

# THE EAGLE SPEAKS

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 2010



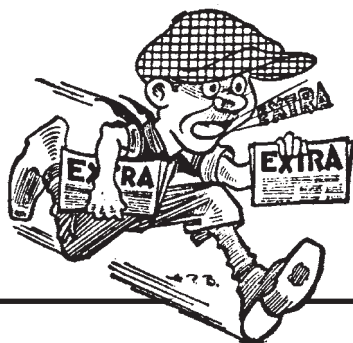
"OLD ABE"

www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

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"The pie lady", Carol Chwalla, holds the lid of her Dutch oven that is full of glowing embers, so we can see her pie that is baking over the campfire.



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Plan a tour while children are on vacation, or when company visits this summer!

## The Past Passed Here – Celebrating Chippewa County History

JIM SCHUH

A huge thank you goes out to our generous sponsors and dedicated volunteers! All of their efforts made The Past Passed Here, a wonderful success! Everyone that I have spoken to during and after the event, including re-enactors, were extremely complimentary about all aspects of our seventh annual encampment. Despite inclement weather Friday and Saturday many residents joined us and said that they will tell their friends, who did not attend, that they must make plans to experience life during these bygone days next year.

Arley Engel once again assembled an outstanding CHHS exhibit of lumberjack artifacts/ history and unique pioneer and farming tools. Teri Stahr coordinated the hands-on activities and helped visitors make souvenir medallions out of a musket balls. She also organized

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



# Chippewa County Historical Society

**The Past Passed Here—  
Celebrating Chippewa County History**

## 2010 Sponsor Recognition

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**Entertainers:** Priceless

Otyokwa Lodge Dancers - Boy Scout Native Dance Re-enactors  
Dan & Jacey Lea O The Footweary Tunesmiths  
Jerry Way - Writer Chippewa Falls Plays & Songs



French voyageurs, Doug Friede, left and Gabe Klotz, paddle their birch bark canoe on Duncan Creek while their arrival ceremony is underway.

**The Past Past Here continued from cover**

French fur trade camp games and camp skill competitions for students and adults to compete in. Rod Gant ran the canoe paddle races. Chuck Card and Jeff Prichard coordinated the sawing competition. Our food booth volunteers, lead by camp cook Chuck Card, provided tasty pioneer era food. Mary McKenna and many dedicated volunteers bundled up to stay warm while manning the gate and welcoming our guests.

My event co-chair, Mary Brown and her husband Dennis (the town crier) took on the huge task of overseeing set up of the grounds by a local prison community work crew, coordinating needed supplies, taking down tents and packing everything up. Their generous offer to underwrite the event as a major sponsor saved the event from ending, when the Main Street program decided last fall to discontinue coordinating it. I was very pleased with the response from entertainers who donated their time and talents. Media publicity was extensive and sponsors stepped forward in response to my requests for their donations and funding support.

Doug Hosig and his wife Jan were again hired to be in charge of the camp operations and layout. They went above and beyond our expectations by attending numerous rendezvous over the last year and inviting many excellent demonstrators. It was their idea that this year the event was "by invitation only" for campers, demonstrators and re-enactors to ensure that participants in the camp presented an authentic rendezvous experience for our visitors. Demonstrators from four states participated in our event.

New in 2010 was an emphasis on pioneer era live entertainment. Voyageurs arrived in canoes and were welcomed by Anne Keller who translated French to English for the spectators. On Saturday the Boy Scouts of America, Order of the Arrow, Otyokwa Lodge Dancers performed several Native American dance re-enactments. "Fancy Man" Robert Williams and family members, dressed in elegant outfits, portrayed fur trading company owners. Actors participated in duels and live music was performed by a group of re-enactors known as the "Better Than Nuttin' band". Dan & Jacey Lea performed Irish music as the Foot Weary Tunesmiths and Jerry Way played his original songs written about Chippewa Falls history. I had the pleasure of playing percussion instruments with Dan, Jacey and Jerry.

