

EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

April 2017

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Check out Eagle Historical Society on Facebook. Please like and share to add more friends.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Robin & Gregg Himebauch
Mary & Mike Beitz

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Senior \$8.00

Jean Richardson--Two Year Renewal

Individual \$10.00

Allen County Public Library
JoAnn Gilbert
Cindy Steinke
June Steinke
Robert Chapman
Jim Steinke

Family \$15.00

Ralph & Marion (Welch) Clark
Trudy Fredenberg
Robert & Barbara Hegwood
Jeff & Ellie Hawes
Richard & Kathy Thayer

Sustaining 25.00

Phil & Barbara Hall

Patron \$100.00

Jim & Michelle Fronsee
Tim & Kim Kaucic

The following were omitted from the January Newsletter:

Rosanne Day **\$25.00 Sustaining** and Matt & Ellen Mecca **\$15.00 Family**

ARTIFACT DONATIONS:

The following is a partial list of items donated. Thanks to the following donors:

Dexter Badinger—Platt book and Assorted Documents
Donna Fanshaw—Raccoon Coat and Dog Fur Mittens
Mabel Finney Estate—Assorted items
Paul Hinkley—Civil War Item (from Ahira Hinkley)
James Johnson—Assorted Documents
Arlene Vukodinovich—Assorted Booklets and Children's Clothes

Please check your newsletter label for the year "2017" to see whether you have renewed your membership and contact Don Ledrowski at 262-594-3301 or don@ledrowski.com with any questions. Thank you.

Most of our members live in Wisconsin, but we have many others living in other states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, New York, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, Washington).

EHS Board

President

Jeff Nowicki, 2018

Vice-President

Eloise Hall, 2019

Secretary

Ryan Hajewski, 2018

Treasurer

Pat Hawes, 2019

Financial Officer

Donald Ledrowski

Board Members

2018

Pat Hawes
Peter Jones
Don Ledrowski
Richard Moeller
Carolyn Rosprim

2019

Brian Breber
Jessie Chamberlain
Ryan Hajewski
Jeff Nowicki
Art Peavy

2020

JoAnn Gilbert
Diana Hall
Eloise Hall
Gina Neist
Mike Rice

Curator

Elaine Ledrowski
594-3301

Newsletter Editors

Art & Carrie Peavy
594-5454

Webmaster

Mike Rice
Facebook

Elaine Ledrowski

EHS Museum

262-594-8961

OPEN

Fridays and Saturdays,
9 am to noon
Wednesdays, 3-6 pm

Website:

eaglehistoricalsociety.org
Facebook: Like us at
Eagle Historical Society

BOARD MEMBER CHANGES

The EHS Board experienced some changes in these few short months of 2017. Sadly, we recently lost two dear friends and board members, Barb Jatzak and Jean Cisler, who have gone to their eternal homes and are deeply missed. Another member moved and resigned from the board. In March we accepted the resignations of Jean Bowey and Bea Marquardt who withdrew due to declining health problems. Thank you, Jean and Bea, from the bottoms of our hearts for the countless hours of work you both have contributed as well as invaluable sources of local historical information. We will miss Jean, the Gentle Witch, at the Pumpkin Party and Bea's entertaining knack of pulling a joke or two out of her bag of tricks at our meetings with perfect timing.

On a happier note, we are excited to announce that Brian Breber, JoAnn Gilbert, Peter Jones, Gina Neist, and Art Peavy were elected and welcomed to the board on Tuesday, March 21, at 6:30 pm. New faces now sit around the board table as we continue to conduct business, bring history alive and share our findings with the Eagle community as have those who have gone before us.

ELECTION DAY BAKE SALES

The November (presidential) sale set a record high, and the April sale did well despite lower voter turnout. Thank you once again to all of our bakers, customers, set-up and take-down crews for the success of this appreciated, time-honored community event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 20	Plant Swap 10 am to 2 pm
June 3	Veterans Recognition Service Honoring Korean War Veterans
June 25	Kettle Moraine Days Parade
July 9	Ice Cream Social/Palmyra Eagle Community Band Concert
Oct. 28	Pumpkin Party

FROM OUR READERS...

