



EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 2007

Eagle, Wisconsin

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Curator

Elaine Ledrowski
594-3301

Newsletter Editor

Jean Cisler
495-4637

EHS

museum/library

594-8961

open

Fridays and Satur-
days,

9 am to noon

Wednesdays, 5-7 pm

Website: eaglehs.org

EHS News

Membership

New Members

Jerry & Michele Buscher (Liquid Escapes)

Ryan Hajewski

Pat & Dale Schroeder

Renewals

EHS thanks the following for renewing at upper levels:

Sustaining: (\$25-\$49) Michele & Jerry Buscher (Liquid Escapes), Erica & Al Ledrowski, Mary & John Vymetal-Taylor

Patron: (\$100.00 and above) Jill & Russ Steinhart (Eagle Headquarters) Pat & Dale Schroeder

Donations

The following people donated items:

Jan & Bill Grotjan, Jessica & Arn Chamberlain, Lisa & Gunther Busche, Jean Bowey, DNR, Steve & Linda Steinhof, Mabel Finney and Erica & Al Ledrowski.

Are there ghosts in Eagle?

How about monsters? Werewolves? Alien abductions?

Even though Spring has just started, we're already planning for our Autumn issue. For October and Halloween, we'd like to feature a collection of stories of ghosts, goblins, ghouls, monsters and things that go bump in the

night – not in a castle in Transylvania, but here in Eagle.

If you have a story like this you'd like to share, let us know! We'll take care of getting it ready for print. Just send your idea to John Vymetal-Taylor at johnvt@earthlink.net or call him at 594-2071.



Our thanks to Mary & John Vymetal-Taylor for their donation of the spotlight for the Eagle Diamond display.

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THE MAKING OF A "DIAMOND"

Tim Davis, owner of Mukwonago Jewelers, is the creator of the replica of the Eagle Diamond. Working only from a photo from 1928, he fashioned the stunning reproduction. He used no special tools or machinery, but rather did the cutting and polishing by hand. He did use a 15 carat emerald to compare the facets and to get the measurements exact. All of his time and talent was donated for this project, which took more than 12 hours.

The EHS is sincerely thankful for the wonderful effort of Tim and the resulting "diamond."

The Eagle Diamond will be on permanent display at the Eagle Historical Society.



Tim Davis at Mukwonago Jewelers

Museum Happenings

The Election Day bake sale was very successful thanks to everyone who donated and purchased baked items.

The three gems of Eagle held in connection with the Alice Baker Library was a fantastic success. The museum was filled with people of all ages to see the reproduction of the Eagle diamond. EHS members John & Mary Vymetal-Taylor spent numerous hours researching newspaper articles and court records to attempt to find the true story of the mystery and intrigue surrounding the diamond. Visit the museum to see this interesting exhibit.

Another fascinating display was created by members Arn and Jessica Chamberlain showing local fossils and rocks from their collection and that of Robin Zentgraf.

Other new exhibits included farm

items and a display of Eagle businesses listed in a Waukesha Directory from 1918-1923.

Members Riene Wells and Pat Schroeder toured the museum with their friends from Questers on March 5th. The Questers are collectors of antiques, collectibles and history. A program was presented featuring Mrs. Wood, (aka Elaine Ledrowski) appearing in 1880 apparel and telling her version of the Eagle diamond story. Mary Vymetal-Taylor rounded out the program narrating the history and disappearance of the diamond.

Museum improvements include new lighting for three of our large display cases and the opening of a small gift shop. Check out our junior geologist kit, interesting rings and village and town plat maps.

OOPS!

We neglected to add a line for an e-mail address on the renewal application. If you would like to receive notices by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Don Ledrowski, at don4elaine@aol.com or call Don at 594-3301.

AFTER A LONG, COLD WINTER, SPRING IS HERE (we hope)

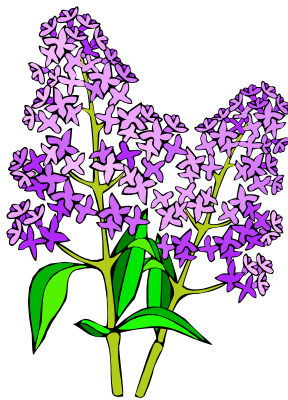
Poems by Clara Howell Pierce (1904-2003)

Lilac Time

Spring has come into my garden
 And the lilacs are in bloom
 Just this morning I was awakened
 By a robins boisterous tune.

Oh I like it in the summer
 And it's pretty in the fall
 When the reddish tinted ivy
 Hangs upon my garden wall.

But I always get new courage
 And my whole heart starts to wing
 When the lilacs are in bloom
 In my garden in the spring.



