

EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S PANORAMA

by DIANE THUEMLING

Our next meeting is very important to all of our members. On November 8th, an open Board meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. and the EHS Annual meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. at the Eagle Municipal Building. Four Board positions are up for election: President, Recording Secretary and two Board Members; and will be voted on at this meeting. All the committee Chairs will read their yearly reports. The membership Chair will be accepting membership renewals. Please mark your calendar now and plan to join us on November 8.

Let's look back on this year, the last of my two year term as President.

I started the year with a list of goals which the Board worked on together to accomplish. I tried to keep our Board meetings to one hour so committees could meet afterward while everyone was together. The display of Ed and Welthy Mueller's family was replaced. Thank you Ed and Welthy for allowing us to display your family treasurers and for donating a portion of them to the Society. New committee chairs were chosen and Don Ledrowski was voted as a Board member to complete the last year of Mabel Finney's term.

The Board arranged a Spring and a Fall work date for the Museum. We accomplished a lot with many helping hands. Thanks to everyone who pitched in.

Our first fundraiser was the White Elephant/Bake Sale. This year it was held in conjunction with the Eagle Business Association Area Rummage Sale. It was very successful. The proceeds of the sale helped to purchase a display case from Bill Krestan Jr. This case was originally in Chapman's Variety Store. We also purchased a set of china dishes owned by the Ahira Hinkley family.

New sweatshirts were printed with the bandstand design, similar to our last teshirt. These sold quickly, but there were a few left at the museum if you're looking for Christmas presents. Remember
cont.on last page

HISTORICAL RESEARCH/ORAL HISTORY

by IRMA JOLLIFFE

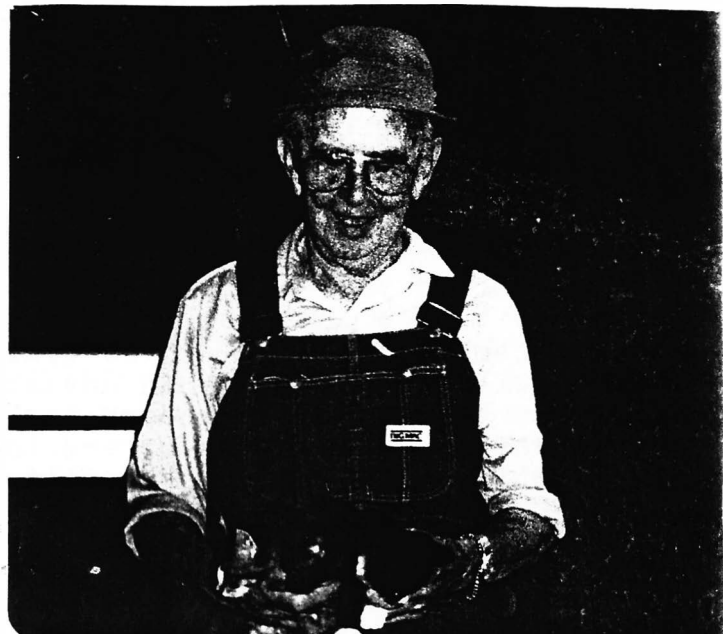
Arthur Stocks was born March 6, 1903 in the town of Ottowa.

His great grandfather came over from England and bought 420 acres for \$1.00 an acre on Hwy. ZZ. His folks sold it back to the government in 1925. The state condemned the property, the house burnt and they lived in the house on Orrin Benson's property.

Arthur went to No. 9 school, on ZZ and Piper Road. He walked $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to school. There were 12 students in his grade in 1911. His teacher was Clilis Meredith. Arthur was a lineman for the telephone Co. at Tomah, Wi, worked for Western Union repairing lines. At first in 1927 the lines were fastened to trees.

In 1933 he started for Waukesha Co. Highway for 35¢ an hour grading roads. He worked there for 33 years as a patrolman.

