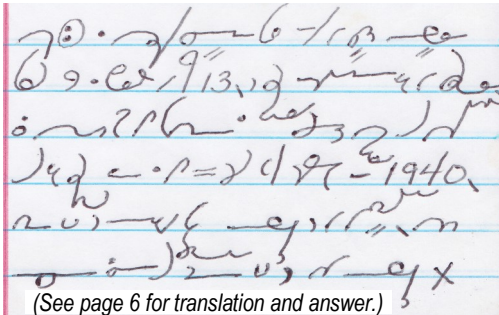


EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2023



SHORTHAND TRIVIA



(See page 6 for translation and answer.)



Butterfly Roost. Photo by Janet Evans



Pollinator Shelter built by Art Peavy.
Photo also by Art.

Thanks to the Friends of the North Prairie Native Gardens and Roots Native Landscaping, EHS has a solid start on pollinator gardens with plants native to this area. Volunteers met on May 20 to dig, weed, and plant

(Continued on page 2)

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Don & Donna Von Rueden \$15

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Family \$15

David & Maria Hinners

Lore & Werner Kettner

Sponsor \$50

Bill & Jackie Adams

Patron \$100+

Donald Enright

Jean Evans

CASH DONATIONS

Eagle Lions \$500
for Women in the Military

Luanne Ervin \$20



Have you ever wondered what the numbers behind your name on the address label mean? It is our way to know when your EHS membership comes due. So, if you are listed as John Doe 23, your membership is paid up through December 31, 2023. We send out renewal letters in early December to everyone whose memberships expire at the end of that year. Hope that helps!

Please check your address label for the year "2023" to determine your renewal status. If you have any questions, please contact Gina Neist at 262-594-8961 or curator@eaglehistoricalsociety.org. Thank you.

EHS Board

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Jeff Nowicki, 2024

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Eloise Hall, 2025

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262-594-8961

OPEN HOURS:

Wednesdays: 9 am-Noon

Fridays: 9 am-Noon

Saturdays: 9 am-Noon

WEBSITE:

www.eaglehistoricalsociety.org

FACEBOOK: Like us at
Eagle Historical Society

In Their Own Words Presentation



Dorothy Kau.

About 60 people attended the reading of 16 essays from our recent publication followed by camaraderie with friends and refreshments provided



Russ & Pat Chapman & Karen Matters



Elmer Kilian.

Photos above by Mike Rice.

ed by Ellie & Diana Hall and Pat Hawes. Please see the enclosed order form if you would like to buy a book (\$15 + \$5 to ship). Mike Rice recorded the event and has added it to our website.

Grade School Museum Tour

On a beautiful day in May, we hosted 30 third-grade students, teachers, and aides from Eagle Elementary.



and old-fashioned games like clothespins in the bottle, a reminder of a time when milk was delivered in bottles.



Students participated in lessons taught by Gina Neist in a simulated one-room schoolhouse, an artifact scavenger hunt led by Dana Houk inside,



Photos above by Jeff Nowicki.

Pollinator Garden Event



Friends of the North Prairie Gardens.

native species in our gardens. In coming years, these plants will continue to flourish and provide nourishment to a diverse population of pollinators like Monarch butterflies, bees, and hummingbird moths, to name a few. Our mission to preserve local history also includes supporting the rich environmental heritage of the Eagle area. The beautiful prairie that was here before our ancestors arrived goes hand in hand with the historical community we've built here over the last 180 years. Next year, we will expand native plantings into our other existing gardens. Please visit our lovely patio and gardens to see for yourself. For more information on native plants or to see the accomplishments of the FNPNG in action, visit fnpng.com or find them on Facebook.

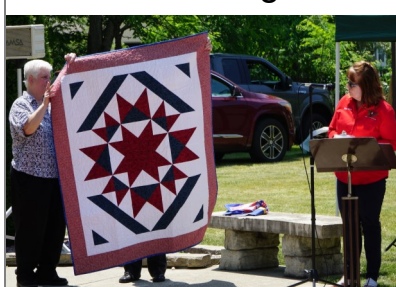
Photo above by Janet Evans.

A Salute to Women in the Military



Emcee, Phil Hall, with the Kettle Moraine Blues in the background.

The KMB provided music relative to each era. Alli Chase spoke on her service in the US Army, and the traveling exhibit,



Alli Chase was one of five women presented with a quilt by Roxane Ashcraft of Quilts of Honor for their service. Photos above by Art Peavy.

