

# Now & Then in Ripon ...

Looking back with the Ripon Historical Society



**THE MISS RIPON** navigates the water in a picture that Gary Lukoski shared with the Ripon Historical Society. *submitted photo*

## Story on Miss Ripon evokes memories and artifacts

The Ripon Historical Society's recent Now&Then in Ripon article about the "Miss Ripon" wooden speedboat, featured in the June 29, 2023 edition of the *Commonwealth*, brought forth memories and artifacts.

"Following publication in both the newspaper and on our historical society Facebook page we were immediately contacted by Gary Lukoski, a long-time resident of Florida and Georgia who grew up in Ripon during the 1960s," said Steve Arbaugh, the article's author.

Lukoski advised the historical society that he was bequeathed a file about the Miss Ripon by wooden boat aficionado and close friend Ron Hoth (1940-2012) prior to Hoth's passing.

"The file includes rare photos of the speedboat during its trial run on Green Lake and award-winning regatta race at Lake Winnebago," Arbaugh said, noting the photos date back to 1924.

Lukoski and his wife spend annual vacations with friends on Green Lake. While staying this past July in Green Lake, he brought his Miss Ripon speedboat file to the Ripon Historical Society for viewing.

While there, Lukoski shared stories about his own interests and experiences searching for classic wooden boats that were "barn finds" — essentially long-unused boats in need of restoration and refurbishing that have been stored in barn and garage buildings.

Lukoski also shared pictures of classic wooden boats that had been restored to bring them "back to the water" for recreational use. Everything in Lukoski's file, including the information he was given by Hoth, has been scanned and will be digitally conserved at the Ripon Historical Society.



**PHOTOS AND DETAILS** of the Miss Ripon Speedboat kept in a file by Ron Hoth are now owned and curated by Gary Lukoski. *submitted photo*

### Part of the mystery continues

After sharing stories and photos, plus reviewing details surrounding the Miss Ripon speedboat, everyone agreed there is still hope of someday finding the boat.

Its builder and sometimes carpenter, Alvin Weingarten (1884-1936), moved to the Omro area after leaving Ripon in the 1900s. No record of the Miss Ripon speedboat being driven or raced exists after her first year of launch. Maybe the Miss Ripon was put into storage somewhere in the Omro area and is waiting to be discovered.

The *Ripon Commonwealth* once quoted that the Miss

Ripon owners intended to design and build a Miss Ripon II. It was to be a much larger and faster speedboat, but no records or photos of this have surfaced.

If you or any of your family members have stories or further information about the Miss Ripon or Miss Ripon II please contact the historical society at 920-748-5354, or via email at riponhistsoc@gmail.com

*The Ripon Historical Society is the oldest continually operating historical society in Wisconsin. It is open Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.*

For more information follow us at Facebook/riponhistory or www.riponhistory.org.

## Speed Queen dryer named in Good Housekeeping's Best Cleaning & Organizing Awards

Speed Queen, which was established in Ripon in 1908 and grew into Alliance Laundry Systems, announced earlier this month that its DR7 dryer was recognized in *Good Housekeeping's* 2023 Best Cleaning & Organizing Awards. Select winners may be found in the September 2023 issue of *Good Housekeeping* and the full list is available online at [www.goodhousekeeping.com/cleaningandorganizing2023](http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/cleaningandorganizing2023).

"We couldn't be more pleased to see our legendary brand return to the pages of this iconic publication," Speed Queen Consumer Distribution Vice President Cody Masluk said. "Our DR7 and entire product range is built with the same American pride and commercial quality that has been the hallmark of the Speed Queen brand for more than 115 years."

The DR7 dryer was introduced with the industry's first cycles designed specifically for pet items. The DR7 features steam refresh and steam boost cycles, anti-static, and steam sanitize. It is also ENERGY STAR certified and offers over-dry prevention technology. A reversible door ensures installation flexibility for whatever a laundry room setup may be.

Speed Queen commercial laundry equipment is engineered and tested to do 25 years worth of laundry in the average household.

## Laconia honored by U.S. News & World Report

Laconia High School was recently named in the *U.S. News & World Report's* Best High Schools in the Nation, finishing among the top 40% of schools in the nation once again.

In addition, Laconia High School was named as the No. 1 high school in Fond du Lac County.

"We continue to be thankful for the hard work and dedication that we see everyday from our staff and students, as well as the support we receive from our families," Principal Diane Raue said. "Making education a priority in their lives is what makes our students successful."

*U.S. News & World Report* evaluated approximately 18,000 public high schools across the country using school-specific data on enrollment, graduation rates, student body demographics, free and reduced-price lunch, location, school type and state assessment results. The analysis also focuses on participation in and performance on challenging college-level coursework.

A breakdown of each category and percent of the ranking are as follows:

► College readiness, based on the proportion of 12th grade students who took and earned a qualifying score on at least one

advanced placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) exam (30% of ranking).

► State assessment proficiency, based on aggregated scores on state assessments that students may be required to pass for graduation (20%).

► State assessment performance, based on whether performance on state assessments exceeded expectations given the school's proportion of underserved students (20%).

► Underserved student performance, based on how Black, Hispanic and low-income students performed on state assessments compared with those who are not underserved in the state (10%).

► College curriculum breadth, based on proportions of 12th-grade students who took and earned a qualifying score on AP and/or IB exams in multiple content areas (10%).

► Graduation rate, based on the proportion of students who entered ninth grade in 2016-2017 and graduated four years later (10%).

Laconia High School, part of the Rosendale-Brandon School District, serves 329 students and continues its reputation as a school of choice with approximately 21% of its student population attending through open enrollment.

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