

# EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3

Fall/Winter 1996

NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENT'S PANORAMA

By Diane Thuemling

I am glad we started up this newsletter again. It's a great communication vehicle.

You have a right to know what's happening so you can participate in the operation of our society. And we need to know that you're available to support the decisions and efforts of the Board. So far, we have worked together for a very successful year! Give yourself a pat on the back; the Board would like to sincerely, THANK, each and everyone of you.

Our first election bake sale was a great success. We couldn't believe the amount of baked goods people donated. We filled three tables in the morning and sustained a constant flow until 5:00 pm that evening. Throughout the day members kept bringing us more donations. The sight, smell and taste were wonderful. It was a fun job to volunteer for.

In May we had our Annual White Elephant/Bake Sale. Another successful event. By now, we had generated enough money to order a much needed copy machine and a dehumidifier for the museum.

The summer Ice Cream Social/Band Concert was very well attended. This event is not technically a fundraiser, it is a celebration we give to our community for their support. It was definitely a fun day.

The museum is open for business on a regular basis and gathering information for the Research Library is the immediate goal. A beautiful sign was placed in front of the building this summer. Another purchase that was made possible by our fundraising money.

The Program Committee has offered us several well-attended programs including The Cobblestone: Then and Now, Fourth-grade report winners and a genealogy workshop.

But the year is not over yet, we have more in store for you. In November we will hold another Election Bake Sale. At the Annual Meeting we will have an election, and reports from all of the committees. There will also be a slide presentation and program on the Hinkley House by its current resident, Linda Hett. In December we will have our annual Christmas Tour of Homes.

Now you know what you have accomplished this year. Let's continue to grow and work together. Thank you very much!

## BOARD MEMBERS

President - Diane Thuemling  
Vice President - Sue Wambold  
Secretary - Charlene Ritchey  
Treasurer - Pat Wilton  
Jerry Baker (1996)  
Mabel Finney (1997)  
Betty Isleb (1997)  
Irma Jolliffe (1998)  
Ed Mueller (1998)



## CURATOR'S CORNER

We have a good start on our research library, not only as to information, but also with three four drawer file cabinets. They were purchased from the Thrift Shoppe in Whitewater for \$47.50 each. (When new, cost \$150.00 each.)

Thanks to Charlene Ritchey for running copies and setting up the file folders for research. We spent several weekends getting things together. It is an ongoing project of course.

The copier is broken in now with the number of copies run, over a thousand. I would like to thank everyone again for any contribution, large or small, that was made to enable the society to purchase the copier. It truly has become indispensable and is appreciated so very much. THANKS!

While I was not able to get the Baker pictures reprinted by Richard Riddle like I had hoped (he was too busy) I did have them reproduced at Kinko's. The notebook of reproductions is available and everyone is invited to come to the museum and look it over. Many thanks to Ellie Normington for allowing us to use her collection of photos.

Sue Wambold and I went to Kinko's the last week in August and had over 150 copies done of Mrs. Frances Kramer's collection of photographs. It took from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm to get them done! We are very grateful to Mrs. Kramer for her kindness in allowing us access to her many photos, of her family, of past Eagle residents and of the village and town. Mrs. Kramer celebrated her 86th birthday on August 21st and a card was sent from the society, wishing her well, and thanking her for her generosity.

St. Theresa's Catholic Church will be celebrating its 100th anniversary the end of November and would like any information and photos to display at that time. I have been copying what the society has and will be getting it to the people organizing the celebration. If you have anything to contribute contact Mary Anderson, Bill Thiele or me. Thank you.

A display case was purchased from House in the Woods Auction Gallery for \$75.00. We are in need of more display cases as our collection grows, but we require certain sizes to fit in with what we already have. So please keep this in mind and if you encounter any at a rummage, estate sale or auction let me know. Sometimes cases or other things we need can be found when stores go out of business. At the present time we need small cases,

but if a great bargain is found or if one is to be donated we could find a place for it, as long as it meets with our approval.

