Illinois, sitting at Mt. Vernon, reversed the case.[13]

The last election Ferdinand Garesche was involved in was reported to be one of the most bitter in Madison history. He defeated Dr. R.A. Marshall and Harold Hanlon. Contrary to some expectations, few disturbances were reported in the election. All were of a minor nature.[14]

Several factors made the election one of the most heated in the annals of electoral politics in Madison. Dr. Marshall had just defeated Garesche's candidate for President of the School Board and, on the day before the village election, the Workers Party candidates withdrew in favor of Dr. Marshall. This, together with Garesche's intense campaigning, seemed to guarantee a close race. Garesche received 1,703 votes compared to Dr. Marshall's 1,136 votes. A month later, however, the School Strike of 1935 took place as Dr. Marshall cast the deciding vote to fire Superintendent Heob.[15]

Events heated up again three years later as several hundred Madison citizens, including women and a few ministers, jammed village council chambers and stood outside the village hall at a meeting of the board of trustees. All available seats were occupied in the council room as spectators lined both sides of the walls of the room. The event that stirred the curiosity of Madisonians was the discharge of the police chief and three officers by Mayor Robert Dron. There was also an exchange between Mayor Dron and Village Clerk Peter Boehm over the minutes of the previous council meeting. The mayor refused to affix his signature to the minutes and took possession of the book and gave it to Village Collector E.J. Miller for safe-keeping pending further developments.[16]

The four officers dismissed included Chief Ray Bachman, Captain Frank Onesky, Capt. Hilbert Hoekstra, and Patrolman Edward Sprajcar. The men were ordered to turn in their equipment and record immediately. No reason was contained in their notices of dismissal. In addition to the police shake-up, Dron revoked the license of a tavern at 327 Madison Avenue, alleging that gambling games were held there. The mayor also reviewed a recent gambling crusade and asserted that slot machines were last to go from a tavern at 327 Madison Avenue, known as "Ray's" or "Bachman's Place." He said that after he came back from vacation there were complaints about gambling still going on at this location.[17]

Dron maintained at the council meeting that he removed Chief Bachman for "not performing his duties and being away from police headquarters, usually in the tavern on Madison Avenue, most of the time. For the last six months, he has been hard to find whenever he was needed. I have noticed that he spends an hour a day at the police station and this won't do. Our people need an acting police chief, available whenever the occasion arises." He claimed to have discharged the others for less serious charges such as "found sleeping while on duty," using a police car for private missions outside the village, unsatisfactory performance of duties and lack of co-operation, and being "poisoned against the administration." The whole affair took on the flavor of a real political fight as Dron also claimed to take responsibility as the acting Chief of Police. After reading newspaper accounts of Dron's charges, Bachman denied being part owner of a tavern in Madison.[18]

Captain Onesky later punched Mayor Dron in the mouth and was placed in jail with five charges against him. When confronted by the Mayor for wearing his uniform although he had been discharged by the Mayor, Onesky threw the punch at Dron.[19]

Acting State's Attorney Austin Lewis of Madison sent sheriff's deputies to the city to preserve law and order. Mayor Dron said he resented this intrusion "when there was positively no need for help...Lewis also walked into our police station and took charge of things, so I am told, without a sufficient reason. He also posted his brother, a constable, at the desk—I don't know where Lewis gets all his authority or why he exercised it at a time when it was wholly unnecessary."[20]

Robert Dron survived politically to be re-elected in 1939, another controversial election in the history of Madison politics.

The election campaign of 1939 established a low standard for local electoral politics. It epitomized mud-slinging and name-calling at its worst.

The Citizens Protective Party consisted of a slate of Louis Spohr, William Morris, Joseph Pero, and Mary Dittman. Their campaign distributed a leaflet showing a black man with head and eyes taped, and a caption saying he was "illegally arrested, slugged, and kidnapped by Mayor Dron's Bunch," in a "HITLER-LIKE escapade." A second leaflet was headed "Negro of Newport Aroused!" A sub-heading asked, "Negro Citizens, Are You Going to Stand for These Hitler-Like Tactics!" The appeal to race indicated the importance of winning the black vote in Newport.

A third piece of campaign literature attacked Mayor Robert Dron and several of his supporters. One of these was a man who was alleged to have allowed the mayor to use phony names in doing business with the city. This same supporter had pleaded guilty several years earlier to robbing the U.S. mail while serving as a mail carrier. The father-in-law of the mayor was also accused by a 14-year old girl of having attacked her. A final piece of campaign literature was

critical of the purchase by the city administration of the Chain of Rocks Bridge over the Mississippi River between Granite City and North St. Louis County.[21]

The rival Improving Party Candidates of John Garesche, Elmer Noonan, and Stephan Maeras referred to their opponents as the "four horsemen." It must be assumed that this was a reference to the Citizen's Protective Party campaign of gloom-and-doom.

The election of 1941 was the last successful campaign for Mayor Robert Dron. In the school board election of that year, the slate supported by Dron won easily over the slate backed by Dr. R.L. Marshall and was a harbinger of the village election several days later. Steve Maeras and Edward Roberts, backed by Dron, won almost 2-to-1 over the opposition ticket.[22]

In the village election later that week, one of the largest outpouring of voters ever in Madison, turned out and re-elected Mayor Robert Dron. There was a heavy anti-administration vote, however, as Dron defeated Marshall 1,916 to 1,441. Although organized along non-partisan lines early in the campaign, as the election drew near partisan politics was injected into it. Mayor Dron was backed by the County Democratic machine while Dr. Marshall drew support, both financially and morally, from the state Republican organization. Some Madisonians were still on the state payroll but were summarily dismissed by the Republican administration. One of these was State Highway Patrolman Barney Fraundorf, an active supporter of Dron.[23]

