



# EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October 2008

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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: eaglehistori-  
calsociety.org

## MEMBERSHIP

### Welcome New Member

Lavern Betts

### DONATIONS

LaVern Betts

Jean Bowey

Doc Crawley

Kathy Chapman

Mabel Finney

Donna Franshaw

Ellie & Diana Hall

Dorothy Kau

Bill Thiele

Don Wambold

Arlene Zajdel

## Web-Site Updates

Are you aware of the many art-  
ists in the Eagle area? Check out  
our web site

[www.eaglehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.eaglehistoricalsociety.org)

for a video of the museum art  
gallery. Carolyn Rosprim photo-  
graphed all the art work and  
Mike Rice created the video and  
did the voiceover. Click on Our  
Artistic Neighbors and enjoy a  
virtual tour of the art exhibit.

Webmaster Ryan Hajewski has  
been busy updating recent event  
photos and has added an Eagle  
History Forum. Check it out and  
share your history.

## Museum Improvements

Stephanie Kalnes of Great Lakes Design  
has created a design to give the museum a  
new look. Relocation of display cases  
will enhance the traffic flow and the use  
of vivid colors will set off the exhibits.  
Ceiling tiles have been removed to ex-  
pose the original wooden beams and the  
installation of track lighting will begin  
soon.

## THANKS

Donations to Museum Improvements:

Pat Nelson \$10.00

Elaine & Don Ledrowski \$25.00

Jean & Harry Cisler \$10.00

Other donations would be greatly ap-  
preciated. Send them to Eagle His-  
torical Society, Box 454, Eagle WI  
53119 Attention: Don Ledrowski.

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## Museum Happenings

The weather was much more cooperative for the wine & cheese reception at the Eagle Museum this year. Gone were the rain showers of 2007 that forced everyone indoors. The sunshine held on all afternoon while many visitors enjoyed the wine, punch and hors d'oeuvres. And what could be more enjoyable on a summer afternoon than the sweet sounds played by Ken and Mal Olson on guitar and dulcimer? Mal also maneuvered the wooden dancing man, a novelty from the south which the small children enjoyed. Some sang along with the old tunes, urged on by Jerry Juedes. Many visitors also went inside to see the displays, art work and the state of the renovation. The Historical Society was pleased to entertain guests from surrounding communities, such as Dousman, Oconomowoc, Fort Atkinson, Jefferson, New Berlin, Waterloo, Whitewater and Palmyra as well as old friends from Eagle.



Barbara Jatzak serves punch while other visitors look over the varied snacks.

## Pumpkin Party!!!

As you may know, we're having an Eagle Pumpkin Party on Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup> that will be filled with fun activities for kids and adults as well! This is going to be a great time for our community to come together in a fun way, and get into the fall spirit! We are sending brochures out with kids at the Eagle Elementary School and will be stuffing news boxes with brochures as well.

We want our local businesses to join in on the fun, too! You can get involved by decorating a light pole on Main Street with a scarecrow, making sure to display your business name. The poles are first come, first serve so get your decorations up soon! The decorations will remain up until after Thanksgiving. Imagine what it will look like as you drive down Main Street and see the festive atmosphere that this community can generate!!!

To conclude the day's events we are having a Pumpkin Contest judging at the Village square. We will have a set of bleachers set up in the Shorewest parking area where kids can bring their pumpkins from noon – 5 PM to enter them into the contest. Businesses who make a \$20 donation will be allowed to send one person to participate as one of the judges. Your name will be included as a "Sponsor" in a festive brochure that will be circulated throughout the community. Checks can be made out & sent to;

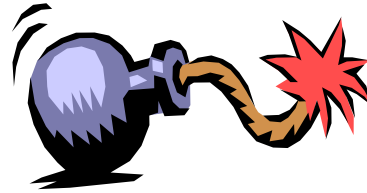
Eagle Business Association  
Po Box 272  
Eagle, WI 53119



## The Day the Bomb Went Off In Eagle

The following is an article taken from the October 27, 1939 Eagle Quill. Due to the manner of reporting, which is somewhat different from today, we present the article in its entirety just as it first appeared, including headlines. ( For point of reference, Price Tavern is today the Knucklehead.)

### Bombers of Price Tavern at Eagle Friday Not Yet Apprehended



**Bomb Explodes at 1:25 Friday Morning,  
Sheriff to Nab Culprits Very Soon.**

A terrific explosion of a bomb presumably placed at the street door to the front hallway entrance to the tavern owned by Edward J. Price terrified the sleeping village of Eagle at approximately 25 minutes after one Friday morning, causing damage estimated at around \$500.00 to the tavern and breaking over 40 windows in the neighborhood in addition to the damage done to the adjacent stores.