March 9, 2017

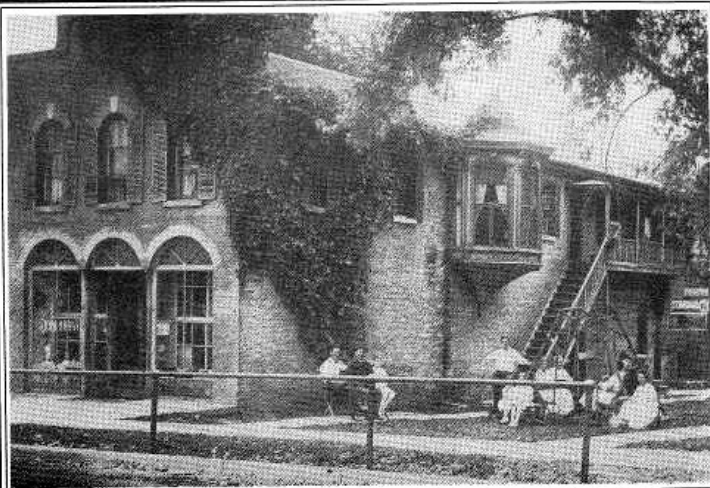
I read the Eagle railroad article with great interest. At age ten Dad took us to see the last passenger train in Eagle. It was evening. I was surprised at how poorly the cars looked being of unmaintained wood construction. Of course it was known this service was coming to an end, thus not upkeeping the cars. The train was headed east. Where did this route begin?

I also remember a freight train stopping in Eagle when in eighth grade (1958). Likely it left a carload of lumber at B&H Lumber. That is how lumber was delivered then. Jerry Von Rueder said the freight cost then was a thousand dollars which was a hefty price then. Each piece was unloaded one at a time. They had three days to unload to avoid additional costs. The train could not get going as the single diesel wasn't heavy enough. It only spun its wheels blocking Highway 67 for half a day. Someone went to the Harley Cramer Feed Mill and returned with lime. After putting lime on the tracks, enough traction was gained to slowly pull out of Eagle. It was headed west.

Sincerely,

Jim Johnson

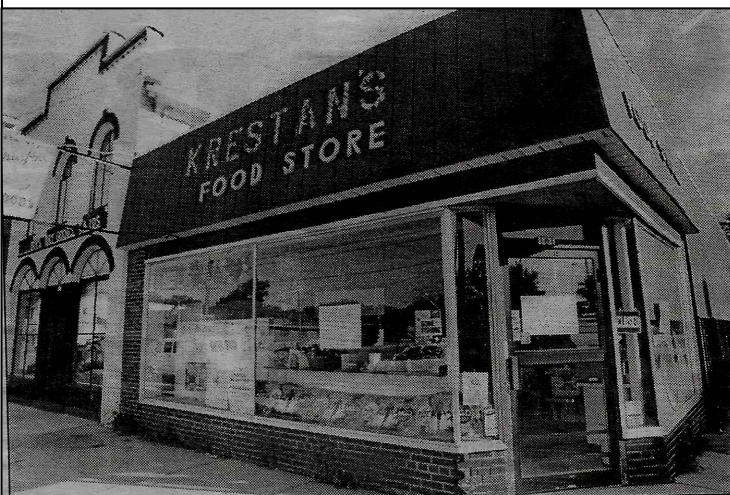
Any corrections or additions to membership, please contact Don Ledrowski at 262-594-3301 or don@ledrowski.com. Thank you.



Small park on west side of Krestan Store circa 1918.

Krestan's Food Store was yet another family-owned and operated business which served the Eagle community over several decades. We tell the story of the store and its owners which has left an imprint on so many hearts.

The I.G.A. store located at 101 E. Main Street (currently occupied by Interior Elements) was originally owned by Jerry Baker's parents and uncle and called Baker Brothers General Merchandise in 1880. They sold everything from groceries to clothing and shoes. Cookies came in five-pound boxes with a glass cover so people could buy as many as they wanted. Flour and sugar came in barrels. A 1-1/2 ton Model T Ford truck transported supplies from Milwaukee two or three times a week. While customers shopped they could either purchase gas from a gas pump or tie up their horses on



Mukwonago Chief, September 20, 2000

a railing as both were located in front of the store. An ice man delivered ice for the ice boxes in an open-backed truck. He used a scale to weigh the ice and would give pieces of ice to the kids.

