



# EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2005

Eagle, Wisconsin

## **EHS Board**

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### **Curator**

Elaine Ledrowski

594-3301

### **Newsletter Editor**

Darlene Landmann

594-3430

## **EHS News**

### **Membership**

EHS now has 300 members.

### **New Members**

Welcome to Lewis & Alma Busby and Matt & Janene Mecca.

The following businesses are associated with the Eagle Historical Society: Generac; Stumble Inn (Tracie Berndt); Milwaukee Maytag (Julie Dexter); Heckel Tool & Die (Gerald Heckel); Urban Herriges & Sons (Dean Herriges); Eagle Centre House (Riene Wells); Great Lakes Design (Stephanie Kalnes); Mary Kay products (Karen Kennedy); The Sidetrack (Francine Lake); Marzion Homes & Realty (Mark Marzion); Shaklee products (Sally McMillan); Mealy Funeral Home (Jerry & Karen Mealy); Sandhill Gallery (Martin Murk); Murphy's Complete Septic Service (Don & Dottie Murphy); Eagle Springs Pub (Jim & Diane Olive); Tupperware products (Cris Peters); Kettle Moraine Surveying (Terry Pisarek); House in the Woods auction gallery (Carl & Lynne Seitz); Old Village Gallery (Tom Shropshire); Eagle's Headquarters (Jill Steinhart); Steve Steinhoff (attorney- and counselor-at-law); Thuemling Instrument Group (Tim Thuemling); and Zell Machinery Industries Inc (Bill Zell). EHS encourages you to patronize your fellow members and neighbors.

### **Honorary Memberships**

People 85 or over with a connection to Eagle—village or town—are eligible for honorary membership in the Eagle Historical Society. If you or

someone you know qualifies for this benefit, please call the museum curator at one of the numbers listed in the column to the far left or write to the return address on the back page.

### **Donations**

We thank the following for donations: Luella Bowey, Mardi Froelich, Linda Hansen, Baryb Kawatski, Matthew Lepperd, Bernice Lueck, Bill and Marge Moots, and Pat Wilton. Jerry & Eileen Juedes donated a bench to replace the decrepit one in front of the museum—just in time for the convention. (See page 7.)

### **New Roof**

The moss-covered old wooden shingle roof has been replaced at the expense of the village and town boards. We thank them for their consistent support of the museum.

### **Rummage/Plant Sale**

Many people braved a downpour on Friday, May 6, to buy on the first day of the EHS sale. As usual, the plants for sale were the most popular items. Many thanks to Welthy Mueller, who always provides so many plants. The board has decided that EHS will no longer try to compete with all the other rummage sales in the area, but rather limit our sale to plants only.

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EHS  
museum/ library  
594-8961

open

Fridays and Saturdays,

9 am to noon

Wednesdays,

5-7 pm

Website: eaglehs.org

## Kettle Moraine Days Parade

On August 5, 1942, an honor roll bearing the names of the 41 Village and Town of Eagle men who were in military service was dedicated in the village park before a crowd of 1,000. To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II this year, EHS entered a float honoring WWII veterans in the KM Days parade. A lifesize replica of the sign was made and attached to the float, which carried seven veterans. (Unfortunately, not all veterans living in the area were able to participate and some were too modest to appear.) The veterans who did appear on the float received a standing ovation all along the parade route, and the float won first place in the civic category.

Jack Rolfe represented Eagle  
American Legion Post 535



*Photos by Roy Leonhardt*



Wayne Casey



Jerry Cook



Stuart Fredenberg



Jerry Juedes



Fred Smart



Owen Williams



## **New Exhibits**

### **World War II**

The sign from the float has been erected in front of the museum, where the exhibit “Lest We Forget—Eagle’s Contribution to World War II” is on display. The exhibit comprises WWII memorabilia, from uniforms to GI Joe toys.

### **Baseball Team Exhibit**

A collection of items related to the Eagle Enforcers baseball team, including a uniform, is on display. An article about the team appears on page 4.

### **Ice Cream Social/Band Concert**

Marzion Homes & Realty, Milwaukee Maytag and Stumble Inn sponsored this year’s ice cream social, and EHS is most appreciative. Their contributions countering the costs involved came at the same time that the event drew the biggest crowd in its history.

