

EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Apr 2025

Think You Can Stump The Experts?

STUMP THE EXPERTS

*Bring an Artifact
For Us to Identify*

**Tuesday
April 22, 2025
5:30 - 6:30 PM**

**Eagle Historical Society
217 E. Main Street
Eagle, WI 53119**

Have you ever stumbled upon something in your attic or basement and wondered, "What on earth is this?"

Now's your chance to find out! Bring your mystery items to the EHS Museum on Tuesday, April 22, between 5:30-6:30 pm and see if you can "Stump the Experts."

Each participant will be entered into a drawing for two \$25 cash prizes. Unidentifiable items will be featured on our Facebook page and website asking for help from others.

Veterans Memorial

Soon we may pause, reflect, and honor memories of loved ones while enjoying our native gardens spring into bloom.

Welcome New Members:

James Day &
Josef Cibulka \$50
Gilbert Hoefakker \$10

Member Renewals

Senior \$8

Gerry Bergmann

Individual \$10

Ashley Bokern

Barbara Kruse

Richard Spurrell

Family \$15

Ralph & Marion (Welsh)

Heinisch-Clark

Claire Josten & Dale Howard

Tammy & John McCormack

Stephan Muth

Sustaining \$25-\$49

Bill & LeeAnn Madsen

Harley & Kathy Peterson

Glen & Bonnie Schaefer

Sponsor \$50-\$99

Dick Adduci & Jacki Lewis

Eagle Centre House

Riene Wells & Dean Herriges

Don Enright

Stephen Feye

Rick & Sally Harthun

Ellie & Jeff Hawes

Todd Kruse

Dale & Barbara Pforr

Patron \$100-\$199

Janet Evans

IBEW Local #494

Stephanie Stevens



Thank You,
Vernette Heare,
for your very generous gift.

In This Issue

EHS Program/Event News 1-2, 8
Heckel Tool & Mfg., Corp. 3-4
Songs of Victory 5
Miriam J. "Mimi" Feye Obituary 6
Joyce L. Curran Obituary 7

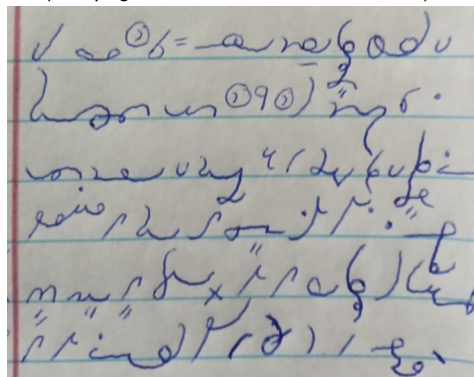


Brat Sale

Why not stop for a brat while you shop on Main Street during the annual EBA Community Rummage Sale? Food will be offered on May 8, 9, and 10 in front of the EHS Museum from 11:00 am—2:00 pm or while supplies last.

Shorthand Question

(See pages 2 & 5 for translation/answer.)



Mystery Artifact

Can you identify these items?



(continued on page 2)

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

New Exhibit

by Carrie Peavy



Stop in to see our new exhibit of artifacts which once graced the sanctuaries of St. Theresa Catholic Church and the United Methodist Church of Eagle. Use your smart phone to gain a deeper understanding of the history of these two churches.

Photo above by Elaine Ledrowski.

(continued from page 1)

Mystery Artifact Answer:

These antique wrought iron brackets were mounted to a wall and likely held hinged metal swings that housed oil lamps. Kerosene was commonly used to light homes before the chickens rose in the morning and after they roosted for the evening.

(continued from page 1)

Shorthand Question Translation: What eerie, eight-mile square Pacific island of volcanic rock, ash and scrub with a reeking smell of sulphur was the first piece of Japanese home territory to fall into American hands during a major WWII battle? Its two air bases and proximity to its homeland deemed the fight for it necessary. *(continued on page 5)*

Artifact Donations

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

Eagle Lioness Club—Three plaques
Eagle Methodist Church—Assorted books and church items
Karen Sagert—Communion trays
St. Theresa Church—Slicer, ricer, and donut filler

EHS Tour

by Elaine Ledrowski



In February, Karen and Gordon Erikson visited the museum to meet EHS board members and attend a small reception to thank them for their generous donation. They toured the museum and enjoyed some delicious refreshments. Thank you, Karen and Gordon. *Photo above by Janet Evans.*

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact Gina Neist at: 262-594-8961 or curator@eaglehistoricalsociety.org.

