

EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

July 2024



Photo by Anne Jung.

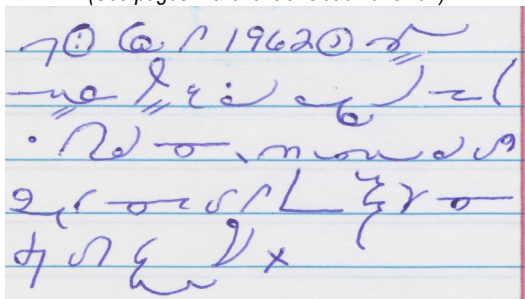
EHS Curator, Elaine Ledrowski, joined others across America on this Memorial Day, playing “Taps” on Deagan Military Chimes in honor of our fallen soldiers who gave their lives to preserve the freedoms and liberty we enjoy. **Here’s to our American Heroes!**

Watch the video on our homepage.

Thanks, Elaine!

SHORTHAND TRIVIA

(See pages 4 & 6 for translation/answer.)



IN THIS ISSUE

EHS Program/Event News	1-2, 5-6, 10
The Order of the Eastern Star	3-4
James W. Frisch Obituary	7
John K. Nygren Obituary	8
Gay Semanko In Memorium.....	7
Beverly Spurrell Obituary	9

WELCOME NEW MEMBER:

Senior \$8
Lisa Adornato

MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS

Senior (\$8)
Mary Heizman

Family (\$15+)
Chris Ballman

Sustaining (\$25-49)
Nate Belan

Patron (\$100-199)
Jean P. Evans
Mark Lake
James & Nancy Wilhelm

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.



Thank you, Pat Chapman, for the beautiful urns and flowers lovingly donated in memory of your brothers which now grace our Veterans Memorial Walkway.

Photo by Elaine Ledrowski.

EHS Board

President
Jeff Nowicki, 2026

Vice-President
Eloise Hall, 2025

Secretary
Art Peavy, 2026

Treasurer
Pat Hawes, 2025

Financial Officer
Jim Neist

Board Members

2025
Scott Bovee
Janet Evans
Jim Neist
Jeff Nowicki
Art Peavy

2026
Diana Hall
Eloise Hall
Julie Mann
Gina Neist
Mike Rice

2027
Steve Gulgowski
Pat Hawes
Richard Moeller
Carrie Peavy
Carolyn Rosprim

Curator
Elaine Ledrowski
262-594-3301

Newsletter Editors
Art & Carrie Peavy

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



We had a cooler, rainy start to this event, but the weather eventually cleared up and brought out many old and new friends to visit with as they shopped for hidden treasures. We plan to extend the brat/hot dog sale beyond the lunch hours if we do this in the future due to its popularity. Great opportunity to reach out to the community and share some of the many things we have to offer. Thank you to all who support our mission!

Garden Restoration Day

by Art Peavy

Sat., May 18 turned out to be a nice day to clean up and beautify our gardens. Like last year, most of the work was done by the Friends of the North Prairie Native Gardens and Roots Native Landscaping. Now, the amazing work that they have done for us last year has extended to the round garden next to the Veterans Memorial. Our hedges were trimmed by Jeff Nowicki. All gardens were weeded, the grass was mowed and edged, and all branches left by winter storms were picked up and filled a trailer. Scott Bovee and I power washed the walkway. A delicious lunch was prepared for all by Pat, Diana, and Ellie. Have you stopped by to see our pretty gardens yet? We are so thankful for this partnership. Info on native plants and actions of FNPNG can be seen at FNPNG.com or Facebook. Anyone interested in helping us maintain our grounds? Please contact our website or call. Thanks!



Photos above by Elaine Ledrowski.

