

TALKING HISTORIES-ZACHOW WISCONSIN CIRCA 1949-1951 SOUND TRACK FOR 1949 MODEL LAYOUT OF ZACHOW IN DEPOT
(Sources: Register of Deeds Office-Direct research with people involved with the properties led by Dean D. Proper) (July 13, 2013)

1-ALBERT KALLIES HOUSE

In 1949 Albert and Emma Kallies lived in this house. They bought it in 1936 from Mike Brunner who moved to Tigerton after running the Farmers State Bank of Zachow. It is not certain when this house was built and who built it but Herman Heller owned the property from 1912 to 1933 and it is probable that he built the home.

Albert worked at the Pauly Cheese Company helping to package cheese for shipment that came in from the surrounding cheese factories. One of the activities for Albert was chopping wood for their kitchen and home heating stoves. The chopped wood was stored in the west end of his garage. Both Albert and Emma also toiled in a very large garden which helped them supplement the earnings of Albert at the Pauly Cheese Company.

As of 2012 this property is owned by Glen and Erica Wilcox who have maintained and improved the property significantly.

2-DONALD PROPER HOUSE:

This home was built in 1936 by Donald & Florine Proper who replaced Mike Brunner at the Farmers State Bank of Zachow. The Proper's had lived for a time in the Albert Kallies House and the Paul Dobratz House as renters prior to building their home. Son Dean was born in 1936 so the new home arrived just in time. The Proper's lived in this house until 1955 when it was sold to the Farmers State Bank. Donald Proper had accepted a position in another bank and moved in 1955 and the house would become the residence of Wally and LeeAnna Malueg. Wally became the chief executive officer of the bank at that time. He and LeeAnna raised their children Barbara and Danny here until the mid 60's. In 1966 the home was purchased by Albert and Hertha Reinke, and in 1999 it was again resold to Carol Rusch.

As of 2012 the home is owned by Carol's brother John Rusch.

3-FARMERS STATE BANK:

The Farmers State Bank of Zachow was established in 1915, nine years after the platting of the Village of Zachow. It was formed by the farmers and other businessmen that were building the village to meet the banking and financing demands of the expansion of this small community. The initial capitalization was for \$10,000. By 1920 the bank had assets of \$115,000. J. R. Lutsey was designated Cashier and was the first chief executive officer of the bank. The bank operated under several other organizations over the years until 1995 when it was closed. Thus ended eighty years of banking activity.

In 1995 Donald Staszak purchased the bank building and it is currently being utilized as a residential rental unit.

4-MERT'S TAVERN & BARBER SHOP

This structure was part of the large building expansion of Zachow's so-called main street in 1907. Frank Arndt established the tavern in 1907. It was owned by the following over the years. (Emil Raddant Brewing Company, Gilbert Jensen, August Mansee, Mert Baker, Wally Wilke, Dennis Radtke, Harry Radtke and Don Staszak) Mert Baker owned the tavern from 1936 to 1952, the period covered by this model. Mert also functioned as the local barber and Dora tended bar while Mert cut hair. Both were very entertaining and informative as bar tenders. Son Brian grew up here and ran an elaborate electric train set in the barroom. Merts Tavern was a gathering point for some of the social life of this farming community and was constantly busy. The barber shop in the back of the building was also part of the social fabric of Zachow.

Today the tavern is owned by the Staszaks and is still in operation although there is not a barber shop.

5-KRIELS KEENWAY STORE:

The store was built in 1907 by Frank Arndt as part of the large building expansion of Zachow's so-called main street. There were many owners over the years. From 1907 to 1936 there were at least seven different owners. In the early years (circa 1915) the business was called "The Zachow Bargain Store". Henry Westphal purchased the store in 1936 from the Farmers State Bank who had taken it over in a Sheriff's sale in 1932. Westphal's operated the store until 1945 when he sold it to Harold Doubleday. During the period of this model the store was owned by William Kriel who purchased it in 1947. The Kriels ran the Keenway Store until 1952. The store also housed the Post Office at this time and William Kriel was the Postmaster.

The Keenway Store was one of three grocery stores that used to be located in Zachow. All provided basic staples for the people which were much needed in the earlier years. Fortunes changed from one store to the other over the years and the Keenway store was the last grocery store in Zachow.

It is currently a rental unit like many other structures in Zachow.