Mayor Robert Dron must have felt a twist of irony the next year in 1942 as he resigned as Village President following a referendum to change Madison from a village to a city. The person named to succeed Dron as presiding officer was none other than Stephan Maeras. One conjures up images of the Mayor saying, "Et Tu, Stephan?" It was only eleven months prior to this change that Dron had supported Maeras in his re-election campaign for the school board.[24]

As a result of abandoning its village form of government, Madison ceased to be the self-proclaimed "Biggest Little Village in the World." The vote for the change was 1,284 in support vs. 488 against. In what seemed to be a political power-play, Dron resigned his post as Mayor and Bridge Manager of the Chain of Rocks Bridge. It is ironic that Dron, at whose election the previous year 3,386 votes were cast, could not get out sufficient voters to carry this election for him.[25]

In the election that followed, Stephan Maeras was elected the first city Mayor. He headed the Citizens Progressive Party with 1,940 votes vs. 1,163 votes.for the Labor Party, led by Dr. R.A. Marshall. This election demonstrated a skill that would follow Stephan Maeras the rest of his political career--that of "Always getting the vote.out." When the polls closed 3,103 Madisonians had cast their ballots. His supporters were reported to be more of the ethnic element in the city and most of his workers were reported to be a younger element.[26]

The election of 1945 showed Mayor Maeras defeating Joseph Grenzer by a vote of 2,047 to 1,340. There was no opposition in the election of 1949.[27]

The 1953 election was somewhat lively as Dr. Henry Cohan ran against Maeras. He ran on a platform to permanently rid the city of "commercialized vice, gambling, and loose women." He also promised to abolish city council caucuses and air city affairs in open meetings; avoid meddling in school board affairs; publish a yearly account of receipts, expenses, and salaries of the Chain of Rocks Bridge, and organize a citizen’s advisory board to advise the mayor and city council. The campaign promise in regard to the bridge was made in reference to charges that bridge receipts and expenses were not accurate. There was no real accountability of bridge receipts and questions persisted concerning the accuracy of these.

In the election Maeras overwhelmingly defeated Dr. Cohan by a vote of 2,733 to 683.2

Maeras ran without opposition in 1957 and 1961.

A tiff developed in 1964 between Mayor Maeras and Police Chief Stanley Wojcik. The police department has always been one of the plums of political patronage in the city of Madison, particularly the position of Police Chief. It was a disagreement concerning the role of the chief in politics that led to the dispute between Maeras and Wojcik.

The mayor fired the chief in a dispute over meetings between Wojcik and former Madison Chief Barney Fraundorf, who was now serving as Madison County Sheriff. There were reports that Wojcik planned to resign and join Fraundorf in the sheriff's department. Maeras beat him to the punch by firing him, allegedly for appointing an acting chief in his place, without the consent of the city council. Maeras also indicated that he would oppose Wojcik receiving his city pension, even if he had to go to court, an amount reported to be $300 per month.[29]

Sheriff Fraundorf said that he was followed whenever he entered the city although he still owned a home there. He also stated that he had been ordered to stay out of city hall. The shadowing was denied by Maeras although Wojcik indicated that he had orders to keep a watch on Fraundorf when he was in the city and to report to the mayor the places he visited and to whom he talked.

Mayor Maeras claimed that the meetings between Wojcik and Fraundorf amounted to insubordination. Consequently, he fired Wojcik. Fraundorf claimed that his prime concern was to keep Madison clean of vice and gambling. He said,

"I'll continue to keep a close watch, and when I find anything I'll bring my men and raid right in the city. This isn't politics; I have no political leanings in this."[30]

Fraundorf maintained that he was gathering evidence of gangster-controlled gambling operating off-and-on in Madison with "floating games" of dice and cards at various locations. "They'd wait until Wojcik went home to bed and then start their games," he said. He added that a theft ring was operating out of-a Madison tavern and that a known operator of houses of ill-repute was seen earlier in the year frequenting a tavern in the 1300 block of Madison Avenue. "We don't want to go back to those old days," he declared.

Maeras claimed that Wojcik was allowing Fraundorf to still run the department and that policemen were complaining. "Stan is torn between two loyalties, and he should be loyal to the administration. After all we sign the pay checks. One thing the organization expects is loyalty or °get out'."

Wojcik charged that Maeras wanted him to work in the election, which he did not feel was a proper role for the chief of police. Maeras claimed that he expected loyalty out of every employee in the city with the exception of the police department.

That the rift was politically motivated was shown by Mayor claiming that his brother John Maeras, would oppose Fraundorf for any county office in two years.

Aldermen were present at the next city council meeting as well as Mayor Lee of Venice, Judge Austin Lewis, and state representative "Buck" Simmons. They were familiar with the political background of the situation and it was reported that they knew the township Democratic organization had supported Fraundorf for sheriff "to get him out of our hair."

In attempting to finally clarify the situation, Maeras remarked that "nobody could be proud, I was not proud to discharge a man that's been on the force for 22 years... But, to me,

insubordination is a very serious situation... he (Wojcik) is under politics the same as you and I are, and he can be expected to work for the administration."[31]

As in any political machine, politics controls patronage, and patronage pulls politics. Madison was no exception. Wojcik did receive his pension.[32]

In the 1965 election Maeras defeated Robert Burns for mayor.[33] With his death in 1970, an era ended in Madison politics. He had controlled the city continuously from its transformation as a city 28 years prior. The native of Rumania was a star athlete at Madison High School, a salesman and an accountant. His election as Mayor symbolized the ascendancy of ethnic Madisonians over the native-born. His skill was that he was later able to bring both groups together.

