

914 W. 5th Street

Historic Name: Harry H. & Zoa McCain House. This house was built in 1924, by C. E. Blodgett for his daughter Zoa and her husband, Harry H. McCain in the Blodgett Heights subdivision. The Georgian style home, selected by the McCains, has 13-inch thick walls, a graceful front door with its side windows and delicately embellished fanlight above the door. Harry McCain and his brother-in-law, Wilbur Johnson, took over the Rose Brother's Department Store in Marshfield, with the help of C. E. Blodgett, in 1921 becoming co-founders of



the McCain-Johnson Store. Before going into business here he travelled out of Chicago for the J. F. Farwell Company. When the municipal water and light commission was established in 1933, Mr. McCain was appointed one of the original commissioners by Mayor T. D. Hefko. Mr. McCain was prominent in business circles during his life here and held membership in the Masonic Blue Lodge, Marshfield Country Club, Commercial Club, Elks Club, Eagles Lodge, and United Commercial Travelers.

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Local Resident Dies at Age 76

Rites Wednesday for Mrs. Harry McCain

Mrs. Harry McCain, a resident of this city during most of her lifetime, and a member of one of Marshfield's early, and well-known families, died in St. Joseph's Hospital at 5:30 p. m. Sunday. She was 76 years of age.

Mrs. McCain had suffered a stroke a week ago at her home, 914 W. Fifth St., and had been hospitalized since that time.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a. m. Wednesday in St. Alban's Episcopal Church. The Rev. R. J. Bunday, pastor, will officiate, and burial will be made in the Blodgett family mausoleum in Hillside cemetery.

The body will repose at the Hansen Funeral Home from Tuesday noon until time of services.

The former Zoa Blodgett was born Jan. 11, 1888, at Stevens Point, and was 2 years of age when her family came to Marshfield. Her parents were the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Blodgett. She received her education in Marshfield schools and Grafton Hall at Fond du Lac.

Her marriage to Harry Mc Cain, who preceded her in death in 1936, took place Dec. 14, 1920 at

Marshfield. Mr. McCain was one of the founders of the Mc Cain-Johnson Company of this city.

Mrs. McCain was a member of St. Alban's Episcopal Church and its Guild; a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Business and Professional Women's Association.

She is survived by a brother, Jerre Blodgett, Excelsior, Minn.; two sisters, Mrs. Anson (Paulene) Campbell, McAllen, Texas; and Mrs. J. Wayne (Marjorie) Johnson, Marshfield.

She was preceded in death by a sister and a brother.
(from *Marshfield News-Herald*, 9 March 1964, pg. 13)

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Clinic Adds Psychiatrist To Its Staff

A psychiatrist, a doctor who specializes in the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped, has been added to the staff of the Marshfield Clinic. He is Dr. Herbert K. J. Fischer, a native of Germany.

Born Oct. 13, 1920, in Rottenburg, Dr. Fischer graduated from Kepler Oberschule in Tuebingen in 1939. Shortly afterwards he was drafted into the German Army. His early service was with the infantry, but after in-service training he was assigned to a medical corps.

In 1945, while the German Army engaged the Russian Army in eastern Germany, Dr. Fischer was captured by the Soviets and spent almost four years in a Russian prisoner of war camp.

Upon his release in 1948 he returned to Tuebingen and in 1951 received his medical degree at Eberhard Karl University. He practiced medicine in Germany for four years and then came to America in 1955. He interned at St. John's Riverside Hospital in Yonkers, N. Y.

From 1956 to 1960 Dr. Fischer was a resident in physical medicine at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Since 1960 he has been on the staff of the Chicago Rehabilitation Institute. Dr. Fischer also served on the Northwestern University Medical School faculty.

Dr. Fischer's marriage to Martha Arthur took place in 1956 in Yonkers. The Fischers have two children, Lorie, 5, and Peter, 1 1/2. The family is making its home at 914 W. Fifth St.