About 50 joined us on this warm June afternoon to pay tribute to women serving in the Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korean and Vietnam eras.



Keynote speaker, Alli Chase.

"I Am Not Invisible", was on display for pause and reflection. We concluded with a moment of silence, the playing of *Taps*, and refreshments by Ellie & Diana Hall and Pat Hawes.

A SUMMARY OF ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE EDUCATION IN WISCONSIN

By Dana Houk

An overview of Wisconsin's state history and public school education will set the stage for understanding the culture and the families who sent their children to attend the Eagle community area one-room schoolhouse, known as Palestine School, on Highway 59 in the mid-19th Century.

First and foremost, our state was the bountiful Midwestern land for crossroads and settlements of Indigenous Peoples and their displacement by immigrants. Prior to the arrival of Europeans from the eastern shores of America, the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago), Menominee, Potawatomie, Fox, Sauk and Ojibwa (Chippewa) tribes canoed the Mississippi, Wisconsin and Fox Rivers to hunt, fish and trade goods with one another. We honor their contributions to our unique heritage in city names such as Mukwonago, Waukesha, Oconomowoc, Oneida and Milwaukee.

French missionaries and fur trappers explored and interacted with the native tribes. They were opening the Wisconsin Territory, not without conflict, to the eventual acquisition of statehood in 1848. By this time, the state population numbered over 150,000 people. The Welsh had settled in Mineral Point to mine lead. Yankees from upper New England states arrived to promote politics and education on the prairie. The UW – Madison campus is our oldest public university, established in 1838, and opened after 1865. By 1850, 305,000 people homesteaded here with 1/3 of these people claiming to be English descendants. The Germans predominated these immigrant arrivals and were joined by Norwegians, Irish, Scandinavians, Polish, and freed Black Americans by the late 1900s.

Railroad tracks connected Milwaukee, Chicago and Waukesha in 1851 and extended horizontally from Lake Michigan on the eastern shoreline of Wisconsin to our western border on the banks of the Mississippi River. Wisconsin was open for business!

Many of the children who attended Palestine School in the 1860s were from farm families. Andrew McCabe is recorded in the Waukesha County 1880 consensus book as having been born in 1826 and emigrating from Ireland to NY. In 1852, he settled on farmland in the Eagle area where he earned \$5 monthly. He purchased his first plow for \$8 and began a mortgage of \$400 for 80 acres. He brought his bride, Amorett Cole, home to a log cabin in 1854 where water had to be hauled from the nearest well located a mile away. Eventually, he owned 249 acres with a large farmhouse and stables; a windmill-driven well provided water near the doorstep. His mortgage payment was 12 cents on a \$1500 debt. His children are listed in the Palestine School roster of November 1867 – March 1868 as George (age 12), John (11), Alice and Mary (10), Eva (9) and Maggie (6). Willie (or Millie?) would join the classroom in 1872 at the age of 5; teacher's handwriting and spelling could be a decipher issue.

It was not unusual for children to be born one year apart in this era.

Typical for the late 19th Century, school was in session from November to February and May to September. Older sons worked in the farm fields during the Spring planting and the Fall harvesting seasons and were, therefore, usually missing



Waukesha County Historical Society marker 1975

Notice the surname, "Hinkley", on the school roster list of students, as well as teacher, H. Hinkley in 1871-1872. The family name is also found in Oak Ridge Cemetery on Hwy. 67, southwest of the Village of Eagle. Photo by author.

(Continued on page 4)

from those seasonal classroom rosters. Absences were often and expected. In 1847, the national Bennett Law was passed which required compulsory attendance for children ages 7-14 to attend at least 14 weeks of school annually. Older, unmarried, sisters might become the teacher, as was the case in 1868, when Mary L. Hinkley taught her younger siblings Charlie (14) and Grace (11) for the November 1868 – March 1869 “semester”.

The majority of school teachers in the 19th Century were young women who were not allowed to marry until 1919. An exception was William McFarlane who is listed as the teacher from November 1869 – March 1870 at Palestine School. He exhibited impeccable penmanship which was a graded discipline for all students. Janitorial duties included chopping firewood, loading it into the classroom stove, and starting the fire to warm the building before the students arrived. Lessons were often taught as the teacher and students huddled around the stove. If desks were provided, they were often shared by two students; benches were often the only seating. Teacher’s salaries were usually paid by the student’s parents and may have included meals and lodging at a family’s home. It was customary for the teacher to walk to school, perhaps several miles away. In 1846, a female teacher earned \$6 per month while a male was paid \$10.00. Parents who could afford them purchased a “Reader” textbook for the student’s lessons in the English language, or the English Bible was an approved substitute. Students who misbehaved were expelled.

