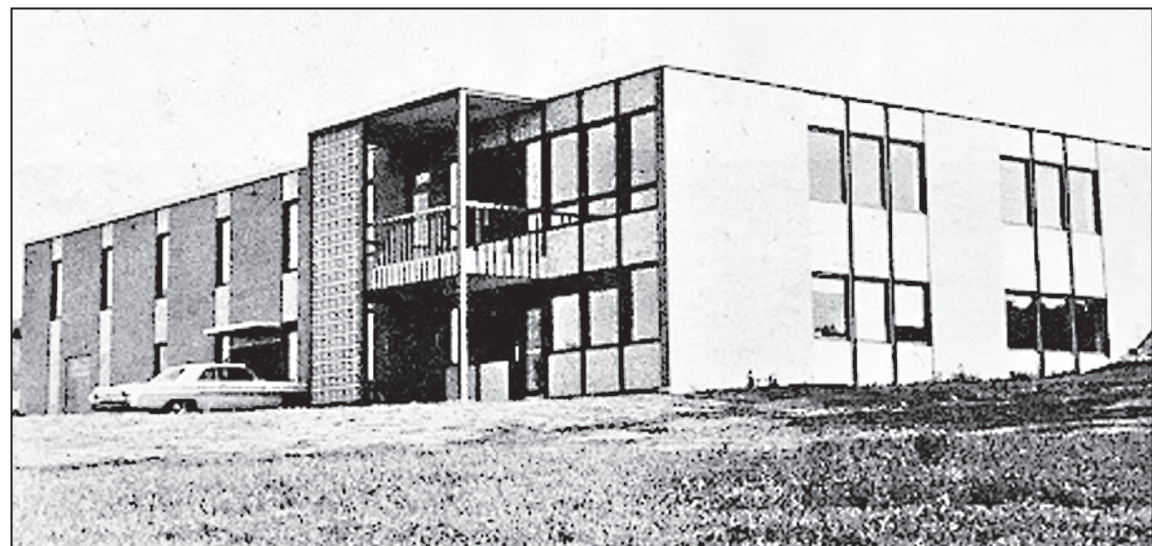


# Now & Then in Ripon ...

Looking back with the Ripon Historical Society



THIS PHOTO WAS taken of the Triarch Building when it opened in 1965. submitted photo

## Triarch business building was a combined future vision

Modernist architecture met Ripon's Triarch Incorporated needs

Triarch Inc. was founded in the late 1920s by George Conant (1896-1970), who grew up on a small farm in Ripon.

Conant had a passion for science and went on to become a botanist. He graduated from Ripon College and then received his masters degree and PhD at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Throughout his studies, Conant was able to develop botanical and zoological slides for the study of plants, trees, and animals. The slides rapidly became accepted throughout education systems, including grade and high schools plus colleges, globally.

In the mid-1960s, as the nation was focusing on inventions and the race into outer space that would eventually place a man on the moon, the New York World's Fair exhibited future visions for computing, manufacturing, transportation, travel and modern living.

At this same time, Triarch owners had been working out of their home at 527 Watson St., shipping their products to more than 10,000 schools and learning institutions, while maintaining more than 250,000 slides readily available for cus-

tomers ordering.

Triarch was growing so rapidly that it needed a large facility, which led it to build a modern structure to accommodate its expanding product demands.

### Form follows function

"Form follows function" is a well published and utilized theory and discipline used in architectural design processes that Triarch embraced to create its modernist building, which opened June 1965 at N8028 Union St. The definition of "form follows function" is that a building or object should be designed to relate to its intended function or end purpose.

Triarch's business had grown to include science, as well as slides that were being cultured and developed. As the business and services were expanding, a new building was needed to provide air-filter conditioning, humidity controls and also minimize dust and lint accumulation.

An architect was hired to create the building's exterior and interior rooms with a workflow and process mapping in mind while also addressing the necessary air filtering and humidity conditions. The design result became a modernist two-story structure in which the Triarch process starts with laboratories for development and manufacturing and finishes

with inspection, shipping and packing areas for orders to go out the door. All of this functions to streamline efficiencies.

The building, which still stands today as the headquarters for Triarch, has more than 12,000 square feet of interior space that has been adapted to modern technologies.

Surrounded by 33 acres of green space and land that includes perennial plants and specimens, the Triarch outdoor space complements the building's architectural design.

A part of the building's modernist exterior design includes the use of mixed materials of brick and concrete, along with tall, modern-framed windows to allow light inside where it is most needed. The building is also situated to take advantage of the contour of the land.

### The architect's mission accomplished

Today, the Triarch building and its acreage prove that modernist design stands the test of time, and is appreciated by generations of people who have worked there.

*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.*



THIS IS AN example of the work that is on display as part of Ripon Historical Society's current exhibit: "The Art & Artists of Ripon." This acrylic painting of Ripon's Octagon House, which was built in 1880, was created by Olimpia Ogilvie in 1981. submitted photo

## Ripon Historical Society hosts open house during RC Alumni Weekend

The Ripon Historical Society will host an open house Saturday, June 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at its Pickard Museum, 508 Watson St. This event coincides with Ripon College's Alumni Weekend.

In addition to the historical society's partnership programs with the college, including accredited internships, student intern participants and related projects, college alumni and the general public may tour the current exhibit "The Art & Artists of Ripon."

The exhibit includes the works of artists with Ripon College connections, who include Lester Schwartz, Eugene Kain, Sarah McGowan, Dick Folse, Rafael Salas, Lee Shippey, Kathleen Thomann, Mollie Oblinger, Olimpia Ogilvie, Edgar Zobel and Betty Rasmussen.

This open house is free and is individuals, couples, families and children friendly. For questions or more information, call 748-5354 or email riponhistsoc@gmail.com.

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### Answers to the Crossword Puzzle from the June 14th issue of The Commonwealth Express

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TWEENIER	ROAST	CREMONAS	
ALAMO	AWL	ARI	BARE
SORT	TWINBY	ALANDSLIDE	
CVI	LAOS	URAL	RAE
HENRY	TWINKLER	PALMOIL	
ARGON	NEE	AONE	RNA
EXPO	TWEAK	STOMACHS	
RIA	EAVE	CLEF	WHAT
AMBASSADOR	OF	GOODT	WILL
BLUR	ITAL	ROAR	DEY
BATTLE	OF	TWITS	ODON
ITO	ORLY	NOS	GADOT
TENCODE	TWITCHING	HOUR	
ESO	SOON	OOPS	PTA
TWINE	CONNOISSEUR	MILD	
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