

THE DOCTOR H. F. SCHROEDER FARMS EGG HARBOR WISCONSIN

by

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and

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The Town of Egg Harbor in Door County, Wisconsin, has had over the years five medical doctors who also owned farms, and or orchards in the Township. Starting with Dr. David Graham, followed by Dr. Horace Franklin Eames, Dr. Thomas Proctor, Dr. Henry Schroeder and Dr. Robert Cowles. A couple of the doctors actually had their farms in Egg Harbor during the same time period. Although being active in their Door County enterprises, some did not practice medicine in Door County. Dr. Proctor was a Sturgeon Bay doctor, Dr. Schroeder doctored in Marinette, and Dr. Cowles in Green Bay. Doctors Graham, Proctor and Eames have had their stories researched and written up, which can be found in the archives of the Egg Harbor Historical Society located in the Kress Pavilion-Egg Harbor Library's History Center in the village of Egg Harbor. This manuscript will tell the story of Doctor Henry F. Schroeder of Marinette, Wisconsin, Egg Harbor dairy farmer-orchardist.

With contributions from Marion Utter Volkmann who grew up on the Schroeder farm shown in the photo on page two, Peter LeMere using the resources listed below put together the Schroeder Farms story. Marion and Peter know Egg Harbor history, both having grown up in Egg Harbor. They also have a connection that goes back a long way, they were classmates in the Egg Harbor village school that was located on Harbor School Road where the present fire station is now located. Both starting in first grade in 1939, they attended their first eight years of education at the school, both went on to high school at Gibraltar in Fish Creek, Peter graduated from Gibraltar. Marion transferred for her junior and senior years to Sevastopol High School in Institute. Marion's father, Wallace Utter was manager of all the Schroeder Farms of which there were several from 1932 until the farms sold in the 1950s. The history covering Dr. Schroeder and his farms can be found in the History Center in the Kress Pavilion-Egg Harbor Library. The Historical Society also has available hour long video interviews of both Marion and Peter.

References include the old Door County newspaper correspondents found in the Door County Library's website on newspapers; Eileen Roberts from the Jacksonport Historical Society; the Lancaster Pennsylvania Historical Society; the Marinette County Historical Society; and Mariel Carter of Stephenson Public Library in Marinette.

Doctor Henry F. Schroeder

Doctor Henry F. Schroeder was born at Lancaster Pennsylvania in 1870. He taught school from 1888 until 1896. He attended the University of Pennsylvania Medical School graduating in 1899. He arrived in Marinette, Wisconsin, in 1901 and practiced medicine there until his death in 1955. Shortly after arriving at Marinette he began acquiring dairy and fruit farms in Egg Harbor totaling over 600 acres.



The home where Dr. Schroeder lived in Marinette and held office hours is still located on Main Street in Marinette. It shows significant signs of deterioration but restoration is presently underway. The Stephenson Library in Marinette provided several city directories which list the address as his home and office. His hours were posted as before 9:00 A.M. (*presumably he then made hospital rounds*), 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. and 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. The entries do not specify days of the week so it is not known if he saw patients any day of the week or not.



Above is Doctor Schroeder's main farm. He purchased several farms in the area to become a major landowner in the Egg Harbor area.

Doctor Schroeder's Egg Harbor home and farm was headquartered on the bluff high above the village overlooking the waters all the way over to Marinette, and down Kirkland Hill into the Village. From this point his holdings spread toward the east to Highway 42 and south to beyond Sunny Point with farmlands also in other areas totaling over 600 acres.



Early on in the 1900s Dr. Schroeder's name began to appear in Door County newspapers. The articles found in the newspapers present us with a timeline into his activity within Door County, in particular Egg Harbor.

Egg Harbor newspaper correspondents recorded on going Schroeder activity and in doing so we get to see what life was like in the early 1900s in Egg Harbor. We will see that the Doctor's orchards were of the largest during his time, we will see that his dairy herd of Holsteins were one of the best, but we probably didn't expect a flock of 125 sheep in Egg Harbor. Marion Volkmann remembers Doctor as being a kind and friendly man, and in a 1938 Advocate the feelings of those in Door County and Egg Harbor toward the Doctor were expressed..."Local people who have worked for him for many years are always glad to

see the doctor and sorry when he leaves". (*To return to his home and medical practice across the Bay in Marinette*)

1913-04-04 Door County Advocate:

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kamps and family of four children have moved over from Marinette and will work on the Dr. Schroeder Farms of this place he having moved into the Sterling residence on the Kirkland hill.

1914-06-19 Door County Advocate:

Egg Harbor News: Mrs. Patterson and daughter arrived Tuesday from Marinette and will spend the summer on one of the Dr. Schroeder's farms. Mr. Patterson preceded them here a month ago.

1914-10-02 Door County Democrat:

Dr. Schroeder who is a Menominee gentleman was on his way to Egg Harbor where he owns a farm when a motorcycle collided with his car near the Abe Moore farm in Sevastopol. Dr. Schroeder turned about and brought the two boys who were on the motorcycle to Sturgeon Bay's Peoples Hospital. (*There is no information indicating he ever lived in Menominee, MI*).

1916-08-04 Door County Advocate:

Egg Harbor News: Dr. Schroeder of Marinette and a brother from the east spent several days on the Schroeder farms at this place.

