



EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 2011

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open

Fridays and Saturdays,
9 am to noon
Wednesdays, 4-7 pm
Website: eaglehistori-
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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

John & Pam Feltes

MEMBERSHIP

SENIOR-----**-\$8.00**

Maria Von Rueden

FAMILY-----**-\$15.00**

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MEMORIALS

Paul Trupke \$968.00

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ARTIFACT DONORS

Jean Bowey, Mike Rice, Melody Erd,
Ed Stephens , Richard Baker

Coming Up

Join us for the Eagle Community Rummage sale on Thursday-Saturday, May 5,6,&7. Mark Lake will set up his lunch wagon and will be making his famous Funnel Cakes. We would appreciate donations for the rummage sale. Call Elaine at 594-8961 for more information.

Golf Outing

Our fifth golf outing will be held on

Saturday, June 4th at Eagle Springs Golf Resort. We are still looking for hole sponsors, door prizes and golfers. Call Julie Dexter at 414-333-8184 if you can help and support this event..

Remembering the WWII Era

Observing the seventieth anniversary of the start of WWII, The Eagle Historical Society and the Palmyra-Eagle Community Band will bring us back in time to that "day that will live in Infamy."

The EHS will honor veterans of that war . If you have a picture of your veteran or other memorabilia, please call Elaine Ledrowski at 594-3301.

In addition to the concert and ice cream social there will be dancers from the Fred Astaire Studio in Wales doing the swing, among other reminders of the time when we were young and of the men who became "The Greatest Generation." The date is July 10th, 2011.

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NOT THE FIRST TORNADO

Mike Rice



It was nearly a year ago, June 21, 2010, when an F2 tornado sliced through Eagle, leaving a path of destruction one-half mile wide and five miles long. The tornado touched down on Hwy S by the Kettle Moraine Ranch west of the Village. Reaching winds of 130 mph, it followed a path due east cutting through several subdivisions and finally lost strength just east of Hwy E in the Town of Mukwonago. The tornado caused \$7.5 million damage, and yet, homes on the north side of Main Street were left untouched.

Today, nearly all homes are rebuilt and occupied, leaving little evidence of the damage to homes, but the fallen limbs of barren trees along South Street, and the treeless clearings along Hwy 67 still bear the scars of that night. Doing some research, we found that though rare, Eagle has had tornados in the past. Back then, they were called cyclones.

Though nearly every spring has its share of storms that cause damage, as far back as July of 1861, the Waukesha Freeman reported high winds that damaged barns and outbuildings around Eagle. The afternoon of Sunday September 17, 1895 saw a small cyclone partially destroy several houses and barns, with corn fields laid flat. The paper reported that Mr. Wilsey Crawley's new house was struck and damaged by lightning.

A powerful storm passed through Waukesha County on Thursday, August 16, 1907 and made front page headlines in the Waukesha Freeman. The cyclones that passed through Waukesha, Brookfield, Genesee, Dousman, Waterville, Ottawa, North Prairie, Palmyra, and Eagle destroyed barns filled with grain and hay, killed scores of cows, horses and other livestock, damaged tractors and equipment, and destroyed many homes along its path. Luckily, there was no loss of life. It was after this event that Tornado Insurance was advertised and became popular among farmers.

The final cyclone we found on record came through Eagle on Thursday, April 24, 1914 striking the J. Bogie family farm. The barn and house were destroyed and several cattle and horses were killed. Mrs. Bogie escaped near death when the hot kitchen stove nearly crushed and burned her. She escaped with minor injuries.

Lifelong resident and historian Jean Bowey remembers a cyclone in Eagle as a young child in about 1933. Her father had just finished laying the cement sidewalk in front of the Methodist church and since it was raining, the men put tar paper over the cement so it wouldn't be pitted by the rain. Jean remembers the wind blowing so hard down Main Street that the tar paper rolled itself up and blew down the street. She also remembers the Agathen farm on Hwy 67 and the Godfrey farm on NN having their barns destroyed in high wind storms.

Tornados are rare in this area and with today's technology we are given advanced warning of severe weather with adequate time to take shelter. Those of us who experienced that event will never take weather warnings lightly again.

Stop by the Eagle Historical Society Museum to see the Tornado Aftermath display.

Nothing Abstract About It.

Jean Cisler

What is an abstract and what does it contain? Most people would say it's a title to property and that it is, but it contains much more. The abstract we will explore comes from the Eagle Historical Society. It was donated by William Krestan who had the property at 103 W. Main Street. It was originally for the property of John and Cassandra Hodges. It was deeded to Thomas and Sarah Pittman in 1844. Pittman built the first house in the region. Being quite the speculator, he also bought and sold over 2000 acres of school and other lands. Eagle was platted by him about 1852 and at the time it was proposed to call it Pittman, but he insisted on its present name. His land was referred to in later years as Pittman's Addition to Eagle. John Tyler was president and his name is affixed to the abstract.