His legacy showed an excess revenue for the city-owned Chain of Rocks Bridge, the "Goose. That Lays Golden Eggs." It allowed the city to supplement income from its limited property tax base; $100,000 annual payments continued for many years, and in 1951 all taxes for city programs were eliminated for one year. Maeras was considered a master of financial planning and services that allowed for numerous street, sidewalk, public building, and other improvements. He conceived and developed the municipally-owned Stephan Maeras Industrial Park which provided for industrial growth. The Mayor always had the ability "to get out the vote," shown by his ability to keep the machine in power, both locally and within Madison County.[34]

The death of Mayor Stephan Maeras was followed by one of the most bitter electoral struggles in the history of Madison. Alderman Ray Kozielek was named as interim mayor. Many assumed that he would get the permanent nod for the position. However, the city organization's executive board, serving as the nominating committee, instead nominated Mike Sasyk.

Both men had made an appeal for the endorsement. City Clerk John Bellcoff reportedly prepared a ballot box. Those at the meeting were required to leave the caucus room. Bellcoff then summoned each member into the room one at a time to vote. As each entered the room, Bellcoff gave them a prepared ballot containing the names of both Sasyk and Kozielek. After voting each left the room, with no two persons allowed in the room at the same time. Sasyk won the endorsement.[35]

It was not without a challenge that Sasyk entered the primary. Kozielek felt that many rank-and-file voters supported his candidacy. They issued a statement that said:

"We feel that the biased vote at the recent `closed meeting' was not a true representation of public opinion. We all make up a part of the political machine..Due to the outcome of the closed meeting, this support is being challenged."[36]

Kozielek proceeded to push through thirty-day appointments in an attempted power play vs. the Madison machine. Most of the aldermen and a partisan crowd at the meeting strongly objected to the maneuver. In acting in this manner, Kozielek maintained that he did not have to heed the advice of the city's legal staff, attorneys John Gitchoff and Nick Vasileff.

The most controversial of the acting mayor's appointments was the replacement of Police Chief Frank Dutko with Capt. Edward Zabotka and the altering of the legal department with William Kinder being chosen corporation counsel and Leon Scroggins as city attorney.

The acting mayor was accused by Alderman John Haynes of playing "political football," and asked why no names were called from West Madison, the black section of Madison. The representatives from Madison High School's Student Government Day got a first-hand lesson in the intrigue of machine politics. The council rejected the appointments by a vote of 7-to-1.

Kozielek insisted that he had the power to make temporary 30-day appointments. Events were developing into a full scale political brouhaha.[37]

Other candidates entered the race. These included Louise Lewis, widow of the late Associate Circuit Judge Austin Lewis: John Henry Moore, and V.K. Happy. Ms. Lewis stated that her candidacy was motivated by "a desire to create a government of the people through free elections instead of dictatorial `one-man rule'." Her statement was an obvious reference to machine politics.[38]

Controversies soon developed throughout the election campaign. The varying factions maneuvered for advantageous position. A dispute developed over who was going to get what paycheck as the city seemed to have two slates of officials, those backed by the city council and the temporary appointments of Kozielek.[39]

Another quarrel developed over the operation of landfill on ground leased by the city of Madison. It led to an altercation in which Leo Abel, former operator of the landfill, knocked City Clerk John Belicoff to the ground and accused other city officials of "stealing my landfill." Abel was angered over the loss of his partnership in the landfill operation and continued operation of the landfill under a lease which he claimed was given to him by the city of Madison and never officially transferred to the operators. He charged that while he was operating the landfill a Madison city official had been paid a 'silent partner's" percentage share of the net receipts. He also claimed that he had been "moved out" as a landfill partner on orders of the same city official and that Madison officials were once his partners in the project.[40]

Abel contended that he was paid a flat $10,000 fee by the present landfill operators and that he was required to accept the fee under threat from the late Stephan Maeras to revoke the landfill lease. The landfill appeared to be a lucrative venture with tremendous potential for profits.[41]

Abel struck Bellcoff while demanding to see the minute books from city council meetings to determine whether or not the transfer had ever been brought to the attention of council members.

Candidate John Henry Moore was removed from his job at the state driver's license examining station because of his campaign for mayor. Moore maintained that he was called by the director of personnel in the office of Secretary of State Paul Powell and asked if he had withdrawn from the race. The director told him that it was the policy of Powell's office to require a leave of absence by all employees who run for office. Moore stated that he had no intention of doing so.[42]

Acting Mayor Kozielek abolished a "Good Fellowship Club" which he described as a medium for "putting the lug" on Madison city employees. He described it as a savings of thousands of dollars to city employees, who he claimed were required to pay the fee to the Madison City Organization. Most of the money was reportedly used for campaign purposes. In his statement Kozielek said "...this 'lug' places an emotional strain and financial burden on our employees.

Not only is it illegal, but morally wrong."[43]

The pre-election turmoil went down to the last few days as controversy reigned. One dispute involved the question of whether Mike Sasyk or Louise Lewis filed their petitions first. Ms. Lewis reportedly filed her petitions at 3:10 on a Friday afternoon and was told by the Comptroller, when asked, that she was the only candidate to have filed. A few minutes later, however, the City Clerk told her that she was the second to file. When she claimed that she was told she was the first to file, the City Clerk informed her otherwise. The City Clerk claimed that

Sasyk had called him at his job at the bank and that Sasyk had filed his petition at 4:45 p.m. on that day. Ms. Lewis stated, "I realize there is nothing I can do about it, but it seems like an odd way to do business. The city clerk's office is in the city hall."[44]

The split in the machine may have been the result of the personal ambitions of the two major candidates, Kozielek and Sasyk. The outcome of the election may have come down to one crucial ward, the black Fifth Ward. Control of Newport was believed to be the determining factor in the 1970 .election. Since Mike Sasyk had greater influence with black alderman John Haynes and Booker Walton, he was favored. This proved true as Sasyk won the election.

One major decision made by the city council during the short tenure of Ray Kozielek was to fill in the old swimming pool at the Madison Recreation Center and resurface it for some other recreational purposes. One alderman said the pool had deteriorated, was unsanitary, and would cost more to restore than to build a new pool.