I have my family genealogy on file at the museum and I encourage everyone to contribute a copy of theirs. Mrs. Faye Chronis was our guest speaker on genealogy in September. Stop in the museum and take a look at some copies.

Donations for July and August were: 2 wooden Pet Milk crates from Mr. and Mrs. Don McCaig, Necklace and brooch given to Mrs. Mary Edith Foster by Florence Becker, a former Eagle school teacher, and donated by Mrs. Foster, an embroidered cloth item that so far no one has come up with its purpose, so come to the museum and tell us what it is. Donated by Jack Hopkins. We appreciate and thank them for their artifact donations.

Thanks go also to Irma Jolliffe for painting the bench that is in front of the museum. Thanks Irma!

I have ordered two copies of "Pictorial History of Waukesha County" to be published in November by The Freeman. I'm looking forward to seeing the book, especially with it being Waukesha County's Sesquicentennial this year.

At this time I would like to thank Betty Isleb, Jerry Baker, Dick Baker and Sue Wambold for volunteering several hours each at the museum, in order for it to be open. Thanks!

The museum is still in need of volunteers to keep it open. The hours are every Friday from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon and the third Monday evening of each month from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. All we need is for someone to be there is case visitors come in - you can bring a book, your knitting, or whatever - just so someone is there. Since I am not a mind reader - please call and let me know when you could volunteer. THANKS!!!! (Elaine 594-2676 or museum 594-8961)

### \*\*\*FOR YOUR INFORMATION\*\*\*

Galaxy One Information Services presents, "Talk About Waukesha." This is a what's happening hot line for Waukesha County. You may call from a touch tone telephone, 24 hours a day. Information about our Museum is heard under the menu heading: Museums & Historical Places (2) and information about our programs and fund-raisers is heard under the menu heading: Waukesha Area Events and Attractions (3). So call the information line at (414) 968-5657 to find out what's happening in Eagle. Try it, it's fun!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS/MEETINGS

October 11th - Museum and Research Library Board of Directors Meeting 1:00 pm (open to public).

November 9th - Annual Meeting at Municipal Building. Members are encouraged to attend - guest speaker and elections. 1:00 pm

December 10th - Museum and Research Library Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30 pm.

December 14th - Annual Christmas Tour of Homes.

All Board meetings will be held at the Eagle Historical Society Research Library and Museum. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS

1. Sit in on the Board of Directors meeting. Everyone is welcome and we'd love to hear your ideas. Dates and times listed in Calendar of Events.

2. November - Annual Meeting and Election. We will be voting on a constitution change and will be electing someone to the Board.

3. Election Bake Sale - November 5th, 8:00 am - 8:00 pm. Bake or work a couple hours (call Wealthy Mueller).

4. Tour of Homes - This is a fun fundraiser but it takes a lot of volunteers to put it together. Volunteer to work in a house as a guide, donate to the raffle or offer your home as a tour house (it is

painless - actually the past tour home owners have had fun doing this). Can you spare a few hours on Friday December 13th or Saturday the 14th of December? Call Pat Wilton.

5. Renew your membership now! Your membership expires at the end of the year. You can save us a stamp and renew at the Museum, at the Annual meeting (November 9th), at the Tour of Homes or by calling Sue Wambold.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** - by Sue Wambold

As the chairperson of the Eagle Historical Society Membership Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new members for the 1996 year. Thank you for your interest and support!

Welcome to: Anna Chapman, Russ and Pat Chapman, Diane and Eloise Hall, Linda Hett, Jim and Nancy Manschot, Jerry Mealy, Marjorie Mueller, Don Neumann, Gary and Nancy Payne, Chet and Pat Poetsch, Bev Sisson, Paul and Anna Trupke, and Betty Werner.

We have had many fund-raisers throughout the year with a few more to go. These events have brought us new members and also helped us to maintain the EHS /Research Library. Thank you members and non-members. Your support has helped to make these events so successful.

