



EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4

ISSUE 2

SUMMER 1997

PRESIDENT'S PANORAMA

by DIANE THUEMLING

The Board members have been working hard on several projects.

The White Elephant/Bake Sale was a very successful fundraiser. We raised just over \$500 by selling luncheon plates, bakery and rummage. THANKS to everyone who helped us by selling, baking, buying and donating.

Have you purchased the 1997 tee shirt yet? The design is the old bandstand and many background buildings, available in white or ash color shirts (Med. - XXL). Stop by the museum or pick one up at the Ice Cream Social.

On July 13th at 1:30 p.m. we will sponsor an Ice Cream Social and Band Concert in Eagle Village Park. A program and sing-a-long will feature the Palmyra/Eagle Community Band directed by Ed Pierce. Tell a friend, it will be old-fashion fun!! Ice cream cones, sundaes, cake, lemonade and hot dogs will be available for purchase. In case of rain, the Municipal Building will be open for an indoor program.

BOARD MEMBERS

President - Diane Thuemling  
Vice President - Sue Wambold  
Secretary - Charlene Ritchey  
Treasurer - Pat Wilton  
Jerry Baker (1999)  
Betty Isleb (1997)  
Irma Jolliffe (1998)  
Don Ledrowski (1997)  
Ed Mueller (1998)

The Board Meetings are held at the Museum at 1:00 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month. Please join us, these are open meetings and everyone is welcome.

CURATOR'S CORNER

by ELAINE RADUECHEL

Yard and Building

The majority of the museum's yard was raked and cleaned and the brush cut down on Saturday, April 19th. Thanks go to Jerry and Richard Baker, Welthy and Ed Mueller, Irma Jolliffe and myself. Also, thanks to Ralph for the hauling away and disposing of the many bags of refuse and all the branches.

The library board had the evergreen tree that was next to the museum taken down. The top was dead anyway and maybe with it gone the museum's roof's condition will be improved. The board also had repairs made around the bottom of the outside of the museum and it is looking good in those areas again.

Research Library

We have added "The Waukesha Freeman Obituary Index - 1859 to 1920" for everyone to come in and use. Jean Bowey donated the money specifically for this publication, that was researched and compiled by the Waukesha County Genealogical Society. Thanks Jean !

Obituary Files

Jean has saved many obituary clippings along with funeral ephemera over the years and has generously donated them for our files. She has been processing them and putting them in our research notebook.

If you have saved newspaper clippings, obits, births, marriages, etc. please consider donating them to the society. If you do not want to part with them, please bring them in so I can make a copy for our files. We would appreciate having the information, since our goal is to record, preserve and disseminate all about Eagle's people, past and present. Thanks.

### What It Is All About !

A couplet of weeks ago I received a partial computer printout of a branch of my family tree. The person doing the research had been to Eagle in December 1996. The museum was closed, so he went to the Alice Baker Library. He said a wonderful librarian remembered that I had given them a copy of the "Smart Heritage" booklet and she got it out so he could use it. Thus, I received information I did not have -- which made my day! So you see if you are working on your genealogy and deposit a copy with us you never know when you may be pleasantly surprised with added family!

Barbara Jatzczak, head librarian, has access to the museum so when we are able to get a list of what we have available ready, we will give her a copy and she will be able to help out-of-towners even when we are not open.

### ORAL REPORT

by IRMA JOLLIFFE

#### TOWN OF EAGLE - ORIN BENSON

Mr. Benson relies on 60 years of dog training experience. Select an animal, work with him, go into the ring and the performance should be first rate.

He was born on a farm near St. Paul, Minnesota and he was not quite ten years old when he worked with a collie type farm dog, they worked together to collect the cows.

Neighbors watched him make sled dogs out of a big airdale type animal and proceed to hunt with a cross bred German Shepherd. If a dog was afraid of guns he figured the best way was to pop paper bage, and get the animals used to noise.

In 1936, Mr. Benson came to Wisconsin because it had longer hunting seasons than Minnesota. With the backing of three Wisconsin business men he began the first retriever kennel in the state. It was located at River Hills, near Milwaukee, and

was called Dog Unlimited. Mr. Ben continued with the River Hills business until the late 1930's when he opened kennel near Oconomowoc on Highway 18. This was The Perkins Game Farm.

Since 1942 his final location has been at Highway 67 and ZZ. From this spot he's helped put the town of Eagle onto the sports map. Wisconsin Field Trials were held on Benson's 40 acres during the 1940's and 50's. This was when the dogs used Tuohy's Eagle Spring resort for their water competition and Frances Sasso's restaurant ability when human needs took over.

In September, Mr. Benson will be inducted into the Retriever Hall of Fame in Tennessee.

