

# GOTHENBURG HISTORICAL MUSEUM

## "A Window into the Past"

OCT-2018 - 4th QTR.

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## FRENCHY'S CAFE SPANS 33 YEARS

Say "Frenchy's Café" to anyone who lived in Gothenburg between the years of 1927 and 1960 and the name conjures up memories of good food and fun times.

For the owners, Armand and Marie Clouatre, the business thrust them into a lifestyle of public service where they earned the friendship and respect of many people over the years.

Armand, of French-Canadian heritage, first started his career in the restaurant business soon after he graduated from Farnam High School going to work at the Dinty Moore Hamburger Castle in Ogallala where he was called

"Frenchy" because they couldn't remember his name.

Over the span of 33 years, Frenchy's Café

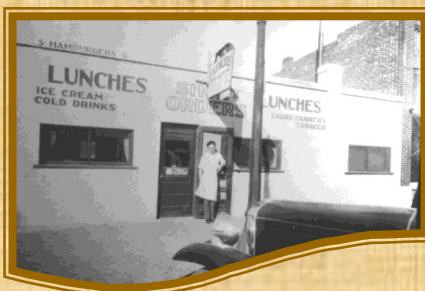
houses Lake Avenue Coffee Shop. The little café sold sandwiches of all kinds, along with homemade pies, coffee, hot chocolate, soft drinks and candy. But the item in biggest demand was the hamburger. Marie noted that people would buy them by the sackful because they were something new. They would sell over 2,500 each weekend at five cents apiece.

Around 1940 they opened the second Frenchy's Café right across the street from their former business. The new location



was quite a bit larger and sported a very modern décor with a juke box as the focal point situated at the end of a long line of red and white cloth-covered tables.

Around the same time Armand and Marie opened the third Frenchy's, Armand's parents bought the Platte Hotel and Café. The elder Clouatres ran the hotel while Armand and Marie took on yet another venture with a coffee shop in the front and a full dining room in the back. Marie would run back and forth across the alley between the two cafes, trying to keep them both going.



the 800 block of Lake Avenue. The first site was in the small stucco building which now

### GOTHENBURG HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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### NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Anne Anderson

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anneanderson801@gmail.com

Information about the City Hall was taken from an article published by the Gothenburg Times. This and other articles are available in the files located here at the museum.

## 1923—CITY HALL LANDMARK COMES DOWN

**M**arch 7-1923—Another of Gothenburg's old landmarks is doomed, this one by decree of the City Council. Workmen are now tearing down the structure which we have come to refer to as the "City Hall".

In 1887 this building was no doubt pointed to with pride by

the good citizens of Gothenburg as an architectural achievement. It was built at that time for a school build-

ing, and occupied the center of the block between 14th and 15th Streets on the west side of Lake Avenue.

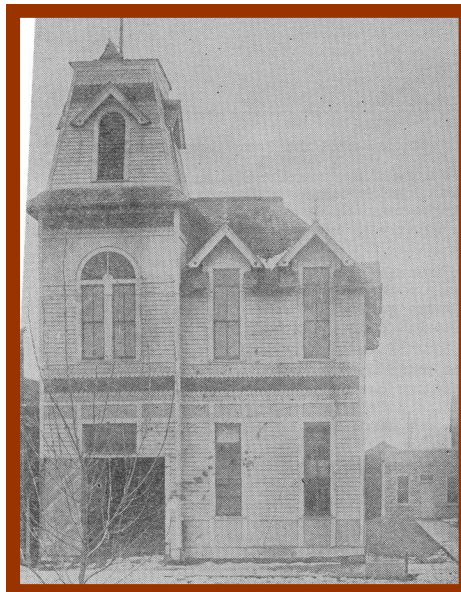
In 1892 the Columbia school was constructed to replace the existing school on Winchell Street. The school building was cut into two sections and the "City Hall" came into being. One half was moved to West 9th Street for city hall purposes, and the other to East 9th Street to be used as the post office. The half used as a post office was used for innumerable purposes and before long was also torn down and a modern two-story brick

Odd Fellows home built in its stead.

The "City Hall" had many uses. The upper floor was in the nature of a hall and it was here that most of the large social gatherings in Gothenburg were held. The lower floor housed the fire apparatus for several years

and the fire bell was housed in its belfry until the larger bell and tower were installed.

