# THE EAGLE

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPEAKS

FEBRUARY 2010

www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

"OLD ABE"

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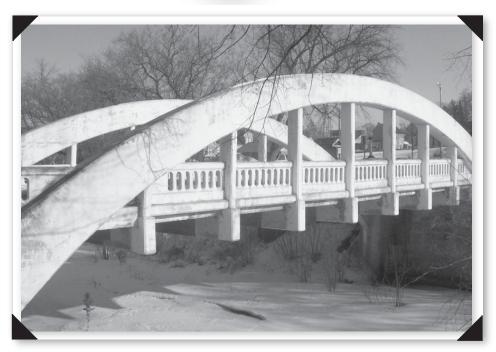
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## CCHS Semi Annual Membership Meeting

Monday, February 15 • 7:00 p.m. Area History Center

- President's Progress Report and Hall of Fame Inductions
- Anne Keller's 2009 European Tour slide show including a special ceremony on Omaha Beach on June 6, the 65th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion



Marsh Rainbow Arch Bridge was built in 1916 by the Iowa Bridge Company at a cost of \$13,950.

## Please help us save the last Marsh Rainbow Arch Bridge in Wisconsin!

JIM SCHUH

The Chippewa County Historical Society Board of Director's encourages everyone to show his or her support for saving the bridge by writing a letter and attending the March City Public Information Meeting. The City is studying replacement of the bridge because it is considered "functionally obsolete". Community input will impact the outcome. For more information see our letter on page 5 of our November 2009 newsletter.

The City must hear our message: "Restore this bridge to Good Condition" by repairing the concrete so water cannot penetrate, removing rust, repainting and limiting traffic if needed. We must ensure that it remains for future generations.

The low traffic counts and minimal safety concerns allow the city to pick "Restore" as the most prudent option. There is no increase in traffic projected for this bridge. We must all take this opportunity to really look at what is best for our community. Federal funds are available for 80% of the restoration costs.

**Send letters to:** City Engineer, 30 W. Central St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.

## CHIPPEWA COUNTY

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## 2010-2012

#### **OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

#### **OFFICERS**

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- \* Nancy Schuh, 5432 178th St., Chippewa Falls 726-2376 (12)
- \* Teri Stahr, 7493 County Hwy K Chippewa Falls 723-9007 (10)
- \* Arley Engel, 5294 90th St., Chippewa Falls (11) 723-5124



This bridge was the only **Duncan Creek** bridge that survived the destructive flood of 1934.

Save Rainbow Bridge continued from cover

## Chippewa County Historical Society Historic Marker #9

The plaque reads: The Marsh Rainbow Arch Bridge, East Spring Street & Rushman Drive at Duncan Creek in Historic Downtown Chippewa Falls, WI.

The City of Chippewa Falls was organized around two moving bodies of water, the Chippewa River and its tributary, Duncan Creek. Bridges soon became necessary with rapid expansion of the transportation system in the late 19th and early 20th century. By 1891, within the city limits, seven bridges crossed Duncan Creek and one crossed the Chippewa River.

This architecturally significant "Rainbow Arch Bridge" is a classic example of the small reinforced concrete bridges, which began appearing around the United States in the 1890s and were built in large numbers in the early 20th century. The 93 foot single span Spring Street Bridge is constructed in the typical arch form in which the roadway is suspended from the arch. Eight concrete vertical intermediate posts on each side are joined by the concrete floor beams. It is further characterized by the two decorative balustrade railings, and the four original lampposts that remain intact. &

# To the Membership of the Chippewa County Historical Society:

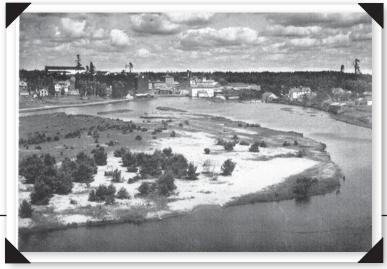
By Committee Chair: Thomas K. Larson, Fire Chief

The Historical Marker Committee of the Chippewa County Historical Society has been hard at work as we have recently achieved an important milestone. With the installation last fall of the new historical marker at the Chippewa County Poor Farm Cemetery along County Highway I in Chippewa Falls, the Society has now placed fifty (50) historical markers in fifty (50) historic locations around Chippewa County.