Visitors explored dozens of authentic educational re-enactor camps demonstrating brain hide tanning, butter churning, Dutch oven pie baking, weaving, wool spinning, teepee living, and primitive toys and weapons. Food vendors featured old-fashioned candy, Indian fry bread, kettle corn, buffalo burgers, root beer floats and voyageur stew. Traders had a variety of items for sale including beeswax candles, reproduction antique clothing, leather goods, animal furs/skins, beads, jewelry and toys.



Joanne Mabie holds tobacco that she will drop on the campfire as part of the camp opening ceremony. The fur trade company owners were seated and drank tea while watching the ceremony and dancers.



The event began seven years ago in Allen Park, which is the actual site of Native American and French fur trade era camps. It was later the location of the largest sawmill in the world under one roof, the former Chippewa Lumber & Boom Company. The events' name, The Past Passed Here, was selected to celebrate and reflect the significance of this historic rendezvous and lumbering era site.

Providing a meaningful hands-on experience about our local history to fourth grade students is the major reason that the CCHS took over coordination of this event. Catherine Lea, Community Resource Coordinator, Chippewa Falls Schools Pupil Services Center is an active planning committee participant. She had this to say at the conclusion of the 2010 event:

"The Past Passed Here just keeps getting better and better! This year's larger-than-ever variety of activities and demos were kid-friendly and educational. The Past Passed Here was attended by close to 360 4th graders this year. Since 2005 this event has involved close to 2,300 students. Brothers and sisters of those students who have come in previous years have heard about the event or been to it and are excited about coming. In addition, many students speak excitedly about bringing their families back on the weekend to be able to participate in the activities and demos that they did not have time to do during their school day. To be able to provide this quality of an event is in my mind a feather in the cap of the Chippewa County Historical Society.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the members of the planning committee, this year's Past Passed Here was a premier event for all 4th grade students from public and private schools in Chippewa Falls. I hope The Past Passed Here will be around celebrating Chippewa Falls history for years to come. Thanks." *Catherine*

The following are teachers' comments:

"My students love The Past Passed Here. They especially like playing games and trying the biscuits made over the fire. They learned a lot about the life of the voyageurs, which they found fascinating. Thanks so much for doing this." *Nan Mayberry, Parkview*

"It was an absolutely wonderful experience for our students. Many children were making connections throughout the day. We want to thank you so much." *Mary Jo Greene, Halmstad*

"I observed my kids being absorbed in what every presenter had to say. They asked questions, they related it to our Social Studies unit on the very same thing. My class had a great time and three of them went this weekend to compete in some of the events. Nice job!"

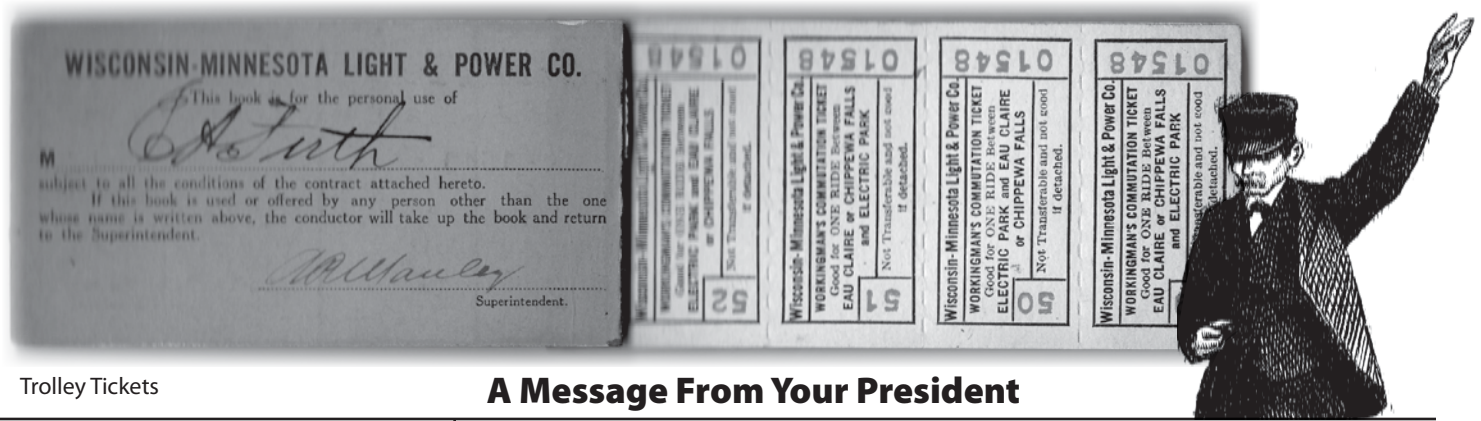
*Roberta Gilman, Southview*



Top: CCHS Board member Arley Engel demonstrates the power of the pulley, also known as a come-along, to fourth grade students.

