



EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2006

Eagle, Wisconsin

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APPRECIATION FOR OUR SPONSORS

A special thanks to our sponsors who helped EHS host the ice cream social and band concert on July 9th: CHAPMAN'S BP, HECKEL TOOL & MFG. CORP, DARLENE AND DOUG LANDMANN, MARZION HOMES AND REALTY MURPHY'S COMPLETE SEPTIC SERVICE,

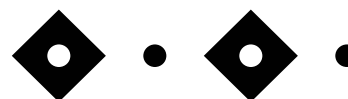
Our sincerest appreciation. We couldn't have done it without you.

Our Thanks for A Fine Effort

Every year the History Channel awards grants of up to \$10,000 to up to 25 community agencies around the country. These grants are awarded to projects that seek to encourage historical preservation and greater interest in local history.

This year the Eagle Historical Society collaborated with staff from Eagle Elementary School to apply for a grant of \$9,847 through this program. This project was designed to involve elementary students in conducting original research, including interviews with community members, to develop a walking tour highlighting important historical sites and buildings in the area.

We recently were notified that we were not among the winners of the grant for 2006-2007. However, we would like to recognize the teachers who worked with us on the project and who were willing to commit their time and energies to make it a reality: Doug Hasseler, Cindy Whitney, Sue Gnatzig, Kathleen Sellenheim, Roger Cole and Jane Graham.



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EHS

museum/ library
594-8961
open

Fridays and Saturdays,
9 am to noon
Wednesdays, 5-7 pm
Website: eaglehs.org

Our Honored Members



Photo Courtesy of Roger Cole

Roger Cole and Gina Neist

Member Roger Cole, a fifth grade teacher at Eagle Elementary School, was recently named Teacher of the Year by the Mukwonago Wal-Mart. This is Wal-Mart's 11th annual such award.

Cole received a \$1000.00 grant for the school, a \$100.00 gift certificate to buy supplies for his classroom, a personalized certificate and a Teacher of the Year polo shirt.

Our congratulations to these two fine teachers. We are proud to have them in the Eagle community and members of our Historical Society.

The Mukwonago Area School District recently announced the winners of the 2005-06 Teaching Excellence Awards. Eagle Historical Society member Gina Neist was named the fourth - sixth grade Teacher of the Year. She is shown here with her husband, Jim (left), and monitoring the flow of "immigrants" at Rolling Hills Elementary School's Ellis Island experience earlier this year (right.)



Photos Courtesy of Gina Neist



A capacity crowd enjoyed the music as the Palmyra-Eagle Community Band played their finest at the Sunday Ice Cream Social on July 9th. It was a warm day but the cool breeze and cold ice cream made for a very pleasant afternoon. Musical selections ranged from the patriotic to a tribute to Ray Charles to songs highlighting New York, as well as a solo by Steve Nauzek on flute playing Stephen Foster's Gentle Annie and member Ellie Hawes' solo on saxophone playing Yakity Sax.

LIFE IN A FORMER HOSPITAL

By Elmer Kilian

We bought the former Dr. Fitzgerald home & hospital in 1967. We had looked at many homes to buy, but it was in the high interest era. Financing was hard to obtain. An offer was made and accepted and we ended up with a home for four children and their parents. I guess we did not know the history of the house until we moved in.

Slowly over the next few years we talked to nurses, caretakers and other workers and came up with different aspects of history of the home. The former hospital did have an operating room. Carol made it into a sewing room, so the cutting and stitching still went on. With three girls, a lot of dresses and doll clothes were made. Curtains and the like were finished for the house.

We checked the whole house over after we knew it had been a hospital. Only a couple of medicine bottles were found. Later when spading was done for a garden and flowerbeds, vaccine bottles from an

(Continued)

We had heard the house might have some ghosts.

This did not bother us.

But, to be on the safe side, we blessed each bedroom (5) and let the ghosts know, if any we meant them no harm.

early time were found. There were no landfills in the early 1900's so trash was burned and then buried. The whole side and back yard was the depository for furnace ashes and the like. This is about one foot thick and two feet down. Good soil had been placed over the ashes to fill it all in.

We had heard the house might have some ghosts. This did not bother us. But, to be on the safe side, we blessed each bedroom (5) and let the ghosts know, if any, we meant them no harm. Just leave us be, and we will all live together. So we have for 35 plus years.

The children liked the house, each had their own bedroom, and the yard was large enough to play in. I understand at one time there was a dirt tennis court to the west of the house. I determined we are the 4th property owners of the property. It was used as an antique shop for a few years.