We are now in the process of compiling this information in a book form. Our goal is to go to print and sell a soft cover book of the "Historical Markers & Locations of Chippewa County, Wisconsin". Proceeds from the book sales could be a fund raiser for the Society!

Our Committee has also created a computer PowerPoint presentation called "Historical Markers & Locations of Chippewa County, Wisconsin". We are willing to share and present this PowerPoint to interested groups within the community.

Your Chippewa County Historical Society Historical Marker Committee Arley Engel, Kurt Gaber, Tom Larson, Jim Schuh



Scene from Chestnut Grove-Chippewa Falls

## The Mill Pond Warming House

**ARLEY ENGEL** 

**T**n searching for information on the warming house at the Marshall Playgrounds ice **⊥**rink, my first thought was of who was the care taker that kept the fire going in the little house. While talking to Lucy LeCleir at our Historical Society, I asked if she had any photos of the warming house at the Marshall Playgrounds. In her search for a photo, the first one she came up with was a photo of the area of the Marshall playgrounds from way back to the time when the Star Mill building was on the property. What really caught my attention was the caption on the bottom of the photo—it stated "scene from Chestnut Grove, Chippewa Falls. This brought many thoughts to mind, like is this where The Chestnut School got its name? After all this area is less than two blocks from the school as the bird flies. This photo also shows the Leinenkugel's Brewery and the Chippewa Woolen Mill in the background, as you may or may not know the Mill pond was built to supply power for the Star Mill where they ground wheat and other grain products into flour. I asked Lucy if she knew who the caretaker was at the warming house? She could not remember and then asked if I had skated at the rink? In thinking back I remembered spending time on the ice with the Culbert family. My next call was to Jeanine (Culbert) Yohnk. Our little chat brought up many old memories, but she also had no clue who the caretaker was.

There was no quitting now my next call was Roger Meier, former Park Manager. He has a great memory and is a good source of information for me. Roger came up with the name of Ed Cahoon. To check this out, my next call was to Jean (Cahoon) Zylstra. Jean was a member of our class of 1954 at Chi Hi. Her first response was "OH DEAR" that was my father. His name was Alvin "Al" Cahoon and, yes, he was the caretaker at the warming house. Jean told of how he was very involved in teaching the younger children to play the game of "Hockey" and of the many trips they had taken to hockey games. She said that she loved to skate and spent many hours with her father at the Marshall Playground ice rink. She also informed me that her father had a heart attack while skating and passed away with his skates on, only being in his early 60's.

So in my search for information on the Warming House at the Mill Pond I came up with more new questions on Historic Chippewa Falls—maybe you can help with some answers to these questions. Does any one have information on the Star Mill and did Chestnut School get its name from this Chestnut Grove. If you can help, please contact us at the Chippewa County Historical Society. We are open on Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Our phone number is 723-4399. *That's all for now from Engel's Little House On the Wheaton Prairie.* 



February 9, 1:00 p.m.

The Past Passed Here Planning

Meeting

February 15, 7:00 p.m. CCHS Semi Annual Membership Meeting. (Replaces Board Meeting, see cover for details)

February 16, Noon
Area History Center Birthday
Lunch

February 23, 1:00 p.m. Chippewa Falls History Coalition Meeting

March 9, 1:00 p.m. The Past Passed Here Planning Meeting

March 16, 9:15 a.m. CCHS Board Meeting

March 16, 9:15 a.m. Historic Marker Committee Meeting

March 16, Noon
Area History Center Birthday
Lunch

March 23, 1:00 p.m.
Chippewa Falls History Coalition
Meeting

April 13, 1:00 p.m.
The Past Passed Here Planning
Meeting

April 20, 9:15 a.m. CCHS Board Meeting

April 20, Noon Area History Center Birthday Lunch

April 27, 1:00 p.m.
Chippewa Falls History Coalition
Meeting





# FEATURED ARTIFACT

#### **Wicker Stroller**

**NANCY SCHUH** 

Thank you to Susan DeLong for recently donating this Antique Baby Carriage to the History Center. Her Grandparents bought the carriage for her Mother, Marie (Kalk) DeLong. Marie was born in 1897 and passed away in 2000, having lived in three centuries. Marie belonged to the CCHS so Susan and her sister thought this would be the perfect spot for the carriage. It is on display in the Allen Room. CCHS Tour Guide, Pat Ahneman has added this well dressed teddy bear to the display.



