

EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

July 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

Michael Handbag Company	Page 1
Veterans Memorial Dedication	Pages 2,7
Dedication Speech by John Hall	Pages 3-4
Barber Shop on Main Street	Page 5
Ward 4H Club	Pages 5-6



ARTIFACT DONATIONS: The following is a partial list of items donated. Thanks to the following donors:
 Glasses, Wedding Dresses—Pat Delany
 Postcard—Vernette Heare
 CD Dredging Jacks' Bay & Mary's Bay to form Eagle Spring Lake—Bob Miller
 Assorted Items—Pat Monroe Estate
 One Postcard, one Eagle Promo Item—Louise Reich
 Two postcards, Large framed Holy Communion Certificate, 1891 Plat Books—Dave Rockteacher
 WWII Navy Uniform (Seabee)—Peggy Weiberg
 Forty-Five Piano Rolls—Phil Zajichek

CORRECTION

The April newsletter contained an incorrect spelling of the Laine Family. We apologize for this oversight.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Senior:	Jerry Johnson
Family:	Robert and Janet McCue Phil and Barbara Hall
Sustaining:	Vernette Heare Mary E. Cramer

MICHAEL HANDBAG COMPANY *(Photo below is of purses owned by Iris Sasso, mother of Shari Sasso. We have since learned that Belle Swan used to live above the factory with her goat at one time.)*



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EHS museum / library
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open

Fridays and Saturdays,
9 am to noon

Wednesdays, 3-6 pm

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VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION ON JUNE 6, 2015

By Jean Cisler



Photo above: (From left to right) John Hall, Phil, Hall, John Rosno, and David Shamsi.

A perfect summer day greeted the guests at the Eagle Historical Society dedication of the Veterans Memorial. Guests sat around the stage, appropriately decorated with patriotic bunting. The Kettle Moraine Blues Band, under the direction of Jim Neist, played to the left of the stage. The event began with the posting of the colors by ACO 2-339th Milwaukee, smart in their dress uniforms. Rev. Lawrence Turner of the Eagle Methodist Church gave the opening prayer, using a prayer originally uttered by George Washington and a second one that was used by the chaplains in WWII. Jeff Nowicki, president of the Eagle Historical Society, welcomed the visitors who had come to see the impressive memorial with all the names of Eagle veterans engraved on two sections of the structure with the third reserved for plaques of each branch of the military. Jeff was followed by another welcome from Phil Hall, 16th Infantry Division, Vietnam 1965-1966.

Remarks were made by David Shamsi, Iraq war veteran 2006-2008.

John Rosno, Eagle Scout, Troop 15, North Prairie also spoke of coming to the Historical Society for an idea to complete his Eagle Scout Badge. Several things were mentioned including a wooden reproduction of the Veterans memorial. From there it took on a life of its own, and what is now standing on The Eagle Historical Society grounds is the result of that original suggestion. While the EHS invested considerable time and money, much help was also given by local businesses and private individuals throughout the four years it took to complete. (Photo to right: John Rosno.)



Phil introduced WWII veterans, and the band played Armed Forces on Parade. John Hall gave a most inspirational speech, during which he repeated the history of the servicemen who fought throughout the years for our freedom, beginning with the Revolutionary War right up to our present conflicts. (Photo to left of Phil Hall. All photos on this page taken by Carolyn Rosprim.)

(Continued on Page 7)

Eagle Veterans Memorial Dedication, 6 June 2015 *Remarks by John W. Hall*

Thank you. It is my great honor and privilege to participate in this ceremony, dedicating a memorial to our military veterans and those who are still in the service. I would like to thank everyone who made this possible—monument designer and Eagle Scout John Rosno, community sponsors and supporters, the Eagle Historical Society—and *most* of all the men and women whose service we recognize here today.

Nearly 240 years ago, this nation was founded in the crucible of war. Although Americans generally regard themselves as a peace-loving people, war has in fact figured largely—even formatively—in the birth and subsequent development of our republic. Wars against Great Britain granted the United States first its independence and later standing in the Atlantic World. A war against Mexico brought dominion on a continental scale. From 1861 to 1865, a great conflict amongst brothers washed away—in a terrible effusion of blood—one of the darkest sins of our forebears and in the process forged the nation to which we swear allegiance today. In the twentieth century, the United States participated in a pair of world wars that catapulted the nation to the status of a truly great world power. Indeed, on this day seventy-one years ago, U.S. forces stormed the beaches of Normandy beside their British and Canadian allies—sealing the fate of Nazi Germany and securing for the United States a principal role in shaping the post-war order.