Trying to refinish woodwork in the house is a real job. Paint was such that it had to withstand bleach, soap and water and all. Now it is almost impossible to remove the layers of paint.

There had been natural gas in the house at one time. Some outlets were still protruding from the walls. All have now been removed. The house has radiator hot water heat. The children thought this was great for winter. Radiators can be used for drying wet snow clothes. And also one could sit on the radiators to warm oneself after playing out in the snow.

Eventually grandchildren came along. There is always room for someone to stay over for a night or two. The size of the house is nice for a large party or family gathering, but not the best to have for cleaning. With the children grown and gone, the grandchildren still make it a kid's house. Many toys and games are around to keep them entertained.

For you folks of good memory, I suppose you are still wondering if there might be a ghost or two. O.K., I did not forget. We have on occasion heard sounds in the house of someone playing with toys in the upper bedrooms. This I assume is the lost soul of a child who might have gone to eternity while in the doctor's care for a malady. This is our supposition.

We all still like living, partying and enjoying company of family and friends. I've talked to people who were born here, been sewn up here and had surgery here. All felt it was a house of caring and curing.

Just recently met a couple who worked to have the present day medical building built. A Dr. Schmidt had come into practice with Dr. Fitzgerald and better space was needed. Time changes a lot and we all go for modernization, but it is still good to look back on the past.



The Eagle Medical Clinic built in 1914, now occupied by Elmer and Carol Kilian

IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?



In the late 1850's, the answer to that question was no. There were no doctors in the house, the town or the village of Eagle. In 1866 C. B. Bannister arrived, having graduated from an academy in Bennington, VT. He studied under several doctors and after an interrupted practice due to poor health, he began practicing anew in Eagle.

He continued his practice in the town and its environs until the late 1880's. In that time he built the house on Main Street, owned later by the Partridge family and currently housing the Eagle Historical Society.

In 1881 Dr. DeWayne Townsend succeeded Dr. Bannister. Dr. Townsend was born in Oconomowoc, but attended a medical college in Louisville, KY where he graduated in 1876. After a short practice he attended Chicago Medical College, now the Medical School of Northwestern University at Evanston, IL. After graduation he came to Eagle where he practiced until his untimely death in 1888. His death was caused in no small part because of his dedication to his patients. He himself was ill with influenza but was called to a case miles away in a winter when roads were blocked with snow and winds were blowing with blizzard intensity. When the horse couldn't get through the snow he trudged through for more than 3 miles. When he reached his patient the doctor was sicker than the patient. He lived on for several weeks but succumbed to pneumonia in April, 1888.



Dr. J.J Fitzgerald

Next came Dr. Charles Sharpe who served the community in the late 1880's and 1890's.

In 1895 Dr. J.J Fitzgerald came to take up the practice which lasted until 1953 and included the administration of a hospital which is now the home of Elmer and Carol Kilian. (page 3.) The hospital had an office on the main floor and surgery and recovery rooms on the second floor. Dr. Fitzgerald served the community for a record 57 years, beginning in the days of horse and buggy house calls. He was joined in approximately 1912 by Dr. Frederick Schmidt who practiced in Eagle for 35 years until his death in 1946.

In October, 1954, the first shovel full of soil was turned for the building of a clinic which was to house doctors, dentists and whatever specialists were needed to keep a community well. By December of that same year the medical center held open house.

Dr. Wilbur Rosenkranz took up a practice which quickly grew large enough to need another doctor. In June of 1958 ,Dr. Eugene Zwisler came to assist Dr. Rosenkranz at the center.

A dentist, Dr. Louis Marino, joined the clinic in March of 1956 where he remained in practice until his retirement in 2003. Dr. Schoenenberger, optometrist ,was added in 1958.

In the early 70's Drs. Rosenkranz and Zwisler moved their practice to Mukwonago, where many of their Eagle patients followed them.

The village continued without a doctor in residence until 1998 when Dr. Singh established her practice here, first in a small office on Main Street and now in a full clinic on Hwy NN.

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE....

“And I have no doubt that thousands are killed by dosing and drugging every year, instead of assisting nature, by exercise, proper diet, change of climate, and rest of mind.”

Gunn's Home Book of Health, 1861

.....THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME

Nurse Frances A. Fitzmorris Thiele

By Bill Thiele

Francis Fitzmorris was the youngest of 4 children born to George and Katherine Fitzmorris in the town of Troy. She attended grade school at the Stewart School located on Hy.12 near the Sterlingworth Hotel which is now a condominium complex . She initially received a teachers certificate from Whitewater Normal as it was known then. After a relatively short career in teaching she decided to enter the world of nursing. She enrolled at Miserecordia School of Nursing where she graduated with her nursing degree. About this time Dr. J.J. Fitzgerald opened the Eagle Hospital in what is now the Elmer Kilian residence. Frances was the head nurse at the hospital until 1925 when she married Herman Thiele.

