



EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

January 2006

Eagle, Wisconsin

EHS Board

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Margo Morner

Welthy Mueller

Bernice Nowicki

John Vymetal-Taylor

Curator

Elaine Ledrowski

594-3301

Newsletter Editor

Darlene Landmann

594-3430

EHS

museum/ library

594-8961

open

Fridays and Saturdays,

9 am to noon

Wednesdays,

5-7 pm

Website: eaglehs.org

EHS News

Membership

New Members

Welcome to Mark Finney, Mark & Heide Lake, Bill & LeeAnn Madsen, Pat Nelson and Gay Semanko.

Honorary Members

Congratulations to Myrtle Bohlman, our newest honorary member.

Renewals

EHS thanks the following for renewing at upper levels:

\$25-\$49 - Bill & Jackie Adams, Sue Baumann, George & Arlene Baumhardt, Marty Bovee, Jean Bowey, David & Mary Cass, Fred Gier, Tom & Patricia Heller, Harold & Mary Lou Hinkley, Barb Jatczak, Don & Elaine Ledrowski, Don & Marie Jones, Bill & Ann Krestan, Jim & Diane Olive, Violet Orchard, James Pasterski, Gary & Nancy Payne, Conrad & Elaine Potrykus, Richard & Jane Riddle, Brian & Elaine Rudy, Rosann Sasso, Toulia & Kim Sievers, Ken & Ann Skidmore, Bill & Jean Thiele, Eris Thurston and John & Mary Vymetal-Taylor.

\$50-\$99 - Dorothy Clark, Mary E. (Polly) Cramer, Audrey Houk, Frank & Pat Latona, Don & Dottie Murphy, Jeff & Bernice Nowicki, Chet & Pat Poetsch and Lois Zenner.

\$100-\$199 - Citizens Bank of Mukwonago (Eagle office), Richard & Marjorie Friedman, Ras & Donna Kalnes and Russ & Jill Steinhart.

\$200 & up - Paul & Sandra Fisher. Members who renewed by the end of the year were entered in a drawing for EHS sweatshirts. The winners were Sandra Fisher, Jane Reinke and Paul Trupke.

Donations

Thanks to the following for artifact donations: Jerry Baker, Richard Baker, Jean Bowey, Lisa Busche, Mark Dexter, Dorothy Kau, Nada Moeller and Welthy Mueller.

Eagle Business Association

On November 9 several EHS board members attended the annual EBA dinner at Old World Wisconsin, where EBA awarded \$100 of its profit from the annual EBA community rummage sale to EHS.

EHS Holiday Raffle

A winter storm kept many people away from this event. Only higher ticket prices and the generosity of donors left us with a profit equal to that of last year. EHS wishes to thank all who supported the event: Palmyra State Bank, Sheppard's Carpet, Stumble Inn, Brittingham & Hixon, Backstreet Deli, Chapman's BP station, True Value, Kettle Moraine State Forest headquarters, U-toypia, House in the Woods Auction Gallery, Marge Moots, Pat Monroe, Eagle Centre House Bed & Break-fast, GiGi Mueller-Sommers, Steve Steinhoff, Barbara Kawatski, Carol Lake, Murphy's Septic, Culver's, Wal-Mart, Pick 'n Save,

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Elegant Farmer, Eagle Headquarters, Lillian Rose, Fickau, Johnson Bank, Citizens Bank of Mukwonago (Eagle office), Pyramax Bank, Chase Bank, Friends of Old World Wisconsin, Ace Hardware, Market Square Restaurant, Pat Arnold, Diana & Eloise Hall, Rose Raiter, State Farm Insurance, Alice Baker Memorial Public Library, Ultimate Image and Darlene Landmann. If you donated and you are not listed here, please excuse our mistake; contact us if you wish us to give you credit in the next issue.

Congratulations to Diane Thuemling, who won the \$100 savings bond from Palmyra State Bank.

Eagle Business Association—Business After Five

Each month a member of the EBA hosts an evening get-together of members; on January 25 EHS acted as host for the event.

Members gathered at the museum and toured the exhibit, "Lest We Forget—Eagle Remembers World War II." They were treated to a light supper typical of the 1940s: Grandma B's barbecue beef on buns, scalloped potatoes with Spam, and the ever-popular Jell-o mold. The supper was topped off with angel food pudding cake, brownies and apple brown Betty with whipped cream.