Alderman Haynes objected and said that the pool should be used for its original intent--swimming. He called for further study and claimed, "You can't hide your sorrow with a load of sand."

Alderman Kismer asked why the pool, built in the late 1940's, had not been used for 17 years. City Attorney Nick Vasileff informed him the pool was closed initially to assure continued segregation.

Haynes and Walton, the black aldermen, voted against the resolution to eliminate the pool.[45]

Mike Sasyk was re-elected without opposition in 1973. In 1977 he faced opposition from Patricia Moss, whom he defeated by a vote of 1,745 to 311.[46] In 1981 he almost doubled Jim Riskovsky by a tally of 1,344 to 740.[47]

Mayor Sasyk resigned in 1985 after a tenure of fourteen years. His major accomplishments were in providing services for the City. All of the city streets were black-topped and all of the city alleys were paved. A new mini-mall shopping mart was developed at the corner of Third and Madison Avenue. It was named the David Connole Alpine Shopping Center after the 1936 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy who was commander of the submarine Trigger when it was lost off the coast of Japan in 1945. The USS Connole, dedicated in 1968, has served as an escort to the USS Nimitz in the Mediterranean.

During Sasyk's administration the city also installed a burglar-alarm system for all of the businesses in town and in many homes and churches. The city decorated the fronts of many businesses with a distinctive "Alpine Look."[48]

Madison also gained regional attention by painting its fire hydrants in a colorful theme of cartoon characters.

The early resignation of Mike Sasyk touched off another split in the machine and led to one of the shortest tenures in the mayor's office in Madison history. Tom Gordon, much like Ray Kozielek, was chosen to serve as acting mayor. As in the case of Kozielek, he was opposed by an insider from the Madison organization. Many observers believed that Gordon would win the election by virtue of getting the interim position. However, John Bellcoff, a long-time member of the Madison city organization, challenged Gordon for the position. He was a former school board President, City Clerk and a long time officer of the First National Bank in Madison.

Gordon was hurt by the very controversial issue of Home Rule, which he supported. Many voters saw this as an attempt to give the city more power of raising revenue without voter affirmation.

Another issue that may have damaged the candidacy of Gordon was the purchase by the city of land along Illinois State, Highway 203 and Interstate 70. This included land along both the Skelly Truck Stop and the St. Louis International Raceway at the intersection of the two thoroughfares. The land also bordered East St. Louis. Many viewed this as giving Madison more responsibility for policing land in an area known for problems and high crime rates without any corresponding increase in revenue from taxes.

In the end it may have been old-fashioned politics that led to the Bellcoff defeat of Gordon. Bellcoff was an old-time politician with many connections. He was from a longtime Bulgarian family and was popular with many segments of the community. He had served as past president of the Southwestern Illinois Regional Planning Commission and was past chairman of the Tri-City Regional Port District.

Bellcoff was re-elected in 1989 by defeating former Madison policeman and 2nd Ward Alderman Ron Grzywacz in a vote of 1,336-to 708.[49] Bellcoff remains Mayor-of-Madison as the city prepares to celebrate its centennial year. The city has entered an era of fiscal conservatism as the town has aged. Jobs have been lost with the community and no new homes have been built in years. At the same time, the necessity for services has remained high with an older population. Many homes have become rental property for a more transient population as the older population passes on. Dealing with these changes will be a challenge for Madison and Bellcoff as Madison gets ready to enter the Twenty-first Century.

However, one recent act by the City Council under Bellcoff may leave as significant a legacy to Madison as the purchase of the Chain of Rocks Bridge did in the late 1930's. Its affect is yet to be determined but its potential may be tremendous in terms of offsetting economic stagnation. The city annexed 28.3 acres of unincorporated land along Illinois 203 and Interstate 70-55.[50]

The land is roughly the same as that purchased by the Gordon administration. However, there is one key difference. Within the last year, Congressman Jerry Costello announced that studies are now under way to-determine the feasibility of building a new Mississippi River Bridge connecting St. Louis with the Metro-East area of Illinois. The prime site being considered would connect downtown St. Louis with Highway 203 and Interstates 70-55. The area under consideration is zoned industrial and is largely underdeveloped. The potential for manufacturing and industrial growth is tremendous. It would have easy access to railroad and barge traffic as well as Interstates 64, 270, and 255. If developed the area could once again, perhaps, provide Madison with the "Goose That Lays Golden Eggs." The timing of the announcement of the annexation of the land to the plans for the new bridge may once again prove the clout of the Madison political machine.

Endnotes

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47. Granite City Press-Record, April 9, 1981.

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49. Granite City Press-Record, April 6, 1989.

50. Granite City Press-Record, February, 1990.

ECONOMIC HISTORY OF MADISON

The location of Madison directly across the Mississippi River from St. Louis contained many advantages for the city. It had access to the Merchants Bridge by railroad to North St. Louis. Later the McKinley Bridge in Venice provided connections via streetcar and automobile. The proximity of Madison to the river meant that barge traffic could be used to connect the city to the entire Mississippi River Valley with access to the Ohio River and the Gulf of Mexico.

However, there were certain disadvantages to Madison's location. One obvious problem was the potential threat of flooding from the Mississippi River. This quandary proved to be reality with the Flood of 1903. Madison was late getting into development as it was a relative newcomer when compared to more established communities such as Alton, Edwardsville Collinsville, and Highland.