What happened in May – September 1876 when only 26 students attended school instead of the 53 children who had filled the desks in 1874? According to National Weather Service records for that year, average temperatures were warmer than usual and may have resulted in a better growing season. The McCabe family did not send George who would have been 21 years of age, John who would have been 20, Alice and Mary (19), all were probably working.

**Palestine School Roster
November 1871—March 1872
Teacher: H. Hinkley**

<u>Pupil</u>	<u>Age</u>
Robert Andiss	15
Joseph Brady	18
Katy Brady	13
Mary Brady	17
Peter Brady	15
Willie Burton	8
William Cora	9
Nellie Crawley	14
Annie Earle	9
Eliza Greene	16
Emma Greene	6
Jane Greene	13
Mary Greene	11
Henry Hage	8
John Hage	10
Ellsworth Hill	7
Charley Hinkley	17
Emma Isaacson	16
Alice McCabe	14
Eva McCabe	12
George McCabe	16
John McCabe	16
Maggie McCabe	10
Mary McCabe	14
John McKeone	8
Nonie Ragan	15
Sophia Schorn	8
Clara Simons	13
Charlie Taylor	13
Prudie Taylor	15
Albert Thomas	10
Lydia Thomas	9
Frank Thomas	12
Eddy Tuthill	17
Eddy Williams	14

The original school rosters are in our museum collection for those interested in genealogical research.

(Continued from page 4)

Eva McCabe (16), (Maggie (13) and Willie (9) attended class but the numbers of children noticeably declined in the 1875 and 1876 class lists. Did they age out of school or move away? Young women of the 1800s were expected to be married by age 19. In November 1875 – March 1876, Prudence Taylor is listed as 19 and her brother, William, is 21; neither child appears in the May - September 1876 roster.

Public school attendance of the 19th Century generally lasted for eight grades of studying “The 3 R’s”; reading, writing and arithmetic. For most farm kids, this was the extent of their formal, highly valued, education. Boys were especially susceptible to interrupted attendance due to weather influenced farm chores and military service. It is, therefore, unfair to judge a young man’s grade level achievement against his age. Lapses in achieved spelling and reading levels were frequent and did not accurately reflect one’s abilities or practical knowledge.

The expectation of advanced education beyond eight grades for all children is a modern, 20th Century, notion in America. Wisconsin has always been an innovative leader in public school education. The concept of kindergarten (translated as a garden for children (“kinder”) was introduced and successfully opened in 1856 by wealthy German immigrant, Margarethe Schuz, in her home in Watertown. She spoke to her first students which included her 3-year-old daughter and four cousins in the German language. The community embraced this effort and moved their children into a one-room classroom in a small building where Margarethe taught until 1858. The schoolhouse was closed in WWI when all things German were considered suspicious. The building was moved and now serves as a museum next to the Octagon House on the Watertown Historical Society grounds on N. Second St.

“Forward” is our state’s motto. As we experience the challenges of the 21st Century, keep this sentiment as a focus and a reminder of those pioneers who went before us and paved a legacy of pride and determination for building a better life for its citizens.

Sources:

In 1869, America Had 40 Public High Schools, Cynthia Crossen, Sept. 3, 2003; www.WSJ.com

History of Wisconsin, www.Wikipedia.com

Diary of William Harrison Combs, Schoolteacher in Springfield, WI, www.dr.holly.typepad.com

Schools In The 1800s-insight Into The Life f A Pioneer School, Dec. 20, 2018; www.curioushistorian.com



Photo is from EHS archives.



Inscription on school building above the red door:
19 – DIST. No. 1-28
PALESTINE

Photo by author.

On the Road Again . . . with “Music – A Mirror to Our Story”

It has been a great pleasure to share our program, Music: A Mirror to Our Story, with folks in neighboring communities. We showcase our collection of sheet music from the Eagle Historical Society with folks in our own hometown as well as those nearby.

Using vintage sheet music and artifacts from our museum’s archive, Ed Pierce and Nancy Campbell demonstrate how the lyrics of music from the end of the 19th century through the 1950s kept rural America connected to national and world events. The audience is invited to sing along on some familiar tunes as Lori Heidenreich accompanies Mr. Ed on the keyboard.

