

EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

April 2016

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RENEWALS:

Senior \$8
Mae Ruth Dahm
Jerry Johnson

Individual \$10

Alli Chase
Amy Kinoshian
Judy Laufenberg

Family \$15

Jeff & Elle Hawes
Richard & Gretchen Jones
Thomas & Bonnie Sherman
Robert & Ellie Winzenreid

Sustaining \$25

Phil & Barbara Hall
James & Diane Sillman

Sponsor \$50

Jean Cisler
Eagle Business Association

Patron \$100

Jim & Michelle Fronsee
Dan & Debra West

Omitted from the last newsletter

LaVern Betts \$8
Rosanne Day \$25

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Christopher Ballman (Individual)
Tim & Kim Kaucic (Sponsor)
Pete Loerke (Individual)
Robert & Charolette Fung Miller
(Sustaining)
Greg & Sue Scheff (Family)
Harry Toudt (Honorary)

*Check out Eagle Historical
Society on Facebook.
Please like and share to
add more friends.*

ARTIFACT DONATIONS:

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

Photos from: Jim Pasterski, Don & Sandy Merriner, Steve Steinhoff, and Pete Loerke
Numerous Piano Rolls-Phil & Dawn Zajichek
Abstract of Title-Bea Marquardt
Ruler from Krestan's IGA store-Edith Niederer
Large gum-ball machine
Two glass milk bottles- donor unknown
A check in the amount of \$545.00 for a matching grant from Marathon Oil Company from their employee, Lori Glawe.

EHS Board

President
Jeff Nowicki, 2019

Vice-President
Barbara Jatczak, 2018

Secretary
Ryan Hajewski, 2019

Treasurer
Pat Hawes, 2018

Financial Officer
Donald Ledrowski, 2018

Board Members
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Jessie Chamberlain, 2019
Jean Cisler, 2017
Diana Hall, 2017
Eloise Hall, 2017
Nancy Manschot, 2019
Bea Marquardt, 2017
Richard Moeller, 2018
Carolyn Rosprim, 2018
Mike Rice, 2017

Curator
Elaine Ledrowski
594-3301

Newsletter Editors
Art & Carrie Peavy
594-5454

Webmaster
Mike Rice
Facebook

Ryan Hajewski
Elaine Ledrowski

EHS Museum
262-594-8961

OPEN
Fridays and Saturdays,
9 am to noon
Wednesdays, 3-6 pm

Website:
eaglehistoricalsociety.org
Facebook: Like us at
Eagle Historical Society

Please check your newsletter label for the year "2016" to see whether you have renewed your membership and contact Don Ledrowski at 262-594-3301 or don@ledrowski.com with any questions. Thank you. Most of our members live in Wisconsin, but we have many others living in other states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, New York, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, Washington). Would you consider giving a gift certificate for an EHS membership perhaps for Mother's Day, Father's Day or as a birthday gift for kids out of state?

COLE MCCORMACK



(Photo at left) How does it feel to have your picture and an article on a full page in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and to also be part of a Veteran Exhibit in a museum? Ask Cole McCormack. This seventh grade student's answer to the question, 'What does freedom mean to you?' was published in a recent edition of the newspaper.

Cole's dream is to someday be involved in film making. EHS asked him to do a video about our Veterans Memorial. He planned, recorded and edited a video, and we are proud to share the results with you. Follow this link for the video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1V5o0yaV3HY>

BAKE SALE

(Photo at right) Many magnets imprinted with the EHS eagle were handed out on election day, and several voters have become new members.



Once again, the bake sale held during primary election day was a huge success. Thanks to the leadership of Ellie, Diana and their crew (Barbara Jatczak, Jeff Nowicki, Carolyn Rosprim, Mary Heizman and Nancy Payne). Thanks to everyone who baked and all who purchased bakery. One customer declared, 'The best part of voting is this bake sale.'



CAN YOU HELP?

