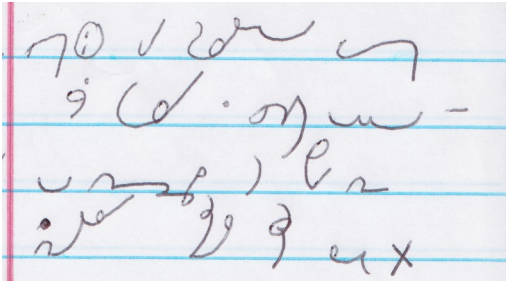


EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Jan 2024

Shorthand Trivia



(See page 2 for translation and page 7 for answer.)

Early Bird Membership Renewal Winners:

- ◆ Donald Hawes
- ◆ Roger Johnson
- ◆ Peggy Moots

Prizes: *In Their Own Words*
and *The Eagle Experience*
The COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020



The Viking Barrister Bookcase manufactured by the Skandia Furniture Company of Rockford, IL circa 1900.
Read more about this EHS artifact on p 6.
Photo by Art Peavy

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Individual \$10

Karen Nordby and Katherine Oswald

We are pleased to announce the addition of two new members to our board this month, Steve Gulgowski and Julie Mann. May you find your time here rewarding and beneficial as we work together to preserve the history of Eagle.

Dear Vernetta Heare,



We were pleasantly surprised to find your recent gift of \$5,000.00 in our mailbox. Thank you for generously supporting our efforts and helping to make our dreams come true.

Sincerely,

The EHS Board

Please check your address label for the year “2024” 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

President

Jeff Nowicki, 2024

Vice-President

Eloise Hall, 2025

Secretary

Art Peavy, 2024

Treasurer

Pat Hawes, 2025

Financial Officer

Jim Neist

Board Members

2024

Steve Gulgowski

Pat Hawes

Richard Moeller

Carrie Peavy

Carolyn Rosprim

2025

Scott Bovee

Janet Evans

Jim Neist

Jeff Nowicki

Art Peavy

2026

Diana Hall

Eloise Hall

Julie Mann

Gina Neist

Mike Rice

Curator

Elaine Ledrowski

594-3301

Newsletter Editors

Art & Carrie Peavy

594-5454

Webmaster

Mike Rice

Facebook

Elaine Ledrowski

EHS MUSEUM

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

Pumpkin Party—Return of the Pirates



T-Rex greets visitors yet vigilantly watches for any falling meteors.

Photo by CarriePeavy.



All is now ready for these pirates to meet their challengers.

Photo by Gina Neist.



This proud dad masters one of the Captain Hook challenges.

Photo by CarriePeavy.



A captive audience listens to the legend of Captain Hook and attempts to experience the challenges faced by this one-handed pirate.

Photo by Barb Lee.



Crafters actively engage in completing their projects.

Photo by Elaine Ledrowski.



A brave soul duels with a pirate.

Photo by Elaine Ledrowski.

If the Eagle Historical Society has provided you with meaningful information about the place we think of as home, please consider including the EHS in your will (estate?). Naming EHS as a donation recipient in your will or obituary is an easy way to help ensure the continuation of the important work done to preserve our history and heritage. If you have questions or want to know more, please contact Elaine at the Eagle Historical Society at 262-594-8961. EHS is a nonprofit corporation organized under the Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (3). All membership fees and donations are tax exempt.

Artifact Donations

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

- Betty Arndt—four classroom photos, postcards
- Ella Holberg—quilt and tablecloth/wall hanging
- Stephanie Kalnes—document with Old World information
- Karen Matters—copies of five photos
- Karen Sagert—1906 class photo

(continued from page 1)

Shorthand Trivia Question

Translation: What fraternal organization has played an active role in our community for about 175 years?

(See page 7 for answer.)

MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS**Senior \$8**

Sharon Bashaw
 Marsha Bronson
 Joanne Bryce
 Donna Fanshaw
 Dorothy Fisher (Moore)
 Roseanne (Carter) Frame
 James & Diane Frisch
 Jan Grotjan
 Al Gruling
 Jeanne Guldenaar
 Steve Gulgowski
 Donald Hawes
 Pat Hawes
 Cris Hughes
 James Johnson
 Roger A. Johnson
 Dorothy Kau
 Elmer Kilian
 Barbara Kruse
 Jaci Kuhn
 Irene Ridgeman
 Ruth Ann Rolfe
 Carolyn Rosprim
 Beverly Spurrell
 Don Von Rueden
 Cynthia Zawada

Individual \$10

Richard Anderson
 Marlyn Badinger
 Gerry Bergmann
 Rosemarie Booth
 Scott Bovee
 Andy Brehn
 Barb Conley
 Fred Gier
 Stephanie Kalnes
 Doris Kienast
 Karen Matters
 Deb McKernan
 Peggy Moots
 Karen Nordby
 Katherine Oswald
 Thomas Richardson
 Mary Jo Walbrandt
 Vonda Williams

Family \$15

Jerry & Trish Burstein
 Mark & Julie Dexter
 Ryan Dulde DDS
 Lee & Lynn Greenberg
 Jim & Michele Grotjan

Phil & Barbara Hall
 Greg & Marlene Hein
 Marion (Welch) Heinisch-
 Clark & Ralph
 Jane Marty & Robert Henze
 Dick & Gretchen Jones
 Anne Jung
 Michael & Karen Kennedy
 William & Claudette Krestan
 Bruce & Gigi Lane
 David & Julie Ledrowski
 Scarlet Paris & Alan Ledrowski
 Bob & Carol Loefer
 Pete & Cathy Loerke
 John & Tammy McCormack
 Mike Merriner
 Jim & Gina Neist
 John & Ann Nygren
 Ken, Mal, & Jeff Olson
 Dale & Barbara Pforr
 Mike Rice
 Shari Sasso
 Greg & Sue Scheff
 Tom & Bonnie Sherman
 Mary & Doug Sievers
 Kathy & Dick Thayer
 Diane Thuemling

Sustaining \$25-\$49

Edward Baker
 Victoria Baker
 Dorothy Boxhorn
 Cheryl Chapman
 David Enright
 Gordon & Karen Erikson
 Trudy Fredenberg
 Sandra Hanson
 Vernetta Heare
 Bill Madsen
 Matthew Mecca
 William Orchard
 Gary & Nancy Payne
 Art & Carrie Peavy
 Jerry & Kay Perkins
 Brian & Elaine Rudy
 Terry Rupp
 Carol Tritz
 Bob & Pat Walters
 Thomas & Jean Weedman
 Judi & Bill Zell
Sponsor \$50-\$99
 Bill & Jackie Adams
 Gary Andrus

Debra & Tim Angers
 Mike & Mary Beitz
 Nick & Becky Beitz
 Jim & Cindy Berg
 Carol Calkins
 Arn & Jessica Chamberlain
 Russ & Pat Chapman
 Roger & Valerie Cole
 Eagle Lioness/Lions Club
 David Enright
 John & Pamela Feltes
 Roy & Ellen Gregg
 John & Barbara Greve
 Jeff & Ellie Hawes
 Lori Heidenreich
 Roger & Dana Houk
 Bev & Ty Howard
 Mary Claire & Mike Kastenholz
 Elaine Ledrowski
 Dick Aducci & Jean Lewis
 Kathleen Machan
 Richard & Nada Moeller
 Dorothy Murphy
 Jeffrey Nowicki
 Jim & Cathy Piala
 Gay E. Semanko
 Tom & Terri Sorensen
 Diane Wilkinson
 Bob & Ellie Winzeried
Patron \$100-\$199
 Janet Evans
 Gerald & Lori Heckel,
 Heckel Tool & Mfg. Corp.
 Fran Hyland
 IBEW Local Union 494
 International
 Julie & John Mann
 Bruce & Patricia Moffatt
 Edith Niederer
 Ed Pierce
 Craig Pokwinski
 Greg & Jackie Priatkko
 Sandra L. Shorr
 Steve & Linda Steinhoff
 Bob & Cindy Steinke
 Daniel & Debra West

Benefactor \$200-\$499

Citizens Bank
 Thomas A. Day
 Eloise & Diana Hall
 Al & Martina Wegner

By Janet Evans

CORRECTION: The Wm. Perry Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star was mistakenly listed as the Rob Morris Chapter. (Please see the first full paragraph of Page 5 of the October 2023 newsletter. This story now continues from the last issue.)

Marty family descendants shared their memories for this article. They are the Grand- and Great-Grandchildren of Joachim Marty and second and third generations of John and Lillian who started the Marty farm at Jericho Corners. All of them have wonderful memories of life on the farm and of their beloved Great-Aunts and Uncles who grew up there.

