



EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2010

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Jean Cisler
495-4637

EHS

museum/ library
594-8961

open

Fridays and Satur-
days,

9 am to noon

Wednesdays, 4-7 pm

Website: eaglehistori-
calsociety.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Judy Laufenberg, Roger A. Johnson,
MaryJo Monroe-Walbrandt

MEMBERSHIP

Senior \$8.00

Judy Laufenberg

Individual \$10.00

Roger A. Johnson

Mary Jo Walbrandt

Family \$15.00

Roger & Joyce Curran

Rick & Sally Harthun

WHERE CAN YOU GO on a Saturday to play, spend time with good friends, and win **\$10,000???** Oh, that's easy! Ask Larry Waters and he'll tell you to join in the annual Eagle Historical Society Golf Outing held at Eagle Springs Golf Resort. This past June 5th, Larry hit a hole-in-one on hole #7 to win a \$10,000 purse. In case you're curious, EHS did not fund the purse but we take out an insurance policy to cover that challenge.

We appreciate and thank the golfers, hole sponsors, (page 2) prize donors; **Jerry Buscher, Kezman Transport, Rochester Deli, Gillette's Country Store, Johnson Bank, Eagle Springs Golf Resort, Jan Farber-Realty Executives, Rich & Bev Schlipp, Roger Couch, Terry Stevens, Maple Bluffs, Gorden Flesch, Double D's, Continental Mills**, and volunteers, **Sue Weible, Bev Schipp, Sue**

Kinkaid and Jerry Nilz, for making this annual event very successful.

Also many thanks to **Eagle Springs Golf Resort** for providing a delicious lunch.

Proceeds from the golf outing are used to help fund the Eagle Historical Society Museum operations. They also help us fulfill our mission to acquire and preserve artifacts from the area for future generations to enjoy and study. Visit the museum Wednesday 4pm – 7 pm, Friday & Saturday 9am – noon or call 594-8961 to arrange a special tour.

MEMORIALS

Jerry Juedes	\$35.00
Eleanor Martens	\$120.00
Bernice Nowicki	\$515.00
Welthy Mueller	\$10.00

The names of these people will be engraved on the memorial plaque in the Museum.

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OUR VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO BARBARA & ROBERT HEGWOOD who generously donated approximately 3000 bricks for the Museum walk.

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ARTIFACT DONORS

Bea Marquardt, Eileen Juedes, Lisa Busche, Ellie Hall, Yvonne Beranek, Mabel Finney, Richard Moeller, Joyce Albert, Jeff Nowicki, Steve Pett and Jean Koopman.

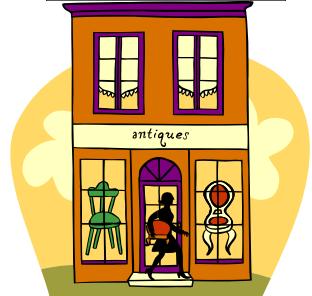
UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 15 OPEN HOUSE
OCTOBER 30 PUMPKIN PARTY
NOVEMBER 2 ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE
 Mark your calendars and consider volunteering for one of these events.

CAN YOU HELP US?

Eagle Historical Society Museum

Oh my gosh, it's getting crowded in here! We love getting all the historical items that you bring us, but can someone think of another place to store it all? We are definitely running out of room, but we can't bear to turn away your artifacts. Call Elaine L. at 594-3301 or e-mail don4elaine@aol.com with your ideas.



VILLAGE BOARD 1915

The making of a jail among other things

Jean Cisler

With many thanks to the recollections of Bill Thiele

Back in 1915, the Eagle village Board boasted of some of the same kind of people that are on the board today, albeit their professions were somewhat different. There are probably no blacksmiths or harness makers on today's board but their intentions were no doubt the same: to oversee the Village and make the most of the budget that they had. They handled the business of the Village and dispatched things quickly. Their minutes showed little time was wasted on frivolities. They got right to the point.

Early in 1915 the matter of a jail came up. It was decided to allot \$150.00 for the erection of a jail. A few meetings later it was decided to drop that plan and allow an amount not to exceed \$95.00. In any case, the jail was eventually built. The minutes do not designate the actual location of the jail, but fortunately we have members with very good memories. Apparently, merging all memories we come up with a jail in the area near Hwy. 67 and on the west side of Partridge across from the Hen House.

