

A low-angle photograph of the Billy Bud monument in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. The monument is a tall, cylindrical stone tower with several dark metal bands around its circumference. At the very top, a person is standing, holding a long, thin pole that extends to the top of the frame. The background is a clear, bright blue sky. The text 'Restoration in Action - Protecting Sheboygan's Iconic "Billy Bud"' is overlaid on the right side of the image in a large, bold, black font.

**Restoration in Action -
Protecting Sheboygan's
Iconic "Billy Bud"**

Billy Bud Restoration Project Proudly Supported By



Special thanks to Dan Fosdick and John Stoneman, of Heartland Properties, Inc., for acknowledging the importance of Billy Bud to the Sheboygan community with their generous contribution towards its restoration.

Restoration Artist Team



Craig Grabhorn

Wisconsin-based design and build studio, designing objects, spaces, brands & experiences.



Brian Sommersberger

Sheboygan South High School Art Teacher with emphasis on sculpture and environmental transformations.



Tom Uebelherr

Professor Emeritus at UW-Green Bay Sheboygan Campus
Advisor and communications

Restoration Artist Team



Karol Bonilla

Sheboygan South High Art Student



Nicholas Weser

Sheboygan South High Art Student



Tyler Weser

Sheboygan South High Art Alumni and Instructor on Udemy

Original Creator of Billy Bud - Artist Bud Wall



-obtained from www.budwall.com

History of Billy Bud

- In 1992, Heartland Properties, Inc. and The Alexander Company, partnered to renovate the former Jung Shoe Manufacturing Company building into apartments.
- Randall Alexander, of The Alexander Company, liked to incorporate art into the architecture of his projects. He commissioned Bud Wall, a professor at UW-Platteville to create a chimney sweeper sculpture.
- Bill Lange was a student of Bud Wall at UW-Platteville. Bill was the model to create the chimney sweeper sculpture. He was wrapped in old clothes and hot heavy wax to create the mold.
- The 6'5" "Billy Bud" chimney sweeper sculpture was created with stainless steel rods wrapped in aviation fiberglass and designed to withstand 120 mph winds.

August 25, 1992

Billy Bud was affixed to the 90' tall smokestack at the newly renovated Henry Jung Apartments on 8th Street in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.



August 1, 2023 - Billy Bud Removed From His Perch

- Drone photos from inside the smokestack revealed the need for extensive repairs or demolition.
- Subsequently, Billy Bud was removed from the smokestack so demolition work could proceed. Billy safely made his way back to the ground after 30+ years of being subjected to the elements.