1918-04-26 Door County Advocate:

A report of a fire in a closet filled with clothes in the home of George Vertz on the Dr. Schroeder farm. *(It is not known, but Mr. Vertz may have been managing the Schroeder farms at the time).*

1919-03-07 Door County Advocate:

Northern Door County Testing Association recognizes Dr. Schroeder for having three cows producing more than 40 lbs. of butterfat during the past month.

1919-06-06 Door County Advocate:

Dr. Schroeder recognized for having a cow that produced over 40 lbs. (49.6) of butterfat last month. *(He was also listed for the next two following months).*

1919-11-28 Door County Advocate:

Classified advertisement: FOR SALE Registered Holsteins. One bull calf born Oct. 2, 1919, one bull calf born Nov. 11, 1919. At Dr. Schroeder farm near Fish Creek. A. H. Patterson, Mgr. *(NOTE same ad ran 12-12-1919 issue with correction that farm was in Egg Harbor).*

1920-05-14 Door County Advocate:

Two year old Egg Harbor boy has dangerous experience but is recovering. Little two year old Joseph, son of Mr. and Mrs. Konrad Schneider who live on one of the Dr. Schroeder farms had a dangerous experience when a week ago he drank some gasoline from a tank in the back yard while playing. *(the article provides more detail and goes on to say Dr. Eames attended to the child and that the little fellow suffered a great deal for several days but is better at this time).*

The Door County Advocate's special Centennial Issue of 1962-03-22:

To the south of the Egg Harbor, Dr. Schroeder of Marinette had developed 400 acres of orchard by 1921. He kept increasing, clearing land, buying 40 acres at a time, and also developed a dairy herd of Holstein cattle. Dr. Schroeder, a one man grower had the largest cherry acreage during twenties. The cherries were shipped fresh in crates by boat from Doctor Eames dock by the cooperative.

1921-02-04 Door County Advocate:

A new branch of the Door County Horticultural Society has been formed by fruit growers of northern towns who organized to promote more interest in fruit culture, handling fruit products and co-operation. Charter members include Dr. Schroeder of Egg Harbor.

1921-12-09 Door County Advocate:

Dr. Schroeder has the highest producing cow (*pounds of milk and butter fat*) among all members of the North Door County Cow Testing Association.

1922-01-19 Door County News:

Dr. Schroeder is noted as having two cows producing more than 40 lbs. (58.6 and 49.6) of butterfat during the month of December

1922-07-14 Door County Advocate:

Jacksonport: Quite a number of our young folks are busy picking cherries for Dr. Schroeder of Egg Harbor.

1922-07-28 Door County Advocate:

Bailey's Harbor: Our cherry pickers who were picking for Dr. Schroeder of Egg Harbor finished up Monday. Some of them netted nice little sums.

1925-03-06 Door County Advocate:

Court Report: Gustave Tanck, Egg Harbor, W. E. Wagener vs. David Vertz et. Al. at Egg Harbor. Sanderson and Stapleton suit over cutting logs for Dr. Schroeder, Marinette, is claimed to be the plaintiff's property

1925-07-24 Door County Advocate:

Jacksonport: Many cherry pickers are reengaged to pick for the Dr. Schroeder orchard.

1926-01-15 Door County Advocate:

William Fisher moved his drilling machine from Sister Bay this week to the Dr. Schroeder farm and will operate in this neighborhood deepening wells the rest of the winter.

1926-04-23 Door County Advocate:

James McCardle left today (*from Bailey's Harbor*) where he will be employed on the Schroeder farm.

1926-05-07 Door County Advocate:

Dr. Schroeder and wife and sister of Marinette spent Sunday here visiting at the Schroeder farms.

1927-05-13 Door County Advocate:

Egg Harbor News: Mr. and Mrs. Ira Schneider of Green Bay have moved onto the Dr. Schroeder farm where Mr. Schneider has been engaged as manager for the ensuing year.

1927-09-16 Door County Advocate:

Egg Harbor News: Dr. H. F. Eames, C. R. Cady and H. F. Schroeder are busy picking their apple crop. Dr. Eames expects about 15,000 bushels, C. R. Cady 5,000, and Dr. Schroeder over 1,000.

1927-10-14 Door County Advocate:

Egg Harbor News: Dr. Schroeder had a carload of sheep consisting of 125 head shipped onto the farm operated by Ira Schneider.

1928-03-23 Door County Advocate:

Egg Harbor News: Siras (*Cyrus*) Haskell of Sturgeon Bay is now employed on the Dr. Schroeder farm.

1928-08-10 Door County Advocate:

YOUTH KILLED in Egg Harbor: Cyrus Haskell, 25, son of Abe Haskell was rushed to Sturgeon Bay's Leasum Hospital Wednesday morning and died about 3 o'clock Thursday morning from an abdominal rupture. Haskell had been working for Harry

Bauldry on the Dr. Schroeder farm here for about eight months. No one was present when the accident occurred but it's assumed the youth fell from the wagon and was run over.

1929-03-08 Door County Advocate:

Egg Harbor News: The Alpine, Horseshoe Bay and the Dr. Schroeder farm completed putting up their ice last week.

1929-06-20 Door County News:

DR.SCHROEDER LOSES TWO HOLSTEIN COWS, Egg Harbor: Dr. Schroeder lost two valuable Holsteins from his herd this week, one cow dying Sunday morning and the second, a two year old heifer died Monday after being sick but a few hours. Two of the cows which had shown signs of illness "were vaccinated and although not out of danger, in all probability will live". Veterinarians have termed the disease hemimorrhagic septicemia.

