



EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2008

Eagle, Wisconsin

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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

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Member

Sustaining Frank Nardine

Membership Renewal

Single Pat Schroeder

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Donation \$100.00

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ARTIFACT DONORS

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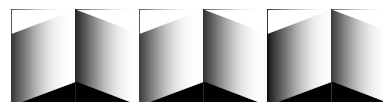
Gene Pine

Museum Happenings

Rummage Sale

The Eagle Business Association Community Rummage sale was held on May 11. EHS member Mark Lake parked his Lake Enterprise Lunch Wagon on the front lawn and sold funnel cakes and other great snacks. A percentage of his sales were donated to EHS.

We hadn't planned to hold a rummage sale until The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin asked if we would like items from Newell Meyer's estate. It was an offer too good to pass up. EHS members Don & Pat Wilton, Mark Dexter, Connie Potrykus, Bea & Jeff Nowicki, Bea Marquardt, Barbara Jatzcak, Jane Reinke, Don and Elaine Ledrowski, Wanda Wilton and Carolyn Rosprim loaded boxes and trucks and got ready for the sale. It was fun meeting shoppers and sharing the story of Newell's generous gift to the community. People were thrilled to learn they were purchasing a bit of history. We had a very successful sale.



IN THIS ISSUE

Museum Happenings Page 2

Golfing Collage Page 3

Meet Art & Carrie Peavey Page 4

Little Angels Visit Page 4

Isaac Pigeon Walker Page 5

Isaac P. Walker (cont.) Page 6

PE Band, Volunteerism, Museum

Remodeling Page 7

Upcoming Events Page 8

GOLF OUTING

A beautiful day of golf at Eagle Springs Golf Resort was cut short by a fast moving storm that dumped torrential rains in the late afternoon. The day started out with a continental breakfast served between 9:00-10:00. The club house was filled with brightly colored balloons that were used for mul-ligans. Different hole challenges were offered on the course. Many businesses donated raffle prizes and an anonymous donor commissioned Bob Younger to carve an eagle as a main raffle prize. It was won by Mike Bolan and now has a permanent home in the club house. It would be worth a trip to the golf course just to see the eagle.

EHS members Bea Marquardt, Pat Hawes, Barbara Jatczak, Jane Reinke, Elaine Ledrowski, Diana & Ellie Hall, Joanne Rice, and Luanne Ervin made delicious hors d'oeuvres which were served on the turn around. Gillett's Country Store donated ham for sandwiches.

At the end of the day a raffle was held in the club house and Eagle Springs Golf Resort donated and served brats and burgers. Thank you everyone for making this a very successful day, including our volunteers, Doreen Skrepenski, Bev Schlipp, Judy Ziebell, Sue & Mark Weibel, Pat Burke, Ernie Kroeze, Susie Baumann, Janet Berkhahn, Luanne Ervin, Mike Rice, Jeff Nowicki, Mark Dexter, Don & Elaine Ledrowski. Particular thanks to our generous donors.

And last but certainly not least, thanks to Julie Dexter and Luann Ervin who did an outstanding job of coordinating the event.

HOLE SPONSORS

Alice Baker Library,
Barker Builders, Busher Properties,
Citizen's Bank of Mukwonago, Eagle Branch,
Coyote Canyon, Cuddle Duds, Double D's,
Continental Mills, Couch Properties,
Eagle Headquarters, Furrer Carpentry,
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RAFFLE DONORS

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National Golf Center, Johnson Bank,
Eagle Springs Golf Resort, Gordon Flesh Co.,
Gillettes Country Store,
Henhouse Restaurant,
Eileen Murphy,
Eagle Historical Society,
Terry Stevens,
Jason Strumberg



LITTLE ANGELS FIND THAT HISTORY
CAN BE FUN

Eighteen children from Little Angels Learning Center in East Troy visited the museum on Thursday, June 20th. One half of the group worked upstairs with Jessica and Arn Chamberlain using magnifying glasses to study rocks and fossils. Most of the fossils had been found in Jessica's garden. The rest of the group toured the museum, used a coffee grinder, and learned how to candle eggs and all about the Eagle diamond. This was a delightful group of six to eleven year olds who asked many questions and enjoyed learning about Eagle. The hour program ended with the children participating in an egg and spoon relay in the back yard.



