



"A Musical Celebration of the Semiquincentennial Birthday of the Good Old U.S.A."
Under the direction of Jim Neist



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Treasure



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- Special Insert in Center -



Palestine Springs Oak Farm

Janet Evans and Scott Bovee, with help from the Marty and Samuelson families.

About 45 years ago, if you were travelling from North Prairie to Eagle on Highway 59, you would pass the old Palestine Springs Oak Farm at the intersection of Co. Rd. X and 59. The farm consisted of 160 acres of cropland, pasture, mature oaks and maples, and two springs, called Palestine Springs. Palestine is a placename, not a village. The origin of the name is lost to history but an early settler by the name of Ahira Hinkley donated an acre of his land for a school. He named it Palestine School.

Frank and Mary (Honeyager) Hess bought the Palestine Springs Oak farm around 1900 and moved into the small house on the west side of Hwy 59 which had been built in the 1890's. Around 1900-1904 Frank built a beautiful brick home in the Craftsman style across the road from his concrete house. The house features reverse dormers that open onto the roof which made tempting adventures for kids.



Home built by Frank Hess c. 1900-1904 featuring upstairs reverse dormers.

Frank and Mary's daughter Beulah married Elmer Marty, son of John and Lillian Marty, who owned a large farm on what is now Co. Hwy NN, about one mile east of Eagle. They took over the farm when Frank retired in 1945. Elmer and Beulah ran the Grade A dairy farm from 1945-1966. Their herd of about 50 Holstein cows was rated 4th in milk production in the

state of WI for fourteen years straight.

On the east side of the farm the two Palestine spring ponds are the start of Jericho Creek. The pond was not only a swimming hole for the kids but was stocked with trout and provided water for irrigating the pasture and lower field. When word got out that there was trout in the pond, people would sneak in from County Rd X to fish.

Elmer purchased an old military surplus engine-driven pump to irrigate the cow pasture and corn field. After irrigating, the pond would be low but would refill in about an hour. He put in a diving pier for swimming in the pond, which was a bracing 52 degrees, but it sure felt good on a hot July day.

Elmer and Beulah retired in 1966 and moved to Florida. Their son, Gordon and his wife Geri (Orth) continued to operate the farm. Their four children - Robert, Gail, Bev, and Mary, all had jobs to do as well.

The Marty Farm, 1966. Notice the stone milkhouse on the left side of the barn. A time capsule was discovered by the Samuelsons when the milkhouse was razed to accommodate a riding arena.

Gordon and Geri raised beef cattle, and Gordon



cash cropped. In the 1970's, the price of corn dropped dramatically, so Gordon took a job delivering bulk oil for Ralph Sanders of North Prairie to help make ends meet. During harvest season, son Robert would shell 4 gravity wagons of corn after working his day job and when Gordon got home from working 3rd shift, he would dry the loads. Robert would return home from work the next day to find four empty wagons waiting to be refilled.

Rob tells the story of when the farmer next door, Bob Hood – put in a free-stall barn and built a 75' Madison silo without a filler pipe included. With chopping season quickly approaching, the company could not install one in that amount of time. Gordon recruited Rob to scale the outside of the silo - without a safety harness - to the crow's nest, dragging a rope and pulley, which he secured to the top of the silo to install the pipe. Rob was accustomed to working at height because he painted communication and water towers for a living. He had painted the WTMJ antenna tower on Capitol Drive in Milwaukee.

Gordon Marty had two 40' silos erected at his farm and Robert would climb the silos and jump from one to the next while moving the filler pipe between them, causing his father, who was afraid of heights, some anxious moments.

After Gordon retired, his daughter Bev and her husband Russ Ludmilla took over the farm for a few years before selling it to Paul and Pauline Wasielewski. Eldest daughter Gail had married and moved to Minneapolis by that time and youngest daughter Mary was teaching at the Palmyra – Eagle School District.

Jim and Judy Samuels bought the farm in 1979 from the Wasielewski's and started Westwind Farm. They specialized in Hunter/Jumpers and Irish horses. Today Westwind Farm offers boarding, riding lessons, and horse training. The beautiful brick home is still there and is much the same inside with the original woodwork and built-in cabinets with glass doors in the living room. The old wood floors are in good condition, and it's clear the home has been lovingly cared for by

the family. Jim and Judy's son Kelly talked about climbing out on the roof from the upstairs windows just as the Marty kids had done 40 years before. The original barn burned several years ago and was replaced by a pole barn. The Samuelson's razed some of the original buildings for a new riding arena. During the demolition of the stone milkhouse, they found a time capsule with political newspapers inside. Frank Hess may have placed that time capsule in the stonework to commemorate an important historical event, but no one knows for sure, as the contents of the capsule were lost over time.