Yet that war failed, as many have supposed, to “make the world safe for democracy,” and the United States spent the next half century in a state of perpetual readiness for total war, punctuated by two limited conflicts in Asia and clouded by the persistent threat of nuclear annihilation.

These were perilous and uncomfortable times for a nation that was, by and large, accustomed to fighting only “popular” wars, supported *and fought* by the nation at large. By the end of the twentieth century, many Americans had developed a sense of nostalgia for the good old days when—presumably—men were men and America’s wars were both just and victorious. As such, we re-imagined World War II as the quintessential “good war” against which we measured all subsequent conflicts; those that preceded it we either forgot or reduced to mythology. Similarly, we have lionized the men and women who waged the Second World War—whether on the battlefield, at sea, in the hospital, or on the factory floor—as “the greatest generation.” They certainly deserve the distinction. Over 16 million Americans served in uniform, and nearly 300,000 of them died in it. Although women comprised only 2% of the U.S. armed forces, 14 million of them entered the workforce. As the United States served as the arsenal of both democracy *and* socialism during the war—supplying all the bulk the Allies’ materiel and munitions—their contribution to victory may well have been decisive.

Yet what truly distinguished the World War II generation as “great” was the magnitude of the challenge it confronted. They had, in the words of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a “rendezvous with destiny.” What enabled these men and women to keep it was a citizen-soldier ethos that was already centuries old when World War II erupted, and which remains intact—at least among some of us—to this day.

From their English antecedents, colonists in North America inherited a healthy distrust of mercenary and royal armies, who owed their loyalty to an autocratic king or his shilling. They also inherited an English militia system that relied, in some places, on volunteers who placed themselves at a heightened state of readiness and training and everywhere on the principle that every able-bodied man would, in the event of an emergency, set aside the plow for the sword and defend his community.



Photo of John W. Hall, Ambrose-Hesseltine Chair in U.S. Military History, University of Wisconsin-Madison with Phil Hall in background taken by Carolyn Rosprim.

(Continued from page 3)

When, in 1775, forces organized along these lines took up arms against their own king, men within their ranks had already come to think of themselves not as subjects of a distant monarch but as citizens of a virtuous republic. Inspired by classical and theoretical models of this form of government, they fought to free themselves from British rule and initiate in North America a risky yet precious experiment in self-rule. As war was central to the founding of the United States, so it was also for Americans' conception of themselves as a virtuous and exceptional people—especially when compared to the subjects of other European monarchies. Whereas those poor souls had no meaningful role in governing themselves beyond paying taxes to support the king's army and other prerogatives, Americans would govern themselves, tax themselves, and—crucially—*fight* for themselves.

Serving in the military was, then, not only essential for the common defense; it was also a crucial means of *participating* in self-government. Were their republican experiment to succeed, Americans understood that they would have to remain ever vigilant against the concentration of power in the hands of any individual or cabal, and that every citizen would have to strive to be a paragon of civic-minded virtue. Military service—whatever form it took—offered most American men, regardless of wealth or social status, an opportunity to uphold these ideals and defend both the republic and the principles upon which it was founded.

Over time, our nation has extended these principles to *all* Americans, so any able-bodied *person* may likewise serve his or *her* country and participate meaningfully in this great, ongoing experiment in selfless self-government.

Fortunately, the frequency with which our government (by which I mean we) calls upon our brothers and sisters to take up arms has diminished over time. While many lament today that less than 8% of the American public has ever served in the military, we might also take comfort in the fact that we haven't needed more to serve.

And of course there are myriad other ways in which Americans may exemplify public virtue and serve society without putting on a uniform, but military service remains the oldest and most venerable means of exercising republican citizenship. For only those who swear a solemn oath to defend the Constitution of the United States do so with the full knowledge that *upholding it* may require the ultimate act of sacrifice. In a day and age when so many of our men and women in uniform have families of their own, the costs of this sacrifice are arguably steeper today than ever before.

And so we gather today to pay tribute to those from our community who have made this commitment—to those who gave freely and fully of themselves for the common good, and those who continue to do so. We give thanks once more to the “greatest generation,” whose ranks thin with each passing day but whose legacy will echo in eternity. We commemorate the service of the greatest generations that came before, especially those that founded and saved the republic. We honor those who served faithfully during the Korean and Vietnam Wars and those who stood vigilant throughout the broader Cold War. And we thank every member of the all-volunteer force for revitalizing the ethos of the citizen soldier and restoring the nation's esteem for its armed forces.

