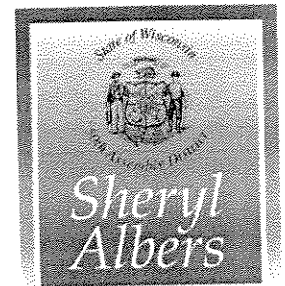


Rep. Steve Wicker



**Assembly Committee on Government Operations
Public Hearing on Assembly Bill 21 – May 30, 2001
Testimony of Representative Sheryl K. Albers**

Thank you, Chairman Wieckert, for the opportunity to testify today on 2001 Assembly Bill 21. Along with Senator Roger Breske, I introduced this legislation to make “Oh Wisconsin, Land of My Dreams” our state ballad. This legislation will not change the status of “On Wisconsin” as the state song; rather, it will provide special designation to a wonderful work of poetry and song. Many of you have heard Shari Sarazin sing this beautiful ballad in the past. Her grandmother, Erma Barrett of rural Juneau County, wrote the words to the ballad in the late 1920’s as a poem, and Shari honored her work in 1993 by putting the poem into ballad form. Before she passed away, Shari’s grandmother was able to hear Shari sing the ballad. As a tribute to Erma Barrett—a lifelong Wisconsinite and proud resident of our great state—and in recognition of the spirit the words and music convey about life in Wisconsin, I am so proud to introduce this legislation to give the ballad the designation it deserves.

Shortly after Senator Breske and I sent out our cosponsorship memo on the ballad, Representative Marlin Schneider contacted me in regards to the addition of a state waltz. The waltz he recommended adding is entitled, “The Wisconsin Waltz.” I agreed that recognizing this song would add to the cultural heritage we celebrate here in Wisconsin, so I’ve had a substitute drafted that will incorporate both the ballad and the waltz as new cultural symbols for our state.

I urge the committee’s support of these two great musical works, and thank you all for the opportunity to be with you today.

END

“Oh Wisconsin, Land of My Dreams”

Music by Shari A. Sarazin

Words by Erma Barrett

Oh Wisconsin, land of beauty, With your hillsides and your plains,
With your jackpine and your birch tree, And your oak of mighty frame.

Land of rivers, lakes and valleys, Land of warmth and winter snows,
Land of birds and beasts and humanity, Oh Wisconsin, I love you so.

*Oh Wisconsin, land of my dreams.
Oh Wisconsin, you're all I've ever need.
A little heaven here on earth could you be?
Oh Wisconsin, land of my dreams.*

In the summer, golden grain fields, In the winter, drift of white snow,
In the springtime, robins singing, In the autumn, flaming colors show.

Oh I wonder who could wander,
Or who could want to drift for long,
Away from all your beauty,
All your sunshine, all your sweet song?

*Oh Wisconsin, land of my dreams.
Oh Wisconsin, you're all I've ever need.
A little heaven here on earth could you be?
Oh Wisconsin, land of my dreams.*

*And when it's time, let my spirit run free
In Wisconsin, land of my dreams.*



Date: May 30, 2001

To: Assembly Committee on Government Operations
Representative Steve Wieckert, Chairman

From: Kathi Kilgore, Director of Government Relations
Wisconsin Restaurant Association

Re: Support of Assembly Bill 21

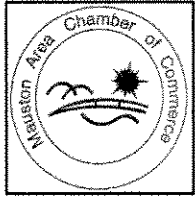
The Wisconsin Restaurant Association, which represents approximately 7,000 foodservice outlets in the state of Wisconsin, supports Assembly Bill 21, designating "Oh Wisconsin, Land of My Dreams" as the state ballad.

This song would not replace the state song "On Wisconsin," which is known to most as the University of Wisconsin-Madison's fight song played as a rousing march at the University's sporting events. "Oh Wisconsin, Land of My Dreams", on the other hand, is a folk song that symbolizes **all** of Wisconsin and two of its most precious resources: its natural beauty and its outstanding people.

The song's lyrics celebrate Wisconsin's uncommon beauty and a love of this great state that Wisconsin residents from every corner of this state, from Kenosha to Superior to Marinette to Platteville, can relate to. "Oh Wisconsin, Land of My Dreams" also memorializes Wisconsin's extraordinary residents and their special bond to their families and this state.

