Kirn's collection includes memorabilia from Willard's past

A ticket to the 45th anniversary visit the local jail. party of the Slovenian Lodge in in 1952.

memorabilia he has been amassing graduated in 1956. ever since he can remember. He'll about the old days with him.

bit of local history.

may have been 50 years or more the way. since the handcuffs last kept some

by Dean Lesar scofflaw in check on the way to

Kirn still has his first-grade Willard cost 50 cents. The Willard report card from the long-gone State Graded School had its first Willard State Graded School. It bus in 1943-44. Donna Parkel was was torn down in the late 1980s the first grade teacher at Willard and was replaced on its site by the Willard Athletic Club. Like These are all facts for Roger all of the children of his day from Kirn of Willard. His source of this Willard, Kirn attended the Willard knowledge is not a history book or school before moving on to the other text source, but a collection of Greenwood High School where he

Kirn's collection includes have his collection on display at a fascinating array of items the July 27-29 Willard Heritage representing the town through Festival so others can reminisce the years. There is a set of old thermometers he's decorated with Kirn grew up around Willard business names of area cheese and still lives two miles south of factories and stores. He has an town. He has been the town of invoice sheet from the Simple Hendren's patrolman since June Apron Manufacturing Co., that 1, 1976, and has had a hand in once operated in the Tioga area, building many of the roads around and time sheets from Plautz Bros. Willard since then and even before. road construction outfit, where he And all the while, he's had his eyes worked for several years. He has open for any item that may carry a a key hanger from Suda's Store, a flour sifter from Mary's Store. One of his most prized Willard Other items range from the Volk relics is a set of handcuffs and family's 1933 patron milk book a badge used by the Hendren (showing daily production of constable in 1939. He got them at 250-450 pounds of milk) to a rain a garage sale, like he has many of gauge from Walt Backus' Union his items. Hendren doesn't even 76 dealership to a diary of his own elect a constable anymore, and it birth. He weighed 7 pounds, by

Kirn usually has his collection



Roger Kirn of Willard for years has been collecting a variety of items tied to Willard's past. He holds a set of handcuffs and a badge used by the town of Hendren constable in 1939, items he snapped up at a local garage sale.

and his wife, Yvonne, dug out the

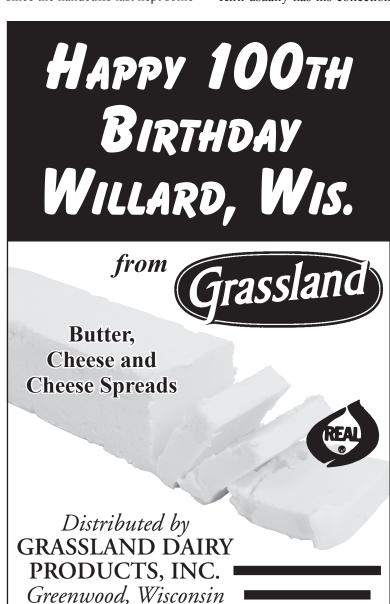
in boxes, but has it out now for the boxes, "We found stuff that we unique historical photographs, such centennial weekend display. As he didn't realize we had," Kirn said. as one of a threshing machine that

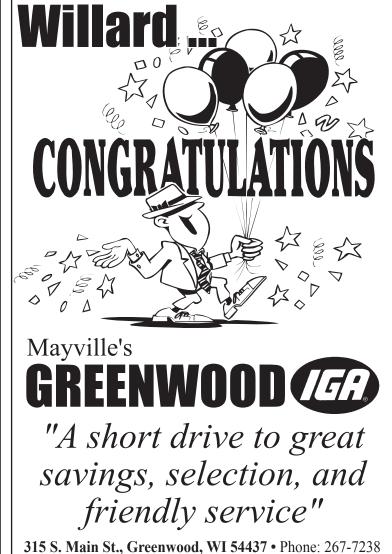
His collection includes several crashed through a weak bridge over Scott Creek. Kirn has an undated pennant from the Civilian Conservation Corps camp and a collection of license plate clip-on year tags from 1943-60. There is political memorabilia from days gone by (a matchbook extolling Everett Gorsegnor for district attorney), a 1959 Rock Dam Rod & Gun Club sign, and a complete set of buttons for a more recent event in Willard's history -- Beaver Days. It's history dates back only to 1994.

> Kirn said he is always on the look-out for more items for his growing stash. Garage sales are his best source, and he picked up several items when going through boxes after relatives passed away. More things have come as gifts.

"I've been hammering at it for years and years," he said. "A lot of this stuff you never find anymore."

In addition to collecting Willard's history, Kirn has played a role in it. As a worker for Plautz Brothers, he helped shape many of the town roads that he now takes care of as town patrolman. Hendren has about 52 miles of gravel roads these days, and had more at one time before several miles were paved as county routes.





Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 7 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri., 7 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Sun., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.