

## History of the “Zachow Advancement Association”

It is unclear exactly when the Zachow Advancement Assn. was formed. What is known, is that they met once a year, generally in the early spring, at Pauly & Pauly Cheese Co. office. Dues were non-existent; generally a hat was passed to collect enough money to go get a case of beer, some crackers, raw ground beef, while Harry Hoefs furnished the cheese; for the annual meeting.

There were officers over the years, with most of the businessmen taking their turn to run the meeting, although it was quite informal. One of the important items that came up every year was who was going to mow the ball diamond and times square lawns. Items over the years that were brought up, letters written, and results accomplished were:

(1) Additional street lights installed at strategic locations, intersections, etc. It was noted at one time that we asked for and received our fifth street light.

(2) When rail service slowly diminished to Zachow and truck shipments of freight increased, Zachow businessmen petitioned Shawano County to make Co. Trk. F, from Hwy 29 to Zachow (a two mile stretch) an all-weather road; this included black top and regular snow removal, so Semi's could bring in goods, and our own Zachow merchants could get out of town, without getting stuck.

(3) Many letters were written, and arms twisted to acquire a lease from the Chicago & NorthWestern RR, for a portion of their property (across the road from Pauly's Cheese) to use as a ball diamond for the kids of Zachow. This was accomplished, however, an annual fee of \$1.00 was required, then volunteers would be needed to mow the lawn, construct a backstop, make bases out of sandbags, build a lawn table & benches, etc. Mission accomplished, and the kids used it often.

(4) Again, the hat was passed to the businessmen of Zachow, to secure films & pay someone to show the films at the weekly “free shows” shown on “times square”, the grass triangle between the tracks and downtown businesses.

(5) Zachow, as a community had to contact and keep pressure on the Town of Angelica Chairman and town officials, to repair roads, hasten snow removal, cut brush & roadside grass, improve drainage etc. so Zachow businesses and residents would get their fair share of the tax dollars generated out of Zachow. It seemed we were in competition with Krakow (on the other end of the Town of Angelica) for tax supported services.

(6) As traffic was, in our opinion, quite heavy through Zachow, contact was made with Chicago & NorthWestern RR to install an automatic crossing gate in downtown Zachow. This was never accomplished, and rumor had it that because of this request, rather than spend this money, the entire main railroad line, including the siding line, was completely removed, so it may be that Zachow is responsible for the discontinuance of rail from Green Bay, west to Minneapolis, and beyond.

(7) At one time, plans were drawn up for a central water & sewer system in Zachow. It would have had to been coordinated with Graf Creamery. It never got off the drawing board, although pushed by some in Zachow.

(8) When Shawano County received federal funds for low income houses to be build in various communities throughout the county, Zachow was considered, but that is as far as it went. No sewer or water were supposedly a factor.

(9) Our Town of Angelica dump was originally located at Radtke's pond, about 3 miles from Zachow. All residents & businesses had to haul their own junk to the town

dump. Early on, it was always open and the kids had a heyday, going home with treasures, like wagon wheels and fort building boards. Trash, including junked cars, would be shoved into this bottomless pond. About 1949, it was moved to a sand pit on a dead end road, where every three months, Angelica Township would hire equipment to bury the trash & junk. This is where regular hours were established, like Saturday mornings, with someone monitoring where you placed your junk.

(10) A Zachow Advancement Assn. checking account was maintained at Farmers State Bank, but as Treasurer for many years, I do not remember a time that our balance was over \$25.00. We were a volunteer organization, and bartering, scrounging and making what was needed, was the normal way to get things done in the most expedient and economical manner.

Zachow Advancement Assn. sort of just faded into oblivion. A file was kept for many years by Leon Westerfeld, who after moving out of Zachow in 1998, turned the file over to the Bonduel Archives, where it is located to this day.

Written by: Leon Westerfeld 2010