This heartfelt and moving ballad has been performed in many events around Wisconsin from community and church events in the Mauston area to Wisconsin Restaurant Association and Wisconsin Innkeepers Association events across the state to the sesquicentennial celebration in Madison.

In closing, the Wisconsin Restaurant Association asks for your support of Assembly Bill 21. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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Liz Allen

Incorporated
January 8, 1945

Wednesday, May 30, 2001

Representative Steve Wieckert
Chair—Committee on Government Operations

Re: Bill AB21

Dear Representative Wieckert,

The Greater Mauston Area Chamber of Commerce would like to offer its enthusiastic support of Bill AB21 to name "Oh Wisconsin, Land of My Dreams" as our state ballad.

The ballad, written by Mauston citizen Shari Sarazin, epitomizes the feelings and values that Wisconsin citizens represent.

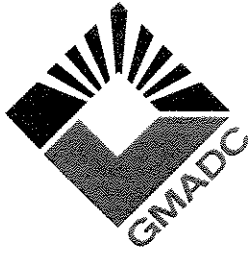
Not only does Shari's talent as a singer/songwriter shine in this piece, but she captures a part of Wisconsin's history by sharing a poem written by her grandmother in the 1920's that comprise the lyrics of the ballad.

She has unselfishly shared this song with many in our area, throughout Wisconsin and in the state capitol through her performances of this ballad.

We would like to ask that you support this song as state ballad when you vote on Bill AB21, Wednesday, May 30, 2001. It will not only live on as a legacy and a source of pride for Shari's family, but for all Wisconsin citizens as well. We thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Jim Schmid
President
Greater Mauston Area Chamber of Commerce



May 30, 2001

Mr. Steve Wieckert
Government Operations Committee
Room 9 North, State Capitol
Post Office Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Mr. Wieckert,

This is a letter of support for bill "AB21" to designate the song "Oh Wisconsin, Land of My Dreams" as the new official state ballad.

The background of this song is so very interesting. In the late 1920's, a farm girl from Juneau County, Erma Barrett, took out her journal and wrote a beautiful poem about Wisconsin. In October 1993, Shari Sarazin took her grandmother's heartfelt words and set them to music in a song she entitled, "Oh Wisconsin, Land Of My Dreams." The song is a story of one woman's feelings of the place she called home - Wisconsin - the land of her dreams. This ballad showcases the depth of talent that springs from Wisconsin.

This song, "Oh Wisconsin, Land of My Dreams", would not replace "On Wisconsin" as our state song, but would be designated as our official state ballad.

Your support of this bill would be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mauston Development Corp

JoAnne Ehasz, Executive Director

ixth-best total in Divi-
history. Last season,
is attended.
ts with outstanding
nd people," said Matt
J, chairman of the
ommittee. "This is a
ion.
e've heard nothing but
rom the players and
he people here have
anding."
tive bids must be in
with a vote, if neces-
ning next summer.

Pupils will get \$1,000 each to extend their Catholic education elsewhere

their graduation day.
Declining enrollment forced the school board to discontinue its sixth through eighth grades beginning next fall.

Jennie Eggleston, principal for the past four years at St. Francis, oversees 51 pupils in kindergarten through eighth grade; that includes four pupils in the fifth and seventh grades, five in the eighth and just two in the sixth.

"There's a sad feeling, but there is an understanding that it had to happen at the same time," Eggleston said.

The school has been an integral part of

By Greg Bump

Post-Crescent staff writer

HOLLANDTOWN - Portraits of past eighth-grade classes line a hallway near the office of St. Francis Catholic School in Hollandtown.

The more recent the photo, the fewer students there are smiling with pride on

the tiny community east of Kaukauna for generations, so the decision to cut out the top grades didn't come easily. Parents and school administrators debated the move for months before the choice was made to become a K-5 school.

School board member Joan Bruecker said the six-member board was knotted 3-3 over the issue for some time. But the need for change became apparent when it was learned there would be no pupils in the sixth or seventh grades next year, and

Please see **CLASSES**, A-9

tee, all those present voted the 36-district option.