Despite the many changes the farm has seen, one thing is certain – families came here, drawn to the beauty and abundance of the land. They worked hard, built community, enjoyed the successes of their labor, and passed on those gifts to those who came later.

* * * * *

Artifact Donations

Thanks to the following donors:

Janet Evans
Jeff Nowicki
Ellie & Diana Hall
Randy Ray
The Erikson Estate

Mystery Artifact

Can you identify this item?

(See page 5 for answer)



Friends of the North Prairie Native Gardens Beautify EHS's Museum Grounds

By Janet Evans

If you've visited the EHS museum, you perhaps noticed the beautiful gardens which frame the patio and front yard. All year through, there is a bounty of color, texture, and shape reminiscent of an old painting or antique greeting card. The gardens are alive with bees, hummingbirds, and other pollinators who work their magic among the plants.

This is all due to the work of the **Friends of the North Prairie Native Gardens (FNPNG)**, non-profit organization dedicated to supporting beneficial pollinators, especially Monarch butterflies; and to restoring the native plants that once flourished in Waukesha County. Native plants play an important role in the environment, they help create and maintain a healthy ecosystem.



FNPNG at their 2025 spring plant sale

The Friends originated in North Prairie in 2020 over a concern about the cutting of milkweed at the Village Park during peak Monarch egg-laying and caterpillar development. Debbie Carrasco-Zanini, now a volunteer with FNPNG, contacted the local chapter of the Wild Ones

Monarch Restoration Committee who assisted in a plan to create an area of native plants in the park. With the support of the Village Board, the first stage of the native garden was established at the park. Today, people visit the park to learn about native plant diversity and see how the garden has matured over the past few years. Aside from the original display garden and the restored prairie, there are plans to put in a water-saving display at the Prairie Water Trust Pump Houses, and a footbridge at the display garden - designed and built by a local Eagle Scout. The Friends will partner with the North Prairie Historical Society to manage and maintain the plantings around the historic Klatt Houses at Veteran's Park.

All work is done by FNPNG volunteers. Some are retired like Deb Muraro, Bill Lebensorger and Bev Deakin who all brought special experience. Others work full-time like Lindsey and

Travis Woodhaven and Dawn Marie Staccia who have specific knowledge of plants and pollinators. Several volunteers also lend their skills to organizations like the Retzer Nature Center, the WI DNR, and the Waukesha Land Conservancy.

In 2023, the Friends approached EHS about creating a native garden at our museum. The following spring, work began in our front- and patio gardens. Weeds and non-native plants were removed, and native seedlings were planted. The new plants did well because native plants grow fast in their own habitat and quickly develop tap roots which help resist drought. The plants flourished! In 2025 the Friends redid the garden next to our veteran's memorial. This year, they will maintain the gardens. We encourage visitors to stop by our patio to enjoy this unique environment. **For more information about FNPNG visit their website:**

www.fnpng.com



From Our Readers

Hello Jeff,

I never heard of John Earl Baker. Perhaps he is a relative of Billie and his son Bob Baker, both I knew well. Both John Baker and I attended Ward School, He sounds like a very good man.

When in Grade School, Ward school and Eagle Public Schools held graduation together at the Opera House.

In Final curtain, my twin brother Jerry and I were hired by Jim Bovee to put up hay, He and his wife were very good people. She fixed an olden days lunch for us, I had a penny collection but did not have a 1909 V.D.B. She had one and gave it to me

Those were some fun events scheduled at the Opera House for grade school students. One Saturday the Holsum bread company put on a fun Program, and others.

One night a week in summers, movies were held at the downtown park. Repeat movies were a problem, a man with one a leg and his daughter ran the projector in the band stand, since a new one was built.

God Bless,
Jim Johnson

Hi Elaine,

Just got the April newsletter. Loved the article about the Eagle Opera House.

My memory of it was back in the 1970's Bonnie Mcguire lived there and ran an antique shop out of the bottom portion and lived up above. Her son Steve and I were and still are great friends. We played a lot upstairs in the big room and in the winter Bonnie would let us bring in our bikes (washed off) and let us ride around upstairs in that room. It was carpeted and still had a stage down on one end. I remember thinking how cool it was that we could ride bikes inside.

Bonnie sold it in the late 70's and the family moved to North Carolina where they still reside today.

Take care,
Pete Loerke

(Mystery Artifact Answer- from page 3).

No, it's not an Oreo cookie! It's an antique Civil War —era Union Case made of thermoplastic, featuring detailed floral and geometric pressed designs on both sides and a star motif inside the lid. It contains a round tintype portrait of a woman set in a gold-filled frame.

Earth Day at the Eagle Historical Society

On Earth Day, April 22, 2026, thirty-three third graders from Eagle Elementary and five adults spent the morning volunteering at the Eagle Historical Society.

