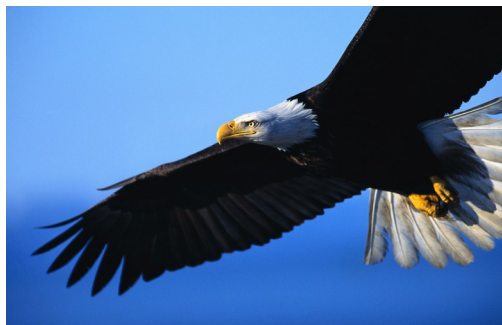


EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 2014

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Dick and Gretchen Jones

ARTIFACT DONATIONS:

Thanks for numerous donations. The following is a list of donors and just a sample of the type of items received:

Lisa Busche—Display Case
Kathleen Chapman—Two Abstracts
Mabel Finney— Games and Puzzles
Ellie Hall—1993 UM Church Directory
Mark Lake—1931 Eagle School Awards
Shirley Matters—WWII Postcard
Jeff Nowicki—WWII Book, Ocean Front
Nancy Payne—Child's Fur Muff

G.I. JOE's 50th BIRTHDAY

It was in early 1964 when Hasbro Inc. introduced the world's first action figure at the annual toy fair in New York City, and G.I. Joe remains popular 50 years later. Originally, the toy was 11-1/2 inches tall, had 21 moving parts and sold for \$4 each. It was designed as a tribute to the military servicemen at a time when we were on the brink of the Vietnam War, and outfits resembled the uniforms worn by the Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force. Cartoons, comic books, movies and even a collector's club have come about

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EHS Board

President

Jeff Nowicki, 2016

Vice-President

Barbara Jatczak, 2015

Secretary

Ryan Hajewski, 2016

Treasurer

Pat Hawes, 2015

Financial Officer

Donald Ledrowski, 2015

Members

Jean Bowey, 2016
Jessie Chamberlain, 2016

Jean Cisler, 2017
Mark Dexter, 2016
Diana Hall, 2017
Eloise Hall, 2017
Bea Marquardt, 2017
Richard Moeller, 2015
Carolyn Rosprim, 2015
Mike Rice, 2017

Curator

Elaine Ledrowski
594-3301

Newsletter Editors

Art & Carrie Peavy
594-5454

Webmaster

Mike Rice

BAKE SALE: Thanks to all who donated and purchased baked goods during our Election Day Bake Sale on Tuesday, April 1. It was a very successful event coordinated by co-chairpersons Ellie and Diana Hall and Pat Hawes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Plant Swap — Saturday, May 17, from 8 am—2 pm at EHS Museum
Ice Cream Social — Sunday, July 13, starting at 1 pm with demonstrations by local horse enthusiasts followed by **Palmyra Eagle Community Band Concert** at 2 pm in Eagle Village Park

EHS
museum/ library
594-8961
open
Fridays and Saturdays,
9 am to noon
Wednesdays, 3-6 pm
Website: eaglehistori-
calsociety.org
Facebook—Like us at
Eagle Historical Society

GROWING UP ON A FAMILY FARM IN THE 1940's and 50's...

