# THE EAGLE

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**SPEAKS** 

FEBRUARY 2013

www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

"OLD ABE"

## Inside this Issue:

Calendar	2
Cigar Manufacturing	
Committee Members	
County News	8
Cruising Chippewa Falls	
Donations	
Featured Artifact	4
Historical Marker Update	4
Membership Form	5
Officers & Directors	7
President's Letter	8
Special Thank You	7
Upcoming Slide Shows	3
Volunteers Needed	3
Volunteer Profile	9

COVER PHOTO: Eystad's Phillips 66 station used to be located where The Medicine Shop is currently located.



# Monday, February 11 • 6:30 p.m. CCHS Semi Annual Membership Meeting at the Area History Center

- President's Progress Report & Hall of Fame Induction
- ► Historic Marker Committee's new CD PowerPoint slide show featuring 53 CCHS Historic Markers and WI Historical Markers located in Chippewa County. Presentation by Tom Larson.



# Cruising Chippewa Falls Automotive Past with Eugene Berg

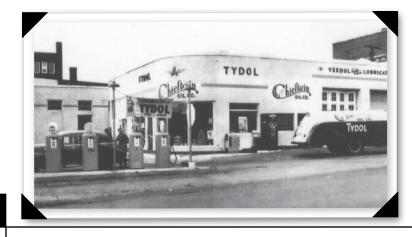
BY ARLEY ENGEL

On a sunny day in early December of 2012, I picked up Mr. Berg at Berg's Bee Line, 118 East Central St.. Eugene is a well versed gentleman on the history of automotive dealers, repair shops and service stations in our downtown area. As he got in the car, he motioned to drive over by the east bank of Duncan Creek. He then explained that the deed for his property that was purchased in 1958 contained a proclamation that the site had been surveyed for a dam. Hard to believe the creek could have supplied enough water to power another dam so close to the one that supplied the power to run the shoe factory at Central St.. As we drove behind John's Auto Parts he mentioned that the big building had been built for a candy factory.

We traveled west on Columbia St.. He asked if I remembered the Allis Chalmers tractor dealer that was located where the Pederson Volker parking lot is today at 50 East Columbia, to which I replied yes, and I proceeded to tell him of a display that this dealership had at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair around 1948. Allis Chalmers had just come out with a new model "G" tractor and this dealership designed a test drive area where the tractor was chained to a metal post, welded to a big steel plate that allowed the tractor to go around and around the post at a slow idle in low gear. OSHA would go bonkers at such a sight today! (An interesting display to a young farm lad.)



## CALENDAR



Chieftain Oil on corner of River and Bridge.

## February 5

**Noon** Rotary Lunch Meeting, at Avalon Hotel, CCHS Pres., Dave Gordon, will narrate a slide show

### February 11

**6:30 pm** CCHS Semi Annual Membership Meeting

## February 12

**10:30 am** Historic Marker Committee Meeting

## February 19

**Noon** Area History Center Birthday Lunch

#### February 23

**9 am - 1 pm** Area History Center & Museum Open

## February 26

**1:00 p.m.** The Past Passed Here Planning Meeting

#### February 28

**10:30 a.m.** at Chippewa Falls Area Senior Center. CCHS Pres., Dave Gordon, will narrate a slide show: A Tour of the Chippewa County Historical Society Museum

#### March 19

**9:30 am** CCHS Board Meeting **Noon** Area History Center Birthday Lunch

#### March 23

**9 am - 1 pm** Area History Center & Museum Open

## **April 16**

**9:30 a.m.** CCHS Board Meeting **Noon** Area History Center Birthday Lunch

## **April 27**

**9 am - 1 pm** Area History Center & Museum Open

As we traveled up to Bridge St., Gene mentioned the popcorn wagon that sat at the northwest corner and operated on Friday and Saturdays and also on any special downtown occasions. At the corner of Bay St. on the northeast lot was Brask Service Station & Battery Service—now Goulet's Service Station; on the southeast corner, the Delong Service Station; and across the street on the southwest corner, Krall Motor and Body Repair.

