

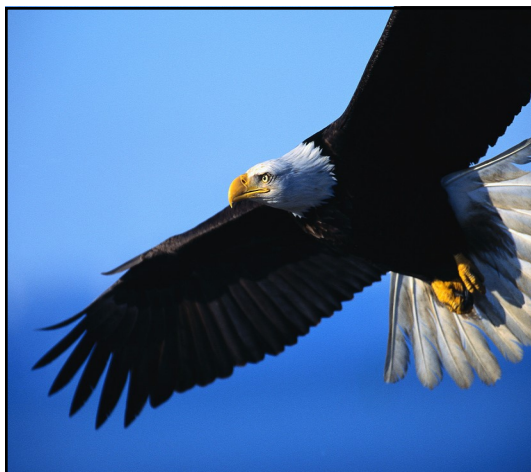
EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

October 2016

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RENEWALS:

Sustaining \$25-Vera & Martin Murk

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Sustaining \$25-Mary & Bob Anderson

ARTIFACT DONATIONS:

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

Phil and Dawn Zajichek—Piano Rolls
Ella Holberg—US Airforce Uniforms

Check out Eagle Historical Society on Facebook.

Please like and share to add more friends.

Please check your newsletter label for the year “2016” 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).



Where can you find the above sign?
Turn to page 4 to learn more.

EHS Board

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594-3301

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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



Art and Carrie Peavy represented EHS in the Kettle Moraine Days Parade on a warm Sunday, June 26, sharing old-fashioned candy and bookmarks detailing upcoming EHS events, Carrie on foot and Art on a tricycle. Thank you, Rob Hawes, for the use of your tricycle.

PRESIDENTIAL TRIVIA QUESTION IN SHORTHAND

In our July issue, the following question was asked: Stories have been passed around that one of our United States presidents was seen marching through the Kettle Moraine Forest and stopped for refreshments at what is now known as Suhmer's Saloon and Eatery. Do you know his name? Answer: President Abe Lincoln. Stop in at Suhmer's to learn more. Thank you, Joanne Gilbert, for calling the museum with the correct answer.

EXERCISE YOUR MIND, July 23, 2016



Ellie Hall looks on as a dry brushing technique is demonstrated by Carolyn Rosprim.



Visitors performing Zumba exercises led by Lynnette Brown, owner of P-Fitness, Palmyra.

Kimbirdlee Fadner and her father, Bob Miller, sang a duet.



The Palmyra Eagle Community Band under the direction of Mr. Ed Pierce.



"Pops in the Park" Concert



Thank you friends and EHS members for donating desert.



It was a beautiful day in the park to enjoy cake and ice cream and wonderful music.

All photos on this page were taken by Anne Jung.



In its early days Eagle was a flourishing farm community with a large grain elevator and a busy railroad depot with three operators, an agent and pump man. About 10 to 12 cars of ice per day were hauled by train through Eagle on the branch from Elkhorn. Our story focuses on the Eagle Meat Market business located at 105 Jericho Road (now W. Main Street).



Above: 1941 ad found in the EHS archives

Arthur A. Belling was born in Theresa, Wisconsin, and raised on a farm. The skills he learned on the farm and honed working at a meat market in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, would prove very handy later in his life.

Mr. Belling established his meat market next to a harness shop in December of 1898. He purchased it from Ed Lins and ran the business with his brother, August of Waukesha, for about 20 years until he took over on his own. He married an Eagle girl, Susan Perry, who also assisted him at the store. They had three children who also helped out later, especially son, Carl.

His granddaughter, Jean, recalls her grandpa driving around the area in an old pickup truck with a man named Frollie(sp?). "Grandpa knew many of the farmers very well and would buy and sell with them, often bringing back meat in this old truck. He butchered his own meat and made his own sausages."

The front of the store was a showcase. Hooks held carcasses of pigs, cows, ducks and geese. Beef and pork were popular then as they are now. Beef was sold in quarters and hogs in half pieces. Bea Marquardt distinctly remembers dressed chickens hanging all over the place and sawdust on the wooden floor in the 1930s. She said this was a great time to grow up in Eagle. Mrs. Belling used the under feathers of poultry to make pillows. At the end of each day the carcasses were moved into a big walk-in cooler at the back of the building. A big machine for grinding hamburger and great big vats for making sausage were also located toward the back.

Customers would call to ask for a beef roast, for instance, for supper. Grandpa would cut it, wrap it, and wait for them to pick it up. Walk-in customers would wait their turn on the window seat. Big barrels filled with dill pickles were available for sale.

