



EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Gratitude and Progress on the Erikson Building

We're deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed to the fundraiser for the new Erikson Building. This project began with a generous \$20,000 gift from Karen and Gordon Erikson, and thanks to the support of many, it's steadily coming to life.



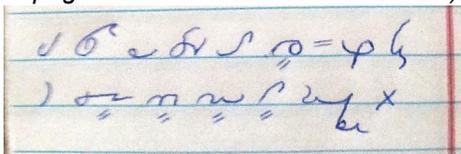
The beautiful new floor is complete, and the wiring is

nearly finished. We're now awaiting We Energies to connect electric power to the building. We're also thrilled to be working with nationally acclaimed interior designer Stephanie Kalnes, who is lending her talents to the layout of our storage and exhibit spaces, Wayne Pett for relocating the existing shed, and Nat Cobb for his donation of cedar boards for the ceiling.

There's still more to do. Insulation and wall finishing are next along with installing heating and cooling to make the space comfortable year-round. Landscaping still needs to be done; any volunteers would be appreciated. Every contribution brings us closer to completion—we couldn't do it without you.

Shorthand Question

(See pages 2 & 4 for translation/answer.)



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Welcome New Members

Ann Wiza Hurley \$15
Dan Rockteacher \$8

Member Renewals

Sponsor \$50-\$99

Roger & Dana Houk

Patron \$100-\$199

Jean Evans



Thank you!

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

Thank you.

Artifact Donations

Thanks to the following donors:

Janet Evans
Robert & Jane Henze
Kari Hout
Molenda Julieann
Dorothy Kau
Gail Lungdon
Gina Neist
Sandra Shorr

Our Online Store is Now Open!

We're thrilled to introduce a brand-new online store on our website! While our selection is just getting started, we'll be adding more treasures over time—so be sure to check back often.

What's available now?

- High-resolution downloadable maps
- A vibrant collection of Historic Christmas Postcards
- Books by local authors available for shipping or convenient pickup at EHS

Mystery Artifact

Can you identify this item?

(See page 2 for answer.)



EHS Museum

262-594-8961

Open Hours

Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays: 9 am-Noon

Website

www.eaglehistoricalsociety.org

Facebook

Like us at

Eagle Historical Society

Ice Cream Social & Palmyra/Eagle Band Concert

by Carrie Peavy



A crowd of 250-300 enjoyed a beautiful day of nostalgic music from WWII, Mary Poppins, The Music Man, theme songs from comedy classics of the 1960s, and many, many more under the direction of Bandmaster Jim Neist.



Elaine Ledrowski and Steve Jolliffe danced to the tune of “Happy Birthday” in celebration of their July birthdays.

Photos top left & right by Art Peavy.



Our tables overflowed with scoops of ice cream and a variety of home-made bakery. We cannot thank the Hen House, our bakers, servers, organizers, band, and setup/cleanup crew enough for supporting our corner of small-town America. ❤️

Photo by Anne Jung.

Picnic with the Police

by Mike Rice



It was a warm, sunny Saturday August 9th when the Village of Eagle Police Department hosted their annual Picnic with the Police—a free, family-friendly event that brought together residents, local organizations, and first responders for a celebration of community spirit. It was a chance to meet members of the Eagle Police Department and a happy reminder of



what makes Eagle special: community, connection, and care. Steve Gulgowski, Jeff Nowicki, and Mike Rice demonstrated popular games played by children decades ago. Two lucky contestants in our drawing walked away with a bald eagle garden spinner and patriotic Delta kite.

(continued from page 1)

Shorthand Question Translation: What items were packed into K-ration boxes for American WWII soldiers? *(See p 4 for answer.)*

EHS Board

President

Jeff Nowicki, 2026

Vice-President

Eloise Hall, 2025

Secretary

Art Peavy, 2026

Treasurer

Pat Hawes, 2025

Financial Officer

Jim Neist

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Eloise Hall

Julie Mann

Gina Neist

Mike Rice

2027

Steve Gulgowski

Pat Hawes

Richard Moeller

Carrie Peavy

Carolyn Rosprim

2028

Scott Bovee

Janet Evans

Jim Neist

Jeff Nowicki

Art Peavy

Curator

Elaine Ledrowski

262-594-3301

Newsletter Editors

Art & Carrie Peavy

Webmaster

Mike Rice

(continued from page 1)

Mystery Artifact Answer:

A vintage Little Boye Tube Loom with the assistance of a metal knitting needle was once used to weave and knit items such as cords.