Traveling south on Bay, at Grand Avenue was the Chippewa Valley Auto Company owned by Fred Bigler. They sold Chevrolet and Buick cars plus Lighthouse brand gasoline. Proceeding south at 124 Bay St., Kohls and Hanson ran a Pontiac dealership. Edward Kohls and Berger Hanson were partners in the business. In the next block south, Anderson Motors was located at 102 Bay St., Henry Anderson was the owner and they sold Oldsmobile and Cadillac autos. Martell Tire Service is in this building today. Across the street to the south on Spring St. was Kamp Motor Sales, Lyle Kamp was the owner and sold Nash cars, later selling Kaiser Frazer autos. Then to the west I.P. "Red" Berg ran the Arrow Taxi Co.

We turned east on River St. and talked of Weigand Ford Mercury Sales at 16-22 W. River St.. On the corner of River and Bridge streets, Golden Rule Oil Company operated a service station and had a bulk oil and gas delivery service owned by Ray Johns. It was later taken over by his son Rene Johns and was a Mobil Station and oil jobber (now closed and torn down). At the east side of Bridge St. Weigand's had a used car lot.

Heading north, at 9 N. Bridge St. was the home to Griffin Doege Auto Parts owned by Don Griffin and Hilt Doege. Across the street was Sally Ann Bakery operated by Christ and his son Harry Lea. Hurt's Tavern was just to the north of the Griffin Doege store. This bar later owned by Trummie Schneider, and still later by Paul Oman as a Pizza Place.

Turning right on Central St. at 16-16 East Central was Germain's Auto Body and Radiator Repair. Ed Germain was the owner and radiator repair man. Traveling further east on Central, we came to Lueck's Cycle shop building, Euhrich Lueck was the owner operator. Harley Davidson motorcycles and Schwinn bicycles were sold here. I don't remember of Mr. Lueck ever driving an auto or truck, even though he owned a Ford pickup that was driven by his nephew Carl. Euhrich always drove a Harley with a side car.

Turning around we passed the former site of Rand Implement Co., home of the John Deer tractor and implement dealership. George Rand Jr. was the owner operator. Do you remember the good times in the spring when John Deere days were celebrated with a feed at the dealership and later a movie showing the new items available from John Deere and a Lassie type movie at Falls Theater?

We turned right on Bridge St. and headed north to Willow, Gene mentioned the former home of Lowater Auto Parts at 502-504 N. Bridge St.. Don Lowater was the president of this business having bought in with his uncle. Looking to the west on Willow we could see the Charles Henneman building which was built in 1906. Some of the son's of Charles that I remember include Ervin, Joyce, Milton, Harold and Bruce. Quite a group of hard working gentlemen. They sold Hudson and Packard cars, International trucks, tractors,



Standard Oil Station at Willow and Bridge

The Lighthouse
Gas Station
located
on Hwy. 29
at Irvine St.

farm equipment and the Fox chopper line. Plus Meyer pumps, Hinnman milkers, DeLaval separators, along with a full line of parts to repair this equipment.

Back on Bridge St. we stopped in front of the Salvation Army building, this place was built for Bruley Chainey Motors at 521 N. Bridge St.. Casper "Cap" Bruley was the president with Art Chainey as secretary-treasurer. They sold Dodge cars and trucks. Next we stopped in front of the Medicine Shop. In years gone by this was the location of Eystad's Phillips 66 Station. Harry Eystad Sr. was the owner, Harry Eystad Jr. the bulk oil delivery person, John Eystad the station manager and another brother, Al, as a station attendant. Across the street was the Studebaker Garage at 602 N. Bridge operated by Wes Rowlet. I remember Clyde Heidtke being one of the mechanics there.

We drove by the sights of Thompson Oil Co., Gramont's Cities Service and North Side Shell, many memories at each station. As we turned on Elm St. we headed west to Wheaton St., at this intersection is the H & R Electric shop. The main part of this building was build for Art Perrenoud as a dealership for Nash Cars in 1933. On the north side at 504 W. Elm, Henry "Hank" Geissler had a general repair shop which he later moved downtown to the site of the present day Fill Inn Station. As we traveled around on the west hill, we drove west and south till we overlooked into Irvine and the old Peter's Meat packing plant and commented how much better things smell today in this area.