1929-09-27 Door County Advocate:

Ira Schneider on the Dr. Schroeder farm has just completed a driveway from the top of the Kirkland hill to the house and is having it surfaced with crushed stone by the town crew. *(The Kirkland hill went up the bluff from the Alpine Resort beach area)*

1930-03-28 Door County Advocate:

Jacksonport: Dr. Schroeder of Egg Harbor and brother-in-law were down on Sunday looking over his new farm which he plans on putting into cherries and apples.

1931-07-10 Door County Advocate:

CHERRY PICKING TO START NEXT WEEK. Indications are that the yield this year will be more than that had of the bumper crop of 1928. Among camps operated in the county for pickers are those of Dr. Schroeder and Cady Land Company in Egg Harbor.

1932-10-21 Door County Advocate:

IRA SCHNEIDER, EGG HARBOR FARMER DIES. Ira Schneider, oldest son of Conrad Schneider died last week Thursday. Mr. Schneider was manager of the Schroeder farm here and had a large circle of friends. *(It was here that Wallace Utter may have been hired as farm manager after the death of Ira)*

1933-02-24 Door County Advocate:

Dr. Schroeder of Marinette has one year left on his three year term on the Fruit Growers Cooperative Board of Directors.

1933-10-05 Door County News:

Egg Harbor: Dr. Schroeder looked over his orchards here Friday

1937-12-24 Door County Advocate:

Wallace Utter, manager of the Dr. Schroeder fruit farm received a telephone call early Saturday telling him to take one of his hired help to Marinette since his brother had died.

1938-08-05 Door County Advocate:

Dr. Schroeder of Marinette who has several cherry orchards in this township is finishing up the harvest this week and will be returning to his home. The local people who have

picked for him for many years are always glad to see the doctor and sorry when he leaves.

1938-09-09 Door County Advocate:

Dr. Schroeder of Marinette spent the last weekend on his farm in this town.

1940-06-14 Door County Advocate:

Lawrence and Arthur Baraboo are wiring the home of Gust Tanck and the Dr. Schroeder cherry camp this week.

1940-11-15 Door County Advocate:

Wallace Utter, manager of the Schroeder Farms has been sick in bed for the past week and is still not able to be out. His friends are hoping a speedy recovery.

1942-06-19 Door County Advocate:

The Door County Dairy Herd Improvement Association recognizes the Schroeder Farms for having five cows producing over 400 lbs. of butterfat for the year.

1943-07-02 Door County Advocate:

FIRE DESTROYS ORCHARD SHED AT EGG HARBOR. During the electric storm last Saturday morning lightning struck the large orchard shed at the Dr. Schroeder farm and burned the building to the ground in a short time. A large number of small farm tools, apple crates and cherry picking pails were lost together with about 1,000 baby chicks five weeks old. The loss was partially covered by insurance.

1947-05-09 Door County Advocate:

From a classified ad: 1939 3/4 ton Dodge truck, overhauled with new paint job, stake rack. Also McCormick Deering 5 ft. team mower used two years and small apple grader used one season. Schroeder Farms, Egg Harbor.

1951-05-22 Door County Advocate:

Dr. Schroeder of Egg Harbor re-elected to Board of Directors of the Fruit Growers Cooperative.

1952-08-26 Door County Advocate:

From Earl "Mitch" LaPlant realtor advertisement: 605 Acres of fruit and farm land. Excellent buildings in the township of Egg Harbor and owned by Dr. Schroeder of Marinette. Prices right and will give terms. *(It's been reported that William and Millie Sawyer bought Schroeder's 120 acre farm on Hillside and Sunny Point Roads in 1952)*

1953-11-03 Door County Advocate:

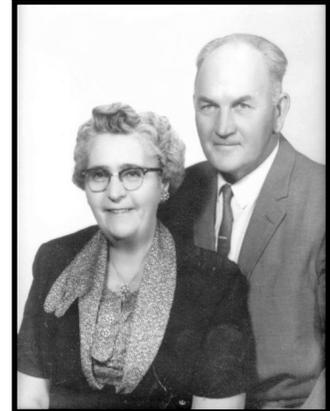
Workers on the Schroeder Farms here cut off most of the early cherry trees near the Sunny Point School and the Catholic cemetery.

1954-02-25 Door County Advocate:

A large crowd attended the auction sale last Saturday on one of the Dr. Schroeder farms. There will be another auction on one of the Schroeder farms in the near future. Wallace Utter who has lived on one of the farms and managed the entire Schroeder farm and orchard business here for many years has purchased the farm just back of the Sunny Point school. **"The end of the reported era on Dr. Schroeder's Farms"**

The Utters

Marion Utter Volkmann was an important contributor to the story. Marion's father Wallace was born in Marinette, WI. As a young man he went to the plains states to work with a threshing crew. While there he met and married his wife Evelyn in Fargo, North Dakota. He worked for a mason there for about three years and then returned to Marinette where he was offered a job by Dr. Schroeder at Egg Harbor. After a few years as an employee he was named manager of all of the Schroeder Farms and served from 1932 until the farms were sold in the 1950's. Marion grew up on one of the Schroeder Farms and thus had much to add to the story.