A Package of Seeds

I paid a dime for a package of seeds
 An the clerk tossed them out with a flip
 "We've got 'em assorted for every man's
 needs",
 He said with a smile on his lips
 "Pansies and poppies and asters and peas.
 Ten cents a package and pick as you
 please"
 Now seeds are just dimes to the man in
 the store
 And dimes are the things that he needs.
 And I've been to buy them in seasons be-
 fore,
 But I thought of them merely as seeds.
 But it flashed through my mind as I took
 them this time.
 You have purchased miracles here for a
 dime!
 You've a dime's worth of life in your
 hands.
 You've a dime's worth of mystery, des-
 tiny, fate
 Which the wisest cannot understand
 In this bright little package, now isn't it
 odd?
 You've a dime's worth of something
 known only to God.

DYNASTY

The Eagle Springs Golf Resort could indeed be called a dynasty. It claims, and rightly so, to be the oldest family owned nine hole golf course in Wisconsin and one of the oldest in the country.

Mike Bolan represents the fifth generation to be operating the golf course, with a sixth generation already working there. Mike is the great, great grandson of John Touhy.

In 1866 John and Mary Touhy, Irish immigrants, arrived from Boston and settled on the western shores of Eagle Springs Lake where their 80-acre farm grew to 601 acres. In 1893 John sold his portion of the land to his son, William. William decided that the area would be an ideal vacation spot and established a resort including a grand hotel, 12 cottages and an 18-hole golf course. The resort served as an exclusive vacation destination for guests from Chicago, Milwaukee and Waukesha. Horse drawn buggies met vacationers at the train stations in Eagle and Mukwonago. Hotel rates at the turn of the century were \$2.00 per day and \$8.00-\$12.00 per week. Golf was 25 cents for 18-holes but if people were short on money William allowed them to golf for free.

In 1920 William's beloved daughter, Agnes Ellen Tuohy, died unexpectedly at the age of 21. William was heartbroken and for a brief period left the family homestead. Upon his return in 1921 he ordered the hotel closed and put it up for sale with the condition that whomever bought it would need to move it to another location. It was sold and razed in 1921. William then turned his attention exclusively to upgrading and improving the golf course.

He hired A. G. Spaulding, a former pitcher and manager for the Chicago Cubs, to design the first two holes and let nature dictate the rest of the 18-holes. After the depression in 1929 the golf course was cut to 9-holes.

Before modern irrigation it was very difficult to maintain the course in time of drought. Lack of employees in this largely farm area was also a challenge. The old hotel's "laundry building" is currently the Clubhouse for the golf course. It features the original cherry wood tables and chairs from the resort. The cherry wood bar was also taken from the hotel before it was sold. Many reminders of the past are displayed in the cherished, antique clubhouse. Most notable is a large tree growing in the clubhouse. The story goes that the seeds that produced the tree came from Ireland with John Touhy back in 1866. Though the top has been removed for practical reasons, the base still is in a focal part of the clubhouse,

Not surprising, St. Patrick's day is still cause for celebration at Eagle Springs. A typical Irish dinner of corned beef and cabbage calls for 90 lbs of beef, 50 lbs of potatoes and 30 lbs. of cabbage. All of this is overseen by Luann Ervin who has been there for 10 years.

Nine of the original cottages remain as part of the current resort. They are still rented by families enjoying the tranquil feeling of another era. Both the golf course and the cottages epitomize the legacy of Eagle Springs Golf Resort,

"The first two holes should be preserved forever as examples of pre-1900 course architect. The course, which plays 2,814 yards, is a par 35 layout with some beautiful golf holes. The course offers some great views of Eagle Springs Lake and Eagle Springs Marsh. The signature hole at Eagle Springs, and one of the most famous holes in the area, is the par 3, 135 yards hole No. 2. Known as "The Eagle's Nest",

"The Volcano" or "2 or 22," the hole plays from the top of one hill to the top of a volcano shaped hill. The safe shot is to be either on the green or short of the green. Errant shots tumble to the bottom of the hill." Milwaukee Sentinel 2003

I'm going out on a limb here by guaranteeing that spring will be here to stay. That's the time to visit Eagle Springs Golf Course and see it for yourself. And don't forget the golf outing in June.

Our thanks to Luann Ervin for her help in preparing this article.



Eagle Springs Golf Course circa 1933

EHS MOST WANTED LIST!

New or gently used computer . We don't need all the bells and whistles , just a good size hard drive, preferably with windows XP.

Mystery Person --- Who is it?

The next issue of the Historical Society Newsletter will feature an article about one of the most famous and most influential residents of Eagle. Here are some clues to his identity:

He was called "Wisconsin's Political Prince" by the Waukesha Freeman; in one year he was elected to the Eagle township board, the Waukesha county board, and finally to the Wisconsin legislature, where he served only one term.

