

FOOTBRIDGE

August 8, 1974 - Residents of Kiel who use Hingiss Park to any extent have been longing for a footbridge across the river and the Kiel Jaycees are doing something about that situation. The Jaycees are again sponsoring Kiel's big picnic this weekend and all proceeds go toward the bridge project which should be under construction in the near future.

September 12, 1974 -
Two railroad cars pulled into Kiel last week bringing the new footbridge that will be installed over the Sheboygan River between Hingiss Park and the Stoelting Public Library. Construction started this week. The Kiel Jaycees are sponsoring the project.



September 26, 1974 - About five years ago the Kiel Jaycees indicated that they would like to sponsor a footbridge across the Sheboygan River. Last week this dream came into being when the bridge was erected. It spans the river from the Stoelting Public Library to Hingiss Park. Workmen are still busy finishing the approaches. The project cost \$30,000.

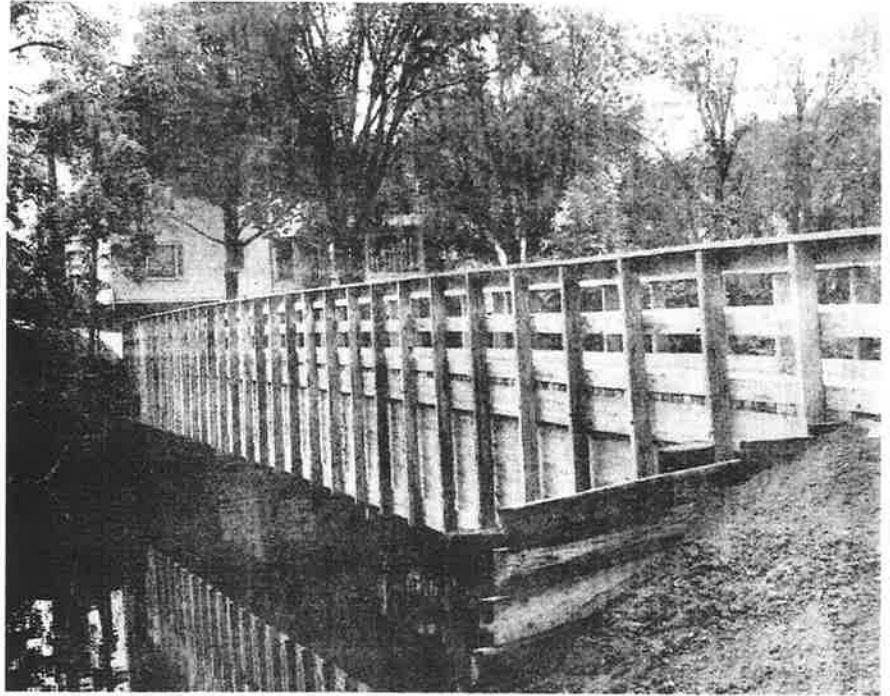
November 14, 1974 - After considerable discussion, the Kiel Jaycees have decided to

hold the footbridge dedication sometime next spring. Then all the approaches will be finalized along with the complete landscaping. A big celebration will be planned to possibly go along with an open house of the Stoelting Senior Citizens home. All people who wish to still donate a pledge toward the footbridge may do so at the Citizens State Bank, State Bank of Kiel, or to any member of the Kiel Jaycees.

May 1, 1975 - The Kiel Jaycees will dedicate the footbridge on June 8th. Activities will begin at 11:00 a.m. The dedication ceremony will begin at 12:30 a.m. There will be an open house at the Stoelting Home - Indian Hill - and plans are being finalized for the Stoelting Public Library to be open the entire day. The dedication will be Kiel's opening activity commemorating our country's Bicentennial Celebration.

May 22, 1975 – Footbridge Dedication –

The Kiel Area Jaycees are going to dedicate the Footbridge on June 8th. Activities will begin at 11 am. The Dedication will begin at 12:30. Entertainment will follow the dedication as follows: Kiel Munnicipal Band, Kiel Singers directed by Delbert Mey, High School Concert Band directed by Sandra Schmeck, German Band and James Matzen Polka Band will play to closing which will be at 8 pm. There will be open house at the Stoelting Home-Indian Hill and the Stoelting Public Library part of the day. Your favorite food and beverages will be available the entire day.



