

# EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 7, Issue 1

Winter 2000

## EHS News

### BOARD MEMBERS

**President – Irma Jolliffe 594-2386**

**Vice President – Jerry Baker 542-6346**

**Richard Harthun – Secretary (no. unpublished)**

**Paulette Wilton – Treasurer 594-2294**

**Don Ledrowski – Financial Officer 594-3301**

Terms expire in 2000: Jerry Baker, Donald J. Ledrowski, Welthy Mueller, Pat Wilton, and Marcie Winzenried.

Terms expire in 2001: Richard Harthun, Margo Morner, Edward Mueller, Jeffery Nowicki, and Esther Stead.

Terms expire in 2002: Jean Bowey, Irma Jolliffe, Bea Marquardt, Bernice Nowicki, and Diane Thuemling.

The Eagle Historical Society can be reached at 594-8961 (there is an answering machine). EHS also has a web page at [www1.wcf.net/~ehsiddle](http://www1.wcf.net/~ehsiddle).



### Volunteer(s) Needed

The museum is looking for someone to organize its paper files. If you have time to donate to this project, please call 594-3301.

### SALE

EHS has size XXL sweatshirts available in various designs for \$8 while supplies last.

## Curator's Corner

**By Elaine Ledrowski**

Welcome to new members Terry and Julie Pisarek and Tom Woods.

We also have two new honorary members—Mary Smart and Gilman Radcliffe. Honorary membership is granted to persons 90 years of age who are living in Eagle or have lived in Eagle. Our honorary members are an excellent source of the history of Eagle.

Thanks to the 188 members who have renewed their membership for the year 2000; we appreciate your support. Many members kindly included an additional donation with their membership.

### Patrons (\$100 and over)

Terry and Julie Pisarek  
Chet and Pat Poetsch  
Russ and Jill Steinhart

### Sponsors (\$50-\$99)

John Eiring  
Richard and Marjorie Friedman  
Robert and Barbara Hegwood  
Arthur and Betty Isleb  
Ras and Donna Kalnes  
Roy and Terry Leonhart  
Tim and Diane Thuemling  
Walter and Lois Zenner

### Sustaining (\$25-\$49)

Paul and Sandra Fisher  
Tom and Patricia Heller  
Don and Marie Jones  
Don and Elaine Ledrowski  
Bernice Nowicki  
Jeffery Nowicki  
Eloise Richards  
Toula and Kim Sievers  
John and Mary Vymetal-Taylor  
Cathy Zipprich

Many donations have been received since our last

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## When I Was Younger

By Irma Jolliffe

When I was younger like you folks, life seemed a whole lot simpler. People were kinder, gentler, and showed more respect and concern for one another.

Hardly anyone locked their doors in those days, unless they were going out of town for a couple of days. Then they told their neighbors where they hung their key. And if they forgot about leaving a key, not to worry—for a nickel you could buy a skeleton key at Uncle Willie's hardware store that would open any door in town except maybe the bank.

Those were the days when the filling station man knew your name, and the butcher know how to cut your steaks.

About fifty years ago the farmers experienced the worst of hard times.

Prices were low: 20 to 30 cents a pound for butter, 28 cents for eggs, 2 cents a pound for potatoes, and shoes were \$1.79. Children's toys didn't cost much, either: a sled, \$1.50 and a catcher's mitt, \$1.19. Gasoline was 18 cents a gallon.

Radio programs included shows by Eddie Cantor, "Fibber" McGee and Molly, and George Burns and Gracie Allen. Shirley Temple was in the movies.

Little girls played with paper doll books, the ones from which you cut out paper clothes and hung them on little girl figures you punched out of the book.

My dad raised vegetables, so I had lots of hoeing to do. For wash day we had to carry the water into the house on Sunday, ready for Monday wash day.

I walked to a one-room school. Younger pupils learned a lot by listening to students in the upper grades. If you misbehaved in class, you would have to stand in the corner or maybe you couldn't go out for recess.

I can remember when feed for cows and poultry came in flowered print sacks from which dresses and curtains were made.

We had what you call party lines with the telephone—4 or 5 families on the same line. ♦

## The Influenza Pandemic

### Memoir

By Welthy Mueller

When I was going to Christian School, 1918 to 1927, we would have a half day of school on funeral days. The teacher was also the pastor, so no classes in the afternoon.

There were several persons who died during that winter (1918)—a few from the school, others were church members. My sister was born July 4, 1919, and was already walking when she took sick with the flu. When she recovered, she had to learn to walk all over again. I don't remember being sick.

They were using something called assafidity to ward off the germs. The pastor would use some to kill germs when he went to visit the sick.