Jessica Chamberlain in the museum with children

Photo by Don Ledrowski



**ONE MYSTERY SOLVED AND ONE STILL A
MYSTERY**

Lori Heckel has discovered the year of the Kettle Moraine poster in the previous newsletter. She has researched and come up with a very educated guess of 1965. Hearing nothing to the contrary we pronounce 1965 as the year of the poster. It shows the way things were at Kettle Moraine Days 43 years ago.

Unfortunately no one seemed to know the young girls in the parade picture and so it remains a mystery photo. Lori stands alone as the winner. I'd like to say the prize was \$5000.00 but they would surely fire me for that, and so the only prize we can give is our gratitude for some fine research. Thank you, Lori!

MEET ART & CARRIE PEAVEY



Art & Carrie are members of the Eagle Historical Society and of the Eagle community since 1997. They are an active family with two boys. Art is a lover of the outdoors, which includes hiking, biking, geocaching, hunting, fishing and gardening. **Geocaching** is an outdoor treasure-hunt in which the participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) or other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers (called "geocaches" or "caches") anywhere in the world. A typical cache is a small waterproof container containing a logbook and "treasure," usually toys or trinkets of little value. Today, well over 800,000 geocaches are registered on various websites devoted to the pastime. Geocaches are currently placed in over 100 countries around the world and on all seven continents, including Antarctica.

In addition to this fascinating hobby Art is an avid reader and is well known at the Eagle Library. Art is also an elder at his church in East Troy where he helps the congregation in their walk with Jesus Christ.

His "lovely" wife Carrie was first to suggest moving to Eagle and they have never been sorry for that move.

Carrie likes to sew and crochet. She loves puzzles and plays Scrabble every chance she gets. She also loves to read and is very interested in history. Wherever Art and Carrie travel they visit the historical museums.

They strongly feel that Eagle has been a great place to raise their boys.

ISAAC PIGEON WALKER

When you think of Eagle residents past and present, the name Isaac Pigeon Walker probably doesn't leap to mind as a man of consequence. Indeed, the name is unfamiliar to most, yet he did have a farm in Eagle many years ago and it still stands today on Sprague Road. And so we shall begin our story many years ago.

He was born on November 2, 1813 in Lynchburg, VA, the younger of two sons. When he was twelve his family moved to Illinois. He had little formal schooling and he began his career as a clerk in a general store. From there he went on to work in a law office in Danville, IL. It was the office of Judge Samuel McRoberts. Soon Judge McRoberts was elected to the United States Senate and Walker took over his practice. He began his political career as a representative in the Illinois General Assembly of 1838 and in 1840 he became a presidential elector on the Democratic ticket, beating Abraham Lincoln for the position.



He was denounced as a renegade, a treachery to Wisconsin, a shameless hypocrite

One would think with such a good start he would have stayed in Illinois rather than moving to Milwaukee. The reason may well have been that his elder brother George had already settled in the Wisconsin city on the lake. George was becoming quite successful as a real estate promoter, thus paving the way to his election to the territorial assembly in 1842. He was also on his way to becoming a federal land agent and in 1851 he was elected mayor of Milwaukee.

It is reasonable to conclude that even as early as 1841, when with his young bride, Elizabeth, Isaac Walker moved to Milwaukee, where he would be able to use to advantage the position of his older brother.

Throughout his life, Isaac was independent and controversial, ambitious and talented and he soon earned a reputation as a criminal lawyer, a public spirited citizen and a brilliant orator. On March 23, 1844, for instance, The Milwaukee Sentinel reported him as having just delivered "a speech

of the most soul-thrilling eloquence, in which he depicted in glowing colors the wrongs of Ireland, and English justices." It is interesting to note that the Sentinel, as well as many other papers, local and national, were not always that kind to Walker. He was accused of everything from overstating his travel allowance to evading votes and betraying trust in a vote on civil appropriation bill. He was criticized for his position on land limitation and the slavery vote. He was also criticized for being inconsistent. There may have been some truth in this since the record shows that he changed his mind on several issues.

