

Photos from Donna Lange Facebook – Ableman – Rock Springs

Narrows Road: This photo is a wonderful example showing the width of the road coming from Reedsburg and the amount of rock that has been taken out of this area. I wonder if this part of the rock was blasted out to make room for the road.

Mueller, Ed: Emil Mueller sitting on a Indian trail marker. This photo was taken in the 1940's near the Van Hise rock area.

Keith, Hazel: Hazel Brockow Keith, 1913-1985.

Wis Granite Co.: Wisconsin Granite Co. taken from above and behind. Notice the bridge and the buildings on the other side of the road.

Blasting: Blasting the overhanging rock at the dangerous point, (This was just before coming to the Wisconsin Granite property).

Baptist Church: Baptist church before it was raised due to the numerous floods that Ableman endured through the years.

Swinging Bridge: This swinging bridge went to the Wisconsin Granite facility on the other side of the river. It was lots of fun to walk over this bridge when I was young.

Route 33: Just another view after going around the corner of the previous photo.

Parade: Parade marching past 208 East Broadway. I wonder what the occasion was? The Julius Gall house is on the left in the background

Mueller, Fred: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mueller. The horse is covered with a fly-catcher.

Langenhan, August: home was on the corner of Broadway and Montgomery. Corner was where Reiny had his garage, laundromat and finally a home.

Bums Roost: Does anyone know if Walter Behnke or his father had a saloon? The wagon is advertising Bums Roost and Effinger beer.

Mueller, Ed 2: Emil Mueller - Notice how low the road was compared to the hardware store. Taken on the road (now DD) going south out of Rock Springs.

Baumgarten, Edward: Edward Baumgarten and his barber chair.

Herritz, Carl: My Grandpa Carl "Charlie" Herritz in his saloon/hotel. Date unknown. [Margo Busser](#) I was very young when we went there. I remember going in the back door of the building which led into the family kitchen. I liked to go upstairs and look @ all the empty rooms & wondered who came to stay there. I think Cap took over the bar as Granpa's health failed. I've seen a matchbook (very common type of advertising back then-bars furnished them to their customers) that says Cap's Bar.

Fishing Point: Fishing at the Point under bridge going to Reedsburg. Tony Marini is middle man standing in the group of three and Erv Schulte has his hand on his knee. Know any others?

Ableman Firetruck: Early Ableman Fire truck. Who was it sold to? Loganville?

Harvesting Ice: Men harvesting ice for use in the summer.

Pfaff Sign: Sign hung up at 103 Smythe Street for many years.

Wis Granite Co 2: Wisconsin Granite Co. - Made chicken scratch.

Corn Husking: Sauk County Corn Husking Contest – 1941 Gerhart G. Schuette Farm west of the village, buildings were all painted orange for many years.

Otto Meyer Saloon: Looks like a fun place to hang out? Is the container under the foot rail fo scrape the manure from your shoes?

Loading “Dumpies”: At the Quarry. [Gene Hackbarth](#) My dad use to pick this rock after blasting. The blue granite would go into one bucket and the iron ore would be placed into another bucket. The iron ore would be hauled across the river and dumped into a railroad car which would be sent to Joliet Ill. to be melted into iron. After work hours at night my dad would bring us kids here and we filled the buckets (dolies) up so dad had his filled for the next morning. The men had to give a chip for each bucket filled. These chips handed in each day would determine how much pay they would receive for the pay period.

Farmers Co-op: Farmers Co-op, just east of the railroad tracks. Geissler brothers are in the foreground.

Wisconsin Granite Employees: Back: Harry Wiseman, Louise Breitzke, John Pfaff, Arthur Finder
Front: Ervin Ziemke, Ed Wiseman, ? Ovard, Louis Brockow.

Ableman School: built in 1900, mostly likely the third school in the village at this time.

Westfield Cheese Factory: was on the corner of Golf Course and HY D. Ward Markham was one of many who lived there. He was married to Ruby Rehr.

Honor Roll: Honor Roll listing men who served in WWII. This was designed by Bill Commerson and was located on the building on the left side of the road going to Baraboo. The building has been a church and the village hall at one time. I do have the names that are listed but I have to FIND them!

Krueger Home: Krueger home on Hy 136 in Ableman. Many owners and renters,

Hill Street:

Horse & Buggy:

Quarry Men: Daniel Edwards, bottom right.

Quarry: Photo from above.