Here we are in 2010. We begin the New Year with snow and cold. After all we do live in Wisconsin. It may be cold outside but it's warm at the History Center.

The Board of Directors at its January meeting reviewed the list of nominees to determine if any members of the society should be inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2010. It is with great pleasure I announce that the Board of Directors has selected three candidates to enter the Hall of Fame at the Membership Meeting in February 15, 2010. James Schumacher, Arley Engel and Lucy LeCleir will join Dolores Beaudette, Eugene Harm, Winifred Glass Jenson, Joe Joas, Marvin Nauman and Betty Plombon in the Chippewa County Historical Society Hall of Fame.

James Schumacher was a charter member of the Society and President from 1998 until his death in December 2006. He loved to give presentations about the Great Lumbering era in Chippewa. He contributed to the Society in so many ways.

Arley Engel is a best known as the author of articles from "Engel's Little House on the Wheaton Prairie" that appears in the *Eagle Speaks*. He has been an important member of the Board of Directors for many years and served as Vice President. He creates HS displays at *The Past Passed Here* and is on the Historic Marker Committee.

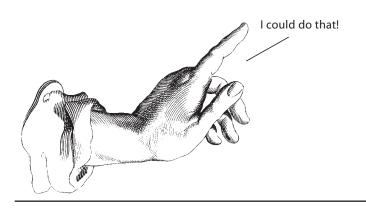
Lucy LeCleir has the Society's collection of over 6,000 photographs well documented and cataloged. She has been Secretary and a member of the Board of Directors of the Society for a number of years. Most important if it weren't for Lucy you wouldn't have a pot luck dinner or refreshments at the semi-annual meetings.

I look forward to inducting these three new members into the Hall of Fame for all they have done for the Society at our February Membership Meeting.

I traveled to the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire to meet with John Mann who is head of the Public History program in the History Department at the University. The Public History program is for students who want to pursue a career in preserving history for future generations. These students become archivists and work as professional staff in museums. The course work includes an introduction to Public History, a seminar in Public History were the students do research and write papers for history organizations in the community and finally they must complete an internship of 120 hours in Public History. I am very interested in working with John to apply for students to work at the History Center with the Historical Society. There are several areas that we could make major advances with our collection and museum. We have just broken the surface of getting the information about our artifacts into the computer in PastPerfect. This would be a chance for a student to work with the software that is used by many museums. Also we are very interested in making the display of our artifacts more educational with information that visitors can learn more about Chippewa County's history.

Plans for *The Past Passed Here* are progressing very nicely with regular monthly meetings lead by Jim Schuh and Mary Brown acting as producers of the event.

Hope to see you on February 15, 2010 at the History Center for our Membership Meeting.  $Dave \ *$ 





### **COUNTRY NEW**

## An Example of Volunteering

**SHARON ZENNER** 

Chippewa County Genealogical Society is always looking for volunteers. Recently, Anne Keller, one of the original members of CCGS, volunteered to be the CCGS liaison at the Chippewa County Historical Society Board of Director's meetings. Anne attends the meetings and reports back to the CCGS Board, keeping both organizations informed as to the activities of each. In addition to this, Anne is the CCGS representative on the Chippewa Falls History Coalition. She will also be the CCGS representative with the Chamber of Commerce.

This is an example of volunteer opportunities with CCGS. While we have a real need for volunteers to assist researchers on Tuesdays, opportunities such as the ones assumed by Anne exist also. Volunteering is a way for you to actively participate in your organization and in order for CCGS to remain a viable group, active participation is a must.

Perhaps a good way of "volunteering" would be for a member to encourage other local members to attend the monthly meetings. Another good way to volunteer would be to be a program presenter at a monthly meeting – a simple report on your research – how you got started, where you are etc. Or to assist Ken Koss, Program Chairman, to find interesting programs for meetings.

Raise your hand - volunteer!