June 5, 1975 – A Dream Becomes Reality – Footbridge Dedication

After countless years of talking about a footbridge over the Sheboygan River, to make access to Hingiss Park easier, and nearly five years to planning and building by the Kiel Jaycees, a dream turned to reality. The footbridge dedication will take place this Saturday starting at 11:00 am.

The Kiel Jaycees decided in 1970 to go ahead with the planning of a footbridge and collected about 85 to 90 percent of the revenue needed through earnings from the Kiel Picnic the last three years. The rest was received in donations.

The total bill for the footbridge is set at \$32,400. The 28-ton bridge is six feet wide and has a 122-foot span over the Sheboygan River. Ground was broken last September and it is a dream come true for Jaycees and interested citizens.

It is hoped that Kiel area citizens will use the bridge, located behind the Stoelting House, as access to the cemetery and Hingiss Park. This should afford easier entrance since interested parties would always have to go around and then into the entrances. Now that won't be needed.

Festivities start at 11:00 am this Sunday and the dedication is set to start at 12:30 pm.

Dignitaries speaking at the ceremonies will be Kiel Mayor Art Kahl; Second District Senator Tom Petri; Alan Lasee, Third District Assemblyman; Jim Leonard, Past State Jaycee President, and other noted dignitaries.

Entertainment will follow the dedication as follows: Kiel Municipal Band; Summer Rhythm, directed by Delbert Mey; Kiel High School Concert Band, directed by Sandra Schmeck; German Band and James Matzen Polka Band playing to closing, which will be at 8 pm,

The Stoelting House and the library will be open for public view from 1:30 to 5 pm.

Judy's Express Pony Rides will provide fun for the children and the Kiel Jaycettes will be selling bicentennial balloons.

Refreshment stands featuring beer, bratwurst, hamburgers, soda, ice cream and popcorn will be available for those in attendance. All proceeds from the beer and hamburger stands will go toward paying for the bridge approaches.

Jaycee Joe Meyer says that if any people still wish to donate to the footbridge project, they may. It is also advised for citizens to leave their cars at home and walk to the dedication because of inadequate parking spots.

Darwin Matthies will serve as master of ceremonies.

June 12, 1975 – Under Balmy Skies – Dedication Ceremony Brings Crowd

Jaycee Darwin Matties handed over the footbridge to Mayor Art Kahl, capping ceremonies last Sunday afternoon in Hingiss Park to a sun bathed crowd.

A crowd of about 500 Kiel area citizens packed Hingiss Park and heard several noted dignitaries heap praise on a project well done by an industrious and enthusiastic town,

Second District Senator Thomas Petri probably summed the footbridge festivities best. "None of this could have been done without the townspeople. It's sad to say this but it's a memorial to the basic truth. The best way to do something is to get it done yourself. Any way it probably would have cost more if financed by the federal government."

Jim Leonard, past Wisconsin State Jaycee President, tribute the successful footbridge to a fine Jaycee Chapter and that it's truly something that will bridge the community by all citizens who use it.

Third District Assemblyman Allan Lasee commented that Kiel's civic pride showed through in making the footbridge a reality, even without state or federal aid. "I think all of the people involved should be commended for their efforts," Lasee said,

Mayor Art Kahl said the structure is symbolically represented by the Jaycees as three great pillars. "The pillar of wisdom, because they had the foresight to contrive through an architect; the pillar of strength because they had the support as a whole and its cunning design represents the pillar of beauty, because it beautifies and adorns our Hingiss Park," Kahl echoed to the crowd.

Current Kiel Jaycee President Fred Leverenz hopes that the people remember the time and effort the Jaycees put into the bridge when they use it from now on.

The warm balmy afternoon heard the playing of the Kiel High School Band, Kiel Municipal Band, the singing of the Summer Rhythms, the German Band and the James Matzen Polka Band. This and refreshment stands kept the crowd entertained throughout the rest of the day.

Judy's Express Pony Rides kept the children busy and the Stoelting House and the library were open from 1:30 to 5 pm for reviewing by interested citizens.

By Doug Zellner



A perfect day marked the dedication of the footbridge over the Sheboygan River Sunday. The Kiel Jaycees presented the bridge to the city, at ceremonies in Hingiss Park. From left, posing behind the dedication monument, are Jim Leohardt, Jaycees state president from Delavan; Thomas Petri, state senator from Fon du Lac; Mayor Art Kahl; Darwin Matthies, chairman of the footbridge committee; Alan Lasee, state assemblyman from DePere; and Fred Leverenz, president of the Kiel Jaycees.