Ableman Creamery: Ableman Creamery- 1900. David B. Smythe is actively interested in the Ableman Creamery Company. The first churning in the new creamery was done Tuesday morning. At present there are 53 patrons with more applying for admission almost daily.
Taken from the 18 May 1900 Reedsburg Paper.

Saloon Interior: 1912

Men: 951 - Postoffice in the hardware building.

Harry Wiseman 1898-1963 Postmaster.

Frank Runge 1879-1963 Mailman who brought the mail down from the

depot in the cart shown. There was a water bubbler down in front of Harry's feet that we used for a drink. [Lin Hackbarth](#) This is taken by the post office, when it was in the corner of the hardware, by the river. I think that was Mr Schaefer's cart that he brought the mail down from the train in. In the morning, and again about 3pm.

Narrows Creek: The earliest known photo of where the Narrows Creek enters the Baraboo River in Ableman.

Ableman Map: 1937 Map of Ableman. Aerial photo.

Rock Springs Park: The building below fell into disrepair and the property was then known as the Rock Springs Park. Harry Wiseman is shown on the photo. The building was finally taken down.

209 2nd Street: Once occupied by the Stoeckman family, by Suzie Clam in 2015.

Wm Gall Quarry: Names of men included.

Quarry 1911:

Narrows Poem:

Sturdevant Story:

Wis Granite Workers:

Wis Granite Co Workers:

Narrows: Old Mill Stream in the Narrows west of Ableman.

Narrows Creek: west of Ableman on HY 154.

Narrows Creek 3:

Mill: on HY 154 west of Ableman, on the left side going west.

Cancellation: Last day of postal cancellation for Ableman and first day of cancellation for Rock Springs July 8 & 9, 1947.

Quarry 2:

Geisslers outing: in the quarry

First Lutheran Church: on West side of Ableman. Did I post this before?

Quarry Machinery:

Quarry 3:

Gall Quarry: Men standing, with listed names

Keystones: Keystones used building overheads on the railroad over roads.

Paving Blocks: I was told that these were paving blocks and they were sent to Chicago.

Quarry 4:

Quarry 5: Men on steam shovel

Quarry 6: Man, says Oscar Lange

Quarry 7:

Quarry 8: Men on rocks

Quarry, Rock Face:

Quarry, Rock Lifter:

Hubbe, John in quarry: I was told that these were paving blocks and they were sent to Chicago.

Quarry 9: Men at rock face

Quarry Men 2: Identified

1907 Tornado: Inscription on card: L. Behnke farm: barn, shed, part of house, chicken house, corn crib, hog barn.

Ableman Band: Identified players

Ableman Band 2: Identified players

Dog House Stand: For teens, 1958

Village Hall: Originally constructed as Praise Chapel in 1925. This was a tabernacle for local members of the Church of God. In the 1930s the Ableman congregation joined the Reedsburg congregation, leaving the building vacant. In 1941, the village acquired the building for the Village Hall moving the jail to its basement. Later, the basement was converted to a garage to house the fire truck until the Community Center was built.

Womens Club: Ableman, people identified.

Quarry 10: Nice view of the quarry on the west side of road going to Reedsburg. The house looks quite modern with 2 propane tanks but the card is dated 1917. I believe that the large rock behind the house was the last to be taken down?

Map Ableman 1922:

Map Ableman 1922 b:

Fey's Gen Store: Fey's General Store. Some owners were Clara Mente, Lieberts, Lloyd Frese and Ed Buck. Lloyd's General Store opened 28 October 1953. He and his wife, Dorothy, were living in Chicago in 1953. Both had been raised in Nebraska.

Rock Springs Park 2: Ladies with sign

Machinery: Machinery in the building below. Herman Carlin is the man in the 2nd photo.

Machinery Buildings: Building that held machinery for quarry.

Dance Invitation: 1915

Population Sign: 1941 Population - 395 It has stayed pretty steady since then.

Street Scene: Photo indicates looking west but it is really looking east. Notice this covered bridge and the second sign on the right, J. J. Geisser, blacksmith.

Matchbook Covers: From Ableman

Birds Eye View: Early view looking down on the Baptist Church and the village,

School Forest: Tree Planting at the Ableman School Forest @ 1940.

Parade 2: Parade - J J Geisser - Village Blacksmith

John Geisser on left side of photo. Must have been a scary ride with two horses in front and one on the wagon!

