

## Now & Then in Ripon ... Looking back with the Ripon Historical Society

# Pastimes building has housed many businesses

People living and visiting the Ripon area may enjoy a meal or karaoke at Pastimes Pub & Grille, 120 Scott St.

The brick building sits alone just east of Watson Street next to a city parking lot. It has a deck on its eastern side for people to enjoy outdoor dining and a grass lawn leading to Blackburn Street.

The building was not always the only building found on this stretch of Scott Street. At one time, two buildings sat to the east of it. The area that is now the restaurants outdoor deck was first a livery barn, then a car dealership and repair shop and finally an auto parts store.

The building next to that on the corner of Blackburn Street was a blacksmith shop and then a sheet metal company.

Made of brick in a commercial vernacular style, 120 Scott St. sits in the Watson Street Commercial Historic District and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Register paperwork notes that the building was built in 1930, however, historic photos in the archives of the Ripon Historical Society show that the building was built at least six years earlier.

A photo taken in 1924, when the U.S. Post Office was under construction, shows the 120 Scott St. building as Allinson & Heiman Implements.

Next to it, at what became the address of 124-126 Scott



**THE EARLIEST PHOTOGRAPH** of the Pastimes building at 120 Scott St. is this photo taken when the U.S. Post Office at 220 Blackburn St. was being built in 1924. It shows Allinson & Heiman Implements (now Pastimes), the City Garage and part of the old Prout livery barn. *submitted photo*

St., was an automobile business called the "City Garage" next to an old livery stable.

Allinson & Heiman Implements was owned by Charles Allinson (1864-1946) and Julius Heiman (1846-1927).

Allinson was born near Rush Lake, moved into Ripon in 1891 and lived at 223 Thorne St. A March 1915 *Ripon Commonwealth Press* reported that Allinson had "leased the building and grounds directly north of the post office, where he will conduct a general farm machinery business. Mr. Allinson has been a salesman for farm machinery for 13 years."

At that time, the post office

would have been located in the City Hall building, which stood where Hamilton's Ladies Wear is now at the triangle between Scott and West Fond du Lac streets. The Wisconsin Wright's Fond du Lac City and County Directory for 1917 and 1918 shows Allinson Implements at 112 Scott St.

Heiman came to America from Germany in 1873 and to the Pickett area in 1876, where he was a farmer. He moved to Ripon in 1908 and lived at 334 Tygert St. One of Heiman's sons, Paul (1875-1940), first farmed and then worked in his father's implement business.

An advertisement for Allinson & Heiman stated that the company had "Farm implements, machinery, gasoline engines, wind mills, pumps-sewing machines repaired."

The 1919 through 1923 Wisconsin Wright's Fond du Lac City and County Directory's show Allinson and Heiman Implements on Blossom Street. A 1913 Sanborn Fire Insurance map shows a house at 120 Scott St., the present location of Pastimes Pub & Grille.

Both the Ripon Telephone Directory and Wisconsin Wright's Fond du Lac City and County Directory confirm that Allinson & Heiman was at 120 Scott Street in 1924. The address was sometimes listed as 120-122 Scott St.

Ripon telephone directories show Allinson & Heiman Implements on Scott Street from 1924 until 1940. From 1940



**IN 1969, THE** Pastimes building at 120 Scott St. became Drive In Liquor. This business was sold in 1985 to become J&D's Drive-In Liquor, which was at the location until 1991. *submitted photo*

until 1945 the directories list the company as C.H. Heiman Implements.

In 1945, Van Metre's Chevrolet and Oldsmobile dealership located to the east at 124-126 Scott Street took over the building at 120 Scott St. for use as a parts department. Van Metre's purchased a car business called the "City Garage" in 1938. Van Metre's moved out of the 124-126 Scott St. location in 1963, but kept the 120 Scott St. building for storage.

It is not known what happened to 120 Scott St. between 1963 and 1968. However, a *Commonwealth Press* article mentioned that the building was once used as the Post Office Annex. No further information could be found, however, one could conjecture that it was the Post Office Annex after Van Metre's moved in 1963 and an addition added to the post office in 1968. This seems to fit a timeline of the building before its next use as a liquor store.

A February 1969 *Ripon Commonwealth Press* shows that the Riverside Beer Wholesales Inc. requested to have the liquor license of Drive In Liquor moved from 109 Eureka St. to 120 Scott St.

A May 1985 *Commonwealth Press* noted that Harvey Failor (1921-1991) and Joy Gilmore Failor (1927-2015) sold Drive In Liquor at 120 Scott St. to Jim and Denise Delong of Chicago. The business was renamed "J&D's Drive-In Liquor." The license for J&D's was not renewed in 1991 and City Council meeting minutes posted in the *Commonwealth Press* from July 1991 notes that the store was out of business.

This proves that 120 Scott St. was a liquor store for more than 20 years.

A May 1992 issue of the *Commonwealth Press* stated that the building was purchased by the Group of Seven of Oshkosh. Ron Detjen of Berlin, the group's managing partner, informed that at that time there were no plans for the building.

In 1997, Nick Lueptow (1952-2017) purchased the building for his new restaurant, Pastimes Bar & Grill.

Lueptow, a Ripon High School graduate, was well-known in the Ripon and Green Lake area. He was the director of golf at Tuscumbia Country Club, the owner/operator of Pastimes and Harbor Lights in Green Lake, and at the end of his life the general manager of The Golf Courses of Lawsonia.

Although the ownership of Pastimes Pub and Grille has changed since Lueptow started the restaurant, with Bob and Caryl Hilke owning it for the longest amount of time (2002-2023), it is still considered a gathering place for those in the area looking for good food and fun.

Look forward to a second article about the other buildings once found just east of Pastimes in the 100 block of Scott Street in a future issue.

*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, visit [www.riponhistory.org](http://www.riponhistory.org), [facebook.com/riponhistoricalsociety](https://www.facebook.com/riponhistoricalsociety) or [instagram.com/riponhistoricalsociety/](https://www.instagram.com/riponhistoricalsociety/).



**THIS UNDATED PHOTOGRAPH** shows Paul Heiman (1875-1940), who took over his father's implement business. The business occupied 120 Scott St. the location of the present day Pastimes Pub & Grille. Julius Heiman (1846-1927) owned Allinson & Heiman Implements with Charles Allinson (1864-1946). Ripon phone directories show Allinson & Heiman Implements on Scott Street from 1917 until 1940. From 1940 until 1945 the directories list the company as C.H. Heiman Implements. *submitted photo*

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