6-SCHMIDT'S TAVERN:

The Tavern was built in 1907 as part of the large building expansion of Zachow's so-called main street that year. Nick Metz was the first owner until 1908 when he sold it to William.C. Zachow who sold it to Amelia Rueckert the same year. It was resold in 1921 to Henry Radtke. Radtke ran it until 1934 and then sold to Louis Dobratz who resold it to Rueben and Minnie Schmidt in 1939. Rueben and Minnie ran Schmidt's Tavern until 1992 when it was converted to an apartment. The couple added significantly to the social life of Zachow. This was a gathering spot for many of the farmers that came to town to do business and also a good spot to get caught up on the latest Zachow happenings. The building that housed Schmidt's Tavern is now a rental unit owned by Mr. Donald Staszak.

Talking Histories Continued

7-HERMAN RADTKE'S HARDWARE STORE

The Hardware store was built in 1907 as part of the large building expansion of Zachow's so-called main street. H.A. Brusewitz & W.H. Deering were the first owners until 1911 at which time the Hardware store was sold to Herman Radtke. He and his wife Minnie ran this store into the 50's and finally sold it in 1956 to Richard Mayefsky and Marvin Abel.

Herman and Minnie Radtke ran the business like a general store with appliances, ammunition, sleds, and many farm tools in addition to a metal working shop in the rear of the store. The store was heated with wood and a large woodshed was on the west side of the store in the rear. A large garden was also maintained in a back lot and many kids in Zachow earned pin money picking beans for Herman and Minnie.

The Hardware Store was destroyed in the late 70's by a fire while under the ownership of Stanley and Esther Przybylski. This was the second fire the Hardware store encountered. The first was in the early 1900's when the front was burned and remodeled.

8-BRAMSCHREIBER STORE BLDG.

The Bramschreiber Store was the last building that was part of the 1907 building expansion of Zachow's so-called main street. Fred Bramschreiber moved his store from Popp's Corners north of Zachow to this location in 1907. He leased the building from Bernhard Reinke with the condition that "No saloon to be started in this building". This condition was probably due to the fact that Zachow already had three saloons running or under construction in town during this period. The business was primarily a grocery store and had many owners over the years. In the 40's Ben & Viola Koska are remembered as running an IGA store here as a renter. Ben was also the Depot Agent at the C&NW Depot at that time.

Today the building is still much like it was originally but it has been converted to a residential rental unit.

9-HERMAN RADTKE HOUSE:

This home was built by Herman & Minnie Radtke in the late 40's when they moved from the upstairs apartment of the Herman Radtke Hardware Store. Today this modest home is owned by Lloyd and Alice Przybylski.

Talking Histories Continued

10-PAUL DOBRATZ FARM:

This property was outside the Plat of Zachow done in 1906. However, it was owned by Bernard Reinke who platted the Reinke Addition to Zachow in 1906. Reinke sold the land to Edward Deering in 1910 who in turn sold it to John & Emma Lietzke in 1911. In 1914 it was sold to Joseph Babler and in 1918 was again sold to August Radkte. It was common in the early days for properties to change hands many times. August & Clara Radtke sold the property to Frank & Fredericke Peterman in 1920. Although not confirmed it is believed that Frank Peterman built the structures for the farm as well as the ornate home.

Paul Dobratz purchased the farm in 1931 and was an active farmer. Paul & Emma raised a family on the farm. It was the home for three Dobratz girls. Jean, Katherine, and Darlene grew up here but were really “townies”. The farm was an attraction to the Zachow kids in the 40’s and frequent visits were made to look at the farm animals. Many people in Zachow in the 30’s and 40’s purchased milk from Paul & Emma Dobratz. This was the only farm that was considered part of Zachow even though it was not on the plat.

In 1953 Paul & Emma Dobratz sold the farm to Theodore and Waldimar Wilke. Since then there have been numerous owners and the last on record were Ronald & Jill Bohm.

11-KAMMERMAN BUILDING:

This Department Store was built by Fred Bramschreiber in 1911 when he moved his business from the yellow Bramschreiber Store on the corner of “Main Street”. This was a complete Department Store that sold hard goods, soft goods, and groceries. Fred Bramschreiber ran the store until 1920 when it was sold to the Zachow Mercantile Company. W.H. Kammerman bought the store in 1924 and sold it again in 1934. While run by W. H. Kammerman the store issued “Profit Certificates” to its customers similar to a co-op. Mr. Kammerman was involved until 1943 when the store was sold to Albert and Emma Graf. At that time the store was no longer in operation and was converted to an apartment house with portions of the property used for storage for Graf Creamery. Notable tenants during the 40’s and 50’s were Ewald and Lila Dobratz and family, and Gerhardt and Leona Klevesahl and family.