 $\blacksquare$ 

#### **CCHS Semi Annual Membership Meeting Program**

Monday, February 15 • 7:00 p.m. • Area History Center

Anne Keller will present a 2009 slide show that she created. Last June 26 people, many of them historians and World War II buffs, traveled from the Chippewa Falls/Eau Claire area to Normandy, France, Luxembourg, and Bastogne, Belgium. One highlight of the trip was being on Omaha Beach on the 6th of June, the 65th Anniversary of the Invasion (D-Day). A special day for their group was visiting the village of Sainteny (Normandy), where they participated in a special ceremony during which one of their group was recognized for his involvement in helping to liberate the village in 1944. Monet's Gardens at Giverny were especially beautiful to see in June.

### **Stanley Area Historical Society**

DAVE JANKOSKI, REPORTER

On January 30, 2010, the Stanley Area Historical Society held our annual meeting. David Jankoski was elected President and Fred Evans was elected Vice-President. Janet Solie was reelected as Secretary and Twila Plummer as treasurer. Board Members re-elected were Mark Bernklau, Margaret Fisk and Betty Plombon. The year 2009 was once again a very good one for our museum and we remain thankful to all of our members and supporters. Although our expenses were up, our donations have kept pace with those increases.

Volunteers remain our most valuable assets and a solid core of the faithful can be found working at our museum on most Tuesday mornings and afternoons. Perhaps our biggest accomplishment in 2009 was the complete cleaning, rearranging and re-labeling of our Logging and Farming Building. This building was closed during 2009 and will be reopened on July 10, 2010, when we will celebrate the grand opening of our newest building that will house our 1906 Cadillac. A number of other exhibits throughout the museum are also being replaced or updated.

Our new building is substantially completed except for the front entrance brickwork, which will be completed this spring. The paver brick sidewalks in the front and back of the building turned out great and look very nice. Exhibit work remains to be completed and

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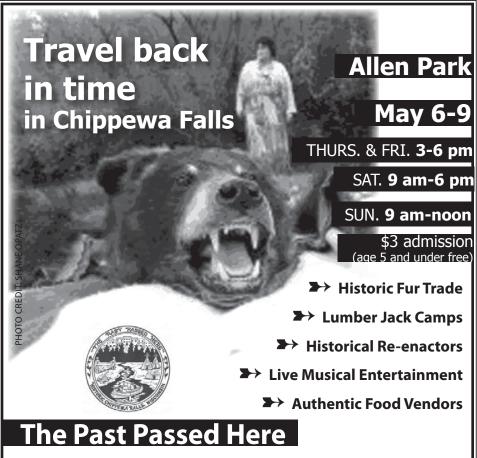
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The Past Passed Here will take place the week before Mother's Day. Community volunteers are needed when it is open to the public. There are many ways that you can help—take orders in our food booth, man the admission gate, or assist with souvenir medallion making.

We need financial sponsors to make this event a success and to make it possible to offer this educational, family oriented and tourism boosting event this year and into the future. The CCHS is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit educational corporation and donations are tax deductible. For sponsor recognition details, to contribute or to participate as a volunteer, contact event co-chairs Mary Brown at 715-723-0619 or Jim Schuh at 715-726-2376.

Presented by: Chippewa County Historical Society



## **Chippewa County Historical Society Committee Members**

- **\* Collection & Artifacts:** 
  - \* Nancy Schuh, Arley Engel, Lucyann LeCleir, Terri Stahr, Gail Willi, Jeff Pritchard

## Photography Sub Committee: \*Lucyann LeCleir, Donna Bourget

- \*Building & Grounds:
  \*Steve Rasmus
- Space Utilization Sub Committee \*Steve Rasmus
- \* Education:

\*Catherine Lea, Evalyn Frasch, Ann Gordon, Rosemary Broeren

**Docent Subcommittee:** Lalie Boos, Pat Ahneman

- \* Exhibits:
  - \* Arley Engel, Nancy Schuh, Lucyann LeCleir

#### Historic Markers Sub Committee:

- \* Tom Larson, Jim Schuh, Arley Engel, Kurt Gaber
- \* Finances:
  - \*Skip August, Kathy Forsgren
- \* Membership:\*Shirley Liedl, Mary McKenna
  - **Telephone Subcommittee:** \*Mary McKenna
- \* Publicity:
  - \*Jim Schuh, Wayne Meyer Newsletter Design: Elly Rochester
- \* Chairperson





Kurt Gaber

#### **Stanley Area Historical Society**

continued from page 5

the end is nearing on a wall painting by local artist Joyce McManus, which depicts early Stanley and the Stanley fire. It appears we are on schedule for total completion by our grand opening weekend.