The addition of Dr. Fischer brings the Clinic staff to 58, with three more doctors scheduled to join the staff on July 1 and four more on Aug. 1.
(from *Marshfield News-Herald*, 2 June 1965, pg. 10)



(News-Herald Photo)
Dr. Herbert K. J. Fischer

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HISTORIC HOME OWNED BY DR. HERBERT FISCHER NOW ON TOUR

Residents who have a lively interest in Marshfield's history will be interested in visiting the home at 914 W. Fifth St. recently acquired by Dr. and Mrs. Herbert K. Fischer, which is pictured above.

The Fischer home is one of four included in the "Tour of Homes" Thursday, Sept. 26, sponsored by United Presbyterian Women of the First Presbyterian Church. The tour is scheduled during the hours of 2 to 5 p.m. next Thursday and includes a tea and bake sale in the church parlors.

Also included are the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Harris F. Babler, 911 Martin Drive, described in yesterday's News-Herald; the Presbyterian Manse, the home of the Rev. and Mrs. Virgil E. Taylor at 308 Drake Court, to be pictured in Monday's publication; and that of Dr. and Mrs. Marvin L. Hinke, on County Trunk Y, west of Marshfield, to be described in Tuesday's edition.



Home of Dr. and Mrs. Herbert K. Fischer, 914 W. Fifth St.

On July 11, 1918, a full-page ad in the Marshfield News announced a new subdivision of 30 lots, to be known as Blodgett Heights, was to be sold at auction. Among its special attractions were to be ornamental piers at every corner. Blodgett Heights was the creation of Charles Blodgett, one of Marshfield's early and colorful pioneers, who arrived in Marshfield in 1889.

Before his Blodgett Hotel burned Dec. 22, 1953, it had been known throughout the state for its fine appointments and cuisine. In its heyday it attracted traveling men from all over the state as one of the three best hotel dining rooms in Wisconsin. Its 1902 menus, as quoted in a Marshfield News-Herald feature article Feb. 4, 1967, described seven-course meals with such succulent fare as "saddle of black bear chasseur," "bluepoints on the half shell" or "braised sweetbreads a la Bordelaise."

This hotel was located at the present location of Penney's and the Ben Franklin Store. The present Charles Hotel as well as a hotel in Rhinelander, also were owned by Mr. Blodgett. He was

known at this time as the "Cheese King of the World" because of his promotion of the cheese, butter and egg industry in his part of the state and as one of the first developers of purebred stock. He also was president of the First National Bank.

If there were space, we would also tell you of Mr. Blodgett's Army career in his youth against the Sioux Indians in the Dakotas. There is even a rumor that he was a member of the Pony Express.

It was natural for a promoter like Mr. Blodgett to be interested in the expansion of Marshfield. In 1916 he had bought for himself the Robert Connor home, which is now the property of Dr. and Mrs. F. John Gouze at 812 W. Fifth St.

In 1918, then, he acquired and put up for sale a large wooded area some early residents called Center Park, which extended westward from the old McKinley High School (now Washington Elementary School) site.

For his six children he bought homes or set aside sites lying in a row beginning with the present George R. Manthei home at 806 W. Fifth St. first owned by his daughter, Lucille, and her husband, Wilbur M. Johnson and continuing up to the present Fischer home built for another daughter, Zoa, and her husband, Harry McCain, in 1921 shortly after their marriage. These two names are of special interest to us in Marshfield today since the brothers-in-law bought out a mercantile business established as The Rose Brothers in 1898 and renamed it the McCain-Johnson Company.

This home remained in the McCain family until a few years ago, although unfortunately Harry McCain died after only 15 years of marriage and left his wife, Zoa, alone in the house until 1963, when she, too, passed away.

The Georgian style of architecture was selected by the McCains, an excellent choice since its classic lines are as pleasant today as in 1921 when it was built. Red brick with white shutters and trim never goes out of style.

The 13-inch thick walls were constructed to withstand the years and to confound the remodeler. The graceful front door with its side windows and delicately embellished fanlight above (accented by the Fischers with colored glassware) make the front hall a light and hospitable room. There is plenty of space here for a piano, which is made more interesting to us because of the picture above which shows a scene near Dr. Fischer's birthplace in Germany. Another German original is to be found above the living room mantel, and on the mantel, an unusual German clock.