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### SKIN DISEASES AND FEVERS

Influenza (epidemic catarrhal fever)...has been known for many years, but has probably never, until the last few years, occupied public opinion so widely... The cause of the disease has been and still remains a mystery... The treatment in a mild case is simple. Go to bed at once in a well-aired, warm room, cover yourself up well, take plenty of warm drinks and light food, get the bowels well opened, and keep the skin acting with a dose of the following mixture: sweet spirits of Nitre, 20 drops; solution of Acetate of Ammonia, 2 drachms; Syrup of Lemon, ½ drachm; water to the ounce. (This is one dose.) To be taken every four hours until the temperature falls to nearly normal; a teaspoonful to be given to children under five years of age. If the pains in the limbs are very severe, add to the mixture seven grains of salicylate of soda for each dose; if the cough is troublesome, five drops of ipecacuanha wine added in the same way will be found useful. A flannel nightdress is an advantage, as free perspirations are common. ♦

(Excerpt from *Know Thyself* by Bishop Fallows and Dr. W.J. Truitt, pp.416-417, published by The S.A. Mullikin Co.)

## About Some EHS Honorary Members

Arthur Stocks was born March 6, 1903. Arthur was a lineman for the telephone company and also worked for the Waukesha County Highway Department. He was a handyman for all the women in Eagle, fixing everything that didn't work. When Art was on the farm, he raised popcorn and sold it to pay for a Model T Ford, which he took to Chicago by train.

Evangeline Stocks was born August 9, 1909. She was president of the senior citizens and did a lot of work with the nutrition site.

Archie Chapman was born September 14, 1903. He ran the Standard (now Amoco) station. He was also a member of the fire department. Archie delivered fuel to the farmers with a tank truck, and had to use 5-gallon buckets to fill the farmers' 50-gallon barrels.

Helen Chapman was born June 22, 1908. She belonged to the Eagle Homemakers Club.

Anna Kohlhaas Chapman was born January 22, 1903. She taught at Ward School for 2 years. She also was a farm wife.

Harriet Cruver was born October 7, 1904. She was a school teacher.

Clara Pierce was born August 13, 1904. She wrote the history of Melendy's Prairie in 1970.

Clara Burton was born May 22, 1896—she is 103 years old. She did quilting and played cards.

Katharine Bovee Howard was born October 30, 1897—she is 102.

Mary Smart was born November 25, 1903. She and her husband were gardeners for 45 years, and sold things at West Allis market. She is 96. ♦

### Curator's Corner

newsletter, including monetary donations of \$184 from the Eagle Business Association and \$100 from Jerry Baker. A \$150 donation was sent in honor of Catharine Howard Bovee's 102nd birthday by her children, Charles Howard of Denver, Colorado, and Allen Howard of Pisataway, New Jersey.

### **Wish List** - Photos of Eagle subjects

Our Christmas artifact collection is growing, thanks to donations from Jean Bowey, Lisa Busche, Welthy Mueller and Eris Thurston. Gary Payne donated a complete working Apple computer, which will be an excellent future exhibit. Joan Pasterski donated eight framed photos from her postcard selection of the Eagle area. Other donations came from John Hopkins, Ken and Helen Mealy, Dick and Dorothy Schroeder, Marcie Winzenried, and Audrey Houk.

Work is progressing at the museum. Books are being organized and cataloged, a system is being devised to photograph and computerize artifacts, a newsletter committee has met and selected themes for the year, current newspaper items are being cut and pasted, artifacts are being recorded and marked with accession numbers, and new exhibits are being displayed. If you are interested in becoming involved in any of these activities, please contact me at 594-3301.

You are invited to stop and visit the museum on Fridays between 9:00 AM and 12:00 noon and on Saturdays between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM. ♦



## IN MEMORIAM

**Goldie M. Boettcher – Helen Chapman**



## Fourth Grade History Contest

### Third-Place Winner, 1999 EHS History Contest

## Krestan's

By Brandon Miller



Krestan's is a family owned food store in Eagle, WI. This store opened in 1880. In 1944, Milton and Victoria Krestan bought the store. Then they passed it on to Bill and Ann Krestan in 1965.

For 34 years, Bill and Ann have owned it. They have been re-modeling it and working hard to make it what it is today. Bill JR also works there. He is Bill and Ann's son.

The store is named Krestan's because it is their last name. The name has stayed the same for 54 years!

For the past 34 years, business has been running smoothly for them. However, in 1977, there was a robbery. The robber got away with only \$25.00. But that wasn't the big news. The big thing was that there was a bank robbery down the street from Krestan's, the robber tried to get away with some money. But, he didn't get away. Mr. Krestan helped catch the robber. There was an article of the robbery in the paper. \*

Mr. Krestan is a hard worker and puts in a lot of hours in his work. He likes his work and likes dealing with people.

