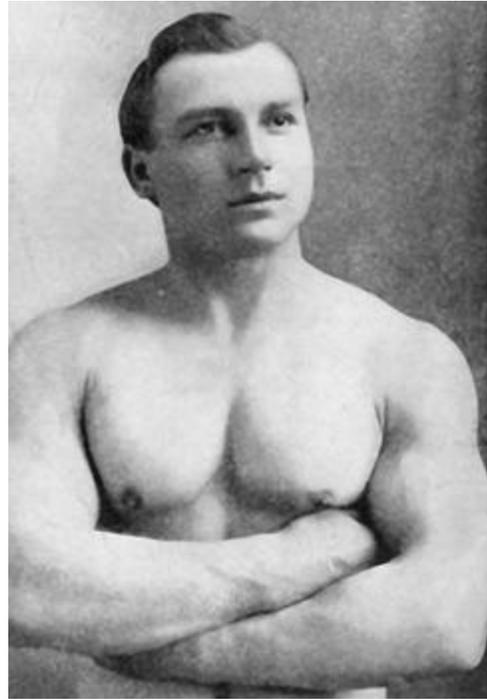


Fred Beell
Nominated by Shirley Mook

We are happy to name Fred Beell as the 62nd inductee in the Marshfield's 150: Heroes and Leaders, Past and Present register. Fred Beell was nominated by Shirley Mook.

Fred Beell was born January 17, 1876, in Germany. In 1879, his parents, William and Katherine (Witt) Beell wished to "find a new home in a country of greater freedom." Immigrating to America, they came directly to Marshfield where Katherine's brother lived.

As a boy Fred attended Immanuel Lutheran School. When he was 14 he went to work in the Upham furniture factory. He became known as the "strong boy of Marshfield." He carried a half barrel of tar on his shoulders up about 20 feet of ladder to the rear roof of the Mess Meat Market. He would lift the rear end of the fire truck with several men and boys seated on it.



Fred became interested in athletics, tumbling and weight lifting. When he started wrestling, in 1896, he knew no holds but won by sheer force. He trained with several men learning holds, timing and speed. It takes seven to eight good hard years to make a real wrestler, so by 1904 he began to make a national name for himself. When he made his initial appearances in the big centers, because of his small stature, the crowds thought it was a hoax until they saw what he did to his opponents. He was 5'6" and weighed 165 lbs. He often wrestled those who weighed 200 to 250 lbs. From 1905 to 1909, he had some of his hardest matches.

He was the first man to hold three championships at the same time--the Middleweight, Light Heavyweight and Heavyweight. His most noted achievement was the defeat of the famous Frank Gotch in 1906 in New Orleans. Fred wrestled every prominent man in his profession except George Hackensack, known as the Russian Lion, who refused to meet him.

In the spring of 1898 he enlisted in Company A, Second Wisconsin Regiment and served in the Spanish-American War. On August 6, 1902, he married Anna Scheuren. In 1907, he purchased wild stump land in the Town of Cameron and spent much time clearing the land for farming. He farmed for nine years and then moved into the city. In 1919, he retired from wrestling and spent much of his time hunting and fishing. He began working as a "Relief Officer" for the Marshfield Police Department in 1921.

On that memorable night of August 5, 1933, it was about three a.m. when a phone call came into the Marshfield Police Department of a burglary taking place at the Marshfield Brewery. Fred and Officer Fyksen left the station in Fred's car and pulled in front of the

brewery office building. Officer Fyksen and Fred drew their guns and peered through the windows where a man was quietly working on the safe. Officer Fyksen went to another window, and then another, for a better view. Fred must have gone the other direction.

Shots rang out in front of the building. Then more shots. Fyksen knew Fred was in trouble and started around the corner and came face to face with a stranger. He fired twice and then dropped into a depression with gunfire spraying over his body like a "hailstorm."

After hearing the bandits drive away in Fred's car Fyksen ventured around the building. He found Fred's body lying in a pool of blood. He had been struck in the face five times with a shotgun a dozen feet away.

Anger ran high in the morning when the city learned of Fred's death. It would take District Attorney Charles Pors and Sheriff Martin Bey four years of relentless investigation to bring the murderers to justice.

Fred loved this city and loved to call it home and had refused many flattering offers to move to other larger cities.

The Marshfield Board of Education named the football stadium built in 1941 in his honor. In 1972, he was inducted into the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame, and on August 27, 2022 he was inducted into the International Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame. Marshfield Police Chief Jody Geurink accepted that award since Fred had no children. Fred Beell remains the only Marshfield officer to die in the line of duty.