Below is a photograph from the Waukesha Freeman files, taken by Joan Holman. This is a picture of Mr. Benson and one of his retrievers.



Joan Holman Photo



6th ANNUAL FOURTH GRADE  
HISTORY REPORT CONTEST

by ELAINE RADUECHEL

First I would like to say thank you to Linda Hett and Carol Lake for taking time to go to Eagle Elementary School and give a program to the fourth graders. Linda reported on the house she lives in, the Hinkley Cobblestone, and on the past of the Hinkley family and farm. Carol reported on Paradise Springs which at one time was owned by a relative of hers.

It is hard to convey the feeling and satisfaction that comes when you do research and get the information you were looking for. I love doing it and so when I see how each fourth grade over the years digs in and finds out for themselves, I feel great!

Come on in and see what fourth graders have accomplished. The reports will be on display over the summer and most will be filed in our archives after that.

Following is the list of winners and honorable mentions for 1996-97:

- 1st - Kathryn Rabideau, The Eagle United Methodist Church
- 2nd - Andy Weinkauff, The Lake Family
- 3rd - Forrest Benson, Paradise Springs
- 4th - Clark Koury, Eagle - Diamonds Make You Smile
- 5th - Desiree Toldt, The Eagle Fire Department
- 6th - Jimmie Imoehl, Hinkley House and Life

10 Honorable Mention (no order)

Jessica Szymkowski, 138 Elkhorn Road, The Old School  
Ashley Anderson, Paradise Springs  
Nick Spaulding, Paradise Springs  
Lindsey Hoffman, Alice Baker  
Kendra Sorge, Gotten Cabin  
Katie Milella, My House  
Lindsey Laatsch, My Eagle History  
Stephen Sievert, Gillette's Country Store  
Tim Lee, Eagle Diamond  
Kyle Rohr, The Hinkley House

We would like to share with you some of the winning reports in this newsletter and in upcoming newsletters, as space allows. Here are some of the fourth grade history reports as they were written.

The Eagle United Methodist Church

by Kathryn Rabideau

The Eagle United Methodist Church was built in 1871. Before the church was built, the services would be held in people's houses, or in schools. In 1871 the Church was built at the corner of Main Street and Eagle Street. The first minister in the church was R. Cooley. Since R. Cooley has been minister, there have been fifty other ministers at the Church.

If you think the Church has been called the Eagle United Methodist Church all the time, you are wrong. The Church used to be called the Eagle Methodist Church, until 1968 when the Church became united. After that, the Church made changes in their procedure, and their name.

There were no additions to the Church until 1914 when the dug a hole by hand for the basement. The church wanted to put in a furnace. In September of 1956 the Sunday School addition was started. Mrs. Jean Bowey, who has belonged to the Church for 69 years (since she was 3 years old!) remembers when the Sunday School addition was made. She recalls that there used to be a stairway in the back, side and down to the basement. She also recalls that there once was a picture painted with Jesus on it where the cross is today !

In 1888 Sunday School was started. The first Sunday School was held at the home of a Mr. Cross. Mrs. Phil Richart was the first Sunday School Superintendent. She was the Superintendent for forty years! A lot of people weren't willing to do the job, because the position required continuous obligation, but in time people had enough time to give for the enjoyment of the children. Mrs Bowey remembers that she attended Sunday School as a child, but at times was not a good girl and skipped classes! There have been many others who have

helped with the work of the Sunday School, such as Mrs. Husten, Mrs. Belling, and Mrs. Boyden. Mrs. Bowey remembers that at Christmas the Sunday School students put on a Christmas program on Christmas Eve. All the students would have to recite a poem.

Women have always been a big part of the Church. Before the end of the first decade of the century, the women's organization was known as The Helping Hand. They did much for the economic and social life of the Church. The women made quilts, quilted them, accumulated garments and bedding for many who suffered through disasters. By 1910 the woman's organization became known as the Ladies' Aid, and by 1940 the Ladies' Aid changed their name again to the Woman's Society of Christen Service. Their meetings were opened with religious worship, followed by programs of missionary work or religious study. Even though everyone is a part of the WSCS today, that membership still thinks "that's not a reality."

Eagle still has a choir. There has always been four singers in it. From 1874 to 1875 Mr. Hinkley sang in the choir. His singing has never been forgotten! In the depression years, the Church was lucky in having a returned missionary for Singapore, along with his wife, to lead the choir. Since the depression years, the Church choir has always had a good leader. Some leaders started training children to sing some of the songs that they would sing!

The current Pastor of the Eagle United Methodist Church is Pastor Christal Bindrich. She has been a minister for a very short time, only 1½ years! Pastor Christal has many memories of her short time with the Church. She says "this has been a year of firsts, and is very special". She recalls that during the celebration of 125 years, the Church held the celebration for a whole month! During that time the members celebrated by dressing differently every week, from the 1800's, 1920's, 1960's and present day!