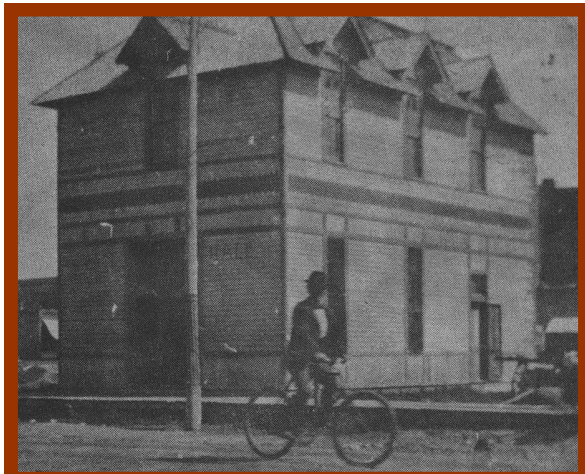
The second story was pressed into service as a school room for two years previous to the building of the high school. The fire department had quarters there after this period with meeting rooms for the hose teams. But now the proud structure was to pass into oblivion. For some time it was



**CITY HALL**

a fire hazard and the City Council ordered it dismantled, the lumber was to be made available for construction of a storage house for city machinery.

Other local landmarks have faced the same fate.



**AT ONE TIME THE FIRST POOL HALL**

## "Frenchy's Café... Continued from Page One

Although they hired others to do the cooking, Armand and Marie put in their share of time in the kitchens.

In addition to the all the baking, Marie washed and ironed all the white linen tablecloths for the tables.

She was adept at making dozen's of cinna-

mon rolls while cooking pancakes and eggs.

The menu changed from day to day

requiring Marie to type a new one each day. One time she hit an "N" instead of the "B: and the menu said

they were having "Naked Chicken" instead of "Baked Chicken".

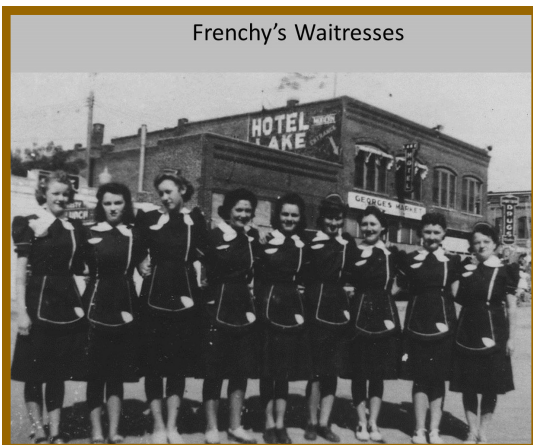
The hours were long and Marie remembered falling asleep standing up waiting for Ar-

mand to check the register out at the end of the day. Often they wouldn't close until 2 a.m. on a Saturday night

and then finally get home about 4 a.m. , only to get up at 7 o'clock to go to church on Sunday.

The couple retired around 1960 and sold the café to Lucille Anderson. It changed hands again and in 1965 a kitchen fire destroyed it on a Sunday afternoon. It was never rebuilt and the space now serves as a parking lot for Heibner Chiropractic.

The restaurant business provided a comfortable livelihood for the Clouatre's and their family; Jean, Dennis and Terry. They are remembered for their good food and hard-work ethic.



Frenchy's Waitresses

## GOTHENBURG'S HONOR GUARD

Shortly after World War II (1947) the Gothenburg Firing Squad was formed to conduct military services and honor our deceased veterans,

furnish color guards for parades and raise and post colors for events in our community.

Recently the military section of the Gothen-

burg Historical Museum has added a display to recognize those who have served and currently serve in the honor guard. Commanded by Clifford Geiken for more than 50 years and currently by Roger Wahlgren, the guard has been on hand to pay final respect to those buried at Fort McPherson and other area cemeteries. Thank you to Dick Larson and Family Tree Photography Studio for their help with this display.