At the board's May 22 meeting, however, supervisors voted 20-15, with four absent, to keep the current 39-member structure. A second vote to "lock the 39-district decision the next night failed to get the required three-fourths vote. The board instead scheduled Tuesday's official meeting.

All 39 supervisors were sent Tuesday. Of the four ab-

Please see **BOARD**, B-7

Waupaca composer's tune waltzes its way to state fame

By Susan Squires

Post-Crescent staff writer

WAUPACA - Waupaca-born composer Ethwell "Eddy" Hanson befriended gangsters in Chicago, was a guest in most of England's royal palaces and toured the country with attorney Clarence Darrow in 1918, selling war bonds.

In the music he wrote, though, Hanson never ventured far from home, and "The Wisconsin Waltz" is on track to become the official state waltz.

"It's about the state of Wisconsin," says Gary Kuchenbecker, leader of the Old Lager Orchestra, whose recording of Hanson's waltz the state Legislature's Committee on Government Operations heard this morning.

"It says you can fall in love and have a great time in this state just like you can anywhere else on this planet."

State Rep. Marlin Schneider, D-Wisconsin Rapids, added the proposal to name Hanson's waltz an official state symbol as an amendment to Assembly Bill 21, which would also make "Oh Wisconsin, Land of My Dreams" the official

"I'm extremely proud," he said. "I've had a band for 27 years, and nobody's ever heard of us." He kept meaning to make the trip to see Hanson at Simpson's Indian Room Restaurant in Waupaca, where he played in his later years, but he never made it. Kuchenbecker said

he regrets it. Locally, Hanson is remembered as "dapper" and "colorful." "He'd play piano with his left hand and the organ with his right," said Arlin Barden, retired commandant of the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, where Hanson died in 1986. "He was really something."

Hanson was born in Waupaca in either 1893 or 1898. He moved to Neenah in 1910, finished high school, then worked his way through Lawrence University playing the

His "Wisconsin Waltz" is on track to become the official state waltz.

Please see **WALTZ**, A-9



Hanson
His "Wisconsin Waltz" is on track to become the official state waltz.

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APPLETON POST-CRESCENT MAY 30, 2001

ting 59 brush fires, including a blaze that has charred nearly 61,000 acres of commercial timberland and swampland between Tallahassee and Gainesville.

The Mallory Swamp fire has burned for 16 days and is one of 59 active fires in the state, a result of Florida's ongoing drought, state fire officials said. The Mallory Swamp fire is the state's largest this year.

Gov. Jeb Bush and state Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson will be in Mayo, a small town roughly 90 miles southeast of Tallahassee, today for a briefing on the wildfires, a Florida Division of Forestry statement said.

Hundreds of firefighters dropped water from aircraft, sprayed foam from trucks and

said they had the blaze 45 percent contained, while a 1,000-acre fire three miles to the northwest — called the Koon Pond fire — was 35 percent contained.

Crews and equipment were brought in from Arizona, Kentucky, North Carolina, and South Carolina and more bulldozers were coming in from Mississippi and Tennessee to help battle the fires.

Also Tuesday, the state Division of Forestry said 44 National Guardsmen from north and central Florida arrived in Mayo. The workers, who are trained in wildfire suppression, will help in mop-up efforts and offer logistical support. Forestry officials said more Guardsmen are expected to arrive in the next few days.

WALTZ: Gangster, prince among musician's friends

From A-1

organ in movie theaters.

By 1918, when he enlisted in the Navy so he could play saxophone in John Philip Sousa's band, he'd published "Rattlesnake Rag," "Moon Maid," "Homecoming Song," and "When Evening Shades are Falling." Later, for Appleton band leader Lawrence Duchow, Hanson wrote "The Polish Piano Polka," the "Windy City Polka," and, in 1951, "The Wisconsin Waltz."

After World War I, Hanson moved to Chicago, where he played the organ for a succession of radio stations, including WGN, WLS and WBBM.

"Radio was so popular that I used to get my mail in a bushel basket," Hanson said in 1976.

In Chicago, during Prohibition, Hanson befriended the gangster "Baby Face" Nelson, though Hanson knew him as Leslie Gillis, a mechanic he allowed to use his car in exchange for an occasional Simoniz.

"One morning, a bumper was

missing, so I stopped that," Hanson said.

Other acquaintances were less notorious.