Dr. Fitzgerald was what was known as a horse and buggy doctor. My mother told how the doctor had a driver when he made house calls. Most people stayed at home when they were ill in those days . The only people who came to the hospital were those having some sort of surgery. There were instances when the sick person couldn't get to the hospital. In those cases the surgery was done on the kitchen table at home. Frances assisted in quite a few of those. It was important that the appendectomies be done as quickly as possible. In the event of a ruptured appendix, chances of survival were slim. There were no antibiotics and the choices of treatment were primitive and not very successful. The great flu epidemic of World War I was another difficult time for the medical people. Again there was no particular treatment which cured the illness. Pneumonia was a major problem with the flu. The treatment was simple and required frequent and intensive applications of various salves.

My mother told of staying at home treating the whole family around the clock. There were nights on end when she never went to bed, catching short naps when she could.

At the hospital in addition to her nursing duties, she prepared food for the patients and brought wood in for the heaters.

The doctor at one time worked 5 or 6 straight days, sleeping only in the sleigh traveling from one house or farm to another. The doctor and his patients had prearranged signals to let him

know when he should come to their place. There were very few telephones in those days. They would leave a lantern on a fence post at an intersection where the doctor would pass. This would tell him to go to their home.

Those were difficult times for doctors and nurses because of the lack of medicine and diagnostic equipment. Dr. Fitzgerald developed a treatment for pneumonia which was used by many doctors. It was a salve made from the resin of the guaiacum tree. This salve was rubbed on the chest of the sick person and it was absorbed into the lungs. This caused the congestion to break up. This was the only type of treatment available at that time.

After leaving the world of professional nursing, Frances continued to provide assistance to the elderly and people who needed minor medical help or someone to look in on them. She was like a visiting nurse but in an unofficial way until the early 1970's.



Francis Fitzmorris Thiele

Photos from the Eagle Historical Society Archives

The Little Brown Bag

Information from Jean Bowey

My great-grandmother, Maryann Fairbrother, told me never to touch the little brown bag which rested on a table in her bedroom. As a child I remember visiting my grandma often. She had a soft voice and was always baking and sewing and of course I remember the little brown bag.



Maryann Fairbrother was born on February 5, 1852. She was the second of eight children. The Homestead where she was born is located on the Kettle Moraine Ranch. The house is still standing today. She married Aseph Perry from Troy Center on September 3, 1869. They farmed for a while and then moved west. After several bad years, Aseph took a job as a foreman for the new railroad that was being built. While he worked there, Maryann cooked for the construction crew at the same time raising four children. When the railroad reached Oregon, they received word that Maryann's father had passed away and her family wanted her to come back to Wisconsin to run the farm with Aseph and the children. Prior to that Aseph had an accident while cleaning his gun, and his arm was disabled from that time on.

Once back in Wisconsin, Maryann became the local mid-wife and nurse to the community. She would send her boys down to Perry's Pond (located in Old World Wisconsin) to get plants that she would dry and mix with others to use for the medicine that she carried in that little brown medical bag. She had a medical book for reference, later donated to Old World.

They farmed until the early 1920's and then moved to a house in Eagle on Hwy 67 across from the old school.

Maryann and one of her daughters were with my mother when I was born in 1925. Dr. Schmidt also attended the birth and that of my sister's. Modern medicine had arrived. But I also remember the old remedies that Grandma used: Goose grease for colds and coughs, honey and lemon and brandy for cough, baking soda for upset stomach, a small warm onion on the ear for an earache, cloves for toothache and honey for cuts and small wounds. Vicks was a standby and The Watkins man had excellent salve.

Grandma Maryann died in 1933. I remember her casket in the parlor, near her pump organ, with flowers everywhere. I wish I had listened to all of her stories but, like all children I was too busy with playing and growing up.

DR. WILBUR (BILL) ROSENKRANZ

Notes from Sarah Rosenkranz

Wilbur Escol (Bill) Rosenkranz was born on April 18th, 1926 on the Brownsville, WI dairy farm of his parents, Escol and Olga Rosenkranz. When Bill was only seven, he decided he wanted to become a doctor. He had heard his father talk about wanting to be a doctor himself. That coupled with great admiration of several doctors who frequented the family farm led Bill to eventually fulfill that dream.