Milton and Victoria Krestan moved here from Illinois and purchased the store in 1944. Their son, Bill, learned the trade as he grew up helping out in the store. Milton added the westerly flat-roof addition in 1952 in what was previously a vacant lot. Bill graduated from Mukwonago High School, attended college two years and is a Vietnam veteran. He married Ann Wambold of Eagle while he was in the service and worked in the parent store when he came home. In the early 1970s Bill took over management assisted by his wife, Ann, his father and their three children: Vicki, Bill, Jr. and Steve. The building saw expansion and renovation to make efficient use of the space yet still provide a small-



Bill Krestan, Sr.

town flavor with a complete inventory of groceries, meat, produce, general merchandise such as gifts, cards, hardware items, clothing and sewing supplies. Bill, Jr. recalls riding with Grandpa to a farm near Hwy. NN and Sprague Road to pick up chickens and eggs. There came a time when Krestan's was the only grocery and dry goods store in the Village of Eagle. Ice boxes were replaced by two walk-in coolers. Gone were the gas pumps and railing to tie up horses, but Krestan's Store became a hub of the village. Before the 911 emergency system installation, distress calls were heard over a scanner inside the store. Milton, Bill, Sr., and Bill, Jr. all served as volunteers on the Eagle Fire Department for many years. Harvey Wambold (Bill, Jr.'s maternal grandpa) also served. Bev Spurrell recalls working with Bill, Jr. one day when a distress call came in. An ice fisherman had fallen into the lake and help was needed immediately. Bill, Jr. was working that day and exclaimed, "I just know that is my grandpa!" The story ended happily with Mr. Wambold being rescued by the skillful, dedicated team of fast-acting first responders. Another former employee, Mary Heizman, commented that you didn't work for them, you worked with them.

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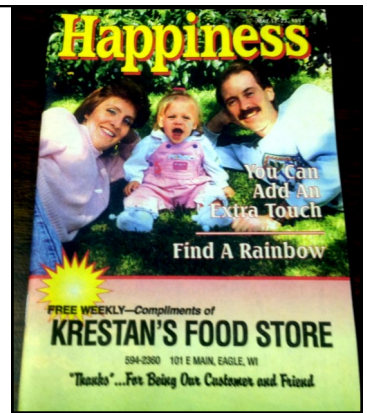
Promotional ruler. Note the three-digit phone number.

She is quoted as saying, "It was the best job I ever had; got paid to visit and know things." Even if a wrong number was dialed and you got the store, we could often tell them, "I know they're not home because they just went by" or "Hang on. I'll get them; they are here in the store." A delivery driver from Milwaukee asked by name where someone lived. Mary didn't know but suggested that maybe he follow them home as they happen to be in the store. Being in the center of the village with full-glass windows gave a wonderful view of life in Eagle. Even after a late Saturday night, it was great to work on Sunday mornings. An extra person was needed just to bag the donuts from Dottie's Bakery; cheese pockets and cherry cremes were favorites and sometimes reserved the day before. It seemed that most of Eagle came through the store on Sunday morning. "Friends" were privileged to use the side door. The door opened a lot, sometimes with news (happy or sad) or sometimes, "Hi, how are your doing today?" Bill's standard line was "up and taking nourishment." Mary still uses that line; long-time Eagle residents recognize it, and sometimes it sparks smiles and conversation about the store. A TV was also usually running in one corner with a sports game or Days of Our Lives depending on the time of day. Krestan's was one of the few places that allowed customers to run a tab. The simplest paper, carbon receipt, charge system was used. You had a number and it was "marked down" and paid for at the end of the month. If a family was going through a "rough time", things were worked out privately and with understanding.

Bev also fondly remembers her long friendship with Ann Krestan and her family. Ann was very friendly to all the customers and always wore an angel pin on her lapel. Bill would man the store while Ann drove her and Bev's children to many a basketball game or 4H event since Bev didn't drive.

Bill oversaw the whole operation of the store and was his own butcher, a skill he would pass on to his son, Bill, Jr. He also made fresh bratwurst, Polish, Italian and pork breakfast sausages for the meat department. In 1977 a robber got away with \$25.00 from the cash register. This event and other holdups prompted Bill to wire an alarm to the store. On October 6, 1981, the

bank down the street was robbed. Bill was alerted by the alarm and wrote down the license plate number of the getaway vehicle on his apron. The thief (a Californian man) was caught near Mitchell Airport, and Bill later identified him out of a lineup. He never did get the apron back from the authorities, but the story was printed in the newspaper. Later it was discovered that the thief had been staying at Sasso's Hotel where he had a good vantage point to plan the best opportunity to rob the bank and store. Bill and Ann's family lived above the store for a time, later moved to a home on Eagle Street and then returned to the living space above the store once their children were grown. The store kept them very busy



A Customized Weekly TV Guide Handout.



Personalized strainer and flour scoop.

since they opened and closed it seven days a week, and they worked hard. On holidays, Bill, Sr. usually worked alone until noon so employees could have off, but if a customer called him later and needed something for a holiday meal he gladly accommodated their request. Ann made sure there was always an ample supply of penny candy for the children. In later years, Vicki and Bill, Jr. kept the store open until 9 p.m. and gave their parents some time off. Younger brother, Steve, also helped out with lighter duties like bagging. Summertime could be especially busy when a lot of campers stopped in for supplies. Bill, Sr. did enjoy bowling a couple of times a week, was a member of the American Legion Post 535 and, as mentioned, the fire department.

