EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2014

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PLANT SWAP:

Our third annual plant swap was held on Saturday, May 17th. The weather was gorgeous, and a variety of plants graced the patio. Don Dane from the Southern Kettle Moraine DNR along with Diane, Nancy Manschot, and Elaine and Don were present on Thursday and Friday afternoon and evening to collect plants that people brought in beforehand. Delicious cookies were prepared by Ellie and Diana Hall. Monetary donations as well as five bags of food for the local Food Pantry were collected. Leftover plants will be planted on the museum grounds.

ARTIFACT DONATIONS:

Judith Bredlow-Assorted Family Documents
Nancy Manschot-Reprints of McGuffey
Readers
Jean Bowey-Two Old Bibles
Mark Lake-Five Photos of 1972 Hardware
Store Fire
Marsha Bronson-Dolls, Toys, Assorted Items



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

Eagle Centre House Bed & Breakfast

\$50 from Riene Wells

HONORARY MEMBERS:

Thank you, Eileen Juedes, for remind -ing me that I left out the following Honorary Members in our January newsletter:

Myrtle Bohlman
Lisa Busche
Bea Delaney
Virginia Dudzek
Betty Enright
Harold Hinkley
Eileen Juedes
Dorothy Kau
Meryl Kelsey
Richard & Jane Riddle &
Bernice Sadenwasser

Don Ledrowski

Definee Sadenwass

Don Lear owsi

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ice Cream Social—Sunday, July 13, at 1 pm with demonstrations by local horse enthusiasts followed by Palmyra Eagle Community Band Concert at 2 pm in Eagle Village Park

New Veterans Memorial Dedication — Date is yet to be determined (Aug-Sept?)

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

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

EVERY HORSE HAS A SECRET***

By Jean Cisler

No one knows those secrets better than Bob Winzenried, owner of the Swinging W Ranch. Bob started the ranch back in the 1960s when a 1200-lb. horse would sell for \$1200.00. He saw that the so-called "kill" people (from Illinois?) were buying and killing animals that didn't have to die. The meat was largely sent to Europe and Russia.

Bob then began buying animals that were savable. In time he bought so many animals he had to resell some of them. To help with expenses of feeding and boarding the animals, he worked field trials around the state.

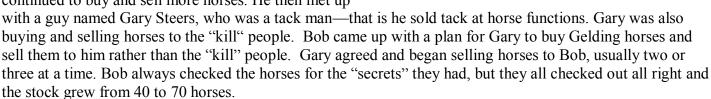
People brought their hunting dogs to race, two at a time. The people rode horses, the judges rode horses—all provided for by Bob. Those who wanted to watch were in a gallery. This went on throughout the summer every Saturday and Sunday. Bob had several girls helping with the horses, and one Sunday when they came home and before they put the horses away, the girls asked if they might ride the horses, to which Bob readily agreed.

They went further to say that the people at the trials would follow them home and would like to ride the horses also. The first fees were \$3.00 an hour or 2 hours for \$5.00. Not expecting much, Bob said, "sure go ahead." The first Saturday they took in \$60.00 which they split with Bob. One Sunday, Bob (not expecting

much traffic) was surprised to take in \$100.00. The year was 1970. And so began one of the most successful riding stables in the state, at times housing as many as 180 horses.

At about this time, the Olympia in Oconomowoc opened for business. The manager of the Olympia, after hearing of Bob's horses, came down to offer him a deal. He would bring his customers down to ride at the Swinging W Ranch and Bob would not charge them. Instead the manager would pay Bob once a month. Skeptical at first, Bob took the chance and everything worked out all right. Soon busload after busload of potential riders were brought down to the Swinging W from the Olympia to ride one of the 40 horses he had at that time

The business continued to grow and Bob continued to buy and sell more horses. He then met up

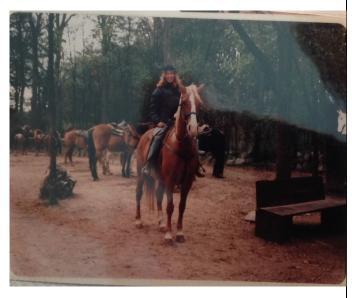


The ranch went from being open on Saturday and Sunday to adding Friday and eventually Wednesday and Thursday. It was closed on Monday and Tuesday but opened all the rest of the week as demand grew. That didn't last long. The business continued to expand until it became a seven-day-a-week operation.