These conditions set off a rivalry between the communities dating back to the earliest years of Madison. The Edwardsville Democrat knocked the Tri-Cities of Madison, Venice, and Granite City by saying that Edwardsville is "high and dry, no sand, no water," in comparison to Madison, which remained located on a floodplain.[1]

In a rebuttal the Granite City Press-Record commented of Edwardsville that "progress is slow, very slow. No advancement. That is just the reason Edwardsville capital is invested here in a live, thriving community."[2]

The Collinsville Press, in an article copied from the Alton Republican, said of the Tri-Cities: "Granite City, Madison, and Venice, and the environs of East St. Louis are good for corn fields and potato patches in off years, but was never intended as sites for manufacturing plants, which

demand perfect security and immunity from all dangers of floods and consequent loss and damage."[3]

The Granite City Press responded to these charges by saying that the only place suitable for manufacturing in Alton (a city of hills) was submerged during floods and that Collinsville was only suitable for plants not needing any water.[4]

Madison's economic birth started with the building of the American Car and Foundry, more commonly known as the "Car Shops." Other industrial manufacturing, and commercial concerns soon followed. These included the Standard Oil barrel works, Helmbacher Forge and Rolling Mill, Kettle River Tie and Lumber Company, Laclede Steel, and the Tri-City Refrigeration Company.

These companies were vulnerable to fluctuations in the national economy. A sharp, decline in orders from the east coast closed the Helmbacher Forge and Rolling Mills for an indefinite period in 1903, as about 700 men were laid off during the economic downturn of the early 1900's.[5]

Environmental problems temporarily caused the Helmbacher Forge and Rolling Mills to close down in 1907. The court injunction in the case asked that the Helmbacher plant and the Car Shops be enjoined from emptying their sewage in the lowlands just south and west of their respective plants. The estate of Corwin Spencer, who owned 200acres of land next to the plants, alleged damage to the land caused by the sewage from the plants. Nearly 2500 men were in danger of losing their jobs at a time when an equal amount were already unemployed.[6]

The Coudy Brothers established the first business enterprise in Madison. They built a hardware store that dealt in lumber, builder's hardware, and paints. George and William Coudy established the firm in 1888 on 225 ft. of frontage tract on Second Street and Madison Avenue. By 1908, they had a $40,000 per year business employing seven people and running a team of three horses. Both brothers were active in the Madison Good Government League, which was credited, for a short period of time, with "ridding the community of the degrading influences of the gambling and racetrack men."[7]

Madison maintained economic growth throughout the early 1900's as the village developed with a residential, commercial, and industrial base. In 1903 the E.W. Hilker Coal and Feed Company was incorporated with capital stock of $10,000. The firm dealt in lime, cement, coal, feed, and building material. It had already been doing business in Madison for twelve years.[8]

A symbol of the economic growth of Madison was the creation in 1904 of the Tri-City State Bank in the Hindle Building at Second and Madison Avenue. The organizers of the bank were Dr. Charles W. Kiser, Oscar S. Schooley, and T.T. Hinde. Capitol stock was listed at $25,000. Kiser was elected President, Henry Meinecke of Venice was the Vice-President, C.W. Burton of St. Louis was the cashier, with Hinde, Schooley, and Jacob Hensler the directors.[9]

The First National Bank of Madison was opened in the Hilker Building in 1906 with capital stock of $50,000. Warren Champion was the cashier.[10] The bank was largely a reflection of his business interests as only a week earlier Champion Grocery was incorporated by William, George, and Warren Champion with capital stock of $12,000.[11]

Both banks continued to grow with Madison. By 1909, 1st National had deposits of $66,840 while Tri-City had deposits of $41,829. Both institutions still lagged behind others in Madison

County as the Alton banks had deposits of $3,500,000, Edwardsville of $1,500,000, Granite City with $800,000, Collinsville at $500,000, and Highland with deposits of $1,200 000.[12]

By 1910, the 1st National Bank was pulling away from Tri-City State Bank with deposits of $126,593 compared to $43,065. A short six months later 1st National was up to $150,,000 in deposits compared to Tri-City's $50,000.[13]

A new banking institution, known as the Union Trust Company of Madison, was organized in 1919. The bank purchased a lot at 1215 Madison Avenue with plans for a modern interior equipped with mahogany and marble fixtures. Elected as directors by the stockholders were the following: Henry Carter, Henry Connole, W.O. Trott, J.E. Lee, Edgar Hendricks, Morris Glik, Frank Troeckler, and R.P. Titus. The officers were President Frank Carter, Vice-Presidents Henry Connole and Frank Troeckler, and Treasurer Andrea Andreoff. The combined wealth of the stockholders was estimated at $5,000,000. The steady growth of Madison had created a demand for money on real estate security and it was the expressed intentions of the Union Trust Company to put Madison real estate on the preferred list. The bank was organized to make possible a greater number of home-owners in Madison."

Two newspapers started operation in the first decade of this century. The most prominent was the Madison Republic. The Madison Tribune was the other newspaper.[15]

The cornerstone of economic life in Madison remained heavy industry and manufacturing. In addition to the previous mentioned plants, Laclede Steel opened in 1911. It was founded June 3, 1911, by T.R. Akin, a native St. Louisan and first president of the company. He associated with several eastern steel producers, then established Laclede's first plant in Madison. At that time St. Louis was the second largest rail center in the United States, and Akin saw the possibility of

taking used steel rails and rolling them into reinforcing bars and other steel products. The new mill was financed with local capital.

The firm grew steadily through World War I and up to the beginning of World War II. During that time, Laclede approximately tripled its steelmaking capacity by adding to and enlarging the open hearth furnaces and by installing hot metal cupolas. From 1941-1945, the war years, Laclede's furnaces and mills turned out hundreds of thousands of tons of steel for defense purposes. Nearly 2500 sheets of shell steel for use in 90 and 105 millimeter projectiles were tapped out of the furnaces and rolled into bars.[16]

In later years Laclede Steel's products were used in buildings, highways, on farms, in underground line pipe installations, by electric and gas utilities, and by contractors for commercial, residential, and public buildings. Their products were also used in auto manufacturing, outdoor and indoor furniture, airplane manufacturing, lawnmowers, refrigeration coils for ice skating rinks, and wire staples for match books.