Jean remembers stopping often with her sister at the market where Grandpa treated them and their friends to

a slice of bologna. Mary Sasso often came along. Jean also stopped at Vin Sherman's General Store with her basket of eggs to do some bartering. She explains that bartering was very common at that time. When she turned 16, Jean was allowed to deliver some of the orders from the meat market and Sherman's Store to customers in the Eagle Spring Lake area on Saturday mornings. She has fond memories of packing up her gray Hudson with groceries and visiting with local families. "What a busy place Eagle Spring Lake used to be before the depression," she comments. Grandpa had a slaughter house way back on Highway 59. The children were allowed to go there for picnics but never allowed to go inside of the house. The Bobby Line Train went up Markham Road passing through Lulu Lake to Elkhorn. Grandpa would get ice cut from Lulu Lake and put sawdust between the slabs to keep it cool at the store. A big fire occurred in Eagle in 1929 which destroyed the Blue Ribbon Tavern and the bank, but Belling's Meat Market survived the fire.



An 81-year-old Arthur Belling is shown above with a receipt file dating back over a half century. Waukesha Freeman Nov. 26, 1960

Time brought changes, and Arthur began experiencing competition from the growing number of supermarkets which "were crowding out the smaller fellows," as he put it. Yet, he served the Eagle community for more than 60 years and loved doing so. The USDA sometimes held promotions to stimulate selling in the meat industry, and this encouraged him to continue. He sold the business before 1963 when his wife died. The building still stands today and has since been occupied by an antique shop for a year or so, a gun shop and currently Coyote Canyon Saloon and Grille (see photo page 1.) Art Belling died at age 96 after contributing an interesting piece of history to Eagle's early days.

Information for the above article was compiled from discussions with Jean Bowey (granddaughter of Arthur Belling) and Bea Marquardt as well as articles found in the EHS archives by Carrie Peavy.

When the Wisconsin Glacier created many clean, clear lakes, it helped to create an early industry—the harvesting of ice. In 1898, the Knickerbocker Ice Company had a large operation at Lulu Lake that employed numerous people, several teams of horses, a branch railway, and a large three-story ice house that could store more than 100,000 tons of ice. By using straw as insulation, the ice would last until the end of summer.

Years ago, ice was needed to keep perishables from spoiling, as people used “ice boxes” in their kitchens before the invention of the electric refrigerator.

The wooden cylinder and metal chain displayed on the wooden platform were found just off shore in Lulu Lake. They were part of a large conveyor belt powered by a steam engine to move the heavy ice blocks up to the different levels in the ice house.

The harvesting of ice ceased in the 1920s when electric refrigerators replaced the out-of-date icebox.

This was an ice age, but it was not due to the great glaciers. What we take for granted now was once a thriving industry, for how could a man enjoy a cold beer on a hot day if someone hadn’t thought to store ice when nature made it? The ice harvest was the equivalent of making hay when the sun shines. In the late 1880s and 1890s, it was also a profitable industry that turned frozen lake into seasonal factories as busy as any town.

At first, ice was ice. But as pollution concerns arose, harvesters sought pure sources. Wisconsin and Maine, Krudwig said, made the nation’s best ice.

In 1898, Knickerbocker Ice company, in conjunction with Graydon Ice Company, bought the land west of Lulu Lake to harvest ice from Lulu Lake and ship it by rail. The half mile spur that angled off toward Lulu Lake was built so this was possible. John Gradner was possibly the owner of the industry. Other lakes in Wisconsin also had ice industries with ice being shipped as far south as New Orleans and St. Louis, taking as long as four days.

The Lulu Lake ice house was made of two used sheds that were moved in and put up. The three-story ice house covered two acres and was 250 by 350 feet. There was a storage house for marsh hay, which was cut in summer for insulation for the ice. There was a boarding house for the workers, a gate house, horse barn and a caretaker’s house.

As many as 150 people worked at the ice harvesting industry and 30 teams of horses. The horses had to be fitted with special shoes, called never slips, to walk on the ice in the winter, and with special horseshoes called bog shoes so they would not sink in the muck in the marsh wetlands in the summer.

Many men came to work cutting ice, but didn’t stay long, mostly because they couldn’t stand the cold and couldn’t afford proper clothes and shoes. The men were only paid \$1 per day. If they owned a team of horses, they would get about 50 cents more per day.

