



EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 2009

EHS Board

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Mike Rice, 2012

Curator

Elaine Ledrowski

594-3301

Newsletter Editor

Jean Cisler

495-4637

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members

Alli Chase

Ken & Ellen Hyland

Welcome New Board Members

Robert Moeller

Carolyn

RENEWALS

Individual: 10.00

Ryan Hajewski

Sally McMillan

Dorothy Kau

Jerry Johnson

Maria Von Rueden

Allen County Public Library

Senior: \$8.00

Theresa Denio

Fred Gier

Ken & Ellie Hyland

Family: \$15.00

Steve & Faith Olson

Ted & Nancy Kucharski

Werner & Lore Kettner

Dave & Julie Ledrowski

Sustaining : \$25.00

Bill & Jan Grotjan

Artifact Donations

Our thanks for recent donations from the following:

Nicholas Gaurkee , Dorothy Kau
Stephanie Kalnes, Harold Hinkley
Jean Bowey, Mabel Finney
Pat Wilton, Don Ledrowski

Thanks for the Memories

Our sincere thanks to outgoing Board members **Jerry Baker** and **Welthy Mueller** who have given many years of service to the Historical Society.

HELP WANTED



We are looking for aerial photos of farms and homes that were taken in the 1950's. We plan to make a video as part of our farms exhibit. Call

Pat Wilton at 594-2294 or Bea Marquardt at 594-2659 for more information.

Like to play in the dirt? We need help to redo the small flower exhibit on the west side of the building. Call Elaine at 594-2659.



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EHS

museum/ library

594-8961

open

Fridays and Satur-

days,

9 am to noon

Wednesdays, 5-7 pm

Website: eaglehistori-
calsociety.org

Eagle Historical Society Rummage Sale

May 7th, 8th and 9th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Spring Cleaning? Getting rid of things? We will be featuring Home Décor items at the rummage sale.....vases, knick-knacks, baskets, kitchen items, etc. No clothing items please.

Please bring items to the Eagle Historical Society on Saturday, May 2 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon or Wednesday, May 6th from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Helpers needed to work on Thursday, Friday or Saturday. Please call the museum 594-8961 or Barb Jatzak 594-2808.

MUSEUM IMPROVEMENTS

Don Ledrowski, Tom Sorensen, Jeff Nowicki and Ryan Hajewski finished painting most of the main floor of the museum. Removal of the carpet and plywood revealed the original pine flooring. It has been sanded and varnished and looks beautiful. It was done in two stages so display cases had to be moved. Muscle power was provided by Russ, Dave and Dan Steinhart, Tom Sorensen, Jeff Nowicki, Connie Potrykus and Ryan Hajewski under the direction of Don Ledrowski. The large cases had to be carried from room to room so as not to damage the new floor. Shepherd's Carpet and Flooring installed new carpeting in the front hall.

Barb Jatzak, Dottie Murphy, Pat Hawes and Elaine Ledrowski have been busy cleaning and preparing the cases for the new exhibits. Watch for more information on our June reopening.

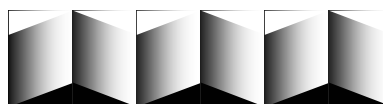
Eagle Community Showcase

EHS had an informational booth at this event. It was an opportunity to see old friends and make new contacts. Steve Sorge donated an old barn board door from a shed on the Al Johnson farm on Hwy. 67. It will be used to display farm tools. Scott Zettelmeier volunteered to do future painting at the museum . Dottie Murphy won a framed picture fo the Eagle Opera House donated by Bill Orchard.

SALE ITEMS

Board member Mike Rice made a DVD of events in Eagle during 2008. It includes the Pumpkin Party, the PE Community Band, our Art gallery and more. It's on sale at the museum for \$10.00. Mike also reproduced

historic Christmas postcards. A pack of ten cost \$3.00. Did you know that the original Christmas cards were postcards? Share a bit of history with your friends and save



money on postage.