We talked about the Lighthouse Gas Sation located on Highway 29 at Irvine St.. This station was operated by John Redman. It was later set up as a drive-in restaurant and later sold to the O'Neil Creek Campgrounds where it continued as a place to sell treats. It eventually was torn down due to decaying structure. As we drove in towards the Irvine Ghost Bar, Gene mentioned the Irvine Hotel operated by Arthur Bean. Mr. Bean had two sons that operated a radio and appliance repair shop on the east end of the hotel. I got to know the younger son, Al, when I was working at Ideal Chevrolet. The hotel was later torn down to make room for the Pactiv Foam Plant which will be closing in February of 2013—the future of this plant is not known at this time. After all this tour of history we were getting hungry, so we headed to the Family Restaurant for a nice lunch.

That's all for now from Engel's Little House on the Wheaton Prairie

## Looking for Volunteers for The Past Passed Here

We will host our 10th Annual TPPH re-enactment on May 8-12. The Wisconsin State Historical Society April newsletter, *Columns*, will include an article about our exceptional special educational event. An exciting field trip is offered to 650 Fourth Grade students and the public is encouraged to enjoy a "step back in time" when the students are not present during TPPH. We need volunteers to assist us by serving food in our food booth, helping students and the public make souvenir necklaces, manning the main entrance and other activities. Please contact co-chairs Mary Brown at 715-723-0619 or Marge Hebbring at 715-720-7877 to sign up or for more information.



# During the next three months SLIDE SHOW PROGRAMS ON LOCAL HISTORY will be offered at the Chippewa Falls Senior Center

On Feb.ruary 28 at 10:30 a.m. Dave Gordon, will narrate a slide show titled: A Tour of the Chippewa County Historical Society Museum.

In March, Jim Schuh, will narrate a slide show titled: *Chippewa Falls Memories*, including numerous historic and current day photos.

In April, Tom Larson, will narrate our New CD PowerPoint slide show featuring 53 CCHS Historic Markers and WisconsinHistoricalMarkerslocatedin Chippewa County.

**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



## Featured Artifact

This sign was donated by Doug Sharpe and delivered to us by Don Bichner.

## BRIMI & SHERVEY GENERAL MERCHANDISE

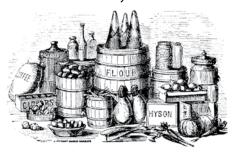
BY NANCY SCHUH

Many of you reading this newsletter have probably shopped at Foreign Five, located downtown in the Union Block at 123 n. Bridge St. Our featured artifact was from a business that was one of the first occupants of the Union Block when it opened it's doors in 1885.

This building was actually completed in 1885 after a new city charter that prohibited the construction of wooden buildings in the commercial district. Other businesses that were located in the building when it opened were Barlow and Buchanan, F.T. Condit (lawyers), the offices of the Water Works Co., John Murphy and L. D. Brewster (real estate), Webb and Stansbury (hardware), George P. Jenkins (shoes), the Y. M. C. A. and William Boutelle (millinery).

Like Foreign Five, it is obvious from the sign, that Brimi and Shervey carried a wide variety of merchandise. In 1883 they are listed at 113 E. Central. In '85 and '87 they are in the Union Block but by '89 it appears that Brimi and Shervey have parted ways. At that time there is a listing in Eau Claire for a Brimi & Demarest Clothiers at 210 S. Barstow and a listing for Shervey Store Co. in Chippewa Falls at 211 Bridge St.

Thank you Doug for donating this piece of Downtown's history. №



## Historic Marker Committee Update

BY JIM SCHUH

The Historic Marker Committee members Arley Engel, Kurt Gaber, Tom Larson and myself have been working on the following two projects for a significant amount of time. WE are pleased with the results and arev excited to finally be able to share them with all of you. Thank you Tom, Kurt and Arley for all your efforts in completing these projects!

## New Historic Marker CD Project

We have done very well on the New CD project. They were sold prior to Christmas at Country Treasures, Foreign 5 and the Area History Center. We will have them available at these locations for a while longer. Thank you to Tom Larson for all of his time and effort creating and duplicating the CD and for the donation of CDs and cases! Thank you to Kurt Gaber for his donation of design work, etc. Thank you to the retailers who sold them and to WCFW Radio and local print media for helping us promote sales.

