



# EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October 2009

## EHS Board

*President*

Jeff Nowicki, 2010

*Vice-President*

Barbara Jatzcak, 2012

*Secretary*

Bea Marquardt, 2011

*Treasurer*

Pat Wilton, 2012

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Diana Hall, 2011

Eloise Hall, 2011

Pat Hawes, 2010

Richard Moeller, 2012

Jane Reinke, 2011

Carolyn Rosprim 2012

Mike Rice, 2011

**Curator**

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, 4-7 pm

Website: eaglehistori-

calsociety.org

## MEMBERSHIP

### Welcome New Members

Dave & Mary Traver

**Family Membership: \$15.00**

Dave & Mary Traver

### **Artifact Donations:**

Elmer Killian

Diana & Eloise Hall

Ken Skidmore

Eddie Stephan

Merle Spellman

Phillip Hall

Sharon Royston

A sincere thank you to the above donors and everyone who has donated items in the past. Volunteers are currently working on items donated by Red Hinkley. It is always exciting to open a new box of donated items and to try to reconstruct the donor's life by the artifacts submitted. It is much like History Detectives, though on a smaller scale, of course. The first step is to sort out items into categories such as pictures, postcards, original documents and newspaper articles. Jean Bowey is separating the photos by families, schools and places in Eagle. Each photo is numbered and described. Carolyn Rosprim will then scan and enter the description into the computer. The photos will be put into protected sleeves and stored in appro-

priate boxes. Barbara Jatzcak, Virginia Dudzek and Elaine Ledrowski are following a similar procedure with the original documents and postcards. When completed Don Ledrowski will scan the documents and enter the descriptions into the computer.

When this project is finished we will proceed with the 350 plus items donated by Ken Skidmore. Volunteers are always needed. Come and be a History Detective yourself!

As noted above EHS is an all volunteer organization. Some of the youngest workers this summer were Alex and John Rosno who volunteered for eight hours working towards a Boy Scout badge. They pulled weeds, filed papers and scraped and varnished the bench in the front yard. Jessica Steinbach worked at home on her computer preparing questions for the Before Computer Activity Center. She spent many hours designing grade appropriate questions. Thank you Alex, John and Jessica for all your help.

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## MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

### Newsletter Editor

Watch the newspapers for articles written by Jean Cisler. Some of the stories she has written for our newsletter have been reprinted in the Mukwonago Chief., Kettle Moraine Living section of the Milwaukee Journal and in Landmark, the newsletter for the Waukesha Historical Society. She is doing an excellent job of sharing the history of Eagle and keeping the Historical Society in the news.

### 217 Main Street

Have you noticed the fresh new look of the building? Adam Sietz and crew were hired by the Town and Village to do the painting. We picked the colors with suggestions from Stephanie Kalnes. At the present time EHS cannot afford to put black shutters on the building. Cash donations would be appreciated to finish the rest of the building. Pick out your window and we will add your name to the poster.

***Buy a pair of shutters for the Eagle Historical Society \$25 pr.  
and join the list of donors***



- |   |                |     |     |
|---|----------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Don & Elaine Ledrowski                     | 9. Dianna Hall | 14. | 18. |
| 2. Jean Bowey                                 | 10.            | 15. | 19. |
| 3. Barb Jatzczak                              | 11.            | 16. |     |
| 4. Jeff Nowicki                               | 12             | 17. |     |
| 5. Mary & John Vymetal-Taylor                 | 13.            |     |     |
| 6. In memory of Donna & Ras Kalnes            |                |     |     |
| 7. Jill & Russ Steinhart (Eagle Headquarters) |                |     |     |
| 8. Ellie Hall                                 |                |     |     |

Illustration by Mike Rice

### Web Site

There will also be a new look to our web site. We have changed web servers and will have unlimited capacity with our new server. Member Alan Ledrowski has been instrumental in researching and suggesting web servers and free Web design programs. We have selected a new program and design. Ryan Hajewki had designed our former site but had to travel to Whitewater to work on it. Additions and changes will now be able to be made using our computer at the museum. The new program will also allow Mike Rice, Jean Cisler, Jeff Nowicki, Ryan Hajewski and Don Ledrowski to make changes and add new entrees.

### Open House

This was the first opportunity for visitors to view the museum's new look. Visitors were impressed with the track lighting, restoration of the original floors and all the new exhibits, including the Ann & Newell Meyer's art work on loan from the Nature Conservancy. The weather was threatening all day but the rain held off. Members Mal and Ken Olson with friends Bramble and Rose (Rich Schwartz and Ruth Sternemann) entertained guests outside with Folk and Celtic tunes. Thank you for the wonderful music.