Featured Artifact

During World War II the Marine Corps played a central role in the Pacific. Fierce fighting between the U.S. Marines and troops of the Imperial Army of Japan occurred on Guadalcanal, Guam, Tarawa, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

In the EHS World War II exhibit is a collection of war trophies brought home by a Marine assigned to the 3rd Marine Assault Amphibious Battalion. All of the artifacts appear to be taken from one Japanese soldier. Included are personal photographs, Japanese currency, a watch that is clearly displayed in one of the photos of the Japanese soldier, a Hinomaru (good luck) flag and sash, along with the official capture tags that were required for war trophies. The Hinomaru flag and sash were presented to and signed by friends and relatives of the departing Japanese soldiers.

One wonders how these items were acquired by the Marine—were they confiscated from a prisoner of war or were they taken from a dead soldier?



These items are on loan from an EHS member. We encourage you to consider donating or loaning items of local history to the Eagle Historical Society.

EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	BOARD MEETING	NEWSLETTER	EVENTS
January 21	11:00 A.M.		
January 31		Mail Date	
February 18	11:00 A.M.		Slate of Officers- Board Members
March 18	11:00 A.M.		Annual Meeting/Election Officers-Board Members
April 04			Bake Sale
April 18	6:30 P.M.		
April 30		Mail Date	
May 13			Plant Sale at the museum
May 16	6:30 P.M.		
June 20	6:30 P.M.		
June 23-25			Kettle Moraine Days
July 09			Band Concert/Ice Cream Social, Village Park, 2 P.M.
July 18	6:30 P.M.		
July 31		Mail Date	
August 15	6:30 P.M.		
August 20			Open House/Reception at EHS Museum, 1-4 P.M.
September 19	6:30 P.M.		
October 17	6:30 P.M.		
October 31		Mail Date	
November 07			Bake Sale
November 18	11:00 A.M.		
December 09			Holiday Raffle 10-3 Drawings at 3:15 P.M.
December 16	11:00 A.M.		

Lest We Forget

The EHS World War II exhibit is worth your time—think about dropping in to see it. Included in the exhibit are letters written by servicemen. The following two are particularly moving. They are printed here as they appeared in the Eagle Quill during the war.



Francis Splechter, October 16, 1942:

Dear Dad:

Was it you who sent me a copy of the Eagle Quill with my letter to you written right on the front page? Thanks a lot, Dad, for the copy you sent. I know I'm not much, just one soldier in about five million, but I hope I can always do my duty as it is expected of me.

We have now vacated our barracks and we camp out in the woods, but still at Fort Bragg Reservation. The place is just a temporary encampment, just a place to hold us until we have further orders. I guess from now on there will be no nice, warm barracks for us, the ground will be our bed and the open spaces our home.

We have been terribly busy for the past week or so, all the barracks, the mess hall, orderly room and everything had to be scrubbed thoroughly inside and out. It all had to be spotlessly clean before we left. It's quite a bit easier out here now, although we have had some trouble with our gasoline stoves. Two were out of order, so we took them down to get fixed, but one doesn't work yet.

I couldn't finish your letter last night because there was a blackout, and all lights had to be out, but I'm off this morning. Boy, was it cold last night! I just couldn't keep warm, even with three blankets, but it is much warmer now.

Well, if nothing else comes up I will get the five-day furlough of mine pretty soon, maybe in a couple of weeks. It will not be a long one, only five days, but anything is better than nothing. Maybe I can go hunting one day while at home.

Take good care of yourself, Dad. Keep up that production. You know us soldiers have to eat.

(Editor's note: Francis Splechter died October 17, 1944 in Belgium. A purple heart winner, he is one of three people for whom the Eagle American Legion Post is named.)

Richard Schroeder, June 1, 1945:

Dear Folks:

Last night I wrote to Dot telling her that I thought I might get a chance to visit one of the most notorious of German Concentration Camps. This morning I was able to get there and walked around making observations for about two hours. In that short period of time, I saw enough to age an ordinary person many years. I don't like to think about what I saw but it is only fair for me to tell others how damnably brutal and beastly the Germans were to the prisoners.

I have heard that this particular camp had a capacity of about 35,000 people, but of that I am not sure. From here on, I will try to tell you of my observations.

Our first stop was made alongside a railway track near the camp. I will not venture a guess as to the number of railway cars standing there, but I did look into and enter nearly twenty. I just couldn't stand any more than that, for each car had at least ten and some twenty or twenty-five bodies—some totally naked and others partly dressed. God help me, I don't know how to tell you about these poor devils, bags of bones, just skin, their eyes wide open staring at nothing and expressions of pain, anguish or utter hopelessness on nearly every face capable of having an expression. It was utterly terrible, almost impossible to describe but something one will never in God's world forget. Those people had been starved to death very slowly. One could almost see every bone in their body.