Thank you.

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

Heckel Tool & Mfg., Corp. is a local manufacturing company that provides precision machining, tooling, and fixtures. Owners Lori and Jerry Heckel proudly look forward to marking an exciting milestone this summer—38 years of “keeping industry rolling” and “running a business that allows employees to make a family sustainable living.”



Early construction site about 1998 facing south with the Godfrey Farm in background.

Heckel Tool's story began in June of 1987 by purchasing equipment and conducting business out of Big Bend for nine years and then in space rented from the Elegant Farmer in Mukwonago for a short time. Since Thanksgiving weekend of 1998, it has operated out of its current site, which was built after purchasing land from Don Godfrey and is one of the oldest companies still operating in Eagle's Industrial Loop.

Jerry went through the machine shop program at Boys Tech, served a five-year tool and die apprenticeship, and became a journeyman in 1985. He and Lori married and lived just out of town but always considered Eagle their home.

“This is a woman-owned business,” Jerry explains and instrumental in them being awarded work through government contracts. He attributes their success to the sacrifices that his wife Lori has made over

the years. She holds the title of president, and he is the vice president. Together, they have weathered the ups and downs of life and all that goes along with small business ownership. It was not uncommon to put in 12-hour workdays. Until the company grew to a point of adding more staff to distribute the workload, Lori had completed the payroll and bookkeeping tasks in the evenings while working as an instructional assistant in the East Troy Schools during the daytime.

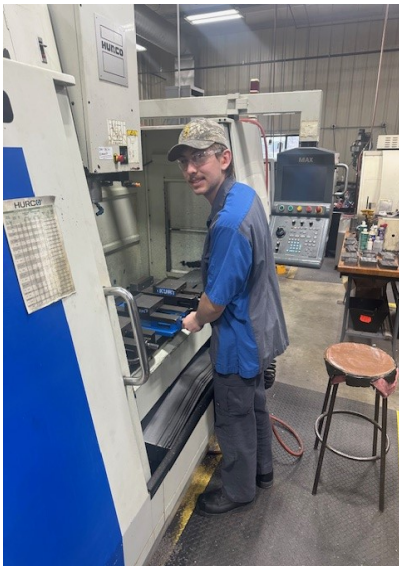
Their work is usually built off customer drawings. Originally, work was performed manually; now most is computer generated. Business has been very good for Heckel Tool over the last 10-15 years, and they strongly believe in giving back.

Since 1987, they have had over 60 co-op and youth apprentices come through their doors and currently have three at the shop!



(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)



Co-ops come from high schools in Mukwonago, East Troy, Kettle Moraine, and Muskego. Tool-makers complete four-year apprenticeships (two years of schooling one day a week at WCTC) and then become journeymen.

The program has been beneficial to Heckel Tool because “they are growing their own”, and the youth get the opportunity to learn a skilled trade while earning a good wage along the way. Some stayed, some went on to become engineers, welders, lead-men/foremen at other shops or large companies, and some said this wasn’t for them. Jerry is disappointed to see that the pool of qualified youth candidates has dwindled over the 30+ years he has served on the WCTC Advisory Committee.

Each employee’s birthday is celebrated, and regular achievement awards are presented affirming Lori’s motto, “All of our employees are a gift as well as the work we are given.”

The 2008 recession did not affect them until September of 2009 when they lost their top two customers in the same month. By Christmas, they were down to three employees and by March of 2010 (after 23 years in business) about three weeks away from closing. They dug in and clawed their way out as work started to trickle in. April and May brought more work, and they slowly recovered.

Jerry reminds Lori to “be careful what you pray for” as they have continued to be blessed with more than enough work to keep them busy. Last year was their best ever, and Lori and Jerry will be going out on top when they retire in June of 2026. They have reached an agreement on an exit plan with their long-time, dedicated employee/shop foreman insuring the future of Heckel Tool remains a strong partner in the Eagle community.

They plan to travel and spend more time with family. Lori will do more volunteer work at St. Theresa’s and also read to children in the community; Jerry will do more hunting and help out, as needed, at the shop. It has been an interesting journey, and they look forward to turning the next corner.