One of our members is looking for information on this stone (Photo at right). Here is her request:

I am looking for information from someone who knows the name of the persons or the organization that donated this monument to the Melendy's Prairie Cemetery and the year it was given. The cemetery's records were lost in a fire some time ago. The Shermans were honored as one of the first settlers in this area of 1837. They were Leverett, Sophronia and children Charles F. and Laura Emergene.

I am interested in knowing this for research on their house. Thank you for any help.
Pat Schroeder at 262-495-2844.



American drugstores became common in the late 1800s. Pharmacists dispensed prescription medications and stocked items such as over-the-counter drugs, toiletries, tobacco, candy, cosmetics, and newspapers. Often a soda fountain inside of the store was tended by a "soda jerk" who filled beverage orders from a wide selection of flavors. Drugstores also frequently functioned as social hubs for townsfolk.

Eagle had its own drugstore on Jericho Road (109 E.



(Photo above of The Drugstore from EHS artifact collection.)

Main Street as we know it, and currently occupied by Knot Therapy). Our story begins with Lorge's Pharmacy, which was run by J. J. Lorge from 1899-1932. Mortars and pestles, common symbols of pharmacology, were used to crush ingredients when preparing prescriptions. Note the one hanging above the doorway in the photograph at left.



(Photo above is an easterly view of Jericho Road from EHS artifact collection. The Drugstore is 2nd closest building on right.)

Sometime around the 1940s a pharmacist named Ed Depka assumed the responsibilities of The Drugstore while renting the building from Ray Koepsel. He and his wife lived upstairs and raised five children there. His eventual move to Milwaukee marked the end of an era for Eagle since future occupants would no longer dispense prescription drugs. They would, however, stock McKesson elixirs, ointments, and tooth powders. Next came the Bensons. Marie Benson Jones advised us that her brother had just moved into the building in

OUR SUCCESS

Is due to your appreciation

It is your appreciation that has made our store grow—it has been an incentive to us to further efforts and greater results.

Every courtesy is offered and competent service is guaranteed. Our prescription is most accurate and prompt. Here you find the best of everything a good store should have and in addition special features that will please you.

Let us fill your orders and
take care of your drug wants

Lorge's Pharmacy

(Ad above taken from *Eagle Quill* October 12, 1916.)



(Photo above includes mortar and pestle at far right which hung above doorway of The Drugstore and is on display at EHS museum.)

the early 1950s when he died in an accident. Her parents then ran the business for a short while until the Crosswaites took over. Tom and Mary Crosswaite bought the building from Ray Koepsel and called their business Eagle Service Store from about 1956-1970. Their niece, Shari Sasso, shares some of her fondest memories. She recalls that her Uncle Tom had a candy counter jam-packed with all sorts of penny candy. The Drugstore was a favorite hangout for kids after school, and for 10 cents they could walk away with a brown paper bag bursting with waxed lips or soda bottles, dot candy on a paper strip, or candy cigarettes, to name just a few. One of her favorites was a sweet and chewy candy resembling a wedge of watermelon. Try as she may, she has not been able to find the exact candy since. Usually, lookalikes turn out to have a sour flavor. She remembers a long counter with a dozen or so stools where customers could enjoy coffee or sodas made from the old-fashioned soda fountain machine at the back counter. Her aunt and uncle sometimes let her help them behind the counter. Uncle Tom always kept a large container of long pretzel rods on the counter available for sale. Shari loved to dunk the pretzels into her root beer.

Another memory is drinking cherry cokes before you could buy them in a can. Before microwaves, infrared ovens were used to reheat prepared sandwiches such as Reubens, cheese, or hot dogs.



(Photo above is of a key holder from EHS artifact collection.)

(Continued on page 4)



The under-21 crowd congregates in the drug store, which really isn't a drug store, for soda, ice cream and good company.

(Photo above taken from *Waukesha Freeman* July 1, 1970.)

