



EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October 2004

Eagle, Wisconsin

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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 new members Richard and Donna Whalen. Thanks to James T. Small, M.D. who joined at the sponsor level.

Honorary Memberships

Anyone with ties to Eagle who reaches the age of 85 is entitled to honorary membership in EHS. Contact EHS to advise us when you or someone you know is qualified.

Donations

We thank the following for donations received: Bea Delaney, Barb Hegwood, Newell Meyer, Mukwonago Historical Society, Menniette Reichold, Eloise Richards, Bill Thiele, ErisThurston, John & Linda Viegut, Topsy Von Rueden, and Riene Wells.

EHS received monetary donations from the Eagle Springs Yacht Club, the Town of Eagle and the Village of Eagle.

Convention News

EHS is a member of the Wisconsin Council for Local History. On August 28 Don & Elaine Ledrowski traveled to Sharon in Walworth County to attend the annual convention of the 41 southeastern region historical societies. At this meeting Elaine was elected as the southeast regional representative. In this capacity she will travel to Madison October 29 and 30 for the annual state WCLH convention.

Newsletter

In August the editor received a letter from an author asking for help with her forthcoming book. A friend of

hers in England had sent her pages from the EHS newsletter with a photo of interest. Although the person she was interested in was not the same as the one in the photo, it was gratifying to know that someone in England had read our newsletter!

Request for Information

In the July issue we published information on Ken Mealy's military service to great interest. In this issue we mourn the loss of three members, each of whom helped out during the war in his or her own way. All other Eagle World War II veterans are asked to share their information with EHS. Whether it's written, recorded or photographed, whether you're male or female, we'd like to make or receive a copy.

Temporary Extended Hours

The museum has been open from 5-7 pm on several Wednesdays for viewing of the Civil War and doll exhibits. This is an experiment which may only be possible for a limited time. If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, make sure the special sign in front of the building shows the extra hours.

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From Our Collection



Photo by Don Ledrowski

"Pinkie" doll has lived all his life in Eagle. He was made for Carl Belling (born in Eagle in 1912, son of Sue and Arthur Belling,) by Carl's grandma, Mary Ann Perry.

She lived with her husband, Aseph Perry, on a farm where Gagliano's Kettle Mo-

raine Ranch is now located, behind Old World Wisconsin on Highway S. There is a pond on that land called Perry's Pond. Pinkie lived for many happy years in the playroom of the house on Main Street. He was a favorite of the Belling children, then the grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

In 1963 at the death of Sue Belling (Carl's mother) he went to live with Jean Bowey, the oldest granddaughter. Her children played with him until one of his hands was injured—then he retired to the top of the bookcase, where he looked down on happy times and sad times.

I wanted him to come back into Eagle and see the changes in our small town. Perhaps in his quiet way he will bring happiness to all who see him. He was and is a remembrance of happier times and peaceful, quiet times in a slower society.

- Jean Bowey



Can you help? Esther and George Stead appear in this photo, which she believes to be at least 50 years old. Can you identify anyone else? Do you know the occasion? The location? (possibly in Palmyra)

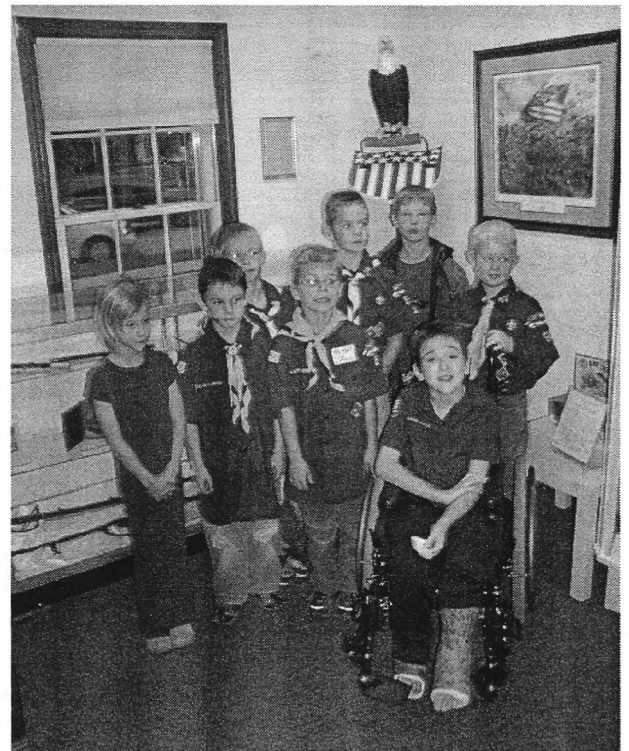
EHS Open House/Civil War Exhibit

The Eagle Historical Society open house on August 15 was well attended, with guests from as far away as California. This was the first time the Civil War exhibit was open.