Chapmans Closes

by Rob Chapman

On July 1st, Chapman's BP was sold, ending 108 years of ownership by The Chapman Family.

Dating back to 1917, Harold Chapman and my grand-



father, Archie Chapman started Chapman's Oil. Later, my parents, Russell and Patricia Chapman, took ownership and then myself, as a third-generation owner.

I want to express a sincere Thank You to

the people of Eagle for their continuous support to our family business over the years.

I also want to Thank all of our Employees for their hard work and dedication that helped make Chapman's BP successful.

Lastly, I want to thank my children, brother, sisters, nieces and nephews that helped out and also worked for the family business.



The decision to sell was not easy; however, I have confidence that the new owner, Matt, will continue to positively serve our community.

On behalf of myself and my family, we Thank You all again and wish you a blessed and safe 4th of July!

Sincerely,

Rob Chapman

Meet EHS Board Member Carolyn Rosprim

by Carrie Peavy



Our board members come from varied backgrounds with a mixture of skill sets, but they all seem drawn to EHS by their love of history. Some develop an interest early on and others farther along their life journey.

Carolyn was born and raised in Waukesha County. As a Marquette University psychology minor, she secured a case worker job at the Milwaukee Mental Health Center, Southern Division. Carolyn met her future husband while swing dancing at the Eagles Club. The marriage was blessed with one son and later a grandson. In 1979, they moved into a newly built home in Eagle designed by them with enough acreage for a horse.

She enjoys photography, gardening, the music of Elvis and Harry Belafonte, and bird watching/feeding.

Carolyn has assisted us by: photographing events, tending the gardens, and lately entering photographs online for others who are tracing their family roots. Thank you, Carolyn, for 20+ years of diligent service.

Open House/USO Night
by Carrie Peavy



The KMB Band

We had beautiful weather and a great turnout for this year's Open House/USO Night. The KMB Band started us out with carefully selected and masterfully delivered musical arrangements reflecting the mood of the 1940s.



Grace, Elena, Magdalene.

A trio of very talented young ladies dressed in authentic military uniforms, nostalgic hairstyles and makeup, took center stage and performed two musical numbers in harmony.

Guests toured the museum and took in our newest displays of artifacts while sampling food and drink associated with that era.



Julie Mann, Jim Neist, & Scott Bovee. The evening concluded with a group of brave souls who, under the direction and example of Ruth and Jim Schneck, learned some basic swing dance techniques to take home and practice. Thank you to all who made this an evening to

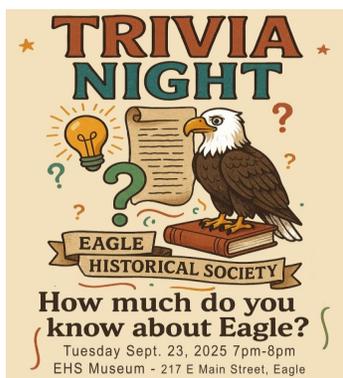


Ruth and Jim Schneck

Photos by Elaine Ledrowski.



Leaders and followers.



Trivia Night
by Art Peavy

Recently, a group of inquisitive minds gathered and subdivided into three teams. We were challenged with questions relating to Eagle's past and present, as well as those found on 6th grade school tests. While each team's score totals volleyed back and forth, I can proudly say our team secured the win after correctly answering a bonus question. Thanks to all who participated in this fun event, including our emcee Mike Rice, timekeeper Jeff Nowicki, and overseer Elaine Ledrowski.