Small grocery stores became scarcer and scarcer. Bill, Sr. was once quoted as saying, "Business has been pretty good as we try to keep decent prices and do a

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Attention All Veterans!

You are invited to our annual Veterans Recognition Program on the Patio, Saturday, June 3, at 1:00 pm. All Veterans will be recognized, and this year we are honoring Korean Veterans. Music will be provided by the Kettle Moraine Blues. The keynote speaker to be announced later. Refreshments will be served.

We are excited to announce that our new book compiling heartwarming stories shared by local families will be available on June 3. Everyone who submitted an essay or made a monetary donation towards the printing of the book is welcome to pick up their complimentary book on that day.

A big thank you to everyone who submitted an essay and/or made a monetary donation to cover the cost of printing the book. Our book committee worked behind the scenes scanning photos, proof-reading, photographing the bricks, writing essays and assisting those who asked for help. Mike Rice, Anne Jung, Caryolyn Rosprim, Jeff Nowicki, Don and Elaine Ledrowski, JoAnn Gilbert, Carrie Peavy and Kathy Stacy worked on this committee. Thanks also to Advance Printing in Delavan who donated the setup and assisted with the artwork.

And a very special thanks to Gina Neist who edited and made this book possible.



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good job.” That statement became even truer since the most often given reply by those questioned about memories of the store was, “It had the best meat around, and the owners were so friendly” in addition to the above testimonials.

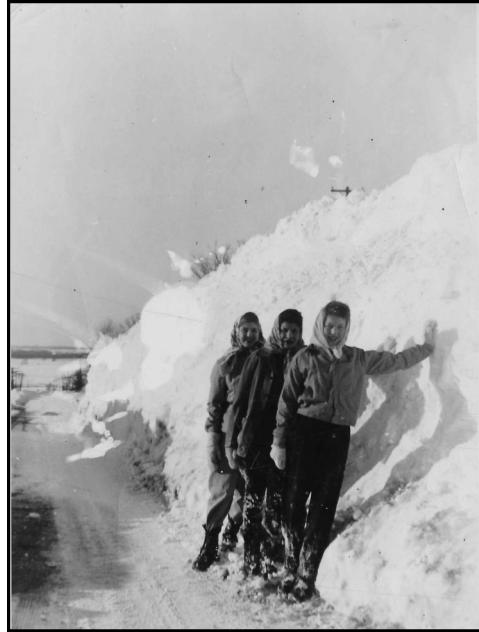
Krestan’s Food Store closed its doors for the final time on September 16, 2000, after 56 years of service when Bill and Ann decided to retire. A large open house was held in the Eagle Municipal Building about a week later to honor the family and wish them well. They enjoyed spending time with their family, especially their grandchildren, until Ann passed away in 2014. Bill and Ann appreciated their many years serving the community of Eagle, loved the people, and the people loved them. When asked of Bill, Jr. what thought the family would most like to have expressed, he replied, “that you all know how very much you were appreciated, and how very much we miss the local socialization.”



Bill Krestan, Jr. standing next to original painting (donated by Bill and Ann Krestan and on display at EHS Museum).

Information and photos for this article were acquired from EHS archives, Mukwonago Chief, Waukesha Freeman, Milwaukee Journal and conversations with Claudette and Bill Krestan, Jr. and local residents.

The blizzard of January 29, 1947, surprised a lot of people throughout the southern Wisconsin area. The state-of-the-art technology today's forecasters use to alert us of impending dangerous storms did not exist. About 18 inches of snow fell once it was all said and done. Some highways and roadways were not plowed out for days or weeks. Some employees were even trapped at work since the buses could not navigate the conditions. Eagle was not spared and got its fair share as you can see from the photos included, which were found in the EHS archives. Do you recognize any of the people in the photos or have special memories of this storm? Let us know. We would love to hear from you.



Cisler, Jean E.*October 26, 1934--February 26, 2017*

Jean Ellen Cisler of Palmyra, WI died surrounded by her family on February 26, 2017. She was 82 years old. Jean is survived by her children, Michael Cisler (Sarah) of Neenah, WI; David Cisler (Susan) of Norway, WI; Catherine Hermanson (Gary) of Mukwonago, WI; and Steven Cisler (Joye) of Franklin, WI.