I think that the Krestans are a hard working family, and they put a lot of effort in their work. I hope that this business will be passed on. ♦

*\*Editor's note: This robbery occurred on October 6, 1981. Because of previous holdups, an alarm had been wired to the grocery store. Alerted by the alarm, Bill Krestan wrote down the license number of the getaway vehicle on his apron. The robber—a man from California—was apprehended near Mitchell Airport. Mr. Krestan later picked him out of a lineup. (He never did get the apron back from the authorities.)*

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## Eagle Movies - Intermission

By Jerry Johnson

I remember when we attended movies on the square, intermissions ran 15 minutes or longer. This allowed time for everyone to dash across the street to buy candy, soda and other refreshments at the stores—Sherman's Grocery, Benson's Drugstore (to become Crosswaites') and Krestans IGA Grocery. There was also Arthur Behlings' Meat Market, located next to the bank.

Krestans had only the grocery store during the early 1950s. There was an empty lot next door. When the addition was built on that land, the dry goods section—especially clothing—was greatly expanded and filled the new building. Later, the grocery and dry goods departments reversed areas. ♦

*Editor's Note: As John Schroeder observed in a Waukesha Freeman article, with all the changes Eagle has seen, it's reassuring to still be able to talk to a Krestan at Krestan's, a Chapman at Chapman's, and a Mealy at Mealy's.*

**(The ad on page 5 for the Eagle IGA store is believed to date back to 1939. It appears courtesy of Bill Krestan. How many of you remember Rinso laundry products?)**



# YOU GET EXTRA VALUE at PRICES-I.G.A.

Specials - for MAY-25-26-27th

Butter 25¢ <sup>lb</sup>

Lard - 9¢ <sup>lb</sup>

Pork & Beans - 3 <sup>16oz</sup> cans 14¢

Cracker Jack and Gandy Bars 3 for 10¢

Peanut Butter 2 <sup>pound</sup> jars 24¢

Tall Milk 4 <sup>14 1/2</sup> <sup>oz</sup> cans 20¢

Prunes med. size 2 <sup>lb</sup> 15¢

Oatmeal 5 <sup>lb</sup> 21¢

Powdered Sugar 3 <sup>lb</sup> 20¢

Peppermint Lozenges 16¢

Chocolate Drops 10¢

Gold Tost Corn Flakes 13¢ <sup>pkg</sup> 3¢

I.G.A. Soap 6 <sup>12 1/2</sup> <sup>oz</sup> 18¢

Super Suds - 8¢ <sup>pkg</sup> Lemons - 29¢ <sup>doz</sup>  
Ponso - 8¢ "

Cookies <sup>Butter</sup> 2 <sup>lb</sup> 25¢ <sup>cream</sup> Sandwiches 25¢ <sup>4</sup> <sup>lb</sup> 25¢

Genessee and F.A.G.I.F.

Pork Shoulder 15¢ <sup>lb</sup>  
Beef Roast 17¢ <sup>lb</sup>  
Pork Chop 12¢ <sup>lb</sup>  
Corn Cakes 4¢ <sup>pkg</sup>

## *I Remember Whin*

*By Mrs. Alice Dixon, Whitewater*

*Today we are always wondering  
Who were our folks and kin;  
How did they look, and talk, and act?  
And did they laugh and sing?*

*What was it bro't them to this place?  
Why did they settle here?  
What trials and hardships did they face?  
What dangers did they fear?*

*We want to know about their church...  
The folks who worshipped there...  
Their loves, their hates, their doubts, their fears,  
The burden of their prayers.*

*Our granny told us all these things!  
She told them o'er and o'er;  
But we just turned a deafened ear  
And tho't "How she does bore."*

*So now today we long to know  
The things we scoffed at then.  
We wish that we had listened to  
Her "I remember whin..."*

*When we were adolescent kids,  
And all of us at home,  
Our grandmother lived there with us,  
So she wouldn't be alone.*

*We loved our dear old grandmama,  
And treated her quite well;  
But we were bored almost to death  
With the stories she would tell.*

*We'd kick between the table legs;  
We'd sigh, we'd nudge, we'd grin  
When Granny bravely started out  
With her "I remember whin..."*

*She'd talk for most an hour (or more);  
She'd scarcely stop for breath;*

*But just go on, and on, and on,  
'Til we were bored to death.*

*But now that she has passed away  
And we are growing old,  
We wish that we had listened to  
The stories Granny told.*

*Ed. Note: This poem is a favorite of Clara Pierce.*

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## The Kerosene TV Set

**By Dale W. Mueller**

Humor for humor's sake is what it's all about, and as long as it doesn't hurt anyone, is of course the way to be. A hoax, properly carried out, is almost a thing of beauty, and one that leaves someone standing there completely puzzled, thinking, "What the heck happened here?" is the absolute end. I was fortunate in experiencing this "sleight of hand," though claim no participation. Frank Mich and Milt Mueller (unfortunately both gone now) had little in common except for their strange sense of humor, and I consider myself almost blessed to have witnessed the "ballet" of a couple of masters.