Middle: Chippewa Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America Order of the Arrow members of the Otyokwa Lodge Dancers raised their spears in celebration of their successful hunt at the end of the buffalo dance. The scouts performed several Native American dance re-enactments.

Bottom: Arley Engel shows the end of a log that has been marked with an antique stamping hammer. This method was used to identify ownership of each log when they reached the sawmill.



Trolley Tickets

## A Message From Your President

### FEATURED ARTIFACT

#### Trolley Tickets

NANCY SCHUH

In 1914, Edgar Firth the Chippewa County Register of Deeds and Captain in the Wisconsin National Guard either bought or was given a book of 25 round trip tickets for the trolley that ran from Water Street in Eau Claire to the Irvine Park Station in Chippewa Falls. Little did he realize that this same book of tickets would resurface in Scotland almost 100 years later and then find their way back to Chippewa Falls.

Pat Ahneman, a tour guide at the Chippewa County Historical Society caused some excitement when she brought in a page of trolley tickets that her daughter Julie had bought on e-bay. With Julie's help I was able to buy the remainder of the book of tickets from a gentleman in Scotland.

Originally this book of tickets cost \$7.50 and the tickets had to be used within 60 days of the purchase date. They were not transferable. If someone other than the purchaser would attempt to use the tickets the conductor would confiscate the book.

Fortunately Edgar did not use his complete book of tickets and after it traveled all the way to Scotland and back again it gives us another small glimpse into Chippewa Fall's History. 🐢

My wife has a picture of a turtle in the kitchen and as I walked by it today I was reminded that a turtle never makes progress unless it sticks it neck out. Well I'm glad the Board of Directors and I stuck our necks out. When Chippewa Falls Main Street decided they could not handle The Past Passed Here, we stepped up and said the event was an important education event for the schools and we would keep it going.

Well last week I spent three days at Allen Park at The Past Passed Here. I saw the fourth graders learn about our history and have fun doing it. I was glad the Historical Society stuck its neck out. An event like this is no small under taking and it was very successful despite some very windy, cold weather. Mary and Dennis Brown along with Jim Schuh coordinated the event. The re-enactors group was the biggest ever and provided a wealth of information to everyone who attended the event. Arley Engle had his large display of historical items as usual and the food booth had delicious items for the event goers. Look for a lot more about The Past Passed Here in this edition of the Eagle Speaks.

We had our semi-annual membership meeting February 15th at the History Center. It was my pleasure to present the new inductees to the Hall of Fame with their plaques. The picture shows Arley Engle, Lucy LeCleur and Ruby Schumacher. It was so nice to have Jim Schumacher's wife Ruby join us to accept her husband's plaque. Jim passed away in 2006. Anne Keller, a long time member of the Chippewa County Genealogical Society was the featured speaker. Anne showed slides of her 2009 trip to Normandy, France, Luxembourg and Bastogne, Belgium. Anne and a group of historians and World War II buffs were on Omaha Beach on the 6th of June 2009, the 65th Anniversary of the Invasion (D-Day). All who attended enjoyed the slide show and asked a lot of questions. Don't be a stranger. Hope to see you at the History Center any Tuesday. Dave 🐢



Dave Gordon, Ruby Schumacher, Arley Engle and Lucy LeCleur



Anne Keller





Trolley Tickets



## COUNTY NEWS

### Stanley Area Historical Society

DAVE JANKOSKI, REPORTER

It's an exciting time for the Stanley Area Historical Society, as we are planning a grand celebration. We want everyone to mark their calendars so you can be present either July 10 or 11, when we come together for activities commemorating the opening of our newest addition. We will also be reopening our Farming and Logging Building, which has been undergoing refurbishing during the past year. Lots of people have worked very hard to make all of this happen.

