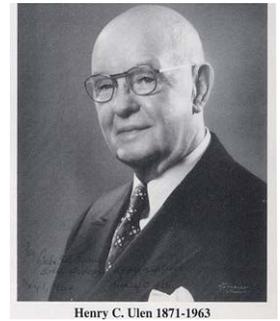


# The Henry C. Ulen File...

...historical anecdotes, incidents, and attributes of Henry C. Ulen, founder of Ulen Country Club and the Town of Ulen, presented by The Henry C. Ulen Foundation.

*This is the second of a series of Ulen News articles taken from an extensive, 1924 interview with 53 year old Henry C. Ulen. The interview, written by John Monk Saunders, appeared in the August 24, 1924 issue of "The American Magazine," which was published in the US. from 1906 to 1956. Saunders was a well known magazine columnist, script writer, and novelist.*



## "This 'Bad Boy' Fooled the Town Prophets

by John Monk Saunders

In the great offices of Henry Ulen's organization in the Equitable Building in New York City, Ulen told Saunders about the years between his childhood and the finding of a job that called for all his dynamic strength.

"All my life," Ulen said, "I have wondered how a boy could get up from a warm supper at his mother's table slip down to the railroad yards in the dead of winter, and without a net in his pockets, board a 'blind baggage' and set out not knowing where he was going or where his breakfast was to come from.

"Yet that was what I often did, from the time I was 14 until I was 18. The moment the idea hit me to go somewhere, and it always did in the spring, I was off. St. Louis, Denver, Chicago, Dodge City, Cincinnati, anywhere the next freight happened to be going.

"I threw those years away with a prodigal hand, and it is a miracle that I came through them without permanent injury to soul and body. I don't know of a worse way for a youngster to spend his time than to do as I did. The desperate chances I took weren't worth the candle, and if I had those four years to live over again, I'd certainly put them to better purpose.



The cover of the August 1924 "American Magazine" reflects the Roaring 20's.

"It petrifies me now to think of the chances I took. I remember one bitterly cold night when the brakemen pulled me, half frozen, off the top of a train. Another night a fireman thawed me off the front of the locomotive at La Crosse.

"The worst experience I had was when I locked myself in a freight car going from Denver to Topeka. For three days and nights I had nothing to eat, and I didn't see the light of day. I was glad to get out when someone finally unlocked the door.

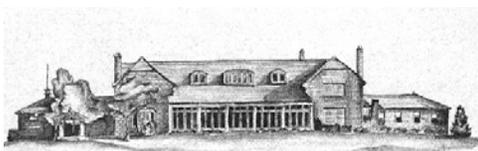
"You can imagine how these wild cruises upset my family. There were ten of us children, and I was the only one of the ten who didn't behave properly. My father was held in great esteem by the townspeople as an upright, respectable merchant. They all sympathized with him about me and reminded him, of course, that every family has its black sheep.

... "I never did get past the fifth grade in school. The teacher and I had a little discussion, and I left! But I wasn't a bad student. I always got my lessons, and I was pretty strong on mathematics. When I left school, my father gave me a job in his store, and I held it for a few weeks and then ran away. I used to sleep under trees, in box cars, on park benches, under haystacks, or in old barns.

"When I'd had enough of that sort of thing I'd write to my father asking him for some new clothes and a little cash to get fired up with. He always sent me the money, and I'd turn up at home again, glad to get back."

"But the wanderlust would get hold of me in no time at all, and away I'd go again. Once Grandfather thought it would be a fine idea to put me on his farm. It was a fine idea, but the first time he turned his back and went after a hoe, I left.

"The most remarkable thing about this period of my career is that I lived through it. I was taken off trains scores of times, and I was shooed out of railroad yards, but I was never arrested. I was just a kid, and the train crews and officers simply sent me on my way." (To be continued.)



## The Henry C. Ulen Foundation

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