Celebrating Veterans

by Gina Neist

The theme of this year's Veterans' Recognition was Celebrating the Service of Non-Combat Soldiers. The Eagle Methodist Church welcomed visitors to their sanctuary for the program since it was a rainy afternoon. The Kettle Moraine Blues performed patriotic music before, during, and after the presentation. Our emcee, Phil Hall, proudly introduced his son, John Hall, Professor of U.S. Military History at UW-Madison, as our featured speaker. Also sharing memories were EHS President, Jeff Nowicki, who served in Germany and KMB trombonist, Todd Kienitz, an Army Signals Intelligence Analyst and a member of the Marine Corps Band. Delicious refreshments were served courtesy of EHS members Ellie and Diana Hall and Pat Hawes. Curator Elaine Ledrowski then invited visitors to walk over to our museum to view a traveling exhibit from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum entitled "Working Warriors."



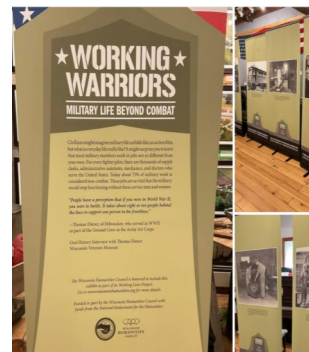
Prof. John Hall



Jeff Nowicki



Todd Kienitz



Travelling Exhibit

Photos by Anne Jung.

The Order of the Eastern Star

by Janet Evans

Even though Eagle is a small community, it has a long history of fraternal organizations. The Order of the Eastern Star (OES) is one. Dr. Rob Morris and his wife, Charlotte, founded the OES in 1850 in Mississippi, as a way for women to participate in the Masonic mission. It is open to all female relatives of Masons including adopted children and half-siblings. OES membership is not limited to any specific religion; the only requirement is that a person believes in a supreme being. Its core principles are scriptural and focused on charity, truth, kindness, and the common good. Famous members of OES include: Rosa Parks, Dale Evans, Clara Barton, Maya Angelou, and Laura Ingalls Wilder.

After a rocky start, The OES in Eagle was commissioned in October 1932 when Donald Marty, along with twenty-five others, petitioned the Worthy Grand Patron of the State of Wisconsin to start a chapter in Eagle. Initially the Worthy Grand Patron did not think a new chapter was needed, but Donald persisted. He wrote a letter to Sister Maxine Stenerson, Worthy Grand Matron, asking her to intervene. Another meeting was called by the Grand Worthy Patron and a dispensation was granted. Ina J. Reed, Treasurer of the Grand Chapter, suggested naming it The Wm. W. Perry Chapter in honor of the first Master of the Masonic Blue Lodge in Eagle.

The Order of the Eastern Star played an important social role at that time. Often, rural women did not have frequent opportunities to go into town and see friends or visit neighbors. Eastern Star provided that chance. With its emphasis on fellowship and community the organization played a cohesive role in the lives of women. They paid hospital visits to the sick, volunteered for the Red Cross, and raised money to help families with unaffordable medical expenses. Nationwide, OES has donated thousands of dollars to charities.

The new chapter had twenty-five members and by 1942 had grown to fifty members. One of those members, Jean Marty Evans joined OES in 1943, after her father, Donald Marty, drafted a petition for her when she turned eighteen. As a child, she had watched her parents, Phyllis and Donald, and her grandmother, Lillian Marty, get ready to go to meetings in town. For special events, the ladies wore long evening dresses, and the gentlemen wore suits.

One of Jean's fondest memories is the friendships she made with women across the state and beyond. She served in several capacities during her OES tenure, among them as organist and pianist, and numerous offices. She attended the State Grand Chapter meeting several times where she made many friends.

Often, members would attend meetings at different chapters. Members from the Milwaukee Chapter would visit Eagle or Mukwonago and vice versa. One memory Jean has was the time she and her mother-in-law, Sara Evans, drove from their homes in Genesee to Eagle on a winter night for a meeting. During the meeting, the weather turned bad. The trip home was exciting to say the least. Jean did not want to drive, so Sara took the wheel. The road was so icy that Sara had to drive on the shoulder all the way home.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Jean has been a member of seven different chapters due to living in different areas of the State and to OES chapter consolidations. Today, at age 97 she is still a member of the Ellsworth and Sparta Chapters. This November, she will celebrate 80 years as an Eastern Star member.