He also served on the school board for 25 years. He fixed battery operated radios and many televisions. He also worked for the Electric Co. They would take him out to eat and at one time a man said, I'm sitting beside a man before there was electricity. He was just a handy man for all the women in Eagle.



MEMBERSHIP

by SUE WAMBOLD

The Eagle Historical Society invites you to join us. Our meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month. The time has been 1p.m. unless noted otherwise. We meet at the Eagle Historical Society/Research Library - 217 West Main Street (594-8961).

Our membership year is from January first to December 31. A membership form is enclosed in this issue. Membership includes: Newsletters plus the opportunity for you to get involved with community projects we do throughout the year, from fundraisers to museum research in various areas.

The Eagle Historical Society is in the process of planning our last fundraiser of 1997 - The Christmas Tour of Homes. During the tour, I will have a membership table set up for anyone who is interested in joining the Society. Please share this information with a friend or neighbor. I would like to remind our present members that their membership is due on the last day of December 1997. What a better time to renew your membership than at our Tour of Homes on December 13th. Stop by and see me at the Municipal Building or mail your renewal to the museum, P.O. Box 54, at any time.

Our membership has done well this year. We welcome new members and hope for an increase of members for 1998.

The Eagle Historical Society started a fundraiser in 1992 called the Christmas Tour of Homes. It was a success and we have continued it as an annual event. Without homes to tour, we could not hold this event. So the Society would like to thank the past and present hosts for opening their homes to us and to you. This year we have four more beautiful homes to show you. We have one home with 12 Christmas trees and 10,000 lights. Bring your sunglasses! You will have to see this home. The tour is on December 13, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Tickets will be available in advance from area businesses and board members. If you have any questions or are interested in helping, call Pat Wilton at 594-2294.

CURATOR'S CORNER

by ELAINE RADUECHEL

Over the summer the museum was visited by ten people doing their family genealogy. They were mostly from Wisconsin but some came from as far away as California and Oklahoma.

Some surnames being researched are Logan, Burton and Steinhoff.

Just received from Jim Trowbridge of OK are copies of obituaries of Eagle residents of long ago. They were pasted over the printing in a book he inherited. I have not gone through them yet so at this writing I don't know the names of the deceased. Thanks Jim. Just received also is "The Breidenbach Family 1757 - 1978". This book was donated by Mickey Breidenbach for our research department and it is filled with valuable family data. Thanks, Mickey. John Colby donated two boxes of his collection of agriculture magazines. Thanks, John.

Jerry Baker has been taking genealogy classes given by the Waukegan Co. Genealogical Society. This knowledge will be a great help at the museum. On one side of his family he has 12 generations recorded and on another: Way to go, Jerry!

I assembled some information about the Frederick von Rueden family and house he built that is located on Hwy. 59 just past the Kettle Moraine State Forest Headquarters. This was for John Dargatz who is redoing the house inside to make it livable again. The plans are to open it as a hostel next May and it will be known as the Eagle Hostel, the fifth one in the state.

We have an article from The Week, Sunday, August 3, 1997 at the museum if anyone would like to read more about it.

TWO GOOD REASONS TO VISIT US NOW

Museum Clean-up Day. We not only did the usual dusting, vacuuming and washing but we put together a couple of display cases, unpacked and moved boxes of things used for our various fundraisers and events. Thanks to the following for giving their time and effort to the day: Irma Jolliffe, Charlene Ritchey, Diane Thuemling, Jerry Baker, Don and Elaine Ledrows and Sue Wambold.

CURATOR'S CORNER Cont.

New Exhibit. Thanks so very much to the Rodney and Barbara (Stocks) Stillwell Family for the donation of old clothing, linens, hats, umbrellas, satchels and old trunk now on display. The trunk is full, but so far I have not had the time to inventory it. These items belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Stocks, of North Prairie. Mr. Stocks passed away several months ago.

6th ANNUAL FOURTH GRADE HISTORY REPORT CONTEST

We would like to share with you some of the winning reports, as they were written. Continued from last Newsletter.