Wallace & Evelyn Utter

Marion remembers that for several years the manager's home did not have electricity. Kerosene lamps and gas lights were used. Interesting though she says they always had an indoor toilet and bathtub. A gasoline engine was used to pump water to a large tank on the upstairs level and gravity fed the plumbing fixtures on the first floor. She is not sure how it worked but there was a system for heating water connected to the cook stove.

The Schroeder Farm and Utter home were a popular gathering spot during the winter sledding seasons. There were rides around the farm and orchard in a one horse open sleigh. The kids had a sled run that started at the house, went down the driveway to the Kirkland Hill and down to County Highway G toward the village. There was no demand for bare pavement in those days and if the roads were icy enough one could almost sled into the village. Bill Bertschinger remembers the ride took about two minutes and the walk back up the hill twenty minutes. *(The EHHS has a video interview with Marion where she tells her personal story of growing up in Egg Harbor on the Schroeder Farm)*

Doctor Henry F. Schroeder's Egg Harbor Story

It is not known why Dr. Schroeder decided to move to Marinette in 1901 and establish his medical practice there. It is also not known why he decided to get into the dairy and fruit farming business in Door County. In checking with the Lancaster Pennsylvania Historical Society (*Dr. Schroeder's birthplace*) they shared that his mother Fanny Ebersole was from a line of Mennonite farmers and that farming was and still is a major way of life there which is likely why he had a strong interest in farming. In the early 1900's there was a great deal of freight and passenger traffic by boat to and from Marinette and Egg Harbor. One could speculate that the doctor might have visited Egg Harbor and maybe spoke with his counterpart Dr. Eames who was already in the dairy and fruit business in Egg Harbor.

Due to the 2020-2021 Covid pandemic restrictions the Door County Register of Deeds office was still closed for individual inspection at the time of this writing. Using what plat maps were available, one finds that by 1914 Schroeder had already purchased 120

acres of dairy farm land on Hillside Road and Sunny Point Road and about 100 acres from Captain Kirkland (*the location of the present Brooks Farm private development*) and extending to the present Old Orchard Antique Mall. He would later add additional acreage extending southerly along the highway to the present location of the Landmark Resort information stop. Marion Volkmann says she asked her father why the orchard stopped where it did and was told the doctor did not own that small parcel. (*It was the site of first Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church and was still owned by the congregation*).

A summary of Dr. Schroeder's land holdings is as follows. The acreage is approximate:

1. 120 acre dairy farm at the intersection of Hillside and Sunny Point Roads
2. 220 acres including the main farm (*now Brooks Farm Private Development*) extending southerly to the present location of Old Orchard Antique Mall and then southerly along Highway 42 to Hillside Road.
3. 120 acres on the easterly side of Sunny Point Road starting just beyond the present entrance to Meadow Bluff Farms.
4. 210 acres at the intersection of Sunny Point and Court Roads with 50 of the parcel extending from the west side of Sunny Point Road to Highway 42.
5. 120 acres in the Town of Jacksonport at the intersection of Bagnall and Jorns Roads.

It is not known how much, if any, of the land was in orchard when Doctor purchased it, but it is safe to assume much of it was planted by him. It was also not possible to determine what buildings may have already existed and which ones may have been constructed by the Doctor. The Door County Advocate noted that the 120 acres purchased in Jacksonport would be planted to orchard.

The Schroeder Farms employed about 12-14 workers including those who lived on the farms Doctor owned, with several being seasonal workers. Many of those employees were from the Marinette area. Apple pickers were local. Cherry pickers were from the area including Bailey's Harbor and Jacksonport as noted in some of the newspaper articles, and from Marinette. The girls stayed above the machine shed on the main farm and the boys above a machine shed at the Old Orchard location. Native Americans from Oneida (*just west of Green Bay*) also helped with the cherry harvest. They were brought to the farm and returned to Oneida at the start and close of the season on an open rack truck. Relatives of a former employee (*1946-50*) remember him talking about bringing Native Americans (Ho-Chunk Nation?) to and from Wittenberg WI. (*near Wausau*) Their pickers camp was at the Sunny Point location. Glen Tanck whose family owned an orchard across the road from the highway 42 location remembers Jamaican pickers and his father "borrowing" some of them on occasion to help in his orchard.

During the 1920's and 30's the Fruit Growers Union and later Fruit Growers Cooperative operated a cherry processing plant on the Egg Harbor dock (*now the marina*) so it is fair to assume cherries were taken there when the plant was operating. Newspaper articles in the 1930's state the Egg Harbor plant would either not operate or only operate if the Sturgeon Bay plant could not handle the crop. When the Egg Harbor plant closed permanently the Fruit Growers established the Juddville receiving station which was located off Highway 42 just beyond the Hyline Farm Market. Loads were weighed and graded and the crates (*lugs*) unloaded on the platform with an equal number of empty

crates returned to the growers truck for the empty weight. Contract truckers then hauled the cherries to the Sturgeon Bay plant. Grower delivery to Sturgeon Bay was a bit different in that the crates were emptied directly into holding tanks and then returned to the truck for the empty weight. During the peak of the season lines of trucks to unload were several blocks long and might have had to wait several hours to unload. Apples were graded at the main farm and packed in bushel or half bushel baskets.