(continued from pages 1-2)

Shorthand Answer: K-ration box contents varied taking into consideration climate, activity levels of soldiers, etc. Boxes were labeled for breakfast, dinner, and supper but not always eaten in that order. Commonly included items were: canned meat, biscuits, dried fruit bar, pre-mixed oatmeal cereal, water purification tablets, cigarettes, chewing gum, instant coffee, a packet of toilet paper tissues, sugar, cheese, salt, matches, a powdered beverage packet, and a chocolate bar.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/K-ration>

Vernette Heare Remembrance

by Gina Neist



We remember with love and affection the life of Vernetta Heare who passed away on April 10, 2025, in Surprise, AZ. She was a generous supporter of both the Eagle and the Palmyra Historical Societies for many years. The Eagle Historical Society recently completed an addition to the museum which gave us a much-needed conference/meeting room on the first floor. Without her initial donation, a new room would have been impossible. It was named the "Vernetta Heare Conference Room" in her honor. In 2022, Vernetta recorded some of her fond memories of her childhood growing up in this

Memories of Eagle and Palmyra

by Vernetta Heare

Eagle will always have a special place in my heart! Both of my grandparents, the Amanns and the McGills, lived in Eagle most of their lives.

My dad and mom grew up in Eagle. They lived a couple of houses from each other. They fell in love, married, and moved to Palmyra. My dad had his barber shop in Palmyra for over 61 years.

As a little girl about five or six years old, I would pack my little suitcase and my mom would put me on the train in Palmyra and my Grandma Amann would pick me up in Eagle. The conductor always knew I was to get off in Eagle!

Grandma and I would go to the butcher shop and I could pick out the meat we would have for dinner. Then off we would go to Sherman's for the other groceries.

Grandma would let me pick out a yard or so of any material that I liked. She always found time to make me a new sun dress or shirt while I was there! Before we left the store, Vinton Sherman always had a special treat for me.

Not because we were sick, we would always stop over to see Dr. Schmidt and his wife. Just being good neighbors, I guess.

I usually spent about four days with Grandpa and Grandma and then my mom would come and pick me up! This was a big adventure for a little girl.

Nearly every Sunday night, my dad and mom and I would have dinner at Sasso's! I always sat in the kitchen and watched Mom Sasso prepare our dinners. What a great Italian cook she was!

This postcard is of my Grandfather William McGill's barber shop. It was taken in the 1900s, maybe about 1914. The picture is my grandfather on the bench and my dad, Virgil W. McGill, standing up. My grandparents lived in this house, and the barber shop was on the front right side. This building was on Main Street, and hopefully is still there. My grandpa was a barber in Eagle from about 1901 until his death in 1929. My dad started working in this shop when he was only 14 years old as an apprentice with his dad.



In 1918 my dad opened a barber shop in Palmyra. In 1919 my dad and mom were married and lived all their lives in Palmyra. My dad was a barber in Palmyra for 62 years until his death in 1980.

How thankful I am at 92 years old to have all these wonderful memories of Eagle!

Photos are from EHS archives



Obituaries



Heidi Ann Thessin (Nowicki)

Feb. 10, 1942—Jul. 21, 2025



Heidi Ann Thessin, age 78, went peacefully to be with her Lord and Savior on Monday, July 21st, 2025, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Heidi brought light and love to all

who knew her through her boundless creativity, deep faith, and generous spirit. A woman of many talents and passions, Heidi found joy in the great outdoors—especially when camping with cherished family and friends. Her remarkable skills as a quilter and seamstress left a legacy of lovingly-crafted projects that reflected her artistry and care. Of her numerous passions, she cared deeply for her beloved dogs. For nearly four decades, Heidi was a devoted member of Taylor Chapel Ministries. Whether serving through various church ministries or

gathering with friends for breakfast or card games, her presence was a steady and uplifting force.

As a beloved mother and grandmother, she is survived by her brother, Jeff Nowicki; her children, Mark (Carri) Thessin, Deborah (Eric) Marshall, and Michael (Maureen) Thessin; her grandchildren, Jordan (Michael) Callison, Jeffrey Marshall, Jonathan Marshall, and Mason Thessin; and her great-grandchild, Brynlee Callison. Family and friends were invited to honor Heidi's life on Wednesday, August 6th, 2025, at Taylor Chapel Ministries (10145 Maysville Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46835). Visitation was held from 3:00 to 5:00 pm, followed by a funeral service at 5:00 pm. Should you like to share a memorial donation, the family asked that you consider Taylor Chapel or the American Lung Association.