Otto Meyer Saloon 2: Otto Meyer Saloon in Ableman about 1903. After being a saloon this building was a blacksmith shop, upholstery shop and apartments. It was torn down after the last flood. Herman Carlin is on the left and Mr. Behnke in the foreground.

Hotel: This is a very old photo. It was painted orange and was a hotel for the quarry workers. It was on the corner of Highway 136 and River Street.

School Kids: Early Early School Photo - school next to the first Lutheran Church. I have not been able to identify anyone.

Village View: From above

Celebration: Was this a celebration for the end of WWI ?Please note what looks like a sidewalk on the right side going up from the river. What could it have been used for?

Street Scene 2: Later street view, looking east. Notice the iron bridge.

Baumgarten Barbershop: Garage next door which had many owners. Peg Herritz, Kenneth Miller, Eddie Klitzke and others,.

Wis Granite Co 3: Photo taken in 1900 from the Wisconsin Granite side of the road. I believe the face is still looking down! Please let me know if you are able to see it.

Wisconsin Granite produced chicken scratch

Ableman beauties: They are sitting on a hitching rail across from the hardware store. 1., 2., 3. Bartenbach, 4. Bartenbach, 5. Lillian Driefke

Kumke Shoe Store: It was located just east of the present Community Center. I believe the residents of the village did not go out of town to purchase shoes after looking at his stock!

Baseball Team 1918: 1918 Ableman Baseball Team Front Row: Fred Huebbe, Pud Barnard, Bob Harvey, Carl Strand Standing: Ed Baumgarten, Earl Bailes, Otto Hinz, Emil Gall, Bob Barkley and Charley Smith.

Geissler Hardware: Charles & Henry Geissler in the Geissler Hardware store.

Co-op Interior: Interior of Co-op. Potatoes were one of the crops shipped out on the railroad. I was told that these were potato bins.

Wagon Repair: Wagon repair shop was located where the Community Center sits today. It was owned by Geisser's or Fred Meyer.

Kleb Restaurant: Frank Kleb Restaurant and Hotel - 4 May 1903. Many owners later, it was known as Club Royal. Notice the attire.

Creamery: Henry Schanke sitting with 2 horses, Fred Leverenz with horse Fan standing in center of photo, John Dettman with horse Pete the black & white horse. Man & woman on porch were Belle & Willbur Douglas, operators of the creamery.

Flood:

Ablemans Depot: CN& W. Depot now at the North Freedom Steam Train depot.

Meat Market: Meat Market - Later owners were Harold Mente and John Terry.

Otto Meyer Saloon 3: Otto Meyer Saloon - Otto is behind the bar. My Grandfather!

Main Street: One of my best photos. The Schulte House is now the Coach House, the white building was the meat market and the little building with one window was Fey's store. This was taken before the big Fey store was built.

Depot and Yards: The mail sack was put on the tall pole between the rails and the sidewalk. A train came along with a hook and grabbed the sack and never stopped when going south. I don't know how the north bound mail got off the train. A man pushed a cart with the mail down to the post office after arrival.

Birds Eye View 2: Looking south into the village. Notice the bridge crossing the river and the track into the quarry. This could have been the Gall quarry. The Gall house is the one with the pointed roof.

Post Office: The mail must go through but the truck is the Quality Bakery truck! Fritz's tavern ended up as Club Royal.

Flood 2: View of the rear of the tavern (Herritz, Mueller, Behnke and who knows who else owned this corner).

Train Crossing Bridge: Photo taken in 1904 and sent to Miss Minnie Lange in Milwaukee by her brother, Oscar Lange reading as follows: Locomotive crossing the curved bridge at north end of narrows, Ableman, Wis.

Birds Eye View 3: A favorite photo of mine looking south towards Ableman. You can see the two rocks on the right bottom of the photo and also the home on the left side. This home was destroyed by fire by sparks from a passing train.

VanHise Rock: This photo shows the rock that was just a bit further than the Van Hise Rock. It was removed entirely.

Train Wreck: Train derailment south of the depot. Notice the auto coming out of the railcar and the house at the end of the street. The Marini family lived in that house for many years.