That no harm came to anyone is a miracle for Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Price were sleeping in the rear quarters of the tavern just 50 feet away from where the bomb was placed. Joe Shortell was on duty at the telephone office two doors away and little Charlotte Mealy was sleeping quietly in her room on the second floor of the Mealy establishment. Charlotte had a narrow escape, though, for the force of the explosion blew a window in over her bed. Joe Shortell was evidently frightened to death judging from the incoherent replies persons received from him when trying to make telephone connections.

#### **Explosive Not Known**

Although the type of explosive used could not be immediately determined the principal forces of the bomb seemed to be directed downward as the entire basement of the tavern was badly demolished while the upstairs escaped with virtually little or no damage. Beside the effects entailed in the basement, the brick walls were pressed out, windows

broken and a large can of sugar standing in the hall was scattered down the steps.

The tavern was not the only building to suffer loss, the Bank of Eagle had one glass window shattered, part of a transom blown in and slight damage to the west wall. Windows broken and other damage incurred by the telephone office.

Shortly after the bomb went off, several deputies from Waukesha came racing to the scene; one of them, Deputy Williams came prepared for the worst, carrying along a young arsenal including a machine gun.

#### **Heard Miles Away**

That it was a huge blast is testified by the fact that Ronald Wambold reported hearing it at Eagle Lake four miles away from the scene. The bomb was presumably wrapped in a copy of the Benefactor, a sort of radical publication, pieces of which were found all over the basement. The paper is now in the possession of Willis Englebretsen. A convincing fact that the Benefactor was used for wrapping around the explosive, is the fact that no papers of any sort are kept in the basement according to Mr. Price.

Work to repair the damage was started almost immediately and it wasn't long before the village began to take on a more normal appearance again.

( continued on page 6)

## Alice Baker and the Magic Ring

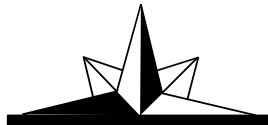
Taken from the writings of Alice Baker, adapted by Jean Cisler

*Back in the 1960's Alice Baker composed a history of Eagle and the surrounding area. It was part whimsical but most was based on fact. The whimsical part included the magic ring and traveling back in time. The history was complete up until the sixties when she wrote it. Some things have no doubt changed and/or disappeared completely, but for the moment let us remember the way things were.*

Magic Ring, we would like to be in and around Jericho in the early 1800's. What would it be like? There are no written records concerning this region so we must call on our imagination and analogy, which can be a most dangerous practice when writing history. But we shall work with what we know and you, dear reader, can supplement the incidents listed with your own.

This region was a woody place, more extensive than now and timber much larger than what we are familiar with today. In the 1800's, west of Betts Road, there was a stand of timber so thick that the pond which flanked it could scarcely be seen. From what is now Hwy NN to HWY 20, west of Betts Road, there was a region of timber broken only by the farm homes of Francis Baker, Jonathan Betts, and John Chapman, Sr. grandfather of Harold and Archie Chapman.

The draughts of 1866-1889 thinned that band of trees and today Alvin Nelson cultivated the land flanking "Sherman's Pond" as my generation calls it, as do the land owners south to the John Chapman place, now a girl's camp. \*



*I should have liked to watch the deer, raccoons, skunks, woodchucks, minks, weasels, martins, bear, wolves and even a few lynxes as they quenched their thirst at Hinkley's spring,*

Another instance of this expanse of wood, now non-existent, was found at the former John Buell place on Hwy 67. Up to the 1920's one of the best exhibits of dense primeval wood could be found north of his rambling house. Basswood trees, a yard in diameter, oaks of similar girth, unbranched for 30 to 40 feet towered to the sky. In the extension of the Buell forest,\*\* which Harold Pardee owned from 1935 to 1947, I found a stump of a common chestnut tree. This stump was also easily a yard in diameter, hollow and from the outside still live rim shoots 10 to 15 feet high were growing. I know of no other evidence of the common chestnut tree in this region. Do you?

Magic Ring, take me to the animal trails which led to the sources of water. These trails helped the Indians to the same source, and in some instances were the basis of highways for the white man. I should have liked to watch the deer, raccoons, skunks, woodchucks, minks, weasels, martins, bear, wolves and even a few lynxes as they quenched their thirst at Hinkley's spring, William Sherman's stream or springs, streams at Eagleville or the pond. There was no lake at Eagleville until Dr. Daniel Bigelow put in the mill dam in December of 1836.