A friend of England's Prince Edward, Hanson slept in all of the royal residences, except Buckingham Palace.

"I was never invited there," he noted.

Hanson was famous enough to earn a spot on President Herbert Hoover's Christmas card list. At the bottom of Hoover's 1961 holiday greeting, the former president wrote, "Your plans for an album of religious songs is a good one. Be sure to include 'Amazing Grace' for me."

Hanson returned to the Wau-paca area in the 1960s, and continued to perform after he moved to the Veterans Home.

"His hands were pretty well beat up with arthritis, but he still played," and Hanson rarely appeared without either a purple or black beret, said Gary Peterson, who worked at the Veterans Home.

"I think he just loved to play," Barden said.

Bruecker said.

"It was not so much about money, but offering the best education we can for these students," Eggleston said. "We were not sure we could provide all the extra things we want with a class of two students."

To encourage pupils to continue their education at a Catholic school, \$1,000 has been pledged for each sixth- and eighth-grade pupil in the Francis parish to help defray the cost of being an out-of-pa-

student. "We still want the student to have a Catholic education, that's our number one goal," Eggleston said. "If we aren't able to provide that, we want them to get it somewhere else."

Pupils say they'll miss Francis next year.

"I kind of feel like I'm going to miss the school," said eighth-grader Travis Heiting. "I've been going here since the first grade."

Seventh-grader Ha- Michaela said she knows the names of every pupil in the school from kindergarten through eighth grade. She said she li-

Mail goo

122 W. Maun St.
Mauston WI 53948
May 31, 2001

The Honorable Steve Wickert Chair
Assembly Government Operations Committee
State Capitol, PO Box 8953
Madison WI 53708

Dear Representative Wickert:

Please add our names to those who support
the legislation which would make "Oh Wisconsin,
Land of my Dreams" our Wisconsin State
Ballad.

Many times, as residents of Mauston, we
have been privileged to hear I share Sarogin
sing the poem written by her Grandmother, which
I share put to music. Her Grandmother's words
reflect what we all feel as residents of this
beautiful state.

While I have not heard the waltz composed
by Eddie Hanson from Waupaca, certainly, the
waltz is an important part of our musical heritage
and should also receive our support.

(Continued)

Page two:

I hope you will find this bit of Legislative history interesting. When I began working for the Assembly Republicans in 1965, I was one of the forty legislative employees hired by the Chief Clerk. As part-time employees our salary was \$300.00 per month when the Legislature was in session, I took shorthand at 120 wpm, and there were two bill drafters in the Reference Bureau!

At that time we had a state nickname, motto, song, animal, wild animal, Bird, Fish, flower and tree. In the ensuing 26 1/2 years I had the privilege of working for the Assembly Republicans. I watched the addition of many new Wisconsin symbols. Each of them is an important part of our Wisconsin history.

Please take favorable Committee action to help Sheri's ballad and Mrs. Hanson's waltz on their way to becoming law.

Thank you

Sincerely
Maryann Sabowes
(and husband Al)

Eau Claire Leader Telegram - Editorial - 5/31/01

Official state waltz proposal ridiculous

Budget issues far more pressing

There may be a bigger waste of the state government's time, but right now it's hard to think of any.

Two state legislators, a Republican and a Democrat, want the Legislature to break away from the arduous task of trying to solve a \$761 million budget deficit for 2001-03 to debate whether two songs should be added to the current list of state symbols.

In fact, the Assembly Committee on Government Operations actually had a hearing Wednesday on the measure, Assembly Bill 21.

If Reps. Sheryl Albers, R-Loganville, and Marlin Schneider, D-Wisconsin Rapids, have their way, the state ballad will be "Oh, Wisconsin, Land of My Dreams," and the state waltz will be "The Wisconsin Waltz."

The ballad was written by Shari Sarazin of Mauston, who set to music a poem her grandmother wrote in the 1920s. The waltz was written by Eddie Hansen, a Waupaca native who used to play organ in theaters.

There are two problems with this initiative: Legislators don't need to tie themselves up with such trivial matters at this crucial juncture in the state's history, and adding willy-nilly to the list of state symbols demeans those symbols that deserve state recognition.

But really, why does Wisconsin need a state ballad or waltz?