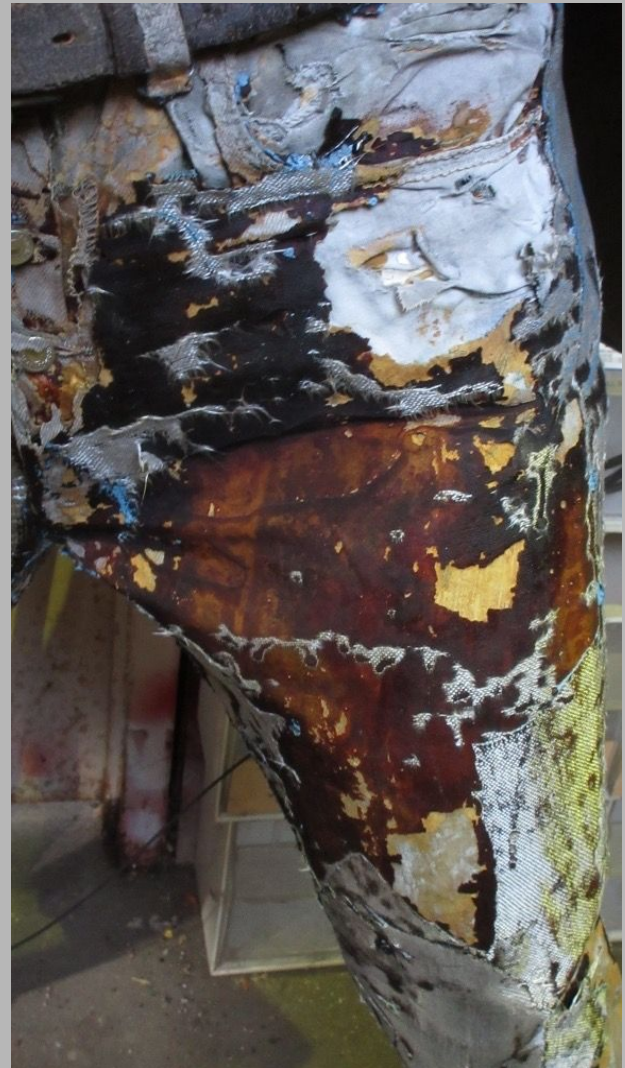
What's Next

Billy Bud was then moved to a secure location for inspection to determine his overall condition and whether restoration work was feasible. After 30+ years of being subjected to all types of weather conditions, his age was showing.









A Decision Is Made To Restore BB and Return Him to His Home Atop the Smokestack

- HPI utilized the services of Tom Uebelherr to recruit an artist willing to take on the challenges of restoring Billy Bud to his former glory.
- After several unsuccessful attempts, Tom secured the services of Brian Sommersberg and Craig Grabhorn - both having close ties to Sheboygan.
- Subsequently, in May 2024, Billy Bud was transported to the Sheboygan South High School for the commencement of the restoration project.



Chest and Jacket Color Determination



Original



Restoration



Leg Color Determination



Original



Restoration









Alien Color Determination



Original



Restoration

The Restoration of “UpNose” - BB’s Companion



Brian and his team decided to keep Billy Bud and UpNose together as they always have been.

Here's to another 30 years, Billy Bud and Upnose!



Archives

Plymouth aldermen wise to dump restrictive law

Getting government off our backs is appealing locally as well as at the federal and state levels.

Plymouth aldermen received a flood of angry protests after they approved an ordinance that would have barred residents from parking unlicensed cars, boats and other vehicles in their front and side yards. Fortunately, the Common Council voted 5-2 Tuesday to prepare a repeal of the new law, and it appears to be on its way to the scrap pile.

The ordinance, as drafted, was too broad. It apparently would have kept boat owners from parking their boats in their front driveways be-

tween fishing trips. It might even have limited yard sales, although its backers said that was not its intent. There also were questions on how it would affect such things as storage sheds, lawn mowers, snowblowers, bicycles and recreational vehicles.

Although we encourage efforts to retain Plymouth's beauty and charm, this law appears to have been too vague and too restrictive.

Governmental controls on how a person uses his property need to be explicit so there's no possibility for unreasonable restriction on individual freedom. This law did not pass that test.

Chimney sweep nice touch

When we first glanced out our window, we wondered what that man was doing up on that chimney. But a closer look showed it was "Billy Bud," the new chimney sweep sculpture atop the 90-foot-high smokestack of the former Jung Shoe Co.



Billy Bud

The 6-foot-5-inch fiberglass and steel sculpture is the creation of Bud Wall, an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Devel-

oper Randall Alexander, who is renovating the building into apartments, included the sculpture because he likes to integrate art into the architecture of his projects. Alexander already has added sculptures to two other projects in Wisconsin cities.

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"The Sheboygan Press", Fri, August 28, 1992

What's the story behind the 8th Street chimney sweep statue?

By Janet Weyandt

jweyandt@sheboyganpress.com

Editor's note: *In today's "You ask, we answer" feature, we take a question from a reader who wants to know the story behind the chimney sweep statue at the top of the smokestack on Eighth Street. To submit a question, go to www.sheboyganpress.com/ask.*

His name is Billy Bud. The chimney sweep perched at the top of a smokestack on Eighth Street is easy to miss, but once you spot him, you'll look for him every time you pass by.

Named Billy Bud by artist Bud Wall, the statue was commissioned by Madison developer Randy Alexander, who turned the former Jung Shoe Manufacturing Company into apart-



ments. Alexander also renovated two other downtown Sheboygan locations into apartments and retail space at the same time.