All of this happened during his years in the Senate. He was elected U.S. Senator in 1848. That was the year Wisconsin achieved statehood and he was one of the two first senators from this area. He was described as the youngest and the most handsome man in the Senate.



One hundred and sixty years have no doubt brought about changes in what was considered handsome. You may judge for yourself.

Handsome or not, he did make his mark as a crusading Senator. Although he was sincere as a land reformer, at the same time he was sponsoring in the Senate, bills for giving public land to the Milwaukee,

Watertown, Prairie du Chein, La Crosse, Fond du Lac and Janesville Railroad groups. Small wonder that his opponents criticized him and his supporters were often confused.

His position on slavery, for example, which also was sometimes pro and sometimes against caused bitter sentiment from the state newspapers.

He was denounced as a renegade, a treachery to Wisconsin, a shameless hypocrite. The Sentinel proclaimed "Alas, that the voice vote of free Wisconsin should not have found more fit utterance or been confided to a more trusty interpreter." Incensed Wisconsin legislators introduced resolutions censuring Walker. By a vote of 40 to 9 the assembly adopted the resolution of censure. There was even talk of his resignation, but that never went further.

Because of his controversial stand on some issues he never established himself as a prominent politician. However in 1849 he won re-election by one vote.

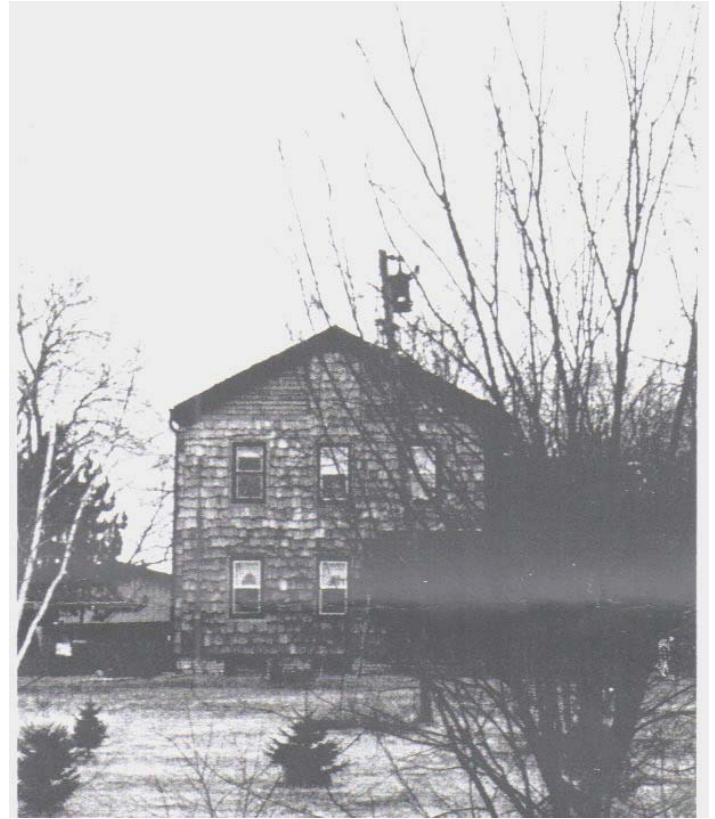
Walker became a hero of land reformers- "free land for the landless." In 1850 the New Jersey Land Reformers nominated him for the presidency but he did not receive any support from his own state. People in Wisconsin thought he was unqualified. He continued to be the subject of hot debate.

In 1855, after serving two terms in the senate, he was defeated. That same year he tried for a seat in the House of Representatives, but was not elected. It was at this time that he moved to the farm in Eagle. As a farmer, he was completely unsuccessful and after eight years he returned to the practice of law in Milwaukee, Originally he was known as a lawyer second to none but this time he met with little success.