The Church currently hosts several suppers a year to raise money, and also has a pie booth during the Kettle Moraine Days Festival in June each year.

There are currently 141 members that belong to the Eagle United Methodist Church. Today the Church Service starts at 8:45 on Sunday mornings, and ends at around 9:45. At 10:00 Sunday School starts. The sanctuary can fit 140 people in it.

Mrs. Bowey sums it up this way "the Eagle United Methodist Church is a nice friendly Church in a very nice small town!"





## The Lake Family

Andy Weinkauff

In September, 1940, Scott Lake arrived in Eagle with his wife, Clara and son, Federic (age 11). They lived on the corner of Sherman Street and Hwy 59. At that time the farmhouse was shite (now it is blue). There was a barn on the land too. He also owned the land across the street but it was too hilly for the tractors so he never did anything with it.

He brought along his 300 Penny Arcade Machines. Mr. Lake owned the largest traveling penny arcade in the United States.

Scott would join other large carnivals between April and September and take his Penny Arcade on the road. Some of the carnivals he joined were: Gold Metal Shows, William Snapp, Al Baysengsen, Motor City Shows, and Badger State Shows. During the summer they would travel through the Midwest, as well as, the southern states. When Fred was only 7 years old, he would sit in the change booth, under a large tent and make change. In those days each machine worked on a penny. Fred was taught how to fix the machines if they should jam or need other repairs.

Loading and moving the arcade took large trucks and trailers. If you were on a tight schedule between shows you couldn't even stop to eat. You would sleep as they drove to the next show. Although life wasn't easy, it was their way of life. As Fred grew, his work load became harder and longer.

In 1952 Scott Lake sold the Penny Arcade. He couldn't run the arcade alone since Fred had joined the Army.

After Fred returned to Eagle he married Carol. They have four children: Virginia, Rita, Freddie, and Mark.

In 1971, Fred decided to start a little carnival again. He now had his own children to help him. His first ride was an Octopus that needed repair. He spent the winter

restoring the ride. He also built a fun house. We then had to join another carnival. Fred's family spent about three year's until we could add more rides. They bought a Tilt-a-Whirl, Merry Go Round, Ferris Wheel and Kiddie Train. They would book church picnics within 50 miles of home so no work was missed at their full time jobs.

In 1986, Mark Lake and his wife, Heide, began running the carnival business. They still run these during the sunner at various town and church fairs. He has traded some of therides his Dad originally had. During the winter Mark makes repairs and improvements to his rides.

Scott Lake also made another contribution to Eagle by turning the hilly farmland into a subdivision. This subdivision is located just north of Highway 59 on Sherman Street. Scott Lake named it Melody Hills, but had no known reason for giving it that name. The first house was 450 Sherman Street, built in May, 1956. This is the residence of Fred and Carol Lake. A total of nine homes make up the subdivision. It is also where Mark keeps the rides.

While speaking to Fred and Carol Lake I also learned that Fred attended the Eagle Elementary School through eighth grade. Then for high school he went to Mukwonago.

Fred also highlighted what Eagle was like when he was growing up.

Eagle had a hardware store, but it burned down. There was Billing's Butcher Shop, a shoe store, grocery store, drug store Smitty's Barber Shop. We even had a Purse Factory which stood where the Fire Station is today.

On Wednesday night they showed movies on the side of the Brittingham and Hixon Lumber Yard building for the children. People would bring their blankets and sit on the grass and watch the free movie. I think that would be neat.

The biggest change that Fred and Carol have seen in Eagle is the population boom. When they were

married there was approximately 375 people in Eagle. Now there are over 1200.

In speaking with Fred and Carol, I was able to learn about their business, their family, and the village they have called home since 1094.

\*\*\* REMEMBER \*\*\* JULY 13th  
1:00p.m. for seating and eating  
2:00p.m. program begins  
ICE CREAM SOCIAL/BAND CONCERT  
at the Eagle Village Park Shelter.

If you are able to bake a cake or would like to donate your time by working at this fundraiser, call Sue Wambold (414) 594-2891 or Betty Isleb (414) 594-2439.

But more importantly, please join us for a wonderful time in the park and tell your friends and neighbors about this program. Last year over one hundred people attended!

Stop in and visit the Eagle Historical Society Museum and Research Library. Did you know that members receive a discount on the tee shirts and sweatshirts purchased there? We have a limited supply of the new 1997 tee shirt available. They are going fast!

Hours: Every Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon (except holidays) and every fourth Monday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Telephone (414) 594-8961

Hours by appointment, call Elaine at (414) 594-2676, or Sue at (414) 594-2891, or Diane at (414) 594-3382.

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