Gillett Area Historical Society

BEHIND THE TIMES

Volume 7 Issue 2

SEPTEMBER 2014

Published Quarterly

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EDITORIAL

The GAHS web site will be up and running soon. Hopefully by October 1st.

Watch for more details or check often.

There is a Facebook page on which you can "comment" or "like"

This will be linked to the web site. The current Facebook page may change once the

Stay tuned!

DISCLAIMER!

All errors, such as misspellings, punctuation, misuse of words, and anything else you may find annoying, are the fault of spell check and our proofreader of whom we have none!

WANDERING THROUGH WANDERER'S REST CEMETERY WALK

A wonderful time was had at the our first Cemetery Walk, Wandering Through the Past at Wanderer's Rest, on Sunday September 7th. The weather was warm, and the sky was clear; not a raindrop in sight!

Walt Smith was a tad warm in the cardigan sweater he always wore, but did a fine description of his life. **Otto Neumann** just arrived from fishing. He had his fishing pole and was in his wading boots … and he had some books with him in case the fish weren't biting. **Nick Stromer** brought along some tools from his garage, and talked about The Little Red Car. **Rodney Gillett** trimmed his beard for the occasion, and we think he may have lost a little weight. He spoke of life and the logging he did, and tried to explain away the elusive "e" his descendants have tacked back on! **Benny Eschner**, well. He was exactly himself as you would expect, with his Yiddish accent. He talked of being sold by his parents who were poor, at the age of ten to a rich land baron in Poland as an indentured servant. He learned to sleep with the rats. He had a wonderful life in Gillett he said. Ben's grandson stepped up to speak after Benny was through, to add a few things Ben forgot to mention!

It was great to hear of the lives of these people. How wonderful they came to our event! The groups of folks that listened, wandered over to the museum for cake, cookies and beverages, and wandered about the museum. Walt, Otto, Benny, Rodney and Nick came over also …. More questions were asked.

At the end of the day it was a very good day. Everyone was pleased.

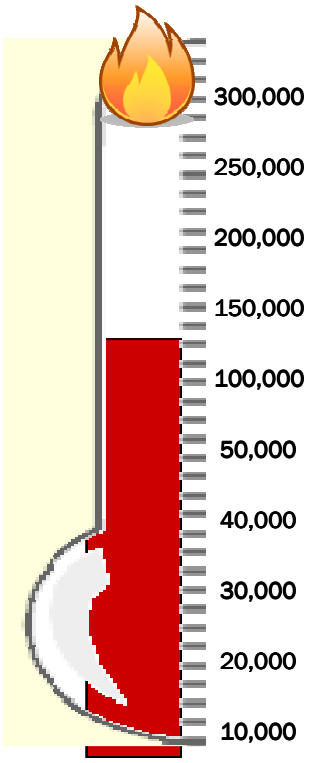
Is it possible we may do this again?

AND THEN THEY ARRIVED!
IN CARS AND ON FOOT!

RODNEY GILLETT SPEAKING

Our temperature is dropping

As our outdoor project costs begin rising, perhaps our thermometer will rise also—with your generous donations.



January 30 1886

REMEMBER!

Donations are accepted by credit card at www.gillettthistorical.com

The web site is currently down. New website coming soon

A newer and better web site will hopefully be up and running soon with the help of WIComputers in Oconto Falls!

Your donations will be extremely helpful in this process!

FISCAL YEAR ~ SEP 30 2013—OCT 1 2014

Remember—this is a tax deductible donation!

2013-2014 DONORS Total 26

We are looking for sponsors of display cases for our 2nd floor exhibits. Next to the case it is hoped to have a plaque which would read:

SPONSOR

SMITH FAMILY

(A generic name was selected for the above example!)

The display cases are custom designed by a local area business, Diversified Woodcrafts of Suring, which is a worldwide company supplying schools, science labs, hospitals, and museums with their products.

2013-2014 MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 30TH!

GAHS ANNUAL DINNER THURSDAY OCT 23RD

Gillett Area Historical Society Annual Dinner will again be held at St John's Lutheran Church, the Clock Church, featuring their "famous" entrees. Dinner will begin at 6PM.

The speaker will be Gillett Librarian Kay Rankle, discussing the Oconto County Barn Quilt project.

Letters will be mailed out reminding members of membership renewal, and giving them a recap of our year.

CALENDAR

SEPTMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
GAHS Meeting	GAHS Annual Dinner	No Meeting
Thursday Sept 25	Thursday Oct 23rd	Happy Thanksgiving!
7PM—Museum	6PM—The Clock Church	Next meeting in January

NAME THIS BUSINESS IN GILLETT

1] What is this business?

2] Who was the owner?

3] What year was the photo taken?

4] What businesses were in this building?

A clue to one of the answers:

"All of us have moments in our lives that test out courage. Taking children into a house with a white carpet is one of them".

Local and Personal Happenings

OLD GILLETT TIMES NEWSPAPER 1926 & 1928

HOSPITAL NOTES

Mrs. Nick Stromer entered the hospital, Friday, in a serious condition, but is improving rapidly.