Today the store property is owned by Arthur Pat Eckleberry who resides in the front apartment.

12-C&NW SECTION HOUSE & SHEDS:

When the Chicago & North Western Railroad finally got control of the Right-o-Way in 1905 along the tracks that ran through Zachow construction began for the supporting facilities. Each small town had a “section crew” that maintained a “section” of track. The Section House was built in 1906 and was used initially by train crews that came to Zachow. Later the head of the section crew resided in the residence. The maintenance equipment was housed in several small storage buildings near the tracks. One of the more interesting pieces of equipment was the motorized car that transported the crew and the ties etc. that were needed for track maintenance. The crews consisted of around four or five men that lived in the Zachow area. Louis Sperberg was the last Section Crew Head and prior to him William Westphal ran the crew. Both men raised families in the Section House.

Talking Histories Continued

13-PAULY CHEESE COMPANY:

The Pauly Cheese Company based in Green Bay, Wisconsin established the cheese packaging and shipping facility in Zachow in 1919. Harry Hoefs was hired as its manager in 1921 and remained in that position for 36 years until he retired in 1957. Maynard Hoefs took over as manager when Harry retired. The Pauly Cheese Company was a major employer in Zachow and the refrigerator cars used to transport the cheese were a constant sight on the rail siding. Many surrounding creameries sold their cheese through Pauly Cheese Company and their trucks were a constant sight at the roadside loading dock to have their cheese graded and transported to market. The “Cheese House” as it was called by the kids in Zachow was a favored stop to beg “pluggers”. Pluggers were the cheese plugs extracted from the large blocks of cheese for testing. The plant was closed during the 1990’s by Swift Company who had acquired it earlier in its history.

14- PICKLE HOUSE:

The “Pickle House” was owned by Bryzinski Brothers, Incorporated that was established in the neighboring town of Krakow in 1901. Although not 100% confirmed it is believed the “Pickle House” was built in the 1906-1908 time frame with the land being leased from the Chicago & North Western Railroad. This facility was used to support the raising of pickles and beans in the Zachow area. These products were sorted in the “Pickle House” and then crated in small crates for pickup. In the early days the pickup was with rail car but later it done by Bryzinski Brothers trucks. Herman Radtke, who owned the Herman Radtke Hardware Store was the manager of the “Pickle House” and directed the sorting operation. This was a part time job since it depended on the particular crops. The “Pickle House” was also a favorite spot for the local kids to visit.

15-ZACHOW STOCKYARD

The stockyard was a standard Chicago & North Western stockyard like many built in the late 1800’s and the early 1900’s throughout their routes in the Midwest. The stockyard was probably built in the year 1906 at the same time a number of other “railroad related” structures were built in Zachow. The Stockyard was one of the main reasons that Zachow was formed. W.C. Zachow Company was incorporated in 1901 and located in Cecil but was searching for a better facility to handle their livestock business. The new train route established in 1903 through the area was a more efficient shipping point for the W.C. Zachow Company’s operation and prompted a move from the Cecil, Wisconsin base. As a result W.C.Zachow helped with the platting of Zachow in 1906 and the sale of 14 acres of right-o-way land to the railroad. Prior to 1906 the general area was known as Netley and the platting of Zachow in 1906 formalized the name of the village as Zachow.

The stockyard activities were handled by an unincorporated entity in the early years but sought more formal legal status in 1938 with the incorporation of the Zachow Cooperative Shipping Association. The stockyard was torn down in 1944 prior to the period of the model layout of the late 40’s and early 50’s but is included here because of its historic significance.

Talking Histories Continued

16-ZACHOW FEED & LUMBER COMPANY:

This business was started in 1907 by Cargil Elevators, Inc. as the Zachow Feed and Lumber Company. In 1919 it was sold to E. A. Neufeld and William Dix and became the Zachow Lumber & Elevator Company. In the 1930's the business was sold to Henry Dirks. Mr. Dirks had been the Depot Agent for Zachow at the time.

The farming community needed this business since this is where they got feed for their livestock and lumber for their homes and farm buildings. In the later years a social offshoot of this business resulted when an equipment change necessitated digging a deeper hole below the mill. An artesian well was hit which complicated things. However the water from the well was routed to a marshy area west of the mill and a pond was the result. This new Dirk's Pond provided entertainment for the Zachow kids both winter and summer and provided a place for fishermen in Zachow to "soak" their boats. Ducks were also raised on the pond.

Mr. Dirks ran this successful business until 1967 when it was sold.

The buildings needed for the above business have all been razed now and the pond filled in. In their place today is a corn drying plant.