LOUISE AND THE BANDITS

The Great Bank Robbery

By Jean Cisler

Eagle Bank Looted---
Gun Battle Ensues---
Robbers Escape With Loot

MILWAUKEE
DETECTIVES
TRAILING
BAND

Girl Operator
Gives Alarm;
Wires Severed
Telephone Man Rouses
Residents at 1 a. m.;
Thieves Escape in Face
of Fire

Five armed men drove into the village of Eagle one peaceful fall evening in September of 1921 intent on robbing the bank. They must have thought that Eagle would be an easy target— a small town, fast asleep, with little security. They parked their getaway car on Hwy 67 at the Oak Ridge cemetery, and then just to be doubly careful, they cut the telephone wires. They didn't count on a very determined sixteen year old to foil their plans.

On a prearranged signal the bandits came bursting out of the bank only to be met with more gunfire.

Louise Breidenbach had been operating the telephone switchboard. The telephone company occupied the second floor of the bank. She had the night shift that evening. There was a cot for her to sleep on in case of any nighttime calls. At about 12:45 a.m. she heard a noise

downstairs and thought perhaps one of the statues had fallen, but then the noise became voices and she quickly realized someone was trying to break into the bank. She tried calling the police but the lines were cut! She kept trying the lines until she found two "live" lines, one to Jerome Mealy, the undertaker, and one to Frank Jaken, troubleshooter for the phone company. As it happened there were two private lines out of the office that were connected to Mealy and Jaken.

Mealy responded immediately, looking out the front window and calling to the robbers. They saw his light on and answered him with three gun shots that lodged in the window casing just above his head. Discretion being the better part of valor, Mr. Mealy withdrew from the window.

Meanwhile, Louise had contacted Frank Jaken

who sprung to action, wild west style, going house to house and gathering a posse of the townsmen, numbering 70, including Marshall Van Rueden. Van Rueden said he donned his clothes in a minute and 30 seconds. He got to the bank first and saw a tall man standing guard. The man called out to Von Rueden, saying, "Stay where you are!" A voice inside the bank said "Don't take any chances, shoot!" Von Rueden thought that it best if he shot first and he did. Thereafter he heard the group inside saying, "We've got to get out of here."

By this time the rest of the posse arrived bearing weapons of their own. Continuing in the wild west tradition, a volley of shots came from the bank and a return volley came from the citizens. On a prearranged signal the bandits



Marshall VonRueden
He shot first



Louise Briedenbach,
heroine of the foiled bank
robbery. (Cont. on page 4)

(Cont. from page 3)

came bursting out of the bank only to be met by more gunfire. One of the bandits, staggered, fell and swearing, got up again and ran off. The others made their way to the parked car, firing back as they fled.

The bandits had managed to break into just a few safety deposit boxes when they saw the crowd coming. They all escaped to their car and got away. They never did get into the bank's vault and they never were captured.

The following morning, everyone came to see if their money was still safe. Ironically, Louise, the heroine of the day, said that her parents had lost all of their war bonds. There was very little else missing. Bank president, Henry Loibl, estimated that about \$1000.00 had been taken.

Some sleepy little town!!

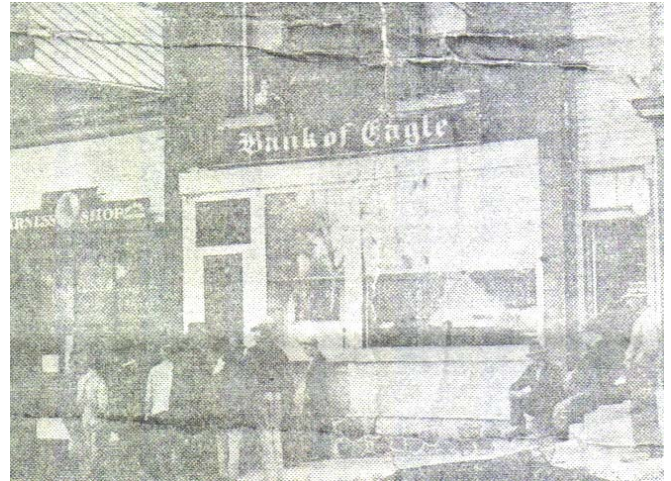
THE REST OF THE STORY

While no one was too much concerned about Louise at the time of the robbery, several months later the bank president, Mr. Loibl gave her a watch, engraved with the Bank of Eagle.