The snow had to be cleared from the ice before the ice could be marked off into blocks to be cut. It was cut in long strips by horses pulling a circle saw that was run by a

small gas motor. Then it was sawed into blocks two feet by four feet. The blocks were sawed off and floated to the conveyor to be pulled up into the ice house. Four to six blocks were taken up at a time. At first the conveyor was run by rope and horses, and later it was run by a steam engine. Marsh hay was put between the cakes of ice. If blocks were broken, they were called slag ice and were just put in a big pile outside the ice house. Some of the workers would take some of this ice home for their own use.

The ice harvesting was a colorful and exciting enterprise. The workers dressed heavily and wore Scotch caps to protect their ears from wintry blasts. They spoke a now-forgotten language as they called directions to their fellow workers and their teams of horses.

Occasionally a man would slip and fall into the water and would have to be pulled out and dried beside the fire that workers kept burning as a refuge of warmth. Sometimes a team would smash through the ice and drown in the depths.

If one of the hoisting chains that raised the cakes of ice snapped, a long ribbon of ice blocks would crash back into the water, frightening the men with long poles who were guiding the blocks of ice onto the conveyor. There were always more watchers than workers.

The ice harvesters always wanted the ice to be 24 inches thick. Some years they would have a poor year when the weather would warm too early in the year. Then the men would have to stop cutting ice. Just about every year 1,500 carloads of ice were shipped to Chicago during the summer and winter.

The ice industry also created problems of public health. Ice from some places was bad and labels on the ice wagons told where the ice they were selling came from. Lulu Lake had one of the best ice because it was from spring water and very safe for the public.

In Feb., 1920, the ice industry at Lulu Lake ceased when the ice broke up early and the conveyor fell into the lake. Also, the electric refrigerator was replacing the old icebox, and the new refrigerators could make their own ice.

The ice house was then torn down by two brothers from Chicago. The brothers used the money from the wood salvage to buy the land. Later the brothers sold the land to Winger and Kelly.

In the days of the ice house, the property had many caretakers. Martin Fischback lived in the caretaker’s house on the west side of Lulu Lake. Bruno Wingerter owned the property on the west side of the lake, and later sold it to the Milwaukee Boys Club.

Before he sold it, others who lived in the caretaker’s house include Milo and Irma Henry and their family. Two of the girls, June and Joyce, used to walk to the Troy Center School. In those days they didn’t do much snowplowing on Nature Road in the winter.

Joe and Ruth Mealy of Eagle also lived in the caretaker’s house for a while. When the Boys Club owned it, Glenor Liedel was in charge of the property. Article from *Lulu Lakes Past and Present History*, Researched and Compiled by Norma L. Knoll.

**AROUND THE COUNTY
A Century Ago This Autumn
From the Waukesha Freeman's
October 4, 1888 Issue**

OUR COUNTY MIRROR.

Where our Readers See Themselves
as Others See Them

EAGLE

The Republican rally last Saturday evening was one of life and light. Nearly eighty torches were carried besides those of the band. The line of march was extended so that all could view the procession, and closed up at the hall, where a few lively campaign songs were heartily sung and badges in the shape of the regulation campaign buttons were distributed. A second rally is to occur next Monday evening, when a political address will be given at the hall after the procession. The number of enthusiastic followers of the Republican Club is beyond their expectations; this having been heretofore decidedly a Democratic town.

The Democratic club is to hold a meeting and rally next Saturday evening.

**Republicans
Organize in Eagle**

Eagle September 1888.—The Republicans have organized a campaign club supporting the nominees and platform of their party. They have a large number of names enrolled on their list including three who have been staunch Democrats. A meeting is called for Saturday evening which will be preceded by a torchlight procession around the village. Speeches interspersed with campaign songs, in which the ladies assist, will be the order of the programme at the hotel hall.

The Democratic club called for their forces to rally last Saturday night. With about 40 followers composed largely of "kid democracy" the band led the line of march a short distance down Main St. and around back to Lins' saloon. Speeches were not on the programme and the awaiting spectators who turned out in greater numbers than expected went home disappointed at the meager amount of enthusiasm shown by the club.

The whole Democratic town ticket, excepting Town Clerk, was elected in Eagle. It is reported that the Assessor elected cannot write in English. How is that for Democracy and Civil Service Reform?

Waukesha Freeman April 12, 1877

ELECTION DAY.—April 4th is near at hand. Groups of men are often seen button-holing each other all over town. This would indicate a coming hold their caucus on "All fool's day" struggle. The township Democrats and as they generally win the above day must mean we will fool the Republicans, who hold their caucus Monday following, once more.

At any rate at this writing it looks as if there would be "something doing" all around.

The village pot is not yet boiling but it may get hot later on. Since only one set can win, don't get sore if you lose.