It would have been a pleasure to meet the friendly Potowatomies, to see their villages, one of which was quite large, down near the bridge on Hwy. 83. # Both Jericho and Eagle figured as their hunting grounds. Proof of this fact is that many local residents have found Indian arrowheads on their property. In the 1880's my father, whose farm was in section 33 of Eagle, ## found many arrowheads, some large of heavy flint for deer and bear, some smaller for birds and other small animals. I suspect that the arrowheads found on local farms were the ones that missed their mark, for the Indians would have saved the ones that brought down deer or bear. Many local residents may have collections of these same artifacts.

Vicariously, I should have liked prospecting this region. There was a time when trappers were the one type of white men who had knowledge of this area. The many marshes in Eagle and Mukwonago made ideal homes for mink, martin, a few beaver, and many muskrats, hence a rich region for men who knew how to trap. Many of the first settlers did prospecting. A.R. Hinkley, his brother Henry, and Andrew Schofield prospected this region a full month before settling on their properties. T. Wm. West, Thos. Sugden and Joseph Smart looked around before choosing their claims. I should liked to have been with the Chas. Cox family when they selected a site on the property now owned by Mr. Acker, the northwest corner of the intersection of Hwy. E and 99. Cox, his wife and two adopted children decided the spot was right. The factors in that decision were:

Water, nearby in the creek; trees in abundance with which to build a cabin; game in the woods; and grass for horse or oxen; their covered wagon a home till a cabin could be built. Cox and his family had come from Indiana and found the spot in June of 1836. Cox is credited as being the first settler of Mukwonago. He had lived successively in Milwaukee, Genesee and finally Mukwonago, but his tenure here was short, since he died in July of 1838 and is buried in the little cemetery around the corner in Jericho. Time and weather have obliterated any marking on his tombstone and since there are five such marble slabs, his burial plot is not easy to find.

In early days there was much controversy as to who was the first settler. It would have been interesting to be present that September 20th in 1836 when A.R. Hinkley cut his initials on a tree with such celerity that Andrew Scholfield is credited with saying "Thee is quick with thy knife, Ahira."

Why did Hinkley decide with such haste on the acres in sections 11,12 and 14? Again, water in a nearby spring. Their trail that morning had led to the big spring still flowing on Hwy NN, just south of the railroad track. There was timber for a cabin, plenty of it, and clearings south and west provided

fields for many crops without the labor of clearing the land.

There is still some controversy as to the first settlers of Jericho and Eagle. Mrs. Caroline Barber Ford of Lake Geneva doubts that Hinkley was ahead of her grandfather who took up the land managed by John Lueck. To Sherman much credit must be given, for he has put into written record a history of his life and his coming to Jericho. His record does not, however, have the exact time when he found Charles Cox. Since Sherman left Hinkley, N.Y. in August 1836, crossed the state of Michigan with horse and wagon, skirted the Lake to Chicago and then took a sail boat to Milwaukee, I think the assumption that Hinkley was first is correct, since he left Milwaukee with three companions on August 14th. On the other hand Sherman could have preceded Hinkley. In that fall season, Sherman felled trees for a 14 by 14 ft. log house, cut enough hay to feed his horse during the winter and started back to N.Y. by November 1st.

There was a friendly rivalry between Hinkley and Sherman, and in their later days, Hinkley always wanted to outlive Sherman. Hinkley lived 97 years from 1810 to 1907, Sherman lived 100 years lacking one month from 1809 to 1909.

I suspect that again water played an important part in Sherman's decision to choose section 24 or he might have had an eye to beauty for, even today, there is no more beautiful setting for a home than that John Lueck and his family enjoy.

\* Chapman Hills, East Troy, Walworth

County

\*\* YMCA Hwy 67

# Genesee

## Betts & Shearer Road

Alice Baker's interesting story of Eagle's beginnings will be continued in the next newsletter.



(continued from page 3)

Another article appeared in an unknown newspaper. Though the paper is not identified, there was no doubt about the strong sentiment felt as expressed in the last sentence.

### The Eagle Bombing

The impression that the bombing which rocked the village of Eagle last week, should be easily solved by the police due to the fact that they might trace the previous actions of all people that might possibly have a motive for harming the business or the person of Mr. Price, is strictly a fallacy. It might be very easy to prove a motive but to actually prove that a certain person committed the bombing is going to be much harder than it appears on the surface. And such proof must be obtained before anyone can be brought to trial.

However, it is hoped that the police will use all possible means at their disposal to bring the guilty parties to light, for such sort of terrorism has no place in the United States. Every man has the right under law to conduct his business, provided it is legal, free from any criminal interference.