17-LEONARD DOBRATZ HOUSE:

In 1907 this property was sold by Martin Zernicke, one of the three founders of Zachow, to Hubert Reschke. He held the property until 1919 when he sold it to the Zachow Lumber and Elevator Co. owned by Cargil, Inc. It is believed that the existing structure was a grain storage facility built by Cargil's subsidiary. The property was sold to Ernst Braunschreiber in 1921 and resold to Mahlon Prokopovitz the next year. Prokopovitz declared bankruptcy in 1933 and the property was then taken over by Rosamond Prokovitz who held it until 1935 when it was sold to Leo Dyminski. The building may have been converted to a residence by the Dyminski's between 1935 and 1942. Leonard and Minnie Dobratz purchased the home in 1942.

Leonard had a butter and cheese truck route for Graf Creamery for many years thereafter. Son John was raised in this home and assumed ownership in 1986 after his parents had both passed away.

In 1994 Joel and Sherry Dobratz took over ownership of the home and subsequently sold it to Steven P. Mann in 1996.

18. ALBERT RADTKE COMPLEX:

Albert and Jessie Radtke purchased the land for their future garage business and home in 1919 and 1920 from Martin Zernicke, one of the original founders of Zachow. In 1920 Radtke's Garage opened for business.

In 1922 the business became a Chevrolet dealership and added more depth to the economy of Zachow. In 1930 they purchased property from James Cowden across the road from the Garage and a classic Sinclair filling station was erected on that site.

In 1934 an Oldsmobile Dealership was added and in 1942 a Case Farm Machinery Dealership rounded out the business plan. This made Radtke's Garage a major automotive and farm dealership for an extended area around Zachow including Shawano, Pulaski, and Green Bay.

All members of the family helped out in the business which included Harvey, Harry, Ruth, and Dennis. Harvey spent his career as the head mechanic, and Harry worked at the inventory and parts supply. Jessie Radtke was the primary bookkeeping manager and was helped by Ruth in later years.

Albert passed away in 1964 and Harvey, Harry, and Ruth continued the business for many years. With the changing of the economic dynamics of the area the business was gradually pared back and remained a repair facility until 1998. Since that time the garage has been used as a part time repair shop by others

19-AUGUST BOHM HOUSE:

The Bohm house is on property originally owned by Martin Zernicke who was one of the three founders of Zachow. In 1917 Mr. Zernicke sold two parcels of land to Robert and Elsie Zernicke and they in turn sold the parcels to the Zachow Elevator and Lumber Company in 1919. In the same year the property was sold to Adolph and Hermine Fischer. It is believed that they built the residence in 1919. In 1936 Hermine assumed sole ownership of the property and in 1949 sold it to August and Louise Bohm. Their granddaughter Marjorie grew up in this home. Louise Bohm took ownership in 1961 and sold it to Edwin Kroening and Marjorie Bohm in 1971.

In 1998 Betsy Kroening inherited the home and Jonathan and Alicia Kroening became the new owners in 2003.

20-AUGUST MANSEE HOUSE:

In 1919 Martin Zernicke sold a lot to Gilbert and Sandy Jensen and they built the existing home. Mr. Jensen was a barber and worked at the Stark Hotel in Zachow. Lila (Jensen) Dobratz grew up in this house along with six other siblings. These were Olive, Annabelle, Fredrick, Everett, Roger, and Terry. A second lot was purchased in 1928. In 1934 ownership of the larger property passed to Albert and Marie Jensen. The relationship to Gilbert and Sandy is not known at this time. August Mancee and his wife lived in this house and ownership records show his ownership as of 1954 via a Court Order and was sold shortly thereafter in 1955 to Merton and Dora Baker. Upon Mertons death in 1999 the property was sold to Jeremy and Christine Paholke.

Talking Histories Continued

21-CHARLES DANNEHL HOUSE:

This was part of the Zernicke Addition to Zachow and in 1920 the property was sold to Julius Zuehlsdorf and was subsequently sold to Charles and Augusta Dannehl in 1923 who built the present home. The couple lived happily in this home until 1959 when Charles passed and in 1960 Augusta also passed. The estate sold the home to Carl and Helen Hafeman in 1960 after they left the Blacksmith Shop living quarters in Zachow. Helen Hafeman sold the home to Rollin and Carol Kliest in 1984 after Carl passed in 1982. In 1988 Bradley and Tracy Kliest, who obtained the property from Rollin and Carol Kliest sold the property to Scott and Lori Pues

In the early days “Charlie” Dannehl was seen every day driving his 1920’s something auto downtown to pick up his mail at the post office.