We are very pleased to announce that we are anticipating the presence of Dr. Ellsworth H. Brown, the Director of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, who will be with us on July 10, as our guest speaker. Janet Seymour, Northern Regional Representative will also be attending our grand opening ceremonies. In addition to the opening ceremonies we will have demonstrations on both days featuring woodcarving, rosemaking, blacksmith artistry, rug weaving, and pine needle basket making.

What's new in 2010? Our new building will feature our 1906 Cadillac on display, an exhibit featuring beer knobs, many items from a recently donated Coca Cola collection, a school bell tower, the Stanley fire, and much more. Our World War II exhibits have also been carried over for the 2010 season in the main gallery.

Other things to look for are a collection of Stanley souvenirs and the 100th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America exhibit. On November 19, we will be celebrating our 35th Anniversary as a historical society. As we all look back we are nothing but very proud of our contribution to preserving Stanley area history the past 35 years.

Hope to see many of you at the July 10 and 11 celebration or sometime this summer.

## Notes from the Genealogical Society

ANNE KELLER, *liaison between the two societies*

We are located, along with the Historical Society, at 123 Allen Street in Chippewa Falls, which once was the location of the Notre Dame Convent. Our (very extensive) library and research center is located on the second floor. The bad part—one must go up some stairs to find us; the good part—the wealth of information that we have there is worth the effort!

We get all kinds of requests in each day's mail; some are simple and direct that are easy to answer and some are quite complicated and confusing to decipher. There are several members who regularly volunteer their time to answer requests. Sometimes more than one volunteer researcher has been involved in trying to solve a request. When you write to request information about your Chippewa County family, be as specific as possible. Decide what information you would like to have us look for, and list specific names and dates if you have them. If possible, include a family-tree chart. If you write to us and ask "do you have anything about my Uncle John Adams?" We could write back and say "yes." But... if you ask "do you have a marriage record between my Great-grandfather John Adams and an unnamed wife? According to family legend, he was about 25 years old when he came to Chippewa County by himself. I think that my grandfather was born about 1895." Well, that would tell us to start by looking either in courthouse or church records for a marriage license, or a birth record, which would name the parents. We could also look for a listing in the 1880 census. Or the cemetery index. Or the naturalization index. One hint leads to another when specifics or family tradition are included in a request.

The Historical Society has a wonderful collection of pictures—buildings, people, families, events. With specific information in your hand, they can help you find something pertinent to your own research project. You are welcome to come to find information yourself (the building is open on Tuesdays), or to write to us and request specifics. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Volunteers are available to help you; we are as happy as you are when we make a discovery! 🍀

## Marsh Rainbow Arch Bridge Update

JIM SCHUH

Our last two newsletters included articles about the possible removal of the Marsh Rainbow Arch Bridge. Since then the Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation has added information to their website: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/wipreservation/4329276248/> and have sent a letter to the city in support of saving the bridge.

### Spring Street Rainbow Bridge Public Information Meetings and Project Schedule

The Alternative Analysis Report has been prepared by Ayres Associates and is currently under review by all necessary reviewing agencies. Once all reviews have been completed and comments have been incorporated into the document, the report will be posted on the city website for public review and the intermediate public information meeting (originally scheduled for March 2010) will be scheduled shortly thereafter. 🍀

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Committees in sync!



# High Speed Trains

ARLEY ENGEL

All the talk on the news at this time is the chance of a high-speed train being put back in service in our area. This will not be anything new in the Chippewa Valley, as we had a high-speed train many years ago. It was called "The 400" and traveled 400 miles in 400 minutes. The route ran from Minneapolis to Chicago. Passing through Menomonie, Eau Claire, Merrillan, then on to Wyeville, Adams, Beaver Dam, Milwaukee, Racine, then on to Evanston, IL and the last stop being Chicago.

