

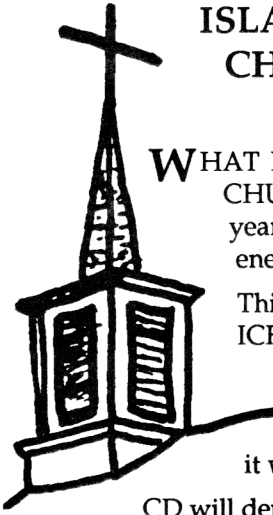
## ISLAND (ST. WENCESLAUS) CHURCH

### TOWN OF WATERLOO-WISCONSIN

**W**HAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY THE ISLAND CHURCH FOUNDATION, INC. (ICF) in the past 20 years is to the credit of people—concerned, dedicated, energetic, giving, involved people.

This year's handout will introduce the Directors of the ICF who have served through the years. But, let it be known that many, many people, Foundation members and volunteers, have served and contributed in many ways for the good of the cause. If it were only possible to mention them all.

CD will denote Charter Director; \*1990 Director.



In 1970 a committee was formed to study ways and means of preserving the St. Wenceslaus (Island) Church, Town of Waterloo landmark. There was then a threat that the neglected church would be removed from the area.

Committee members were: Edward Peschel, Ernest Scribner, Les Doubrawa, Roy Haberman, Dorothea Fischer and Kate Radke, with James Peschel as liaison to the St. Joseph's Church congregation. With some membership changes, that committee laid the ground work for the chartering of the Island Church Foundation, Inc. in 1976. The charter reads: "preserve and restore the Church on its original site."

Charter directors elected at the ICF organizational meeting, April 23, 1976 were Mel Cyrek, Edward Peschel, Bruce Schultz, Leonard Janisch, Les Doubrawa, Doris Deppe, Don Vehlow, Stan Deppe, Dorothea Fischer, Ray Radke, Juanita Blaska, Jerome Blaska, Bernadine Skalitzky, Byron McClellan and Kate Radke. Five: Bruce Schultz\*, Dorothea Fischer\*, Juanita Blaska\*, Bernadine Skalitzky\* and Kate Radke\* remain directors today. Six have been claimed by death: Peschel, Janisch, Doubrawa, McClellan, Cyrek and R. Radke. Four: Doris Deppe, Don Vehlow, Stan Deppe and Jerome Blaska remain supportive and active members.

Clarence Kowski was elected a director in 1977. He lived near the church for many years and shares with visitors a wealth of Church history as he serves as greeter for special events, and has acted as a dedicated custodian to the Church and other buildings. He was a member of the William Kowski family, named in the 1989 handout.

Doris Deppe (CD) served as historian and Memorial chairman, and took

the lead in developing an early American display of artifacts in the Foundation building. It was she who alerted the neighborhood of the threat of the Church move.

Bernadine Haberman Skalitzky (CD/\*) lives in Columbus and remains most active, and has served as treasurer. She and her husband, Joe Skalitzky (deceased), are the parents of 12 children, all involved in the life of the ICF. Her parents, the Ervin Habermans, lived near the country church. The family is detailed the 1989 handout.

#### **Memorial Cross Provident**

Bruce Schultz (CD/\*) was active in the early restoration projects and has served as vice-president and president of the organization. He built a small replica of the Church that served well in fund raising. His family, the Elmer Schultz family, provided the first Memorial Cross, given in the name of William Schultz.

Edward Peschel, Les Doubrawa and Leonard Janisch, all charter directors, had keen interest in the newly founded organization, and brought support from the St. Joseph's, Waterloo, congregation. They are deceased.

Don Vehlow (CD) resides next to the Foundation building lot, and has always been cooperative in sharing time and facilities. He and his family took an early interest in the preservation and remain loyal.

Stan Deppe (CD) has shared his time and equipment when man-hours were at a premium, and continues to be supportive. His mother, Doris Deppe, heads a three generation team of Foundation directors. His daughter, Debbie Deppe Quinn serves as such at this time.

Juanita Blaska (CD/\*) and Jerome Blaska (CD), brother and sister, and their sisters, Evelyn Owens and Burdette Blaska, have been supportive from the beginning of the movement. He served as treasurer in 1976. Juanita is serving as secretary and has been active in the Foundation Memorial plan and the organizing of the St. Wenceslaus services.

Mel Cyrak (CD) remained counsel for the Foundation until the time of his death.