The streets are being cleaned up this week under the direction of Supervisor Spies of the Village Board.

The Great Northern Pail Company made a shipment of their "famous white wood pails" to St. Johns, New Foundland.

FIRE SATURDAY FORENOON

4-22-26

The fire department was called out in a hurry Saturday forenoon to the residence of Dr. O. P. Voight, on Lake Street. A blaze in the attic and on the roof of this fine residence had gained a pretty good start, and only the prompt response of the department saved what might have been a serious loss. However, as soon as the water was turned on all danger was quickly over and the fire under control. The cause was not definitely learned, but is supposed to have started from a defective flue or caught from the spark from the chimney. The damage to the roof was considerable and water that soaked down through the rooms. It was fortunate to have occured at the time of the day when people were about and able to render prompt assistance.

A STORY FROM THE PAST

THE YEAR IS 1886, MAY
This is the news

GILLETT

After a Rip Van Winkle sleep of five years, we rub our sleepy eyes and behold Gillett as it is. We see four trains per day passing, instead of the old stage making weekly trips from Oconto, and behold a commodious depot with an accommodating agent, two general grocery stores, the one owned by Messers. High & Dyer and the other by Pahl & Runkel—the latter contains the post-office—a saw and shingle mill, owned and run by Messers. Gale & Klemp; a grain elevator, C. S. McKinzie, proprietor, who keeps a stock of land plaster and salt; a blacksmith and wagon shop, by Matt Wagner & Co., a hotel by W. W. John, a sample room by Ohm & Heesly, a livery stable by J. L. Dyer. All the above firms are getting rich, which they deserve, for they pay strict attention to business.

The farmers have commenced to put in crops in earnest.

Mrs. John Howell is very low, and doubts are entertained of her recovery.

Mrs. C. S. McKenzie returned from the East, last week, where she has been visiting an invalid sister.

O. W. Bloch, of Oconto, spent last week here invoicing the goods of Pahl & Runkel.

Charles Pahl is the happiest man in town. Cause: a boy—weight 14 lbs.

F. W, John went to Green Bay to purchase some blooded stock.

Rodney Gillett runs the Driscoll farm again this year.

The Good Templars' lodge is in good condition, with membership of 40.

Thos. H. Savage, of Pulcifer, now represents his country at the court of St. Keshena and Wm. John runs the farm in his absence.

Miss Lavina Randall teaches the school in this district.

Miss Sadie Loan, teacher at Pulcifer, visited friends here Saturday.

ADS FROM THE PAST

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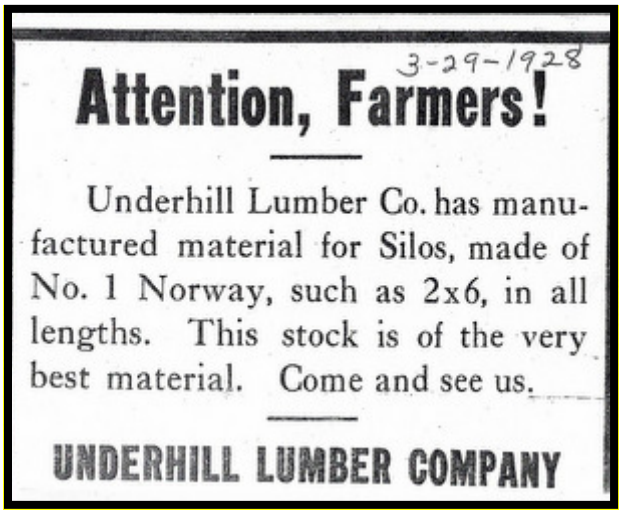
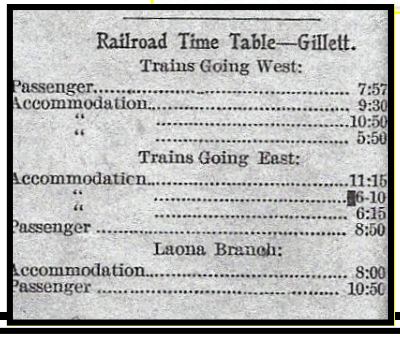