World War II was of special note for the Schroeder Farms. Based on all information available, Doctor Schroeder was the only grower in the Town of Egg Harbor to use German prisoners of war (POW'S). Marion remembers the same five men and a guard coming daily from the main camp at Reynolds Brothers north of Sturgeon Bay. They ranged in age from 18 to 42. Mrs. Utter felt their lunch of one rye bread sandwich and an orange was too skimpy and would make soup for them. Mr. Utter would give them a bottle of beer at the end of the day which was relished. Dr. Schroeder and the Utter family kept in contact with one of them after the war, sending gifts for his wedding and the birth of his children. His letters were written in German so they had to be taken to John Bertschinger for translation. In addition, Marion remembers that one of those years produced a bumper crop of over one million pounds which allowed Doctor to clear all his remaining debts on his properties. *(Note: The book "Stalag Wisconsin, Inside World War II Prisoner Of War Camps" by Betty Cowley states that in July of 1945 there were over 2,000 German POWs in Door County working in the cherry harvest. They were quartered in several camps: 500 POWs at the County Fair Grounds, 300 at the Martin Orchards, 250 at Reynolds Brothers, 300 at M.W. Miller's, 200 at the Goldman Orchard near Little Harbor, 250 at Camp Witte at Fish Creek (CCC camp in Peninsula Park), and 290 at the Friedlund Orchard in Ellison Bay. The POWs were trucked each day from their camps, along with military guards, to work in the area orchards)*

The Doctor served on the Fruit Growers Cooperative for many years so all of his crop was sent there except that year when their plant could not handle all the cherries. That year some of the crop was sold to Sam Goldman who had a small processing plant on what is now North 14th Avenue in Sturgeon Bay, located just beyond the Econo Foods driveway.

Doctor Schroeder made regular visits to his farms. Sometimes it would be just for a day. When he came with family or stayed more than one day there was a building that had living and sleeping quarters plus a kitchen and large dining room where the cherry pickers were fed. Doctor stayed for the cherry harvest and brought a lady over to cook for the pickers. Marion remembers Doctor as being a kind and friendly man. He always had a bag of candy for the Utter children when he came. Marion remembers visiting with Doctor and Mrs. Schroeder in Marinette where



Genevieve and Frank Utter, Wallace's parents, and (center) Catherine Hershey, the Doctor's niece came over from Marinette for the harvest.

they would also visit her Uncle Bob Utter in Marinette. *(Cherry harvest was a family affair, a time for family and friends to gather for the harvest and socialize)*

Household chores had to many times wait what with all hands on deck. Mrs. Utter served as the checker during the cherry picking season. The checking station was the location where pickers brought the full pails to be emptied into crates. Each picker had a card with two pages attached at one end. For each pail emptied and "checked", a punch (hole) was made in a numbered box on the card. At the end of the day the cards were separated with one copy for the picker and one kept by the grower to determine payment, typically not until the end of the three plus week season.

Marion's older sister Anna Mae was born while the family lived in North Dakota. Marion and her sister Frances and brothers Eugene and Arlyn were all born after her father started working for Doctor Schroeder and were delivered by Doctor at the hospital in Marinette. As was common in the 1930's and 40's, once the ice in the bay was solid people would travel over the ice by car or truck. The distance being about 16 miles by ice compared to about 120 miles by land around through Green Bay to Marinette.

Dec. 25, 1942 was a significant day for the Utter family. Marion remembers coming home from church on Christmas Eve and finding that Santa had not arrived yet. After a short time the children were ushered off to bed. About 3 AM, younger sister Frannie got up to go to the bathroom and saw that Mr. Claus had been there. She woke the rest of the family, gifts were opened, and after a while expectant Mom told Dad it was "time". They took the trip over the ice to Marinette where son Arlyn was born Christmas Day. When it was time to return, Mr. and Mrs. Utter and infant boy headed home via the ice. Often there was a small crack (*the Menominee crack*) in the ice and planks were used to cross it. There was great worry for a while when the Utter's car slipped off one of the planks, but Mr. Utter got the car back somehow and family and baby returned safely to the Schroeder farm. Marion thinks that was the last time they traveled to Marinette by ice. *(A note of interest, the Ann Arbor Railroad was operating year around car ferry service from Frankfort and Ludington Michigan to Menominee leaving in winter an impassable and dangerous channel into the harbor. Vehicle traffic on the ice had to follow the marked route to the landing on the Menominee side of the channel).*

Dr. Schroeder's farms and orchards were a significant part of the dairy and fruit farming scene in Egg Harbor for almost fifty years. His many medical accomplishments are noted in his obituary. Not noted was his charter membership in the Marinette County Historical Society which was founded in 1932. In addition to his 54 years of medical practice and his dairy and fruit farms he owned a mink ranch with his brother-in-law John Hershey in Marinette, doing business as the Schroeder and Hershey Fox and Fur Farm. His presence in Egg Harbor and Door County is also notable. He served as a member of the Fruit Grower Cooperative Board of Directors, was a charter member of the Door County Horticultural Society and an active participant in the Northern Door Cow Testing Association and regularly had Holstein cows among the highest producers of milk and butterfat. His era ended with the sale of his properties in the mid 1950's just a short time before his passing on February 12, 1955.



Dr. Henry F. Schroeder
(Harry)



Mrs. H. F. Schroeder
(Stella)

Doctor Henry F. Schroeder's Obituary

MARINETTE EAGLE STAR ON
FEBRUARY 12, 1955

DR. SCHROEDER DIES: HAD PRACTICED HERE FOR 54 years.