# The Priscillas

The Priscillas were a group of friends, who, when we catch up with them in 1936 by way of their diary, first met in 1903. There is no record of those early meetings, as they were in the business of raising families, but from 1936 until 1971, each year is chronicled. The first meeting in 1936 is one of fond memories. “ Lottie has a Valentine invitation for a party in our club room on Feb.14th, 1904 and all remembered the same. We recalled 11 as founders.” There were also three other guests at that party. The diary goes on to say that nine members were left. They were listed as :

- Katie Sykes who had come all the way from California
- Mabel Lurvey Ennessey, Evanston, IL
- Tena Lurvey Smead, Milwaukee
- Lottie Bigelow Stead ,Eagle
- Florence Weston Pardee, Eagle
- Isabel Luis Engelbretsen, Eagle
- Helen Ihnig Mell, Chicago
- Bertha Thomas Mayhew from Mukwonago was absent due to illness, as was Mame Luis.

They apparently met just once a year, but they certainly made each year count, with such hi-jinks as “cocktails and hors d’oeuvres were served and *cigarettes* passed out.” After some hours of talking, dinner was served by hostesses Isabel and Helen.

They compared notes and commented on how much or how little each had changed. They laughed at Tena who tried to pretend she was a smoker, but didn’t even know how to hold a cigarette.

Each year they met and did about the same things, sometimes taking in a movie. As the years passed they went out for dinner, always somewhere different . There

were no meetings in 1941 or 1942.

They listed grandchildren born and spouses passing on and meetings missed because of illness. Eventually they had to say goodbye to their long-time friends.

The last meeting was listed in 1964 with four attending.

Helen Mell was the last survivor. She died at Fairhaven in January, 1977, closing the diary of the Priscillas, a group of women, whose friendship spanned sixty years.



Rear: Flossy, Tena, Mabel Pardee, Grace Kline, Bertrice  
Front: Helen, Mame, Mabel, Isabel & Lottie



Rear:Lottie, Mame, Helen, Flossy  
Front: Friend of Louise Luis, Louise B., Isabel

## Where Flies the Eagle Flag?



EHS archival photo

Fourth graders displaying their work

Back in 1976, Donna Kalnes' enterprising fourth grade class of Eagle Elementary school, decided to pay tribute to the nation's bicentennial and also to the birth of Eagle, first as a township and later a village. They diligently researched Eagle's beginnings. They checked into Old World Wisconsin's literature, area newspapers, and talked to their elders who might have tales to pass on.

The result was the making of a flag to represent Eagle. Naturally they first started with an eagle. As the story goes Eagle got its name because two men saw an eagle circling the Kettle Moraine hills in the early 1830's when they arrived here.

The house on the flag is a type built by German pioneers in the area. And then there's the Famous Diamond. The diamond was found by a man digging a well. It was the only one ever found in the county, though not for lack of trying. Alas, it had a sad ending, having been sold, then stolen and never found again. A replica of the Ea-

gle diamond now resides in the Eagle Historical Society Museum in its own display.

The pine and oak leaves that surround the figures represent the trees most commonly found in the Kettle Moraine forest. The motto Excelsior was chosen because Eagle is the highest point in the region and hereafter will be known as the "greatest ever."

For six weeks the fourth graders worked on the flag and then presented it to the village where it was hung in the village hall for all to see.

Unfortunately, no one can see it now because no one seems to know what happened to it. It may be in the back of someone's closet or in a storage chest somewhere.

If you have any idea where the flag might be, please come forward. There are a lot of former fourth graders, now somewhat older, who would like to know what happened to all their work, as would many villagers who were involved. Contact Elaine at the Museum at 594-3301 or 594-8961.

As the picture suggests, it is a handsome flag and worthy to be displayed.

# Pumpkin Party 2009

## October 31st 1- 4 p.m



The second annual Pumpkin Party promises to be even bigger and better than last year's. There will be face painting, fun and food, music and monsters, pumpkin carving and prizes, games and goodies.

The music will include the Palmyra Eagle Community Band from 1 p.m to 2 p.m., followed by The Craftsman (classic rock show) from 2p.m. to 3p.m.

Don't miss the great pumpkin drop at Suhmer's at 3:30 p.m. Pumpkin carving will be judged at 3:45 p.m. And, of course, there will be the Gallery of Monsters at the Museum. Bring a can of food for the "can a cop" food drive.

These Eagle fun activities are sponsored by the Eagle library, Recreation department, Methodist church, the Historical Society, Lioness, Police dept., Fire dept., local Eagle businesses, Eagle Business Association and the community of Eagle.