If we can get past the party of the first part and party of the second part and the description of the property, to wit: "In the Southwest corner of section number 22 in township number five, north of range number seventeen ___ etc., we find there is much history here. In 1851 Thomas Pittman deeded land to the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad Company (later The Milwaukee Road) for the purposes of erecting and maintaining a depot. The cost of that transaction was \$1.00. The proviso was that Pittman would construct a fence along the length of his property and would allow a right of way for a road to come from Troy to the depot. This was at the time of the construction of the first railroad going through Eagle (Fall 2007 newsletter.)

Pittman sold off portions of his land right through 1875. Since the abstract reads somewhat like hieroglyphics, it is difficult to say the order in which the land was sold or to whom. It appears that his last transaction was in 1875 to John Lins who in turn sold several parcels of the land. Many pages of the abstract are devoted to a foreclosure suit begun by Howard Dewey in 1896 against Mary & John Lins, the Waukesha National Bank, A.J. Frame as assignee of John and Mary Lins, C.E. and Martha Lins, George and Mary Cummings, H.M Loible, Otto Lewandawski and William Ihrig, defendants. Though the Lins' requested that the land their home was built on not be sold, but instead other portions of the land sold to satisfy the outstanding mortgage. Paying no heed to this request, that land including the parcel where their house stood was sold. Eventually the household property was sold back to Mary Lins, apparently a widow by this time, for \$1.00 by Frederick Witte in 1908.

The land in all its subdivisions was bought and sold and eventually one portion of the land became the property of William Krestan. His is the last name on the abstract, but not before going through many hands. The list shows many of the early settlers. After Mary Lins died, her will left \$200.00 to the Oak Ridge Cemetery and the balance to her long time friend and companion Matilde Glinke. Matilde was also the recipient of the property held by Frederick Witte. She in turn sold the property to Minnie S. Bieck. The last list of owners include Willis Engebretsen, Helen M. Peege and the Eagle Advancement Association and finally Milton J. and Victoria L. Krestan in 1948. The abstract states that it was sold to them by Minnie S. Bieck for \$1.00.

The Village of Eagle was incorporated in 1899 by petition of seventeen "residents and taxpayers." For the subsequent election, Frank Von Rueden, George Sherman and Joseph Lurvey were appointed inspectors. Sixty six ballots were cast at that election, 49 yes and 17 no.

Prior to that the territory now known as Eagle was a part of Mukwonago and then Genesee.

OTHER EAGLE "FIRSTS"

Jean Cisler

The first claim is said to have been made by A.R. Hinkley in Eagle Prairie in September of 1836. He brought his family in 1838 and in a space 12 x 16, he put up two beds, a pine table, a rotating top stove, four chairs, a large box for bedding, five barrels of flour and one of pork. Now wasn't that cozy?

As mentioned on the previous page, the first frame dwelling was erected by T.W. Pittman at Eagle Center in 1845. The timbers were sawed at Bigelow's mill and the finishing lumber was hauled from Racine. Daniel Bigelow was one of the pioneer millers of the state. He built a little saw-mill at the place called Eagleville in 1836.

1836 also brought Eb Thomas and his wife, who came and erected a house on their claim. The following year Mr. Thomas started the first blacksmith shop in town.

Also in the following year, Dr. Bigelow, an enterprising person, working alone, erected a grist-mill for the purpose of crushing grain for the early settlers. Unable to find buhrs (?) for the mill, the doctor found a couple of granite stones suitable for his purpose dressed them and fitted them, and for years these were the only stones used in the mill. This was the first grist-mill in the county. Later A. Scofield built its successor, a mill with fine machinery and "complete general appointments". This was built in 1844. In that same year, Scofield started a store in Eagleville.

By this time the town had sufficient importance to require a post office and again, Mr. Scofield's name surfaces as the first postmaster. Previous to this time, people were compelled to go to Mukwonago for their mail.

Other firsts include the first school said to have been taught by Miss Gertrude Goodrich in a small building near Jericho in 1840.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church was the first church to hold regular services and Sunday school, though not in a church building. Rev. Halsey was the preacher and services were held in various settler's homes and in the schoolhouse of District No. 1., in 1841. Shortly after this a church building was established at Eagle Center. An interesting anecdote tells of one of the early ministers who made application for a picket fence around his yard and carpet for his floor. Messrs. Long and Cross, who received the application, were very indignant and replied: "We have no carpets nor picket fences and if you preach for us, you can't have any either." And he didn't have any, while he was in Eagle.