I was bellied up to the bar in a favorite watering hole in Eagle one afternoon, Frank Mich two stools to my right. A tad further down the bar stood Mr. Nelson, a fine gentleman, also a regular, nursing a cool one.

Enter Milt, stage right, who walked over to Frank, sitting with left elbow dug into the bar top, fingers bridged against his left temple. Without preamble, Milt asked, "Frank, do you still have that kerosene powered TV set?" Frank, without the slightest pause, head up now, said, "No, doggone it, I loaned it to Mike Peardon and when I asked him what happened to it, he said he let one of his kids use it or something and I never did find out what happened to it." The good Mr. Nelson, conveniently within earshot, never said a word, but you could tell his interest was aroused.

Frank continued, "What did you need it for, going ice fishing?" Milt said, "No, my regular set broke down and I thought maybe I could borrow your kerosene TV while I was getting mine fixed." "Oh," said Frank, "I thought maybe you were going ice fishing, that's what I always used it for." (Frank Mich never went ice fishing in his life, and certainly never had the slightest inclination to do so.)

Frank, adding a few more twigs to the warming blaze, said, "I always liked that kerosene-powered set better than these new battery-powered ones, you get out there on the ice and the darn batteries are dead." Frank, then as per usual, whenever he wanted to make a point and to be sure you wouldn't miss it, had a way of bringing his hand down gently, flat on the bar, pushing his face toward you and repeating, "You get out there on the ice and the darn batteries are dead!"

With that, Milt said, "Thanks anyway," turned on his heel and left. It was a couple of days later when I saw Mr. Nelson in the place again and he said, "You know, those guys really got me on that and as much as I wanted to inquire about how it worked, I just couldn't bring myself to it, and it took me the better part of a day to realize they were doing it for my benefit and that I'd been had!"

That's pure humor.

*This article is used by permission of Ruth Ann Mueller, Dale's widow, who shared his articles with EHS.)*





## Untitled

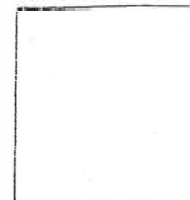
By Audrey A. Houk

I came to Eagle when I was 18  
Many the changes I have seen.  
The band stand is gone, so is the fence  
Where we watched the movies, full of suspense.  
To Crosswaite and Krestan's for penny candy.  
At showtime both were very handy.  
In winter the walk to Fairbrothers Hills  
Or St. Theresa's—there were plenty of spills.  
The mills are gone, so is the hotel.  
In its place a four-unit motel.  
We now have Old Smiley, our claim to fame.  
I guess nothing ever stays the same.  
Two B&Bs, subdivisions galore  
Soon to be one or two more.  
I wouldn't change all the progress I've seen  
Although at times I wasn't too keen.  
Industrial parks, new homes aplenty  
More children to play in our parks—they're never empty.  
I love this old village, I'd never move away.  
Fifty years—such a short time to stay! ♦

## EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. YEAR 2000 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	BOARD MTG.	NEWSLETTER	NEWSLETTER	EVENTS
Jan. 15	1:00 P.M.			
Jan. 15		Copy Due		
Jan. 31			Mail Date	
Feb. 19	1:00 P.M.			
Mar. 18	1:00 P.M.			
April 1		Copy Due		
Apr. 04				Primary Election Bake Sale 7 AM
Apr. 15			Mail Date	
Apr. 18	6:30 P.M.			
May ? To Be Announced				4th Grade Writing Contest Reception
May ? Tentative				Community Rummage Sale
May 16	6:30 P.M.			
June 20	6:30 P.M.			
June 24-26				KM Days
July 1		Copy Due		
July 09				Band Concert/Ice Cream Social 2 P.M. Village Park
July 15			Mail Date	
July 18	6:30 P.M.			
Aug. 4				Wine & Cheese Reception
Aug. 15	6:30 P.M.			
Sept. 19	6:30 P.M.			
Oct. 01		Copy Due		
Oct. 15			Mail Date	
Oct. 17	6:30 P.M.			
Nov. 7				Election Bake Sale
Nov. 18				Annual Meeting 1 p.m. - Committee Heads Submit Reports
Dec. 08				Tour of Homes Setup
Dec. 09				Tour of Homes

Eagle Historical Society  
217 W. Main Street  
P.O. Box 454  
Eagle WI 53119



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