## New Historic Marker Brochure Project

There are now beautiful, full color, new Historic Marker Brochures available at several locations free of charge. Thank you to our sponsors including Gaber Signs for donating design and to the William J. & Gertrude R. Casper Foundation for providing a grant to cover printing costs. On December 12 I was contacted by Rooney Printing and I went to pick up the 8,500 brochures. More that 2,000 copies of the 8,500 total have already been distributed and are available at the following locations:

- Visitor Information Center
- City Hall
- County Courthouse
- Sponsor: Rutledge Charities
- Marge's Picket Fense
- Foreign Five

- ◆ Northwestern Bank
- Country Treasures
- Area History Center



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# Cigar Manufacturing Once a Hot Business Here.

BY JIM SCHUH



This cigar box was found at Arthur and Dorothy Hopkins' farm in Tilden. They are Nancy Schuh's grandparent's.

In past issues of *The Eagle Speaks* you have read Arley Engel's articles about local tobacco growing in the Chippewa Falls area. It was a cash crop that was shipped to other areas of the country during the last half century. Prior to that some of the locally grown leaves were used in local factories. Locally grown tobacco leaves were used as the wrappers for cigars while the finer imported tobacco was used for filler. The following eight cigar manufacturing businesses are listed in old Chippewa Falls city directories that can be found in our Area History Center library: Conrad Barthen 336 W. Elm St.; Leopold W. Bethke 11 W. Grand Ave.; Bollinger Bros & Pepin 802 High St.; Fred Calza 5 Herschel; Hebert Bros 201 N. Bridge St.; Fred Heitmeier 805 High St.; Louis Marowally 607 N. Bridge St.; Jacob P. Miller 513 N. Bridge St.

## Old Factory On High, Cedar, Razed

BY HOLLY MEIER (Chippewa Herald Telegram, Spring 1952)

If you have an "El Nilo" or "77" cigar laying around the house, treat it with loving care. Unwrap it carefully, wet it down, and enjoy the smoke at your leisure. And when you have it smoked down to a short butt, blow the final drag of smoke up toward the ceiling and watch the blue, grey cloud dissolve into the air – for it will be the last time you will be able to do it. The "El Nilo" and "77" have vanished from the market victims of modern production and methods and a change in the habits of smokers.

The Bollinger Brothers and Pepin cigar factory, last of its kind here in Chippewa Falls, is being ripped down and when the destruction is completed, another old city landmark and another city industry will have faded.

Way Back in the period before the first World War, around the year 1917, cigar making was a flourishing business here in the city. No less than seven factories were in operation when the Bollinger Brothers went into business. The two Bollingers, Walt and John, together with Emery Pepin, opened shop in a place purchased from L.W. Bethke, on 11 W. Grand Ave., but the business closed down during the war.

After the shooting stopped Walt Bollinger and Pepin bought out John Bollinger's interest in the factory, and also purchased the building which up until now served as the home of Bollinger Brothers and Pepin cigar factory.

Employing up to eight men in flush years, the factory turned out over three and one half million hand-made cigars in its thirty-odd years of operation, including the 'Northwestern," the "Shamrock," the "LaDema," and the "El Nilo," and the "77."

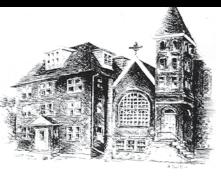
Bollinger and Pepin were opportunists—making cigars to fit any occasion. For example, when President Calvin Coolidge vacationed on the Brule river, in the northern part if the state, the firm manufactured 30,000 cigars, called the "Brule," and sold them all during Coolidge's stay.

The old building, which is located on the corner of High street and Cedar street, and which is currently being razed, was originally constructed on Bridge Street, between Central and Grand. It was moved to its present location, and was used, among other things, as a schoolhouse. When the building was purchased, it was in ramshackle shape, and the cigar firm put \$3,000 into its repair.

But Now, after over 30 years of operation the cigar—making trade here in the city is all wound up. Reason given is that after World War 1, the smoking trend has gradually been leaning toward cigarettes. This coupled with the fact that modern machinery is taking over the cigar-making trade has made the business a non-paying proposition.