William Harrison kept the first store in the place called Palestine in 1842.

Eagleville at this time had stores, shops, etc. and until the coming of the railroad in 1851 was the town metropolis.

Cheese manufacturing was begun in 1875 in a building constructed for the purpose of making burial cases, but which was never put to its intended use. The factory had the capacity of handling 10,000 pounds of milk per day. In connection to the factory there was

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a fifteen horse power engine which ran a log sawing apparatus and a planing and feed mill.

While our opening paragraph indicates A.R. Hinkley as being the first settler, further research lists a number of people settling in 1836. These include William Sherman, Jonathan Parsons, Henry A. Hinkley, Ahira R. Hinkley, Harrison Ward, Daniel Bigelow, Andrew Schofield, Richard B. Whitehouse and James Bigelow.

First marriage was that of Jonathan Parsons and Miss Jane Cross.

First child born was Charles Sherman, son of William Sherman.

First shoemaker was Seneca Harris ;first tailor, Robert Clark in 1844, first wagon-maker, Henry James in 1843 and most importantly, the first tavern was kept by Isaac Severance in 1844.

And so, in the space of just a few years , the territory went from ground breaking in 1836 to a well established community by 1851.

REMEMBER THIS?

Although not the first major fire in Eagle, the fire in the Eagle Sports and Hardware store in 1972 was just as heartbreaking. Having spent over a year in extensive remodeling and preparing for its Grand Opening, the two brothers , James and Tom Weber who operated the store were left with a loss of \$150,000.

In addition to Eagle, four other fire departments were called in to fight the blaze. They included Mukwonago, Dousman, North Prairie and Palmyra.

The building contained a basement where the fire broke out, the first floor store and the second floor containing two apartments. For-

tunately no one was home at the time and there were no injuries.

Fireman were hampered by the false ceilings in the old building and fought the fire from 4:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Eagle fire department stayed on the scene until 12:30 a.m., prompting

This letter from an "Eagle fan." (edited for space)
Dear Folks,

I wonder how many people here in Eagle, Mukwonago, North Prairie and Dousman really know how hard a fireman works? I mean, the way they take chances with their own lives to help people.

The fire we had here in Eagle last Saturday night made me stand up and take a good look. I and my family believe its best to stay away from a fire .There are so many silly people that think they have to go. If these people would stay off the roads and out of the way of fire trucks, the firemen would have a better fighting chance.

All here in Eagle should work to back our firemen, and help if and when we can. Where can we find a better group of men and who else would put the lives of other people ahead of their own?

Now these men (all of the fire departments) took chances of their lives to go in a building and bring out the contents. I know this is why we have firemen, but when you stop to look at these men (maybe a neighbor) would you believe he is a man who at any minute would go and do the job of a fireman. I didn 't.

I want to take time from my housecleaning job to say "Thank You " because when I go to bed at night, I know somewhere in this county, we have men we can all count on. Thank you to each department that came into Eagle. And also to those women who all worked together.

Though 39 years have passed , the message in the letter is just as timely today. Be grateful for our firemen.

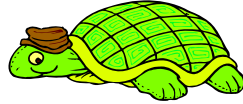
(Exerts from the Eagle Town Crier)

FOR THE MATURE READER

One Foot in the Grave

BY Eric Idle of Monty Python Fame

Editors note: I don't know who he is either.

One Foot in the Grave

They say I might as well face the truth.
That I am just too long in the tooth,
I've started to deteriorate,
And now I'm past my own sell-by-date.

Oh I am no spring chicken it's true.
I have to pop my teeth in to chew.
And my knees are starting to knock
I've just got too many miles on the clock

So I'm wrinkly, crinkly, set in my ways
It's true my body has seen better days,
But give me half a chance and I can still misbehave
One foot in the grave, yeah ,one foot in the grave.

So I'm losing my hair
And my spine's a bit kinked
I may be rare, but I'm not extinct
I'm an oldie, moldie, too old to rave
One foot in the grave, yeah ,one foot in the grave.

They tell me I'm well past my prime,
The landlord in the sky's calling time,
But there's one thing that he ought to know
I am not yet quite ready to go.

I know I'm old but I'm not a freak
I should be cherished like an antique,
But every time I have a slight cough,
I'm worried they'll start switching me off.

So I'm wrinkly, crinkly, but don't send a cheer,
I'm not exactly a little old dear,
But one things for sure I'm still darn well here.
One foot in the grave, yeah, one foot in the grave.