Girls scouts began coming, not only locally but from a 60-mile radius. Within that area, 90% of the girls going to camp ended up at the ranch, earning their badges.

The rides provided included 1-hour rides, 2-hour rides, overnight rides, and 20-mile rides. There were campfires and bonfires. There was no lack of entertainment for horse lovers.

And 70 horses grew to 80 horses. Added features were tractor-driven hayrides, horse-drawn hayrides, and sleigh rides. There was a single sled for romantic rides for couples. All of the sleighs had authentic 1890



(Continued on page 3)

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sleigh bells. There was also a covered wagon for wedding parties. The bride and her court would ride up in the covered wagon and the groom and groomsmen would come on horseback. A willing pastor might ride up on a mule, reminiscent of earlier days when such transportation was the norm.

Once a year on a Sunday, the riding ranch would close and a pig roast became the order of the day. Staff and regular customers attended. They enjoyed corn on the cob as well as the pig, and games of all sorts played on the spacious acreage of the ranch. Alcohol was never served, making it very family friendly.

But for all of the positive things that came with the ranch there were always the visitors who thought they might make a few dollars (and much more than a few perhaps) by frivolous lawsuits. None succeeded, but they did give Bob's lawyer a bit of work.

Regardless, the Ranch continued to grow and loyal customers returned and again and again. By now there were 125 horses of all sizes to accommodate the various sized people, adults and children. While at first there were block mounts to assist riders, later the rule was if you couldn't mount a horse yourself, you couldn't ride. This was strictly a safety feature. In the beginning head gear was optional but eventually it became mandatory.

At its peek, Bob employed 31 people including those who ran the farm. Proving that there was life and even success before the internet, Bob had all of this success before the internet was even a word. Bob never advertised; everything was word of mouth. Bob Winzenreid could well be the poster boy for entrepreneurship.

*** "Secrets" were those discrepancies on a horse, discovered only by careful examination. They included: wouldn't take a bit, would-be runaways, cinch-bound, kickers and biters.



THE CHANGING FACE OF EAGLE

By Carrie Peavy



It was not so very long ago that the rolling hills of Eagle were speckled with working farms along Highways 59 and 67 and branching out therefrom. Back in the 1950s and 60s many farms were in

full operation with many of them primarily devoted to the dairy industry. They ranged in size from approximately 50-1000 acres, and passersby would usually see the likes of milk and beef cows, hogs, and poultry as well as fields of crops such as wheat, corn, and hay swaying in the wind.

For several decades many of Eagle's farms were passed on to the next generation. With the passage of time often comes change. As farmers grew to retirement age, many of these farms were sold and/or divided up. Each has its own intriguing story. Some were razed and came full circle as they were restored to their prairie origins, some were purchased by the State DNR and annexed to the Kettle Moraine Forest, and one was even restored and turned into a hostel to be enjoyed by guests worldwide. Some chicken coops, silos, and corn cribs have been replaced by modern homes with concrete driveways and gas light posts, and many farms have seen a transformation into a different type of farming—horse farming.

We were privileged to speak with but a few of the many owners who dedicate themselves to this very important and interesting work. While a Sunday drive through Eagle still enchants sightseers with its natural beauty, serenity and remnants of times gone by, today's visitors are more likely to spot more horse riding stables and ranches than dairy farms along the face of Eagle. Read on as we attempt to share snapshots of our conversations with local horse enthusiasts. Join us on **July 13** to ask your own questions of them before the band concert.