RAILROAD TIME TABLE
GILLETT TIMES 1904

FROM THE MUSEUM ARCHIVES

From the Military File in the Museum Research Room

Letter From H.P Smith to Gillett Times
Written On Okinawa May 5 1945

Dear Mr Shellman:
Today the boys in camp broke open a box of 10-in-1 ration and In it was a can of peas packed by The Gillett Canning company. Even that prosaic link between my boyhood home town and this Beautiful but hostile island nearly half a world away set me to thinking of the past, and determined me to get away this message of greeting to my relatives and among your subscribers. As you know, my relatives there include my uncle Walter, and aunt Ruth, my favorite cousin Gwynne, his sister Joyce Driscoll, who is Dr Pat's spouse, and last but not by long odds least my dad's sister, Mrs. Tony (Elsie) Pasterski of Suring. Those are names that have a strange but welcome ring out here where the night is filled with the sounds of battle, interlude. Besides the Gillett grown peas (which were tasty, indeed, in combinations with some canned boiled Uruguayan beef from the same carton). I've had other reminders of the old burg out here in the Pacific. For instance, aboard the carrier Hornet, which I rode on the first Task Force 58 strikes on Tokyo early this year, I met a couple of naval officers who knew the place well. One was Commander Howard Kuehl of DePere, nephew of Mortician Joe. The other was Garth Courtois of Milwaukee, who is a pal of Myrl Gillette (I note that Myrl has followed his sister Cora's lead by restoring the final "e") I hadn't seen Myrl in more than quarter of a century but was grieved to hear that his son, Lee ,was lost with the Destroyer Johnson in the second battle of the Philippines (I was with the 7th Infantry division on nearby Leyte at the time). Lee and I, though unacquainted, had a kindred interest, for I was in the destroyer service in Ireland in the last war.

I've been getting copies of the "Gimlet" occasionally out here, and I'd like to congratulate you on the changes I've noticed in the format and content in the last few months. I'm rather partial to the old home town paper for it carried my first published writings—my letters from overseas in 1917-18 –and thus infected me with the newspaper virus, producing a disease from which I've never recovered.

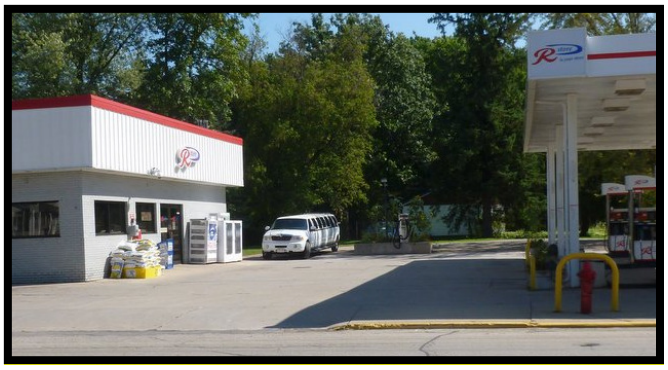
This Okinawa campaign is one of the ruggedest of the 12 Pacific actions I've covered.

Continued on page 5 ———

THEN AND NOW

PARK SERVICE STATION

It is believed the Park Service Station may have been built by John Kasten, or at least he was the first, or one of the first owners. It was later operated by Gordy Schaal, and since has changed names many times; Standard, Amoco, BP to name a few.



℟ STORE SERVICE STATION/CONVIENCE STORE

The R Store brand Service Station is a division of Riisner Engery which began in Wausau Wis. In 1945. During the summer of 2004, the convenience stores were "re-branded" with the "R Store" name and logo which was used to identify the stores.

Con't from page 4

Letter from H. P. Smith

The Japs are deeply dug in, have plenty of artillery for the first time since the Pacific offensive really got under way late in 1943, and have been getting considerable air support from their homeland only about 325 miles to the North. At this moment there's an air alert on, and at any moment I may have to hick [sic] for my rock ledge shelter to escape the shell fragments that come pattering down when the Nip airmen drag the air bursts directly overhead. Last night a bunch of Japs infiltrated and some are still loose behind our line, so I'm especially respectful of the machine gun bursts that shatter the moonless night now and then as our perimeter defense boys fire on the slightest sign of movement. The days are spring like and beautiful here but the nights are eerie and possessed of many a sharp, unexpected sound that sends the pulse rate soaring. Let me take this means of saying hello over the years to the folks back there. I thought they might like to know that their war effort is reaching out to the very edge of the conflict.

Cordially,

Harold P. Smith——
War correspondent,
Chicago Tribune

NOTE: Harold Smith's WW I Diary, from his service in the United States Navy is available to view in the Gillett Area Historical Museum in the Military Room. He was 17 years old when he left his home in Hintz to join the Navy.

"Gimlet" that he referred to was his name for the Gillett Times.
The term "Japs" is no longer acceptable, and is politically incorrect.

"Nip airmen" . The earliest occurrence of the nip phrase was probably in the Time magazine of 5 January 1942. The American, British, and Australian entry of World War II in the Pacific heightened the use of racial slurs against the Japanese, such as *jap* and *nip*
The word *Nip* is an abbreviation from *Nippon*, the Japanese name for Japan
From Wikipedia.

Harold P. Smith
Born in 1900 in Hintz Wisconsin
Schooled at Gillett High
Died 1972 in Evanston Illinois
WW II War Correspondent for Chicago Tribune
And "Mr Fix-it" column for the Chicago Tribune

Gillett Area Historical Society

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E-mail: info@gillettthistorical.com

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Z S I K T K O R G B I B L E S V G J E L
T K B A N D U N I F O R M E P E A G A W
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A Y E Q I S X J T F U B W E R I N R X I

Size:Medium (15x15)
Difficulty:Hard (Add Diagonals)

Words List
BANDUNIFORM
ORGAN
CHURCHWINDOW
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LIBRARYTABLE
MANTLECLOCK
BOWLINGTROPHIES
TOYCONESTOGAWAGON
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TIGILS
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