



# Calumet County Historical Society Museum

**Open Sundays June-September 1:00 to 4:00  
or by appointment**

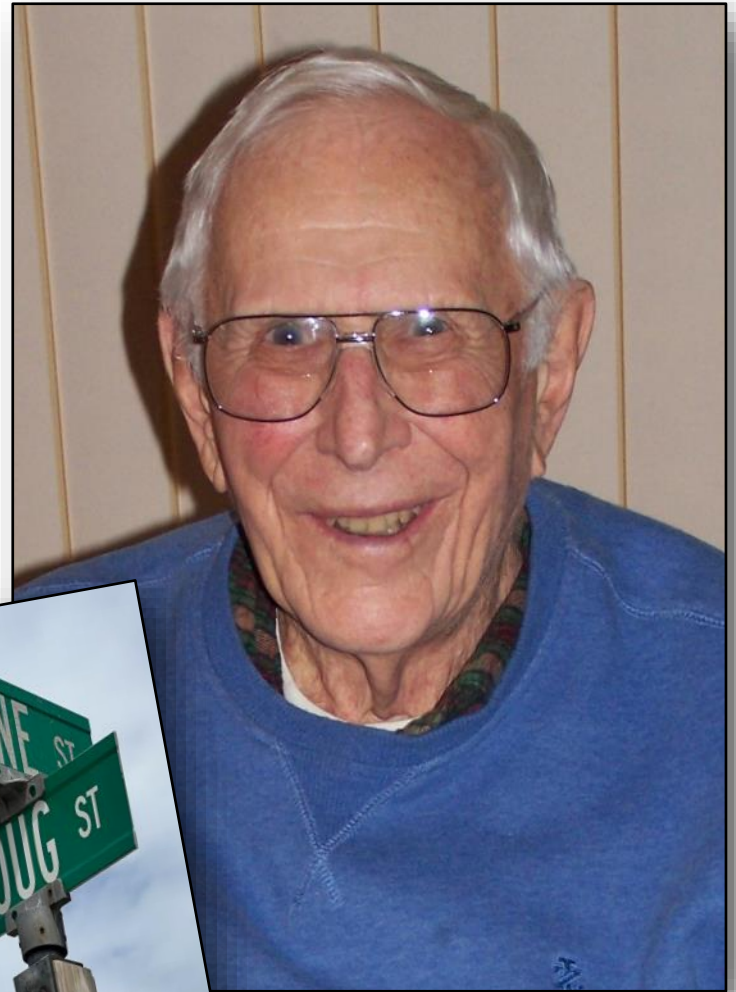
## Steege Family's Street Names in Chilton

**By Ray Mueller**

Calumet County Historical Society

Ever wonder about the origin of a set of four street names in Chilton starting with the letter “D” – all common first names?

The four – Diane, Donna, and Doug streets and Debra Court – are named for the children of the late Don Steege, who was 99 years and exactly 4 months old when he died on April 25, 2022. He owned the former agricultural land on the east side of the city – the land (both north and south of Highway 151) on which the streets were placed residences and a few busi-



nesses.

A Clintonville area native, Steege became a prominent citizen in the community here, arriving in Calumet County in 1951 as the Extension Service 4-H Club agent following graduation from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and military service in the western Pacific during World War II.

A bit later, he became the manager of Kaytee Farms (north of Chilton), carrying out experimental and demonstration practices on the farm for the owners until 1961. He then became the farm news director for WBAY in Green Bay.

Steege and his wife Ruth (Geigel) returned to Chilton in 1966, buying and settling on the former Ted Christoph farm (200 acres) west of Irish Road along Highway 151. In addition to having a dairy herd on the farm (now the site of a vehicle repair business and a pizza business), Steege created Wisconsin Holstein Service, which sold registered dairy cattle to buyers in 47 states and 42 countries. The last sale was in February of 2002. With former employee and later business partner Jim Dederling, Steege converted the former dairy barn on the site to the Cardinal Cafe (a store selling wild bird seed).

For a number of years, Steege managed the highly-regarded Calumet County Holstein Breeders' "400 Sale." In addition, he was well known through a wide area as an auctioneer for sales of cattle and farm properties. He also became a real estate broker, using that license to oversee the subdividing a major portion of the 200-acre farm for residential and commercial use.

To support their daughter Diane (deceased in 2009) and others with developmental disabilities, Steege and his wife were among the founders and avid supporters of the New Hope Center in Chilton and the Association for Handicapped People. In his retirement years, Steege shared life with partner Virginia Schneider in a home on the east shore of the Wolf River south of Fremont.

On a personal note, I called Steege a couple of days after his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday (late in December of 2021). After about a 15-minute conversation, I promised to call him again after his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 25, 2022. "That's a deal," he agreed. With his passing, that's probably the only deal that he never completed.