Granddaughter Dorothy shared her memory of the farmhouse's large dining room. In addition to Lillian's old wood-burning stove, there was a big square oak table where the family would gather for meals. Dorothy's mother Fern told her that one time there was a horrible smell around the table. No one could figure out where it was coming from. Further investigation found that one of Grandma's brothers didn't like the meat they had for dinner and disposed of it by wedging it into the gap where the table leg joined the tabletop. There it stayed until the terrible smell drew attention.

Lillian and John's daughter Fern had vivid memories of walking to grade school with her brothers and sister. Eagle Elementary School was located about two miles west of the Marty farm. It was a long two miles during winter when the wind howled across wide open prairie or when the spring rains soaked their clothes and made the gravel roads muddy. Back then, they didn't have school buses or the warm, windproof clothing that kids today enjoy.

There were many fun times on the farm. On the southeast corner, next to Jericho Creek, was "Marty Park," where neighborhood families gathered to play softball. An unusual outcropping of limestone there provided the stone which Lillian's brother Jack used to build a fireplace where the family had cookouts and picnics.

Dorothy Bovee and Jean Marty remembered times when their Grandpa John would load them into his Model A car and take them "up town" to Eagle to see a movie in the town square. The side of the lumber yard wall was used as a movie screen.

In the kitchen, there was a big radio where the family listened to the news each evening. Grandson Marty Bovee talked about the time the family was gathered, listening, when the news broke that Pearl Harbor had been bombed. Marty passed the story on to his two sons and described how angry his Grandpa John was when he heard the news. Lillian must have been worried that her youngest sons would be called to go to war.

During World War II, many farmers in the area had German prisoners of war work on their farms. John Marty had the help of several POWs. The farm families were not allowed to speak to the prisoners, but they were treated very well and had plenty of good food to eat. When the war ended, many prisoners wanted to stay in the United States. Life here was so much better than what they would return home to find.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Great-Grandson Robert Marty remembers helping with the harvest as a small boy. Each fall, the oats were cut and bound into shocks, by twisting green straw around the shock. The shocks were collected using a horse drawn wagon and later, a Hart-Parr tractor with iron wheels. The shocks were pitched into the hay mow to be used as bedding and feed.

Harvest time on the farm was a big event and required many hands. Family members and neighbors would make the rounds to each other's farms to get the crops cut and stored for winter. Great-Grandson Robert Marty remembers that a threshing machine was shared by the members of the Marty family and loaned out to neighbors. Corn shocks were collected and thrown into the thresher, which separated the ears from the stalks. The ears were shoveled into the corn crib and the stalks chopped for bedding. The farm women would gather in the kitchen to fix meals for the workers. Daughter, Fern Bovee, told the story that her mother Lillian would always have the butter on a butter plate with a butter knife that the threshers were required to use. Many threshers had the bad habit of licking their knives while eating, and she didn't want them dipping their knives back into the butter.



Marty boys on corn wagon, top Ham (l) and Bob (r), bottom Elmer (l) and Don (r).
Photo by Sidney Sprague.

Sadly, things changed permanently in 1966. Donald was ready for retirement. He and his wife Phyllis moved to Eagle and purchased a small home on the corner of Maple and Thomas streets, across from George and Esther Stead. The Marty ranch was sold, and the house and barns were torn down. The land was eventually subdivided for future development.

Today, there is little visible evidence to suggest that a busy, thriving farm was ever there except for the small hill where a barn sat. Now, Eagle-Aire subdivision covers the terrain that the Marty ranch once occupied. But if you look carefully, you might be able to see in your mind's eye the fields of oats waving in the wind across that wide-open prairie and the house and barns that once stood so proudly.



Can you identify Frances and Katharine Bovee or any others?
(continued on page 8)



Can you identify Robert and Harold Marty and Jamie Bovee or any others?
(continued on page 8)

Photos above by Sidney Sprague are from Janet Evans' personal collection.