Paradise Springs
by Forrest Benson

Thousands of years ago, when the glaciers receded they left a depression that went into the water table. That depression is where Paradise Springs is now. The Indians were the first people to find the spring. They used its pure water to drink. They were the only people to use the pure water until the 1840's. That's when people started to buy the land. In the late 1800's a bottling plant was added for bottling drinking water.

Very early in the 1900's, Mr. and Mrs. Nichols bought the property and added a water turbine that produced electricity and stocked the pond with fish. In 1920, Mr. Louis J. Petit acquired the property. In the twelve years that he owned the land he built seven things. The things he built were a half mile gravel road, a horse track, a tennis and shuffle board court, a copper dome spring house, a fishing pier, a gazebo by deep spring, and a wading pool for his grandchildren. The reason he built these things was because he wanted people to come and enjoy the area.

In 1932, Mr. Petit passed away and granted the land to his grandson, August J. Pabst, who later became a beer executive. Mr. Pabst sold the land to Frank Fulton. Fulton sold the land to George Mertens. The

ownership changed three times within three months. George Mertens built Paradise Springs Resort Hotel in 1937. The resort was known for being a honey moon spot.

The last owner to own Paradise Springs was one of the few owners to run the bottling company. The last owner also owned a printing company in Illinois. That way he could print his own labels for his bottled water. The reason the resort shutdown is because he had to keep up with his printing job and Paradise Springs was ignored. So he sold the land to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in 1970.

The D.N.R. demolished the hotel because they did not want to run a resort. They paved the half mile walkway so it would be handicapped accessible. Now Paradise Springs has little evidence of a resort once being there, unless you know where to look. Paradise Springs is located one half mile west of Eagle on Highway N. Now when you walk through there you wonder how it was in the early 1900's. The Wisconsin D.N.R. has pamphlets with pictures, so you can imagine kids playing in the wading pool. Mr. Petit drinking the bottled water and sitting in the spring house with his feet in the water. The area is a lot different now in the 1990's, but who knows in ten years the D.N.R. could re-open summer cabins to rent out to people and start a new honey moon resort.

The Eagle Fire Department
by Desiree Toldt

In May 1927 the Eagle Fire Department was established. The existing fire station was built in 1957. It is located on Main Street in Downtown Eagle and is across the street from Eagle Video and Kiddy corner from Krestan's. There was a large addition to the station in 1996. The addition cost about \$200,000.00.

In the beginning, before the fire station was built, they used nearby local farmer's barns to store their equipment. They used an old Model A Ford wagon. When there were fires they would stick the hose in Jericho Creek or other creeks and pump the water from there. Finally in 1939 the

fire department got their first pump engine. They would have their summer picnics at Jericho Creek.

The first Fire Chief was A. H. Gale. There were no EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians) until 1977. This particular fire department has always been voluntary. In Waukesha County there are 32 fire departments and only four are volunteer. They are Eagle, Summit, North Prairie and Dousman. In the beginning there were 21 volunteers. Looking at the picture I was shown, they were all men. Right now the fire department is still volunteer except for one full time person. There are 32 volunteer fire fighters and 25 are EMTs, some are women.

The Fire Department has always been an important part of the Eagle Community. Lots of families from the area have been a part of helping our community. The Mealy Family has been involved since the beginning. There were three Mealy men in the first group of volunteers and the family is still an active part of the Fire Department.

There have been nine different Fire Chiefs so far. The current Chief since July of 1990 is John Klingele. The current Assistant Fire Chief is John Kaiser. John Klingele has been Chief for seven years.

The fire department gets about 200 calls a year. Most of the calls are not for fires. 70% of the calls are medical and about 30% are for fires. You can reach the fire department by calling 911.