We are currently planning our summer work and are exploring costs and needs of repairing the exterior wall on the northwest corner of our 102 year old building. The total project includes removal of a retaining wall, some sidewalk work and construction of a road to our Logging and Farming Building.

We hope many of you can visit us during our grand opening weekend in July.



The Eagle Speaks is published quarterly by the Chippewa County Historical Society, a non-profit organization established to promote and stimulate historical interest in Chippewa County, Wisconsin.

Mail any comments or future articles to 123 Allen St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.715-723-4399.

**Chippewa County Historical Society** 123 Allen St., Chippewa Falls, WI Open on Tuesdays | 9am-4pm

#### A VOLUNTEER PROFILE MARY MCKENNA

Kind

orn and raised in Washburn, Wisconsin, on the shores of Lake Superior, Kurt Gaber Bgot his start in the sign business at the age of eleven. He lettered bicycles that he used to race at a small bike track that the neighborhood kids built by themselves on an empty lot. A year later he lettered his brother's racecar, and from there it grew into lettering more racecars, snowmobiles and signs. With business cards in hand, "Little Gaber Signs" was up and running for the thirteen year old.

Following only a year in college, split between UW-Eau Claire and UW-Superior, a summer visit to see his brother in Appleton brought a job opportunity at a sign shop, and at nineteen years of age, he decided to forego the schooling and jump right into sign painting full time. Within a year, another job opportunity came about in Eau Claire. So in 1985 he moved back to work at a sign shop and married his grade school sweet-heart, Natalie, and they have been living in the area ever since.

After working out of his home for seven years, Gaber moved the business to downtown Chippewa Falls in early 1999. The business specializes in vehicle lettering, but also does a good share of dimensional signage, banners, and sandblasted signs. Recently they have expanded into large format printing for signs and vehicle wraps. One full time employee, Jon Stoll, has worked at Gaber Signs for nearly six years.

Kurt was encouraged to participate on the design committee for Chippewa Falls Main Street, and he enjoyed doing volunteer work and getting involved on several projects with Jim Schuh and others on the committee. In 2002, after nearly a year's worth of planning, Gaber and Main Street hosted the Chippewa Falls Brush Bash where over thirty-five sign painters from across the U.S. and Canada came together to hand paint several murals downtown. In 2006, Kurt, Dale Manor of Menomonie, Jim Schuh, and the sign painters came back to town to create more downtown murals. The core of the project was the highly visible Harmony Courtyard murals. Countless hours (some into the wee hours of the morning) earned Kurt the Chippewa Falls Main Street Volunteer of the Month as well as the Volunteer of the Year at the Wisconsin Main Street Award banquet.

After a decade he continues to serve on the Chippewa County Historical Society Marker Committee where he volunteers doing maintenance work on existing signs including staining posts and replacing worn out marker houses, and designing, printing and installing new signs throughout the county. Gaber pointed out that his daughter, Lindsay, and son, Hunter, as well as employee, Jon, have all helped out with many of the marker house projects over





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Arley & June Engel......5.00

Arley & June Engel......5.00

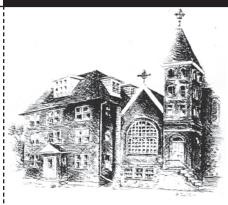
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Don Bichner ...... \$ 40.00 Lucy LeCleir.....5.00 

......\$17.00

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## A VOLUNTEER PROFILE continued from page 8

Note: The Past Past Here sponsors will be recognized in our next issue.

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Ruth Bowe Ruth Bowe

the years. His father-in-law, Wayne Andrews, of Menomonie, also volunteered his time in building several new marker houses a few years ago.

Kurt enjoys working with the committee members and doing what he can to help keep the history of our community and county intact. We feel indebted to Kurt for his generosity and many contributions to our History Center and for the countless hours he and his family have given to add to the beauty of our community. Due to his significant contributions Kurt was awarded the first Honorary Lifetime Membership in the CCHS in October 2009.

## Chippewa County Mistorical Society

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