The jail was made of concrete, roof and all. It was approximately 8-10 feet wide and 14-16 feet deep. There were two cells and two cots in each cell. Vagrants, hobos and drunks would use it when they needed a place to sleep. Our younger readers may not remember a time when people were called hobos. A **hobo** is a migratory worker or homeless vagabond, often penniless. The term originated in the western—probably northwestern—United States during the last decade of the 19th century. Unlike tramps, who worked only when they were forced to, and bums, who didn't work at all, hobos were workers who wandered. It is unclear exactly when hobos first appeared on the American railroading scene. With the end of the American Civil War in the mid 19th Century, many soldiers looking to return home took to hopping freight trains. Others looking for work on the American frontier followed railroads westward aboard freight trains in the late 19th Century. The population of hobos increased greatly during the Great Depression era of the 1930s. With no work and no prospects at home, many decided to travel for free via freight trains and try their luck elsewhere.



Life as a hobo was a dangerous one. In addition to the problems of being itinerant, poor, far from home and support, and the hostile attitude of many train crews, the railroads employed their own security staff, often nicknamed *bulls*, who had a reputation for being rough with trespassers. Also, riding on a freight train is a dangerous enterprise. The British poet W.H. Davies, author of *The Autobiography of a Super-Tramp*, lost a leg falling under the wheels whilst trying to jump a train. One could easily get trapped between cars, or freeze to death in bad weather. When freezer cars were loaded at an ice factory, any hobo inside was likely to be killed.

According to one source, as many as 20,000 people live the hobo lifestyle in North America today. Modern freight trains are much faster and harder to ride than in the 1930s, but can still be boarded in railyards. Getting back to the jail, it was always open. Demolition of the jail probably took place when that area was being prepared for the village well pump house reservoir about 1951 or 1952. The area from behind the jail to Archie Gale's garage (now the Kettle) and from the sidewalk in front of the Legion Hall to the railroad was a very low area. There were two old business buildings in front of where the current Legion Hall is located. One

(cont. on page 4)

(cont. from page 3)

was a Blacksmith Shop and the other an Electric Shop. Both of these buildings were on 7 or 8 foot stilts, which raised them slightly above the sidewalk level. They had ramps to enter these businesses, due to the fact that this was a low area that flooded every spring when the snow melted. There were no storm sewers back then and all of the water from the higher ground across Hwy. 59 and from St. Theresa's Church came down and filled the low section. Once the area dried it became a hobo jungle with all kinds of small sapling trees and other brush.



Hobos waiting for the train

As mentioned before there were many hobos around during the Great Depression of the 1930's. You would see them getting off and on the boxcars when the train stopped in town. Supposedly a secret marking system was used to lead them to certain homes near the railroad where the lady of the house would feed them. One particular house was owned by Mrs. Touhy. She always made the hobo work for his meal by splitting wood or other chores. There were other marked homes in the area where a hobo could get a good meal for some work that needed doing.

In addition to the erection of a jail, the Board attended to many other things, such as appointing Von-Rueden as Marshall with the handsome figure of \$50.00 a year in compensation. They also approved the erecting of a building and tank for Standard Oil. It probably didn't hurt that the President of the Board, Mr. Faestal was associated with Standard Oil.

It seems that property assessments were the same bone of contention in 1915 as they are today. Citizens would always think their assessments were too high and would argue that point before the board. There is no clear indication of who won that argument, but it probably was not the citizen. Would that we could have those assessments from 1915 today.

Bills were paid, none higher than \$100.00, and licenses approved. At one meeting there were three Saloon licenses approved and one druggist got his permit. Apparently it was more favorable to take your "medicine" at the Saloons.

Street and Weed Commissioners were appointed, along with all the other mundane workings of a Village Board.

Information presented here was taken from the April through October minutes of 1915. .

POETRY CORNER

(author unknown)

A clothesline was a news forecast
To neighbors passing by,
There were no secrets you
could keep
When clothes were hung to
dry

It also was a friendly link
For neighbors always knew
If company had stopped on by
To spend a night or two.

For then you'd see the "fancy sheets"
And towels upon the line;
You'd see the "company table
cloths"
With intricate designs.

The line announced a baby's birth
From folks who lived inside -
As brand new infant clothes
were hung,
So carefully with pride!
The ages of the children could
So readily be known

(cont. on page 5)

By watching how the sizes
 changed,
 You'd know how much they'd
 grown!

It also told when illness struck,
 As extra sheets were hung;
 Then nightclothes, and a bath
 robe, too,
 Haphazardly were strung.

It also said, "Gone on vacation now"
 When lines hung limp and
 bare.
 It told, "We're back!" when full
 lines sagged
 With not an inch to spare!