### Poet's Corner

#### Silos

Like the abandoned mines of Cornwall  
The silent farm silos stand  
Where once the Cornish People farmed  
In, this the great new land.

Fields where hay and wheat once grew  
Now divided in five acre plots.  
Some people keep a horse or two.  
Other places groomed like city lots.

Once calling the kids to school  
The school bells no longer ring.  
No kids splashing in the creek  
Celebrating the rite of spring.

It is not quiet and peaceful now  
Like it was in the days of yore.  
Instead of peaceful woodland sounds  
We hear the nearby highway's roar.

Like the lonely chimneys of Cornwall  
Without houses or shed or barn  
Stand the silent lonely silos  
Where once Cornish people farmed.

Robert Baker

#### Eagle

Eagle is a little town

Where gentle folk walk up and  
down

And greet each other passing by  
With smiling lips and twinkling  
eye.

At easy pace the streets they  
walk.

They've time to spare to stop and  
talk.

The visitors who come to play  
And idle summer months away  
Wish often cities great would be  
As pleasant and as neighborly.

Eagle is a village small  
With just a central meeting hall  
And shops where things are  
bought and sold

A doctor, dedicated, wise and  
old.

Two churches for divided creeds  
It can supply all human needs.  
At night the simple noises cease  
Which is too often a blissful  
state

Denied where cities grow too  
great.

Augusta Beierle

To a Priscilla

In retrospect

Yes my dears, we're growing  
old.

We have lived a good-full life.  
Some of it more and some of it  
less

But mainly, we've done all right.  
None of us have set the world on  
fire.

With grand and glorious deeds.  
We just did our best in everyday  
life

And mainly it came out all right.  
Fortune and fame seemed to  
pass us by

But fame is a fleeting thing.  
Fortune-we did our best with  
what we had

And mainly, we done all right.  
We have had some joy and have  
shed some tears

To live to the full our day.  
We have seen much change-  
some good-some bad

As time sped on it's way

(Cont. on page 7)

## History of the Library in Eagle

In one section of a store on Main Street, Marvin Bovee established the first library in Eagle. Though small, it contained many volumes on varied subjects of interest. The year was 1905. It has not been recorded how long that library lasted, but in 1949, the Eagle Homemakers sponsored a library housed in one room of the Eagle Elementary School, then known as the Eagle Graded School.

The Free Library Commission of Wisconsin furnished the books. Its use was free to all Eagle residents and the hours of operation did not coincide with school hours, making it a completely separate entity.

In 1974 the traveling books moved to the Methodist Church, using a portion of their Sunday school room. There it remained until 1984.

In 1984, Carl Zipprich moved from Eagle but his love for the community was shown in the fact that he donated the Partridge house to the library board. This seemed an ideal spot for the Library. Much renovation was needed; however both the town and village appropriated \$25,000 each for the construction project. Many volunteers helped keep the costs down. They painted, stained and moved 10 years of acquired books & materials to the new library. They held their grand opening on July 30th, 1984. The staff consisted of Betty Isleb, head librarian, Barbara Jatzak, assistant librarian, clerks Joanne Batzler and Kathy Wendorf and Secretary Barbara Wariner. It was officially named the Alice Baker Memorial Public Library, in honor of Alice Baker who passed away in 1974.

In 1972 even before the Methodist church library, Alice Baker tried to get people together who would have an interest in a library.