The tax records show Lori Hoida owning the property today.

22-HENRY DIRKS HOUSE:

The Dirks House sits on the property that once was the site of the Stark Hotel. This parcel was part of the Zachow Plat that became the Bonnin Addition in 1908. The Hotel hit upon hard times in the 1930’s and Henry and Hilda Dirks purchased a portion of the complex in 1940 at a Sheriff’s sale and part from Rose Stark. Two more lots were purchased from Lester Bonnin in 1944. The Hotel was razed in 1940 and the lumber, nails, and foundation became the basis of the new Dirks residence. The livery and other smaller buildings were moved across frozen roads in the same year to become the Blacksmith Shop owned by John Mielke. The Dirks children consisted of four sons, Roy, Dale, Glen, and Neil who all grew up in this home.

Leon Westerfeld purchased the home in 1964 and sold it to Tommy and Judith Carley in 1975. Wallin and Florence Rueckert acquired the home in 1979 and sold it to Kenneth and Nicole Schultz in 2002.

23-CHICAGO & NORTH WESTERN STANDARD No. 3 DEPOT:

This structure was built in 1906 by the C&NW on land obtained from W.C. Zachow in 1905. The railroad ran the line through Zachow in 1903 from Green Bay to Eland and had stations at all the communities between those two points and it is believed a temporary depot may have been constructed in 1903 prior to the 1906 Depot. The building you are standing in is a virtual duplicate of the 1906 structure. The station was active with full time agents until the 1950’s when C&NW was in a decline. In the 1960’s the Depot was cut up, moved, and subsequently destroyed. The “two-holer” was built from a 1901 plan and was a place some of the kids in Zachow would sneak smokes. The Depot was a magnet for many of the Zachow kids to observe first-hand the workings of a depot during their growing up years.

26-CLARENCE DEERING HOUSE:

This home was located on the northeast corner of the main street into Zachow and was originally a log building that was used as a milk intake center for a local cheese factory across the street. The land was part of the Zernicke Addition to Zachow that was platted in 1906. In 1911 it was sold to Robert and Carrie Jesse by Martin Zernicke. John and Anna Reinke obtained the property in 1940 and were the sixth owners since the original sale. They sold the now remodeled log cabin structure to Elmer and Anna Graf who in turn sold the home to Albert and Emma Graf in 1940. Clarence and Hildegard Deering purchased the property from Grafs the same year.

Clarence "Butch" was a truck driver for Graf Creamery and had a butter and cheese route for Graf.

In 1953 both passed and the home went to Bernadine (Deering) Wendt who sold the property to Clarence and Jeanette Breitenfeldt in 1958. In 1967 the house was moved to the property $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north on County Road F and the newly vacant lot was sold to Hilbert Schultz who constructed a new home at the site.

27-ALMA KRUEGER HOUSE:

The Alma Krueger property was part of the original Zachow Plat that became the Bonnin Addition. In 1908 the lot was sold to Chris Bonnin by W.C. & Mary Zachow. Walter & Elsie Kroening purchased the property in 1919 and sold it the next year to Daniel and Fredericka Rueckert. It is believed the Rueckert's added the house to this property. Herman & Louise Krueger acquired the property from the Rueckert family in 1937. Alma assumed ownership of the property by Court Order which is assumed to have resulted from the passing of Herman & Louise. The parcel went to Emil Krueger and family in 1972 and was sold to Hilbert Klosterman the same year. Upon the passing of Hilbert Klosterman Harvey Radtke assumed ownership in 1980. The home was razed in 1985 to clear the lot which was next door to the Harvey Radtke home. With the passing of Harvey Radtke in 2000 and Joyce Radtke in 2009 the property is now owned by son Terry Radtke.

28-WILLIAM WESTERFELD HOUSE:

The William Westerfeld House was built in 1909 by Herman and Wilhelmina Genske. This lot was part of the Zernicke Addition to Zachow platted in 1906. Martin Zernicke sold the lot to Henry Brusewitz in 1907 who sold the lot to the Genske's through W.C. Zachow. In 1918 the home was sold to Bertha Kroening. An informational gap exists from 1918 to 1941. In 1943 the property was sold to William and Louise Westerfeld by the Reinke family. Lawrence & Elsie Krueger purchased the home from Louise Westerfeld in 1958 who sold it in turn to Henry & Alma Schultz in 1960. Gerhardt & Leona Klevesahl purchased the property from the Schultz's in 1995. At the end of 1995 Brian & Brenda Staszak are shown as current owners.