Hinkley House and Life
by Jimmie Impehl

His Life

Among the many people seeking a home in southeastern Wisconsin were two New Hampshire men, Henry and Ahira Hinkley. With them were Andrew Scofield and Charles Rayness. This group left Milwaukee for Prairieville by a team of oxen August 18, 1836. They reached the home of David Orendorf, and stayed there for two days and left. later on their journey the men came down a trail now known as Hy. 59, they saw a beautiful spring, farther south was a hill topped with trees. Always

being a man who knew what he wanted A.R. Hinkley grabbed his knife and carved his name on one of the trees in the grove. Then the Hinkley brother built a 12 by 12 foot cabin on that site. A.R. Hinkley, then 26, had a sweetheart in New Hampshire so after the cabin was completed he went back to his birthplace in Lebanon, New Hampshire. On April 30, 1838 A.R. Hinkley got married to Mary Cutler Daniels, in Plainfield, New Hampshire. Later in 1838 he and Mary went back to the cabin he had built. As kind of a sideline A.R. Hinkley pulled teeth. Once seeing a neighbor coming across his yard he knew that a aching tooth was probably the cause. He would stop his plow, lean the patient against it, take the extractors that he always kept in his pocket and remove the aching tooth. Hinkley was active in civic, religious, and political affairs. He was a promoter of the proposed Milwaukee and Mississippi railroad. A promise had been made that he and his sons and daughters would be given free transportation on the road as long as they lived, but the promise was broken several years before they died. A.R. Hinkley lived in his house the rest of his life, he even died in it. He was out on his back step on January 2, 1907, when he slipped and died.

The House

The Hinkley house itself is 149 years old, and it was built in 1848. It has 8 rooms and 2 bathrooms. A.R. Hinkley used a peice of wood with a hole in it so he could drop stones through it and they would be the same size, and the ones that came through would be the one's that he would use for his house. He burnt some stones to make the lime for the plaster, he also went to Pretty Lake for it's white sand to make the plaster and mortar. He went to Waukesha stone quarries for the limeslabs to make the lintels and slabs for the doorsteps which still exist. In 1960 the electricity and plumbing was redone. Today the Hinkley house sits on 7 acres of land, but when A.R. Hinkley claimed his land he claimed from 600 to 700 acres.

This Article was given to Sue Wambold by the Late John Day - Author unknown

Eagleville History

In the autumn of 1830 a man by the name of Daniel Bigelow came into the wilderness that is now known as Eagleville. He found there a forested area and a marshland. In the forest there were Indians and wild animals. With his own hands and very few tools he built a little saw mill. The next year he built a grist mill. He could not secure burrs for his mill so he hunted around until he found two granite stones. These he fitted and dressed and for years they were the only stones used in the mill to grind the grain.

The stones were hardly as large as the bottom of a water pail and they could not turn out a grist much faster than a coffee mill. When a pioneer came to the mill to have his grist ground he often received the shocking news that his turn would not come for two or three days and it also happened that he would have to wait a week before his turn came.

Daniel Bigelow ran the mill all day and his son ran it all night but still the pioneers had to wait days for their turns. They could not stay at the mill so they had to turn around and drive back home. In those days there were no roads nor bridges and when winter was breaking up it was dangerous to try to cross swollen streams with a wagon load of grain. So going to the mill was one of the great trials of the pioneer.

Andrew Scholfield bought the mill in 1842 and two years later he built a new mill and installed fine machinery. Harvey Wambold purchased the mill in 1875 and operated it for twenty four years. In 1899 he sold it to his son, Leander, and he ran the mill for twenty years. So for almost half a century the Wambold family operated the Eagleville Mill.

The Wambold family converted the marshland of Eagleville into a beautiful lake that is known today as Eagle Lake. Many people from Chicago, Milwaukee and other places have built homes around this lake and many of these residents remain in Eagleville all year round.

Years ago the children who went to Eagleville School were the children of the farmers of the district. Today the situation has changed for the largest per cent of children attending the school are children of the lake residents.

