



Bay Creek Bulletin

Walt Ulrich: 90-year Resident Remembers Bay Creek

By Pam Gates

Walt Ulrich has lived 90 of his 99 years in the Bay Creek neighborhood, and his family must like it as much as he does. His son Tom, granddaughter Kim, and great grandson Jake are Bay Creek residents, too!

When Walt was 9, his family moved to the house where I met him and Lil, his wife of 70 years. They've redone the entire house over the years — Walt did much of the electrical, plumbing, plastering, and painting work himself — so it's not at all like it used to be, but it's still the same house in the same place.

Walt shared a few memories from his childhood in Bay Creek. There was only one house between theirs on Olin Avenue — which was two raised wheel tracks back then — and Monona Bay, “and it's still there,” he says. The whole area would flood after a good rain because the water had no place to go, so much so that the kids nicknamed Olin Avenue Pond Street! Walt recalled the iceman delivering ice blocks for their ice box in a wagon drawn by two horses, adding that the house next door was a blacksmith shop. “The whole area that is now Dean Clinic was called the Victory Gardens,” Walt said. “We sledged on cardboard down the hill into the garden.”

Walt's family had moved from a farm south of town, and they brought a horse and a cow with them. “That horse was my way of getting around,” Walt said. “We had a little barn out in the back. The horse would come and stand under my window when I'd go to bed at night. We called him Babe. My folks used him, too; they had a buggy. I still have a horseshoe hanging up on the garage.”

Walt rode his horse to Franklin School and later took the trolley, which went down Lakeside Street and up to the Capitol Square, although he and his friends would often walk, saving their trolley fare so they could spend it to on a Saturday show at the Majestic Theater downtown.

When he grew older, Walt worked in construction, putting gravel on roads daylight to dark. Workers would complain about the long hours, he says, but the boss would remind them that as soon as it started freezing up in the fall they'd have to quit working. Walt also worked at a gas station nearby for 15 cents an hour, he said.

Walt and Lil had two sons, Tom and Walter Jerry, whom they called Jerry, Walt says with a chuckle. Both boys attended Franklin School, as did their children and, most recently, a great grandchild. “That's four generations!” says son Tom, who dropped by during our interview. He recalled the fun of the annual South Side Frolic when he was growing up, complete with a carnival in the grassy field where Romnes Apartments are now and a parade (continued on next page)

Bay Creek Billboard

Mon July 12 BCNA Bi-Monthly meeting 6:30 pm

Madison Baha'i Center, 324 W. Lakeside St.

All Bay Creek residents are invited to attend.

Sat June 19 (Take a Stake In The Lakes) from 10 am

to noon Shoreline clean ups with Friends of Monona Bay.

Meet at Brittingham Park Beach House (corner of Proudfit

& W. Brittingham Place). Garbage bags and tools are provided, please bring your own gloves and dress accordingly.

Other shoreline clean ups will be held on Sat July 10 and

Sat Aug 14. Contact Nina for more info. Email:

ninaj@wisc.edu Phone: 265-3411 or 258-1788.

Sun July 4 Noon until ? Annual BCNA 4th of July picnic in

the Oak Woods at in Goodman Field Please bring a dish to pass and your own plates, utensils and cups. Hope to see you there!

Mon Sept 13 BCNA Bi-Monthly meeting 6:30 pm

All Bay Creek residents are invited to attend.

Voluntary annual dues of \$10 can be paid at any BCNA meeting or sent to Dan Kennelly 808 O'Sheridan St. 53715.

First Wednesday of each month

Friends of Monona Bay, 124 S. Brooks St., Rm 1, 6:30 pm. Go to www.mononabay.org for more info.

(Walt Ulrich, continued) that Walt would lead in his red Nash. Back then, neighbors often gathered at each others' houses in the evenings. Because the Ulrichs owned one of the first two TVs in the neighborhood, the gatherings were often at their place. Sometimes, Tom recalled, "I couldn't find a bare spot anywhere in this living room!"

For many years, Walt and Lil owned a trucking outfit, "four semis and a straight job," Lil says. They mostly hauled groceries, but would also help people move, help businesses relocate, and haul long-distance, as far away as Florida. "I did the office work for our business," Lil said. After they sold the business due to being undersold, Walt went to work for Ellis Wholesale on Gilson Street when that business was just starting out. He was between jobs for just one day and retired after 22 years at age 78. "They were sad to see him go," Lil says. "He had such a good rapport with the customers."

Along with all his other accomplishments, Walt has an artistic side. He used to play the violin and was learning how to play the organ. He took up painting after he retired but is more noted, Lil says, for his woodcarving, which he has done by hand all his life. Several framed pictures he has carved and painted decorate their kitchen. He has won prizes for his work, Lil says proudly; "he's very accomplished."

Walt and Lil also did some traveling after they no longer had the constant responsibility of their own business. They spent 23 winters in Branson, Missouri. "Last year was the first year we missed," Lil says. "We have more friends down there now than we do up here. So many friends have moved or passed away."