This home at one time was the location of the only doctor that practiced in Zachow. It is said that a Dr. Pfiffer had a practice in this home prior to 1930.

29-THE MARQUARDT HOUSE:

The Marquardt House was built by M. Marquardt in 1906 after purchasing it from Herman Busch who obtained the property from Martin Zernicke. This parcel was part of the Zernicke Addition platted in 1906. For many years the property was a rental. Paul & Emma Dobratz purchased the home in 1953 when they moved from their farm in Zachow. They lived in this home until 1977 when it was sold to Patrick Rueckert and Lawrence Gaye. In 1981 it was sold to Dale and Barbara Gruel. Current records show the property owned by Judith Ribbens.

The location of this property was an attraction to the Zachow kids in the 30' and 40's in that sleigh riding was done on the west facing hill running down to the creek. Also the best fishing hole was in Pensaukee Creek in the southwest corner of the lot. One of the other unique features is the garage/barn. This was used to house buggies and sleighs with the hay and feed for the horses dropped from the top floor through an appendage on the back/west side of the barn to the lower level where the animals were.

30-WESTERFELD OIL COMPANY:

The land on the Chicago & North Western railroad siding just west of "Dirks' Pond" was originally a beet/turnip loading facility operated on railroad land. In the 20's or early 30's Wadhams Oil Co. established a petroleum bulk plant on the parcel to receive via railcar, gasoline, distillate, and lubricants for subsequent local delivery to retail gas outlets and farmers who were increasingly turning to mechanized power.

In 1938, Ernest Westerfeld purchased a delivery truck and route for \$1,000 to become a commissioned agent for Wadhams Oil Co. working out of the Zachow bulk plant. Later the company became Socony-Vacuum Oil Co. and after that became Mobil Oil Co.

The railroad discontinued siding rail service for the Wadhams bulk plant in 1952. After that the products came in to the bulk plant by truck. When all siding traffic in Zachow was discontinued later by the railroad Ernest Westerfeld purchased the bulk plant land and other adjacent land in 1962. The adjoining Blacksmith Shop was also added in the 60's for office and storage space.

This location was the hub of Westerfeld Oil Co, Inc, a Mobil Distributor, which served Northeastern Wisconsin for many years. The Company helped put Zachow on the map in its heyday, prior to its becoming the quiet residential community it is today.

Talking Histories Continued

31-HARLEY HANSEN BLACKSMITH SHOP:

The first blacksmith shop in Zachow was run by William Marquardt and was located west of the hotel site next to Radtke's Garage. This structure burned down in the 1940's.

The next Blacksmith Shop was located near Westerfeld Oil and had its origins as a livery stable for the Stark Hotel. In 1940 the livery stable and several other smaller buildings were moved over the ice from the location of the hotel. Henry Dirks had purchased this property for a home he wanted to build. He razed the hotel for its lumber and nails and sold the livery and related buildings to John Mielke in 1940.

John Mielke had purchased the new site from Martin Zernicke, one of Zachow's founders, in 1934 and had a spot for his new shop. A basement was excavated in 1940 and the blacksmith shop was built.

Harley and Gertrude Hansen purchased the Blacksmith Shop from Mielke in 1948 and then sold it to Carl and Helen Hafeman in 1950. Carl Hafeman was the last blacksmith in Zachow.

The Blacksmith Shop was always busy repairing and fabricating items. The spectacle of a working blacksmith shop was a magnet for the kids of Zachow as the smithy did his work with the hammering of red hot metal parts with sparks flying.

Westerfeld Oil purchased the property in the late 1960's to use as a storage facility and also to utilize the residence that Leon Westerfeld and his family lived in.

In 1996 Westerfeld Oil sold the property to Carol Staszak

32-HARVEY RADTKE HOUSE:

This property was part of the Zachow Plat of 1906 and in 1919 was sold to Walter Kroening and then sold to Albert Radtke in 1923. Albert and Jessie Radtke sold the property to their son Harvey in 1949 and Harvey and his wife Joyce built their home that same year.

Harvey was the head mechanic in Radtke's Garage for many years. Their only son Terry grew up in this home and with the passing of Harvey in 2000 and Joyce in 2009. Terry now owns the property.

Talking Histories Continued

33 &34-ALBERT GRAF HOUSE AND CREAMERY:

Ole and Clara Hanson were the first owners of the complex and built the first creamery and home in 1908. The site was part of the Zachow Plat of 1906. In 1911 the business was sold to Lorenz and Lydia Ebert. Several owners came after the Ebert's and in 1924 was owned by Louis and Minnie Shoen. In 1926 they sold the Cheese Factory and home to Albert and Emma Graf.