More anon.

In and About Town March 24, 1911

FAMOUS QUOTES:

You know, everybody's ignorant, just on different subjects. *Will Rogers*

Get your facts first and then you can distort them as much as you please. *Mark Twain*

It's a recession when your neighbor loses his job. It's a depression when you lose yours. *Harry S. Truman*

Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort. *Franklin D. Roosevelt*

EHS member Gina Neist has volunteered to compile and edit our upcoming book. We are researching the stories behind the bricks and everyone who has donated a brick has received a letter asking them to write a short essay about the person they remembered with a brick. The stories will be included in our book to bring the bricks to life. Everyone who submits a story will receive a complementary copy of the book at the Veteran Recognition Program June 3, 2017. If you have been considering ordering a brick and haven't gotten around to it yet, the deadline is December 15th to have it and your story included in the book. Bricks can be ordered for a veteran and or anyone in active military, for a loved one, in your family name or from your business. Christmas will be here soon and it would make a good gift. If you have any questions, please call Elaine Ledrowski at 262.594.3301. You can download a brick order form from our website, www.eaglehistoricalsociety.org.

VETERANS MEMORIAL WALKWAY



Our veterans memorial walkway has recently been enhanced with the beautiful marble bench donated by Elmer Kilian. He donated the bench in memory of his wife, Carol and his son Brian. As autumn approaches, this is a great time to enjoy the patio and gardens and to visit the Veterans Memorial as you reflect and remember those who are immortalized in the brick pathway. Thank you very much, Elmer for your generous donation. *Elaine and Barb*

OBITUARIES

Manschot, James G.

April 18, 1932--July 20, 2016

Manschot, James G. Age 84, of East Troy, passed away on July 20, 2016. Loving husband of Nancy (Stamm). Dear father of James Jr. of Colorado and Kathryn of Florida. Proud grandfather of 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Preceded in death by his son, Robert. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Tuesday, July 26 at 2:30 pm at St. Peter's The Apostle Parish, 1975 Beulah Ave., East Troy. A celebration of Jim's life followed at The Heritage, 3223 North St East Troy. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Jim's Name were directed to: ProHealth Home Care & Hospice 2000 Pewaukee Rd. Ste. C, Waukesha, WI 53188.

Baker, Robert

November 1, 1917--July 26, 2016



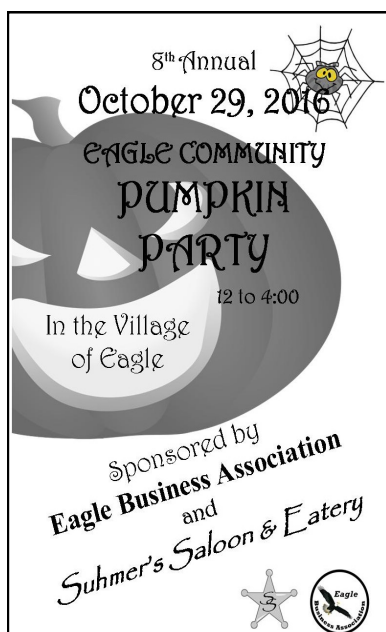
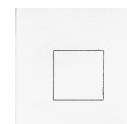
Robert was born on November 1, 1917 and passed away on Tuesday, July 26, 2016.

Robert was a resident of Brodhead, Wisconsin, at the time of his passing.

Was a veteran of the United States Army Air Corps serving his country as an MP during WWII.

Graveside services for Robert were held on Monday, Aug. 1, 2016, at Little Prairie Cemetery in the Township of Troy. Mourners met at Haase Lockwood Funeral Home, 320 W. Main St., in Palmyra at 11:00 am for the procession to the cemetery. The graveside service began at 11:15 am.

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



Pumpkin Party

Visit the Village of Eagle on Oct. 29th for a day of fun starting with breakfast at the fire house from 7 to 11, enjoy the Palmyra Eagle Community Band at 12:00. Join in many activities being offered from the Library, Methodist Church, EHS and in the Gazebo area. Our web site www.eaglehistoricalsociety.org has a complete list of all activities including a pet costume and pumpkin carving contest, pony rides, giant slide, craft projects, face painting, story telling and cookie and Carmel apple decorating. Enter the giant spider at the historical society from 12:00 to 3:30 for a visit with the Cookie Witch and hear the latest adventure of Grandma Jean. Play tombstone toss, create a creature, giant ring toss and have a photo opt with the invisible man. End your visit with The Great Pumpkin Drop at 4:00 by the Big Slide.