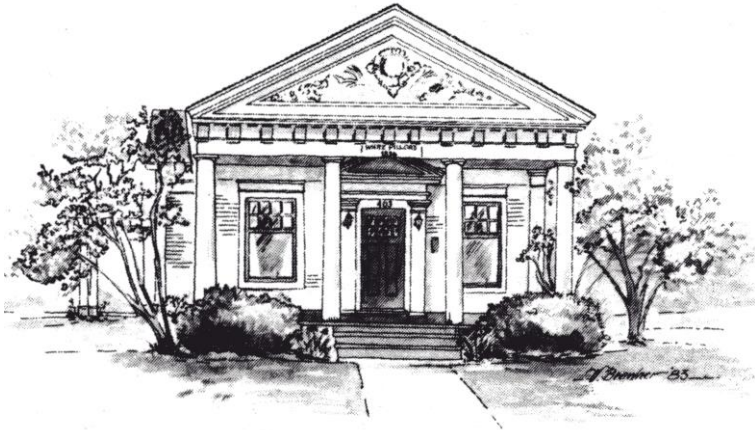




KIDS' NEWSLETTER

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

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Volume XI

Issue II

December 2021



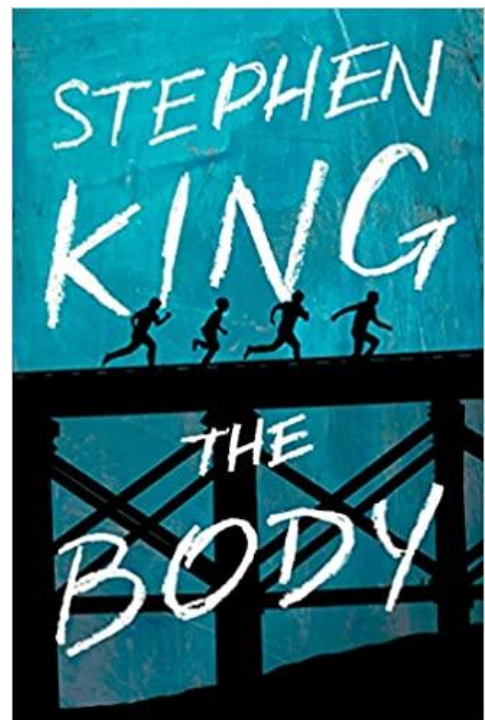
Stephen King

The best-selling author once lived in De Pere

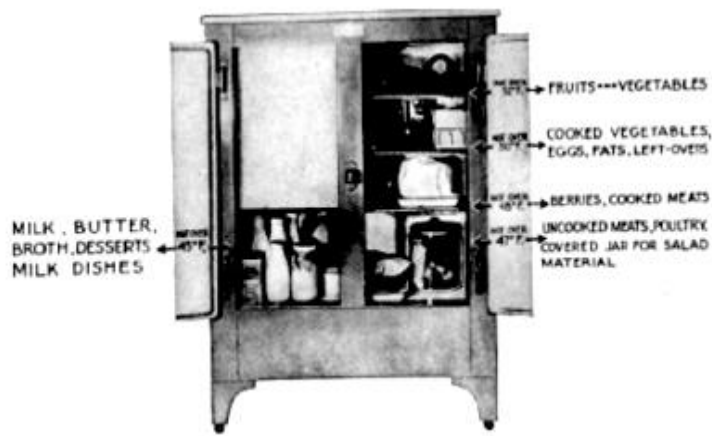
Did you know that the best-selling author, Stephen King lived in De Pere? When he was a young boy, Stephen, his mother and his brother David lived in a house on Reid Street in West De Pere from about 1950 to 1953. His mother, Nellie Ruth Pillsbury King “Ruthie Pill” worked at a bakery on Main St. As a single mother she had worked a couple other jobs in De Pere as well. After living in West De Pere for a few years, Stephen and his family left Wisconsin eventually returning to Durham, Maine. He went on to begin his career as a well-known horror, fantasy, and supernatural fiction author and has sold over 350 million copies of books worldwide.