And so, the "El Nilo" and the "77" will no longer be around—they have followed the "Shamrock," the "LaDema" into oblivion. -5-

## Membership Form



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TELEPHONE:
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☐ Family (1 Year)\$25
☐ Contributing Member (1 Year)\$50
☐ Life Member (Individual)\$125
☐ Life (Couple)\$175
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Lake Wissota East Hamilton Ave. 6am-Midnight Open 24 hrs

Ladysmith 6am-Midnight

-6-



## Chippewa County

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2013-2014

## **OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

<u> </u>	on	at.	10	n	5

## **Donations in** Memory of: Nancy Pevan Bob Pevan Sally Glasener......Arley & June Engel Helen Brunner......Arley & June Engel Other Donations: Visitors \$13.00 Northwestern Bank 250.00 Richard Erickson 100.00 Donald Cardinal 50.00

# Thank You to The View!

Harold & JoAnn Flater \$175.00

The Chippewa County Historical Society was the first non-profit organization benefiting from the View's 2013 Chow Down for Charity from 5:30–9 p.m. Thursday, January 31. Thanks also to people who joined us for food, fun and raffle prizes.

Event description provided by The View:

**Lifetime Membership:** 

Chow Down for Charity is a fund raising event put on every year by the View on Lake Wissota. The event runs every Thursday night (Jan. 31—March 28) from 5:30-9 p.m. (8 weeks). Eight charities and, or non-profit organizations from the Chippewa Valley are chosen and one is featured each Thursday. The View provides a buffet style meal with a different entrée each week such as pulled pork, ham, turkey, BBQ's, spaghetti, baked ziti, etc. Side dishes are included as well as a meat and cheese tray or veggie tray, and a dessert. The cost is only \$6.00 per person for the meal and all the proceeds go to that week's featured charity. Throughout the evening raffle tickets are sold for prizes donated by our vendors. Customers can buy \$2 tickets for the smaller prizes which we draw for throughout the evening and \$5 raffle tickets for the larger prizes such as coolers, neon signs, chairs, tin signs, sweatshirts and more. We usually give away about 20 prizes per night and then also offer a 50/50 raffle so we have quite a few winners.

## **OFFICERS**

- President
  Dave Gordon, 6854 182nd St.,
  Chippewa Falls 723-2647 (2014)
- Vice President Jim Schuh, 5432 178th St., Chippewa Falls 726-2376 (2014)
- \* Recording Secretary & Corresponding Secretary
  Mary McKenna, 217 W. Elm St.,
  Chippewa Falls 720-9635 (2013)
- \* Treasurer
  Kathryn Forsgren, 18498 122nd Ave.,
  Jim Falls 382-5511 (2014)

## **DIRECTORS**

- Lucyann LeCleir, 201 S. Rural St., Chippewa Falls 723-7468 (2013)
- Skip August, 18416 54th Ave, Chippewa Falls 723-8493 (2014)
- Steve Rasmus, 936 N. Bridge St., Chippewa Falls 723-4339 (2014)
- Wayne Meyer, 622 S. 8th St., Cornell 239-6239 (2015)
- Nancy Schuh, 5432 178th St.,
   Chippewa Falls 726-2376 (2015)
- Teri Stahr, 7493 County Hwy K,
   Chippewa Falls 723-9007 (2013)
- Arley Engel, 5294 90th St., Chippewa Falls 723-5124 (2014)
- Marge Hebbring, 7361 203rd St.,
   Chippewa Falls 723-5278 (2013)
- # Jim Campbell, 110 Chippewa St., Chippewa Falls 723-5495 (2015)



## COUNTY NEWS

## **Stanley Area Historical Society**

DAVID JANKOSKI, REPORTER

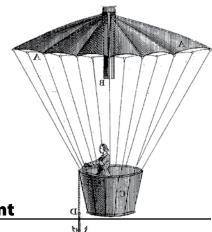
Winter drags on, the weather has been relatively mild and we continue work on new exhibits at our museum for the 2013 season. We have also been busy planning our ambitious special events for the year. On April 6, we will again be holding an Antique Appraisal fundraiser. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the cost will be \$5.00 per item appraised. No appointments are necessary and registration numbers are handed out upon arrival and then called in order.