Our children and grandchildren probably never had the fun of reading all those humorous signs on the road that ended with *Burma Shave*. And like so many things from our era they have now disappeared. Below are some samples of the signs, sometimes silly, sometimes with a road safety message, but always keeping us reading as we rolled along in our Studebaker.



**DON'T STICK YOUR ELBOW
OUT SO FAR
IT MAY GO HOME
IN ANOTHER CAR.**

BURMA SHAVE

**TRAINS DON'T WANDER
ALL OVER THE MAP
'CAUSE NOBODY SITS
IN THE ENGINEER'S LAP**

Burma Shave

**SHE KISSED THE HAIR BRUSH
BY MISTAKE
SHE THOUGHT IT WAS
HER HUSBAND JAKE**

Burma Shave

**DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD
TO GAIN A MINUTE
YOU NEED YOUR HEAD**

YOUR BRAINS ARE IN IT**Burma Shave**

OBITUARY

Patricia Chapman Poetsch

1923 -Feb.21, 2011

Patricia Chapman Poetsch passed away peacefully Monday, Feb. 21, 2011, at the age of 87.

Pat was preceded in death by her husband of 64 years, Chester Eric Poetsch, and her daughter, Pamela Poetsch.

Pat was born in 1923 in the small farm town of Eagle to Harold and Ruby Chapman. She attended a one-room elementary school along with her two sisters, Evelyn and Anne, before going on to Waukesha High School, where she was valedictorian of the Class of 1941 and met her future husband, Chet. They married while attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1943 and later raised their children Pam and Jeff in Moorestown, N.J. and Chapaqua, N.Y. spending summers at the Jersey Shore on Long Beach Island.

After retiring to The Terraces in Los Gatos, California in 2005, Pat enjoyed Friday evenings at Aldo's, the daily New York Times and frequent visits from her children, grandchildren and great granddaughter : Jeff, Alison, Elena, and Sofia: Jim, Jamie, Liz, Pablo and baby Pammy. Pat was well-loved by her many friends and family.

Darling Fischer Chapel of the Hills in Los Gatos served the family.

Jane Rose Kaulfuerst- Reinke

1936-March 16,2011

Jane Rose Schneider was born in 1936, the baby sister of William, Thomas, and Mary. She grew up in Shorewood, and learned the value of a dollar by peddling sandwiches that her mother, Ruby, assembled. She also learned the importance of

OBITUARY

home cooking and family dinners. Her roast turkey, stuffing, and home baked pies were a match for the famous St. Theresa Turkey Dinners!

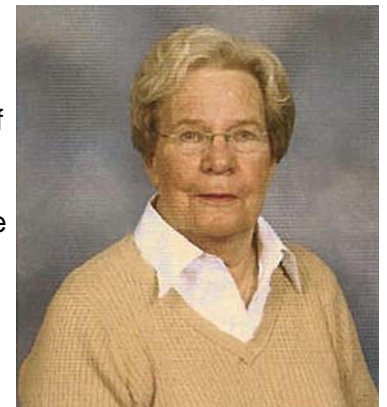
As an adult, she worked as an accountant. Perhaps her love of sheepshead and other card games was a sign that she would excel with numbers. Even after retirement, Jane continued to play cards with friends from church and the community.

Jane and her husband Alvin raised three children: Jay, Kip, and Heidi. She was a proud mother of all three, and throughout her recent illness, all of her children were right at her side helping her cope with her suffering.

After the untimely death of Alvin, Jane renewed her friendship with her high school friend and prom date, Jim. His devotion to her developed into love and marriage in 1999, and Jane set up housekeeping in a beautiful home in the Kettle Moraine forest. She loved being surrounded by nature, and especially the birds that brought her a sense of peace.

With her quick wit and willingness to volunteer, she soon made many friends from Eagle and North Prairie. She kept fit doing water aerobics at Carroll College with a group of girlfriends, assembled a yearly rummage sale at Jericho Corners, joined the Eagle Historical Society, and worked at nearly every monthly fish fry at St. Theresa's for the past ten years.

First and foremost in Jane's life was her deep faith. She lived her life believing in God and trusting in His mercy. She knew Jesus as her savior, and followed the example of His mother, Mary. Jane was grateful for her many blessings, and we thank God for the life of Jane Rose Kaulfuerst-Reinke.



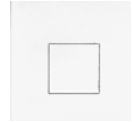


Eagle Historical Society, Inc.

217 Main Street

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Village Rummage Sale May 5,,6,,7

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- 1) Madeline Island Museum
- 2) Reed School
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