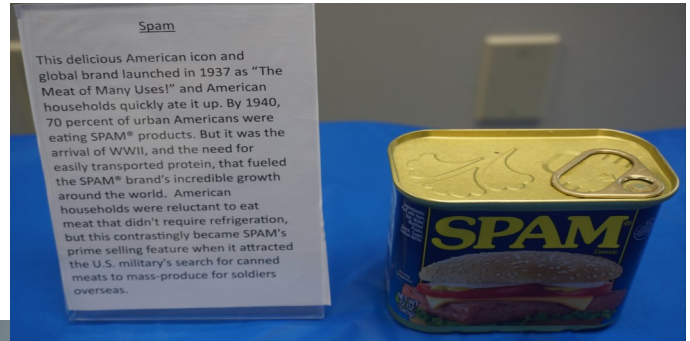
All photos are from Heckel Tool's collection with the exception of the photo above taken by Art Peavy.





Ed Pierce and the Kettle Moraine Blues took us on a sentimental journey to the WWII era so effectively that even those of us with little more than textbook knowledge could relate to the united efforts of preserving our threat-

the sinking of the SS Dorchester and singing of the Navy Hymn memorializing the four chaplains of different faiths who together comforted spirits and heroically saved lives of young soldiers while forfeiting their own.



Spam sandwiches, fruit cocktail cake, peanut butter cookies, ambrosia salad, and Postum coffee were a few of the foods common to that time offered to sample.



Cheetos



ened freedom. Popular songs encouraging the spirit of GIs as well as loved ones back home doing their part by selling war bonds and rationing during those long four years were performed. Perhaps, the most poignant segment of the evening was the retelling of



Thank you, Ed, the KMB, the EHS food committee and great audience participation for creating this evening of reflection!

Photos by Art Peavy.

(continued from pages 1-2)

Shorthand Answer: Although eventually victorious, the Battle of Iwo Jima was extremely costly for US Marines (casualties exceeded those of the Imperial Japanese Army by 3:2) while fighting against enemies dug into a heavily fortified network of bunkers, caves, and an undetected underground tunnel system connecting most of this tiny island. Thick layers of ash severely hampered navigation of vehicles, movement of infantrymen and evacuation of wounded; extreme heat, rains, and unsafe drinking water were some of the other harsh realities our soldiers faced. On Feb. 23, 1945 the iconic photograph of several US Marines planting the Stars and Stripes on top of Mount Suribachi was taken. I am left to wonder whether my Great Uncle John, a private assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Division, knew of or witnessed this momentous event before earning his Gold Star on March 1, age 21. My Grandma was one of many next-of-kin relatives to receive a feared telegram (less than two months after her brother John's death on the Western Front). Many soldiers from the same households were serving, so it was not uncommon for families to suffer multiple losses as they anxiously awaited news from abroad.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Iwo_Jima.

Feye, Miriam J. "Mimi"*Feb. 17, 1961—Jan. 30, 2025*

Miriam Josephine Feye passed away peacefully surrounded by family on January 30th, 2025, at the age of 63.

Mimi was born on February 17, 1961, in Elmhurst, IL,

the daughter of Jerry and Barbara (Irwin) Riggle. She moved to Tomah, WI at a young age and graduated from Tomah High School in 1979. Mimi continued her schooling at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Dietetics. While in college, Mimi met Stephen Feye and the two were united in marriage on May 31, 1986. God blessed their union with three daughters, Stephanie, Emily, and Elizabeth. Professionally, she had an incredibly successful career in pharmaceutical sales, working in the industry for 35+ years and winning multiple awards and accolades.

Mimi's faith carried her throughout her life. She was a blessing to anyone who met her and was a cherished wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. Mimi was selfless and gracious with her time, always putting others before herself. She was the first to lend a hand, welcome someone into her home, and even strike up a friendship with a stranger. She had an incredible gift of making those around her feel special. This was exemplified in her 38 years of

marriage, her love and devotion to her daughters and grandchildren, as well as her ability to maintain an incredible circle of friends.

She is survived by her husband Stephen; her children, Stephanie Feye, Emily Stelter (Ben), Elizabeth McAdie (Michael); Grandchildren, Madison, Emery, and Carter; sisters Jacquie Morton (Dave), and Theresa McCarl; brothers Perry (Cindy), William (Debra), and Jerry (Barabra) Riggle; Mother and Father in law, William and Marilyn Feye; sister-in-law Anne Morton (Jeff); family pets, Bubba and Lola.

Preceded in death by her parents, Jerry and Barbara Riggle, her brother, John Riggle, and her son, William Feye.