Lester and Dorothea Fischer (CD/\*) donated land adjacent to the Church lot on which the all-purpose building now stands. Mr. Fischer spent his life "next door" to the church. He was the son of Edward and Agnes Fischer, and had a sister Mildred. Dorothea served on the Foundation committee. Food planning and serving at ICF events have been her major responsibilities, and this year she is acting as president. Their daughter Gladys Peter works closely with her mother.

#### **McClellan Memorial Planted**

Funding for the Foundation was the concern of Eugenia and Byron

McClellan (CD) even prior to the chartering. That interest never waned as they continued their Christmas benefits. He held a number of offices while a director. In 1984 a living memorial, described in the 1985 handout, was planted on the Island Church grounds by Mr. McClellan, in memory of his wife. Both are deceased.

Ray (CD) and Kate Radke, (CD/\*), had been active in the preliminary committee work, prior to the chartering. As ICF director, he continued to support the Foundation, encouraging memberships, involvements and sponsorships. Kate Radke served as secretary to the committee and the Foundation until 1988. She has been responsible for the annual handouts since 1982.

Alfred Klug served as a Director for seven years. He and his son Wesley built, and donated to the Foundation, a replica of the Church that was used as a parade unit year after year. It served as a good publicity unit for the ICF.

Following the death of R. Radke in 1987 and A. Klug in 1988 (both deaths just prior to the picnic dates) the void in the directorship and workers was filled by many and all. Paul and Martha Sillman met many of the challenges. Martha had served as director for about 10 years and as treasurer. Paul, a "Jack of all trades" type of man, had worked closely with the membership through the years. Together they came up with many answers when they were emergencies.

In 1989 a brother, Philip Sillman, shared on tape the Sillman family interest in the primitive church. Their parents, Henry and Margaret Sillman, long ICF supporters, observed their 50th wedding anniversary in the Church. Margaret Sillman's burial at the Church cemetery is the latest there.

Carl Schroeder, a past president, was named director in 1977, and he and his wife Betty became interested in the over-all projects. His greatest contribution may have been the managing of the tractor pulls as annual picnic attractions. Betty Schroeder (\*) accepted the directorship in 1989 and continues her support in all committee work. The two show support at all times.

Layton Zickert was elected director and vice-president in 1980. His parents, William and Irene Zickert, had donated land to be used as an ICF parking lot.

Don Richwalski (\*) was named director in 1988, then interested in the Foundation and its aims.

Theodore Kiesow rekindled interest in the preservation of the Church and was elected to serve on the Board in 1981. He and his wife Olive worked in many capacities during his term of office. Both are deceased.

### Picture Post Cards Available

Another man and wife director team is Kevin (\*) and Debbie (\*) Quinn. He is the photographer and printer who produced the color postcard depicting the Island Church. Debbie has held several offices and now is treasurer and chairman of the Memorial fund, and remains active in needs of the group.

When Juan Edwards was elected director in 1982, his wife Cindy too, was active and supportive of the needs. Juan is a past president and his father, Merlin Edwards shared Edwards' family history in the 1989 handout.

Bernice Langer Wendt stands with those who were supportive of the Foundation from the start, and remains so after serving on the board of directors. Her Waterloo shop serves as an outlet for Foundation tickets, cards and pins, and for the distribution of the handouts.

Belva Skalitzky Giunta (\*) serving as director since 1988, is the daughter of Bernadine Skalitzky, and there again is another three generation involvement. The Giunta family — Belva, Jack and daughters Abram Beth, Roma and Gemra, did an outstanding job in planning and managing ground games for the youngsters on picnic days. Belva and her mother headed a committee that managed a successful quilt auction benefit last year.

When Don Roseberg (\*) was named director in 1988, the Rosberg family became involved. Daughter Kirsten, with Laurie Peter and Dawn Deppe, manned a booth at the 1989 picnic. Their parents, Peggy and Don Rosberg and Erikka, Cheryl and Gary Peter; and Greg, Stan and Karen Deppe were all involved in other activities on the grounds. Mr. Peter was elected director in 1981, and the family has always been active.

It was his "second time around" when Roy Haberman (\*) was elected director in 1990. He had in 1970 served on the original committee. He, with his wife Lorraine and their son Clifford and his family, live on the Haberman farm that had been owned and operated by his father, Walter Haberman, and his grandfather, Frank, before him.

Area churches of all denominations have supported the Foundation's efforts with monetary and other gifts. The Church bookcase hold hymnals, Bibles, and other books—some of the items donated by neighboring congregations.

This primitive church serves as a wedding chapel for the area. It is open to visitors every fourth Sunday afternoon from May through September and by appointment.