Dr. Henry F. Schroeder, 84, veteran physician of Marinette, died at 5:30 this morning at the family home, 1387 Main Street. He had been ill since January 6. Dr. Schroeder

came here from Middletown Pa. in 1901 and had practiced here ever since. In 1950 he was honored by the State Medical Society for 50 years of practice as a physician and was also honored by the Kiwanis Club and Marinette County Medical Society at a joint dinner where he was presented with an engraved watch.

Dr. Schroeder, familiarly known as Harry, was extremely active in civil affairs. His affiliations include membership in the Pioneer Presbyterian Church, Kiwanis Club, Elks Lodge and Marinette County Medical Society which he served as president nine times.

He was a charter member of the Kiwanis Club and past president, and also was a past president of the medical society. At one time he served as city physician. He also belonged to the house of delegates of the state medical society. He was a charter member in the Marinette County Historical Society founded in 1932

The physician led the tuberculosis drive here and served as a director of the Door County Fruit Growers Cooperative since 1920. He owned a cherry orchard there.

He was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania medical school in 1899, and interned at Blocksley Hospital, Philadelphia in 1900. Dr. Schroeder also taught school in Pennsylvania from 1888 to 1896. He was born Aug. 11 1870 in Lancaster County, Pa.

The physician who spent most of his adult life administering to the medical needs of Marinette residents aided in the formation of the medical benefits program of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association recognized nationally and adopted by many states. (*WIAA, the states' high school athletic association*)

At the testimonial dinner Dec, 13, 1948 when Dr. Schroeder was honored for 48 years service, a testimonial which Dr. Schroeder had prepared a few years earlier for a Stephenson resident was read by Dr. John Bell, district councilor of the State Medical Society in honor of the Marinette physician.

"The doctor", Dr. Bell read "goes down into the valley of the shadow and fights the grim and silent battle with death without applause of the crowd, often without pay, and sometimes without even gratitude – he seems superior to all these considerations. He responds to a higher 'noblesse oblige' which is almost unintelligible to the average man. And such is the service which was rendered by you in large parts when the practice of medicine was an arduous task in the horse and buggy days. The memory of the hardships of those days will always be with you".

The testimonial toastmaster was Harvey Higley, now national administrator of veteran affairs. The watch was presented on behalf of the Kiwanis Club and the athletic association. Dr. Schroeder also received a scroll and plaque from the State Medical Society. C. H. Crownheart, state society secretary, told Dr. Schroeder, "I pay you the tribute paid to other distinguished men of this state; so long as such men can be produced in the republic there is little danger of its decline and fall".

The remains at the Martin-Lein Funeral Home will be taken to the residence Sunday noon where friends may call until Monday noon. The body will be removed then to the Pioneer Presbyterian Church, where the Rev. Gifford R. Ruby will officiate at services at 2:00 pm Monday. Members of the county medical society will attend in a group. Burial will be in Forest Home Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife, the former Stella Stephenson of Marinette whom he married in 1912 and one sister, Mrs. Catherine Hershey of Marinette.

Lifelong City Resident Dies

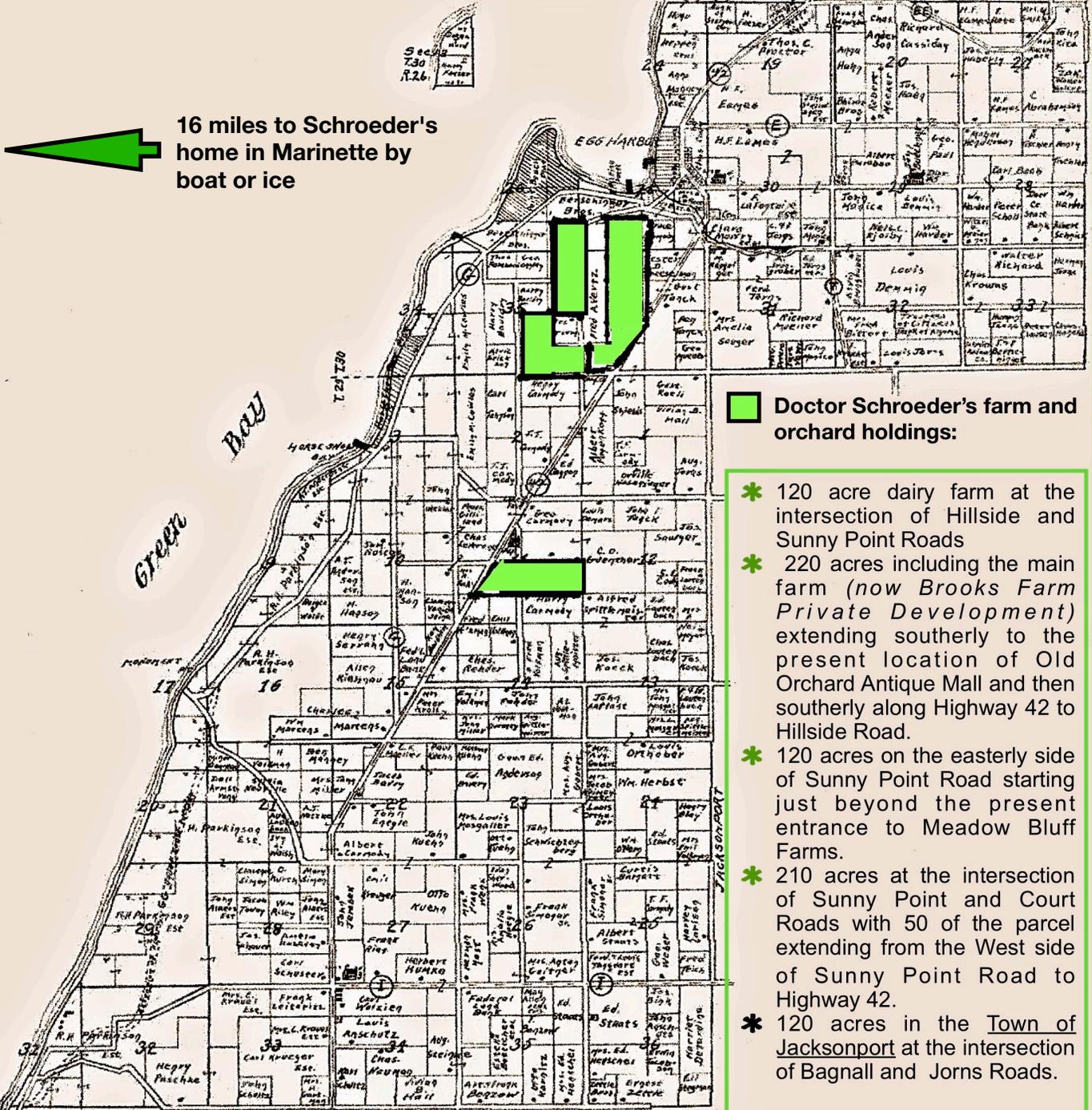
Mrs. H.F. Schroeder, 85, 1430 Newberry Ave., widow of well known Marinette physician died at 8 a.m., Nov. 16, 1962, in Marinette General Hospital where she has been a patient since Nov. 8. The former Stella Stephensen was a lifelong resident of Marinette. She was born July 19, 1877. She was a member of Pioneer United Presbyterian Church and various women's organizations. Her husband, Henry died in February, 1955. Her only survivors are two nieces and two nephews.