The mill brought many pioneers to Eagleville and soon stores, shops and taverns were started. A postoffice was opened about 1844 and Andrew Scholfield was the first postmaster. Previous to that time the people of Eagleville had to drive to Mukwonago for their mail. Eagleville was the metropolis of the township until 1851. In that year the southern branch of the C. M. & St. P. R. R. was laid through the country. It went through Eagle Center rather than Eagleville. Then the postoffice was moved to Eagle Center and gradually the stores and the shops also were moved there. Then Eagle Center became the metropolis of the township. Today the place is called Eagle.

The first homes were very uncomfortable. They were called "claim shanties." A claim shanty was built of round logs and was usually 14 feet square. It was roofed with bark or sod and the floor was either a dirt or a puncheon floor. Puncheons are logs split lengthwise and were placed with the split side up. The beds were poles covered with ticks filled with marsh hay. Most of the furniture was made of logs. A fireplace was built in one end of the shanty. This kind of a house lasted from 1830 to 1845. The first frame dwelling in the town was built by T. W. Pittman at Eagle Center in 1845. The timbers for this house were sawed at Scholfield's Mill in Eagleville.

The pioneers took part in the battle with stones, stumps, wild beasts, Indians, and poverty. There was little food in 1843-44 but they could get fish from the streams and deer in the forest. When a bee tree was found the honey was divided among the neighbors.

Bee trees were numerous in the early days and the early settlers of Waukesha County were interested in the number of Indian ladders found everywhere. These were made of long saplings, the limbs being cut off eight or ten inches from the trunk to answer for rounds on which to climb. These ladders were used by the Indians for climbing bee trees. They mixed the wild honey with their wild rice and corn. The whites also used wild honey which was not only plentiful but delicious.

During the winter when wolves were hungry they came close to dwellings and often attacked the settlers. Isaac Judson, while on his way from Milwaukee to Prairieville (Waukesha) in 1830 was set upon by a pack of wolves. He had a large cloak that he would shake at them and this would confuse them for a moment. Then he would run for his life. He kept this up until he reached home where he collapsed.

As late as 1841 a family in Pewaukee left the log house alone for two days while they went on a visit. On returning after dark they found an old wolf and her whelps in possession. She had eaten quantities of food and torn several articles of clothing into shreds to make a nest. While these stories of wolves were not of Eagleville it is very likely that the wolves in Eagleville were equally as troublesome.

The government bought the land from the Indians and moved them westward in 1837 but they used to return at certain seasons to hunt. They would come back in bands of about 100 and sometimes remain in the woods all winter.

The town received its name in a singular manner. In the year 1836, while Thomas Sugden, John Coats and Mr. Garton were prospecting they came to a beautiful prairie about 1½ times 2½ miles in area. Here, hovering and curving over a large mound was a monster bald eagle. From that time the prairie

and town were called "Eagle." Ville means village and since Eagleville was the metropolis of the township it was called "Eagle Village" or Eagleville.

In September 1849 a school meeting was held and it was voted to raise \$300 to be used for building a school. The next month another meeting was held for the purpose of determining where the school would be located. At that meeting Mr. Benedict A. Bovee offered to give a Deed in Trust for one half acre of land on the east line of his farm. Mr. Bovee's offer was accepted and it was agreed that the school be completed in seven months.

But that school was not built for ten years. The delay was due to the fact that there was dissatisfaction over the location of the school. Those in the eastern part of the district wanted it built below the hill. The dissatisfaction reached the point where there was talk of dividing the district into two districts.

For ten years the uphill and the downhill, as they were called, bickered over where the school would be located. But the children of Eagleville were not deprived of an education during those ten years. Mr. Andrew Scholfield rented a house to the district for \$15 a year and the children attended school in that house for ten years. We believe that that house was the claim shanty that Mr. Scholfield lived in before he built a frame house.

At the school meeting in September 1859 it was voted to build a school house on the land offered by Mr. Bovee. So the school was built on Bovee's corner but it remained on that corner for only ten years.

At the annual school meeting in September 1869 it was voted to raise \$125 for moving, repairing and purchasing a new site for the school. So in the autumn of 1869 the school was moved to its present location below the hill and was put in readiness for the winter term of 1869-70. But that term was only three months in length and Mr. Theodore J. Sprague was the first teacher to teach in the school after it was moved.