The movie *Stand By Me* was adapted from King’s book *The Body*. The movie is about a boy who is tragically struck by a train. In October of 1951, a playmate of King’s was killed by a train near the Cedar Street crossing in West De Pere during the same time King lived in De Pere. Being only 4 at the time, King had no memory of the incident but it was told to him by his mother a number of years later. According to his mother, he had gone off to play at a neighbor’s house—a house that was near a railroad line. About an hour after he left he came back as white as a ghost. He would not speak for the rest of the day; he would not tell her why; he’d not waited to be picked up or phoned that he wanted to

come home; he would not tell her why his friend’s mom hadn’t walked me back but had allowed him to come alone. It turned out that the kid he had been playing with had been run over by a freight train while playing on or crossing the tracks. Because he had no memory of the incident King does not feel it had any influence of the writing of the book the movie was adapted from.



Iceboxes and the Iceman

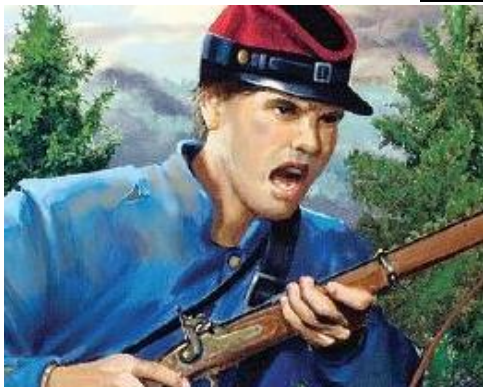


During the warm days of summer, the iceman was one of the most eagerly awaited and welcomed visitors to a home. The iceman delivered ice to homes for their iceboxes. An icebox (also called a cold closet) is a compact non-mechanical refrigerator which was a common kitchen appliance before the development of safe powered refrigeration devices. Iceboxes had hollow walls that were lined with tin or zinc and packed with different insulating materials such as cork, sawdust, straw or seaweed. A large block of ice was held in a tray or compartment near the top of the box. Cold air circulated down and around storage compartments in the lower section. Some more expensive models had spigots for draining ice water from a catch pan or holding tank. In cheaper models

a drip pan was placed under the box and had to be emptied at least daily. The user had to replace the melted ice, normally by obtaining new ice from an [iceman](#). The iceman spent winters harvesting ice from the bays and rivers, and then storing it until local residents and businesses needed it. In the scene below, men and boys stack the huge blocks of ice. The blocks of ice would be covered in saw dust and stored in ice houses until needed in warmer weather. During the summer icemen with horse drawn wagons made regular door-to-door deliveries of block ice. Children would go on the ice wagon and take chips of fallen ice as treats during the summer.



The Boy Soldier



It was Tuesday, October 29, 1861, when Henry J. Cady enlisted in the Civil War. Private Cady would join the ranks of Wisconsin's 14th Infantry, Company F, nicknamed the "De Pere Rifles". In the Civil War it was quite common for boys to enlist. Although not legal, recruitment offices usually looked the other way. Today, experts estimate 1 in 5 Civil War soldiers were under the age of 18, leaving many to dub it the "Boys' War". At the time of his enlistment, Henry Cady was fifteen years old.

On July 4, 1863, Cady's company was given the task of leading the troops into Vicksburg. Along with others, Henry charged the fort where the confederate soldiers maintained their position. Through a shower of bullets, Cady managed to sneak under a small bush where he lay, fatally wounded losing a great deal of blood.

Cady was carried off to a field hospital where he passed away shortly thereafter.

Also from De Pere, was fellow private, James K. Newton. James was 18 years old. In the years after the war Newton would recall his friend Henry. These memories would become the basis for the short story "Little Cady", authored by Newton's wife under the pen name Jane Scarborough. The story was widely published in the years following the Civil War.

Henry's sister Electa (4 years younger than Henry), also died in 1863. Henry and Electa share a memorial at the Lawrence Cemetery, located on their family's old farm.



Henry & Electa's Shared Headstone

For more information about the De Pere Historical Society, visit us online @ www.deperhistoricalsociety.org