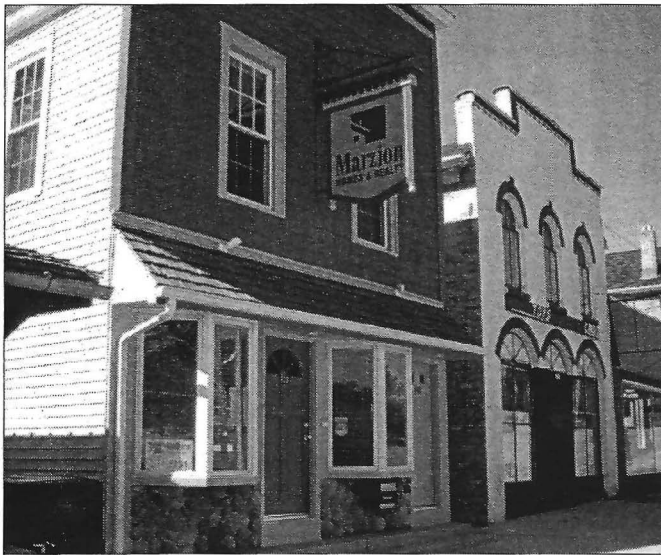
We finally got back into the ambulance and went directly to the Concentration Camp, parked, and the Lt. got our pass to go in. Our first view was of a high fence constructed of barbed wire. Upon getting closer, I discovered that it was also, or rather had been, electrified. Inside the fence was a deep ditch, outside was a small stream of running water, possibly 3 feet deep and about eight or ten feet across. Between the fence and the stream was a path which was probably used by the guards. Beyond the stream was another path and at intervals were concrete pill boxes. I think that it was virtually escape proof. By the time I arrived there a good number of people had left but many stayed. They could be seen walking about, standing in small groups and huddling over small fires beside the buildings which now flew flags of nearly every nation on the Continent. We continued walking along the stream and finally on our left in the middle of a fenced-in enclosure we came upon a low building with an immense chimney. I entered the nearest door and found myself confronted by what looked like several small furnaces. These proved later to be exactly that, only they were for cremating bodies. I was only inside a moment when I moved toward an open door on my right. I didn't move far because the smell that met me almost turned my stomach. I went back outside, got some fresh air in my lungs, held it there and returned for a good look. I could not even walk through the door because of the bodies laying there, all naked, skin and bones, some in various stages of decay. Large spots of flesh were green in color. I don't think I am exaggerating when I say that there were at least five hundred bodies in the room, stacked up like so much cord wood.

I returned to the outside of the building where I watched men unloading more dead from a wagon into another room and then I entered another section of the building. This proved to be the gas chamber for executing those deemed undesirable. I wonder how many people passed through that room never to see the light of day again.

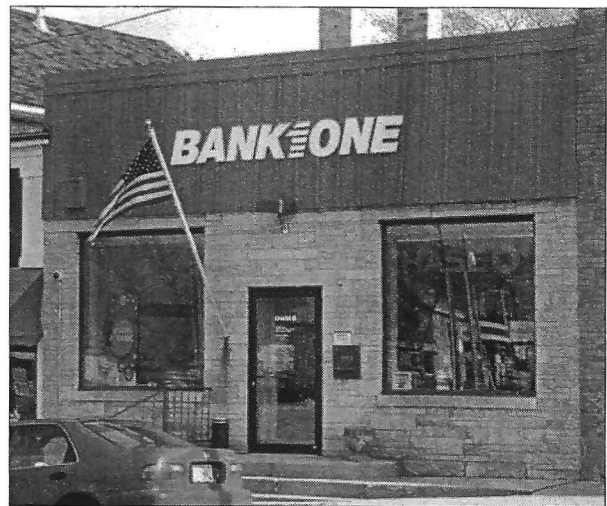
I just can't write more. It's too damn hard on my nervous system and I feel kind of sick when I think about it. I will never forget this day as long as I live, and I don't think you will forget either. I can't write another letter like this so pass it around. Let everybody read it. They will know why we are in a war.