### **Featured Artifact**

On a recent visit to Eagle, Mary Kay Haggard toured the EHS museum and learned of the World War II exhibit. (She is the mother of Kevin Haggard, who is married to Emily, daughter of Tom and Pat Heller of the Eagle Historical Society.) After returning home, she graciously loaned a General MacArthur doll to the museum. She wrote: “It makes me very happy and proud to have the General be part of your exhibit. The doll belonged to my husband, Joel Haggard (1939-2003), Seattle native and attorney. As I am cleaning out my home and getting ready to move to smaller quarters, I came across this doll. So it was fresh in my mind when I came to Eagle and you mentioned your next exhibit.”



*Photo by Don Ledrowski*

## The Eagle Enforcers Baseball Team

Information from John Viegut and Eagle Quill, Mukwonago Chief, Old World Wisconsin Gazette and Waukesha Freeman articles

Following the Civil War, the game of "base ball" was diffused over much of the country, as soldiers enthusiastically returned home promoting the New York version of the game. By the late 1860s and early 1870s the game began its initial sweep through Wisconsin. It became immensely popular and leagues were formed.

Even a war couldn't halt a baseball season. On June 14, 1944, the Eagle Quill invited the public to "come out and give the boys a hand, as they are all back again, after being handicapped the worst of any team in the league. One injury after another, but now as they have recovered, and have also strengthened their pitching staff, they will be in there with the best of them... So everybody come out Sunday and cheer them up and they will reward you with a real game of base ball. Sunday, June 18th, Marty's Park at 2 p.m."

By the 1960s, Eagle league baseball was a thing of the past. John and Linda Viegut moved to Eagle in 1973 and in the late '70s John began to work to get Eagle back in league play. As he explained in a 1990 interview, "I've been involved with Little League teams for nine years and we had to wait until we had enough graduates out of the Land of Brooks." After securing backing from the Village and Town of Eagle in spring of 1989, he approached local businesses for a one-time donation. "They were so overwhelming that I contacted the Lakes commissioner and we were voted in," said John. In July of 1989 the members of the Southwestern Division of the Land o' Lakes Baseball League unanimously voted to accept the Eagle Enforcers team into their ranks. Extensive work to improve the village park softball diamond in order to meet baseball league requirements was completed in October.

The 1990 season opened in April; ten home games were scheduled for Sunday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. The first home game was held on May 6. A new scoreboard—donated by Mike Sasso, Allen Koss and Bob Betenz—was erected at the diamond in time for the home opener. Village board members flanked village president Al Curler as he cut a ribbon to open the field for play. Mike Sasso introduced former Eagle Land o' Lakes team members. Many of the men had played on the 1957 team; that was the year Eagle won a trophy as South Division champions. The trophy was on display in the park. Mike Sasso, a member of the team for ten years, had played minor league baseball for the Chicago Cubs. He introduced: Gerald Von Rueden (the village clerk at the time), Frank Thomas, Roger Thomas, Dick Thomas, Robert Von Rueden, Donny Von Rueden, "Droopy" Kenneth Mealy, Ray Adler (who had traveled from St. Louis to participate), Herbie Ginner, Bill Smart, Wally Leverenz, Arbie Wambold, "Westy Web" Wambold, "Gracie" Allen, Ty Sadenwasser, Donald Jones, Dexter Batteringer, "Rubber Arm" Stead, Mel Rockteacher, Paul Williams, Clem Stapleton, and Jack Rudolph. At this point, Mike paused and pointing to the final seven men said, "These are the young boys." The crowd roared with laughter. The "young boys" were: Russell Chapman, Dr. Gerry Crawley, Donny Enright, Richie Wilken, Gene Walters (who was scouted by the Milwaukee Braves in 1954-55), Billy Adams and Bob Walters. Mike Sasso tossed out the first ball. The 1990 team roster included: Andy Beaver, Mark Berlick, Pat Berlick, Alvin Brook, Rob Chapman, Alex Cox, Wendell Cox, Jim Hill, Dave Kane, Kurt Kwiatkowski, Jeff Nelson, Paul Peardon, Brian Poehnelt, Mike Traub, Tim Viegut, Troy Viegut, Mark Weibel Jr, Mark Weibel Sr, Brad West and Tom Zizzo. Jerry Mealy was the official scorekeeper and Roger Couch was the administrative manager.