Unfortunately, demographic and cultural changes have had an impact on membership in fraternal organizations. As a result, OES chapters have merged with other chapters or closed their doors when their memberships dwindled. Today, only about thirty chapters exist in Wisconsin, down from about 150 in its heyday. In 1972, the Wm. Perry Chapter merged with the LaBelle Chapter in Mukwonago. Some members of the Eagle Group joined the Mukwonago Chapter and some, the Palmyra Chapter. With the loss of the OES Chapter and the Masonic Lodge, a piece of Eagle's fraternal tradition disappeared. As written on the last page of the Wm. W. Perry Chapter of the Eagle OES booklet, "You will always find our welcome mat waiting at the door."



Installation December 29, 1949

Seated left to right: Walt Hood, Margie Hood, Lola Dowdie, Herb Dowdie.
 First Row: Dorothy Bovee, Alida Bloom, Agnes Orth, Ada Belle Swan, Fern Bovee, Jean Evans.
 Second Row: Ida Owens, Ollie Sprague, Dorothy Heintz, Hazel Pugh, Bernice Luich.
 Last row: Bessie Andringa, John Heintz, Hertha Kipp.

Photo above is from Janet Evans' personal collection.

(continued from page 1)

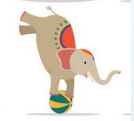
Shorthand Trivia Translation: Question: Prior to 1962, Kettle Moraine Days was held elsewhere and known by a different name. Can you recall either of these as well as the names of the two gentlemen responsible for the name change of this popular event?

(continued on page 6)

Ice Cream Social and Eagle/Palmyra Community Band Concert



Mark your calendar for the annual Ice Cream Social & Band Concert on Sunday, July 14 from 1:30-3:00 pm. The Palmyra Eagle Community Band will present a wonderful family friendly program, "WHEN YOU WERE A KID." You will be filled with music and memories of growing up in Wisconsin. Relive the Happy Days of going to your first baseball game with the Braves, seeing a circus for the first time, movies of the day, your first family vacation and many other life events as narrated by Ed Pierce. Bandmaster Jim Neist leads our musicians on a trip down a "Wisconsin" memory lane! Bring your bag chairs for a summer afternoon of friends, food, fun, and music. Best of all, it is FREE!



Open House



EHS members - Our Open House on Sunday, August 18 from 1-3 pm has a few surprises planned! Our vintage photo and postcard collection will be on display.

Please join us in the Museum and on the Patio for an enjoyable afternoon with the sweet summertime sounds of the Kettle Moraine Blues.



Fashion With Family Likeness Much Smarter This Summer

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



Eagle Quill, July 4, 1941

WHAT started out a season or so ago and appeared destined to become a mere passing fad has developed into a highly important established fashion this summer. It is now recognized by leading fashion authorities throughout the country. The movement to which we refer is that of creating clothes alike for mother and daughter, also "sister" fashions, and brother and sister outfits, even Mr. and Mrs. costumes are included in the scheme of things.

A dress-alike foursome was shown in a recent style revue where an attractive young mother and her two pretty little daughters wore square-necked dresses of delft blue linen printed in navy and white, each with an apron in turkey red, the three outfits made exactly alike. In this mother-and-child fashion group along comes tiny Junior clad in red overalls with a sailor shirt in the same print as the frocks.

It is especially in the playclothes realm that costumes apparently emanating from the same family tree play up imagination to the nth degree of cunning design. What with the wealth of smart cottons and myriads of other intriguing washable weaves at command it is small wonder that designers are finding endless inspiration in devising family group fashions.

It is just such delightful ventures in creative costume design as the "like - mother - like - daughter" dress pictured in the foreground of our illustration that are causing a series of ohs and ahs. To visualize the full charm of this lovable twosome one must think in terms of poinsettia red crinkled crepe outlined with rickrack, for the frocks are fashioned of just that. With such adorable styles as these easily available this summer in smart

specialty shops, shopping for play clothes becomes a pleasurable pastime.