HORSE POWER HEALING CENTER, INC.

By Carrie Peavy

Wendy Konichek operates her one-of-a-kind, 114-acre facility on land previously farmed by her parents. Before that it was a dairy farm. She moved back to the farm about five years ago to help out and also consolidate the horses. As a certified PATH instructor, she runs several programs in addition to teaching regular riding lessons in the English and Western styles and dressage at Jericho Creek Farm II.

The HPHC Program provides therapeutic services to individuals diagnosed with special needs (i.e., MS, autism, stroke, depression, etc.) Some results achieved include: improvement of coordination, balance, flexibility, cognitive abilities and enhancement of social skills, self-esteem and confidence. Horses for Hope is available to patients diagnosed with terminal illnesses. Miniature horses (standing about 36 inches tall) can be taken to a nursing home or hospice for those who cannot travel to the farm. Discounted rates are offered by Horses4Heroes to military personnel, Veterans, firefighters/EMT, law enforcement officers, critical care, pediatric and hospice nurses, special ed teachers and their families. Wendy also participates in two horse shows annually: HPHC Benefit at West 20 Ranch in East Troy, WI, on July 27 and the Jefferson County Fair on Labor Day weekend and returns a portion of the donations raised through fundraising efforts to the program.

Most of the horses are Morab (a Morgan/Arabian cross) and are very people-oriented. Instructors carefully observe their disposition and how they move when choosing horses for their therapeutic program.

Other than performing fence maintenance, the property looks much the same as it did 30 years ago with a few exceptions: two sheds were built about 25 years ago, the arena 5 years ago, and stanchions were removed in the original barn and replaced with stalls so that the horses could be put into them in the evenings. The original farmhouse (built in 1892) still stands, and about 50 acres of hay are still farmed, reminiscent of its dairy farm era.

Wendy developed her love of horses as early as age 2 as she recalls childhood photos. She smiles while retelling a fond memory when at age 12 she received her first horse. Dad said she couldn't have a horse unless she found a place to keep it for free. A neighbor lady with a large, empty pasture provided that place after receiving a note from Wendy asking her if she would like to see a horse in that pasture, and the rest is history.

About 35 volunteers of all ages provide an important component to the success of the programs. Up to three volunteers per student are needed during sessions. There is always a need for another set of hands for a wide variety of tasks, and free training is provided for anyone interested in sharing some time to help out.

WINTERHORSE PARK ICELANDICS LLC

By Jean Cisler

Barb and Dan Riva bought Winterhorse Park in the year 2000 for the purpose of raising and keeping Icelandic Horses. Icelandic horses are still very rare in this country. What brought this about was a search for a horse for their son who has cerebral palsy. This was some 20 years ago when Barb was taking her son to another farm that offered therapeutic riding. She had the idea that she could do this also for her son, at a farm of their own. That first Icelandic horse, Dama, is now 30 years old and has given so many disabled children a safe and wonderful experience on a horse. While Dan and Barb's son no longer rides, Dama still is happy to give children a safe and independent experience.

As a child Barb, like many little girls, loved horses. Living in the city at that time made horse riding a limited experience for vacation times, but owning a horse was impossible. As a grown woman, married and having a son with special needs, the country life sounded good. And owning horses sounded even better.

They chose Icelandic horses because they seem to have the best temperament for the job. Over the years both Dan and Barb have enjoyed riding and showing the Icelandic horses and cherish the offspring that are raised at Winterhorse Park. They tend to be wonderful riding horses for all ages and abilities. Icelandic horses are naturally 'gaited', meaning they have a smooth way of going forward. That extra gait is called the tolt and is very comfortable to ride. Icelandics are forward going but yet a smart and good thinking breed. They seem to enjoy our Wisconsin winters, seeking out the shelters during the heat and bugs of the summer months.

Winterhorse Park now has 34 horses, 17 of their own and 17 that they board. They only board Icelandic horses because they feel they are easiest to handle on a day-to-day basis. They are happiest in herds outdoors and tend to get quite discontented in a stall or alone.