The Fischers decided to retain most of the lovely original architectural detail in the home, although some remodeling was done for greater convenience for the family. Thus, the spacious living room has maintained its wide fireplace mantel, but the end wall reflects the family's intellectual interests with its bookcases and built-in storage for the TV and stereo. Matching cornices over the windows repeat the warm woodtone and complement the deep red draperies.

A fan of antiques will take joy in observing the original chandeliers throughout the house. The

choice of French provincial furniture by the Fischers is well suited to the built-in corner cupboards and ceiling beams still retaining the steel-blue color chosen by the original owners with blue-and-white scenic wallpaper and white brocade draperies. Mrs. Fischer's distinctive silver coffee server has been in her family for a long time.

Typical of older homes of this period is the room often called a sun porch, opening off the living room, but this one has changed its personality from earlier days. Instead of a reading room, it is now the family interest room. The draperies are gone, revealing the graceful windows now decorated with specimens from Dr. Fischer's horticultural collection, while the sun usually is shining in on young Peter and Lorie Fischer, who use this ample space as their playroom.

It is to be expected that the remodeling has most changed the roomy old kitchen. The original breakfast nook became a gay yellow bathroom while the butler's pantry contains a well-lighted desk and cupboards for the homemaker's planning center. In the kitchen, the vinyl slate on the floor is accented by the raspberry-colored woodwork and the back hall in contrasting yellow contains a coat closet in what was once the nook for an icebox.

The square shape of the home allows plenty of room for the bedrooms upstairs, with the addition of a welcome outside porch opening from Lorie's room, and a private sleeping porch (now used for sewing and ironing) adding to the spaciousness of the master bedroom. One should note that every room has not only one but two closets.

Typical of an older home, also, is the roomy bathroom. Mrs. Fischer tells of their experience when they decided they wanted to add a shower here. The large linen closet seemed to have the proper dimensions, and so they hired a contractor to provide one for them. To their amazement, when the linen closet was removed, the fully tiled showerbath was revealed surrounding it. Mrs. McCain in her later years had felt unable to use a shower and had built the linen closet inside!

As you leave the historic Fischer home through the side door and follow the attractive new walk to the recently added double garage, watch for Dr. Fischer's collection of cacti and succulents, his most recent horticultural interest. It is not surprising that a family with this interest should want his home, for the landscaping will show that Harry McCain himself was a fine gardener.

Hostesses assisting Mrs. Fischer Sept. 26 will be Mrs. Kenneth B. Dickson, Mrs. Roy F. Jennejohn, Mrs. Robert G. Norfleet and Mrs. Lawrence I. Thill.

Tickets for the "Tour of Homes" are available at the First Presbyterian Church office, from circle chairmen, at Wing's Drug Store, the Olde Towne Gift Shop and can also be obtained at the participating homes on the day of the tour.

(from Marshfield News-Herald, 20 September 1968, pg. 8)

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Loshek/Kilbride

A parlor wedding at the home of Dr. David D. Loshek, 914 W Fifth St., united him and Miss Jane A. Kilbride, 305A S. Spruce Ave., Oct. 16 in the presence of the immediate families. His

parents are Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Loshek of Tampa, Fla.

The Rev. Randolph F. Cullen, assistant minister of First Presbyterian Church, officiated at the 1 p.m. nuptials.

The bride wore an eggshell taffeta floor-length two-piece jacket ensemble. In her bouquet were gardenias backed by leaves and trailing ivy.

Mary Flynn of Eau Claire was the bridal attendant. Best man was Timothy Loshek of Miami Beach, Fla.

The bride is a registered nurse in the oncology unit of St. Joseph's Hospital. The bridegroom, a graduate of the University of Glasgow, Scotland, is a medical radiation physicist at the same hospital.