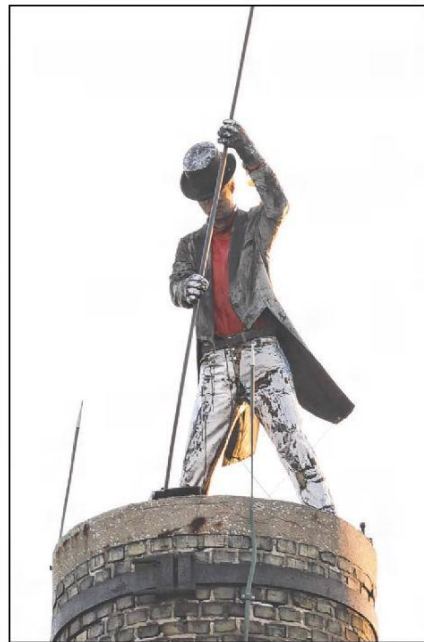
The artist was a professor of art at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville from 1967 until his death in 2005. Wall was in Sheboygan on

Aug. 25, 1992, when Billy Bud was affixed to the top of the smokestack.

At the time, Alexander said he wanted a chimney sweep for the building because the idea amused him.

"Integrating art with architecture is a hall-

See CHIMNEY, Page A2



The chimney sweep sculpture atop the Jung building as seen Saturday in Sheboygan. GARY C. KLEIN/SHEBOYGAN PRESS MEDIA

"The Sheboygan Press",
Mon, May 12, 2014

Chimney

Continued from Page A1

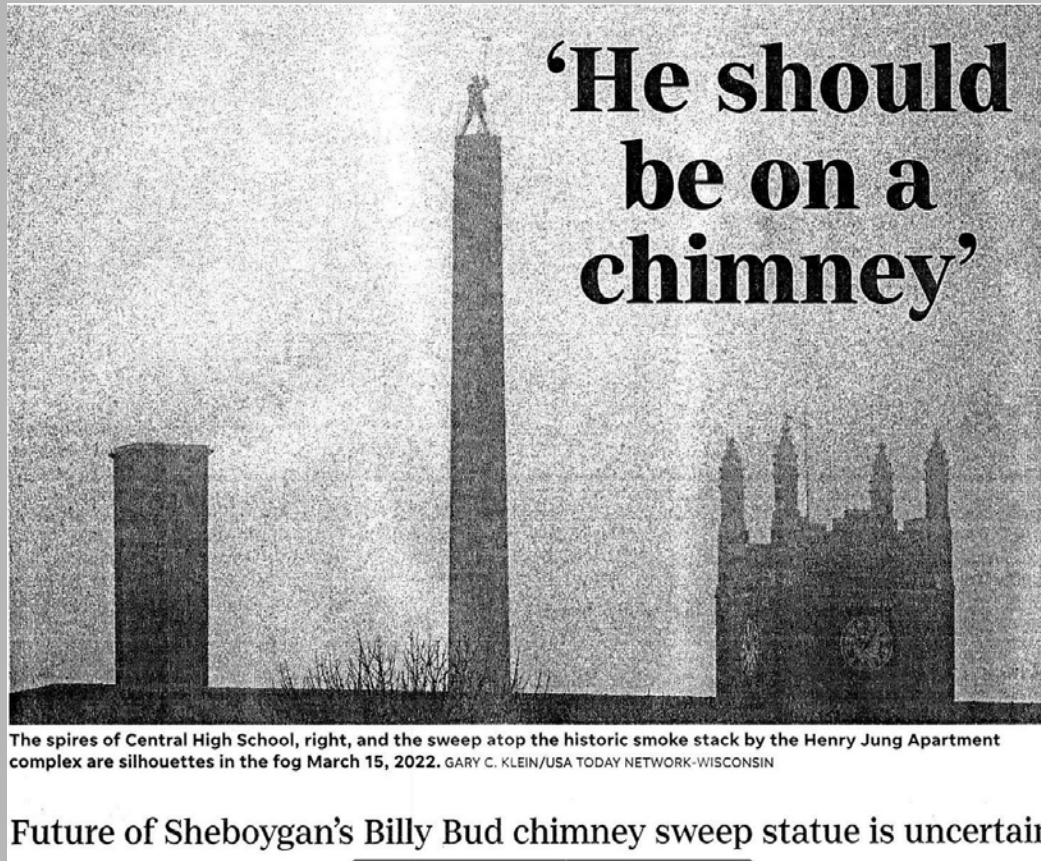
mark of our projects," Alexander told The Sheboygan Press at the time. "It seemed appropriate that Billy would find (the