New folks in town were scorned upon
 If wash was dingy and gray,
 As neighbors carefully raised
 their brows,
 And looked the other way
 But clotheslines now are of the past,
 For dryers make work much
 less.
 Now what goes on inside a
 home
 Is anybody's guess!
 I really miss that way of life.
 It was a friendly sign
 When neighbors knew each
 other best,
 By what hung on the line.

OUR LAST GOODBYE

We are saddened by the deaths of four wonderful ladies, whose obituaries follow. They were all well loved and respected and they contributed readily to their community. All were members of the Eagle Historical Society. Welthy Mueller and Bernice Nowicki were long time members of the Historical Society Board. They volunteered their services until their failing health no longer afforded them that luxury. "To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die." Thomas Campbell

OBITUARY

Welthy Mueller

October 16,1913-June 10,2010



Welthy Mueller, 96, died peacefully Thursday, June 10th, 2010 at her residence. She was born Oct. 16,1913, the daughter of the late William and Elisabeth Stuedemann.

Welthy and her late husband, Edward, farmed in the Eagle area. She volunteered at the Bethesda Lutheran Home for many years and was a longtime member of St. John's Lutheran Church in North Prairie, the Eagle Historical Society and a past 4-H leader.

Welthy is survived by her daughter, Norma (Gordy) Szalndski of Amberg; daughter-in-law, Diane Mueller of Dousman; grandchildren, Patricia, Tim, Rena, Richard, Sheryl, Michael and Neil; and 10 great-grandchildren. She is further survived by nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Edward; son, Romain; daughter, Elsbeth Baumgartner; grandson, James Baumgartner; and her siblings.

Visitation was held on Monday, June 14 at Mealy's Funeral Home and continued from 9 a.m. until the 10 a.m funeral service Tuesday, June 15th at St. John's Lutheran Church, North Prairie with the Rev. Brady Finnern officiating.

The family of Welthy would like to thank Audrey, Marty, Dottie and the congregation from St. John's Lutheran Church for their prayers and support. They would also like to thank Allay Home and Hospice, especially Michelle, Anna, Pam and Emily for all their care.

Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to St. John's Lutheran Church.

OBITUARY

Kathryn Ruby (nee Chapmen)

March 4, 1911– April 18, 2010

Kathryn Ruby (nee Chapmen), age 99, was reunited in heaven with her adored husband, Rolland Jacob, on April 18, 2010. She was born on March 4, 1911 to Wallis & Anna Chapmen of Eagle. Kathryn and Roland married Sept. 4th, 1937 moving into the Ruby family homestead (Ruby Farms, founded 1848), where she lived until her last day.

Kathryn stayed young at heart, largely because she nurtured and treasured her relationships with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Kathryn lived for love of family and friends, never asking nor wanting anything in return. At the close of her life she was virtually the same gentle spirit she was when her life began. Kathryn will be deeply missed by her children, Betty (William) Dale of Pewaukee Lake, Joanne (San, Jr.) Orr of Village of Golf, Fla, Sally (David) Gerlach of Hartland and Jacob (Gay) Ruby of the town of Delafield; her grandchildren, Robin, Chris, (Brenda) and Scott (Kelly) Dale, San III (Sarah) and Nancy Orr, Kevin (Susan) Hough, Victoria (Sean) Kennedy and John & Jeannine Ruby. She was also cherished by 12 great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Besides her husband, Kathryn was predeceased by two sisters and six brothers.

An insightful woman, she worked hard alongside Rolland until his death in 1989. Besides serving as partner and bookkeeper for their successful dairy business (founded 1933), Kathryn was a competent sounding board for Rolland when he made transition to banker, real estate broker and developer of Ruby Isle Shopping

Center in Brookfield. The couple enjoyed dancing with the group, The Footnotes. She was an avid bridge player throughout her life. Well into her 90's Kathryn still hosted Christmas Eve celebrations.

As the world changed around her, Kathryn remained an exceptional listener and demonstrated an unusual acceptance of people and change. Always a model of kindness and optimism, her warmth and sense of humor radiated out and endeared her to family, friends and neighbors. Kathryn's legacy to those she loved will be her enduring optimism, warm heart and magnetic cheerfulness, which always filled others with joy. Her kitchen table was often filled with laughter and those who were lucky enough to share the table's bounty have had their last free lunch.