(Continued from page 3)

Crosswaites called them “radar” sandwiches, and she can still picture the glowing red of the oven. You could also hear top hits played off of 45 rpm vinyl records from a coin-operated jukebox.

Coincidentally, another Tom and Mary with the last name of Webber became the next storekeepers. They kept the name of Eagle Service Store and operated the business from 1970-1973 while renting the upstairs out. Barb Jatczak and I visited with Kathleen Chapman who filled in many questions about the history of The Drug-store, especially about the time she and her husband, Jim, spent running it. Kathleen’s maiden name was Smart. She is a descendent of one of seven Smart brothers who came over from England in the 1830s and settled in the

Milwaukee area, while the Chapmans had been living here for a while. Jim was raised on a farm and had always wanted a farm, so after they were married they bought 10 acres and then rented another 100 from Newell Meyer. Jim also ran a livestock trucking business. When the store became available, they mulled over the possibility of purchasing it and decided they would maybe give it a try for about five years while still farming. Kathleen left her office job and managed most of the store. Well, they loved it so much that those 5 years turned into 22. Under their ownership the sign now read Eagle Variety and Coffee Shop and was open from 6 am to 6 pm 7 days a week. Kathleen and Jim worked every Sunday so their help could have off. Many regulars met there to share local news, sip great coffee, and get together with friends—some before the open sign flipped. Kathleen chuckles as she recalls one day oversleeping, so running a bit late to open, and a customer pounded on the



(Photo of Jim and Kathleen Chapman from *Mukwonago Chief* May 10, 1995. Note the vintage soda fountain behind Kathleen))



ORIGINAL
BY
KEN REICHERT
Donor: Kathleen Chapman

(Photo above is a painting by Ken Reichert of Chapman’s Variety and Coffee Shop on display at EHS.)

door wondering where they were because he wanted his coffee. Kids continued to hang out with friends after school drinking fountain sodas, floats, and malts. Jane Riddle, former long-time resident, fondly recalls her first cup of coffee and the start of a 25-year tradition. She and her husband, Dick, had recently moved into the area and she was seeking a place where she could get a good cup of coffee and meet some friends to share time with. She happened to stop in at The Variety Shop one day and was invited to join a group of ladies who regularly met up there. Jane thought to herself, “This is exactly what I have been looking for,” and before leaving casually glanced over her shoulder to check the time on the clock. She returned at approximately the same time the next day, and again the day after that. Soon her walks into town (always including a stop at The Variety Shop) became part of her daily (and sometimes twice daily) rou-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

tine as she cemented a close bond with the ladies who had befriended her. So began the group known as the Coffee Friends (See October, 2004, EHS NL.)

Kathleen's candy counter was a child's paradise. She charged two or three cents apiece and remembers Barb Jatzak sometimes needing to encourage her son, Brian, to "hurry up" and choose his candy as he had a hard time completing his selections. Who wouldn't? "Too many choices," Jim would often affirm, and jokingly say, "Maybe we should just buy one kind of candy to make the process easier for everyone."

The nostalgic soda fountain also attracted many customers. Kathleen traveled to Elm Grove to buy the special extract and then mixed the syrup up a gallon at a time for the homemade root beer, which was served in a frosty mug. Malts were made of whole milk and real ice cream; strawberry, butterscotch, and hot fudge were some favorites. Their last day of business fell on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend in 1995, and she remembers a steady stream of customers coming in "to have one last good malt."