On June 1, we will be holding our opening for the 2013 season and plan to be unveiling a "Marble Mania" exhibit. We will also be hosting a reunion that day of the local, district and state "Marble Tournament" winners from Stanley. They will be discussing their participation in the district tournaments held around the area and the finals, which were always held in Milwaukee. It is expected that Stanley's only state champion will be in attendance.

Our newest publication, "I Remember ..... Stanley," was released in December and sales have been going well. The publication is available for \$15 at the museum or anyone interested can send a check made out to SAHS for \$15 and add \$5 for postage/ handling. Orders can be mailed to SAHS, P.O. Box 142, Stanley, WI 54768.

Our annual meeting was held on Saturday, January 26. David Jankoski and Fred Evans were re-elected President and Vice-President. Mark Bernklau, Bev Hompe and Mary Fitizsimmons were returned to the Board of Directors.

Our historical society will be hosting the 2013 West Central Regional Convention on September 21. Attendance has been down in recent years and we are hopeful that we can have representatives from all Chippewa County Historical Societies in attendance.



## A Message From Your President

Iknow we live in Wisconsin but -15 degrees is ridiculous. Even though it has been cold things at the History Center are heating up. There will be additional help at the museum for the next three months. David Withers and Isaiah Frater, both students at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire in Public History, are doing their internships at the museum. David is working with Nancy Schuh with our artifacts and the PastPerfect computer records. Isaiah is working with Jim Schuh developing a new exhibit about music in Chippewa Falls. We hope to make hosting interns a regular part of improving our museum.

We lost a member of the Historical Society in December. Marv Nauman served as a Director and Vice President for many years. He made sure the History Center building was well maintained. He was a railroad buff with his large collection of model trains including an operating railroad in his backyard. Marv will be missed.

You will not want to miss our February Membership Meeting. Our own Tom Larson head of the Historic Marker Committee will present his recently completed CD about the historic markers in Chippewa County. We will also have copies of the new historic markers brochure. The Marker Committee has put together a excellent color brochure. They received a grant from the Casper Foundation to cover the cost of printing the brochure.

A special part of our February Membership Meeting is the induction of people who have made significant contributions to the Chippewa County Historical Society into the Hall of Fame. Mary McKenna will be inducted in the Hall of Fame. Mary has been the Society's Secretary and has been recording the minutes of the Board of Directors for a number of years. She also writes the volunteer feature in the Eagle Speaks. Without her the many records and correspondence of the Society would not be in such good order.

Jim and Nancy Schuh will be inducted in the Hall of Fame. This couple could easily be called Mr & Mrs Historical Society. Nancy is the Society's Archivist responsible for our over 6,000 artifacts and the many new artifacts that arrive each Tuesday. She is responsible for the tasty main dish every month for the birthday lunch. Whenever there is something needed Nancy can be counted on to be involved. Jim is the Vice President of the Society and has been on the Board for thirteen years. He edits the Eagle Speaks quarterly and has been the force behind the Historic Marker Committee. He has helped the Society's public image with his many press releases. He was the person behind starting The Past Passed Here and continues to be part of keeping the festival going. It was Jim who came up with the idea of celebrating the 100th anniversary of the closing of the largest sawmill in the world and the picnic for the centennial anniversary of the Yellow Stone Trail.

The final inductee is Dave Gordon. Oh that's me. I've been around for a while doing what ever I can to keep things going and appreciate being nominated. Well that about covers what's happening at the History Center. Hope to see you February 11 at our membership meeting. \*•

Note from Editor Jim Schuh: I nominated Dave to the Hall of Fame due to all of his contributions including: creating Hall of Fame, Board Member handbook, PowerPoint slideshows, membership brochure and History Coalition, computer upgrades, implementing Past Perfect artifact documentation program, building improvements, internship development and all of the other things Dave has done to improve CCHS.

-8-



Skip August, our tram driver at the Yellowstone Trail Centennial Celebration in Irvine Park last June, showed our guests a great time!



Committees in sync!

