

## **KIDS' NEWSLETTER**

Pillars of the future,  
built on the foundations of the past.

**White Pillars Museum • 403 North Broadway • De Pere, WI 54115**  
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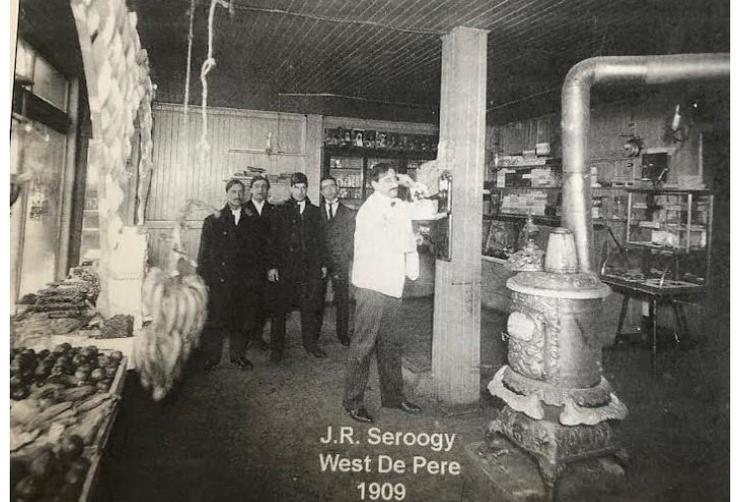
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### *Seroogy's Candies*

It seems that residents of De Pere have always had a sweet tooth. Early De Pere had many small scale candy makers on both sides of the river. In 1899, three brothers from the Seroogy family, Joe, Jim and Sol started the longest-run and most famous candy business in De Pere. In the early years the store offered fruits and vegetables as well as candy and ice cream at various locations on Main St. In 1959 Joe's son Al opened Seroogy's Holiday House on N. Broadway. In the spring of 1965 the business was moved to Riverside Drive (just south of Van Gemert memorials) where it thrived offering specialty chocolates, bars, coffee and beverages. In 1980 Al's sons Joe & Jim joined the business eventually taking over in 1989. In 1992 Joe & Jim opened a new plant and retail store at 144 N. Wisconsin St. In their 125<sup>th</sup> year, the brothers

continue to carry on many of the hand-made candy-making chocolate recipes and traditions of their ancestors.



### *Kelly Danen Park*



In 1960 the city of De Pere signed an agreement with a group of volunteers whose sons were playing little league baseball. A 100 year lease was signed. The lease required the volunteers to pay the city \$1.00 every year to have their kids play baseball on the field located at the corner of Tenth and Cedar Streets in West De Pere. A small group of parents traveled to other communities to view

recently built little league parks. On one of those trips they found what they were looking for. The group returned to De Pere and began building Little League Park. The dads moved ground, erected a modern backstop, got donations and raised funds to finance the project and the league. They constructed an outfield fence and built a large scoreboard out of wood. The dads also built wooden dugouts, which were partially below ground level. There were many dads and families involved with the project – all sharing their time and resources. Today the park is operated by a new generation of fathers, some of whom played on the field as boys. Stories have been told how the ball field took shape. One evening, after work, darkness settled in while dozens of dads and many of the older boys were raking and seeding the outfield. Visibility became a problem, so they parked their automobiles side-by-side on the cinder track and turned the headlights on. Little League Park opened on June 8, 1961. It was renamed Kelly Danen Park in 1969 after one of the fathers who helped organize little league in De Pere.

## The Fox River Navigational System

Wisconsin's rivers have long been a means of transportation. By the time Fr. Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet traveled up the Fox River and down the Wisconsin River to the Mississippi River in 1673, that water route had been in use for many years. Rapids, strong currents and the rise and fall of water levels often made the journey difficult. In 1848, with Wisconsin about to be admitted as a state, Congress approved a system of locks, dams and canals for the Fox River. With locks and dams, water levels could be controlled allowing boats to use the river year-round. The first lock was opened in De Pere in 1850 and is still in operation today. The 39-mile lock system on the Lower Fox River starting at Lake Winnebago and flowing to the Bay of Green Bay features 17 lift locks. Lift locks lift and lower boats by changing the water level in the locks chamber. The locks average about 10 feet of lift each. Boats

traveling the entire system are lifted and lowered a total of 168 feet – equal to the drop of Niagara Falls.

### De Pere Lock



## The Lock Tenders



*De Pere Lockmaster's House*

Each lock in the navigational system was operated and maintained year-round by a lockmaster. Because the system operated day and night, homes for the lockmaster and his family were built near the locks to provide 24-hour service to the boats traveling up and down the river. The lockmaster and his helpers opened and closed the lock gates and

controlled the valves that filled and emptied the lock chamber. They were also responsible for keeping a record of boats passing through, cargo, destination, number of passengers and collecting fees. In the winter, the lockmaster risked his life balancing on the locks to chip away ice. The work was dangerous and demanding but provided steady income from a government job. The original lockmaster's house was a two-room building next to the lock. It is still in use today as the locktenders office. The house in this picture was built in 1912 and housed numerous families over the years. Children of the lockmasters fondly remember their days growing up on the locks, boating, fishing, swimming and skating on and around the canals. It is a way of life forever gone from the banks of the Fox River.

## De Pere Trivia

Do you know the answers to these trivia questions?

1. In what year did French Explorer, Jean Nicolet, step ashore at what is now De Pere, Wisconsin?
2. According to the State Cartographer's Office, what's the highest point in Brown County?
3. What Wisconsin city is home to the first kindergarten in the United States?
4. This picture was taken in De Pere in 1925. Do you know what street this is?



*Trivia answers: 1 – 1634; 2 - Morrison Hill 1020 ft.; 3 - Watertown; 4 - Main Street looking west*

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