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 the Eagle Historical Society at 262-594-8961 or curator@eaglehistoricalsociety.org.



EHS is a nonprofit corporation organized under the Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). All membership fees and donations are tax exempt.



Would you like to honor a loved one by purchasing a memorial brick to be placed in the EHS Veterans Memorial Walkway or a subscription to the EHS Newsletter as a Christmas Gift? Contact the museum at 262-594-8961 or curator@eaglehistoricalsociety.org for more details.





Obituaries



Allen "Al" M. Howard

Jan. 7, 1938—Jul. 4, 2025



Allen "Al" M. Howard, a longtime history professor at Rutgers University, Piscataway resident, avid gardener and social activist, died on July 4, 2025 at age 87.

Born on January 7, 1938 in Waukesha,

Wisconsin, Al took pride in coming from a long line of farmers. He graduated with the Class of 1960 from the University of Wisconsin, where he went on to earn a Ph.D. in history.

Al's first teaching experience, in 1963 was in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Al arrived at Rutgers in 1968 as a founding professor at Livingston College, where he helped develop strong programs in African and global history.

Al also served as Graduate Chair of the History Department and was actively engaged with the African Studies Association (ASA). He was known as a kind and generous colleague.

After moving to Piscataway in 1988, Al became a passionate organic gardener. He was always eager to share his bountiful tomatoes, beans, squash, berries and fresh produce with neighbors. He enjoyed spending time in nature while hiking, kayaking, swimming, and birdwatching. Al loved world music, especially music from the African

continent, and was known by generations of students as the "dancing professor." During his final years in assisted living, the staff fondly called him "the music man."

Throughout his life, Al fought for justice in many realms, from the local to the global. He was active in the Central American Sanctuary movement of the 1980s and the international struggle against apartheid in South Africa in the 80s and early 90s. Closer to home, he organized for grassroots democracy as a member of the Piscataway Progressive Democratic Organization and for environmental justice as a member of NJ Food and Water Watch.

Al leaves behind his wife, Ann Bastian; children, Margaret Schechter and Sarah Howard; grandchildren, Anna and William Schechter and Robyn and Sonya Thompson; as well as his brother Charles "Ty" Howard, sister-in-law Beverly Howard, and nieces, Laura Patterson, Karen Howard and Rachel Calef. He was predeceased by his first wife, Mary Dalton, and second wife, Peggy Friedman.

Al Howard's life will be celebrated by his family and friends on April 18, 2026 at Stonebridge at Montgomery, in Skillman, New Jersey, the senior community where he lived and received extraordinary care over the past four years. Donations in his honor can be made to NJ Food and Water

Watch: <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/>.



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Stamp



Visit our website



Crazy Quilt Raffle



Have you ever heard of a crazy quilt? Bits and pieces of leftover fabrics, notions, and trims are creatively pieced together and accessorized with embroidery to form these works of art. One example is the 92" x 92" quilt seen at left which was crafted by a very talented group of ladies more than two decades ago. Persons involved in this fund raising project were: Elaine Potrykus, Topsy Von Rueden, Virginia Dudzek, Jay Snake, Sue Cusick, Nancy Manschot, Jessica Chamberlin, Jean Dernell, Nada Moeller, Jan Grotjan, Rose Raiter, Pat Chapman, Karen Kennedy, Mickey Nelson, Maxine Gapinski, Diane Peohnelt, Carol Thomas, Renee Hisey, Maureen Hisey, Eris Thurston, Jean Bowey, Joanne Loshaw, Welthy Mueller, Bea Nowicki and Jill Blaedow. A raffle for this quilt was held where tickets were sold at EHS, Krestan's and Eagle's Headquarters for \$1 each or six for \$5. The

fortunate winner, Ellie Hall, was presented with the quilt at the ice cream social and band concert on July 9, 2000 and she is sharing it with us for the community to enjoy. Stop in and see it displayed in our Vernetta Heare Conference Room.

Compiled by Carrie Peavy from article in *Mukwonago Chief*, May 17, 2000.