Patty Riley remembers being served chocolate malts split between a tall, "y"-shaped glass and the stainless steel cup they were mixed in. One day when her sister was visiting, Patty decided to take her over for a malt. They both agreed that the place had the charm and quality of small corner drugstores they had grown up with on the south side of Milwaukee and then some. Patty had worked as a waitress at a Walgreens, so she was very familiar with full-service chain drugstores. Living up to its name, the business offered a wide array of products and services. Customers could buy jewelry, baby gifts, greeting cards (Kathleen liked the Leanin' Tree brand), kites, or tobacco displayed in a humidor. A large rack containing all sorts of magazines and comic books occupied one wall. Newspapers were available for purchase, and some residents had their copy delivered to the store. Kathleen ordered merchandise by traveling down to the gift shows at the Milwaukee airport and later at the Waukesha Expo

Center not knowing whether the items would sell or not. She also drove down to Milwaukee to buy the McKesson products until they were no longer available. Film could be dropped off and sent out for developing, and phone or gas/electric bills could also be paid there. Kathleen's previous office skills as a ward clerk in a medical office must have proved very helpful as she needed to keep an accurate accounting of all of these transactions.

The Peoria Rockford bus line ran through Eagle and stopped just outside of The Variety Shop at 8 am and 2 pm. Jim, the bus driver, would often drop in during the morning run, and on Friday afternoons a busload of college students on one of the bus routes usually paid a visit. The route began in Peoria and included stops in Janesville, Milton, Whitewater, Palmyra, Waukesha, and Milwaukee where it turned around. Many families faithfully rode the bus into downtown Milwaukee

every Christmas to view the holiday lights and window decorations of stores like Gimbel's.

For nearly a century the building fondly known as The Drugstore and the people who ran it served its community well. Owners came and left. Storefront signs were replaced. Generations grew up around it; some stayed and some moved on, but most everyone agrees that The Drugstore has earned a special place not only in Eagle's history books but also in the hearts and minds of those people who have made memories happen there.



(Photo above taken of calendars from EHS artifacts. Dates of calendars from top to bottom: 1977, 1976, 1972, 1971.)

LEAP YEAR FOLKLORE

According to Wikipedia.org...

In Ireland and Britain, it is a tradition that women may propose marriage only in leap years.

In Finland, the tradition is that if a man refuses a woman's proposal on leap day, he should buy her the fabrics for a skirt.

In Greece, marriage in a leap year is considered unlucky. One in five engaged couples in Greece will plan to avoid getting married in a leap year.

In February 1988 the town of Anthony in Texas, declared itself "leap year capital of the world", and an international leapling birthday club was started.

In the United States, February 29 is often referred to as "Sadie Hawkins Day" signifying a gender role reversal, such as a day when a woman proposes marriage to a man.



1908 postcard of woman capturing a man with a butterfly net. Wikipedia.org



PLANT SWAP *"On The Patio"* Saturday, May 14, 2016



Calling all flower lovers, gardeners and people who love to get their hands dirty playing in the dirt. Our Plant Swap, "On the Patio" will be held on **Saturday, May 14, from 10 am until 2 pm.** All types of plants (except weeds) are welcome: perennials, annuals, herbs and vegetables.

Bring extra plants to share with your friends and neighbors who are just starting gardens or improving theirs and for the gardens at the museum. No plants for exchange? Bring non-perishable food items for the Eagle Community Food Pantry and receive a plant to take home.

You can drop off plants on Friday. Just leave them on the back porch or patio, or bring them on Saturday if that works better for you. Sweet treats and refreshments will be available.

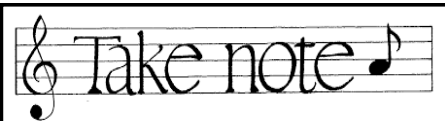
Hosted by
Eagle Historical Society
 217 Main Street
 262-594-8961
elaine@ledrowski.com



