

EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

Winter/Spring 1997

NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENTS PANORAMA

by Diane Thuemling

Here we are, starting a new year, again. Our calendars are clean and our thoughts are on goals and challenges for the next twelve months.

The committee chairs were appointed for the next year. Betty Isleb will head the Finance and Fundraising/Events Committees. Sue Wambold will chair the membership committee. I will head the Newsletter Committee. The Oral Research Committee is chaired by Irma Jolliffe. Elaine Raduechel will chair the Program Committee. Welthy Mueller will chair the Hospitality Committee. The Historical Research Committee will be chaired by Charlene Ritchey.

All of these committees need member participation. If you are willing to share your time and expertise in any of these areas, please call the chairperson.

The Eagle Historical Society Board received a resignation from Mabel Finney effective, December 31, 1996. Our dear Mabel has been a faithful member since the Society began in 1989. She has served on many committees and has chaired the Hospitality Committee for years. We will miss seeing her on a regular basis, but look forward to her continued participation in some of our events. THANK YOU Mabel for your wisdom, your cheerful disposition and your delicious coffee and treats. You are a hard worker who never seems to slow down.

At the January meeting the Board appointed Don Ledrowski to finish the last year of Mabel's term. Welcome Don, we look forward to working with you.

PROGRAMS

***February 8 Linda Hett, speaker, Hinkley House/Cobblestone
2:30 p.m. municipal building***

***April 12 Jean Jolliffe, speaker, Cornish History
2:30 p.m. municipal building***

***June 14 Fourth Grade Contest Winners
give reports and receive prizes.
Time to be set.***

Please call or write and let me (Elaine) know what type of programs you would like to line up. E. H. S. , P.O. Box 54, Eagle, WI 53119

Museum (414) 594-8961, every Friday 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon (except holidays) and every fourth Monday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Home (414) 594-2676.

If dates, times, and place change it will be noted in the Palmyra Enterprise and Mukwonago Chief.

CALENDAR OF EVENT/MEETINGS

February 8th
Board Meeting at the municipal building
1:00 p.m. All members are welcome.

March 8th
Board Meeting at Museum - 1:00 p.m.

April 12th
Board Meeting at Museum - 1:00 p.m.

May 9th & 10th
White Elephant/Bake Sale at Municipal building.

May 10th
Board Meeting at Museum - 1:00 p.m.

CURATOR'S CORNER

In the next few months the Mueller Family exhibit will be packed and stored away to make room for new displays. Thanks to Ed and Welthy and the rest of the Muellers for the loan of the items.

Because of a conflict with the Town of Eagle Landmark and Historic Preservation Commission meeting time, the museum will be open the fourth Monday evening of each month from now on.

If you know of any place, building or area pertinent to the Town of Eagle's history that you think should be designated a landmark, please contact Dean or Riene (Wells) Herriges. Chairman and secretary, respectively.

Also, if you are interested in what the commission does, the meetings are the third Monday of the month at 8:00 p.m. at the municipal building. Members of the commission are Dean and Riene, Dorothy Kau, Ed Mueller, Scott Simon, Pat Wilton, and me.

Sue Wambold, Pat Wilton and I were the Christmas Tour of Homes committee with Bernice Nowicki and committee of Ester Stead, Pat Monroe, Diana and Eloise Hall in charge of coffee, hot chocolate and cookies at the municipal building. Irma Jolliffe was in charge of getting donations of items for the raffle. Charlene Ritchey handled the publicity and did the fliers, tour and raffle tickets. Betty Isleb called people to volunteer in the homes as well as be in one herself. Others in the homes: Don and LaVern Betts, Peggy Moots, Ed and Welthy Mueller, Sue Wambold, Barbara Jatzak, Linda Hett, Jerry Baker, Irma Jolliffe, Richard and Annette Baker.

A special thank you to the home owners Tom and Karen Bennett, Russell and Jill Steinhart, Ted and Heidi Graser, and Michael and Karen Kennedy.

Also thanks to Betty Werner for her time and efforts to help us secure homes for the tour.

The amount, before expenses, raised from the tour and raffle was \$993.75. Everyone that participated in any is greatly appreciated. Thanks!

The White Elephant/Bake Sale will again be held in May. Please save your rummage items until then for the society--or drop them off at the museum anytime between now and then during open hours. Thank you.