A personal perspective *By Nora Stute Fuller*

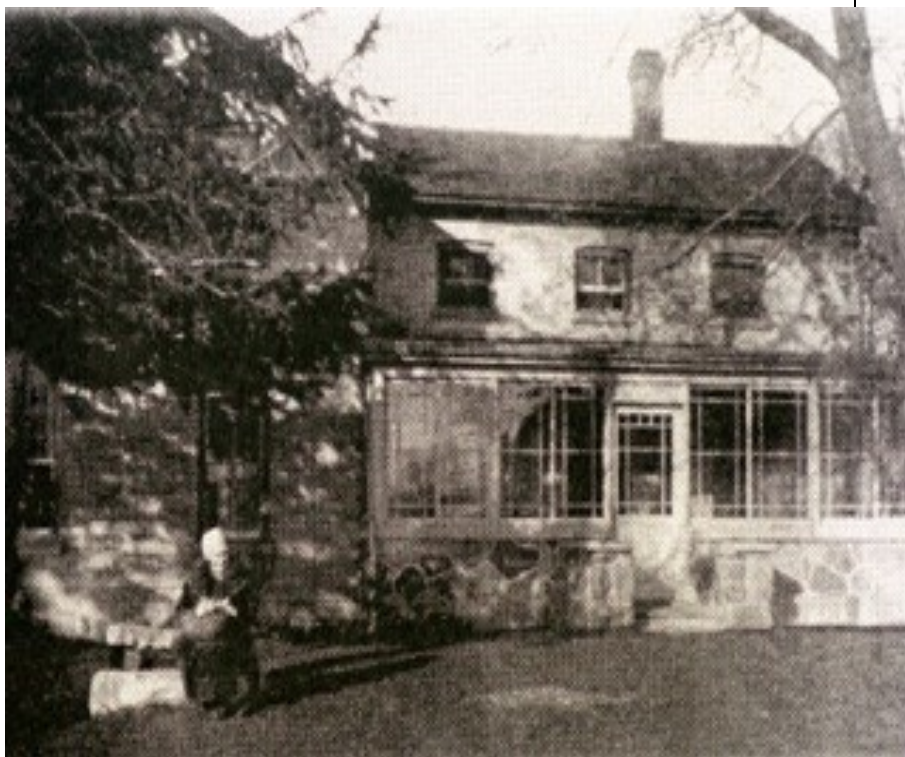
While our children have been raised during an era of electronic marvels and enjoyed all the conveniences of growing up in a small city, I and my three siblings, David, Mary, and Suzanne, grew up in the countryside in a much simpler time. Our parents, Anton (Tony) Stute and Angeline (Angie) Mich Stute, raised us on a 150 acre family dairy farm near Troy Center, WI on rural Little Prairie Road.

The "Old Farm"

The Troy Center location was our parents' second farm. The first was a 180 acre dairy farm with 80 acres of arable farmland near Palmyra, WI. It's now located in the state Kettle Moraine Forest. (The old spring house [which was used for cooling and storing food before refrigeration became available], the log smokehouse [built from the original log cabin on the site when it was homesteaded], and the fieldstone portions of the other outbuildings are still standing. The farm site is part of a trail today.) Pa's grandfather, Anton Stute, a German immigrant, originally homesteaded that farm, and his parents, Joseph and Agatha (Weiler) Stute continued farming there until the late 1930s. Our dad officially took over the farm when our grandparents retired and moved to Eagle in 1938, but he'd actually been doing the majority of farm work ever since Grandpa had suffered a mild heart attack in his early 40s.

My uncle Clement (Buddy) stayed on the farm with them so he could finish high school in Palmyra. He helped out until he went to college, then into the navy. Even with working from sun-up to sun-down, they soon discovered the Old Farm just wasn't large enough to support both their four-member family plus Grandpa and Grandma's household (which included two of Pa's youngest sisters, Helen and Clara) in Eagle. When the Dunham place near Troy Center became available for \$15,000, Pa bought it and sold the old farm to Stan and Ivy Welch in 1943.

The Welch's wanted it as a country home, not a working farm, so regrettably allowed the farm buildings to deteriorate over the years. (On a farm, if the buildings aren't used and vigilantly maintained, they'll eventually fall apart.) After both Stan then Ivy died, their son, Channing, sold the farm to the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR), even though Ivy had vigorously resisted the sale for years. (I believe there was talk of her threatening the agents with a shotgun when they were trying to purchase it!



She gave new meaning to the word "feisty" all her life.) The DNR added it to the surrounding Kettle Moraine Forest and let the fields naturalize. They did use the fieldstone and brick house as an office for several years before abandoning it. After the place was vandalized several times, the agency razed the house in the 1990s. Numerous people tried to save it for its historical associations, including Uncle Buddy who wrote some impassioned letters from his home in Ohio. Several articles were written about its controversial end in the Waukesha Freeman.

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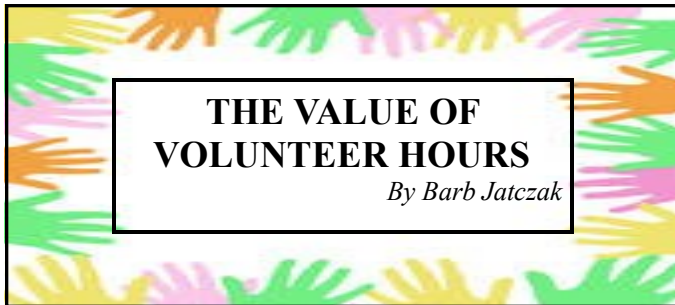
For many years we also grew and picked pickles for an Eagle pickle factory—a back-breaking job. We put in 1/3 acre of pickles and had to pick every other day to even barely keep up with them, and would still have to toss really big cucumbers. (Sadly, if you left them on the vines, they'd quit producing, so the big cukes all had to be stripped away.) The day's picking also had to be hauled to the pickle factory to be sorted, and one year we met a family there who had planted *seven* acres of pickles in blissful ignorance of the amount of work involved. They ended up abandoning the vast majority of their rows. (As a teenager, though, I discovered I had my smallest waist ever after spending several weeks bent over picking pickles!) We all got to keep a portion of the money paid for the pickles, based on our output. We helped to pick even as preschoolers, as it was the only way Ma could pick and keep an eye on us, too. She'd always put some of her pickles into our buckets (we used the metal calf feeding pails, as there were no nice plastic versions like now) and we'd get ten cents a pail for our efforts.