We debuted this interactive presentation at the Alice Baker Library in Eagle. We have also been invited to the Waukesha Historical Museum, the Fort Atkinson Library, and the annual meeting of Delta Kappa Gamma at the historic Bassett House in Whitewater. This summer the residents of Prairie Village in Whitewater will enjoy the show. Who knows where we’ll be next!

By Gina Neist

In Their Own Words Order Form

To purchase one or more copies, please either contact us at 262-594-8961, curator@eaglehistoricalsociety.org or cut out, complete and mail this form with payment to:

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

No.
of
books ____ x \$15 \$ ____
Shipping \$5/book ____
Total \$ ____

Do you have a story to share with us and maybe include in a future newsletter? Send that to us also.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Stay tuned!

for more
information
regarding our
upcoming
Open House.

SHORTHAND TRIVIA

(continued from page 1)

Question: A gifted American boy entered the U.S. Marine Band at age 13 as an apprentice. His favorite instrument was the violin. He grew up to become a famous composer and conductor and was featured on a two-cent postage stamp in 1940. One of his most popular marches is “The Thunderer”. Can you name him and some of his other marches?

can be found at www.wikipedia.org.
joining a circus band. More information
father enlisted him to keep him from
Bell, and “The Washington Post”. His
Forever, “Semper Fidelis”, “The Liberty
The Stars and Stripes
marches including: “The Stars and Stripes
Answer: John Phillip Sousa wrote more than 130



ARTIFACT DONATIONS

This is a partial list of items donated. Thanks to the following donors:

Adler, Pauline— Bible
Armitage, Robin— Fred Wilford Patent Office Document
Baker, Annette— Books on Little Prairie, Alice Baker
Bashaw, Sharon— Photos of 1965 KMD
Dore, Peggy— Glass polka dotted shoe

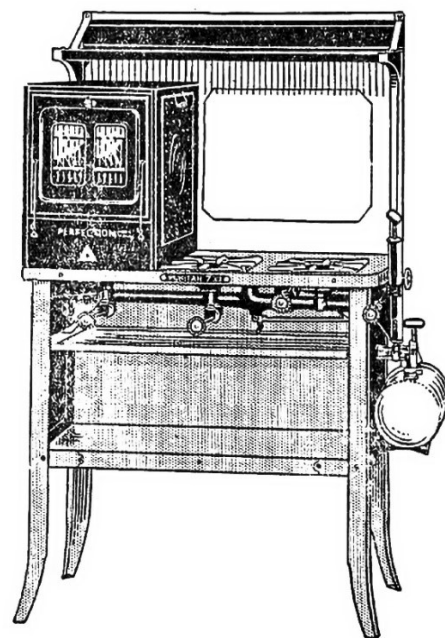
Evans, Janet— Baby coat/booties/hat/pictures
Vernette Heare— Box of assorted items
Hyland, Susan— Photos of Hyland Family & Eagle Bank
Elaine Ledrowski— Books from local authors
Piala, Jim— Watch & bag formerly owned by Orin Benson

GASOLINE STOVE?

By Mike Rice

Have you ever heard of an indoor gasoline stove? When I first saw the advertisement in the July 15, 1927 issue of the *Eagle Quill* newspaper, I thought it was a typing mistake. Certainly they must have meant “natural gas”, or maybe “coal gas” (kerosene), or something like that, but certainly not explosive “gasoline”! Well, I was wrong. There were several companies that made gasoline stoves in the early 20th century including the Perfection Stove Company and Coleman Company.

Kerosene had been a staple of the petroleum industry since the mid-19th century and was used by most American homes for light and heat up into the 1950s. Gasoline is a by-product of the distillation process for manufacturing kerosene, but there was no market for gasoline and it was considered to be just a waste by-product. John D. Rockefeller, owner of Standard Oil Company, the largest oil producer in the U.S., wanted to find a use for this waste product so he organized a team of scientists to work on a way to harness gasoline into something marketable. In the 1890s, they developed a delivery system using gasoline to fuel the internal combustion engine, and a new market was born.



THE PURITAN GASOLINE STOVE

will bring to your kitchen the convenience of cooking with gas—with a clean, blue, intense gas-like flame. And you will always have full and absolute control of the pressure.

Made by Perfection Stove Co., Sold at

THIELE'S HARDWARE

Ad sponsored by Thiele's Hardware Store on Main Street.