Jack Dexter, Irma Jolliffe, Mark Dexter and Dolores Dexter pose in front of tools, weapons, musical instruments, medical instruments and Old Abe items.

Photos by Don Ledrowski



Cub Scout Pack 54 and guest took advantage of the new hours.

Signs of the Times

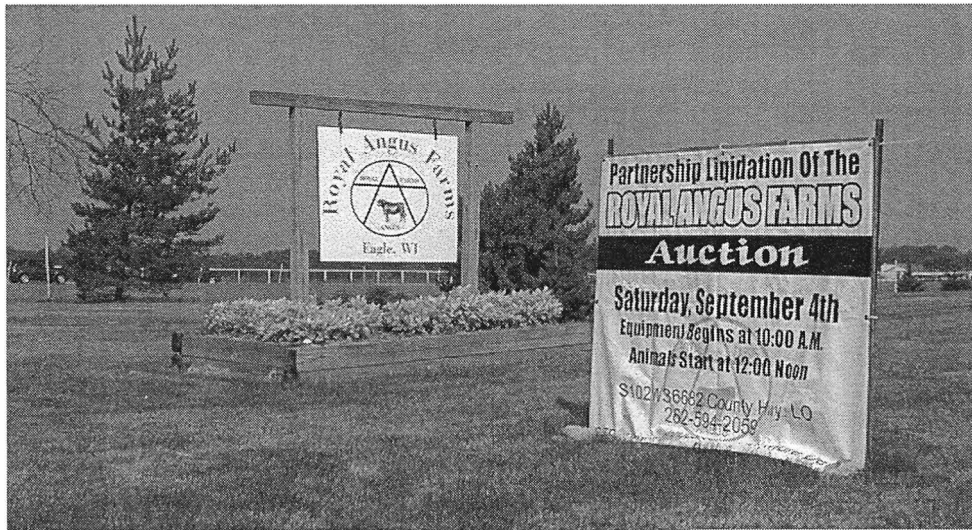


Photo by Roy Leonhardt

On Saturday, September 4th, an auction was held at Royal Angus Farms, located at the intersection of South Road and Hwy LO. Many Eagle residents still remember this as the "Casey farm," because (Norville) Wayne Casey and his wife, Lucille, owned it from 1956 to 1982. Sam Johnson operated it as the "Mean Green" farm until 1996, then he moved out of the county. Sandy Campbell, Diane Zakrzewski, and Dave and Christi Kilpatrick ran the Royal Angus Farms as partners until this September. Tom Peters has been herd manager since 1997. Sandy Campbell will continue to run an Angus cow-calf operation on the premises.

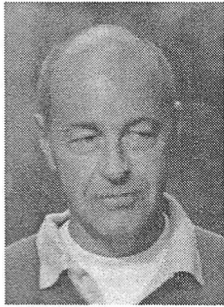
Information from Sandy Campbell, Lucille Casey, Jenny Kilpatrick and the farm website



The Eagleville school remains in use, and opened this fall as "Waukesha County's 1st Elementary Charter School." Charter schools are independent public schools. They cannot charge tuition, and may not "pick and choose" their students. The school does not have traditional enrollment boundaries; students area wide can choose to attend. The word "charter" refers to the contract that such a school has with the local school district (Mukwonago) that makes it accountable for student performance, financial matters and effective school operations. In November 2003 the State of Wisconsin set aside \$50,000 in planning grant funds to provide training, equipment, and educational materials for the school.

Information from the school website

Obituary



John Eiring

John Edward Eiring Sr, 85, died Sunday, August 15, 2004. He was born on Nov. 29, 1918, to Hilmer and Adelaide (nee Mueller) Eiring. His father ran a clothing business which did not survive the depression. At one time the family owned property all the way from John Eiring's house to the Eagleville School hill.