It is known that Walker had begun a book but the papers have never been found. All of his life he was a man of strong feeling and conviction, not given to compromise. Because of his controversial stand on many issues and his various contradictions, it is difficult to measure the contributions he made to Wisconsin and the United States.

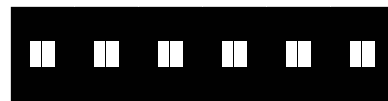
Mr. Walker died in his room at the Newhall House on March 29, 1872 of apoplexy. It may be presumed that his wife Elizabeth predeceased him, but there are no records to support that. He had two daughters, Lucia & Margaret. He was 56 years old, when he died, a forgotten man..

Added note: In 1846 he was named Loco-Foco * nominee for judge of probate.



The Walker Farm still stands on Sprague road.

*Loco-Foco was in U.S. history, the radical wing of the Democratic Party, organized in New York City in 1835. Made up primarily of workingmen and reformers, the Locofocos were opposed to state banks, monopolies, paper money, tariffs, and generally any financial policies that seemed to them antidemocratic and conducive to special privilege. The Locofocos received their name (which was later derisively applied by political opponents to all Democrats) when party regulars in New York turned off the gas lights to oust the radicals from a Tammany Hall nominating meeting. The radicals responded by lighting candles with the new self-igniting friction matches known as locofocos, and proceeded to nominate their own slate.





An overflow crowd enjoyed the Palmyra Eagle Community Band on a beautiful albeit breezy summer day. The music selections, the ice cream and cake, the sing-along and prizes for a guessing contest were mindful of concerts of another era. Children danced in the grass to the lively polka tunes. The band played "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" while Elaine Ledrowski explained that dressing for a warm day was not so good in those old days. She was helped by model Barb Jatzcak and assistants, Jean Cisler and Jean Thiele.

Barb was dressed in a bustle dress on loan from Old World Wisconsin, while the assistants displayed the many items it took to dress a woman in that "anything but cool" outfit.

A perfect afternoon ended all too soon, but it was obvious that a good time was had by all.



Photos by David Cisler

VOLUNTEERISM

What is it that makes a good community great? Is it bricks and mortar, parks and recreation, streets and sidewalks? These are important to be sure, but the thing that takes a community from mediocre to exceptional is the **people!** People bring *spirit* to a community! People bring *life* to a community! People bring *quality* to a community!

The Eagle Historical Society Museum is filled with volumes of pictures and stories about the spirit of bygone days. That spirit can be restored and renewed in each generation as we become volunteers in our community.

We are currently preparing a special Halloween/ Harvest program with a core group of EHS, Alice Baker Library, The Fire Dept. and Park and Rec. The event, which will be held on Saturday October 25th, will be filled with many events for our kids including a pumpkin decorating contest. This is your opportunity to become involved in the community and help the kids enjoy a fun, safe Halloween celebration. If you are looking for a way to help, or you are part of an organization that would like to participate, please leave a message for Mike Rice at 262-594-2011 or e-mail us at curator@centurytel.net We encourage each of you to contribute to the spirit of Eagle Wisconsin!

MUSEUM IMPROVEMENTS

The remodeling plan is to remove the ceiling tiles to expose the wooden beams and install track lightings. Handy with a hammer or savvy with a saw? Volunteers are needed. Call Jeff Nowicki @ 262-594-3426 or Don Ledrowski @ 262-594-3301 for more information. We are working with Stephanie Kalnes who is designing placement of display cases to give the museum a new look.

Contributions to help defray the cost of this project would be appreciated. Contributions are tax deductible and may be mailed to the Eagle Historical Society Inc, Attn: Don Ledrowski, P.O. Box 454, Eagle, WI 53119.

All donors will be listed on a plaque to be displayed in the museum.



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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Wine & Cheese Social
August 17, 2008*

UPCOMING EVENTS



A reception will be held at the Eagle Historical Society Museum on August 17th, 2008 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Wine and cheese will be served. Summer music sounds will once again be provided by Mal & Ken Olson.

Special Halloween/Harvest event on October 25, 2008 complete with pumpkin carving contest. Watch for more details.

