

KIDS' NEWSLETTER

Pillars of the future,
built on the foundations of the past.

White Pillars Museum • 403 North Broadway • De Pere, WI 54115

Open Monday - Thursday 1-6 PM • call 920-336-3877

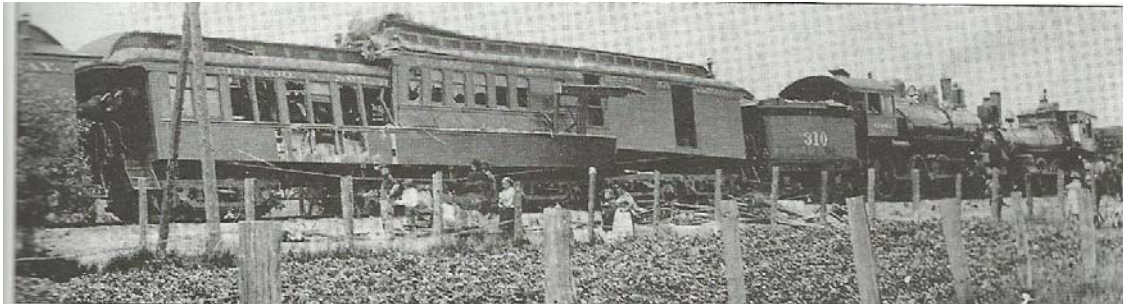
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Horrible Train Accident in De Pere

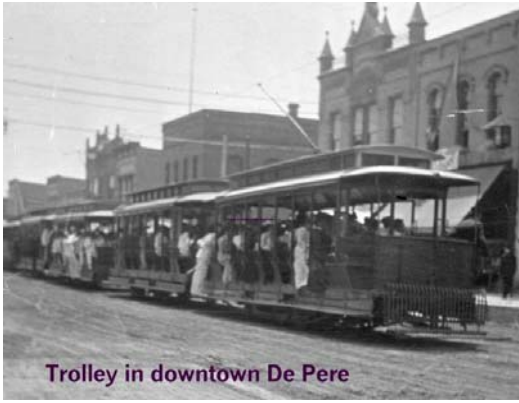


A passenger train making its way to Green Bay for a German singing festival had an *unscheduled* stop in West De Pere. It was June 25, 1900 at 10:13AM. The train, carrying 647 people, was just south of the railroad depot located along the tracks just off Grant Street in West De Pere. Unknown to the engineer of the passenger train, the engine of a 53 car freight train was in its path. The freight train was supposed to be on a sidetrack allowing the passenger train to pass but the freight train was too long leaving the engine in the path of the oncoming train. At a time without cell phones or walkie-talkies, the only way to communicate with another train was to send a flagman out with a lantern to flag it down. Unfortunately, by the time the passenger train engineer saw the flagman, it was too late. The passenger train *collided* head on into the engine of the freight train. When the engines collided the *momentum* of the train sent the second passenger car half way through the first one. It was in these two cars where most of the passenger were injured or killed. The train crews were uninjured being able to jump off before the crash.

Within minutes of the collision hundreds of people were at the scene to help. Due to the damage in the first two cars, victims were trapped and unable to escape on their own. Volunteers worked *feverishly* to remove the victims and assist the wounded. Local Drs. Kersten, Mailer and Lenfestey rushed to tend to the injured at the crash site. The nearby West De Pere High School, at the time located on the corner of 4th street and College Ave, was used as a make shift hospital. As word spread, townspeople brought wagons, rigs and buses to transport the injured to the school and later St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay as well as blankets and cots to aid in any way they could. An hour after the wreck, a relief train of doctors and nurses arrived from Green Bay to help attend the many injured, and later a train from Appleton made the same journey. In all, six people were killed and over 50 people were injured in one of the worst accidents in De Pere's history. *Reprinted in part with permission from De Pere of Yesteryear by Mary Kay Milquet and Dan Milquet.*

Rat Rides in Girl's Skirt: Starts Panic

GREEN BAY, WI, – A rat in a De Pere interurban car caused a *panic* among the passengers. The passengers had boarded the car at Green Bay when the rat ran down the aisle. Women screamed and climbed on the seats, but the rat immediately followed suit and took *refuge* in the folds of a skirt of a young woman passenger. The girl screamed and grabbed the rat. At this *juncture*, her *gallant* escort came to her rescue, took hold of the rat, which was folded in the skirt, and pounded it upon the seat until it was dead. The young lady was *compelled* to unfasten her skirt and shake it before she could get the rat out of its folds. Of course, the men all looked out of the windows during the episode.-*Oakland Tribune – June 16, 1916*



The Interurban Line

In 1904 the *interurban* line between Green Bay and Kaukauna was completed. For people in De Pere, that meant they could catch a regularly scheduled trolley car to Green Bay or Kaukauna for less than 30 cents. Before the interurban line,

the travel to these cities was made by regular railroad, horse and buggy and by a select few, the automobile. The east side *loop* in De Pere ran from Green Bay on Webster to Ridgeway Blvd., then turned west to North Broadway, south to Lewis Street, then east to Huron. On Huron Street, it traveled north to Ridgeway, back to Webster, and returned to Green Bay. The bridge across the Fox River was not *suitable* for the trolley cars and a separate car ran on the west side. The west side loop from Green Bay ran south down Fort Howard Ave., turned east on Main to Third Street, then south to Kaukauna. The interurban traveled the main streets of Green Bay through De Pere and on to Kaukauna for almost three decades. The tracks on Lewis and Huron Streets were discontinued on March 15, 1927. The remaining tracks and runs were slowly phased out over the next few years. The last car ran on July 25, 1931.

Do you know the meaning of the words in italics from these articles?

De Pere Trivia

Do you know the answers to these trivia questions?

1. Name the street that lies directly west of Broadway in east De Pere.
2. In what year was St. Norbert College founded?
3. This key figure in the design and implementation of the U.S. Social Security System and chairman of the Social Security Board from 1937-1936 was born and raised in De Pere. Who is he?
4. In what year did the City of West De Pere and De Pere combine to form one city?

SANTA'S HOUSE

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be making their annual visit to White Pillars Museum on;

Thursday, December 6	4:00 – 7:00 PM
Friday, December 7	4:00 – 7:00 PM
Saturday, December 8	1:00 – 6:00 PM

Make our old world tradition one of your family's new traditions! Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus at the De Pere Historical Society. Enjoy this free, family-friendly event. You'll have a chance to meet the Clauses, take pictures and enjoy homemade treats in our Downtown De Pere museum, complete with traditional Christmas decorations.



Trivia answers: Front Street, 1898, Arthur Altmeyer, 1890

For more information about the De Pere Historical Society
Visit us online @ www.deperehistory.org