John served with the U.S. Army cavalry in WWII, using both horses and tanks. He started work as a rural mail carrier in Eagle on Jan. 1, 1950, and was postmaster when he retired in 1982. He ran a marine business on the side, repairing motors and selling boats, and helped many a stranded boater with free repairs. At one time he also worked for Brian Tuohy as a groundskeeper at Eagle Springs Golf Resort.

An avid sportsman, John remembered when he

would cross-country ski from Eagle Springs Lake to Lulu Lake and back before there were cross-country ski trails. He was active in, and a past commodore of, the Eagle Lake Yacht Club. He hunted ducks right into his 70s and amassed an impressive collection of guns, some of them antiques.

He was also interested in history, and a supporter of Alice Baker Memorial Public Library. As of last summer, he was still giving his grandchildren rides in his Model A Ford.

John is survived by his daughter, Roberta (Dr. Thomas) Pool of San Antonio; his son, John E. (Donna) Eiring Jr of Somerset, and his grandchildren, Katherine R. Pool, Elizabeth A. Eiring, Katherine M. (Eiring) Mahan and Michael B. Pool.

John was preceded in death by his first wife, Rita, who worked as a telephone operator until the Eagle office was closed, then took a position in the Mukwonago High School library.

He was also preceded in death by his second wife, Margaret, who commuted to teach in Milwaukee.

A graveside service was held on Aug. 18. Burial was in Jericho Cemetery. Mealy Funeral Home served the family.

Includes information from a Freeman obituary and Janet Prokop

Photo courtesy of John and Julie Mann

Obituary



Walter J. Zenner

Walter J. Zenner died at Waukesha Memorial Hospital on Aug. 27, 2004. He was born on Feb. 21, 1904, and graduated from Illinois Institute of Technology in 1928 with a BSEE. From 1928 to 1964 he was vice president of research and development at Teletype Corporation. He was also co-founder and chairman of Extel Corporation, an early manufacturer of both dot matrix and ink jet printers of his design.

Walter invented communication products covered by 115 patents; his inventions earned him a commendation from the U.S. Navy in 1947 for his assistance in World War II.

He was a member of Tau Beta Pi and Eta Kappa Nu, a life fellow of the American Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, a life member of the Western Society of Engineers, a member of the First Congregational Church of Mukwonago and the Mukwonago Kiwanis Club and was on the board of directors of Kiwanis Manor in East Troy.

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Walter volunteered a great deal of time to youth-oriented activities and was president of the Des Plaines, Illinois school board from 1964 to 1968.

To celebrate turning 100 in February, he was given 5 birthday parties. As part of the celebrations, his niece took him on an airplane ride and out to dinner. "The waitress couldn't get over him being 100," said Chris Litwin, one of his daughters. He slyly smiled and winked at her and said, "You should have seen me at 99."

Walter offered a simple explanation on the secret to having a long life. "There is no secret," he said. "I'm a natural born procrastinator."

He is survived by his wife, Lois A. (Martin) Zenner; sons, John "Jack" (Diana) and Tom; daughters, Mary (Harold) Webster and Chris (Larry) Litwin; 11 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Mildred in 1975, and his daughter-in-law, Donna.

Funeral services were held on Aug. 31 at First Congregational Church of Mukwonago. Burial took place on Sep. 1 at Mount Emblem Cemetery in Elmhurst, IL. Schmidt & Bartelt Van Valin Funeral Home served the family.

Memorials to First Congregational Church of Mukwonago, 231 Roberts Drive, or Kiwanis Manor in East Troy are appreciated.

Includes information from a Freeman obituary and a separate article by Kelly Gilbert.

Obituary



Eloise Richards, 84, of Eagle, died on Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2004, at Waukesha Memorial Hospital. She was born in Genesee Depot on Jan. 25, 1920, to Arthur and Mable (Lee) Richards. Her father became the director of the State Bank of Genesee Depot in 1912, and she worked there during several summers. Eloise graduated from UW-Madison in 1941 and taught high school home economics for 2 years, until her father suffered a debilitating heart attack. Since young men had been called to military service, her father called her home to share the work at the bank—she had to learn on the job. Brought in as manager of the Eagle office, which opened on Mar. 24, 1947, she retired Dec. 31, 2000. A member of the Evangelical and Reformed United Church of Christ in Waukesha, she was a Sunday school teacher and former member of the church council. She was also a member of the Welsh Women's Club, Altrusa Club, Association of Women Bankers, a board member of Friends of Old World Wisconsin and treasurer of Hawks Inn Historical Society. She is survived by her brother, David (Nordean) Richards of Waukesha; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her brothers, Lee and Willis. Rev. Ralph Schultz officiated at the funeral on Aug. 14. Burial was in Tabernacle Cemetery, Town of Delafield—the old Welsh cemetery.