We weren't very good at filling lots of buckets on our own at that age. Once David got his driver's license, the four of us kids would take off for the pickle factory, leaving Ma and Pa at home. We liked watching the pickle sorting machine, which rattled and shook the cucumbers through a series of grates that gradually increased in size. Anything that was too big to fall through was discarded at the end—a woeful situation, as it meant wasted effort. Payment was based on the size of the pickle—the bigger the size, the less money was paid, so tiny ones brought the biggest premium, but didn't weigh very much. While we waited, we'd all have a big free dill pickle from an open barrel they kept there, then David would settle with the proprietor, divvy up the proceeds with us, and off we'd go, sunburned and prosperous. When we were really little, we spent every cent we got our hands on, but as we got a little older, we became much more thrifty, hording our pickle money to save up for something special or just to enjoy the feeling of having spending money available.



Visit the Stute Springs and Homestead Self-Guided Nature Trail. Head west on Hwy. 59 to Hwy. Z and follow the signs.

Above excerpts and farmhouse photo were taken from Growing Up on a Family Farm in the 1940's and 50's ...A Personal Perspective and reprinted with permission from *Nora Stute Fuller*. Photo at left was donated by Harold Hinkley and is part of the EHS photo collection.



Did you know that according to the State Bureau of Labor Statistics we saved the historical society \$65,934 in wages this past year? They report that \$18.50 is the value of a volunteer hour. Our volunteers gave a total of 3564 hours this past year.

Our volunteers spent many hours performing a variety of duties including: manning the museum nine hours weekly, baking and serving for bake sales and ice cream socials, working on newsletters, attending board meetings, providing school tours and museum visits, working for the plant swap, pumpkin party, working in the gardens, and a variety of open houses and volunteer receptions. Additional hours are spent outside the museum working on a variety of correspondence as well as collating the newsletter.

Our volunteers deserve a pat on the back, and more volunteers are always welcome.

Senior: Arlene & Arenz Schmielau
Maria VonRueden
Harold (Red) Hinkley

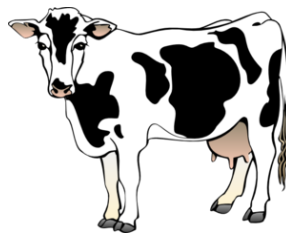
Individual: Peggy Moots
Stephanie Kalnes
Gert Fredenberg

Family: Natalie & Doug Kornmeyer
Dick & Gretchen Jones

Sustaining: Mike & JoAnn Rice
Bev Spurrell
Nancy & Jim Manschot
Phil Hall

Sponsor: Eagle Business Association

VOLUNTEER HOURS 2013	
Regular Museum Hours	2117
Board Meetings—16 Board Members (1 hour per meeting)	192
Ice Cream Social Bakers and Workers	408
Bake Sales	617
School Tour and Museum Visits	24
Garden Planning and Plant Swap	48
Pumpkin Party	27
Volunteer Reception	27
Christmas Open House	24
Newsletter Review, etc.	20
Membership and State Report	60
TOTAL HOURS	3564



**LOTS OF MILK
FROM KAU
HOLSTEIN**

Ginger Ormsby Eva, a Holstein in the herd of George Kau of Eagle, was one of three local Holsteins credited by the Holstein-Freisian Association of America with giving milk at twice the average rate. The Kau Holstein cow gave 19,640 pounds of milk and 803 pounds of butterfat in 305 days. The average U.S. cow gives 9388 pounds of milk in one year.

This article was found in EHS archives from 1972.

