This is a history of District 6, Town of Lake, written by Olive Roberts Brader Schwan, who was a principal at Thompson School in St. Francis. The history was written on May 19, 1944. The following is a preface to the history:

Preface

I have tried in this small space to give an idea of the people who settled in District #6 and the important institutions which were started here. I am greatly endebted to Monsignor Groessal of Pio Nona College, who furnished the Diamond Jubilee Booklet which had condensed the history in 1931.

I also wish to thank Mr. Eugene Gavin, Clerk of District #6, who made records available to me. Mr. John Livingston should be mentioned as he was responsible for allowing all the records kept at the Town Hall to be at my disposal. No written history has ever been made and many searches proved futile.

Thanks to Mr. John Diedrich, owner of the Historical Atlas of Milwaukee County; to Miss Fry of the South Milwaukee Library. I wish to voice sincere appreciation for her efforts in obtaining outstanding facts to base my story upon.

The history of the school I took from minutes of the school meeting and interviews with old timers. The minutes were vague and many times did not state the important facts for which I was looking. The stories old timers told me were usually vague and disjointed, or historical facts argued against them. But I have done as well as I could.

<div style="text-align: right">Olive Schwan</div>

Early History

This region was originally controlled by the French and was considered the Northwest Territory. The vagrant fur-trader was the only one who could likely say that this was his place of habitation. (1) Although documents preserved at Montreal, Canada, and Paris, France, show that the French fur-traders visited the

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(1) – Howard Louis Cunard, History of Milwaukee County (N.Y., 1895)
Vol. 1. p. 13

mouth of the Milwaukee River in the late 1600's, no settlements were made in this community until 1833 and 1834. Some early visitors were Father Cosme and a companion who came here as early as October, 1699 and remained here two days because of a storm. (1) This district was considered a good place for the fur-traders to stop and do business with the Indians. The first mention that is recorded of this district in history was made in 1761 by Lt. James Gorrell. He was a British officer stationed at Green Bay and passed through here and recorded this place as "Milwacky". (2) Father Zenobe Membre who visited the Illinois country with LaSalle recorded in his journal the fact than an Indian tribe dwelled at the mouth of the "Mellicke". This is thought to be another name given to the Milwaukee River. (3) In 1785, Alexander Le Frombois maintained a fur-trading place at the mouth of the Milwaukee River and stayed here for a period of two years. He left and put the post in the hands of his brother. Not long after this, the brother was found murdered by the Winnebago Indians. (4)

(To be continued...)

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(1) – John G. Gregory, History of Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Chicago, 1931) Vol. 1, P. 15
(2) – Wm. George Bruce, History of Milwaukee County (Milwaukee, 1922) Vol. 1, P. 8
(3) – John G. Gregory, History of Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Chicago, 1931) Vol. 1, P. 14
(4) – Howard Louis Cunard, History of Milwaukee County (N.Y., 1895) Vol. 1, P. 13

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This is the question: How old is Grandpa???

One evening a grandson was talking to his grandfather about current events. The grandson asked his grandfather what he thought about the shootings at schools, the computer age, and just things in general. The grandfather replied, "Well, let me think a minute.

I was born before: Television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, Frisbees and the pill.

There were no: Credit cards, laser beams, or ball-point pens.

Man had not invented: Pantyhose, air conditioners, dishwashers, clothes dryers and the clothes were hung out to dry in the fresh air. "

This is the question: How old is Grandpa???

(The answer will be provided in the next newsletter.)