Bill served in what was then called the U.S. Army Cavalry in WWII. He remembers that the small light tanks in which he served had correspondingly light



Sarah and Bill Rosenkranz

Photo courtesy of Sarah Rosenkranz

armor! He remained stateside until the end of the war. After leaving the service he used the GI Bill to attend the University of Wisconsin, Madison for both pre-med and medical school.

In 1950 he married his first wife, Catherine Rogers. They had two sons, James and John. In 1954 the citizens of Eagle had erected the Eagle Medical Center at 114 Grove Street and were seeking medical practitioners. When Dr. Rosenkranz heard of this opportunity to practice in a small rural community similar to the one he had grown up in, he moved to Eagle.

Scott and Fred Lake had added a second story to the old pickle factory building on Sherman Street and Dr. Rosenkranz and his wife were the first tenants of the second floor apartment. Fred and Carol Lake lived downstairs in the remodeled pickle factory. Carol worked for the doctor until his retirement.

Dr. Rosenkranz remembers that at that time the community was very close knit and he was considered to be a newcomer all the time he lived in Eagle. Nevertheless he had many loyal patients and friends from the area all the years of his practice both here and in Mukwonago.

He shared the new medical center with Dr. Lou Marino, a dentist. In 1958, Dr. Eugene Zwisler, a UW classmate of Dr. Rosenkranz joined him in practice at the medical center.

By the early 60's the medical doctors had outgrown the office. Dr. Marino remained in practice in Eagle until his retirement in 2003. Meanwhile, Drs. Rosenkranz and Zwisler built the one story Mukwonago Medical Center at 720 N. Rochester and moved their practice to Mukwonago.

Their practice was dissolved in 1970, but both doctors continued to practice in the building they owned. That same year Dr. Rosenkranz and his wife divorced. In May of 1972, he married Sarah Haslam, who had worked for the doctor since 1965.

In 1980 Drs. Rosenkranz, Williams and Jayne and dentist, Dr. Blackwood built the Mukwonago Medical Arts Building at 225 Eagle Lake Avenue. They added several partners through the years.

During his 40 years of practice, Dr. Rosenkranz served on many local and state medical society and hospital committees. He was active in assisting to get the Family Practice Residency program started at Waukesha Memorial Hospital and worked long and hard to have Physician's Assistants on the hospital

staff. He donated his time at the St. Joseph's church free clinic in Waukesha for many years.

He was a deacon of the Congregational Church and in later years a trustee of the Mukwonago United Church of Christ to which he and Sarah donated 3 acres of land where the church now stands.

Dr. Rosenkranz retired August 6, 1993 and is enjoying life in his home at Whispering Bay, Mukwonago.

Editor's Note: The above article was written prior to the untimely death of Dr. Rosenkranz. We include it here as a tribute to the well-known and admired doctor.

Obituary

Janet Jensen, 83, died Monday, May 8, 2006 at her residence in Eagle. She was born on May 31, 1922 to Helen and Herbert Peege. She attended Lawrence University in Appleton, WI. While on school breaks she worked in the IGA store her mother ran on Main Street. It was there she met her husband, Clifford. They were married in the Eagle United Methodist Church in 1943 and enjoyed 62 years of marriage..

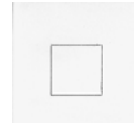
She had been employed at Alpine Valley Ski resort and was a volunteer at Kiwanis Manor in East Troy. She was also a Friend of the Alice Baker Library in Eagle. She is survived by her children: Chuck (Sharon) Jensen of New Mexico, Melinda (Don) Brunn of East Troy, and Jeff Jensen of Eagle; grandchildren Charles (Leslie) Jensen, Danielle Blankenship, Tim (Jill) Pett, Jenny (Larry) Dopke, Ben Pett, Jason Brunn and Adam Czarapata; great-grandchildren, Amanda Baker, Avery and Delany Dopke, Parker Pett, Madison Blankenship.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Clifford, a daughter, Robin Pett, and a grandson, Chris Jensen.

A private family gathering was held.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

In this issue we were pleased to include member contributions by Jean Bowey, Sarah Rosenkranz, Bill Thiele and Eagle resident, Elmer Kilian. These factual remembrances by local residents add much to the color and enjoyment of this publication. If you have memories, artifacts or other stories concerning Eagle, it's homes, businesses or people, we'd like to hear from you. You, too could be a published author.

Open House

The Open House at the Eagle Historical Society Museum has been postponed to a later date yet to be announced.