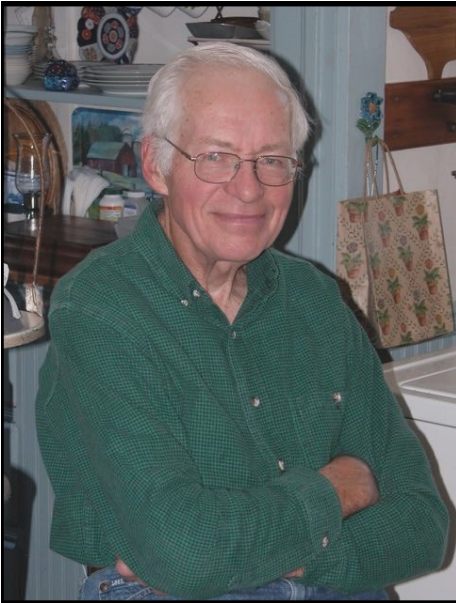
VETERANS RECOGNITION Saturday, June 4, 2016 2:00 PM



All veterans and their family members are invited to attend our first annual Veteran Recognition Program and Reception which will be held at the Veterans Memorial at 217 Main Street. Come honor the many brave veterans and active service members who have been immortalized on our memorial and/or on bricks in the memorial walkway. Enjoy patriotic music courtesy of the Kettle Moraine Blues.



Watch for more information regarding our annual Ice Cream Social and Palmyra/Eagle Community Band Concert on Sunday, July 10, beginning at 1 pm.

William Verle Grotjan*Feb. 11, 1929 ~ Feb. 29, 2016 (age 87)*

William Verle Grotjan, 87, of Eagle, Wisconsin passed away on February 29, 2016 at his home with his family by his side.

Bill was born in Milwaukee on February 11, 1929 to William F. and Elizabeth L. (Erickson) Grotjan. He married the love of his life, Janet M. Carlson, on June 4, 1955. They raised five children together on their farm in Eagle.

After earning his master's degree in Botany from UW-Madison, Bill began his 35 year career teaching high school Biology in Edgerton in 1954. He continued teaching with Milwaukee Public Schools until his retirement in 1988.

Bill enjoyed being involved in his community. He was active in his church youth group with Washington Park Presbyterian. He was a Boy Scout Leader with Pack 54 in Eagle during the 1970's. Bill was a garden volunteer at Old World Wisconsin in his later years. Bill was an avid gardener, voracious reader, and a student of history. His passion, knowledge, interest and understanding of the natural world was in evidence throughout his life. He enjoyed

traveling, listening to music, camping, hiking, and playing his harmonica. Bill's generous and kind nature will be deeply missed by all who know him.

Bill is survived by Janet, his wife of sixty years; their children, William and Sarah Grotjan of Neenah, Jessica and Arnold Chamberlain of Eagle, James and Michele Grotjan of Eagle, Jill and Anthony Blaedow of Palmyra, and Jennifer and John Zach of Stevens Point; his eight grandchildren, Laura Grotjan, William Grotjan, Arnold Chamberlain, Elizabeth Chamberlain Cooper, Julia Blaedow Dane, Emily Blaedow, Shane Zach, Rachel Zach, and one great-grandson, Frederick Cooper.

Private memorial services were held at a later date.



In Loving Memory Of



Pat J. Wilton

Born to Life

August 16, 1936

Born into Eternal Life

April 1, 2016

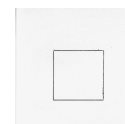
Pat Wilton, a charter member of the Eagle Historical Society since its beginning in 1989, unexpectedly passed away in April. She was a long-time board member and officer of the organization.

Pat and Don operated the Wilton family farm until 2000 when the last of their cows was sold.

A dedicated crossing guard for Eagle Elementary School, Pat was honored with a certificate for her years of service.

The Eagle Historical Society will honor her memory by placing a brick in the memorial walkway.

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



Plant Swap—May 14, 10 am-2 pm
Veterans Recognition—June 4, 2 pm
Ice Cream Social/Band Concert—
July 10, 1 and 2 pm

Clip the voucher at left and use it as described toward admission to tour any of the many Wisconsin historic sites or museums one time. **The voucher may also be photocopied.**

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For more information, please visit
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Valid normal opening hours only through
Dec. 31, 2016. Not valid for any special
events requiring advanced registration.
One-time use per voucher.

EXPIRES December 31, 2016

LH / HP