

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

Immigrants filled many roles within Ripon community

Svend Aage Hollerup (1909-1988) was born in Copenhagen, Denmark and died in Ripon.

He departed Europe from Liverpool, England in 1940 for New York City aboard the MV Britannic of the White Star Line, with wife Pearl Louise Diekvoss Hollerup (1914-1986), who also was born in Denmark.

Upon their arrival, they traveled to Ripon to join relatives who were living in the Green Lake, Ripon and Portage areas. Although you may often find their last name spelled Hollerup and Hollerup — Hollerup is correct.

In Ripon Svend took a job as a barber working for Mr. Henry Fenner's Barber Shop, whose business was located at 110 Watson St.

Surprising news arrived less than 12 months later when Svend was drafted into World War II.



SVEND AAGE Hollerup leans on a counter at his barber and cosmetic Shop in Denmark, where he awaited traveling to, and living in, Wisconsin with relatives.

His U.S. Army Draft Card states that his next of kin was brother James Hollerup of Endeavor, Wis., who would keep track of Svend's whereabouts, plus that of his young wife, Pearl. Svend. Pearl's home address at that time was listed as 18 West Fond du Lac St.

Creating a family

Like many European immigrants, the Hollerups were hard working and frugal. Family and extended family members lived together to save money and pursue their future business dreams.

When Svend's return from the war in 1943, he received his naturalized citizenship status and papers, and began working again to establish his own barber shop on Ripon's square at the 110 Watson St. building address. In 1950, the



SVEND AAGE HOLLERUP stands next to the front/lead barber chair at his new business in Ripon. Shaving mugs used for customers who paid for a steaming hot towel shave performed by the barber may be seen along the back wall. What looks to be a black Labrador Retriever also may be spotted resting at the foot of the sink. The Ripon Historical Society wants to know anyone recognizes the second barber standing behind Svend.

submitted photo

became a pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Marquette, Mich., and then at Mount Zion Lutheran Church here in Ripon from 1988-1992. He married a second time and became a father to a fourth child.

Christopher "Chris" James Hollerup had his father's gift of conversation. He loved people and people enjoyed him. He was a U.S. Navy veteran and knowledgeable about many subjects ranging from art to sports and movies. He married Nancy A. Schleicher (1955-2019) and together they had two daughters and one son.

Carrying on the family tradition

Three days per week, Chris dressed in clean and pressed business attire and went downtown to 110 Watson St., where he operated the Svend's Barber Shop his father founded. For 72 years this location and its owner-operators served the Ripon Community — men and sometimes women.

It felt in many ways like a time capsule commandeered by Chris, who cut hair there for 46 years.

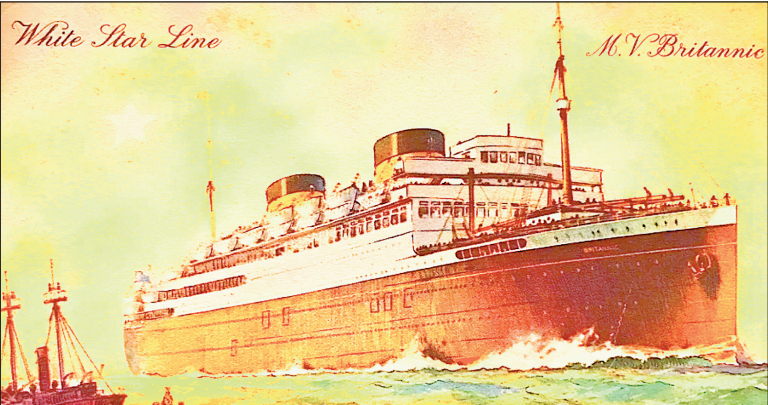
Svend's Barber Shop closed and the building sold when Chris retired and passed away — it was the last of the old-school and traditional barber shops of Ripon's 20th century. Following the barber shop's closing, the Svend's sign and barber pole remained on the outside of the building.

The majority of the Hollerup family are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Ripon.

Today, as a small city with a population of around 7,500 people, Ripon has more than 10 hair salons with stylists providing haircuts and salon hairstyle treatments.

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



THE LUXURY STEAMSHIP MV Britannic that the Hollerups traveled on was the penultimate ship built for White Star Line, before its 1934 merger with Cunard Line. Launched in 1929, MV Britannic was scrapped in 1961.

submitted postcard

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