The Viking Barrister Bookcase

By Dana Houk

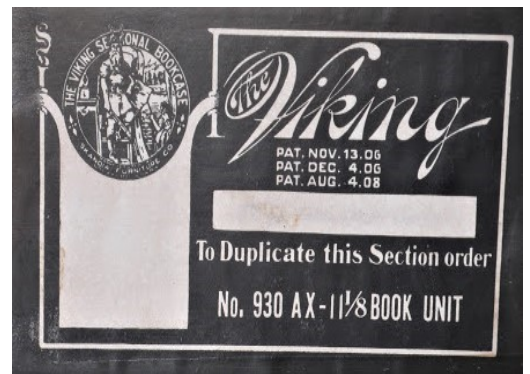
The furniture industry flourished in the 19th century in Rockford, IL, which was nicknamed, "The Bookcase City".

Swedish immigrants manned the Rockford corporate board rooms and the work stations of the many furniture manufacturing plants. One such entrepreneur was Carl J. Swenson, a native of Sweden, who founded the Skandia Furniture Company in 1889 at 1202 Second St. in Rockford.

The Viking Barrister Bookcase was an example of the popular model of bookcases purchased by attorneys for their offices. This style of modular shelving unit was advertised as "elastic". As indicated on the label pictured below, the individual shelf could be purchased to add to the tower of shelving units to enlarge the capacity of the bookcase.

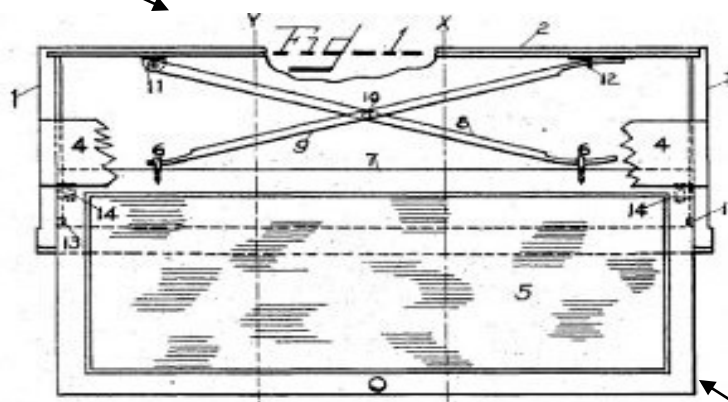
Each shelf was fronted by a glass paneled door which retracted into the interior of the shelving unit. Units were stacked upon each other vertically to attain the desired height.

The top of the bookcase is removable and exposes the interior of the topmost shelf. As viewed from above, the door mechanism which was named the "equalizer" is attached to the top of each subsequent shelf unit. This flexible metal X is hooked into the backside of the windowed door frame and the bookcase wall. The equalizer moves in a scissor-like motion to slide the door into opened and closed positions with the door edge moving along the interior wooden groove on either side of the shelf walls. It is a simple and ingenious system that has passed the test of time with countless openings and closures.



Manufacturer's label pasted to the inside of each shelving unit.

The "Equalizer"



glass panel

The Skandia Furniture Company was successful throughout the Great Depression of the 1930s; however, the furniture industry suffered in general and was gradually reduced by machine tool manufacturers who won government contracts during World War II. By the 1940s, walnut and oak groves in Illinois had been depleted and quality wood supplies had to be imported which added expensive burdens to already diminished sales. The Skandia Furniture Company was sold in 1942, and the building was razed in 1965.

Sources:

"First GW equalizer", <https://deepdoodoo.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/equalizer-500.500.jpg>

"Furniture Center Lost Out to South 1968", Herman Nelson, Rockford Register Republic Register, 2.5.1968
Nuggets of History, Rockford Historical Society, Rockford, IL, Vol. 13, Fall 1976, #4

Kwiatkowski, Robert E.

Dec. 23, 1941 — Jan. 7, 2024



Robert E. Kwiatkowski, 82, of Eagle, WI passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Sunday, January 7, 2024 at Aurora Medical Center in Grafton, WI.

