



EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2007

Eagle, Wisconsin

EHS Board

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Curator

Elaine Ledrowski
594-3301

Newsletter Editor

Jean Cisler
495-4637

EHS

museum/ library
594-8961
open

Fridays and Saturdays,
9 am to noon

Wednesdays, 5-7 pm

Website: eaglehs.org

EHS News

Membership:

New members

Elaine Heilberger

Terry Reuland

James & Phyllis Steinke

Renewals

EHS thanks the following for renewing at upper levels:

Sustaining: (\$25-\$49)

Bea Delaney

Ken & Ann Skidmore

Patron: (\$100.00 and above)

Ken Baranowski -ACW Appraisals.

Artifact Donations: Jean Bowey, Pat Wilton, Reine Wells, John Hopkins, Welthy Mueller, Mike and Kaycee Meracle.

Other Donations: Nancy Manschot, Elaine Heilberger, Carol Lake, Jane Reinke and Jill Steinhart of Eagle Headquarters.

Sweet Sounds of Summer

Ken and Mal Olson will provide GOOD TIME, OLD TIME, FOLK & GOSPEL music at the Eagle Historical Society's wine and cheese social on Sunday, August 19, 2007, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., adding a touch of musical history to the festivities.

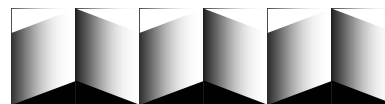
Ken plays guitar while Mal strums the Appalachian mountain dulcimer, a fretted

American folk instrument that originated in the southern Appalachian mountains.

The three or four-string American lap dulcimer has been around since the late 1700's and was probably derived from European instruments such as the Swedish hummel and Norwegian langeleik, the French epinette des vosges, and the German sheitholt.

The word dulcimer comes from the Latin word "dulcis," meaning sweet, and the Greek word "elos," meaning sound.

Come and enjoy the social and the sweet sounds of Americana.



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Museum Happenings

Heidi and Mark Lake of Lake Enterprise turned the front yard into a carnival midway during the community rummage sale in May. The train ride, funnel cakes, cotton candy and fresh lemonade were the great attractions. The museum was open from 8-5 for the duration of this EHS fund raising event. Many people visited the museum and we even gained a new member. The Lakes gave a percentage of their sales to EHS. Thanks Mark & Heidi. You had a great idea.

Your Garden Diva, aka Elaine Heilberger has been giving the front yard a face lifting. Our poor Eagle was overrun with weeds but is now surrounded by white decorative stones. The stone in front of the building set off the black wheels and milk cans donated by Elaine. Two pots of begonias were donated by the Garden Mart in Mukwonago. Also check out the Eagle over the front door.

At the invitation of teacher Gina Neist, Mrs. Woods aka Elaine Ledrowski visited the three fourth grade classes at Rolling Hills Elementary School. Mrs. Woods pleaded her case for ownership of the Eagle Diamond. Many students were sympathetic but one student (A Future Lawyer?) summed up the case. You made a deal in good faith and have to live by that deal.

The Palmyra-Eagle Community Band entertained a grateful albeit warm audience at the annual Concert and Ice cream Social on Sunday, July 8th. The Eagle Historical Society once again sponsored this event. A rousing selection of old favorites and new renditions helped to keep the afternoon comfortable, as did the breeze in the shaded park shelter. Ice cream and cake also aided in keeping the audience cool.

More Happenings

The Eagle Historical Society participated in the Get a clue @ the Alice Baker Public Library Community Scavenger Hunt Summer 2007.

Many children and families visited the museum after using Morse code to disclose our location.

Visitors were able to try out a telegraph key and the Official Code Master Telegraph Signal Set game.

All who participated deserve a pat on the back for working their way through the sometimes difficult Morse code clues. The real reward was the great time that everyone had.



Rob Hawes drove his antique tractor in the Kettle Moraine Days Parade. The sign on the float says "Have you heard of the Eagle Diamond?"

Psst!

Do you have a tale about any ghosts, goblins or things that go bump in the night? We are still looking for interesting stories about strange happenings in the Eagle area for use in our next issue. (October)

Send your story or just the information to johnvt@earthlink.net or mail to : Eagle Historical Society, P.O.Box 454, Eagle, WI 53119 , attn: John Vymetal-Taylor.

MORE THAN PAR FOR THE COURSE

Saturday, June 9th was a perfect day for our first annual golf outing. Seventy six golfers enjoyed superb weather and great playing conditions at Eagle Springs Golf Resort's beautiful, historic 9-hole golf course. Hole events included an "historical drive" using a vintage wooden driver. Julie Dexter organized this fund raiser, and her attention to detail ensured the participants were treated to a fun-filled day. Please remember to sign up early in 2008 as we are sure this outing will fill up quickly.