So ended the connection across the bay between Marinette and Egg Harbor. The end commenced when the Advocate in August of 1952 ran an ad listing for sale 605 acres of fruit and farm land with excellent buildings owned by Dr. Schroeder of Marinette. The Advocate in November of 1953 mentioned that workers on the Schroeder Farms had cut off most of the early cherry trees in the Sunny Point area. Just a year later, February of 1954, the Door County Advocate printed the following: "A large crowd attended the auction sale last Saturday on one of the Dr. Schroeder farms. There will be another auction on one of the other Schroeder farms in the near future. Wallace Utter who has lived on one of the farms and managed the entire Schroeder farm and orchard business here for many years has purchased the farm just back of the Sunny Point school."

It was the end to an interesting 50 year chapter in Egg Harbor's history with the sale of the Schroeder farms in 1954, and the death of both Henry and Stella.

Egg Harbor

Townships 29-30 North. Ranges 26-27 East of the 4th P. M.



16 miles to Schroeder's home in Marinette by boat or ice

Doctor Schroeder's farm and orchard holdings:

- * 120 acre dairy farm at the intersection of Hillside and Sunny Point Roads
- * 220 acres including the main farm (now Brooks Farm Private Development) extending southerly to the present location of Old Orchard Antique Mall and then southerly along Highway 42 to Hillside Road.
- * 120 acres on the easterly side of Sunny Point Road starting just beyond the present entrance to Meadow Bluff Farms.
- * 210 acres at the intersection of Sunny Point and Court Roads with 50 of the parcel extending from the West side of Sunny Point Road to Highway 42.
- * 120 acres in the Town of Jacksonport at the intersection of Bagnall and Jorns Roads.

APPENDIX



A Young Doctor Henry Schroeder

Twin City Doctors taken around the turn of the century. Dr. Schroeder started his practice in Marinette in 1901, a career that would extend over 54 years. Marinette & Menominee were bustling cities the turn of the 20th century:

Bottom Row, left to right: Dr. Theodore J. Redelings, Marinette; Dr. Robert G. Marriner, Menominee; Dr. Alexander T. Nadeau, Marinette; Dr. Henry F. Schroeder, Marinette; and Dr. Luella E. Axtell, Marinette

Middle Row, left to right: Dr. Sherman E. Wright, Marinette; Dr. Calvin R. Elwood, Menominee; Dr. B.T. Phillips, Menominee; Dr. Eugene E. Axtell, Marinette; Dr. Maurice Duane Bird, Marinette; and Dr. John F. Hicks, Menominee

Top Row, left to right: Dr. Eugene J. Grignon, Menominee; Dr. Henry A. Vennema, Menominee; Dr. Robert A. Walker, Menominee; Dr. Walter R. Hicks, Menominee; and Dr. Clayton H. Charles, Marinette

(From the collection of the Marinette County Historical Society)

Typical cherry harvest scenes at orchards like Dr. Schroeders
(photos may not be from the Schroeder orchards)



1 - Early on related families and neighbors gathered to harvest the cherry crop.