Laclede Steel contributed a great deal to the economic life of the community. The payroll of Laclede Steel was estimated at $34 million in 1966--most of it going to Madison County residents. By that time the company employed 4,500 employees, many of whom were second or third generation workers.[17]

The plant eventually closed its doors during the recession of the 1970's. As with many older steel plants in America, the plant fell victim to obsolescence and competition. Plants across the landscape of America--from Pittsburgh--to Youngstown, Gary, and to St. Louis--went the way of the horse-and-buggy. Many older workers were forced into early retirement and many younger workers had to scramble to find jobs in a changing economy. Laclede Steel was no exception.

A founding plant in Madison was shut down in 1920 as one of the worst fires in the history of Madison ravaged the village. The Helmbacher Forge and Rolling Mills were destroyed in a fire on December 12, 1915, that threatened to destroy hundreds of homes before the conflagration was extinguished. The loss was estimated at $500,000. Fire departments from Madison, Granite City, Venice, and two St. Louis companies were called out in an attempt to control the fire. The flames were fanned by heavily blowing winds.

Sparks from the burning plant crossed State Street and threatened to ignite businesses, presumably brothels and saloons, on the very important street. Volunteers and citizens helped to contain the flames. Residences across State Street were also threatened. Thousands of dollars worth of damage from fire and water did occur as a result.

Fires broke out all over town and several citizens were overcome with smoke from dense clouds brought on by the fire. Smoke reportedly enveloped the village. Several prominent residents had their homes damaged as a result.

The home of John Malone, an alderman living at Third Street and Washington Avenue, three blocks from the fire, suffered minor damage from sparks carried by the wind. The home of Warren Champion, five blocks away on Fourth Street, caught fire.

Electric light and telegraph wires around town were knocked down. McKinley bridge trolley cars had to be re-routed.

When the fire broke out citizens thought that a tornado had struck as the heavy winds combined with the fire caused a loud roar throughout the village.

It was believed the eastern course of the wind in all likelihood saved the American Car and Foundry plant located in close proximity to the Helmbacher Company. The output of Helmbacher was bar iron, most of which was utilized by the "Car Shops."[18]

American Car and Foundry, the "Car Shops," was a dependable source of employment for many Madisonians throughout most of this century. The plant continued to grow and prospered during the war years of World War II. At the request of President Franklin Roosevelt, the plant launched an all-out effort to produce many railroad cars for the war effort. The plant was put on a six-day week basis and issued a public call for more workmen. The district manager of the plant termed it "a patriotic undertaking." It was estimated the plant could produce 40 cars a day. He called upon Mayor Robert Dron to help provide shelter and food for the anticipated influx of additional workers. At this time the "Car Shops" employed 1500 workers. The increased production was estimated to lead to maximum employment of 2500 people.

Mayor Dron calculated that 300-to-500 men filtered into Madison to work at the shops. He asked private citizens to help house the workers by providing rooms, apartments, houses, or other living quarters.[19]

The prosperity, however, was short-lived. The "Car Shops" closed its doors on September 1, 1950, as most of the orders were transferred to the larger St. Louis plant of American Car and Foundry. A notable era in the economic history of Madison had come to an end.[20]

The grounds of the old American Car and Foundry plant were bought by a St. Louis firm in 1967 for the reconstruction of a new steel processing operation by Metal Goods Corporation. The plant was designed to tailor steel to customer's specifications. The site of American Car and Foundry was chosen because of its proximity to the Granite City Steel Company. The plant has a

1200-foot railroad spur serviced by the Terminal Railroad Association, and is located close to a number of major truck lines.[21]

A latecomer in the manufacturing in Madison was the Dow Chemical Plant. It opened in 1951 and was one of the first metal products plants in the world equipped to manufacture wrought products from magnesium on a mass scale. Until 1956 it was a magnesium rolling mill, and afterward a manufacturer of aluminum products. At its peak it employed a work force of about 1100 and produced almost 50,000 tons of aluminum and magnesium products.[22]

Magnesium produced at Madison made up much of Telstar One, the history-making radio-television communications earth satellite. The plant also produced materials used in the Boeing 727 and 737, as well as in landing fields in Vietnam used by the American military.

Dow Chemical occupied facilities that were formerly known as the Armor Plant and as the Standard Steel Corp. during production of war materials in World War II.

The basic production of magnesium and aluminum products has not changed although ownership of the plant has changed several times. Dow Chemical sold out to Phelps Dodge in 1969. Five years later Consolidated Aluminum bought out Phelps Dodge and started production at Conalco. Today, Spectrulite consortium, Inc., is the owner of the plant.[23]

The First National Bank of Madison was re-organized in 1933 after being closed for the "bank holiday" moratorium by President Franklin Roosevelt. The new bank had capital stock of $50,000 and a surplus of $10 000. Assets were fixed at $400,000. It was located at Fourth Street and Madison Avenue. Frank Fijan was chosen as cashier and H.C. Ransburgh as assistant cashier.

Re-organizing and re-opening took months of effort. Depositors were required to waive 50% of their deposits as a first step. This was a period when it was reported that bank officers in Madison attempted to force investors to sell their savings at a reduced rate. Most depositors needed immediate cash and could not hold out until the value of their savings reached full value. Speculators, however, could wait and offered to buy up their savings at reduced value.[24]

The next step was sale of capital stock. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation purchased $25,000 worth of preferred stock and $35,000 in common stock, which was sold largely to the community and new stockholders. There were 72 subscribers.

The new officers of the bank were Dr. J.E. Lee as President, and James R. Alcott as Vice-President. The directors were Dr. Lee, Alcott, A.W. Baltz, Max Blumenfield, Francis Lahey, John Malone, and Dr. J.A. Scopelite.[25]

First National Bank today operates modern facilities at Sixth Street and Madison Avenue.