She was preceded in death by her husband Harry G. Cisler, her daughter Denise M. Schilling, her grandson Jeremy Hermanson, and her great-granddaughter Grace Anne Cisler. Jean was born on October 26th 1934 to William and Evelyn Rogahn. After many years of raising a family and volunteering at church and community organizations she took the position of accountant at the Norris Adolescent center. This grew to become business manager for the organization. Throughout this time she continued a strong involvement with volunteer work. She retired in 2000, but remained active reading to children at the library, working with the local historical society, writing articles for the local paper, and teaching children at her church Kettle Moraine Community Church.

Although justifiably proud of this career, Jean's greatest joy is her family of five children, fourteen grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren (so far...) as well as her church family.

A funeral was held on Friday, March 3, at Kettle Moraine Community Church (W341 S6480 Hwy 59 North Prairie) with visitation at the church from 4 – 6 pm and funeral at 6pm. A reception dinner followed in the church hall. A private burial was held on Saturday. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions were made to the Kettle Moraine Community Church.

Finney, Mabel M.*August 29, 1927--March 9, 2017*

Mabel M. Finney, 89, of Eagle, passed away on March 9, 2017 at 4:30 am at AngelsGrace Hospice in Oconomowoc. Visitation was held on Wednesday, March 15 from 3 to 5 pm, followed by a Celebration of Life at Eagle United Methodist Church with Pastor Lawrence Turner officiating and burial the next day at Highland Memorial Park in New Berlin. In lieu of flowers, Mabel requested that memorials be made to

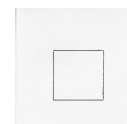
Eagle United Methodist Church, Friends of Alice Baker Library-Eagle (FABLE) or the Eagle Historical Society. Mabel was born August 29, 1927, in Dousman, the daughter of Frank and Elizabeth Erlich Stephan. She married Robert Finney at Nashotah Mission on June 6, 1948. He passed away on May 20, 1997. They had two children, Gay Semanko (Michael Michela) and Mark Finney.

She was preceded in death by their son, Mark, her sisters, Dorothy, Edith, Bertha and brothers, Norman, Albert, Walter, Robert, Richard and John. In addition, she was preceded in death by brothers- and sisters-in-law, two nephews and a niece. She is survived by her daughter, Gay (Michael), grandchildren, Alissa McKersie, Jim (Alexa) Finney, Michael Finney, and Tristan Michela, and great-grandchildren, Gavin, Marley, Banin and Aislin. She is further survived by three sisters-in-law, Frances, Marjorie, and Barbara, cousins Ron and Daris and many nieces, nephews and their children. She is also survived by the other family members and friends – too numerous to list.

Mabel was a member of Eagle United Methodist Church for over 65 years. She was Sunday School Superintendent, a Trustee, and in charge of many church dinners. In addition, she was an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary for 45 years and the Eagle Historical Society. She was one of the founding members of The Alice Baker Library, and her last outing was to attend one of its meetings. Mabel worked as a cook at Sasso's Kettle Moraine Inn for over 35 years, retiring in 1992. She objected to being called a "chef", but her cooking rated that title! Her German Potato Salad was a must for family reunions, and every bake sale Eagle had. Mabel loved her dogs, and everyone else's, as well! She relished her time with each one of them!

The family would like to express their thanks to all for all the kindness shown to this vibrant lady. They also want to thank the volunteers, caregivers, nurses and doctors at AngelsGrace Hospice—all of whom treated Mabel and us with the utmost compassion, professionalism, integrity and dignity. We all felt truly blessed during this time.

Eagle Historical Society, Inc.
217 Main Street
P.O. Box 454
Eagle, WI 53119-0454



ANNUAL PLANT SWAP ON THE PATIO



Bear's Breeches

Birds are waking us up in the early mornings and making nests in the most unusual places (to us). Crocuses are blooming as daffodils and tulips soon will follow, so spring really is on its way. That also means we are making plans for Our Annual Plant Swap, "On the Patio", which will be held on **Saturday, May 20, from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm.**

As you examine your gardens and begin spring cleanup, keep this date in mind. Bring extra plants (perennials, annuals, herbs as well as vegetables) to share with your friends and neighbors who may be starting or improving their gardens. Some may be used to enhance the old-fashioned gardens on the museum grounds. No plants for exchange? Bring non-perishable food items for the Eagle Community Food Pantry and receive a plant to take home.

You can help make setup easier by dropping off plants on Friday from 9:00 am until noon or 4:30 to 7:00 pm. You can also bring plants on Saturday. It would be really helpful for the plants to be labeled and identified with sun/shade preferences if you know that information.

See what interesting plants are available for swapping and enjoy a sweet treat and coffee on Saturday.



Bleeding Hearts