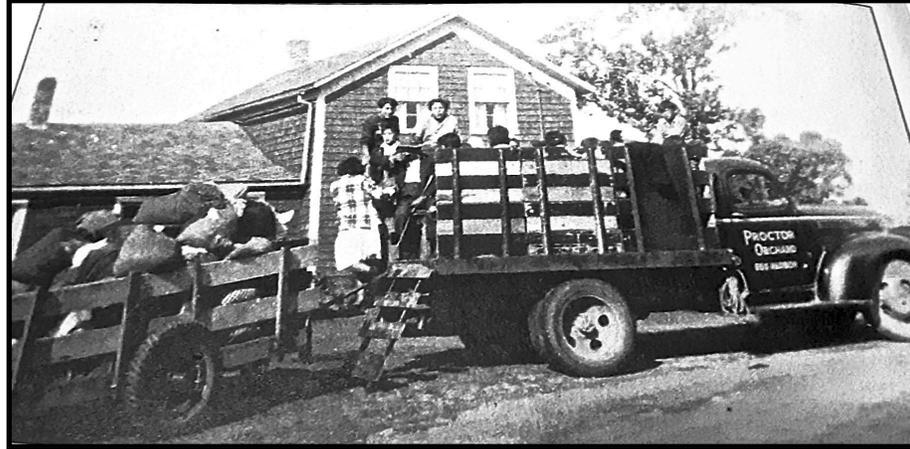
2 - Local youngsters were frequently trucked to pick at Schroeder's orchards. Pickers may have also come from neighboring areas; Jacksonport, Baileys Harbor, Carlsville, Juddville.....

3 - 4 - Picking cherries was a 'sticky' tedious job that many of Door County's kids had for their first jobs.

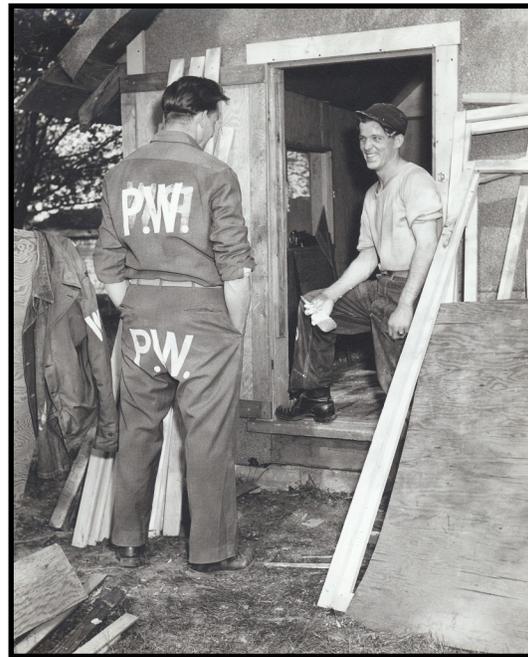
5 - The ultimate goal, fill your buckets so you could head to the 'checkers' station to have your card punched recording your pickings, and maybe take a break with a drink of water from the 'common' cup from the water barrel.



As the acreage of orchards increased a shortage of local harvesters occurred. Native Americans from Wisconsin came to help. During WWII POWs were used. Later on migrant workers from the south did much to carry out the cherry harvest.



During WWII, German prisoners of war (POWs) were brought to Sturgeon Bay by train and housed in numerous camps throughout the county and were put to work on the farms and orchards.



Remains of a Dr. Schroeder's pickers camp which was located on the west side of Hwy 42 at the top of the Egg Harbor hill.



The Doctor's final resting place is in the Forest Home Cemetery in Marinette, Wisconsin



1954-02-25 Door County Advocate:

“A large crowd attended the auction sale last Saturday on one of the Dr. Schroeder farms. There will be another auction on one of the Schroeder farms in the near future. Wallace Utter who has lived on one of the farms and managed the entire Schroeder farm and orchard business here for many years has purchased the farm just back of the Sunny Point school”.

1955-02-12 Marinette Eagle Star: *(just a year later)*

“Dr. Henry F. Schroeder, 84, veteran physician of Marinette, died at 5:30 this morning at the family home”.



(Email from John Sawyer - 4-21-21)
My Dad and Mom, William and Millie

Sawyer bought the Dr. Schroeder Dairy farm on Hillside and Sunny Point Roads in 1952. The farm is 100 years old, built in 1921-22.

John Sawyer

(Email from John Sawyer - 4-23-21)

Great history on Dr. Schroeder history story it's awesome and it answers a lot of questions I have had about the Doctor and our farm.

The time table confirms the dates at our farm. The date of 1921 is itched in the foundation and there is a pencil signature of 1922 signed by a Milton Larson from Marinette and his address. I have tried to find the history of Milton Larson and can not find any records. I assume he helped build the farm, but maybe he worked there.

Also, we still have old cooking gas tops, benches and things from the pickers from the sheds as well as the the old outhouse, men's and women's 3 holer each with a pee trough in the men's. Partitions are still inside the machine shed that separated the areas for housing the pickers.

The picker housing on the west side of 42, *(photo on a previous appendix page)* Jim and Marylynn Anchutz bought it, and Tom Demmin, Dennis Anchutz and I tore down the building board by board and saved the old nails from every board.

From 1965 to 1974 I worked for Brooks Farm, Murphy Moore , Cyril Vertz and at Horseshoe Bay. I also helped demo some of the buildings at Brooks Farm, and when it was before Brooks Farms demoed the green machine shed and long red shed shown in the photo on page 2. I organized and prepared all the equipment and supplies for auction.

John Sawyer

Egg Harbor