

RECEPTION PARK ON GALESVILLE'S 'LOWER TABLE'

BY Lillian Modahl Hanson for the Galesville Republican 2003

The old Reception Park in Galesville was located on the lower Table, a distinct area and was the original entry into town from the south. Galesville is built on hilly terrain and ended up with three levels—the lower table (or flat), the town square and the upper table. The old park is remembered as a spot where many happy youthful hours were spent until the park was sold and turned into a factory setting.

Looking at the flat today it is hard to picture it as it was back in the earlier times for then it was a bustling and attractive introduction to Galesville. There was a wide set of stairs used as a shortcut from the flat to the businesses around the Square. The top of these stairs reached the western end of the street where stands today's statue of Van Slyke.

The young folk of the day sped up and down these steps throughout the day, but especially when there were activities in Reception Park. The oldsters of today remember the roller skating and the dancing in the big pavilion at the park. Much courting went on in the park as couples took a breather from the dancing those hot August nights.

The oldsters also remember the great Fourth of July celebrations held in this park. Usually the rural folks brought picnics and there healthy appetites in evidence. After the picnics the town folk drifted in and an aspiring state politician or a prominent local figure made a lengthy speech. After this it was all fun with dancing in the pavilion to the music of the bands and orchestras of that day, until the celebration ended with a great display of fireworks which was awesome to the folks of that time. Their senses had not been jaded by an over abundance of TV. The fireworks were set off on so-called 'Buttermilk Avenue' near the Creamery. So popular was this park for a Sunday or holiday outing that on occasion, special trainloads from neighboring cities would join the natives here.

Reception Park came to be in 1892 when the village of Galesville bought the area from John Pierce who was into the grocery and produce markets. Pierce had bought it from C E Perkins with the understanding that Pierce could use it as a public park for ten years. After the ten years were up he was to offer it for sale to the village. It was Pierce who built the dance pavilion and tables and benches for the grassy area. Only two years after this, Pierce sold the area to the village which then enlarged the pavilion.

The village dug a 400 foot well there which resulted in cold, continuously flowing water which everyone enjoyed. This supple of water was cut off when the Galesville Canning Factory was organized and its well absorbed the source of the park's supply. The tract of land holding the dance pavilion and picnic grounds also held the area where the baseball diamond was built. It was the local firemen who applied to the

village for permission to lay out the baseball field. This was granted. The firemen did all the filling necessary and led to Galesville becoming heavily involved in baseball when Gus Apel moved to town. He is remembered as a likely local Mr Baseball by today's oldsters. The rivalry between the local teams and the neighboring towns' teams was more intense than today's rivalry between the area's high school sports teams.

Because the local depot was built on this flat and only a short walk from the park, the tourists found it a perfect place to spend a holiday. Today, all that remains usable to the public of the park was sold to a manufacturing concern. With the changing of times, the pavilion was used less for dances and became a roller skating rink and very popular for a time. Eventually this lost its appeal and the place stood unused until it was rented out for apple packing. When this ceased, the building was sold to Clarence Brown who had it moved towards where the depot stood.

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"	"	Memories of Tremp Cty	x
"		Ervin & Welsh Coulees	x
Info Center	Cemeteries	Calvary OLPH	x
"	"	Fagernes Church	X
Info Center	Churches	OLPH/Calvary	x
"	"	Fagernes	x
"	"	French Crk Lutheran 1915	
"	"	French Crk Lutheran 2008	
"	"	Hardies Crk Lutheran 2008	
		Pastor Griffiths-Tremp.	x
	"	Tremp Valley Bible Camp	x
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