## **\* Collection & Artifacts:**

\* Nancy Schuh, Arley Engel, Lucyann LeCleir, Terri Stahr,

## Photography Sub Committee:

\*Lucyann LeCleir, Donna Bourget, Jeff Pritchard

## \* Building & Grounds:

\*Skip August

Space Utilization Sub Committee

\*Steve Rasmus

### **\*** Education:

\* Marge Hebbring, 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

#### 

\*Shirley Liedl, Mary McKenna

## **Telephone Subcommittee:**

\*Mary McKenna

#### \* Publicity:

\*Jim Schuh, Wayne Meyer

#### \* Newsletter:

\*Jim Schuh, author & editor Elly Rochester, layout & design Nancy Schuh, author & proofreader Column Authors: Arley Engel, Kathy Forsgren, Dave Gordon and Mary McKenna

\* Chairperson

## A VOLUNTEER PROFILE

MARY MCKENNA



This issue highlights one of our board members, Skip August. He joined the Board of Directors in 2008 after working on a joint display project with CFMIT.

Skip grew up in Chilton, Wisconsin. He obtained a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering plus numerous graduate courses at the University of Wisconsin and met his wife of 30+ years at a club between Chilton and New Holstein in 1970. They were married on June 1, 1974 at Holy Rosary Church in New Holstein. From their union, three sons were born. Ryan (wife, Gina) works at GE Medical as a Project Director. They have a two year old son, named Jack. Keven (wife, Linda) works at Lockheed Martin as an EMI/RFI Lab Manager. They are expecting a baby in June. Third son, Jason (wife, Pam) works at NASA as a Mission Control Specialist.

He was a United States Army Specialist in computer projects stationed at the Pentagon; an engineer at Rockwell International working on Avionics; Engineering Manager at Northrop Defense Systems working on the BI Bomber; Engineering Director and Company Officer at Cray Research; Engineering Director at SGI and was President of the Chippewa Area Catholic Schools.

Skip may be retired but he continues to contribute to our community. In addition to being a board member for the Historical Society, he is president of CVCA/Heyde Center for the Arts; is on the Chippewa Valley Council Boy Scouts of America board; the University of Wisconsin Alumni Association board; the Boys and Girls Club Founding Steering Committee; Chippewa Falls Museum of Industry and Technology Board; St. Joseph's Hospital Advisory Council; Holy Ghost Parish Finance Council, McDonell Area Catholic School Technical Director; UWEC Viennese Ball Organizing Committee; Rotary Club Member; History Coalition Member; Chippewa County Senior Meals on Wheels Driver and a Sound/Light technician at the CVCA.

We owe our thanks to Skip for overseeing the Eagle Scout project that involved Scouts in making the "houses" for the Historic Markers. Also, Skip recently upgraded the lighting at the History Center to be more efficient and he helped organize the fourth floor remodeling project and recruited project manager Joe Bowe. He also volunteered to drive the tram at the Yellowstone Trail Centennial Celebration last June.

When he has any time left over, he likes to delve in hobbies beyond his volunteering: skiing, biking, boating and doing building remodeling. While we are fortunate to have a person who is so skilled and with so many varied experiences, we value his insights. He would like to see the Historical Society become more widely recognized by the community ("its best hidden secret"), and to have the facility open to the public more hours/days than we are presently. All his contributions are a testament to the generosity and qualities of this man who has made a difference, sees a need and puts his time and energy into making positive changes.

# Chippewa County Historical Society

AREA HISTORY CENTER | 715-723-4399

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Open on Tuesdays 9 am-4 pm | Open on Fourth Saturdays 9 am-1 pm

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## **Now Open Fourth Saturdays**

The Chippewa County Historical Society has expanded the days the Area History Center is open to the public. The museum is now open the fourth Saturday of each month from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. (We will not be open Saturdays in June, July and December.) The new time is scheduled in conjunction with the Chippewa County Genealogical Society's monthly program meeting. Tour the 50-room museum and research genealogy and local history in the extensive library. The Chippewa County Historical and Genealogical Societies are located at 123 Allen St., Chippewa Falls. Open Tuesdays 9 a.m.–4 p.m., tours at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and the fourth Saturday of each month 9 a.m.–1 p.m. or by appointment. Info: 715-723-4399.

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