Includes information from a Freeman obituary

Coffee Friends

By Dick Riddle

Eloise "Ellie" Richards will be missed by her many, many Eagle area friends, including Marge Plaines, Helen Mealy, Clare Turner, and Jane Riddle, who met with her for coffee nearly every day, except Sunday, for a quarter of a century. The five had coffee together at Chapman's Variety Store, until Kathy and Jim Chapman went out of business. After Chapman's the friends met at JJ's Restaurant, until the business ended. The five occasionally laughed about the fact that maybe it was because of their patronage that the businesses were forced to close. Chuckling, Jane Riddle said, "we were the kiss of death" for these businesses. "

The ladies have been "regulars" at the Eagle Deli, Tuesday through Saturday, from 1 until 2 p.m., the past several years. The deli closes on Monday, so the ladies occupy a table at Chapman's gas station. A photograph of the five stands on a counter at the Deli. If one of the five fails to show up, the Deli staff is concerned. When one of the ladies is unable to attend the daily session, it is customary to let the group know she will not be present. The conversation topics usually include favorite recipes, dining out, Eagle news, family news, the "good ol' days," and during football season, the Green Bay Packers. They also gather during the Christmas holidays and for other special occasions such as birthday lunch celebrations and occasional shopping trips.



Marge, Helen, Jane, Eloise and Clare

Photo courtesy of Dick and Jane Riddle



Mark Your Calendars

DATE: Saturday, December 4

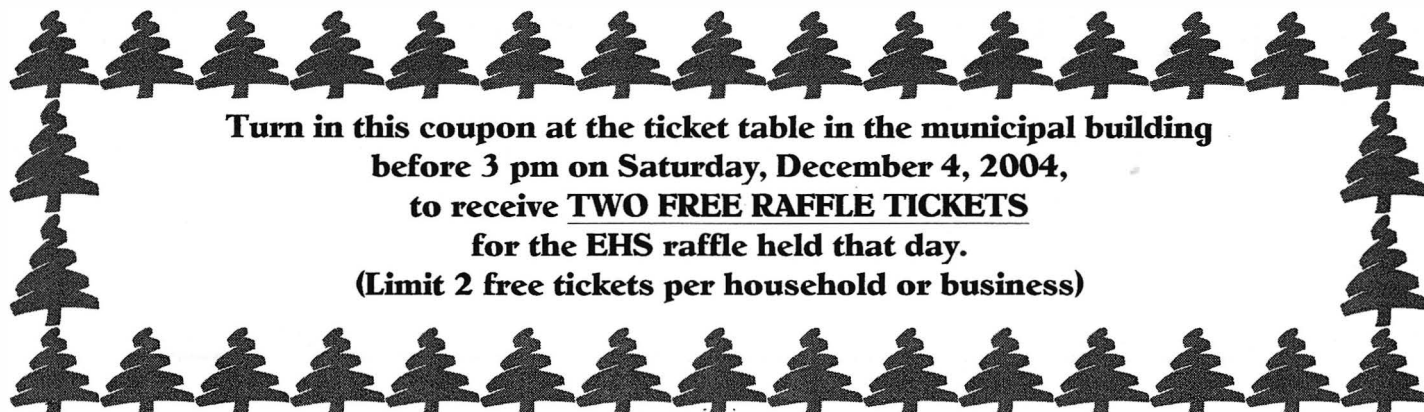
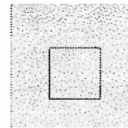
TIME: Ticket Sales start 10:00 A.M.
Drawing Held 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: The Municipal Building
Main Street (Hwy. NN)
Eagle

HOLIDAY RAFFLE

Sponsored by Eagle Historical Society

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



Turn in this coupon at the ticket table in the municipal building
before 3 pm on Saturday, December 4, 2004,
to receive TWO FREE RAFFLE TICKETS
for the EHS raffle held that day.
(Limit 2 free tickets per household or business)