Cash prizes were awarded for 1st, 5th and 10th place. We appreciate the generosity of the first place winners who donated their cash prize back to the historical society.

A raffle was held after a picnic lunch which was donated by Eagle Springs Golf Resort. Raffle prizes included a brand new Maytag washer and dryer, which was won by Jay and Becky Webber. Other generous prizes were donated by Dean Actenhagen, Ace Hardware Delafield, Eagle Springs Golf Resort, Rainbow Springs Golf Club, Johnson Bank Mukwonago, National Golf Center, Citizens Bank, Double D's Pub and Eatery, House in the Woods Auction Gallery, Coyote Canyon, Eagle Centre House Bed & Breakfast, Goodens Athletic, ACW Appraisals, Buscher Properties, Couch Properties and Eagle Wine & Spirits.



Foursome, left to right, Tom & Terri Sorensen, Sally & David Alfery

Holes were sponsored by the following businesses. Eagle Business Association, Mealy's Funeral Home, House in the Woods Auction Gallery, Double D's Pub & Eatery, Barker Builders, Heckel Tool & Mfg. Corp., Continental Mills, Dr. Doug Kincaid, Alice Baker Memorial Library, Marzion Homes and Realty, New Age Chemical, U.S. Packaging, Buscher Properties, Liquid Escapes, Windy Oaks, Couch Properties, Coyote Canyon, Citizens Bank, Eagle Centre House Bed & Breakfast, Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel, M & W Industrial Equipment, Windsor Executive Suites and Whirlpool Corp.

Special thanks to the following: Bev Schlipp, Allie Reese, Sue Weibel, Pat Burke, Sandy Woolenhaus, Luanne Ervin, Doreen Skrepenski, Rob Day, Jerry Buscher and Roger Couch, Janet Berkham and Mark Dexter for their support and assistance the day of the outing.

This was a very successful event. Funds will used to purchase a new computer, printer, video camera and other electronic equipment. We will also purchase archival material and boxes to store our historic photos.

Thank you Eagle Springs Golf Resort for your hospitality and the outstanding service. We're looking forward to this golf outing next year.

Check out our website, eaglehs.org, for more pictures of the golf outing.



Mary Kroeze watches as Julie Dexter helps herself to a deluxe bratwurst.

OBITUARY

GLADYS M. BOWEY

1936-2007

Gladys M. Bowey of Eagle, died peacefully on June 28, 2007 after a courageous battle with amyloidosis.

She was born on May 16, 1936 in Fairchild to the late Juel and Iva Pettis.

She was retired from the Sodexo Food Service at St. John's Military Academy.



She was a member of the United Methodist Church in Eagle and involved in the women's organization. She was also a member of the North Prairie Fire department Auxiliary, volunteered at Linden Grove in Mukwonago and loved to square dance.

She is survived by her loving husband of 52 years, Harry; children, Harry (Mildred) Bowey of Waukesha, Phillip (Carrie) Bowey of Princeton, Paul (Debra) Bowey of Waukesha, Rosalyn (Gary) Boldt of Sheboygan, Melissa (Gary) Cox of Elkhorn and Brenda (Erik) Scrabeck of East Troy; 13 grandchildren, two great grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; sisters Ella Holberg of Waukesha, Barbara (Dwight) Wright of Mukwonago, Georgia (Warren) Woolridge of Burlington, Sandy (Syd) Staton of St. Louis and Iva Peck of Fairchild; a brother, Juel Dean (Joan) Pettis of Hudson; a brother-in-law, Robert Chapman; special friends, Diane and Ellie Hall; nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends. She was a grandmother to all.

She was further predeceased by her parents and a sister, Marianna Chapman.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 3rd at United Methodist Church in Eagle. Mealey's Funeral Home, Eagle served the family.



MARVIN BOVEE

Eagle has produced its share of activists, politicians, and leaders in its history. The “Mystery Person” mentioned in our last newsletter was one of the earliest, and he remains the most distinguished and influential. A skilled orator and writer with a tireless passion for the causes he believed in, Marvin Bovee was a nationally and internationally known figure in his time and had an impact far outside of the town of Eagle.

Bovee was born in New York State in 1827, the son of Jane and Matthias Bovee, then a member of the New York State Assembly. The family moved to Eagle in 1843, and they were among the town’s earliest settlers. (Matthias Bovee’s mother is said by some to have been the first person to die in Eagle.) The family’s original homestead, located south and west of the current village, initially consisted of more than 1000 acres of land. From the beginning, the Bovees were active in the community, with the father serving on the early school board and young Marvin teaching school. Both were charter members of the Eagle Masonic Lodge.