KATI'S CORRAL from SUHM'S BARNYARD CREEK FARM

By Jean Cisler

Jan and Bill Suhm bought the old Van Acker farm on Markham Road from Charlie Hill some 25 years ago. The property originally was a dairy farm and when Bill took it over, he and his three sons restored it, converting the barn into a stable for horses and adding an indoor arena. They fenced in the pasture after clearing it of a number of trees and much overgrowth.

The 20 acre farm is now known as Suhm's Barnyard Creek Farm, a riding and boarding stable. He is assisted in this endeavor by his son Brian and future daughter-in-law, Kati Prohaska.

Kati and Brian give riding and horse lessons and Kati's Corral does birthday parties and also breakfast rides up to Suhmer's Saloon and Eatery in Eagle. Bill acquired the saloon seven years ago.

Kati also leads trail rides, the longest ride being three-four hours. There are trails on the property, and the trails extend into the Kettle Moraine forest nearby.

The stable has 19 horses, including 3 minis. A horse is considered a mini if it is under 48 inches.

Bill, like the other stable owners, had an early love of horses. When his three sons were young, they showed their horses at 4H along with goats and chickens that they raised at that time. He also raised turkeys for a while and sold as many as 50 at Thanksgiving.

They all now look forward to Brian and Kati's wedding which will be held at the farm in September.

RANCHO DEL RIO

By Carrie Peavy

Karen Brandl and Fonzie Del Rio operate this full-service stable on about 21 acres of land. She and her husband provide lessons, a riding stable as well as break horses for people who want to put horses in training and are certified instructors and members of UPHA (United Professional Horseman's Association) and USEF (United States Equestrian Federation). They specialize in American Saddlebreds, which like people and other horses, and board about 15-17 of them at any given time. Horses first learn to pull a buggy and then to ride at about two-three years of age. Karen and Fonzie also participate in about 12-15 horse shows each year where they take 10-12 horses, owners and riders to the events in the Midwest to show and compete.

Camps for beginners teach grooming, bathing, bridling and shoeing techniques; provide riding lessons (with saddle as well as bareback but primarily English saddleseat style) and rides in a buggy/carriage. Campers also learn to identify symptoms horses display when ill, how they are treated and what is all involved in preparing for competitions. Overnight camp may include roasting marshmallows over a campfire and horsie games concluding with a mock horse show. Quizzes are also given and handouts provided for future reference.

The current owners, who moved here in 1993, have not modified the property other than adding a heated lounge with a glass window to the arena for parents and grandparents to watch from during lessons, which run year round. Previous to 1993, the Andersens farmed on this land for many years, and prior to that Karen believes this was a dairy and crop farm. About 15 acres of hay is still farmed. After the Andersens passed, their son decided to fulfill his mother, Nancy's, dream of having a horse farm. He had the farmhouse completely remodeled by George Stadler, added a large addition to the small barn (which was part of the original dairy farm) extending southward and westward complete with horse stalls, and had an indoor arena built. Karen noted that no horses occupied the stalls before they arrived. Instead, the barn was filled with the likes of emu, ostriches, giraffes, and pot-bellied pigs. Troy Andersen removed them and now operates an exotic pet store in Hartland.

Both Karen and Fonzie grew up on farms and developed their love of horses as children. Karen reflects, "Having horses was sort of a perk then, but in their mid to late 20s they decided to make it a livelihood."

Join them for an **Open House on July 5 and 6** from 10 am to 4 pm at S103 W16093 Hwy. LO.