Several new light industrial, and manufacturing firms came to Madison in the early 1970's with the development of the new Stephan Maeras Industrial Park located on grounds next to Madison High in East Madison. Among these firms were Cain Steel and Lanter Refrigeration.

Small retail firms were for many years a vital part of the Madison economy. Madison Avenue between Third and Fourteenth Streets were the hub of Madison retail activity. Several notable business operations thrived on this strip until recent years as retail activity declined, largely due to aging and competition from suburban malls.

Among these were Glik's, a clothing store located at Third and Madison Avenue. For many years it was the primary clothier in Madison. Nornberg’s is still a retail institution located on Madison

Avenue between Third and Fourth Sts. Reese's Drugstore has survived three changes of location but remains a vital firm for Madisonians. The main supermarket in Madison has always been Schermer's at 12th and Madison. Pace's Hardware at Fifth and Madison was the successor to Friedman's Hardware. Glik's, Nornberg's, Schermer's, and Friedman's were all examples of Jewish success in the retail establishment business.

Service firms such as restaurants and taverns have become institutions and draw visitors from all over the Metro area. Brenda's Restaurant on Madison between Fourth and Fifth was the successor to the old Trojan Restaurant. It is still a thriving business and a gathering place for many Madisonians. Rizzo's, an established south St. Louis restaurant, has opened a Rizzo's East at Thirteenth and Madison. Ethnic bars, such as Polish Hall and Croatian Home, remain popular watering holes for many retired and working-class ethnics as well as many others.

Several new businesses have been built or re-modeled in recent years. Three quick shops have been constructed. Barnett's Pest Control has expanded its operations at Fifth and McCambridge Avenue. The Madison branch of Amvet's recently finalized the building of a new bar and hall at McCambridge and Kennedy Drive.

Madison does not have as much potential for new development as it is enclosed by Venice on the west, Granite City on the north and east, and East St. Louis on the south. However, the annexation of land off of Highway 203 and Interstates 55 and 70 offers prospects of economic development.

A community with such a strong base of industrial and manufacturing firms traditionally affiliates with unions. Madison has always been a pro-union community. There are examples of a union bias in Madison history.

An earlier section in this manuscript reported on the raid of a group of union organizers by Police Chief Patrick McCambridge in 1920 that led to the shooting of a bystander. Consequently, McCambridge was indicted, found guilty, but the decision was later overturned.

This was not the first example of a difference of opinion between workers and Chief McCambridge. Madisonians have traditionally been hard-working, blue-collar people. This brought them into conflict with some officials that seemed to have ties to employers. As was mentioned earlier, village officials, including Mayor Garesche, were in the employment of the "Car Shops." Chief McCambridge in 1905 ordered labor organizers of the American Federation of Labor to refrain from holding labor meetings in Madison. A planned labor meeting was consequently abandoned by the organizers.

As a result, P.H. Strawhun, General Organizer of the A.F.L., reported the matter to Washington headquarters. He stated in his letter the reasons given by McCambridge to not allow the meeting: "there will be an armed band of thugs on hand to beat us up and that he (McCambridge)'could not afford us protection and would not attempt it..." Strawhun petitioned for the right to hold another meeting.

Sheriff Crowe responded in a letter forwarded to Mayor Garesche that gave authorization to the workers to meet. It stated that the sheriff would assist the Mayor in preventing any action by armed thugs but "...if those people desire to hold a meeting in your city, and their meeting is conducted in an orderly manner, that there is no reason why they should not be permitted to hold such a meeting."

The meeting was held at the Knights of Pythias Hall at 12th and Madison Avenue. A federal labor union was organized with 142 members. Nat G. Eaton, national organizer of the

Carworkers' International Union, and James Eaton of the American Federation of Labor were speakers. Officers for the union were elected and a charter was formed. There was no disruption by armed "thugs." The reason, perhaps, was that Chief McCambridge had been put on notice that the meeting should not be disturbed.[26]

Fourteen years later the workers at American Car and Foundry were still fighting for collective bargaining rights. Over one thousand workers of the Madison branch of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen met at the Venice Hall. A telegram was sent to the Federal Labor Bureau in Washington asking for an investigation into the layoff of some 300-400 men. The men said the company laid them off in an attempt to intimidate them and force the union to disband.

The telegram stated that the company made its decision following the signing of union pledges by 500 employees. It also claimed that all the laid off men were members of the union, making it apparent the action taken was an effort to prevent the unionization of the employees by intimidation.

The company replied that the layoffs were due to a cutback in orders and a need to preserve jobs for the oldest and most efficient workers.[27]

A small scale riot, however, did take place in 1917 at a dump north of the Commonwealth Steel Industry. Black teamsters, who had been employed as strike breakers in hauling material to the sewers, were chased from their wagons by the striking teamsters. The blacks ran some distance before finally turning on their pursuers and opening fire with pistols. The police were called and with the help of Venice police arrested the strikebreakers.

Upon hearing that a white man had been shot by a black, a large crowd of whites quickly assembled with the avowed intention of wreaking vengeance. The police --quickly- took the arrested men to Edwardsville and the crowd was dispersed.

The men were employed by E.W. Hilker, a Madison businessman. He had a contract for furnishing material for a sewer job at the Commonwealth Plant. A strike had been in progress for some time before Hilker hired blacks to work as strikebreakers.[28]

THE GOOSE THAT LAYS GOLDEN EGGS

A gold mine for the city of Madison was the purchase of the Chain of Rocks Bridge in 1939. The bridge connected north St. Louis and County with the Metro-East between Alton and Granite City. For many years until the late 1960's, it was the primary connection between the East Side and growing North St. Louis County.

