

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

## Old postcard of Ripon library recently returned

National Library Week runs April 6 to 12. Founded in 1958, this week-long celebration highlights the importance of libraries and encourages people to read.

Ripon's Public Library was started in 1885 as a privately funded association.

The first library books were housed in retail stores and later in Ripon City Hall, which was located at the triangle of Watson, Scott and West Fond du Lac streets.

The community's first library building was completed in 1905 at 401 Watson St., the current home of Ripon's Chamber of Commerce and Main Street. The building is located in the Watson Street Commercial Historic District and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Recently, the Friends of the Ripon Public Library was given a letter from Lowell Joerg of Stockton, Calif. The letter contained a postcard of the 1905 Ripon Public Library building, which was mailed in 1907.

Joerg has spent more than 30 years collecting historic postcards of buildings and returning them to schools, churches, museums, hospitals and other places across the nation. He calls his hobby a "re-distribution of happiness."

A resident in an assisted living facility, Joerg will turn 97 this June.

Joerg noted in a letter to the library, "Sometime ago, I was at an antique store and found this picture card of your beautiful library. How the card ever got to California we'll never know. I said to myself, 'By golly, I think I'll send it home where it can be appreciated.' Our heritage is important to all of us. At any rate, I hope it brightens your day."

This is not the first time that Ripon has received a postcard from Joerg. In 2021, a 1915 postcard that Joerg had mailed of the old Ripon High School was featured in the *Ripon Commonwealth Press* "Hearts and Darts" column.

Written on the front of the Ripon Library postcard is "Hello Daisy. Say can you come over next Sun. You and Sattie? I wish you would. If you can let me know some way. Maybe you could send word by Arch. A.M."

The postcard was mailed to "Miss Daisy Morgan, R.F.D., Eldorado, Wisc." Researchers at the Ripon Historical Society believe that this was Daisy Mae Morgan Hyde (1886-1973), who would have been 21 years old at the time.

It is likely that the card was written by Anna McLaughlin Morgan (1872-1951), who was the wife of Archie



**THIS 2022 PHOTO** of Lowell Joerg was taken in his assisted living facility in Stockton, Calif. Joerg, who will turn 97 years old in June, returns historic postcards to their home locations across America. Joerg recently sent a 1907 postcard of the Ripon Public Library to the community. *submitted photo*

"Archibald" Morgan (1879-1956). The Morgans lived outside of Rosendale. "Sattie" is believed to be, Sadie A. Morgan (1896-1928) of Oakfield, Wis..

These people are listed in Ripon's Pedrick Genealogy Notebooks found online under "research" and then "local history" on Ripon Public Library's website, [www.riponlibrary.org](http://www.riponlibrary.org).

Compiled by one of the founders of the Ripon Historical Society, Sam Pedrick (1868-1963), the notebooks are a hand-typed history of many Ripon area residents from 1844 until 1960.

Postcards were very popular between the late 1880s and into the 1920s. They cost one cent to mail and the golden age of the "penny postcard" was between 1907 and 1915. Today, they are referred to as "the text message of their time."

The postcard has been given to the Ripon Historical Society and a letter of thank you mailed to Joerg.

The Ripon Public Library now is located in a building built in 1972 at 120 Jefferson St. This building soon will undergo renovation.

The Friends of the Ripon Public Library was formed in 1963 during National Library Week. The organization had dues of \$1 per year and assisted the library in many ways. This included arranging displays, performing special service, helping with children's story

and the organization of activities.

Today, 62 years later, the non-profit Friends of the Ripon Public Library is the main source of funding for library programs for all ages. This includes the summer reading program, craft classes, speakers, entertainers, gaming events, preschool storytime, parenting classes and other activities. To help raise money for library programming, it will hold a used book sale April 10-12 (*see page 3 for more information*).

Everyone is welcomed to join the Friends of the Ripon Public Library. The cost of a yearly membership is \$5 for an individual and \$10 for a family. Lifetime memberships are \$50 for an individual and \$100 for a family.

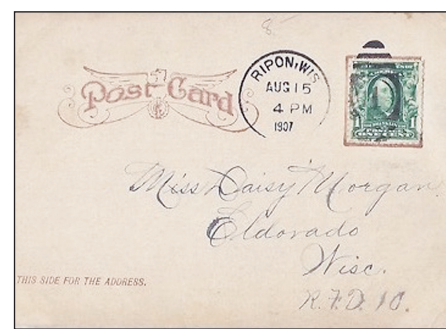
For more information on the sale or Friends membership, stop by the main desk of the library, call the library at 920-748-6160, check the library website at [www.riponlibrary.org](http://www.riponlibrary.org) or the Friends of the Ripon Public Library Facebook page.

*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.ripon-history.org](http://www.ripon-history.org)*



**THIS POSTCARD OF** the Ripon Public Library was mailed to Miss Daisy Morgan of Eldorado in 1907 and recently returned to Ripon by Lowell Joerg of Stockton, Calif. Ripon's library building was completed in 1905 and was located at 401 Watson St., the current home of Ripon's Chamber of Commerce and Main Street. *submitted photos*



**CALL YOUR LOCAL**

**Rheem PRO PARTNER.**

**BREWER**

**HEATING & COOLING**

**Doug Brewer, President**

**We deliver heating service you can count on. We'll be there on time. We do the job right at a fair price.**

**CALL US FOR THE BEST CUSTOMER CARE!**

**866-803-8428 • 920-748-6494 • [www.brewerheating.com](http://www.brewerheating.com)**

**Central Wisconsin • Fox River Valley**

**Ripon ELECTRIC, INC**

**Master Electrician • State Certified Journeymen**

**• Industrial • Commercial**

**• Residential • Farm Rewire Certified**

**Aerial Work - up to 50' • Data & Voice Cabling**

**Free Estimates ~ 24 Hour Emergency Service**

**510 ASPEN 748-6606 RIPON**