

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

Betty's Floral Service offered flowers for valentines

On Valentine's Day, people often think of giving flowers to loved ones.

Today the Ripon Historical Society looks back to the 1950s and Betty's Floral Service. Betty's Floral Service was owned by Elizabeth "Betty" Christison Rasmussen (1910-2002) and Earl Rasmussen (1915-2002).

Earl served in the U.S. Army from 1942-45 and when he returned from World War II he worked at Kraemer's Florist in Neenah, Wis. Betty grew up in Ripon, graduated from Ripon High School in 1927 and Ripon College in 1931.

The Rasmussens married in 1950 and started Betty's Floral Service in Betty's childhood home at 626 Lincoln St. Their floral shop is listed in the Ripon telephone directory between 1950 and 1956.

The *Ripon Weekly Press* from Aug. 23, 1915 noted that Betty's Floral Service was not the first horticultural type business at the house on Lincoln Street.

The article states that Betty's father, John Wallace Christison (1866-1936), grew flowers on the property and sold them mainly on a wholesale level.

The paper reported, "Here are grown many varieties of field growing flowers, and now are in the midst of their beauty

Flowers For You ♥♥♥ For Your Valentine



If she doesn't expect flowers - surprise her!
If she does - please her!

*For Valentine's Day, and Every Day
Say it with Flowers*

BETTY'S FLORAL SERVICE
PHONE BLUE 255 - 626 LINCOLN STREET

*Mister... Send your wife
a Posy on account of...*

CHECK YOUR REASONS

... You're a good Joe
... You're in the doghouse
... The kids have colds again
XXX IT'S VALENTINE'S DAY and you really do love the little woman!

P. S. Better order now, so you won't forget!

SEE OR PHONE... WE DELIVER

BETTY'S FLORAL SERVICE
Blue 255 - 626 Lincoln Street, Ripon, Wis.



BETTY'S FLORAL SERVICE was listed in the Ripon telephone directory between 1950 and 1956. It was owned by Betty Christison Rasmussen and her husband, Earl Rasmussen.

submitted photo

and fragrance. This growing of field flowers promises to be quite an industry." It also stated that the flowers were sold "in the larger cities, but not a few of them are disposed of in Ripon."

Christison and his wife, Louise Loomis Christison

(1872-1958), came to Ripon in 1910 and had five children.

Ripon's Pedrick Genealogy Notebooks noted that as well as growing flowers, Christison had a small truck farm and "engaged in the milk business."

The Italianate-style house at 626 Lincoln St. was built in 1878 for Alex Hamilton (1810-1885), a Baptist minister. The house is found in Ripon's Southwest Historic District and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. At that time the house was built, it was considered a "suburban estate" on the edge of town and sat on a parcel of land which was a little more than nine acres.

In the 1970s, the Fair Acres subdivision was developed and bordered the northeast side of the land behind 626 Lincoln St. Jean and Bill Woolley built



BETTY'S FLORAL SERVICE, located at 626 Lincoln St. was owned by Elizabeth "Betty" Christison Rasmussen and Earl Rasmussen. This photograph of the couple comes from a 1956 event for the centennial of Ripon's First National Bank.

submitted photo

their house in Fair Acres subdivision in 1975.

"There was a walking and bicycle path through the property that was used by all of us in the Fair Acres subdivision to get up to Fairview Avenue," Jean said, adding that "Earl regularly mowed the meadow part of the property."

Betty told Jean that she had investigated putting the acreage into a land trust, but that the parcel was too small to qualify. A few of the people who lived in the Fair Acres subdivision purchased some of the Christison-Rasmussen land which boarded their properties after the Rasmussens passed away.

After closing their floral business, Betty worked as a florist at various other shops. This included Flowers by David, which opened in 1961 at 208 Watson St. and later moved to 202 E. Blossom St.

Earl went on to work at Triarch Inc. of Ripon.

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.



BETTY'S FLORAL SERVICE was listed in the Ripon telephone directory between 1950 and 1956. It was owned by Betty Christison Rasmussen and her husband, Earl Rasmussen.

submitted photo

The Ripon Food Pantry

We are available to assist anyone in the community in need of food!

Must call ahead.

920-748-3196

218 Blossom Street, Ripon

ORTHODONTICS



(920) 748-7130

sensationalsmileswi.com

ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON



(920) 560-1000

osifv.com

PROPANE



(920) 748-5005

coleoilandpropane.com

WELLNESS



(920) 894-1374

Pathwaystoabetterlife.com



Ripon Area Preferred Business (RAPB) is a program developed by O'Rourke Media Group. RAPB features premier businesses throughout Fond du Lac and Green Lake Counties. These businesses are featured monthly in print, online, in social media and elsewhere.

To become a Preferred Business, please call 920-748-3017 or email office@riponpress.com