After a Jamaican honeymoon, the Losheks will live at his address. (from *Marshfield News-Herald*, 25 October 1982, pg. 13)

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GOP CANDIDATE'S FAMILY LINKED TO AREA

McCain's Great-Uncle Owned Prominent Marshfield Business

By Mike Meyers, For the Marshfield News-Herald

Republican presidential candidate John S. McCain III can trace his roots back to a great-uncle who was a downtown Marshfield business owner and a member of one of the city's more illustrious and enterprising families.

William Henry Upham, the father of Marshfield, rebuilt his general mercantile after the great Marshfield fire destroyed the downtown business district June 27, 1887. Upham later sold to Leo Rose and his brother, who continued the thriving business.

According to newspaper archives, prominent



A parade rolls through downtown Marshfield in front of the McCain-Johnson Co. in the mid-to-late 1950s.



*(Perry Kaiser Photography)
Dr. and Mrs. David D. Loshek*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Marshfield businessman Charles E. Blodgett purchased the "entire stock and two-story building" May 23, 1921, from the Rose Bros. Co., and turned it over to his sons-in-law, Harry McCain and Wilber M. Johnson. At the time, the transaction was considered "one of the largest



The interior of the McCain-Johnson store, date unknown.

sales taking place in this city for many years, being one of the best corners in Marshfield" Central Avenue and Second Street.

The business continued as a successful anchor store in the downtown district for more than 50 years, known as the McCain-Johnson Co.

Henry H. "Harry" McCain was one of six children born and raised in Carrollton, Miss., to John S. and Lizzie McCain. One son, John S. McCain Sr. (known as "Slew") spent his entire adult life in the U.S. Navy, finally attaining the rank of Vice Admiral, serving with Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz and Admiral William F. Halsey in the South Pacific during World War II.

Harry McCain earned the respect of Marshfield people through his business and his civic service in various community organizations. John visited his brother in Marshfield on numerous occasions. A recently released biography of Marshfield-native Melvin R. Laird includes a recollection of one such visit when then-Commander John S. McCain Sr., "dressed in his brilliant dress whites (uniform) with gold trimmings" impressed a young Laird.

Years later, Ensign Laird served the same naval task force under the command of McCain in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Laird was later elected to the US. Congress, and eventually served as Defense Secretary under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford.

Harry H. McCain died in his home, 914 W. Fifth St., at age 46 after a lingering illness in 1936, according to Marshfield News-Herald archives.

John S. McCain Sr., joined Nimitz, Halsey and others on the deck of the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay as Gen. Douglas MacArthur signed the surrender of Japan on Sept. 2, 1945. Four days later, arriving in San Diego on a naval ship, John Sr. died of a heart attack.

His son, John S. "Jack" McCain Jr., already in the U.S. Navy at the same time his father was in command, served in the Navy his entire life as well. John Jr. also attained the rank of admiral and eventually served as commander in chief of Pacific Forces during the Vietnam conflict under President Nixon and Defense Secretary Laird.

At the same time, U.S. Navy pilot John Sydney McCain III was held as prisoner of war in North Vietnam after being shot down by the enemy during a bombing mission.

(from the Marshfield News-Herald, 17 December 1927, pg. 1)

Special Note: John S. McCain III passed away 25 August 2018 as a result of glioblastoma, a very aggressive brain tumor.

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For additional information on this home check:

Property Records of Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin:

<http://assessordata.org/reports/6984238950620.pdf>

Wisconsin Historical Society's Architecture and Inventory:

<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI137539>

Other related QR Code stories of Historic Marshfield include:

The McCain-Johnson Company:

<http://www.marshfieldgenealogy.com/McCain-Johnson.pdf>

Upham's Manufacturing Store:

http://www.marshfieldgenealogy.com/Upham_Manufacturing_Store.pdf

Rose Brother's Store:

http://www.marshfieldgenealogy.com/Rose_Brothers.pdf

Derrico's Black Belt School:

http://www.marshfieldgenealogy.com/Derrico_s_Black_belt_School_-_200_South_Central_Avenue.pdf