A bit dressier with more of a garden party effect are the cunning sister outfits illustrated. In this instance little and big sister team in slub broadcloth (a most likable cotton fabric) of which both bonnets and dresses are made. The older little girl's frock is pale pink with printed dimity blouse. Little sister's is pale blue with blue printed blouse. Notice how cleverly the sleeveless dress waist of the dress is made detachable, via tab extensions that button on over the underblouse. This is a practical idea that mothers may want to copy when making little daughter's dresses, seeing that it is such a help in laundering to have skirt, blouse and overblouse separate.

For this fashion of mother-and-daughter together with sister play-suits that is so steadily growing in popularity, we would suggest using such smart and likable cottons as tiny or big plaids in seersucker, yarn-dyed striped pique in multicolors, chambrays in stripes or plain, denims, glazed chintz, waffle weave piques, dimities and plisse sheers in tropical flower prints, also quilted calico makes up effectively in little matching jackets to wear over summery frocks.

One of the most talked-of fashions of the present season is twin slack suits with bright blazer-stripe jackets. Mother and wee daughter in these twosomes attract pleasant attention wherever they go. Be sure to add sister bathing suits to little daughters' wardrobe of vacation clothes, made of crinkled printed cottons or wool jersey. As to Mr. and Mrs. they are choosing sport-wear tweeds in matching checks for motoring and outing excursions.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Article at left brought back fond memories of my childhood when my mom often dressed my sisters and me alike, usually at Easter & Christmas. Carrie Peavy

Shorthand Trivia Answer: In 1958 and 1959, it was held in the Village Park and called Legion Days. In 1960 and 1961, it was held in back of Harvey Wambold's house because that was how far the electricity ran. In 1962, Mike Sasso and Herman Thiele came up with the name Kettle Moraine Days. "Shorty" beers sold for 7/\$1.00 and hamburgers for 35 cents. Some attractions over time include: a milking contest, greyhound dog racing, a live WTMJ broadcast, skydivers, and helicopter rides. The first bucket brigade was held in Eagle—a contest between fire departments to see which can fill a barrel fastest by relaying canvas buckets of water up a ladder. (Canvas leaks!)

EHS Newsletter Summer of 2001, page 6.



Harold Hinkley donated about 120 glass negatives to us some time ago. Due to cost restraints, the project of "developing" them got shelved but was recently revived due to new technology. Would you like to help us convert these from slides to photos?

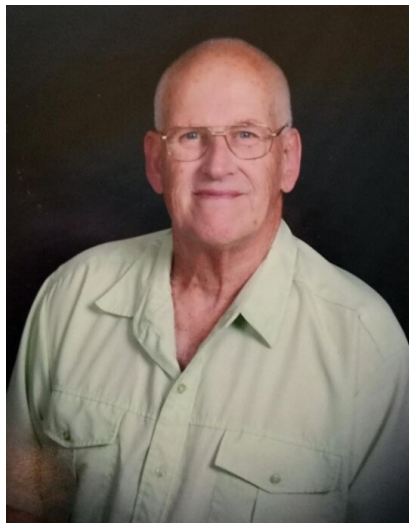
Artifact Donations

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

Vernette Heare—Baby photo of her father, Virgil McGill

Frisch, James W.

July 10, 1936-April 16, 2024



James W. Frisch, 87, of Eagle, WI passed away on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at his home with his loving family by his side.

Jim was born on July 10, 1936, in Madison, WI the son of Orvin and Betty (Bright) Frisch. He grew up in the Fort Atkinson area and after his schooling, he began working in the construction industry as a drywaller. He was a hard worker and continued working into his early 80s retiring fully in 2018. He was united in marriage to Diane Kaercher on Nov. 18, 1967, in Rockford, IL and the two went on to enjoy 56 years of marriage together. God blessed Jim with five children, Brad, Steve, Michelle, Christine and Michael. Jim faithfully served his country in the United States Army National Guard for a number of years. Jim was also a man of faith and a devoted Catholic, he served in a number of

capacities at his local parish, St. Theresa Catholic Church of Eagle for many years. He also served at other parishes before moving to Eagle. For leisure, Jim enjoyed sports. He cheered for the Badgers, Brewers, Packers and Bucks, and he also coached football and softball, played softball as well as umpired baseball for many years. Other interests included traveling, especially to Colorado where he enjoyed the wildlife. Jim also enjoyed being a choir director of music for both adults and youth. His faith in God was paramount in his life, but his love for his family was the next most important thing. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He will be deeply missed by those he leaves behind.

