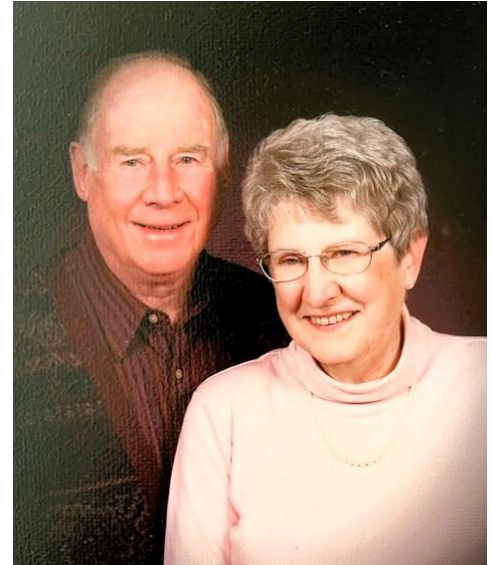


Ken and Lucille (Dolly) Kobs

Nominated by the North Wood County Historical Society

Husband and wife duo Ken and Dolly Kobs were dedicated and engaged friends of the North Wood County Historical Society. They contributed both time and talent to caring for the Upham Home and helped preserve and share our community's history. Besides their much appreciated participation here, they provided other outstanding and valued community service too.

Ken and Dolly, with their children, arrived in Marshfield when they bought the Park Motel, 1806 South Roddis Avenue, in April 1962. Ken had been associated with a heating firm in Milwaukee and the enterprise here marked his first venture into the motel business.



As a local business owner Ken became involved with the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry contributing countless hours of assistance. He served on its board of directors for more than six years, which included time as its vice president. At the same time, he served as a member of the Visitors and Promotion Bureau representing Marshfield hotel/motel owners from the bureau's inception in 1984 until he sold the motel in July 1990. His six years of service included two years as its chairman.

He was instrumental in helping to write a workable motel-hotel room tax policy for common council consideration. Proceeds from that fund support local special projects and tourism even today.

Within a few months of arriving in Marshfield Ken joined several local service clubs. A member of the Marshfield Lions Club for forty-nine years, Ken and fellow members supported the Lions Sight Conservation Projects. He supported other local projects aimed at improving the quality of life within the community. He served the Lions twice as its president, 1967 and 1991. He also served as cabinet secretary-treasurer of Lions District 27-C-1 in 1977.

In 1995 Ken was named to the Melvin Jones Fellowship by Lions Clubs International Foundation. The fellowship is the foundation's highest honor, recognizing commitment to improving the quality of life for people locally and in communities around the world.

Ken also became a member of the Marshfield Masonic Lodge 224, Free and Accepted Masons. Within the lodge he progressed through the series of offices to fill the lodge's highest office, worshipful master. As a master mason he joined the Central Wisconsin Scottish Rite Club, a four-county group, where he went on to serve as its president.

As the wife of a master mason, Dolly became a member of Everett Chapter #95, Order of the Eastern Star (OES). She served the order in various capacities and held the important office of conductress for several years.

In addition to the OES, Dolly was active among other community women's groups, including those at her church. She was a frequent participant in the Marshfield Women's Club annual fashion show, helping to plan and organize all the details necessary for a successful style show. More than once she was even one of the models. Always willing to give of herself, she served other roles for the club too, including that of president.

At Faith Lutheran Church Dolly was active on their "Piece Corps" project as one of the women responsible for collecting or making quilts and blankets for the annual "World Relief Clothing Drive." During 1972, Dolly cochaired the project with Carol Olsen. That year the project members made more than one hundred blankets.

In 1996, when Faith Lutheran Church hosted the 20th Anniversary "Just Friends" dinner, a team of women from Faith prepared a meal of homemade Swiss steak and all the trimmings in the church's kitchen. Dolly and Sharon Tyrolt oversaw that effort.

The friends referred to as "Just Friends" were elderly, disabled, isolated or shut-in men and women from northern Wood County who were the guests of honor. The guest list was coordinated by Wood County Social Services with new names supplied by social workers, local churches and public health nurses. Marshfield churches played a key role by hosting the annual dinners at the facilities on a rotational basis.

Beyond all that Ken and Dolly already did in the community, they were still available to support the mission of North Wood County Historical Society and care of the Upham Home. Ken was often associated with house maintenance, but he also served in key leadership and committee positions. Certainly, the Society benefited from his handyman skills, but his business acumen and sound advice was greatly appreciated.

Likewise, Dolly served the Society in many of the same leadership positions, most notably as the Society's president. Over the years, Dolly was the friendly face who greeted guests at the Upham Mansion. Dolly and Chris Buchanan, with others, also designed exhibits and decorated the house for holidays for many years.

Dolly contributed significantly to the success of the Marshfield History Project books in 1997 and 2000. Her assistance with research and selection of photographs to accompany the narrative was indispensable.

As a member of the Marshfield Historic Preservation Association, Dolly contributed greatly to creating the interpretive Marshfield Fire dioramas on display at the Marshfield History Center.

Main Street Marshfield recognized Dolly for her many contributions to Marshfield history with a John Christner Local Historian Award in 2010.