He corresponded with vice presidents, leaders of industry, suffragettes, and literati, including Horace Greeley, William Cullen Bryant, Martin Van Buren, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

His reputation spread across the Atlantic and he was made an honorary member of the Howard Association of London.

He was alternatively addressed by his supporters as "Kind sir" and "You enormous blockhead".

He authored a book on a topic that is still controversial and debated today, having been an issue in our most recent general election.

His parents were among the first settlers in Eagle, purchasing a 40 acre farm when they arrived in 1837.

Who was he? Find out in the next newsletter.

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Obituary

HELEN M. MEALY 1919-2007



Helen Mealy, 87, of Eagle died Tuesday, March 27, 2007 at Waukesha Memorial Hospital.

She was born on November 24, 1919 in Fall River, to the late John and Margaret Bremser.

She was a member of St. Theresa's Catholic Church and the Eagle American Legion Auxiliary. She assisted her late husband, Kenneth, at Mealy's Funeral Home in Eagle.

She is survived by her children, Karen (Tom) Matters of Eagle and Jerry (Karen) Mealy, also of Eagle; grandchildren: Kathryn Bender, Tim Matters, Renee Johnson and Curt Mealy and five great-grandchildren.

She was further preceded in death by a brother, Walter Bremser.

A mass of Christian Burial was said at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, March 30th at St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Eagle with Father Dennis Ackeret officiating. Visitation was held from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 29th at Mealy's Funeral Home in Eagle. Burial was at St. Theresa's Cemetery.

Obituary



EILEEN J. VON RUEDEN

Eileen "Topsy" J. Von Rueden (nee Stapleton), 87, died March 12, 2007, at Lynnwood in Delafield.

She was born on December 16, 1919 to the late Edward and Elizabeth (nee Garvey) Stapleton in Milwaukee,

She and her late husband, Ray, farmed for many years in Eagle. She was also a long-time member of St. Theresa's Catholic Church.

She is survived by her children: Don (Donna) of Fond du Lac, Jim (Bonnie) of Mosinee, Ken (Joyce) of Dodgeville, Mary (Larry) Held of Hartford and Larry (Cheryl) of Cambridge; a daughter-in-law, Judy, of Baraboo; grandchildren; Ryan, Kristen, Amy, Brian, Sarah, Scott, Kelsey, Kyle, Joshua, Hannah and Rebekah; great-grandchildren: Claire and Carson; a brother, Gene (Helen) Stapleton, of Waukesha; nieces, nephews other relatives and many friends.

A son, Bill, and a granddaughter, Crystal, further preceded her in death.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held March 17 at St. Theresa's Catholic church in Eagle, with Father Dennis Ackeret officiating. Interment followed at St. Theresa's Cemetery in Eagle.



EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1ST ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2007 ~ 10:00 A.M

EAGLE SPRINGS GOLF RESORT

9-HOLE SCRAMBLE ~ CART ~ LUNCH ~ GREAT RAFFLE ~

1ST, 5TH AND 10TH PLACE CASH PRIZES

WE WILL BE A SPONSOR:

\$ _____ HOLE SPONSOR @ \$50.00

\$ _____ DONATION TO EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



WE WILL PROVIDE RAFFLE PRIZES TO INCLUDE:

SPONSOR/DONOR INFORMATION:

COMPANY: _____

PERSON: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

WE WILL PARTICIPATE ~ \$50.00 PER PERSON ~ MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5/19/2007

1. _____ PHONE # _____

2. _____ PHONE # _____

3. _____ PHONE # _____

4. _____ PHONE # _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION: CHECK NO./AMT. _____

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXP. DATE _____

CARD HOLDER NAME _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAIL TO: C/O JULIE DEXTER S91W35165 PRAIRIE COURT EAGLE WI 53119

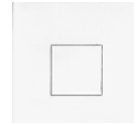
OR FAX COMPLETED FORM TO: 262-594-2406

CONTACTS: JULIE DEXTER @ 262-594-5950 OR LUANNE ERVIN @ 262-594-2462

RAFFLE TO INCLUDE MAYTAG WASHER AND DRYER!!!

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

Golf Outing at Eagle
Springs Golf Course——
——June 9th

Olson, playing mountain dulcimer and guitar
will present a program of Good Time, Old
Time, Folk & Gospel Music

Old Fashioned Ice Cream
Social & Band Concert in
the park featuring the Pal-
myra-Eagle Community
Band— July 8th 2 p.m.

A wine & cheese reception
will be held at the museum
from 1 to 4p.m., Sunday,
August 19th. Mal and Ken