She had only been employed as a telephone operator for six months at the time of the robbery. She went on to work for an additional seven years during which time she became chief operator.

Also, during that time, she met her future husband, John Edward Hyland, "online" so to speak. His mother was the operator at Genesee Depot and sometimes at night he would work for his mother. They actually met originally over the telephone. After a four year stint in the Marines, John returned home and they were married in 1928 at St. Theresa Catholic Church, the ceremony performed by Rev. F.W. Elsinger. The first year of their marriage they lived in Eagle and their first child, Patricia Hyland, was born while they were still in Eagle. The next thirteen years they lived in Milwaukee, but then they were able to buy the original house they had lived in and returned to Eagle.

They had seven children, the youngest born when they came back to Eagle. They suffered the loss of their child, Maureen Margaret, who



Eagle residents gather at the bank the morning after the robbery.

died of pneumonia just two days after her second birthday. Her internment was in the Bernard A. Breidenbach family lot in Eagle.

John Hyland went to work at Waukesha Motors when they came back to Eagle. He died suddenly while at work in 1967 before their 40th anniversary. The children were all grown and living on their own. All of their sons enlisted in the service, the youngest making his career as an airman. In an interview with Irma Joliffe in the 1980's, Louise said they had 19 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.

Louise was the daughter of Bernard Breidenbach and Anna Leibel and the niece of Joseph, John and Katherine Briedenbach. Her ancestry included the families Briedenbach, Von Ruden, Steinhoff and Muehlenkamp. Her life is chronicled in "The Breidenbach family", a 500 page tome spanning over 200 years of family history originating in Oesdorf, Westphalia, Germany.

Compiled from articles in The Milwaukee Journal, The Eagle Quill, and an interview with Irma Joliffe. Photographs are from the Eagle Historical Society archives.

There was a time or so they say when little girls had birthday parties at home with their friends and not at Chuck-E-Cheese or Six Flags over America or some other expensive locale. They wore their best dresses and Sunday shoes.

Mabel Thomas had such a party. Note the duration of the party, from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mrs. Pardee was surely a saintly woman.



I am going to give a little Party
 on Mabel's Eighth Birthday
 the 21st of November
 from 4:30 PM to 8 PM o'clock
 and shall be so glad if you can come.
 Please be sure to let me know.
 Mrs D. W. Pardee

And there was a time when children brought nicely written notes from home when they were absent, sometimes even if they weren't children anymore.

The handwritten note in the adjacent column was written by Jack (Doc) Crawley's mother in explaining why his father, Earl, principal of the school, would not be able to be there. It was given to a school board member, Art Bellings, the butcher.

Earl won't be able
 to go to school tomorrow
 I think he has a
 severe case of flu
 but because of the
 prevalance of scarlet
 fever - it is better
 that he not attempt
 to get up. If you
 want to close his
 room tomorrow I
 shall be glad to
 help notify the

students. Perhaps
 you would rather
 get a substitute. The
 symptoms of scarlet
 fever should be
 positive by morning
 if it is that.

You can let me
 know if you wish
 me to call the
 pupils.

Edna Crawley

Mary Lou Hinkley (nee Stead)

March 25, 1922—March 3rd, 2009

Mary Lou (Stead) Hinkley of Brookfield and Sun City Center Florida passed away on Tuesday March 3rd at Elmbrook Hospital in Brookfield Wisconsin. A memorial service was held March 15 in Wauwatosa.