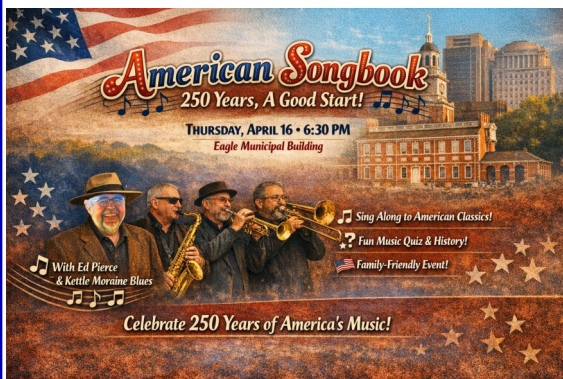
Students picked up sticks and rocks outside, just as early Eagle settlers once cleared their fields. Inside, half the group helped create a new museum exhibit and polished the glass display cases.



When the work was done, everyone enjoyed cookies and lemonade—a sweet finish to a meaningful day of learning and service.



American Songbook—250 Years A Good Start



The American Songbook concert on Thursday, April 16, was outstanding. Ed Pierce and the Kettle Moraine Blues blended music and history with remarkable storytelling—moving the audience from laughter to pride to misty eyes in a single song.



Stirring performances of “Glory Hallelujah” and “Grand Old Flag” filled the room with spirit, and Lori Heidenreich’s rendition of Scott Joplin’s *Solace* beautifully captured the charm of early ragtime. It was a terrific evening, and we are fortunate to have such talent in our community!



Museum Updates

New Stairs & Rail at the Museum



Thanks to a generous donation by Board member Pat Hawes, the EHS Museum entrance now features new stairs and handrails. Carpenter Ed Tietz provided his

expert craftsmanship, giving us an entrance that's sturdier, safer, and far more welcoming.

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### **Gas Line Installed at the Erikson Building**

EHS President Jeff Nowicki oversaw the installation of the new natural gas line at the Erikson

Building — an important step toward providing heat and comfort for future visitors. Kettle Moraine Heating completed the work,

trenching from the EHS Museum to the Erikson Building and laying and connecting the line.

There's still more to do, but progress is steady, and we're looking forward to a grand opening in early fall.



## Museum Happenings

### **Brat Sale**

The Brat Sale at the Eagle Historical Society was more than a fundraiser — it was a chance to meet new faces, reconnect with neighbors, and share a few laughs over a good brat. We loved seeing everyone who stopped by. Our goal is simple: to remind our community that we're here, preserving and celebrating Eagle's story. You've had your brat — now come visit the museum and explore the history that connects us all.



A big **thank you** to Chef Jim Neist and all our volunteers. We couldn't do this without you!

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Passport Visitor at the Museum

We recently welcomed a Passport traveler on his journey through Waukesha and Walworth Counties. During his stop, Jim got his Passport stamped, explored our exhibits and especially enjoyed the musical instruments and the player piano with its charming "old-time" tunes.



Obituary

Dorothy C. Kau

March 18, 1925 ~ April 9, 2026 (age 101)



Dorothy C. Kau, age 101, of Eagle, Wisconsin passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 9, 2026 at Fort Atkinson Hospital.

Dorothy was born on March 18, 1925 in Eagle on the family farm, the daughter of John and Katherine (Faestel) VonRueden. Dorothy was a 1942 graduate of Palmyra High School. On May 21, 1949, Dorothy was united in marriage to Alvin E. Kau at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Eagle and the Lord blessed their union with 8 children. Alvin and Dorothy enjoyed 50 years of marriage together until Alvin's death in the year 2000.

Dorothy enjoyed being a farm wife. She was a true business partner to her husband and later their sons that joined them in the business. She made sure to keep everyone fed three times a day on home cooked meals with ingredients she had preserved from her garden. She will be remembered as an avid and accomplished crocheter, cook and baker especially her donuts and decorated birthday cakes. She also waded into modern technology on her iPad to watch the news, EWTN and Rosary. She stayed on the family farm until she was 100. She was able to stay and enjoy her home farm through the love and devotion of her children and several care givers, Sarah, Betty, Birgit, Vicki, Sherry and her weekly massage with Wendy. She moved to Fairhaven last April and enjoyed the many social activities and the dear friends she became reacquainted with and new friends and staff that were so incredibly friendly and kind. Hospitality and gatherings with extended family and friends were her enjoyment. Above all else in Dorothy's life, was her love for God, followed by her family and her friends. She was devoted to her faith. She lived a wonderful life and it's the end of a family era. She will be deeply missed but forever remembered by those she leaves behind.