We need a state flag and state motto, and certainly we need a state fish (muskellunge). Our state animal, the badger, is important, as is our state beverage (and no, it's milk and not beer). It's even interesting that we have made the Antigo silt loam our state soil, the sugar maple our state tree and the robin our state bird.

And of course we have our state song, "On Wisconsin!"

Schneider said that his measure, if adopted, would highlight the importance of the waltz in Wisconsin's musical legacy.

"Music makes everyone happy," Albers said when the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel asked her why Wisconsin needed an official ballad.

A lot of things make people happy, but that doesn't mean the Legislature needs to make them official this-or-that. The effort to designate a state ballad started two years ago and failed to get a vote in the last session of the Legislature.

Nothing has changed. This bill is a waste of time and should be treated as such.

-- **Doug Mell**, managing editor

Ashland Daily Press June 13, 2001

Boyle says important issues are overlooked

By ANDREW HINKEL
Capitol News Service

MADISON - The State Assembly met Tuesday to consider 22 pieces of legislation ranging from snowmobiling regulations to milk prices, drawing criticism from Rep. Frank Boyle, D-Superior, who said that the proceedings were "nothing of substance."

One piece of legislation under debate would mandate that every class room in every public and private school in the state display the United States flag, and that all students begin the day with the Pledge of Allegiance. The flag and the pledge are currently required in grades 1-8.

The legislation is sponsored by Assembly Speaker Scott Jensen, R-Waukesha.

He has introduced similar legislation in previous sessions, when the Assembly has approved it before dying in the Senate. Tuesday the measure passed on a 95 to 3 vote.

Boyle called the bill, and the others before the Assembly, "diversionary."

"I'm not opposed to the flag or the pledge," said Boyle, "but we should be talking about school funding, we should be talking about prescription drugs for seniors, and because we're debating these symbolic measures, we're not talking about life-and-death issues."

Boyle also said that he does not think mandating the pledge will lead to more patriotism or better citizenship.

"We instill patriotism through the educational program, rather than through a rote, memorized display of national

pride," he said.

The major issue now facing the Legislature is the state's 2001-03 budget, which will be taken up in the Senate this week. The Assembly does not get its say on the document until the Senate has passed it, which could take weeks. Boyle said, however, that he has already made up his mind that he will vote "no" when it comes to final passage.

The budget as it currently stands contains a shortfall of \$450 million dollars, Boyle said, which will be made up by selling of some of the state's rights to payments from tobacco companies.

"There's no money for anything because we gave it all away (in property tax rebates)," said Boyle. "So we end up passing these bills which have little effect on anything."

Green Bay Press-Gazette June 14, 2001

Legislature must stop the symbol silliness

Three years ago, state Rep. Marlin Schneider called a proposal to make Colby Wisconsin's official cheese "the dumbest bill of the session."

Apparently the Wisconsin Rapids Democrat doesn't feel the same about naming the Wisconsin waltz the official state waltz or "Oh Wisconsin, Land of My Dreams" the official state ballad.

Schneider is among the sponsors of those two proposals, which were added to the 2001-03 state budget by the Joint Finance Committee.

Silliness once again has

broken out in Madison.

We're not certain where the Legislature is going to find room in the Blue Book for the latest two symbols, if they survive the budget process.

To refresh your memory, we've already got:

■ State bird, robin.
■ State animal, badger.

■ State symbol of peace, mourning dove (unless it's blown into oblivion by hunters).

■ State fish, muskellunge.

■ State tree, sugar maple.

■ State flower, wood violet.

■ State soil, Antigo silt loam.

■ State mineral, galeana.

■ State grain, corn.

■ State fossil, trilobite.

■ State dance, polka.

■ State drink, milk (no, not beer).

■ State insect, honey bee.

And that's only a partial list.

The Republic won't crumble if Wisconsin adds two more state symbols. And, indeed, there are more important things to debate in the budget.

Still, when is this silliness going to stop?

Birmingham Sunday

Come round by my side & I'll sing you a song
I'll sing it so softly, it'll do no one wrong
On Birmingham Sunday the blood ran like wine
And the choirs kept singing of Freedom

E - - A - / E - D E B7/ E B7 F - / D - E -

That cold autumn morning no eyes saw the sun
And Addie Mae Collins, her number was "one"
At an old Baptist church there was no need to run

And the choirs kept singing...