But Lil, who celebrated her 94th birthday May 11, is upbeat. "We have friends from age 30 to age 90," she says. Cousins visited from Denmark in May, and she is looking forward to their 70th wedding anniversary June 15 and Walt's 100th birthday July 9. "We've had a very interesting life," she says. "We've been fortunate people."



Upcoming Visioning Session for the Lakeside Street Business Area

What: *A Neighborhood "Visioning Session" focused on the future of the Lakeside Street Business Area*

When: *Saturday, July 10 from 9am to 4pm*

Where: *TBD ... Watch for an announcement soon*

Goal: *Establish a vision for Lakeside Street to support its vitality as a neighborhood business area*

Contact: *Dan Kennelly at 217-7470 or kennelly.dan@gmail.com to RSVP or ask questions*

The Bay Creek Neighborhood Association invites you to a "Visioning Session" for the future of the Lakeside Street neighborhood business area. This will be an exciting, interactive, and high-energy event from **9am to 4pm on Saturday, July 10**. Neighbors, business owners, property owners, and anyone else with an interest in Lakeside Street are encouraged to attend at any time during the event. The location and other details will be announced soon.

Lakeside Street is one of Madison's most unique corridors offering an eclectic mix of businesses that includes a homeopathic remedy store, a healing studio, an alternative pet products store, a coffee house, a knitting store, and a retail shop featuring locally made jewelry and art. Clustered together in attractive and historic buildings, these businesses add life and vitality to the neighborhood.

In March BCNA applied for and was awarded a \$2,000 grant from the City to identify strategies to enhance the area. The goal of the project is to use this small grant as a seed to build organizational capacity that will create a stronger identity for the area and support the long term health and vitality of Lakeside Street's business environment. The Visioning Session on July 10 will be an opportunity to share ideas, discuss opportunities, identify needed improvements, and develop key strategies to enhance this area. The location for this event and the details of the format will be announced soon on the neighborhood website (www.baycreekmadison.org) and other places. If you have questions or if you plan to attend, please RSVP to Dan Kennelly at 217-7470 or kennelly.dan@gmail.com.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Donations from Bay Creek residents presented to South Madison Library

BCNA Secretary Dan Kennelly has been given a check for \$500 to present to the South Madison Library . The money was donated by Bay Creek residents and the Chakra House in response to challenge from the Burr Oaks Neighborhood Association. Thanks again to everyone who contributed.

South Madison Farmers Market

The South Madison Farmers Market offers locally grown fresh produce, flowers, meat and baked goods five days a week at various times and locations:

Sundays: (April 25th -- October 30th) The Madison Labor Temple from 11 am - 3pm

Mondays (May 30th -- October 25th) Novation Campus 145 E. Badger Rd from 2 - 6 pm.

Tuesdays (June 1st - October 26th) The Madison Labor Temple from 2- 6 pm.

Wednesdays (May 19th -- October 1) Southwest Community Farmers Market Orchard Ridge UCC Church parking lot, 1501 Gilbert Road from 3 - 7 p.m.

Thursday's : (June 3rd -- October 28th) The Villager Mall from 2 - 6 pm.

Call 358-5834 or go to www.southmadisonfarmersmarket.com for more info

Bay Creek Annual 4th of July Picnic

The annual BCNA 4th of July picnic will take place in Goodman Field in the Oak Woods at noon. Please bring a dish to pass and your own plates, utensils and cups. Hope to see you there!

South Madison Coalition of the Elderly Senior Notes 128 E. Olin Ave

2010 Farmers' Market Voucher Distribution. This month, the Area Agency on Aging will distribute vouchers to Dane County seniors for use in purchasing up to \$25 worth of produce at local farmers' markets in 2010. Vouchers are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis to those 60 or older having gross incomes less than \$20,036 for one person, or \$25,900 for two-person households. There is a limit of one set of vouchers per household.

For vouchers you need an ID with birth date, plus one of the following showing your income: Quest or Forward card, Social Security allotment statement, 2009 income tax or Homestead Credit form, or subsidized housing review letter.

VOUCHERS CANNOT BE MAILED. If another person is picking it up for you, he or she must bring an application completed and signed by you. Applications are available by calling 261-5678. Vouchers will be handed out at Romnes Apartments, 540 W. Olin Avenue, on Friday, June 11 at 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. For more information, call the South Madison Coalition 251-8405.

Sunday Afternoon Program. See old friends and make new ones at our monthly programs at the Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin Street. These Sunday Afternoon Programs begin at 12:30 p.m. with a classic Sunday meal served restaurant style. Afterwards there is live entertainment and bingo. Cost for each event is \$3.50, payable at the door. Reservations are always needed by noon on Friday, two days before each event. Free transportation is available from the near south side. For more information or to make reservations, call 251-8405.