He is survived by his loving wife, Diane Frisch of Eagle, and his children, Brad (Kerri) Frisch of Pardeeville, Steve Frisch of Madison, Michelle (Charles) Jones of Waukesha, Christine Frisch of Waukesha and Michael (Jackie) Frisch of New Berlin. He is also survived by a large number of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Mary, and a dear granddaughter, Lindsey.

In lieu of flowers, memorials were made to Jim's family.

A Memorial Mass was held at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 26, 2024, at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Eagle. Visitation took place from 9 a.m. until the time of service at the church. Burial followed the mass in St. Theresa Catholic Cemetery.

The family wishes to extend a heartfelt thanks to Moreland Reserve Cancer Center for the loving care they provided Jim.

Gibson Family Funeral Homes of Eagle & Palmyra served the family. Online condolences were placed on gibsonfuneral.com.

∞ In Memorium ∞

Gay Semanko

April 19, 2024

NyGren, John Karl

Jun. 20, 1945—Apr. 19, 2024



John Karl Nygren, age 78, a beloved husband, father, and grandfather, peacefully entered his heavenly home on Friday, April 19, 2024 with family by his side.

John was born on June 20, 1945, in Waukesha, WI to John and Vivian (Mobley) Nygren and grew up with three siblings Carol, Ken, and Jerry. He graduated from Mukwonago High School in 1963. In January of 1965, he enlisted in the Air Force, where he received training as a jet aircraft mechanic on the F-4 jets. He proudly served in

Vietnam and worked on the F-4 Phantom jets at Tan Son Nhut airbase for 13mos. In 1975, he married the love of his life, Ann-Marie Fohr, in Watertown, South Dakota, and they were blessed to raise five children.

John was a faithful provider who enjoyed a variety of professions. In 1986, he became the proud owner of the 'The Near North Visitors Guide,' a magazine he skillfully managed until his retirement in 2008. In his late 20's John found solace in his faith and embraced his Lord and Savior. He dedicated his life to sharing the love and saving power of the Lord with others. Even after retiring, he continued his spiritual mission by providing services in assisted living facilities in Wautoma, Redgranite, Ripon, and Berlin.

John will be deeply missed by his devoted wife, Ann-Marie; two daughters, Lisa (Sam) Kaufman of Waupun and Rebecca (Doug) Chappa of Culdesac, ID; and his four sons, Karl Nygren of Alamogordo, NM, Nathan (Natalie) Nygren of Appleton, Matthew (fiancé Allison) Nygren of Reedsburg, and Andrew (Jennifer) Nygren of Brandon, WI. He leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness and faith. His memory will forever live on in the hearts of his 20 cherished grandchildren: Ashley, Alex, Ryan, Kaleb, Cullen, Noah, Abigail, Justus, Madeleine, Willow, Clive, Owen, Summer, Henry, Francis, Caleb, Shalom, Hoshea, Elishah, and Mosheh. He is further survived by his sister, Carol Boyden; brother, Jerry (Shirley) Nygren; and many friends. He was preceded in death by his loving parents; and his brother, Ken Nygren.

A Celebration of Life for John was held at 10:30am on Saturday, May 18, 2024 at Trinity Evangelical Free Church in Ripon, with Rev. Paul Ethington officiating. Full Military Honors followed at the church. Friends and family visited at the church on Saturday, May 18, 2024 from 9:30am to 10:30am.