stacks) to be an ideal setting to practice his noble trade."

Billy Bud is 6 feet 5 inches tall, made of stainless steel rods wrapped in aviation fiberglass. He was designed to withstand 120-mph winds.

He stands at the top of a 90-foot smokestack on top of the building, visible from as far away as the third floor of Mead Public Library.

He was installed by Butzen Bros. Roofing and Custom Metals of Madison.



“The Sheboygan Press”,
Tue, August 15, 2023



Bud's Fantastic Models and Stories

In the late 1980s, Bud began designing characters and writing scripts for animated movies. He was an outstanding storyteller. Wherever he was with his models, a group would soon form and be transported into a whole new world. Bud worked tirelessly over many years trying to connect with the right people to get his stories animated and onto the big screen. Maybe it will still happen one day. Read a summary of how hard he worked towards fulfilling that goal.

-Narrative obtained from www.budwall.com

About the Artist - Bud Wall

1 of 4

Weldon Texas “Bud” Wall III, was born in Monroe, NC. After graduating from Monroe High School, he had an important career decision to make: either follow in his father’s footsteps as a funeral director or pursue his dreams in the artistic world. It was the later that filled his life with passionate, creative projects.

Bud attended the Ringling School of Art & Design in Sarasota, FL, and graduated from East Carolina University in Greenville, NC. Bud received his MFA, taught sculpture and built the first bronze foundry at the Instituto Allende in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico. He later taught ceramics at the Palm Beach College in Palm Beach, FL, and then moved to Platteville, WI, where he was a Professor of Art from 1967 until his death in 2005. He taught thousands of students color and design, drawing, painting, jewelry making, ceramics, sculpture and foundry techniques.

About the Artist.....

2 of 4

In May 2008, the tenured members of the UW-Platteville performing & Visual Arts Department unanimously voted posthumous emeritus status to Bud. The recommendation was in sincere appreciation for Bud's numerous contributions and valued service to the students, his discipline and the University during his distinguished career as a Professor of Arts.

Bud received numerous drawing and sculpture awards and exhibited his fine art in various shows throughout his career. His works are displayed in galleries, businesses and museums across the United States, including the Harry and Laura Nohr Gallery on the UW-Platteville campus. Bud was instrumental in starting the Nohr Gallery with a generous donation from his longtime friends, Harry and Laura.

About the Artist.....

3 of 4

Bud was involved with casting the 2-ton bronze Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Nellisville, WI, which was a 1.5 year project in the mid 1980s. In the late 1980s, Bud began designing characters and writing scripts for animated movies. He was an outstanding storyteller. Wherever he was with his models, a group would soon form and be transported into a whole new world.

Bud was also musically inclined. He played the bass fiddle for several years in a folk group while attending East Carolina University.

Bud was an avid Green Bay Packers fan and held a patent on the Cheesebutt closed-cell foam sports cushion. He also loved history, old Western movies, fishing, beaches, spicy hot Mexican food, Southern chopped BBQ and sour cherry pie.

About the Artist.....

4 of 4

Bud was not only a tremendously gifted artist, but also a gentleman with a great sense of humor and a very kind heart and spirit. He is dearly missed. Bud wanted his artwork shared with the world so this website is in honor of him and the beauty he brought to this world.

-Narrative obtained from www.budwall.com