THE STREETS OF EAGLE

By Carrie Peavy



MAPLE and RAILROAD STREETS

Diana and Ellie Hall share some interesting memories about the street where they live. Originally, Railroad Street included what is now named Maple, but sometime during the mid 1950s their mother, Elizabeth, circulated a petition and after receiving enough signatures was granted approval to have the name of their segment of the street changed to Maple. The reason for the change? She thought it sounded like they lived on the wrong side of the tracks. Several sugar and silver maple trees lined the street, lending influence to the new street



name. Ellie remembers the Brittingham & Hixon Coal Yard being located next to their home on the corner of Partridge and Railroad and the lumber yard in place of the current real estate office. They both recall hearing the steam locomotives (or as they called them, the “smoky joes”) passing through and the busyness of the train depot across the tracks from the current Village Garage. Passenger trains came through often to transport people to and from Milwaukee, and a big feed mill once occupied the site of the Village Garage. Maple Street was a dirt road for a long time, and waste oil was used to keep the dust down until it was eventually paved.

SHERMAN STREET

All three photos were taken by Carolyn Rosprim.

You read earlier about some fond childhood remembrances the Stute family shared about the pickle factory. Did you know that Eagle once had a very productive creamery and then pickle factory located on Sherman Street? At the turn of the century the building was used as a creamery which processed over 9000



pounds of butter each month. The creamery went out of business, and sometime during the 1930s the pickle factory moved its operation from near the site of the current fire station to the vacant creamery at 242 Sherman Street; thus, the Van Holten Pickle Factory was established. Pickles were an important part of Eagle’s economy at that time, and only dill pickles were prepared here. Its close proximity to the railroad

tracks made the loading of the barrels onto the train to Milwaukee that much easier. At some point during the 1950s the building was converted to a private residence, and several families have called it home since then. It still stands today. Jean Bowey remembers when Vinton Sherman’s mother, Sylvia, came into

town and started a general store to support her family at 117 E. Main Street because her husband had died at a young age. She sold embroidery work at the store, and this is the same building that Steinhoff Law Offices now conducts business in. According to a 1914 plat map at the museum, this street was called Pittman Street at that time. Does anyone know when and why the street name change occurred?

SOME WIT AND WISDOM OF WILL ROGERS

Well, we don't seem to be needing to shovel, scrape, and/or blow snow or ice quite as often, water pipes are thawing and the temperatures even seem to be staying above zero lately. Sit back with a hot cup of coffee or cocoa and try not to chuckle over some humor from Will Rogers, one of America's greatest political sages. Although he died in a plane crash in 1935, his advice and perspective seem to be ageless and fitting as we wait patiently for spring to emerge and follow the winter that never seems to end. . .

Carrie Peavy

Good judgment comes from experience,
and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

Always drink upstream from the herd.

Lettin' the cat out of the bag is a whole lot
easier'n puttin' it back.

Never miss a good chance to shut up.

The quickest way to double your money is to
fold it and put it back into your pocket.

If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.

There are two theories to arguing with a
woman. Neither works.

(Continued from page 1)

because of the toy that was all about good fighting evil and doing what is right for people. Joe underwent many changes as opposition to Vietnam increased and parents shied away from purchasing toys for their children with military-related themes. This trend led to transformations of G.I. Joe by Hasbro away from the military connection and downsizing him to a less bendable, 3-3/4 inch stature. We are fortunate to have in our possession some original figures and accessories (See photos below.), which are currently on display as part of our "We Remember and Honor All Who Have Served" Exhibit. Stop in and take a few minutes to revisit your childhood.

Carrie Peavy



SECRETARIAL TRIVIA RESPONSES:

The following people received EHS refrigerator magnets after responding to and correctly deciphering the question written in shorthand in the January 2014 newsletter edition:

Peggy Moots
JoAnn Gilbert
Joan Dempsey

Thank you for your participation. Maybe we can try this again in the future.

Frederick L. Smart*Apr. 8, 1925 – Jan. 19, 2014*

Frederick L. Smart passed away Sunday, January 19, 2014, in Whitewater, WI. He was 88 years old.

Born in Waukesha, WI, on April 8, 1925, to Roy and Marguerite (nee Cruver) Smart. The family lived on several farms around Eagle. At the beginning of WWII while he was a senior at Mukwonago High School, Fred enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He was sent to study at St. Cloud, MN, then took pilot training at Loveland, TX. Fred much admired his Uncle "Col." Henry Cruver and kept in close touch with him in Washington, D.C.

When Fred returned home after the war, he married Mary Ellen Welch. They settled in Eagleville where they raised three daughters. Fred served on the school board for many years. He had his own trucking business and always said he had driven in all 48 states.