A Private Burial was held in Loper Cemetery in the Town of Ripon. Divine Passage Funeral Home in Ripon proudly served the Nygren family. Divinepassagefunerals.com

John's unwavering faith, dedication to family, and his ability to touch the lives of others will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him. May he rest in eternal peace, united with his loved ones, and be forever surrounded by the grace of the Lord.

Spurrell, Beverly J.*Mar. 10, 1941—Apr. 22, 2024*

Beverly J. Spurrell, 83, long-time resident of Eagle, WI passed away on Monday, April 22, 2024 at Crossroads of Waukesha.

Bev was born on March 10, 1941, in Louisville, Ky., the daughter of Arthur E. and Florence G. (Singer) Long. She was blessed with three children, Madelyn, Betty Ann and Richard. Bev worked for her local parish, St. Theresa Catholic Parish of Eagle, WI as a bookkeeper for 27 years, retiring in August of 2013. She was a devoted Catholic and her faith in God was the most important thing in her life. She served in numerous capacities at her local parish including as a lay-ecclesial minister. Bev was very involved in her local community as well and served as the first woman trustee on the Village of Eagle Board and held the position for 22 years.

Bev was also a Girl Scout leader for 25 years, a Cub Scout leader, and a member of the Red Hat Society. She also helped establish a house for abused women and children in the Village of Eagle.

For leisure, Bev enjoyed reading, watching NASCAR, and watching other sports. She was a very social person and loved to chat with her friends and family. Beverly was a good woman and she will be sincerely missed by her relatives and friends.

She is survived by her children, Madelyn Garner of Houston, TX, Betty Ann (Dave Guard) Miller of Bartlesville, OK, and Richard (Debbie) Spurrell of Eagle, WI; her grandchildren, Hailey (Seth) Miller of Tulsa, OK, Jason (Jamie) Haessig of North Prairie, WI, Jeremy (Jessica) Haessig of Waupaca, WI, Dustin (Kelly) Haessig of Ashippun, WI and Abigail (Ben) Craven of Johnson Creek, WI; and her siblings, Arthur Long of Dallas, TX, Diane (Richard) Van Klavern of Kerrville, TX, and Larry (Jill) Long of Houston, TX. She is also survived by a number of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

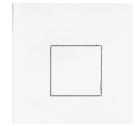
Bev was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, William "Billy", and Herman "Mike."

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Beverly's honor were made to her church, St. Theresa Catholic Church in Eagle, WI.

Visitation was held on Thursday evening, May 2, 2024, from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the Gibson Family Funeral Home, 499 Elkhorn Road, Eagle, WI 53119. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11:00AM on Friday, May 3, 2024 at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Eagle, (136 W. Waukesha Road, Eagle, WI 53119). Fr. Stephen Buting officiated the service. Visitation took place on Friday from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the church. Bev was laid to rest immediately following the mass in St. Theresa Catholic Cemetery in Eagle, WI.

Gibson Family Funeral Homes of Eagle and Palmyra served the family. Online condolences were placed at gibsonfuneral.com.

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



Mailing Label



The Website Looks Different!

by Mike Rice



Yes, there are BIG changes to our website!

After the latest automatic updates, the template design we were using stopped working and forced us to look for a new compatible template design.

We spent hours of research looking for a template with similar capabilities and chose the current one. It looks and works a little different, but has much more potential including the ability to view the site on mobile devices, which wasn't possible before.

In today's digital era, where the demand for mobile access is everywhere, this enhancement is crucial. It aligns with our mission to engage a younger audience with Eagle's rich heritage.

While you're at it, don't miss out on our new [Podcast Page](#), where you can immerse yourself in short, enthralling episodes that bring to life the stories of people and events from Eagle's history.



Upcoming Events



- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Sun., July 14 | Ice Cream Social & Palmyra/Eagle Community Band Concert
1:30—3:00 pm in Eagle Village Park |
| Sun., Aug. 18 | EHS Members Open House 1:00—3:00 pm at the museum |
| Sat., Oct. 26 | Pumpkin Party 1:00—3:30 pm at the museum |