Ring out the Old,

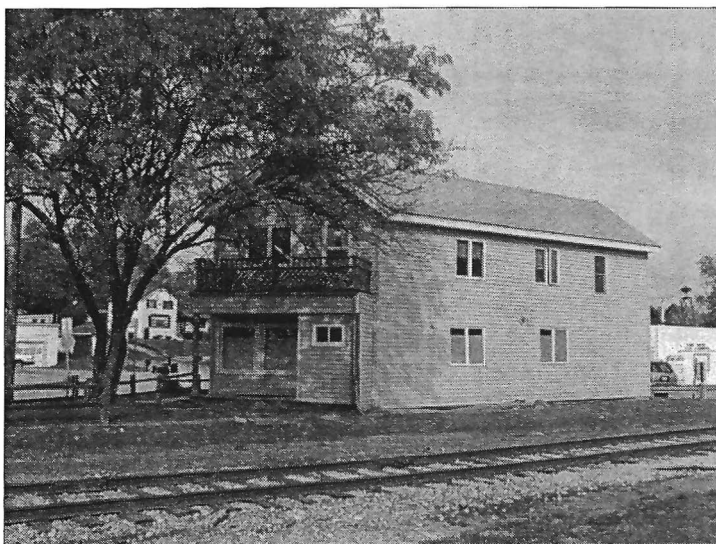
Main Street



Last fall Mark Marzion of Marzion Homes and Realty purchased properties at 101 through 109 Main Street. After refurbishing his office building, he renovated the second-story apartment at 105. Now he has turned his attention to 103. 101 still appears as it did when it was Krestan's grocery store.



May 6, 2005

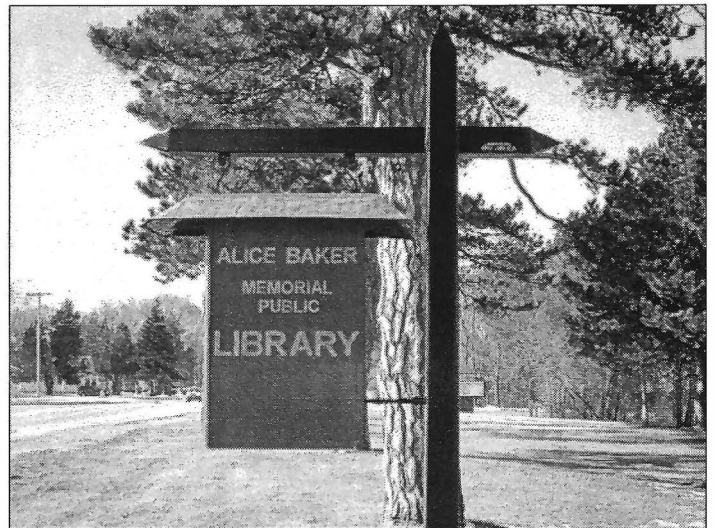


Grove Street

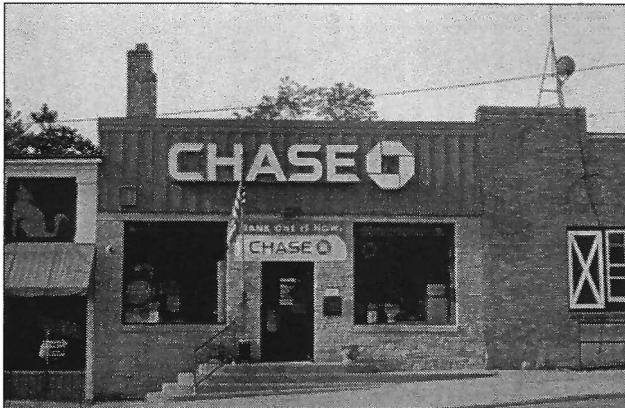
The Sidetrack became history in September. Owner Francine Lake plans for this structure to become an office/apartment building.

Photo by Roy Leonhardt

Ring in the New



In 2005 the Friends of the Library approached the Eagle Lions club about refurbishing the sign that the club had made for the library. The Lions responded by making an elegant new metal sign to replace the weathered wooden one. It was hung this month.



May 9, 2005

Wyndham Fields—Apple Tree Lane

In September the first two homes went up in this subdivision on the former Kelsey property. Apple Tree Lane has been extended east of the village and runs parallel to Hwy 59.



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

Eagle Community Showcase

The Alice Baker Memorial Public Library sponsored this first annual community information fair, held at the Eagle Elementary School on Saturday, January 21. The weather cooperated and provided sunshine. It was a great opportunity to network with other organizations, business owners and people from the community. People came from as far away as Milwaukee to learn more about the resources available in Eagle.

Our booth displayed the new brochures, a crazy quilt, a print from the art gallery and a box of mystery artifacts. Children and adults enjoyed trying to identify the artifacts using only the sense of touch. We also had a drawing for some Eagle Historical Society tee shirts.

EHS member Stephanie Kalnes of Great Lakes Design occupied the adjoining booth, where she displayed her award-winning board game, Viking Adventure. Also on display was her trophy for the MarCom award that she won for her game last October 27. The MarCom Creative Awards international competition is open to "marketing and communication professionals involved in the concept, writing and design of marketing and communication programs and print, visual and audio materials." Her statuette was designed and cast by the same company that makes the Oscar, Emmy and MTV trophies.