Dorothy is survived by: her loving children; Susan (Randall Zirk) Kau of Madison, Kenneth (Leslie) Kau of Palmyra, Gerard (Jani) Kau of Palmyra, Patricia (William) Breitzman of Stillwater, MN, Jean Ann (Tim) Reith of Palmyra, and Daughter-In-Law Cheri Kau Miller of Florida; and her grandchildren, Mackenzie, Alyssa, Jennifer, Kendall, Jerrod, Henry, Matthew, Jessica, Peter, Meagan (Evan), Chelsea (Matt), Kaylea, Tyler (Micheala), Nicholas (Katherine), and Jonathan (Abigail). She is further survived by 15 great-grandchildren, and a number of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her dear husband, Alvin E. Kau, 3 children, Kristine, Teresa, and James, her grandchild, Jamie, and two siblings, Elizabeth (the late George) Kau, and Joseph (the late Marie) VonRueden.

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Open Hours

Wednesdays,

Fridays & Saturdays:

9 am-Noon

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A Timeline of Village of Eagle 4th of July Celebrations

by Dana Houk

The first organized celebration of July 4th occurred in Philadelphia in 1777. Congress officially designated it as a federal holiday in 1870.

A brief history of the development of our community and nation puts into perspective the sentiments of the Independence Day holiday celebrations through the years.

1836: The surrounding prairie was named Eagleville and settled.

1851: The Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad traveled through the community and named its depot Eagle Centre.

1860: Census listed 1,295 residents in Eagle Centre.

1861: Eagle sent 100 young men to join the Union forces of the Civil War which lasted until 1865.

The first documented July 4th parade in Eagle is described in an article from the Waukesha Freeman newspaper. A new flagpole had been erected in the public square. A canon boomed as accompaniment to a brass band. The 9:15 train arrived with hundreds of attendees from Madison, Janesville, Milton, and Whitewater and stops in between. The 11:00 train delivered spectators from Milwaukee and Genesee.

Astride a regal horse, parade marshal L.W.

Robinson led the crowd to a grove beyond town to hear the many grand speeches and patriotic concert.

1880: Eagle was recognized as the third community of importance in Waukesha County for commerce.

1898: "The social dance at the opera house hall on the Fourth was a grand success in every particular...on Independence Day. Ice cream was served as usual and all had a pleasant time. The Eagle Orchestra furnished the music and gave the best of satisfaction." (*Eagle Quill newspaper, Friday, July 8, 1898; Volume VIII. No. 19; page 1.*)

1899: Eagle Centre was incorporated as the Village of Eagle.

1900: Rob Morris Lodge (Eagle Opera House/Masonic Lodge, built 1893, decorated with American flag for July 4th celebration c.1900), seating capacity 350 people)

1902: The Eagle Telephone Company began service.

1905: Featured a marching parade, a choir of 8 voices and a 17-piece cornet band, prayer, speeches, games, races, fireworks, and a social dance. (EHS newsletter April-July 2020)



1887: (EHS Newsletter July 2016)



Eagle Opera House/Masonic Lodge



EAGLE PARADE - JULY 4th 1915.



EAGLE

1908: Ford's Model T car was first produced and began to appear on Eagle's streets.

1915: The Eagle July 4th celebration is now known as the Kettle Moraine Days Parade.

1917-1918: U.S. involved in WWI; more than 118,000 Wisconsin soldiers served with almost 4,000 deaths



1922: Eagle received electricity; rural farms didn't receive electrical service until the 1930s.

1929-1939: The American Great Depression affected families and communities' financial well-being.

1941-1945: The U.S. fought in WWII. "It is estimated that in the army of 1944 there will be seven million 800 thousand men, and that there will be over 400,000 women Officers and enlisted personnel." (Eagle Quill newspaper, Friday, July 2, 1943; Volume LII No. 40; page 4)

1921: Parade, Delavan Cornet band, Eagle vs Palmyra (winner) and Eagle (winner) vs Jefferson baseball games, Scotch games and races, fireworks, and dance. (Eagle Quill July 8, 1921, Vol. XXXI, pg. 1)

1943: "In the hearts of all of us, stamped in letters of red, white, and blue, sounding notes as loud as firecrackers, soaring in spirit as high as clouds...floundering victorious through a jungle mud, writing in blood, beats the cry, throbs the urgent plea for liberty for all, unity. This is the way today, we celebrate the glorious Fourth, and deeper imbedded in all of us is the reverence for what this day stands."
(Eagle Quill Friday, July 2, 1943 Vol. L11, pg. 4)

2004: EHS volunteers replicate the 1915 Royal Neighbors of America float of virtues: courage, faith, endurance, unselfishness, and modesty. (Julie Dexter, Elaine Ledrowski, Darlene Landmann, Eris Thurston, Sally Klatkiewicz)



Indivisible
"With Liberty and Justice for all!"



2007: Rob Hawes "Have you heard of the Eagle Diamond"

KETTLE MORAINE DAYS PARADE



2017: Carrie & Art Peavy toss candy to the spectators