Each of you who has served in our armed forces—whether on active duty, in the Guard or in the reserves—has done your part to preserve the citizen-soldier ethos of our forebears and their radical experiment in self-government. And make no mistake: the founders suffered no illusion that they had concocted a perfect form of government or that future generations would, as matter of course, enjoy the rights and privileges of American citizenship. To the contrary, they realized that they were shooting for the moon—that republics were among the least stable and most fragile of forms of government—and that their experiment might well fail. It fell to subsequent generations not to *enjoy* the rights of citizenship but to continually earn and uphold them, and to always place the common good ahead of individual self-interest. You who have worn the uniform of our country have upheld this weighty charge. And we who have assembled here today thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



This postcard is of my Grandfather's barber shop. It was taken in the 1900s, maybe about 1914. The picture is of my grandfather on the bench and my dad is standing up. My grandparents lived in this house, and the barber shop was on the front right side. This building was on Main Street and hopefully is still there. My grandpa was a barber in Eagle from about 1901 until his death in 1929. My dad started working in this shop when he was only 14 years old as an apprentice with his dad. My dad and mom lived and grew up in Eagle; they lived a couple of houses from each other. In 1918 my dad opened a barber shop in Palmyra. In 1919 my dad and mom were married and lived all their lives in Palmyra. My dad was a barber in Palmyra for 62 years until his death in 1980.

By Vernetta Heare

WARD 4H CLUB HISTORY

By Carrie Peavy

The Ward 4H Club began in 1935 with thirteen members and eventually grew to 29 but needed to limit its membership to community only in order to handle the size.

Many of the members placed high in the foods, dairy and agricultural categories at county and state fairs. Leona von Rueden even represented the County as dairy queen at one State Fair.

The group served the community by giving plays and working with the local PTA and churches. New cupboards for Ward School were built from money raised from a talent show, and they put on programs at the Methodist Church on two rural life Sundays.

An ice cream social was held each year to raise money to buy 4H sweaters for the members, to send boxes to the sick, to send one or two to the 4H Camp in Madison and to take an annual educational trip.

(Information for above article and copies of articles to the right dated 1938 were taken from materials recently donated by Vivian Betts.)



WARD 4-H Club- Invite all county 4-H members to a picnic and ice cream social on Tuesday evening July 19th on lawn of Tom Betts of Eagle, 3 miles southwest of Eagle. Captain Larry and his all stars will be featured on the program.

4-H ACHIEVEMENT NIGHT

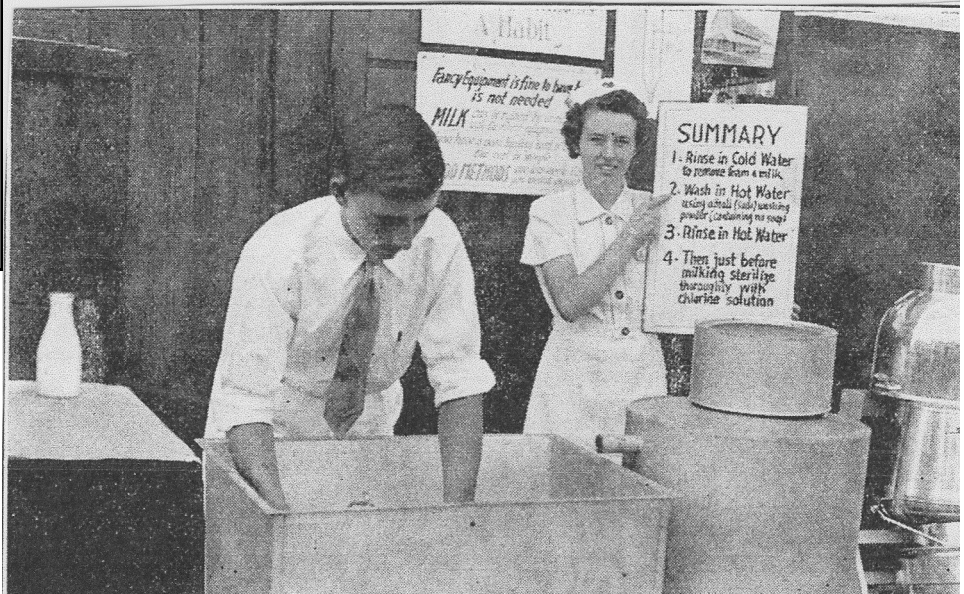
The 4-H achievement night was held at the North Prairie school on Friday evening, October 28th. The following boys and girls were the outstanding winners. The project winners for that district in agriculture were as follows: Fremont Betts, calf; Howard Baker, pig; Howard Moser, sheep; Kenneth Sugden, poultry; Harold Hinkley, handicraft; James Swan, garden; Henry Moore, potatoes; Donald Wilson, colt. In girls work, Marie Hackbarth, handicraft; Canning, Leona VonRueden, Jr. Leadership Leona VonRueden, Clothing, Patricia Gannon, Foods and Nutrition, Vivian Betts. Demonstration team winners were as follows: Fremont Betts, Le-