John Viegut, the team manager, was at the ball park every Sunday, some Saturdays and at least two nights each week during spring and summer. He also shopped around for concessions to be sold and coordinated collection of donations (the team received no municipal monetary support). In February of 1994 John developed a career-ending illness and asked that someone take over his managerial duties in time for March practices. The deadline for registering to play during the 1994 season passed without anyone offering to take over, and Eagle league baseball passed into history once more.



## Obituary



### Orin Clark Benson

Orin Benson died on July 9, 2005, at his home in the Town of Ottawa. Born April 15, 1914, on the family farm in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, Orin had a gift for training animals of all kinds. People began bringing him dogs to train when he was 14. After high school graduation in 1931, he went to work for a friend who owned a kennel near Cleveland. It was there Orin became acquainted with bench shows, which did not allow hunting dogs as entrants. He returned to the family farm and began his first dog school.

In 1936 he relocated to Wisconsin. With the backing of three Milwaukee businessmen, Orin started the first retriever kennel in the state. It was located at River Hills in the Milwaukee area and was called Dogs Unlimited.

Milwaukee became a nucleus for the Wisconsin Amateur Field Trial Association. Field trials, as an event, began in New York in 1933. The first Wisconsin field trials were held in 1936 at Oshkosh under the sanction of the AKC.

In the late 1930s Orin moved his kennel to Highway 18 near Oconomowoc. This was the Perkins Game Farm. He has been at his present location (Highways 67 and ZZ) since 1942. Wisconsin Field Trials were held on his 40 acres during the 1940s and '50s.

The Milwaukee (Journal) Sentinel Sports Show was launched in 1940. Orin was instrumental in its creation and he and his dogs were the main attraction. "Orin Benson set the standard for dog training demonstrations in a public forum," said Charlie Potter, the president of Great Outdoors, the management company that now op-

erates the sports show. "His main stage act at the Sentinel Sports Show was known literally throughout the world and was admired by everybody in the profession." Orin was a consummate entertainer. During one routine, he blew his whistle to send his retrievers after birds. The dogs sat still while a dachshund appeared and picked up the birds. He was also an avid outdoorsman. During the 10 days of the sports show he would sometimes spend entire nights fishing then spend all of the next day at the show.

Orin traveled the nation giving performances with his troupe of dogs. He also worked with bears, foxes, otters, skunks, hawks and other animals. He was well-known for the wolves he kept; Mel Ellis wrote a book based on the life of one of them. Orin also made many wildlife segments for Walt Disney.

He trained dogs at Benson's Kennels in Eagle for nearly 70 years. Among his many clients and friends were Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Prince Philip, Joan Crawford, Clark Gable and Clayton Moore.

Orin was inducted into the Retriever Field Trial Hall of Fame and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show Hall of Fame. He received a citation from the Wisconsin State Senate for his abilities and contributions to society.

He is survived by his sister, Mabel Smiley of California, and his daughter, Lynn Marie Benson.

He was preceded in death by his loving first wife, Lucille (nee Sondericer); his devoted second wife, Vivian (nee Rankin); his son, Robert; and his brothers.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorials are appreciated by trust for Orin Benson at First Oconomowoc Bank, 155 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Oconomowoc, WI 53066. For more information, contact the Cesarz, Charapata & Zinnecker Funeral Home.

*From the July 14 Freeman and July 15 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel obituaries and a March 26, 1991 Freeman article by Joan Holman.*



### Obituary

*No photo available*

#### Martha B. Falada

Martha Falada died Monday, June 20, 2005. She was born July 29, 1922, in Spillville, Iowa, the daughter of the late John and Emma Fisher (nee Klimesh). She was united in marriage November 12, 1945, to her loving husband, Charles, who preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by her beloved daughter Beatrice.