Albert Graf expanded the business into other dairy products and it became Graf's Creamery. This business became a major employer in the area and received milk from the surrounding farm community for its butter and cheese products. Much of the production was private label and delivered in Graf's own trucks.

Their daughter Margery grew up in the Graf home. She married Robert Bleick in 1953 who was a licensed cheesemaker and buttermaker who came from a family in the creamery business. After working with Albert for a number of years Robert eventually took over management of the business.

Marge and Robert had four children, James, Mary, Ruth, and Linda. Upon Roberts passing in 1996 James took over as President of Graf Creamery and managed it until 2008 when the business was sold to Tayt & Trevor Weuthrich of Greenwood, Wisconsin. The business continues today as an active cheese and butter producer as well as a major employer in the area.

35- DIRKS APARTMENT HOUSE:-four unit rental

This land was part of the original plat of Zachow that became the Bonnin Addition. W.C. Zachow sold the land to Chris Bonnin in 1908. Chris Bonnin sold the parcel to Emil Leitzke in 1914 who built the present structure. Leitzke sold the house in 1918 which later became a four unit apartment house and seven owners came and went until 1942 when it was sold to Milton and Cecilia Arnoldi. The Arnoldi's lived in one of the first floor units. Others in the building in the 40's were Asoph and Ella Boerger and Earl and Hilda Krueger. Both Asoph and Earl were employees of the Pauly Cheese Company. Henry Dirks acquired the unit in 1944 and sold it to Asoph and Ella Boerger in 1948. Asoph passed in 1978 and wife Ella sold the complex in 1989 to Barbara Henkel.

36-EDWARD KROENING HOUSE:

This property was part of the original Zachow Plat of Zachow and became the Bonnin Addition after W.C. Zachow sold the land to Chris Bonnin in 1908. Edward and Martha Kroening purchased five lots from Bonnin in 1919 and built a home and garage on the parcel. Edward worked for the Chicago & North Western Railway as a section hand until he retired. For the kids in Zachow his wife Martha was renowned for making old fashioned doughnuts that filled the air in Zachow with a great aroma that was a magnet to the kids of Zachow. She willingly shared these treats with the "gang". Edward passed in 1958 and Martha survived until 1972 and their son Ervin took over the home and property. Ervin sold the house to Connie Stazak in 1992. As of 2008 the property was owned by Dennis and Connie (Stazak) Pedersen.

Talking Histories Continued

37-HARRY HOEFS HOUSE:

This property was part of the original Zachow Plat that became the Bonnin Addition to Zachow. Chris Bonnin sold the land to Robert and Pauline Bohm in 1910. They in turn sold the property to Edward and Emma Hanstedt in 1920. It changed hands again in 1922 when Leo and Anna Bartell purchased it. Harry and Irene Hoefs bought the property from the Bartell's in 1930.

Harry ran the Pauly Cheese Company for 36 years which was a major employer in Zachow. When Harry retired in the 60's his son Maynard took over the Pauly Cheese Company operation. Their daughter Lorraine also worked in the business for a time. In 1964 Harry sold the house to Earl and Hilda Krueger. Earl was another long time employee of the Pauly Cheese Company. After Earl passed Hilda sold the home to Leo Natzke in 1981. As of 2008 the property was owned by Ted Natzke.

38-MAYNARD HOEFS HOUSE:

There were many owners of this property since 1906 when it was sold by W.C. Zachow, one of the three founders of Zachow, to Otto and Robert Bohm. There were seven other owners until William Radke acquired the parcel in 1920. It is thought that he built the small home that exists today. Lester and Loretta Radtke received the property from the William Radtke Estate and subsequently sold the property to Maynard and Bernice Hoefs in 1944. Maynard, the son of Harry Hoefs, was one of the key people in the Pauly Cheese Company. Maynard passed in 1979 and Bernice continued to reside in the home until 1992 when she passed and the property went to the children and was sold in 1995 to Andrew and Sara Vanden Elzen who lived there until 2007. Jeffrey and Jean Passmore acquired the property in 2007.

39-CLARENCE KROENING HOUSE:

Chris Bonnin, who purchased this parcel from W.C. Zachow in the early 1900's sold two lots to Clarence and Molly Kroening in 1938. Clarence worked as a section hand for the C&NW Railroad for many years. The crew in Zachow had a section car and maintained a number of miles of track for the C&NW. Molly was a favorite of the kids in town and the neighboring woods became known as "Molly's Woods". This was a place that the kids of Zachow built woods camps and explored nature.

