

Princeton's Scenes from the Past

This week's article is a continuation of the first article published Feb. 9th, with the hope there was interest in reading about the history and people of Princeton.

The pictures in that edition, had no names attached and the article discussed a little bit about the Megow Family. So, how many knew that the pictures were of the Ham Megow Meat Market, located at 541 W Water Street, which was one of the buildings located where currently is Megow Park? In the first picture was Albert "Ham" Megow and his son Norman, from February 1925. The second picture is Ham Megow and Al Marvin from 1916.

A little bit of history on the Megow Family:

Herman E Megow and Julia *Fisher* were married in 1880, and had eight children. They are buried in Milwaukee. The building at 541 W Water Street, where Herman and Ham both raised their families, was a two story building until 1898 when Judge Herman E Megow remodeled it for his photography business, Megow's Art Gallery and added a third floor. Herman captured in pictures, the young and growing Princeton in the late 1880's. He earned the title of Judge for 50 years of being Justice of the Peace in Princeton. At Herman's photography business view cameras were used which sat in stands. The photographer put in the plate to give the glass negative. The camera opened like an accordion, and Herman would put a black towel over his head and got the view. He would then put in the plate holder, covered the lens, and snapped the picture. By pulling out the plate holder was how to obtain an exposure. Herman died in 1938, and his son Albert "Ham" Megow kept his Father's photography equipment because he knew the value of retaining the past. Some of the photography equipment is on display at the Princeton Historical Society.

Albert Robert Herman "Ham" Megow, son of Herman and Julia *Fisher* Megow, was born in Princeton in 1884 and died in 1982 at 97 years old. Ham started as an apprentice in Princeton for two years in the meat market business in 1900, and later went to Milwaukee as a butcher until 1907 when he married Condina Leon *Zierke*. Ham and Condina went to Denver, CO, where he continued in the meat butchering business. They had eight children, three boys-Raymond, Gale & Norman, and five girls-Janice, Nadine, Lois, June & Marjorie. They returned to Princeton in 1916 and had his meat market, making his own sausage, cured ham and bacon which was shipped all over the United States. Ham was in the meat market until he retired in 1953 when Norman Megow, Ham's son, took over the business. In his retirement Ham stayed active in the community. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and played a part in getting the Community Hall at 101 Wisconsin Street started, a lifelong hobby of photography, and he helped Santa at Christmastime. Ham could often be seen walking in the downtown with his dog Smokey, who would carry the newspaper home in his mouth after the stop at the post office.

Ham and Condina's son Norman married Leota Eloise *Andrew*. In 1953, Norman purchased the Meat Market from his Father and operated it until 1965, he then went on to manage the meat department at Eaton's Market in Green Lake for four years. He then returned to Princeton and

worked as the Meat Manager at Yahr's Supermarket in Princeton located at 441 Water Street. Norman retired in 1977 after 56 years of meat cutting.

The members of the Megow Family buried in the City of Princeton Cemetery include: Albert Robert Herman "Ham" Megow and his wife Condina Leon *Zierke* Megow, their sons Gale Jack Megow-who died from injuries from a car accident at age 19, Raymond L Megow and his wife Belva *Kidman* Megow, and Norman Herman Megow and his wife Leota Eloise *Andrew* Megow their son Robert Norman "Bob" Megow and his wife Constance "Connie" Megow and their infant son James Robert Megow, Ham and Condina's daughters Margorie Doris "Margie" *Megow* Risky and Janice Edna *Megow* Wedell, and Ham's sister Lydia E *Megow* Peterson and her husband Christian Peterson.

The information from this article came from the files of the Princeton Historical Society written by Elaine Reetz in 1970; Ham and Condina's granddaughter Vickie Wedell written in 1963; information sent to City Hall from John and Debbie Baker from Florida-John is the 1st Cousin, twice removed to Raymond Megow, son of Ham, who was married to Belva Kidman. Belva's mother, Ora, was the sister to John's great-grandmother, Lena; and an article written by Alice Krystofiak in the Oshkosh Northwestern.

If anyone has information about the Megow building or any of the Megow Family or would like more information about the Cemetery Restoration Project or the Guided Cemetery Walking Tour on August 26, 2017, please contact City Hall in Princeton at (920) 295-6612, stop in at 531 S Fulton Street, or contact via email cnickel@cityofprincetonwi.com or mneubauer@cityofprincetonwi.com

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Following are pictures pre-1898 and post 1898.



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