The school was torn down in 1930 and a new school was built. The old school was seventy-one years old when it was torn down.

At first the teachers were elected by the term. During the first twenty years there were thirty-three teachers elected. The first teacher who taught in Eagleville was Lucy Vedder. She taught the winter term of 1849-50 and she received \$12 per month.

The Bovee family served on the school board for forty-five years, the Sprague family for thirty-five years, Leander Wambold for thirty-three years, John Partridge for fifteen years, Charles Green for eighteen years and Charles Cruver for fifteen years.

For the first sixty years the school was heated by wood. The average amount of wood used during a year was four cords and the average price paid was \$4 a cord. So for sixty years the school was heated at an average cost of \$18 a year. The boys who lived near the school tended the fires and they were paid five cents a day.

The total cost of running the school the first year, 1849-50, was \$57.78. That included teacher's wages, heating and supplies.

The large boys helped with the farm work in summer but when winter came they went to school. The records show that in the year of 1865-66, thirty-five pupils attended school during the winter term but only seventeen attended during the spring term. The two largest families of the district were the Henry Thomas family, which consisted of twelve children, and the August Hoffman family which consisted of eleven children.

A distinguished early settler was Matthias J. Bovee, the grandfather of James Bovee. Matthias J. Bovee was born in Amsterdam, N. Y. in 1793. While he was still in his teens he taught school in winter and worked on a farm in summer. He represented his town for a number of times on the county board and was several times chairman of the board. In 1834 he was elected to Congress and represented his district two years in Congress. In 1843 he and his family, consisting of his wife, nine children and other relatives, moved to Wisconsin and settled in Eagle township. One of his sons, Marvin H. Bovee worked in four different territories in an effort to have capital punishment abolished. He succeeded in one territory - Wisconsin.

Joseph Boland has the honor of being the oldest resident of the district. He is not only the oldest resident of the district, he is also the only one of the early settlers still living in the district. He was born in Dedham, Mass. in 1867 and when he was two years old he family came to Wisconsin in Eagleville.

Miss Maggie Partridge, Eagleville's greatest teacher, taught Eagleville School of thirteen years. From 1849 to 1949 long in Eagleville School, she never leave to except a better somewhere else. But the people the district would persuade her return and she returned here several times.

Miss Partridge not only taught the children well but she also inspired them. She studied their special abilities and aptitudes and often told the child what his special ability was and suggested to him what his life work should be. Fifteen or sixteen young people of those days became teachers and it was largely because of her suggestion, encouragement and inspiration that they entered that profession.

Miss Partridge and Leander Wambold were schoolmates at Eagleville School. Later Miss Partridge taught Leander Wambold. She not only taught Mr. Wambold, she also taught each one of his seven children.

In 1929 an Alumni Association was formed in Eagleville. Each year during the second week in August the members of the association meet at Wambold's Park for a dinner and reunion.

Please make checks payable to: Eagle Historical Society. Our address is: P.O. Box 54, Eagle, WI 53119. Thank you.

PRESIDENT'S PANORAMA cont.

EHS members get a discount on all merchandise sold at the Museum.

The annual IceCream Social/Band Concert was held on July 13th and it was a beautiful day in the park. I saw many of you there, and hope you enjoyed this event.

A committee looked over the Constitution and Bylaws and updated and changed several articles. One of the additions was outlining the responsibilities of the Museum Curator. They also created a Museum Facility Committee, which will work under the Board's direction along with the Curator to oversee the daily operations of the Museum.

This was a wonderfully productive year and the Board has worked hard to maintain the Research Library and Museum. Thank you EHS Board Members and Officers, it was a pleasure to work with you this year.

Ben Franklin wrote 200 years ago:

There's so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us that it little behooves any of us to speak about the rest of us. Let's all of us join together and move ahead. Times wasting.

Submitted by Irma Jolliffe



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