The bridge was unique in many ways. It was modeled in the design of older bridges such as the MacArthur Bridge in downtown St. Louis. It was curved in the middle which provided for a fascinating drive for many motorists. Looking toward the south the driver could view the low water dam-- the so-called "chain of rocks." An old-time lighthouse stood watch over the "chain of rocks." The rocks created a tranquil scene of-cascading rapids. To the north was Mosenthein Island, standing alone in the middle of the mighty Mississippi.

Mayor Robert Dron, with the support of the Council, negotiated the deal in February of 1939. The bridge with its tolls, proved to be very profitable and valuable to the village and city. Year after year the bridge set new earnings records and reached a level of income at $728,494 by the year of 1956.. The bridge paid for itself many times over. Madison bought the bridge for $2,300,000, utilizing 25-year bond issue. The city was able to refinance the bonds in 1948, allowing the city to show gross profits of over $100 000 per year throughout the 1950's. An attribute to its success was the ability of the city administration under Mayor Stephan Maeras to cancel property taxes for the year 1951. The city enjoyed a more than $2 million dollar "jackpot" from its earnings, with interest alone providing more than $40,000 a year in revenue. It financed the rebuilding of the Madison storm sewer construction project in the mid-1960's. The "goose

that lays golden eggs" resulted in the installation of new streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, lights and sewers as well as augmenting the funds for operation of the municipal government.

Today the bridge stands merely as a skeleton crossing the Mississippi River. Barricades are used to try to prevent party-goers from using it as a gathering place. Proposals have been made to convert the superstructure for uses such as open-air shops, a flea market, and restaurants. None have been successful. The costs of demolition remain too high although the bridge has not been used for over twenty years.

Twice the bridge has brought some note of notoriety for itself and the city of Madison. It was used for scenes in the filming of the movie "Escape from New York." It was also the subject in an article from the Saturday Evening Post that was critical of Mayor Maeras's promises as to what the bridge could achieve for the city of Madison. A copy of that editorial follows.[30]

SUMMARY

Madison is a city with a very colorful past. Implicit in its character are controversial individuals and events. The history of the community presents a dichotomy of hard-working, God-fearing, fiercely independent people amidst a town that has frequently yielded to vices, human weaknesses, and a dependence on political maneuverings.

It is a history that offers a classical study in contemporary American history. Madison is a microcosm of the urban, industrial state. A dependence on capital as a necessary tool of industrial growth is part of the Madison past. Immigration as a necessary factor in the form of labor is contained in the story. The "melting pot" dream and resultant amalgamation into mainstream American society is there. The unfortunate division of races is as well.

The vices of urban America dominate much of the story. A textbook study of an American political machine takes up many of its pages. Fortunes made as well as the existence of the less fortunate are told in the story of the Great. Depression.

Loyalty to nationality is told in the story of World War I.

Finally, the decline of the older, blue-collar, industrial base is told in more recent times.

Madison has truly been a significant sociological as well as historical study. I only hope the reader finds the story as interesting as I found the research fascinating.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUBJECT

It is hoped that a number of items were contributed to the study of history and the topic of Madison history. A small piece of knowledge was contributed to each of the specific areas of American history listed in the summary. These include, but are not limited to urbanization, industrialization, immigration, ethnic and race relations, capitalism, machine politics, vice and attempts at reform, depression and relief, global conflict, and education.

Specific topics were addressed and may make for interesting footnotes. Among these are the roles of early Madisonians such as Mayor Ferdinand Garesche and Patrick McCambridge. They were strong and powerful figures who seemed to serve their interests as well as the public interest.

National figures, such as Adlai Stevenson and Senator Paul Simon, have limited but important roles in Madison history. In other cases, such as the Great Depression, Madison played a role reversal by participating in national programs.

There are areas of this paper that could be enlarged upon for further study, possibly as part of a master's thesis. Topics in need of research could include vice in Madison County at the turn of the century, gambling and prostitution in Southwestern Illinois, machine politics in Madison County (one of the largest in the state outside of Cook County), grand jury investigations into vice in Madison County, New Deal programs in Southwestern Illinois, Eastern European immigration and ethnic relations in Southwestern Illinois, and the rise and fall of urban-industrial communities.

I hope this paper has contributed useful knowledge and understanding into what I found to be an enjoyable research topic.

No, Mr. Mayor: Santa Claus

Ain't for Taxpayers

From the Saturday Evening Post

If you've ever heard a little boy explain how, when he grows up, he is. going to be the best guard Yale has had since Pudge Heffelfinger, after which he intends to be President of the United States, you know how we felt when we read in the paper how Mayor Maeras, of Madison, Illinois, expects his city to get along without taxes. The reason for this astonishing optimism is that Madison has a new and profitable toll bridge. Madison expects that with "the $100,000 in toll profits expected after 1951 the city can get along without any of the usual levies, mainly real-estate and personal-property taxes."

It is no pleasure to sneer at such great expectations, but long observation elicits skepticism. Getting along without taxes is a delightful dream, but we can assure Madison there will be competition. An annual income of $100,000 may look like no taxes to some people, but to other and very vocal people it will mean a new chromium-plated high school equipped with football team, free weekly concerts by the Boston Symphony Orchestra, a brand new city hall with conference rooms even for the stumblebums who come in to get warm, a new zoo with duplex apartments for the giraffes, and a Why-Not-Locate-in-Madison Bureau, with an unlimited expense account, assigned to the task of bringing to Madison conventions of maniacs who are never happy unless throwing the furniture out of hotel windows.

As we warm to the subject, our fear is that the citizens of Madison will wind up paying more instead of less taxes on account of that lucrative toll bridge. We say this because the record will show that a surplus of $100,000 soon looks like a million to the politicians, and before you know it, the city with a surplus is slightly broker than its contemporaries with deficits. However, best luck to Madison, Illinois, and may she beat the law of averages!