

Oktoberfest Medallion Hunt 2016

Clue #1 Monday, Sept. 19

As the days get shorter there's a chill in the air,
Listen carefully as each medallion clue helps you prepare;
Family, friends and fun promised in 2016,
All while the leaves begin changing from green.

Clue #2 Tuesday, Sept. 20

Chicago, Santa Fe, Milwaukee, Green Bay and others,
Served so much more than wayfaring voyageurs;
Throughout the years they merged and disappeared,
Only two remain among the engineered.

Clue #3 Wednesday, Sept. 21

Born with humble beginnings and later known as 'Black Jack,'
Survived many a Mexican and Southern attack;
Started as Cameron but later came this change,
Eventually lasting through even a building exchange.

Clue #4 Thursday, Sept. 22

A sunny disposition can help direct and assist,
Move on (to) a state (of mind) and the confusion will untwist;
Nearly a Rupert, but later another denotation and direction selected,
Home to a Pulitzer Prize winning author and noteworthy rail bed.

Clue #5 Friday, Sept. 23

A humble, backyard oak fostered it into a park,
Neighbors and tourists flocked to it, making it a landmark;
Don't bring your scooter or cycle to use,
But dogs appropriately connected could help you cruise.

Clue #6 Saturday, Sept. 24

You'd think the Trust Buster or New Deal maker had actually been here,
But rather a place to keep contractors and others in the clear;
A Founding Father from which a bullet he did succumb,
The other oversaw the end of Reconstruction.

Clue #7 Sunday, Sept. 25

Don't bank on this as you trek along your way,
You can soon be living-a-ton above the fray;
The more you search eventually you'll agree,
This pioneering lumberman was no rube, you see.

Clue #8 Monday, Sept. 26

Streets, courts and even avenues all near,
Select the right one and happy days you'll hear;
Hunt for Elwood's unseen friend a bit,
Just be careful so these clues don't outwit.

Clue #9 Tuesday, Sept. 27

Leaves and grass clippings galore,
Placed among the tracks as a trail floor;
An Eagle Scout turned scoutmaster to help humankind,
Did much more than simply leave no trace behind.

Clue #10 Wednesday, Sept. 28

Expect to go farther than the 600 feet,
Take the path that has become less and less off beat;
Just before you think you must regroup and retrace,
You'll find the prize stuck between a rock and a hard place.

Keys to the 2016 Clues

Clue 1 — Here's the official announcement that the medallion hunt has begun and that the medallion is out there. "Listen" lends a clue to of something like a train whistle.

Clue 2 — The cities listed refer to names of former railroad companies that traveled through La Crosse. One of the lines that remains today will help you in the hunt.

Clue 3 — The clue points to John Alexander Logan, the Civil War General for who Logan Middle and High Schools were named, as well as Logan Street, the north La Crosse street formerly known as Cameron Street.

Clue 4 — Moving on (to) a state (of mind) refers to Onalaska, while West Salem is referred to as the town that was almost named Rupert, but later called Salem and then West Salem after it was discovered there was another Salem already in the state. West Salem is also home to Pulitzer Prize author Hamlin Garland. Both cities are named in streets in the area where the medallion is located.

Clue 5 — In the 1920s, Northsider William C. Foster fostered a little park around his house bordered by Onalaska Avenue and Harvey Street in what is now the 2700 block of the streets. The area is near the hiding spot. City ordinances prohibit both unleashed dogs and motorized vehicles on the path in the area.

Clue 6 — The Trust Buster (Theodore Roosevelt), the New Deal maker (Franklin Roosevelt), Founding Father (Alexander Hamilton) and the overseer of the end of Reconstruction (Rutherford B. Hayes) are all on business or street signs in the area where the medallion is hidden.

Clue 7 — Credit Union Court (don't bank on it), Livingston (living-a-ton) and Rublee (lumberman who was no rube) are all streets in the area of the spot.

Clue 8 — Happy days, a reference to Richie Cunningham in the TV show, refers to Cunningham Street. Elwood's unseen friend refers to the play, "Harvey," named for the unseen friend resembling a rabbit of the character Elwood Dowd. Both are streets in the area of the hiding site.

Clue 9 — Bud Hendrickson, a Northsider who was an Eagle Scout turned Scoutmaster, laid leaves and grass clippings between abandoned railroad tracks near his Harvey Street house. The trail that runs along the side of the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe tracks was named for him in 2004.

Clue 10 — The 600-foot bridge on the trail that has large rocks on the trails leading up to the bridge is where you'll find the medallion. It's located between one of the large rocks and the trail pavement.