My next project (among many) is the contest for the fourth graders at Eagle Elementary. A panel is needed to talk to the kids prior to their writing their Eagle History reports. If you are interested please

contact me and let me know the area of interest you would talk about. (At this writing, date and times have not been set.)

Many thanks to member Katharine (Bovee) Howard for sending in the Bovee genealogy and it already has been used by a visiting genealogist. As a result we acquired Moody family information from that genealogist. Bridget Moody was the wife of Dr. F. A. Sprague and they figured in Eagle's early history.

Even if your genealogy is not complete please drop it off or mail it to the society for our research files. Maybe someone stopping to do research in the future could be of some help to you.

The ten part series "Ancestors" started January 25, Channel 10 at 6:30 p.m. and is repeated on that station on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. It is also repeated on Sunday nights at 6:30 p.m. on Channel 36. The programs are a half hour long and tell you about doing your genealogy. I think it is a series worth watching.

Elaine Raduechel, Curator

I REMEMBER.....

By Welthy Mueller

On January 29th, 1947 we had the biggest snow storm I've ever seen. Milwaukee was completely shut down. There was no traffic for three days until everyone got plowed out.

A train left Eagle and got stuck in the snow so Stetson Ingelbretten had to bring passengers back to Eagle in his sleigh. The snow was as high as our porch roof.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

by Sue Wambold

With the beginning of a new year my goal is to interest people in joining the Eagle Historical Society - our membership continues to grow, but there is always room for new members and fresh ideas.

If you like mystery and intrigue then you would enjoy joining the Eagle Historical Society. There are many areas of interest for all. It's fun to do research of Eagle's past to present years. Searching our families genealogy or finding old artifacts or old photos that give us historical insight to Eagle's past years can be exciting. We have fund raisers throughout the year, such as, bake sales, white elephant sales, ice cream social, plus our famous Christmas Tour of Homes. We present programs for everyone to attend and enjoy. Last, but not least, is a need for people to help maintain the Eagle Historical Society Museum. We can use people to do general cleaning, helping us rearrange displays and even some people with office skills would be great.

It is so important to preserve the history of Eagle so that our future generations can appreciate and understand Eagle's past and present years.

We welcome anyone who is interested to come and join us. Our meetings are held every second Saturday of the month at 1:00 p.m. at the Eagle Historical Society Museum, 219 West Main St., Eagle.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a membership application form for those of you who are interested in joining or for our regular members who may have forgotten because of the past holiday rush.

Hope to see you all at our next meeting.

GERALD VON RUEDEN

By Irma Jolliffe

Gerald Von Rueden was born in Eagle, in 1913.

He attended Ward School, a one room school, now a

part of Old World Wisconsin. Some of his classmates were the Kramps, Kruegers, Betts, and Robert Jolliffe. His teachers were Mary Rockteacher, Anna Kohlhaus (now Anna Chapman), still living, Cecila Schmid, John Schmid's sister, he was a barber in Eagle. Tina Kovnick was a great teacher. One teacher taught all eight grades.

After graduating he attended school in Eagle, it offered the ninth and tenth grades. He finished high school in Waukesha. He worked at different jobs and this was during the depression.

He worked at Brittingham & Hixon Lumber Company and in 1939 he was offered the managers job and did that until he retired.

In 1942 he was a member of the Village Board. They met in the Old Masonic Hall.

In 1955 the water tower was built, and they purchased the land for the village park from Bruno Wingerter. They only used a quarter of the acreage and rented out the rest for crops.

Gerald was the village Clerk for thirty years. During this time Calico Fields was developed by Belinski, that was the Markham Farm. The new post office was built and the Splechter Farm was annexed to the village. The new pump house, well, and Elementary School were all built. The small park in the middle of Eagle has been named, "Gerald Von Rueden Park" after Gerald.

LOSS OF A SOCIETY MEMBER

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.



**** SWEATSHIRTS ****

The new sweatshirts have the water tower (1975) on as well as St. Theresa's Church. The 100th anniversary of that building was celebrated the end of November, 1996.

The sweatshirts come in ash gray or white and in sizes Medium to XXL. Sizes M to XL - members \$15.00/others \$18.00 and XXL - members \$17.00/others \$20.00.