Marvin’s career as an elected political figure was brief but dramatic. In 1852 he was made chairman of Eagle Township, and later that same year was chairman of the Waukesha County Board. He was only 25 years old at the time. Exactly what it was that distinguished him among leaders at that time can only be guessed at, but by September of that year he was nominated to run for state senate from the 10th District.

Although he only served in the state senate for one year, he was the cosponsor of one the most durable yet controversial pieces of early Wisconsin legislation: the abolition of capital punishment. He was certainly not the only person who supported this course of action: it was recommended but defeated during the state’s constitutional convention in 1848. “The Report of the Select Committee, to whom was referred a Bill to Abolish the Death Penalty”, was written by Bovee and Waukesha county assemblyman J. T. Lewis. This brief report makes mention of several reasons to stand on either side of the issue, but focuses on one, summarized in the following passage:

“Have two individuals the right to enter into an agreement that in case one of the parties burns the dwelling of the other...the wrong man shall possess full power and privilege to murder the offender?...Have ten men the right to enter into a league like this?...Would not a similar compact entered into by fifty thousand individuals, ...be equally void?”

The Bill was passed in 1853, by votes of 14 to 9 in the senate and 36 to 28 in the assembly. Wisconsin was the third state to abolish the death penalty, after Michigan and Rhode Island, but was the first to abolish it unconditionally and in all cases. The bill drafted by Bovee was called ‘a startling innovation in the history of jurisprudence’.



He left the senate after a single year, but the controversy he had come to embrace did not cease. Efforts to repeal his bill and to reinstate hanging began almost immediately in Wisconsin, and continue up to the present. Bovee, for his part, decided to take his crusade to other states. He would be active in pressing for a similar bill in his native New York (which was later repealed), and can be credited in part for the passage of bills in Illinois and Minnesota which abolished public executions and left the penalty to juries. He appears to have been an energetic and persuasive orator. One year he gave over a hundred speeches, just in one state.

In 1869 he was to finish *Christ and the Gallows, or Reasons for the Abolition of Capital Punishment*. This 300-plus page book, which he had been working on for several years, sets out his thinking on the issue and contains his own essays in addition to letters of support (and in some cases disagreement) from other leading intellectuals, writers and clergy of the time. Among the contributors to the book are William Cullen Bryant (who is said to have encouraged him to write the book), Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Henry Ward Beecher and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Although the title of the work suggests a largely religious perspective on this controversial issue, the pages address many different arguments, both for and against hanging, including some issues relevant in today's discussions. (He mentions, for example, several cases of people executed who were later found to be innocent.)

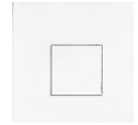
His collected papers indicate that Bovee himself was as controversial as the cause he was advocating. One letter, written in 1871 by Horace Greeley of the New York Tribune (one of his strongest supporters), addresses him as "You enormous blockhead". Other newspapers chose name-calling, as the Waukesha Freeman did in 1884, calling him sarcastically "Wisconsin's Political Prince". The St. Paul Dispatch, dismissing his speaking skills, referred to him as "an interminable old bore." Others may have disrespected him by ignoring him. His is only mentioned in the 1880 book *History of Waukesha County Wisconsin* in a list of past state senators; there is no mention of his book, his campaigns, or his work in other states, although his brother and father are mentioned at some length in different places.

Although Bovee had lent his oratorical skills to other politicians and rubbed elbows with some of the most famous Americans of his time, these activities do not seem to have been very beneficial financially, and he had to resort to requesting subscriptions and advances for the publication of his book. He was involved in the campaigns of Grover Cleveland and other important politicians of his day; however, his travels and writings do not appear to have been fully underwritten by either the Democratic Party or any of the organizations whose goals coincided with his. In 1877 the Waukesha Freeman, which was not exactly friendly to him, published a lengthy article documenting the frustration expressed by supporters in getting copies of his book after having paid for it in advance. The costs associated with his campaigns, speeches and writings eventually led to the sale of part of the family property in Eagle.

Bovee and his wife moved from Eagle to Whitewater in the late 1870s, and it was there that Bovee died in 1888. In his later years he focused more on the reform of the prison system. He had advocated strongly for the creation of industrial schools. The cause of death was listed as melancholia, and attributed to his frustration that his tireless work did not produce wider and more significant results.

Do you have more information about Marvin Bovee or other historical figures from our past? If so, please share it with us by contacting the Historical Society at eaglewi.org or johnvt@earthlink.net.

Eagle Historical Society, Inc.
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Open House at the Museum Sunday, August 12th, 2007

Wine and Cheese social from 1p.m. to
4 p.m. Added Attraction will be the mu-
sic of Ken & Mal Olson, EHS members
and musicians extraordinaire.