She approached Lance Fan-

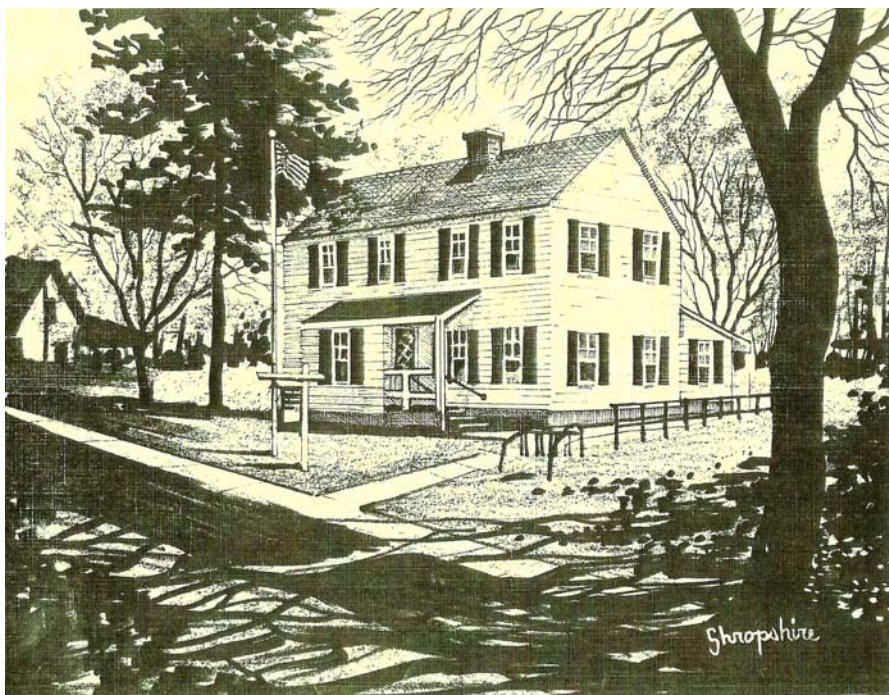
Jean Cisler

shaw and suggested setting up a meeting to determine interest. About 40 people attended this first meeting.

This seemed encouraging, but as more meetings were held, fewer and fewer people attended. It was left to a few to put the library plans in motion. Those few were Lance Fanshaw, Betty Isleb, and Lillian Rundquist and her daughter, Wendy. They were instrumental in setting up the library at 217 Main Street.

John Daggett, an Eagle resident and book lover, became an Eagle Library supporter. He served on the newly formed Waukesha County Library Board and would later serve on the Alice Baker Library Board. He was an avid supporter of the Eagle library and was also foremost in moving the library out of the Methodist Church.

The new library afforded them about



Artist Shopshire's pencil drawing

The first Alice Baker Memorial Public Library, currently the Eagle Historical Society Museum

four times as much room as the previous location, the Methodist Church.

The library board at that time consisted of Lance Fanshaw, Betty Isleb, Lillian Rundquist, Dorothy Sherman, and Mabel Finney. Lance Fanshaw was the first president of the board and served in that capacity from October, 1974 to December 1987.

A headline in the Chief read “Eagle Library Settles into New Home” And indeed it did settle in for ten good years, but those traveling books could not stay still forever.

In 1994, the final move was made to its present location at 820 E. Main Street where it shares one half of the municipal building Now Eagle has a permanent location for its thousands of books, for computers, audio books and everything else needed for a first class library.

In 1999, the Eagle library had an open house, celebrating it’s 25th anniversary, dating back to the library in the Methodist church.

As we’ve shown the desire for reading and learning actually goes way back to 1905, starting with Marvin Bovee and continuing on up to the present. The many people who worked and campaigned for a library are too numerous to mention here, but it wasn’t the work of any one individual. It was the dream of people who wanted to better their community. It was for the love of reading that passed from one generation to another.



The current Alice Baker Memorial Public Library  
820 East Main Street

## EHS Museum

It is in that same spirit of community that the Eagle Historical Society provides these services:

- ⇒ Information on early to current residents of Eagle.
- ⇒ Extensive collection of books, including encyclopedias dating back to 1889.
- ⇒ Atlantic Monthly Magazines (1859-1925)
- ⇒ Sheet Music and Records.
- ⇒ Genealogical Information.
- ⇒ Files on Businesses, people, Organizations, schools & churches.

We rely on you to share information with us about your families-births, weddings, obituaries, family histories, etc.

## Poet's Corner

(Cont. from page 5)

Now-we stop to rest and to meditate  
 Count blessings that are good  
 And pray that-God who knows each heart  
 Thinks we have done the best we could.  
 So here is a toast-for us all to say  
 In friendship’s finest way  
 Here’s to you –and here’s to me Kathryn Whettam  
 And to Eagle Wisconsin-U.S.A. Glasco-1956

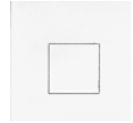


## Christmas– It’s Just Around The Corner

The Museum has reproduced a collection of Christmas post cards, just like the ones your grandparents used to send. These cards are available at a cost of 10 for \$3.00. Postage being what it is, this would be an economical way to send Christmas greetings to your friends and also walk them down a reminiscent path. Order early to ensure delivery on time. Postage will be added. Contact Don Ledrowski for more information at 594– 3301 or dledrowski@wi.rr.com.



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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Pumpkin Party,  
October 31st*



Sponsors and Town of Eagle Board enjoy the open house at Eagle Historical Society. Shown, upper left: Mike Rice, Dan West, Pat Morton and Eloise Hall. Upper right: Dan Malek, Julie and Mark Dexter and Stephanie Kalnes Lower right: Jerry & Lori Heckel and Elaine Ledrowski.