Mary Lou was born March 25, 1922 in Eagle at the office of Dr. Fitzgerald just next door. A few years later her family moved to her childhood home in the white house across from Eagle's Methodist Church. Mary Lou attended the Eagle Methodist Church and the Eagle School. After graduation from the Eagle school she went on to Waukesha High School where she met her future husband Red (Harold) Hinkley who lived on a Sprague Road farm.

Mary Lou attended Whitewater State Teachers College from 1942 until graduation in 1946. Red entered the Army in 1944 and was stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana in 1945 when Mary Lou traveled by train to the fort where they were married by Army Chaplin Woosley on January 15. They often said they had separate honeymoons, Mary Lou went to Eagle and Red went Manila.

Many who knew Mary Lou learned much from her example. She was faced with challenges that very few have to face and yet she did not allow her illness to determine how she chose to live her life. Throughout her life she showed great courage and the adversity she faced did not take away a real enthusiasm and a "can do" attitude.

Mary Lou will be forever missed by her husband Red; children



Mary Lou Hinkley

Robin (Chuck) Armitage, Roger Hinkley, Marc Hinkley and Paul (Meg) Hinkley, grandchildren Sarah, Alex, Samantha, Kristin and Michael.

There was a private interment at Oak Ridge Cemetery and those planning expressions of sympathy may consider memorials to the Arthritis Foundation or the Diabetes Association.

Clare Bernadine Turner (Stasko)

July 30th, 1920-Jan.23rd, 2009



Clare Bernadine Turner (nee Stasko), 88 years old, passed away on January 23, 2009 at AngelsGrace Hospice after suffering from acute myelogenous leukemia.

Clare was born in Chicago, Illinois on July 30, 1920, the youngest daughter of Anton and Karoline (nee Poloch) Stasko, who had emigrated from Poland to the Chicago area in the early 1900's. In 1941 she met her future husband, Angus "Gus" Turner, Jr. They were married in 1945 after Gus returned from serving during WWII in the U.S. Army Air Corp as a P-47 pilot in the European Theatre. They had four children, Craig, Laurie, Nancy and Christopher. In 1956, Clare and Gus and the children moved to the village of Eagle where she was kept busy raising her family..

Through the years Clare was active with her involvement in the Eagle Homemakers Club, couples bowling league, the V.F.W. Women's Auxiliary and as a member of St. Theresa Catholic Church. She traveled with family and friends, bowled in the Wednesday morning ladies league (which she continued to do into her 80's). and she enjoyed remembering family and friends with cards and phone calls on special occasions. On January 8, 2009, while at AngelsGrace Hospice, Clare was thrilled and honored to learn that her oldest granddaughter named her newborn daughter, Addison Clare.

Clare was preceded in death by her husband, Angus "Gus" F. Turner, Jr., her parents, Anton and Karoline Stasko, her sister Rose Zurawski, her brothers, Stanley, Joseph and William Stasko and her nephew, Thad Zurawski. Clare is survived by her children, Craig (Charlotte) Turner, Laurie Turner (William Radey), Nancy (William) Plastina and Christopher (Kimerling) Turner; four grandchildren, and two great granddaughters. She is further survived by her sister-in-law, Letty Stasko. Clare will be missed by her loving family and many friends.

**EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 3rd ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
 SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2009 ~ 10:00 A.M
 EAGLE SPRINGS GOLF RESORT
 9-HOLE SCRAMBLE ~ CART ~ LUNCH ~ RAFFLE ~ 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 5/22/2009

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 @ 414-333-8184 OR LUANNE ERVIN @ 262-594-2462

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Village Rummage Sale
May 7, 8, 9, 10th*

UPCOMING EVENTS

THIRD ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Coming soon — June 6th, 2009 See Page 7 for details and application Form