ona VonRueden, Vivian Betts and Jean Biglow. Several clubs had 100 percent achievement and among them are: The Ward School with 3 years of 100 percent achievement, under the leadership of Tom Betts and Mrs. Martha Reed. Mrs. Tom Betts received a second year 100 percent achievement pin likewise for her help with this club. Ormel Hinkley and Mrs. Andrew Sherman received 100 percent for the Palestine School achievement. The Moriah school, both boys and girls, had 100 percent.

The program consisted of talks by the club members. Miss Grace Rowntree of the 4-H department gave a short address. Tom Betts, Harold Hinkley and Patricia Gannon and Mrs. Stevenson, also Mr. J. F. Thomas, contributed to the program.

A worthy activity in club work is the demonstration program. Fremont and Vivian Betts are "showing how" and "telling how" some of the things are done that they have learned in their project and are practicing on their home farm. A good demonstration should be used in the community as well as in the contest.

(Photo at right with accompanying caption above dated 1939 as well as the letter below dated 1940 were taken from materials which were recently donated by Vivian Betts.)



DAIRY DEMONSTRATIONS

5-

Waukesha County stood high in the Dairy Demonstration contest last year. Vivian and Fremont Betts, won first in the state, thereby winning a trip to California.

That we may know a little more about the way Fremont and Vivian worked, Vivian has written the following:-

Fremont and I started to work on our demonstration the last part of June. The first thing we did was to get our material together and write it up. Of course, we did make minor changes from time to time in order to make our speeches correspond with the work we were doing. At first we just learned our parts and said them over each day. Then we started to work as we talked in order to get our timing correct. While I talked Fremont worked and visa versa.



As we practiced, we usually tried to have someone present to correct our mistakes and give us helpful suggestions. We had to practice twice a day when the final contest grew near.

Our demonstration lasted a little more than fifteen minutes at the time we gave it at the State Fair. However, when we first started practicing it took us over thirty minutes. One has to practice until one is able to give a demonstration smoothly and without an error.

Fremont and I both wondered at the time we were practicing so hard on our demonstration whether it was worth all our effort. Now we are both convinced that it was more than worth-while as we not only received a very educational trip, but met many new friends. We also feel that our demonstration work has made it easier for us to meet people, to talk before a group without getting confused and to have more confidence in ourselves.

Sincerely

Vivian Betts

(Continued from Page 2)



Pictured above (from left to right): Honored WWII Veterans, Wayne Casey and Martin Holzman.

Memorial bricks are available for purchase by contacting Don Ledrowski at either email: don@ledrowski.com or phone: 262-594-8961.



Photo to right: Visitors at the Dedication seen inspecting inscriptions on the bricks.



An attentive audience. All photos on this page were taken by Carolyn Rosprim.

A buffet full of tasty hors d'oeuvres, cake and lemonade was served following the program.

The band continued to play while the guests ate and others admired the memorial.

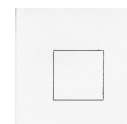
The perfect summer day trailed off to the music of the Kettle Moraine Blues Band.

Thank you to all who shared this special event with us.

WANTED:

Does anyone have videos of the Dedication? Please call us at 594-8961. Thank you.

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



**Pie
Eating
Contest**

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Sunday, July 12, 2015**

**1 pm: Cake, Ice Cream and Other Activities
2 pm: Palmyra-Eagle Community Band Concert
Please Bring Lawn Chairs.**

**Dog
Show**

**Juggling
to
Music**

**Fair
Judging
Display**

**Balloon
Animals**



**Face
Painting**

Would whoever brought the weathervane cookies to the last bake sale like to share the recipe?