New members are always needed. If you are interested in joining the EHS, please feel free to call the membership chairperson (Sue Wambold) at 594-2891 or write us at the Eagle Historical Society, P.O. Box 54, Eagle WI 53119.



## VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM

In order to keep the museum open more hours and provide assistance to visitors, we'd like to build a team of volunteers. A preliminary orientation program has been developed, and we'd like to schedule the program so that we are ready with people who can staff the museum before next summer.

The training program would include basics about what resources are at the museum and where to find them, as well as safety and maintenance procedures. How to help visitors do their research will also be explained.

If you would be interested in learning more about the museum and eventually volunteering to staff it a couple hours a month, please contact the curator, Elaine Raduechel at 594-2676. We appreciate your interest and support.

### \*\* TOUR OF HOMES INFORMATION \*\*

Because our coffee, tea, and cookies were such a success at last years Home Tour, we are asking the good cooks if they would contribute a few of their favorite recipes. Index cards are enclosed and we ask that you return them by October 15th to the Museum or the committee co-chairs. Thank you. We will offer a recipe booklet at this years Tour of Homes.

Bernice Nowicki (S104 W38925 Hwy. NN,  
Eagle, WI 53119)

Mabel Finney (116 Waukesha Road, Eagle,  
WI 53119)

Museum (P.O. Box 54, Eagle, WI 53119)

## 4th GRADE HISTORY REPORT WINNERS

This year the first place winner in our Eagle History Report is Emma Neshek, her report is on The Splechter Farm. The other winners are: Joe Geisheker, Todd Lewiston, William Keys, Jacob Wilson, and Jon Chapman. In this newsletter we will share with you Emma's report.

*EAGLE HISTORY*  
*Section 23 Township of Eagle*  
*1839 to 1996*

*I live in the village of Eagle, next to Eagle Elementary School. The school sits on 60 acres. From my house you can walk the trails behind the school. I've always wondered who might have lived on this property.*

*As you walk through the wooded area on the north-west corner, you will see what is left of what once was a farm. A plat map dating March 1, 1839, shows this piece of property part of a larger 160 acre parcel. Eliphalet Cramer is listed as owner. No buildings are present, land use listed as farming.*

*The next plat map I could find was dated 1859. A building is noted in the north-west corner. The owner was J. Parsons, a farmer who owned other property in the country. Parsons was still the owner in 1870. Jonathan Parsons was from New Hampshire. His wife Jane was from England. They had five children; Henry, Edwin, Horace, Gertrude, and Mary.*

*In 1873, Jonathan and Edwin Parsons held joint ownership of the 160 acres. Edwin Parsons was born in 1844, and died in 1899. Edwin went to Milwaukee and enlisted in the army, he was a Civil War veteran. In December of 1870 he married Mary A. Parsons, born 1849, died 1924. The couple had twin sons, Roy, born in 1885, died 1923, and Ray born 1885, died 1943.*

In 1876, Jonathan Parsons died, and left \$500.00 in his will to the Methodist Episcopal Sabbath School in Eagle. Edwin Parsons now became sole owner of the 160 acres.

In 1891 Edwin Parson sold 100 acres on the east side of the parcel to Mary Hubbard. From 1914 through 1930, the 60 acres is listed as the E. W. Parsons Estate.

Florian Back is listed as new owner on the 1938 plat map. In 1947, F. Splechter is listed as owner. Francis (Frank) J. Splechter was a tenant farmer in the town of Ottawa, on the Tamarak Farm #3. He had three children, Francis A., Agnes, and Margaret. Francis A. Splechter was born to Frank and Elizabeth Kissel-Splechter, in Hoag Kansas, on January 31, 1918. On July 28, 1941 he entered the U.S. Army Infantry. He was killed in action while serving in Belgium, on October 17, 1944. He was awarded the purple heart.

From 1949 through 1964, the owner of the 60 acres was Agnes Splechter. Agnes was a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital, in Watertown, so it is doubtful she ever lived on the property.