Gasoline was cheap, and Rockefeller looked for new products to sell that used gasoline for fuel. Among those were gasoline stoves where the gasoline was pressurized and vaporized so it could be used by the burner. The stoves were marketed as:

- Smaller and lighter than the large heavy cast-iron wood stoves of the past.
- Burns cleaner and hotter than gas or kerosene.
- Didn't make the kitchen stuffy and hot in the summer like wood stoves.
- This was the age of inventions and new technology and would become part of the future.
- Gasoline was cheap and available.

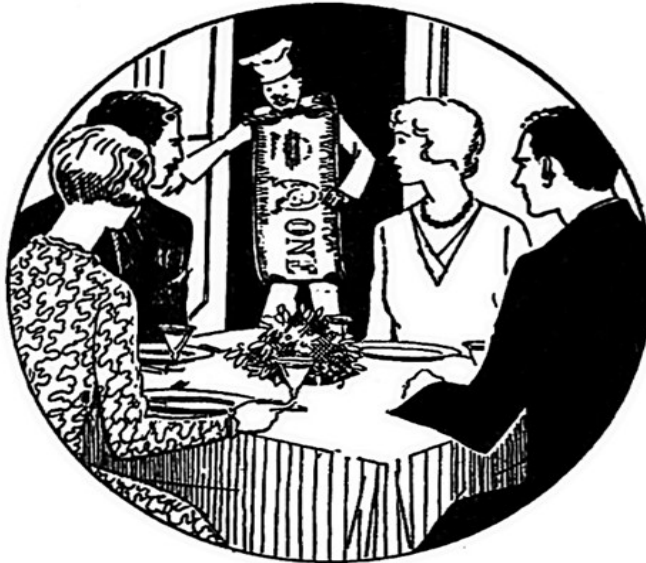
As automobile sales increased so did the sale of gasoline, and by the 1930s other markets were no longer needed to support gasoline sales, so these products were no longer sold. The Coleman Company, known for camping gear, still makes a dual-fuel camping stove that uses white gas (Coleman Fuel) or unleaded gasoline.

FEED FOUR FOR A DOLLAR IN 1931

By Mike Rice

The Great Depression was a decade-long calamity that sent the world into economic collapse beginning in 1929 with the collapse of the U.S. stock market. Banks failed, money was tight, and many were out of work with hungry families to feed. Soup kitchens opened in large cities to help feed the population while those in rural areas were encouraged to expand vegetable gardens and raise poultry for eggs and meat.

People learned to become very frugal, making clothes and other items from feed sacks. They also learned to make a variety of cheap meals with soups, beans, and noodles. An article appeared in our local *Eagle Quill* newspaper on January 9, 1931, telling how one could prepare a meal for four people for just a buck!



A Dollar Dinner For Four

IF you lived down by the sea and pulled your fish out of the water, if you had a little garden in your back-yard and pulled lettuce and green things from the soil—living would be simple, wouldn't it?

If you live in the city—well, it needn't be so complex. Just 'phone the grocer for salmon, fresh-caught from the sea, in cans, and string beans fresh-gathered from the garden, and fresher in cans than in the market. Pay him one dollar for a dinner like this, to serve four persons. That's simple enough, isn't it?

Creamed Salmon and Celery 22¢

Sautéed Hominy 10¢

Stringless Beans 16¢

Lettuce Salad 10¢

Bread and Butter 8¢

Cottage Cheese Custard 30¢

Coffee 4¢

Creamed Salmon and Celery:
Make a white sauce of two tablespoons of butter, two tablespoons

of flour, one and one-half cups of milk, and salt and pepper to taste. Add two-thirds of a tall can of pink salmon and one-half cup of cooked diced celery. Serve on a hot platter, surrounded by the hominy.

Sautéed Hominy: Drain one-half of a No. 2½ can of hominy and sauté gently in two tablespoons of butter in a skillet until a golden brown. Season to taste with salt and pepper and pile the hominy around the salmon.

Cottage Cheese Custard: Beat two eggs slightly, add one cup of diluted evaporated milk, four tablespoons of sugar and one-fourth teaspoon of salt. Add one cup of cottage cheese, working until smooth. Pour into custard cups, set in a pan of hot water, and bake in a moderate oven, 325 degrees, until a knife comes out clean, or for about thirty to forty-five minutes. Serve cold.*

We wondered what that meal would cost today, so we broke down the menu and found the following:

(continued on page 10)

McKenzie, Sally A.*Oct. 22, 1935-Apr. 10, 2023*

Sally Anne McKenzie (Whettam) of Mukwonago, WI passed away quietly at her home, with family present, on April 10, 2023.