Fifty were ordered and just under half are left and available at the museum. Come in and pick one up before we are out of your size. They also make a nice gift.

4th GRADE HISTORY REPORT WINNERS

Last year the second place winner in our Eagle History Report was Joe Geisheker, his report is on 423 Elkhorn Road. In this newsletter we will share with you Joe's report.

EAGLE HISTORY 423 Elkhorn Road

Hello, my name is Joe Geisheker. I am in fourth grade at Eagle Elementary. I am writing my report about the house at 423 Elkhorn Road.

Did you know that Eagle filed to be incorporated in 1899? That was almost 100 years ago. There were only 17 people living in Eagle at that time. Now there are over one thousand people living in Eagle.

Around 1848, 423 Elkhorn Road was made up of 80 acres. There was no house at that time. The

land was sold many times from 1848 through 1910. On November 15, 1910 a man by the name of Charles P.S. Beerend and his wife Antoinette M. Beerend bought some of the land. On May 1, 1911, they borrowed \$3,400. They used this money to buy wood from Brittingham and Hixon Lumber Company. Although no one knows when the house was built, the word "buildings" is used on April 19, 1913.

Dr. Beerend was a dentist from West Allis, WI. When he build this house, he made two rooms upstairs into an office. One of the rooms had a hole in the floor for the dentist's chair. The hole is still there today, but it is covered with carpeting. In that same room there was plumbing for a sink. The other room had a door with a glass window. I think that room was the waiting room.

On May 1, 1916, Dr. Beerend sold the house to James M. Lyons and his wife Ella Grace. Between 1916 and 1931, Mr. Lyons left his wife Ella Grace. Mrs. Lyons had a hard time paying for the house, so she was forced to rent out the house. She had to live somewhere else. Mrs. Lyons stored her furniture in an upstairs bedroom. Jean Bowey who lived in the

house as a little girl remembers seeing the furniture upstairs.

The house is a Victorian farmhouse. The house has 4 bedrooms upstairs, a bathroom, kitchen, parlor, dining room, living room, and a foyer downstairs. There are three porches. The upstairs has a sun porch. The sun porch was a fun place to be, because it was like being in a tree. In the summer time, people would sleep out on the sun porch because it was much cooler. The front porch was another fun place because as you saw people walk by, you could say hello. There is an open front stairway leading upstairs to the bedrooms. Another stairway goes from the upstairs to the kitchen. That other stairway was used by hired farm workers in the early morning so they would not disturb the families.

The house has hot water heat. Some of the original light fixtures are still there today. There are two doors called pocket doors in the dining room that slide into the wall. There are leaded glass doors on the built-in china cabinets in the dining room.

At one time an itinerant painter came and did some decorative painting, but most of it was

wallpapered over later. An itinerant painter travels from house to house. He lives with the people until the work is done. The lady that lived there said that the man got injured while performing in the circus, and needed to find a different kind of job.

Mr. Matthew Kau bought the house in 1942. The house was bought by Don and Karen Lenser on August 5, 1984. That was their youngest child's fifth birthday. His name is Ryan. With all the excitement, Mrs. Lenser almost forgot to buy her son a birthday cake.

Mrs. Lenser was asked by the Eagle Historical Society to put her house in the first Historical Society's Holiday Tour of Homes held on December 12, 1992. Many people enjoyed looking at Mrs. Lenser's house. My own mother was helping Mrs. Lenser with the tour of her house.

I found that doing a report about this house was very fun. It was hard but it was worth it.

Thank you to all the students who participated in the Eagle History Reports.

Membership Application

Return to:

Eagle Historical Society
~~c/o Alice Baker Library~~ P.O. Box 54
217 West Main Street
Eagle, Wisconsin 53119

Please check membership desired:

- ☐ Individual \$10.00 annually
☐ Family \$15.00 annually
☐ Seniors (65 & Over) \$8.00 annually
Membership year ~~Nov.~~ ^{Dec.} 1 to ~~Dec.~~ ^{Dec.} 31

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Interests: _____

Amount Enclosed _____ Date _____

Please make checks payable to:

Eagle Historical Society

☐ I would like to hear more about
the volunteer program.

Eagle Historical Society
217 W. Main Street
P.O. Box 54
Eagle, WI 53119