Her children and grandchildren were her joy in life. She was greatly loved and will be sadly missed by her children David (Roseann), Julie, Cheryl and Carol Falada and Yvonne (Alexander) Polansky; and grandchildren Cassandra and Nicholas Polansky. She is also survived by three sisters, one brother, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Martha was a member of St. Theresa Parish in Eagle for 58 years, where the Mass of Christian burial was held on Thursday, June 23. The Rev. Dennis Ackeret was the celebrant. Burial was in St. Theresa's Cemetery in Eagle.

Memorials to St. Theresa Parish are appreciated. The family wishes to express many thanks to the staff of Roland Nelson Hospice and Angels Grace Hospice for all their care and support. Mealy's Funeral Home Eagle served the family.

(Freeman—June 21, 2005)

### Obituary

*No photo available*

#### Joan E. Pasterski

Joan Pasterski, 70, of the Town of Eagle, died Wednesday, July 6, 2005, at her residence. She was born in Milwaukee on February 17, 1935, to Gilbert and Ethel (Munton) Utpatel.

She was retired from Cooper Power in Waukesha.

She is survived by her husband, James; children, Debra (Dan) West of Eagle and Greg (Dawn) Pasterski of Eagle; four grandchildren—Dayton, Devon, Jeff and Matt; and other relatives and friends.

Private funeral services were held at Mealy's Funeral Home in Eagle, with burial in Jericho Cemetery in Eagle.

If desired, memorials to the American Cancer Society are appreciated.

(Freeman—July 11, 2005)



### Take Note

The autumn issue of the Waukesha County Historical Society's publication, "Landmark," is scheduled to include an address given to the society in 1911 on "The Pioneer Women of Eagle." This should make interesting reading for Eagle Historical Society members.

## Convention

On August 13 the Eagle Historical Society will host this year's Southeastern Region Convention of the Wisconsin Council for Local History. There are a limited number of spaces still available on a first come, first served basis. EHS members are invited to attend—the fee of \$12.00 includes the lunch and tours. The application deadline is August 5.

*✂*

**2005 Southeastern Regional Convention Registration Form**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (Please print)

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Registrations at \$12.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (Please make checks payable to Eagle Historical Society)

Mail to: Don Ledrowski  
EHS Finance Officer  
W370 S9563 Hwy 67  
Eagle WI 53119

## Schedule

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>8:30 am</b>        | <b>Registration</b> at the Eagle United Methodist Church, 305 Main Street. Parking is available on the street. Coffee and rolls will be served.  |
| <b>9:15-9:30 am</b>   | <b>Welcoming remarks</b> by Elaine Ledrowski, curator/director of the Eagle Historical Society museum  |
| <b>9:30-10:30 am.</b> | <b>Regional roundtable discussion</b> facilitated by Tom McKay of the Wisconsin State Historical Society   |
| <b>10:45-11:30 am</b> | <b>State historical presentation</b>   |
| <b>11:30-noon</b>     | <b>Talk on the Eagle Diamond</b> by Donna Kalnes   |
| <b>Noon-12:15</b>     | <b>Brief tour and history of the Eagle United Methodist Church</b> by Pat Chapman  |
| <b>12:15-1:15 pm</b>  | <b>Lunch in the church basement</b> will be an ethnic meal consisting of Schweins-rucken in Bier (Beer-Braised Loin of Pork), Warmer Kartoffelsalat (hot potato salad), carrots in the German way, dressed cucumbers, rye bread and dessert. Baryb Kawatski of EHS will sing a medley of WWII-era songs. |
| <b>1:15-1:45 pm</b>   | <b>Business meeting</b>  |
| <b>2:00-3:00 pm</b>   | <b>Cemetery walk through Oak Ridge Cemetery</b> led by Barb Jatczak and Gina Neist   |
| <b>3:00-4:00 pm</b>   | <b>Tour of the EHS museum</b> , where visitors can view exhibits and meet Mark Dexter, local collector of war memorabilia; Julie Dexter, local antique doll collector; and Martin Murk, local artist.  |

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



## **EHS Open House**

**1-4 pm on Sunday, August 21, at 217 Main Street**

**Featuring our World  
War II exhibit**

*Lest We Forget—  
Eagle's Contribution  
To World War II*