She was born October 22, 1935 to Edmund and Catherine (Bruhn) Whettam in Eagle, WI. She grew up there with her 8 brothers and sisters. She married Paul McKenzie at St. Theresa Catholic Church on September 25, 1954. After several years of living in North Prairie and Eagle, the family moved to Mukwonago where Sally and Paul raised their 6 children.

In her early adult life, Sally worked in the office at Waukesha Motors. After her children were grown, she worked at Generac and then at Puhl's Hardware Store, which she truly enjoyed, until she retired.

Sally enjoyed vegetable and flower gardening, table talk with friends and family and loved sharing stories about her young experiences growing up. She had a sharp memory and could spend hours talking about the Whettam family history and the general Eagle Community history. She was also a member of the Mukwonago American Legion Auxiliary Post 375.

She is survived by her children; Cheryl (Terry) Singsime, Mary Jo (Charles) Milazzo, Robert McKenzie, Jo Ellen (Scot) Kalinowski, Patrick (Virginia) McKenzie. Her grandchildren; Craig and David Singsime, Keri (Randy) Sheldon, Adam Milazzo, Amanda (Nick) Nielsen, Kaitlyn (Kyle) Hansen, Michael McKenzie, Austin (Emily) Price and her 6 great-grandchildren; Nora and Brady Singsime, Casen and Brina Sheldon, Brooke and Mitchell Nielsen, Kalia and Khloe Hansen.

She is also survived by her brothers; Robert (Karen), Paul (Kathy), Warren "Bill" (Jeanne) and Michael "Mick" (Marsha) Whettam, her sister, Dana (Carl) Krause, sister-in-law Cheryl Whettam, brother-in-law David Millious. She is also survived by other family and friends.

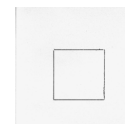
She was preceded in death by her husband Paul, daughter Peggy Howard, granddaughter Jamie Combs, her parents Edmund and Catherine, her brothers Edmund John and Thomas Whettam and her sisters Kathleen Whettam and Rita Millious.

Special thanks to ProHealth Hospice, Father Jordon Berghouse and her dear friends Jim and Gina Neist for all their heartfelt tenderness and caring in the days of her life.

At a later date there will be a Memorial Mass for family and close friends. Burial will take place at St. Theresa Cemetery in Eagle, WI.

Hartson Funeral Home in Hales Corners, WI assisted the family.

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



Mailing Label

(continued from page 8)

<i>Creamed Salmon and Celery</i>	<i>\$6.60</i>	<i>Cottage Cheese Custard</i>	<i>\$2.09</i>
2 Tbsp Butter = \$0.25		2 Eggs = \$0.36	
2 Tbsp Flour = \$0.02		8 oz Evaporated Milk = \$0.90	
1-1/2 Cups Milk = \$0.27		4 Tbsp Sugar = \$0.07	
Salmon 15 Oz Can = \$4.22		1 Cup Cottage Cheese = \$0.86	
Celery 4 Oz Cooked = \$1.84			
		<i>Lettuce Salad</i>	<i>\$1.25</i>
<i>Sauteed Hominy</i>	<i>\$1.34</i>	<i>Bread and Butter</i>	<i>\$1.48</i>
1/2 Can Hominy = \$1.09		<i>Coffee</i>	<i>\$0.80</i>
2 Tbsp Butter = \$0.25		<i>Total Cost In 2023</i>	<i>\$13.56</i>

In other words, the meal costs 13.56 times more today than in 1931, but when one compares today's wages to those in 1931, the meal is actually cheaper today.

Some interesting facts about 1931 from Missouri Central Credit Union:

<https://www.mocentral.org/News/Now-Then-A-Lot-Has-Changed-Since-1931>

The average wage was \$1850/year—price of milk \$0.26/gallon—hamburger \$0.11/lb.—bread \$0.08/loaf—Postage stamp \$0.02—gasoline \$0.10/gallon—rent \$18/month—new home \$6,790—new car \$640.



UPCOMING 2023 EVENTS



- July 9 Free cake and ice cream in the Village Park starting at 1:30 pm followed by the P/E Community Band Concert under the direction of "Mr. Ed" Pierce at 2:00 pm. Bring your favorite lawn chair.
- Sept 16 Picnic with the Police in the Village Park 11:00 am—2:00 pm
- Oct 28 Pumpkin Party at the Museum