Bob was born on December 23, 1941 in Milwaukee the son of Eugene and Mary (Frontczak) Kwiatkowski. He grew up in Milwaukee and was united in marriage to Carol Heinrich on October 16, 1965. Bob and Carol would go on to enjoy 55 years of marriage together until her passing in 2019. The couple had two sons, Kurt and Kevan. Bob and Carol spent the first few years of their marriage living in Greenfield before moving out to Eagle. Bob

worked in manufacturing as an Engineering Manager, Materials Manager and Manufacturing Manager for a few different companies such as Allen Bradley, Eaton Corporation and most recently QuadTech, Inc. He was passionate about Lean Manufacturing and Process Improvement and greatly enjoyed mentoring and advising his co-workers in these areas. He shared many conversations and experiences regarding his mentorships with his son, Kevan. He worked hard and took pride in providing for his family and giving his children opportunities. Bob served others in many areas of his life. He was the type of person to actively give of himself. He served his country as a member of 128th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, Wisconsin Air National Guard. He was an involved member of St. Theresa's Catholic Church for many years, and he served his local community as a member of the Eagle Town Board for more than 30 years. Bob was also Town Chairman for quite a few of his years on the board and he served his community with a sense of pride. Bob had many interests during his life; he and Carol raised and trained Weimaraners and German Shorthaired Pointers, they had horses, quail, pheasants, and many other pets during their life. He also had a special love for cars that he also shared with his boys, from classics to modern day Corvettes, they spent countless hours in the garage tinkering. Recently, he greatly enjoyed his weekly breakfasts with friends. Above all else in Bob's life was his love for his family. He was the epitome of a devoted and loving husband, caring for the love of his life, Carol as she battled health issues the last few years of her life. He was a proud father and grandpa and was happiest spending time with those closest to him. He could often be found at a school function or sporting event supporting and cheering on his grandchildren. Bob will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

He is survived by: his two sons, Dr. Kurt (Laura) Kwiatkowski of Cedarburg, and Kevan (Marta) Kwiatkowski of Mequon; and his 5 grandchildren, Christian, Madison, Camryn, Connor, and Emily Kwiatkowski. Bob is also survived by a number of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his dear wife, Carol.

Memorials in Bob's honor may be made to the Waukesha County Humane Society.

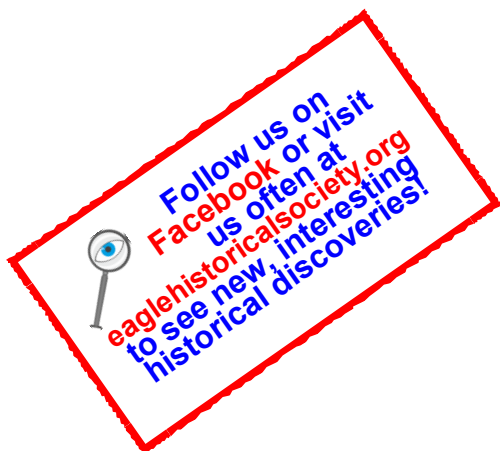
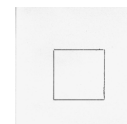
A Memorial Mass was held at 11:00AM on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Eagle, WI. Visitation took place on Thursday from 9:00AM until the time of Mass at the church. Bob will be laid to rest next to his wife in St. Adalberts Catholic Cemetery in Milwaukee at a later date.

Gibson Family Funeral Homes of Eagle and Palmyra, WI served the family. To place an online condolence please visit gibsonfuneral.com

(continued from page 2)

Shorthand Trivia Answer: The Order of the Eastern Star was established in 1850 by Rob Morris. The central values are the following: trust, respect, kindness, commitment, charity, and support. Learn more about this organization in an upcoming newsletter edition.

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



Mailing Label

Pollinator Gardens



Photo above of snow covered garden by Jeff Nowicki and of caterpillar at right by Janet Evans. A Monarch butterfly caterpillar munches on a Butterfly Milkweed pod. Only about 55 more days until spring!

Spring forward with us on May 18 when we again partner with the Friends of the North Prairie Native Gardens (FNPNG) to create another native planting at EHS! Last spring, we weeded, then planted a nice variety of native species in the gardens surrounding our patio. Now, while they are all resting and quietly expanding their root systems below ground, we are busy selecting plants for the garden circling the old walnut tree—a challenge for sure! We welcome anyone who wants to join us that day as we get scratching in the soil! Watch for more details on our Facebook page or website. Stop at the Eagle Gazebo May 9-12 during FNPNG's annual native plant sale.

(continued from page 5)

1st Photo Bottom Left: Frances Bovee is in the bottom row, second from left. Her older sister, Katharine Bovee, is the second one to the right of the teacher (behind the steering wheel).

2nd Photo Bottom Right: The boy with the dog is Robert Marty with his dog, Jack. The boy to his upper right might be Harold Marty. The older boy behind him is Jamie Bovee.