



Historic Argyle's 2018 Events in Review



May, 2018 A packed audience at the Argyle EMS building was the scene for Doug Watson's presentation on the history of the Freeport, Dodgeville & Northern railroad that ran from Freeport through Argyle and on to Dodgeville. Obviously, there were many who were interested in learning more about the early years of the railroads.



June, 2018

Tim Connors, a local actor from Freeport, went above and beyond in his portrayal and presentation of Bob LaFollette. Ethan Towne portrayed LaFollette's grandson. The audience was held captive by his ability to take us back to the days of "Fighting Bob" and what growing up in Argyle had meant to him. Music, wine-tasting and food stands rounded out the afternoon.



August, 2018 Historic Argyle joined forces with the Pecatonica Pride Watershed Association in hosting a pot-luck event at the end of the first day of Art on the Pec. The general public was delighted as they paddled, or rode a pontoon, navigating the scenic twists of the Pecatonica River between Thunder Bridge and Argyle, viewing artwork from various local artists.

Distance Memories of Growing up in Argyle

Back in the early 1950s, television was just beginning to make its presence in a few homes in Argyle. My playmate's parents didn't have television but this didn't prevent us from watching TV programs. The West Side Service Station, owned by Chris Vinger, not only sold Purol products for your car, but also Zenith television sets for your living room.

On Saturday mornings the West Side was a place us youngsters would gather to watch Howdy Doody, and other programs I can no longer remember. Chris would permit us to do this provided we behaved ourselves. Of course, this was a marketing ploy on his part as I am sure we hounded our parents about buying a television set at the West Side Service Station.

Pumping gas and changing oil was Phil Johnson's duties. Phil was the older brother of my good friend Dick. One of the real interesting things he did, or maybe even allowed one of us to do, and that was to execute a "station search." This search involved continually changing channels on the set and rotating the antenna to locate distant stations. I believe at the time there were only a couple of channels out of Madison and Rockford. Anyway, we searched and searched until we discovered a distant station. I do remember viewing station IDs on the screen from New York City and Denver, and I am sure there were others that have escaped my memory. In order for those stations to transmit their signal to Argyle and beyond, it would have been necessary for them to increase their transmitting power to the maximum, which they did.

I doubt very much kids today would really get as excited as we did back in the '50s to "tune in" a TV station from New York City or Denver. *Doug Watson*