Memorials in Mimi's honor were made to her family in lieu of flowers.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11:00AM on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Eagle, WI (136 W. Waukesha Road, Eagle, WI 53119). Fr. Jordan Berghouse officiated the mass. Visitation took place from 9:00AM until the time of service at the church. Mimi was laid to rest in St. Theresa Catholic Cemetery immediately following the mass.

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

Curran, Joyce L.*Aug. 3, 1927—Jan. 30, 2025*

"One day at a time"
Joyce Lena Jackson Curran (née Palenshus), age 97, passed away peacefully on January 30, 2025, in [East Troy, Wisconsin](#).

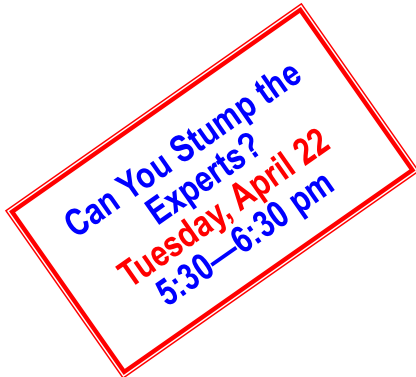
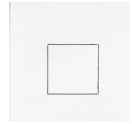
Born on August 3, 1927, in East Troy,

she lived a remarkable life filled with love, dedication, and service to her family and community. A proud graduate of East Troy High School's Class of 1945, Joyce married Basil Jackson in 1949. Together, they opened Jackson's Club Pointe, a beloved local establishment that became a cornerstone of the community. Later, they built Jackson's Club Pointe II to accommodate the construction of the interstate. Over the decades, Joyce entertained thousands with her warm hospitality and expertly crafted Old Fashioneds and Manhattans. She retired in 1997 after more than forty years of serving her patrons with grace and charm. Joyce was deeply devoted to her family and faith. A lifelong member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in East Troy, she participated actively in Bible study and other church activities. Her commitment to service extended beyond her faith community as a member of the East Troy VFW and American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, the East Troy Lions Lioness Club, and Forty and Eight. She also enjoyed bowling well into her nineties as part of a local team until 2020.

Known for her kindness, thoughtfulness, and hospitality, Joyce had an extraordinary ability to make everyone feel welcome. Whether setting an extra plate at the table or offering a drink to a new acquaintance, she embodied warmth and generosity. Her dedication to maintaining family and friendship bonds was evident through decades of faithful written correspondence that kept loved ones connected across time and distance. Joyce is survived by her children: Cheryl (Robert) Knox; Linda (Richard) Oliver; and Douglas (Kathy) Jackson. She leaves behind cherished grandchildren: Paul (Paula) Knox; Rita (Joe) McConkey; Heather (Ron) Gerleman; Gregory (Telsea) Knox; Martha (Chad) Fugett; Ellison (Rich) Burch; Kate Oliver; Ross Oliver; as well as great-grandchildren Joey McConkey; Nicole (Jaime) Becher; Kennedy Jafuta; Aaron Knox; and Hayden Gerleman. She will also be fondly remembered by many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Joyce was preceded in death by her parents; her sister Grace; her brother Lawrence; her first husband Basil Jackson; and her second husband Robert Curran. A funeral service was held on February 13, 2025, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church; [East Troy, WI 53120](#). Visitation was from 4-5 PM with a church service following at 5 PM, and food followed. Joyce will be remembered as a classy yet down-to-earth woman who touched countless lives with her warmth and generosity. May her memory bring comfort to all who knew her. Legacy Funeral Services had the honor of serving the family.

Legacy Funeral Services
(262)642-5057
2974 Main St
[East Troy, Wisconsin 53120](#)

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



Visit our website



Mailing Label

EHS QR Code

Hold your smart phone over the QR code above while in camera mode to access our website. Many interesting articles, videos, and photos are continually added.



Upcoming EHS Events



- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Tue., Apr. 22 | Can You Stump the Experts? 5:30—6:30 pm at the EHS Museum
Each participant will be entered into a drawing for two \$25 cash prizes. |
| Th, F, Sat.
May 8, 9, 10 | Brat Sale at EHS during the EBA Annual Community Rummage Sale
11:00 am—2:00 pm or while supplies last at the EHS Museum |
| Sun., Jul. 13 | Ice Cream Social and Palmyra/Eagle Community Band Concert
1:30—3:00 pm in Eagle Village Park Pavilion |
| Sat., Aug. 9 | Picnic With the Police 11:00 am—2:00 pm at Eagle Village Park |
| Tue., Aug. 19 | Open House USO Night 6:00—7:30 pm at the EHS Museum |