St. Johns Church: Confirmation photo in the old St. Johns Lutheran Church – 1908

Baseball Team: Ableman Ball Team - 19?? Left to Right: 1. Emil Gall, 2. Otto Hinz, 3. Robert Harvey, 4. Pud Barnard, 5. Bill Barkley, 6. ? 7. ? 8. Fred Huebbe, 9. Carl Strand, 10. Wm Gall

Train and Quarry:

Baseball Team 1942: 1941 Ableman Baseball Team. Back Row: Carl Behnke, Floyd Bender, Pud Barnard, Fred Peters, Elliot Carlin, Augie Ovard, Lewellen Herritz. Front row: ??, Bob McGonicle, Jack McGarrity, Clarence Bloss, Jim Wilson.

BEGINNING OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER - 1947

The community center is built on land that previously housed the J. J. Geisser Blacksmith Shop and the August Schoenbeck wagon maker shop. Later the blacksmith shop was used for an auto repair shop, first by Kenneth Weidman and last by Herman Ribbke. These two connected buildings were torn down in the spring of 1947, and the lots were purchased by the Rock Springs Chamber of Commerce for the erection of the Rock Springs Memorial Community Center. Leveling and filling of the lots started the last days of July 1947. A part of the underground foundations were poured during the remainder of 1947 and completed in 1948.

Community Center 1: This is a pulley system that gets the cement wheelbarrows and cement blocks to the top

Community Center 2: R. A. Meyer, the local trucker. He sold the business to Eddie Luck, who in turned sold to Ralph Volk.

Community Center 3: Piano and flag have arrived.

Community Center 4: Unloading at the sawing site.

Community Center 5: Sawing logs.

Community Center 6: Unloading logs at the sawing site.

Community Center 7: Logs rolling down Stone Church Road.

Community Center 8: At this point, I bet these guys were wondering what had they had gotten themselves into.

Community Center 9: Loading logs on Stone Church Road.

Community Center 10: Trucks hauling the logs. Top photo, left man looks like Eddie Baumgarten?

Community Center 11: Dragging trees to the road to be trucked to the site where they were sawed into timbers.

Community Center 12: Built by community effort and a spirit of co-operation by the people of Rock Springs, Wis. and surrounding area.

Community Center 13: The progress made by October of 1948.

Community Center 14: 14 October 1954. First dinner served in dining hall.

Community Center 15: First trusses going up on the Community Center.

Community Center 16: Halfway to the top!

Community Center 17: Getting to the finish line.

Community Center 18: Roof needs work.

Community Center 19: Looks like top windows went in before the first floor windows!

Community Center 20:

Community Center 21: Doors are yet to be installed.

Community Center 22: Benches are in - ready for a dance.

Community Center 23: Looking up through the roof.

Community Center 24:

Community Center 25: Shows what is under the floor.

Community Center 26: Floor and roof construction.

Community Center 27: Window frame and the brick work under construction.

Community Center 28: Will be holding up the weight of the building.

Community Center 29: Hans Schuck and Elliot Carlin pushing cart of cement.

Community Center 30: Notice the tall trees and the nice garden.

Community Center 31: Beginning the basement.

Community Center 32: I wonder if these industrious men knew how much work was ahead.

Community Center 33: This would be the backside, with the windows, by the alley.

Community Center 34: Shoveling sand for mixing concrete.

Community Center 35: Prior location of the fire siren.

Community Center 36: Arthur Verthein, the only one who could read blueprints.

Community Center 37: Great beginning.

Community Center 38: The beginning years of hard work.

Mill, Dam: Mill on HY 154 west of Ableman, on the left side going west.

Ableman Drug Store: Ableman Drug Store on the corner where road goes to Reedsburg. It was one of the first buildings to be demolished due to the floods.

Baumgarten's Barber Shop: Located between garage on left and Herman Ribbke's house and garage on right.

Meat Market: This was the meat market, Coach House was the building to the left

Mente, Harold: House demolished - Harold Mente on River Street

House Demolished: House demolished - just over the bridge going to Reedsburg on the left side of the road.

Ableman Warehouse: 103 E Broadway - Inside of the Ableman Warehouse - I was told that these were bins to hold potatoes before being shipped out. There was a siding next to the warehouse to load and unload.

Ableman Warehouse 2: 103 E Broadway - Ableman Warehouse Many of the local products were shipped in and out of this warehouse. It was located where the Farmers Co-op was destroyed by fire several years ago.

Post Office: Building east of what was Kleb's Restaurant. Many others were located here, including Fritz's?? Notice it was also the post office at one time.

Original site of Community Center: Original site of the Rock Springs Community Center.

Club Royal Fire:

Main Street 2:

Geisser Blacksmith Shop - Inside