The clouds they were grey & the autumn winds blew
And Denise McNair brought the number to "2"
The falcon of death was a creature they knew / **And the...**

The church it was crowded, but no one could see
That Cynthia Wesley's dark number was "3"
Her prayers & her feelings would shame you & me...

Young Carol Robertson entered the door
And the number her killers had given was "4"

She asked for a blessing but asked for no more...

On Birmingham Sunday a noise shook the ground
And the people all over the earth turned around
For no one recalled a more cowardly sound...

The men in the forest they once asked of me
How many black berries grew in the Blue Sea
And I asked them right back with a tear in my eye
How many dark ships in the forest?

The Sunday has come & the Sunday has gone
And I can't do much more than to sing you a song
I'll sing it so softly, it'll do no one wrong

And the choirs kept singing of Freedom

Up In Wisconsin (Sung to the tune of "LA Cucharacha")

1. If you're coming up from Boulder, With your skis upon your shoulder,
You are stupid to be bringing, Wisconsin's flatter than my singing.
2. If you're gonna spend your yule here, or you plan to stay a school year,
It's a lovely place you've chosen, if you like your hinder frozen.

Chorus:

Up in Wisconsin, up in Wisconsin, the weather isn't very nice.
Up in Wisconsin, up in Wisconsin, they gotta fish right through the ice.

3. If you're moving to Wisconsin, and your wife is on the wagon,
I feel it only fair to warn her, there's a bar on every corner.

Repeat Chorus:

4. You needn't be sophisticated, in Wisconsin it's out-dated
With our beer and with our crackers, we sit down and watch the Packers.

*5. Up North amid the lakes and streams, may be the summer of your dreams,
Or, it may become a nightmare instead, when mosquitoes steal your kid from bed!

6. If you bring your suntan lotion, to go romping in the ocean,
You'll have to swim at Howard Johnsons, there are no oceans in Wisconsin.

Repeat Chorus: *Bercy man's Song* * Ralph's Verse

Muss I Denn (Must I Then)

Muss i denn, muss i denn zum stadtle hinaus,
Stadtle hinaus, und du, mein Schatz, bleibst hier.

Wenn i komm, wenn i komm, wenn i wieder um komm,
Wieder um komm, kehr i ein, mein Schatz, bei dir.

Chorus:

Kann i gleich net all-weil bei dir sein

Han i doch mein Freud an dir.

Wenn i komm, wenn i komm, wenn i wieder um komm,
Wieder um komm, kehr i ein, mein Schatz, bei dir.

Wie du weinst, wie du weinst, dass i wandere muss,
Wandere muss, wie wenn d'lieb jetzt war vorbei
Sind au drauss, sind au drauss der Madele viel,
Madele viel, lieber Schatz, i bleib dir treu.
Denk du net, wenn i andre seh,
So sei mein Lieb vorbei.
Sind au drauss, sind au drauss der Madele viel,
Madele viel, lieber Schatz, i bleib dir treu.

Ubers Jahr, ubers jahr, wenn mi Traubele schneid't,
Traubele schneid't, stell i hier mi wiedrum ein;
Bin i dann, bin i dann dein Schatzele noch,
Schatzele noch, so soll die Hochzeit sein,
Ubers Jahr, da ist mein Zeit vorbei,
Da g hor i mein und dein,
Bin i dann, bin i dann dein Schatzele noch,
Schatzele noch, so soll die Hoghzeit sein.

Singable Translation:

Must I then, must I then leave the village today,
village today,
While you, my love, stay there?
When I come, when I come, when I come back again,
come back again,
I'll return, my love, to you.
may I always come to you, my dear,
For I always come to you, my dear,
For I know no joy but with you.
When I come, when I come, when I come back again,
come back again,
i'll return, my love, to you.

Appalachian Round

Take me back oh hills I love.
Lift me from this lonely bed.

Light my way with stars above.
Curl soft winds above my head.

Wash my feet in crystal streams.
Cradle my arms in boughs of oak.

Breathe the scent of pine for dreams
Wrap me tight in earthen cloak.