On Sunday June 6, dinner will be stuffed chicken breast, new red potatoes, sweet carrots and snow peas, spinach salad, roll, and strawberry shortcake. Then enjoy an interactive performance of music, stories, and humor with Skip Jones. The July 11 meal will include barbequed ribs and peach cobbler.

BCNA Minutes of May 10, 2010 Meeting

By Dan Kennelly

A representative from Friends of Monona Bay provided information on two related projects the City has planned for Bernie's Beach. The first is a bio-retention system that will be placed in the park as a storm water management tool to improve water quality. It will consist of some new piping and a small vegetated area where rainwater will be directed during storms. Run-off from a 6-acre area that currently flows directly into Monona Bay will be redirected to the retention facility where it will slowly infiltrate into the soil. Essentially, the system will function as a large rain-garden to clean and filter water before it enters the Lake. Work is scheduled to start in June and the total cost is estimated at \$70,000.

The other project is an enclosure system for the swimming beach. The enclosure will isolate the water in the beach area from the rest of Monona Bay in an effort to keep weeds and algae out of the swimming area. This is scheduled at the beginning of the swimming season; it will cost \$7,000-\$10,000.

Those present at the meeting unanimously passed a motion recommending three things to the Parks Commission related to the projects: 1) frequent testing of the water at the beach, 2) inclusion of informational signage at the park explaining the project, and 3) the removal of the swimming enclosure system if testing indicates that it is exacerbating water quality problems.

In March, the Bay Creek Neighborhood Association applied for and was awarded a \$2,000 grant from the City to launch an initiative focused on enhancing the vitality of the Lakeside Street business area. The overall goals of the project are to build organizational capacity to support the Lakeside Business District and to develop strategies to enhance the area's business environment. Bert Stitt, from Stitt Facilitations, was invited to attend the meeting and shared some initial thoughts on the project. Those present unanimously passed a motion to engage Bert to work with the neighborhood on this effort. Details and next steps for the project are described in the announcement on page 3

The Contact Person reported that Celebrate South Madison will be on Thursday, June 3 from 3pm to 9pm at the revitalized Villager Mall. There will be a farmers market, music, dancers, and kids' events.

Bay Creek Bulletin information The Bay Creek Bulletin is published every other month by the Bay Creek Neighborhood Association (BCNA) and is a news and information service for the neighborhood. The Bulletin welcomes comments and submission of articles, photographs, drawings, poetry, announcements and other information.

Managing editor /Advertising contact	Sara Richards; 710 Spruce St.; 255-5023 leftpaintedtoenail@hotmail.com
Copy editor and layout	Judy Robinson; 469-1218; jbella@merr.com
Distribution	Kirk Elliott; 225 Van Deusen St.; 255-5646; kirk_elliott@hotmail.com

Next issue: Aug/Sept 2010 Deadlines: Ads and Copy , July 23, Delivery: First week of Aug

BCNA officers
Bay Creek contact person
 Bob Stoffs, 914 Lawrence;
 255-1074

Secretary Dan Kennelly
 808 O'Sheridan St
 217-7470
kennelly.dan@gmail.com

Treasurer Judy Robinson
 469-1218 jbella@merr.com

Standing committees
Welcoming committee
 Julie Campbell, 818 Emerson St.;
 258-1495;
juliejamescampbell@hotmail.com

Web committee Jim Winkle,
 813 Emerson St.; 259-1812;
jim@EventsGalore.net

Advertise in the Bulletin!

Business sized card ads start at only \$30.

E-mail Sara Richards for info:
leftpaintedtoenail@hotmail.com

BCNA area representatives

Area 1—Wingra Drive west of Park Street	Judy Robinson; 469-1218 jbella@merr.com
Area 2—Northwestern railroad tracks east to Olin-Turville Park	Ishi Buffam 255-2607
Area 3—Lakeside St to Monona Bay and west to Park Street	Open
Area 4—Central area between Lakeside St and Olin Ave	Jim Winkle 259-1812
Area 5—Tree streets	Bob Lockhart; 633 Cedar St.; 256-0444
Area 6—Romnes Apartments	Open
BCNA Rep to South Metropolitan Planning Council	Bob Stoffs, 914 Lawrence; 255-1074

Government representatives

City council	Julia Kerr, 260-2661; district13@cityofmadison.com
County board	Kyle Richmond; 929 O'Sheridan St.; 251-3171; richmond.kyle@co.dane.wi.us
State representative	Mark Pocan; 266-8570; rep.pocan@legis.state.wi.us
State senator	Fred Risser; 266-1627; sen.risser@legis.state.wi.us
Congresswoman	Tammy Baldwin; 257-9200; tammy.baldwin@mail.house.gov
U.S. Senators	Herb Kohl; 264-5338; senator_kohl@kohl.senate.gov Russ Feingold; 828-1200; russell_feingold@feingold.senate.gov

BCNA police department liaison: Sgt Jim Dexheimer; South Side Station, 825 Hughes Place; Phone: 266-5938; Fax: 266-4452; office hours 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.