This should not be considered as just another case by the police, for it marks an inroad of gangster activities in the rural communities, which have been comparatively free from such rowdyism in the past. And they must consider the fact, that though no one was killed, the bombing nevertheless stamps the guilty party as a potential murderer and **such kind of people should be wiped from the face of the earth.**

Editor's note:

No beating around the bush here.

## Obituary

### Florence Neary - August 18, 2008

Florence E. Neary (nee Lewis), 79 of Eagle, went to meet her heavenly father Monday, August 18th, 2008. Florence was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., the daughter of the late Stephen and Beatrice (nee Reedy) Lewis.

Florence was a member of the Eagle Historical Society and served as Secretary from 2001 to 2004.

She was the beloved wife of Gerald Neary of Eagle. Florence is further survived by her children, Barbara (Larry) Gliszinski of Cudahy, Michael (Bonita) Neary of Dousman, Mark (Sophia) Neary of Chandler, Arizona, Carol (Roger) Kluver of New Munster, Debbie (Mike) Westerman of Ixonia and Matthew (Tonya) Neary of Dousman; 11 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Memorial Services were held on Tuesday, August 26, at Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church (at highways D and E) in Genesee Depot. The Rev. Wayne Meier presided. Mealy's Funeral Home assisted the family.



DRUNK DRIVING by Whitney Marie Krestan

Drinking then driving is not cool,

Especially when you drop out of school.

You and your friends may think it's cool,

But to others, you're just a fool.

You told your parents that you'd be back by eleven

But then the next morning, they found out you're in heaven.

You promised your parents that the party was safe.

You told them that straight to their face.

Your parents trusted you from the start,

And they loved you to the heart.

You also trusted your best friend.

But once you got in the car, it was the end.

At home and at school, it will wreck your reputation.

Down on Earth and up in Heaven

Others will judge you from what you've done.

Having no friends is not fun.

Stay out of trouble,

Don't drink and drive.

You'll survive.

## Obituary

Suzanne Wambold August 29,2008



Sue came into the world on April 16, 1938 as Suzanne Curley. She came from Irish heritage and had always been proud to lay claim to the Irish.

She married Donald Wambold in 1956 and transplanted from the city to the country, moving out to Eagle, WI where she lived her married life and raised 5 children in the country setting. She was a stay at home Mom and later employed as a health care professional doing a lot of home care. She gave 100% of herself with love, compassion and giving to the sick and her patients returned the love back to her. Family ties were important to Sue. She accepted Don's large family as an extension of her own and loved them as much as her own. She raised her children to appreciate the value of family commitment and loyalty that she believed was so very important. Always a caring and giving person, she encouraged her grandchildren to have confidence in themselves and to "dream big." It was important for Sue to bring the family together for joyous days of celebrations, especially holidays and important events.

Along with her commitment to family she found a love for genealogy and tracing her families roots, both Curley's and Wambold's. Doing the genealogy brought her to love the past history of things. She became active in the Eagle community and an active member of the Historical society.

As life moved on to retirement years she found herself with Don enjoying traveling out of state, short trips to casinos to gamble and rummage sales. She enjoyed life, the ups and downs, and made the best of things. She faced adversity with a strength of spirit and faith that is admirable. She had a heart of gold. She had a full and happy life but she was getting tired. The Lord saw this and called her to rest on August 28, 2008. **A TRIBUTE BY Bev Spurell**

Suzanne is survived by her husband, Donald, their children, Donald, Jr, (Kathy) of Mukwonago, Joanne (John) Kaye of Arkansas, Jerry (Jeanette) of Michigan, Patricia (Dan) Meyer of Eagle and Laurie Sullivan of East Troy, eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and her brother Daniel (Marianne) Curley of Milwaukee. She is further survived by nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Suzanne was preceded in death by her brothers David and Dennis Curley.

A memorial mass was held on September 2nd at St. Theresa Catholic church in Eagle with the Rev. Dennis Ackeret officiating. Mealy's Funeral Home assisted the family.





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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Presidential Election Day  
Bake Sale November 4th*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Special Halloween/Harvest event on October 25, 2008 complete with pumpkin carving contest. Activities at the Library, Firehouse, Methodist Church, Historical Society Museum and the Legion Hall. The PE Community Band will play in the Village Square from 2 to 3p.m. with many more events going on between 1 and 5 p.m. Visit the museum to experience what happens when the Museum comes to life after dark. NOT TOO SCARY! Suitable for all ages.

Presidential Election  
Day Bake Sale November 4th  
Hours 8 A.M until sold out.  
DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