Kathryn's family deeply appreciates and thanks her compassionate caregivers and companions particularly Olga Strus, Jennifer Mataya, Inge Lund, Johanna Zink, Charlene Haasch and Monica Zundai. Kathryn was a member of the Community United Methodist Church of Elm Gove, and the family thanks those from the church who kindly visited her and sent greetings through the years. Those interested in expressing sympathy are asked to consider memorial donations to Community United Methodist Church, 14700 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122.

A private service was held by the family.



OBITUARY

Eleanor G. Martens

March 21, 1921– April 25, 2010

Eleanor G. Martens, age 89, of Palmyra, passed away Sunday, April 25, 2010. She was born on March 21, 1921, the daughter of the late George and Rose Kutschenreuter.

Eleanor was a lifelong resident of the Eagle-Palmyra area. Eleanor and her late husband, Richard, owned and operated a dairy farm.



Eleanor will be sadly missed by her children, Richard G. (Jane) Martens of Palmyra and Jacqueline (John) Sheppard of Palmyra; grandchildren, Robert (Jill) Sheppard, Andrew (Heather) Sheppard, Richard L. Martens, Monica (Corey) Walker, Teresa (Matt) Grant, and Patrick Martens; great-grandchildren Ben and Jacob Sheppard, Alexandrya, Hannah and Emma Sheppard, Madelyn and Savannah Grant; sister, Sally Sinks and sister-in-law, Irene Kutschenreuter. Eleanor will be further missed by many nieces, nephews and friends.

She was preceded in death by brothers Joe & Herman Kutschenreuter and sisters Agnes Clarkson, Doddie Cushman, and Mary, Virginia and Rosalie Kutschenreuter.

A memorial Mass for Eleaanor was held on Friday, April 30th at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Palmyra with Father Jay Poster officiating. Visitation was from 2 p.m. until time of service at the church.

Memorials to the Eagle Historical Society, St. Mary's Elevator Fund, American Legion of Eagle or Palmyra or Palmyra EMS would be appreciated.

OBITUARY

Bernice Catherine Nowicki

May 20, 1916-May 1, 2010

Bernice Nowicki (nee Johnson) passed away on May 1, 2010 at Elizabeth Residence, Franklin, WI. at the age of 93. She was predeceased by her husband, Phillip, who died in 1973. She is survived by son, Jeffrey Nowicki of Eagle, daughter, Heidi Thessin of Fort Wayne, IN.; grandchildren, Mark Thessin, Michael Thessin and Debbie (Eric) Marshall; great-grandchildren, Jeffrey and Jonathan Marshall and Jordan Mornout.

After retirement from Jacobus Co. (Quickflash Fuel & Oil) Bernice moved to Eagle in 1980. Bernice volunteered at Old World Wisconsin where she had accumulated over 1000 hours working in the gift store, greeter center and in the office working for Friends of OWW director Sandy Mooney.

Bernice was also a member of the Waukesha County Extension Homemakers, Wards Sr. Club and the Eagle Historical Society. She served on the Eagle Historical Society Board and was secretary for a time.

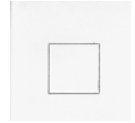
In her spare time she enjoyed making miniatures and belonged to the Monday Minis, a Waukesha area miniatures club. She liked making miniature wicker furniture and room box displays.

Visitation was on Thursday May 6, 2010 at the Schmidt & Bartelt Funeral Home in Wauwatosa, WI. Burial was at Graceland Cemetery. Anyone wishing to send a memorial, suggestions are to the Mt. Olive Lutheran Church or the Eagle Historical Society.





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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Museum Open House August 15

REMEMBERING CLOTHESLINES

THE BASIC RULES FOR CLOTHESLINES: (if you don't know what clotheslines are, better skip this)

1. You had to wash the clothes line before hanging any clothes - walk the entire lengths of each line with a damp cloth around the lines.
2. You had to hang the clothes in a certain order, and always hang "whites" with "whites," and hang them first.
3. You never hung a shirt by the shoulders - always by the tail!. What would the neighbors think?
4. Wash day is Monday. . . Never hang clothes on the weekend, or Sunday, for Heaven's sake!
5. Hang the sheets and towels on the outside lines so you could hide your "unmentionables" in the middle.
6. It didn't matter if it was sub zero weather ... Clothes would "freeze-dry."
7. Always gather the clothes pins when taking down dry clothes! Pins left on the lines were "tacky!"
8. If you were efficient, you would line the clothes up so that each item did not need two clothes pins, but shared one of the clothes pins with the next washed item.
9. Clothes off of the line before dinner time, neatly folded in the clothes basket, and ready to be ironed.
10. IRONED?! Well, that's a whole other subject!