After Mary's death, Fred retired. He married Mary Lou Weinkauff. They then moved to Leeburg, Florida. He and Mary Lou traveled extensively driving the Alcan Highway in Alaska before the road was all paved. They cruised the Caribbean through the Panama Canal to Aruba, Jamaica, Mexico and Columbia and toured England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. After Mary Lou's death, Fred returned to Wisconsin, settling in Whitewater to be near his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, first wife Mary, second wife Mary Lou, and two sisters: Maxine Kennel and Patrice Clark.

Fred is survived by three daughters —Sandra (Rolland) Hunkins of North Prairie, Debbie (Mark) Hoffman of Whitewater, Laurie (Jason) Lloyd of Waukesha, three sisters—Kathleen (Jim) Chapman of Eagle, Pamela (Fritz) Luedtke of Mukwonago, Paula (John) Wade of Ft. Atkinson, eight grandchildren, one step-grandson, many nieces, nephews and friends and special friends Richard and Karen Gудyeon.

Visitation was January 25 at Haase-Lockwood & Associates, Eagle, followed by the service at 5 pm officiated by Pastor Koschnitke. *Submitted by Jean Bowey*

**Carol J. Lake***Dec. 21, 1936 – Mar. 13, 2014*

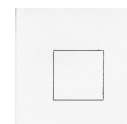
Carol passed away on March 13, 2014, due to an accidental fall. She was someone who greatly appreciated history and collecting antiques. Carol herself was a piece of local history being a relative of the last private owner of Paradise Springs. During summers as a child, she would often babysit other children at Paradise Springs, which had a hotel, bar, a bottled water facility, and racetrack with a giant birdhouse in the center of the track, which was located on an island. After graduating in Chicago, she married Fred Lake who had lived in Eagle for many years. Carol helped Fred build several houses on some family property as they started a family. They had four children: Virginia, Rita, Mark and Fred, Jr. (deceased) who started families of their own. For several decades Carol worked as a medical secretary for Drs. Zwisler and R. Rosencranz in Mukwonago. Many of her favorite memories were of the House in The Woods Auction Gallery where she was able to bid on a variety of collections. Being an avid animal lover, she took in any stray, worried about the birds and also displayed a general concern for her neighbors and the community. She retired to take care of Fred, who had fallen into poor health, until his passing in 2005. Carol suffered a stroke in 2008 leaving much of her left side handicapped, but that didn't stop her; for years she kept up a routine of caring for her animals, watching/reading the news, going through her collections, physical therapy, and reflecting on the day or whatever was going on in her world. Everyone could learn from Carol who would tell you that, "Hard work is its own reward." She will always be known as a caregiver, a collector, and someone with a strong work ethic. Carol will be missed by all.

Submitted by Beau Lake**Marshall A. Riley***Nov. 24, 1925—Mar. 29, 2013*

Age 87, passed away about one year ago in Madison, WI. No formal funeral services were held and no local obituary was published. Raised in Waupaca, WI, he developed a high work ethic from his parents and took great pride in a job well done. At 17, compelled by love of country he enlisted early in the U.S. Navy and served in WWII. Afterwards, he moved to Milwaukee and earned the highest respect of those he supervised for many years at Delco Electronics. Retirement years were lived here in Eagle, and he often remarked that they were some of the best years of his life. He loved the quiet and small-town feeling Eagle provided. Every chance he got, he flew his airplane out of Palmyra Airport, sometimes alone but often with his pilot buddies to far-away places camping under its wings and enjoying their company as well as the sites along the way. He was survived by his devoted wife, two sons, one daughter and their spouses, a sister-in-law, several grand- and great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. No one could have asked for a better neighbor or friend, and he is deeply missed.

Submitted by Art and Carrie Peavy

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



PLANT SWAP

Calling all flower lovers, gardeners and people who love to get their hands dirty playing in the dirt. Our Plant Swap, “On the Patio” will be held on **Saturday, May 17, from 8 am until 2 pm**. All types of plants are requested: perennials, annuals, herbs and vegetables.

Bring extra plants to share with your friends and neighbors who are just starting gardens or improving theirs and for the gardens at the museum. No plants for exchange? Bring non-perishable food items for the Eagle Community Food Pantry and receive a plant to take home.

You can help make setup easier by dropping off plants Thursday or Friday night from 4:30 to 7 pm and Friday morning from 9 am until noon. You can also bring plants on Saturday.

Sweet treats and coffee will be available.