From 1949 to 1973, the State of Wisconsin owned the property. On the 1973 plat map the 60 acres is shown to be a part of the Village of Eagle. As the population of Eagle grew, this became the site of the new Elementary

School. The school was built, and opened in the fall of 1987.

It was interesting to research the lives of the people who owned the property where my school now stands. Whenever I walk the trails behind the school, I'll think of the Parsons, and the Splechters. (Emma's report also included several newspaper clippings and photographs.)

## John Eiring, by Irma Jolliffe

John Eiring lives at Eagle Lake and was married to Rita Briedenback. He worked for the Eagle Post Office as a mail carrier. He wrote his exam in 1949 and started work in January, 1950. Eagle's Post Office was located on Main Street, next to Shermans grocery store. In 1964 the old building was torn down and a new one built. The Post Office was built east of the village in 1990.

John had Route 2, 130 to 140 boxes. Joe Stead Sr. was the other carrier. It didn't take long to deliver the mail, but he had to wait for the mail train to deliver the mail from Milwaukee.

John was rural carrier for 21 years. Then he was the Postmaster until 1982 when he retired.



## **THE CORNISH SOCIETY OF GREATER MILWAUKEE**

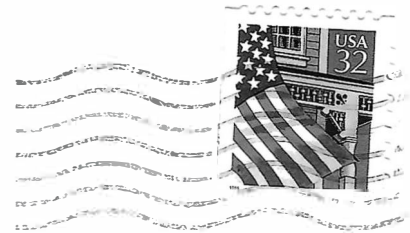
### **Cornish history sought**

The Cornish Society of Greater Milwaukee is looking for family stories and historical information related to Cornish settlement of Waukesha, Walworth and Jefferson Counties. The society is working with the Wisconsin Ethnic Settlement Trail project to develop an ethnic Cornish tour of the three counties.

Send information to Jean Jolliffe , 2405 N. Brookfield Rd., Brookfield, WI 53045.

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**EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
217 W. Main Street  
P. O. Box 54  
Eagle, WI 53119





The society sympathizes with newsletter editor Linda Hett and family in the loss of her mother, Beverly Sisson. The following is from the October 5, 1996 Freeman.

Saturday, October 5, 1996

## Beverly Sisson dedicated herself to help United Way

By Jennifer Sharp  
Freeman Staff

WAUKESHA — There is something missing at the United Way in Waukesha County office.

The phone is still being answered and the staff members and volunteers are still faithfully doing their jobs, but something — rather someone — is missing.

That someone is Beverly Sisson, an 18-year veteran of the local United Way office. Sisson, of Eagle, died suddenly Thursday at 64.

Technically, Sisson was the receptionist for the agency, but she did much, much more for the organization, said Jayne Thoma, executive director of the United Way in Waukesha County.

Sisson often worked at the registration table for United Way events, giving out friendly smiles along with name tags and information.

"She was the perfect person to greet everyone," Thoma said. "She was so caring and friendly right away when you met her."

Sisson also organized the volunteers who donate time in the office.

"She developed such a wonderful relationship with all of those people and that's why they came to volunteer with us," Thoma said.

Sisson always seemed to have

"She was the perfect person to greet everyone. She was so caring and friendly right away when you met her."

—Jayne Thoma  
Executive Director  
United Way in  
Waukesha County

time or make time for any job that needed doing — whether it was actually her responsibility or not, said Terry Sutter, a member of the United Way board of directors.

"She was the kind of person that every company needs to have — the person that all the 'not my job' jobs land on," Sutter said. "Whatever needed to be done, she did that."

She also genuinely enjoyed helping people.

"I think Bev found a home in the United Way because of her like of helping people," he said.

When Sisson wasn't busy with the United Way, she enjoyed spending time with her family and traveling with her family, Thoma said. In fact, she was looking forward to a trip to California in December to visit one of her grandsons, she said.

Sisson lived with her daughter, son-in-law and grandsons in Eagle. She is also survived by two sons, a brother and six other grandchildren.





EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Christmas Tour of Homes  
Saturday, December 14, 1996



PLEASE NOTE: As in previous years members are again asked to donate a raffle item and two dozen Christmas cookies. People that are not members that donate raffle items receive one free ticket for the tour. For them to receive it they need to come to the municipal building the day of the tour and check in with the ticket sellers.

Please bring raffle items to the museum during open hours between now and the week of December 8th. Museum schedule during that week:

Monday, December 9	7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Tuesday, December 10	10 a.m. to 12 noon
Wednesday, December 11	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday, December 12	Closed
Friday, December 13	Closed



If above times are not convenient for you, please call to make other arrangements. (Tour Committee numbers elsewhere in this memo.) Thanks.

All raffle items, cookies and money/ advance tour tickets should be brought in during set-up on Friday, December 13th at the municipal building. This is necessary because of the short time available on Saturday--before the tour begins.

Thank you in advance for your raffle item donation and two dozen cookies! Also very much appreciated are the members and friends that volunteer at the municipal building and as greeters and guides in the featured homes.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! Tour Committee

Museum 594-8961 10-12 noon every Friday (except closed Nov. 29th)  
Sue Wambold 594-2891 Pat Wilton 594-2294 Elaine Raduechel 594-2676

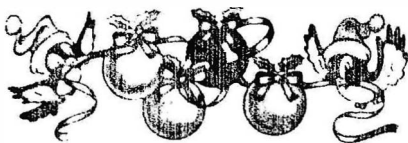
Thank you all for your artifact donations, monetary donations and wonderful support during 1996. Museum curator, Elaine Raduechel



SEASON'S  
GREETINGS







EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Christmas Tour of Homes  
Saturday, December 14, 1996



PUT TREE UP &  
DECORATE

Sunday, December 1st - 1:00 p.m.

SET-UP  
FINISH SET-UP

Friday, December 13th - 9:00 a.m.  
Saturday, December 14th - 9:00 a.m.

ALL GREETERS/GUIDES  
MEET, GET ENVELOPES  
& INSTRUCTIONS

9:30 a.m., municipal building



VOLUNTEERS TOUR  
HOMES

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon



GREETERS/GUIDES

Be at assigned homes/instructions from home owners  
12:30 p.m.

TIME OF TOUR

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Municipal building open at 12:00 noon

ADVANCE TICKETS  
AVAILABLE AT

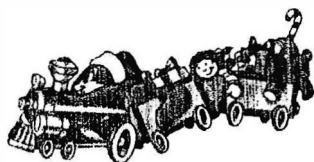
Eagle Historical Society museum  
Krestan's Food Store - Eagle  
Eagle Video & Pizza - Eagle  
Jim & Judy's Food Market - Palmyra  
McAdam's Pick 'n Save - Mukwonago  
Society Members



DONATION/TICKETS

Advance - \$5.00 Day of Tour - \$6.00  
Day of tour, available at municipal building.

RAFFLE /DONATION



Tickets are .50¢ each. Items will be on display in the municipal building during the tour. Drawing will be held at 4:30 p.m., day of tour at municipal building. Need not be present to win, however pick up of items won would be appreciated on Sunday, December 15th at the museum after 1:00 p.m., unless other arrangements are made. Thank you.

HOMES ON TOUR

Tom & Karen Bennett  
S103 W37879 Hwy. 67

Ted & Heidi Graser  
227 Waukesha Road

Michael & Karen Kennedy  
430 Clover Court

Russell & Jill Steinhart  
523 Main Street

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership year Jan. 1 thru Dec. 31

Individual - \$10.00 Senior Citizen (65 & over) - \$8.00 Family - \$15.00

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Meetings are second Saturday of each month at the museum, unless noted otherwise. Make checks payable to Eagle Historical Society, mail to P. O. Box 54, Eagle, Wisconsin 53119. Thank you for your support.

Please Note - We need to have your address exactly as the p.o. requires it. Thanks.