

**HISTORY OF THE DONALD PROPER HOUSE-Built 1936. by Dean D. Proper
Lots 25 & 26 Reinke Addition**

The Proper house was built on land in the Reinke Addition to Zachow. The parcels were sold by Bernhard Reinke in 1910. Ground was broken in 1936 after the Don and Florine Proper bought the two lots from Paul Dobratz.

The new home for the family was to be located next to the Farmers State Bank of Zachow where Donald Proper was the Cashier. Below is a picture of the construction site.



Prior to moving into the new house Don and Flo lived in the Mike Brunner house west of the new home for a time and then on the third floor of the Paul Dobratz farm home. In the latter, all water, etc etc. had to be hand carried to the third floor. It was with much relief that this new family moved into their new home. There was also some urgency to get the new home built since new son Dean was due in October of 1936. Below are several other pictures that show the progress of this family. The auto in the picture below is a 1937 Chevrolet which dates this picture circa 1938. The picture with Don and son Dean sitting on the front step looks to be from around 1942 and the last picture from around 1946 of the unremodeled house shows that the foundation plantings have grown considerably in the last ten years.





There were two major changes to the home over the years. The first change was to finish off the attic and make it a two story home. Two bedrooms and a small bathroom were added on the second floor and the former bedroom on the south west side of the first floor was turned into a music/office type room with the stairs going to the second floor. This occurred around 1947. The second major change was to add a stone foyer on the front of the house and to add a stone addition to the north side of the house which gave another bedroom and a much larger kitchen. This made the home a 4 bedroom home with the smaller bedroom on the first floor used as a nursery. This change was made about 1950.

Daughter Llana was born to Don & Flo Proper in 1952 and was the joy of the family. Son Dean now had a sister 15 years younger than he.



The above picture shows (circa 1959) several related families enjoying an outside Sunday dinner, one of many had over the years. Wally Malueg was living in the house when this shot was taken. The folks in the picture are Don Proper, Florina Malueg (grandmother), LeAnna Malueg, Wally and Danny Malueg, Mickey Proper, Florine Proper, and Emanuel Malueg (grandfather).

The Proper's moved to Plymouth, WI in 1955 and then to Reedsburg, WI in 1956. However, Wally and LeeAnna Malueg moved into the home in 1955 and the property remained a gathering spot for the family. Many happy visits occurred during these years. Don Proper became the President of the Reedsburg Bank in 1956, and Wally Malueg ran the bank upon his move the Zachow in 1955.

The house was sold to the Farmers State Bank in 1955 and was rented to Wally Malueg. When Mr. Malueg left the bank the house was sold to Albert and Hertha Reinke in 1966. The Reinke's lived in the house until the late 1990's. In 1999 this home was sold to Carol J. Rusch. The current resident is John W. Rusch.

Ownership History of Lots 25 and 26 Reinkes Addition, Zachow.

1906	Bernhard Reinke (When plat was defined)
1910	Edward Seering
1911	John Leitzke
1912	Jospeh Babler
1918	Fred & Augusta Radtke
1921	Paul & Emma Dobratz
1936	Donald & Florine Proper
1955	Farmers State Bank of Cecil
1966	Albert & Hertha Reinke
1999	Carol J. Rusch
2007	John W. Rusch

(NOTE: JOHN RUSCH is working on the history of this home from the time Albert and Hertha Reinke bought it in 1966 to when he bought it in 2007.)