Some of the members of the squad in 1947 included Rich Hecox, Billy Cline, Kenneth Oman, Earl Hudson, Clyde Wareham, Otto Witte, Westley Geiken, Edward Stull, Sam Atkinson, Dewey Trimble, Lewis Trimble,

Walter Jobman, Billie Neel, Burton Ristine, and Fred Portiner. In 1986 the squad included Brad Brooks, Jim Hecox, Ed Claflin, Jack Soller, Jim Ward, Robert Auld,

Kent Swanson, Roger Wahlgren, George Sitorius, Daryl Keiser, Ken Hurlbut, Loren Koch, Steve Hecox, Tom Jobman, Fritz Raetz, Rich Maurer, Garry Hicken and Harlan Hirsch. Other veterans who have been members: Bob Mann, Carroll Mannon, Daryl Franzen, Harold Knoedler, Bill Mann, Wynne Norsworthy, Rick Witte, Dave Mann, Loel Nichols, John Schlake.

The regular bugler was Bob Buddenberg.

Currently serving are Chauncey Bates, Jim Hecox, Loren Koch, Jeff Morris, Logan Ricely, Robert Schwanz, Lou Bovitz, Steve Windrum, Bob Theasmeyer, Jack Soller and Ed Claflin.



The information about the Gothenburg Honor Guard was taken from the Gothenburg History Book located at the Gothenburg Historical Museum.

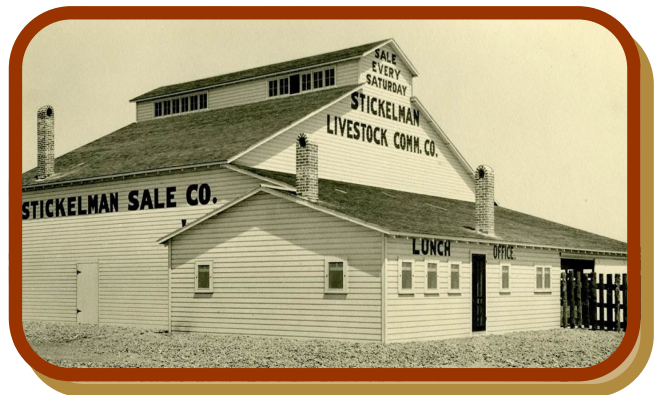
# INDUSTRY NEWS FROM THE PAST

More Information about the early industry is available in the Gothenburg History Book and in the business files at the Gothenburg Historical Museum.

**Oct 1946—Ground Broken for Large Locker Plant:** Ground was broken for a brand new business in Gothenburg. Oscar Peterson and his son, Blaine Peterson, will be associated in a new and modern cold storage plant. There was a complete animal processing plant; including slaughter, ageing, cutting and a complete curing facility. Brick and glass block was to be used for the front or west side of the building. The plant will include 1000 storage lockers and plans include handling of meat on a wholesale basis for the benefit of locker patrons. In 1949, a small meat market and limited grocery space was installed. About 1954 the building to the south was purchased and a full grocery store was put into place. This business was located where Dollar General now resides. In 1972 the Safeway Store at 404 9th Street was purchased and the grocery store moved to that location. In 1974, Blaine's son, Steve joined the enterprise. It continues to serve Gothenburg and the surrounding area.



**June 10, 1936—**July 4th is the completion date set by Col. E. C. Stickelman on his new and up-to-the-minute sale pavilion. The building, 78x68 feet, will seat about 1500, and everything will be the last word in convenience for conducting the sales. The barn continued to be used for sales until it's untimely demise by fire in 2013 while under the ownership of Wendell and Kathy Brott.



**Dec. 2, 1936—**Col. Bill Holik announces his first sale in his new livestock pavilion for Wednesday, Dec. 9. The new pavilion is located on Hwy. 30 just west of the tail race, and includes a lunch room. Located on the railroad, stock can be loaded into cars directly from the yards.