Riding a horse is not a gentle hobby, to be picked up and laid down like a game of solitaire. It is a grand passion.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

THE STREETS OF EAGLE

By Carrie Peavy

Jean Bowey remembers many years ago when Grove Street was lined with beautiful oak trees. There were

no streetlights at the time and it was known as Lovers Lane. Her parents rented a home there for about six years until Mr. Mealy bought the property and put up the funeral home. Arthur and Lillian Juedes owned close to 300 acres of property extending east towards Markham Road and south to Hwy. 67. They ran a dairy and crop farm there and used to drive cattle down to Hwy. 67. The area south of what is now Meadow Lane was their day pasture and north of it the evening pasture. The farmhouse was the first framed

house built in Eagle in 1844 by T. W. Putnam, Mayor of Eagle, who helped form the Village. Although it has been remodeled since then, it is still standing at 326 Grove. Lillian once experienced a lightning strike while standing near her front door during a thunderstorm. A telephone pole was hit by a bolt of lightning

GROVE STREET

which followed the lines into the house to the wall phone (remember those?) It then "jumped" to Mrs. Juedes, who lived to

share this remarkable story and pass it on. Bea Marquardt (one of Art and Lillian's daughters) grew up on that farm and recalls having the best childhood one could have ever imagined. She loved animals, especially horses, and spent many hours horseback riding throughout the hills of Eagle and the trails of what is now Kettle Moraine Forest and Kettle Moraine Ranch. She was instrumental in having the road signs cautioning drivers of horseback riders installed along Hwy. S. If a train approached while she rode along-

side the tracks, she simply went to the side until it passed. Her pet horse sometimes got loose and was spotted walking down Main Street. In the early 1950s the farm was sold and subdivided. Homes were built and the western part of Village Park developed; the eastern part came from the Markham Farm.



Photos were taken by Carolyn Rosprim.

EAGLE STREET

Bea recalls a carriage house located near the corner of Eagle and Partridge Streets where people would store their horses and buggies. Though it has been made into living quarters, it is still a kind reminder of a slower paced time. Local people did not refer to this street as Eagle Street then. Even now, some know it as "Back Street". We have been unable to confirm why the name change occurred; it might have acquired its original name since it was the last east-west running street in the heart of Eagle at that time. Jean and Bea both chuckle remembering the many times they sledded down the big hill at the end of Back Street. After a nice snowfall, the Village would set up wooden horses to alert drivers of kids sledding, but there were so few cars at that time. Jean said she usually went after school and, of course, after cars from a funeral were gone. If it was a really slippery snow, you could almost reach the Methodist Church!

MAILMAN ROAD

Jean Bowey recalls a time when Eagle had a much smaller population; therefore, fewer mail routes were needed in order for the Post Office to complete its

deliveries in Eagle. The rural mail carriers found a shortcut between Hwy. 59 and Sprague Road and at some point this shortcut became known as Mailman Road. We've come a long way since delivery by horse and stagecoach as now Eagle needs four routes to serve its current population, another manifestation of the changing face of Eagle.



Last November 19 marked the 150th anniversary of the deliverance of President Lincoln's famous speech honoring the many men who fought and gave the ultimate sacrifice during this important Civil War battle



God Bless America

fought in and around Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on July 1-3 of 1863. The speech was spoken at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery four and a half months later.

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln, November 19, 1863

OBITUARY

Patricia "Pat" May Arnold

May 21, 1940 - May 18, 2014

Patricia May Arnold, age 73 of Eagle, Wis., passed away peacefully on May 18, 2014 at Muskego Healthcare Center.

Pat was born in Waukesha, WI, on May 21, 1940, the daughter of the late Robert and Irma (Vollmer) Jolliffe. She was a lifelong resident of Eagle where she raised her family.

Pat is survived by her daughter, Donna (Dennis Sedlak) Arnold of Winthrop, IL; son, Stephen (Brenda) Arnold of Watertown, WI; grandchildren, Spencer and Sydney Arnold; and her brother, Ron (Jean) Jolliffe of Tucson, AZ.

Following Pat's wishes, there were no funeral services held. For an online guest registry: haaselockwoodfhs.com. Haase Lockwood & Associates Funeral Homes of Eagle assisted the family 262-594-2442.

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