In 1955 the Kroening family sold the home to Neil and Lucille Moesch. Neil drove one of the trucks delivering butter and cheese for the Graf Creamery. Neil passed in 1999 and Lucille lived there until 2007 when she passed. Today their daughter Rose Marie Majors resides in this quiet wood-side home.

Talking Histories Continued

40-ASOPH BOERGER HOUSE:

Chris Bonnin acquired the block of property in the early 1900's that was known as the Zachow Plat in 1906. Upon this sale the block became known as the Bonnin Addition to Zachow. Lester Bonnin sold a number of lots to Norman and Esther Burmeister in 1944 who in the same year sold the lots to Asoph and Ella Boerger. It is believed that they built the structure that exists today.

Asoph was one of the key employees of the Pauly Cheese Company for many years.

In 1952 the Boergers sold their home to Vernon and Gertrude Hein. Gertrude Hein is listed as the owner as of 2008.

41-ERNEST WESTERFELD HOUSE:

The Ernest Westerfeld property was part of the original Federal Land Grant given to Martin Zernicke in 1906. His son Elmer sold the property to Ernest and Lorraine Westerfeld in 1948 for the princely sum of \$350.00. The Westerfeld's had to move since the Lutheran Teacherage they were living in located a mile north of Zachow was being sold. In addition to Ernest and Lorraine the children Jeanette, Leon, and Carol also made the move. A fourth was soon added just after the move with the arrival of Dennis who was born in 1949. The four children finished their growing up years in this home. Upon the passing of Lorraine in 1997 and Ernest in 1998, the house was sold to Dennis who lived there until 2003.

42-HERMAN DOBRATZ HOUSE:

The original property was part of a Federal Land Grant given to Martin Zernicke, one of the founders of Zachow. In 1919 he sold a lot to Edwin and Leola Zernicke and they built this unique home. Herman and Anna Dobratz acquired the property in 1931 moving from their farm. Lucille, and Leonard, the two remaining children at home moved also. The other seven children left home prior to 1931. These were August, Walter, Paul, Hilda, Florence, Ewald, and Leona. Hermans farm was located west of Zachow near the Zittsfield Cheese Factory later known as the Krueger Cheese Factory and was the Henry Dobratz farm before Herman took it over.

This was one of the largest family's in the area and there are many descendents locally. The home was unique in the Zachow area in that it was the only stucco home and looks today much as it did when built in the 30's.

The home was sold to Adolph and Mabel Bohm in 1962 and in 2007 was owned by Allen and Ronald Bohm.

Talking Histories Continued

43-HERMAN BOETTCHER HOUSE:

The original property for this house was owned by Martin Zernicke who was one of the founders of Zachow. Elmer, his son, inherited the property which was farmland. In 1952 Elmer sold a parcel to Herman and Clara Boettcher who then built a home on the site. Herman and Clara had run a farm east of Zachow and this dwelling would be their retirement home. In 1978 the property was acquired by Wilber and Lavern Mayer after Clara Boettcher passed away. Lavern was the daughter of Clara and Herman. In 1998 the home was sold to Roger and Viola Krueger who then sold it to Richard and Jaclyn Able. They lived there until 2011 when the home was purchased by Richard and Julie Vomastic.

44-ZERNICKE SAWMILL:

This mill was built in 1903 prior to the platting of the village of Zachow. Martin Zernicke built the mill on land he obtained in the late 1800's. The mill was an important factor in the development of the surrounding area. The farmers would transport their logs to the mill where it was cut into lumber for use in farm buildings and houses. In addition to the basic lumber the unit also produced wood shingles. The mill remained active into the 1950's and was owned and run by Martin Zernicke's son Elmer until it was closed. Being a family business, Elmer's son Manton also worked in the mill from time to time.

The steam engine that powered the mill was sold in the 60's and in the process of moving it from the sawmill, the building caught fire and burned to the ground. Located in the Creek area of Zachow this facility was a magnet for the kids in Zachow in the 40's and 50's.

46-FRANK STIEDE HOUSE:

This property was outside the 1906 Plat of the Village of Zachow and more research needs to be done. It is known that Paul Kallies resided in this home with his family prior to 1946. Milo and Helen Kallies frequently made the short walk to downtown Zachow to play with the the "townies". The Kallies family moved in 1946 when the property was sold to Frank Steide. Court records of 2008 show the home being owned by Scott and Amy Wudtke.