# 2018 MEMBERSHIP & BUILDING FUND REPORT

**T**hank you to the following who joined or renewed their membership and contributed to the museum building fund.

- Marvin & Jill Franzen\*\*\*
- Mark & Cindy Peyton\*\*\*
- Robert & Mary Theasmeyer\*\*\*
- Gothenburg State Bank\*\*\*
- Charlie & Connie Bihlmaier\*\*\*
- Gothenburg Feed Products/ Terry & Cathy Healey\*\*\*
- Chuck & Bev Titkemeier\*\*
- Jack & Mary Ostergard\*\*
- Leonard France\*\*
- Loren & Mary Koch\*\*
- Elsie Cyriacks\*\*
- Marcia Welch\*
- Jan Gill\*
- Mike & Deb Bacon\*
- Stone Hearth Estates\*
- Roy & Lavawn Farnstrom\*
- Gene & Cora Bosch\*
- Ron & Kayleen Ostergard\*
- Dave & Linda Loostrom\*
- Dan Tinlin\*
- Connie Ostergard\*
- Paul Swan\*
- Pam Slack\*
- Henry & Patricia Potter\*
- Milan & Barb Franzen\*
- Dick & Jackie Schwanz\*
- Dick & Connie Larson\*
- Tom & Rhonda Jobman\*
- First State Bank\*
- Jerry & Sherri Peterson\*
- Roger Heidebrink\*
- Carolyn Peterson\*
- Arlan & Tip Ronnekamp\*
- Wendy Bridges Jerkich\*
- Gary & Anne Anderson\*
- Robert Ronnekamp
- Sus Peden
- Robin & Lynnette Stevens
- Monty & Sheri Schriver
- Mid Nebraska Realty
- Dawson County Museum
- Jane Sheets
- Tim & Cordelia Aden
- Father Wayne Pavela
- Eugene & Letty Morse
- Eddie & Regis Fruit
- Ralph & Charlene Ogier
- Romaine & Joan Aden
- Gene & Velma Schriver
- Jack Soller
- The Home Agency

\*\*\***Life-Time Member**

\*\***Building Fund Benefactor**

\***Building Fund Contributor**

## LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS

- Karla Blasé
- Denise Brittenham
- Jan Gill
- Gothenburg State Bank
- Terry & Cathy Healey
- Ronald Klein
- Dick & Connie Larson
- Donna McConnell
- Ramona Ollendorf
- Blaine Peterson
- Jenny Raymond
- Tot & Pauline Holmes
- Keith & Marcy Aden
- Jack & Mary Ostergard
- Pam Slack
- Marcia Welch
- Dennis & Sue Kirkpatrick
- Gerald & Janet Kranau
- Roger & Carol Wahlgren
- Robert & Mary Theasmeyer
- **Charlie & Connie Bihlmaier\***
- **Mark & Cindy Peyton\***
- **Marvin & Jill Franzen\***

**\*New 2018 Lifetime Membership**

# NOVELTIES FOUND AT THE MUSEUM

## COWBOY BATHTUB- 1880'S

This primitive cowboy tub used to have a unit that folded up for compact storage in a closet or any smaller space than the tub would take when extended. The tub is galvanized with casters to wheel it to its location.

Harlan Hirsch found the tub under his house years ago. He then gave it to Ernie Blecha to use as a prop for his grade school programs.

Thank you Ernie for donating it to the museum.



### ***Form of Payment***

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Check payable to:**

**Gothenburg Historical Museum**

**PO Box 204**

**Gothenburg, NE 69138**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

### ***2018 Annual Membership***

#### Life Time Membership

☐ 10x Building Fund Contributor ..... \$1,000

#### Building Fund\*

☐ Building Fund Benefactor\*\* ..... \$500+

☐ Building Fund Contributor\* ..... \$100+

\*Contribution to the Building Fund includes an annual membership.

#### Annual Membership

☐ Supporting Membership ..... \$50

☐ Contributing or Family Membership ..... \$25

☐ Base Membership ..... \$15

# VETERAN'S DAY OPEN HOUSE

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO  
HONOR OUR VETERANS  
WITH US ON  
NOVEMBER 11, 2018

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

At the  
GOTHENBURG  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM.

*Special guests are those  
who have served or are currently  
serving in the Honor Guard.*

*Refreshments will be served.*



# ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GOTHENBURG HISTORICAL MUSEUM

MEMBERS, GUESTS AND  
VOLUNTEERS ARE INVITED  
TO

JOIN US ON  
NOVEMBER 18, 2018

1:30 p.m.

At the  
HILLCREST MEETING  
ROOM

This is our opportunity to  
thank the many volunteers  
who have worked so hard  
this past year.

Join us for refreshments and fun!

RSVP: Roger—529-2196

or Anne—529-0906