According to *The 400 Story* a book by Jim Scribbons, the first streamliner in 1934 only averaged 49 miles per hour. As I was reading this book there were many surprises to me. The 400 started in January 1935 and was streamlined in September 1939 to diesel. In January of 1942 the name was changed to the Twin Cities 400. In the summer of 1937 the Arrowhead 400 was added to the line. This train ran from Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls, Bloomer, New Auburn, Chetek, Cameron, Rice Lake, Haugen, Sarona, Spooner, Hayward, Cable, Lake Owen, ending at Drummond. In the meantime the Minnesota 400 was started in June 1936 from Wyeville to Mankato. The Dakota 400 was added in April 1950 and ran from Chicago to Huron via Beloit. This route was extended to Rapid City in 1955. Another train the Rochester 400 was put on line in October of 1960.

Another route of the 400 was the Flambeau started in 1935 running from Chicago to Ironwood, MI/Hurley, WI. In 1937 there was a once a week operation beyond Ironwood/Hurley through Saxon to Ashland. In January of 1942 the Peninsula route of the 400 was started, this one going from Milwaukee to Negaunee and then on into Ishpeming. A later route established in 1955 was named for the Kate Shelley, it ran from Chicago, IL to Boone, IA. There were many other units running out of Chicago to Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay and to Menominee, MI. Some units going through Manitowoc, with others going through Fond Du Lac.

There is a bar in Altoona that goes by the name, "The 400 Club" this one I was acquainted with. After having snowmobiled in Wisconsin for nearly 40 years, I had not realized that a lot of the trails that we rode on were conversions from rails to trails that once carried the mighty Chicago Northwestern 400 trains. I have always thought we had the only 400, and that it was just in our area. It seems one can learn something new every day with a little reading and studying of the history of our state.

A big thanks to Anne and Emmett Keller for lending me the *400 Story* by Jim Scribbons so I could do research on this story. *That's all for now from Engel's Little House On the Wheaton Prairie.* 🍷

## 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





## Chippewa Canning Company

Our Historic Marker Committee is looking for photos and any information we can find on the Chippewa Canning Company that was on East Grand Avenue. We have one photo of the factory and very little information on the operation after the 1950s. If you can supply any thing please contact Arley at 723-5124 or the Chippewa County Historical Society at 723-4399.



Elly Rochester

## CALENDAR

- May 18, 9:15 a.m.  
CCHS Board Meeting
- May 18, Noon  
Area History Center Birthday Lunch
- May 25, 1 p.m.  
Chippewa Falls History Coalition Meeting
- June 8, 1 p.m.  
The Past Passed Here Wrap-up Meeting
- June 15, 9:15 a.m.  
CCHS Board Meeting
- June 15, 10:30 a.m.  
Historic Marker Committee Meeting
- June 15, Noon  
Area History Center Birthday Lunch
- June 22, 1 p.m.  
Chippewa Falls History Coalition Meeting
- July 20, 9:15 a.m.  
CCHS Board Meeting
- July 20, Noon  
Area History Center Birthday Lunch
- July 27, 1 p.m.  
Chippewa Falls History Coalition Meeting
- September 20, 5:30 p.m.  
Semi-Annual Membership Meeting Picnic Pot Luck at Irvine Park
- Next Newsletter Articles  
Due August 3rd

### A VOLUNTEER PROFILE

MARY MCKENNA

*Elly*

We know her as Elly, our reliable designer of “The Eagle Speaks” newsletter. Each quarter we see her expertise in graphic design as the newsletter comes together. It has been an interesting journey for Elly, one that we’d like to share.

She was born and raised in Chippewa Falls on a farm in Tilden, the eldest of six children of Alice and the late, Thomas McDonald. Elly says that the farm life is truly the good life; it gives you a certain resiliency and sense of humor that is hard to acquire by other natural means. (And it makes it easy to appreciate Arley’s farm stories.) Because she was the eldest, Elly mostly stayed in the house to “watch the supper” and the little ones as her mom and everyone else “got to” do the chores . . . which she equated to swinging on the rope in the hay barn and goofing off.

At some point every farm kid has to go somewhere if dreams are to be pursued, so she went to UW-Stout in Menomonie to study and graduated with a B.S. in Graphic Arts, which meant she should manage a print shop—not work in the art department—what fun is that! Despite that little slip up, she did find gainful employment as a graphic designer and now freelances from her home.

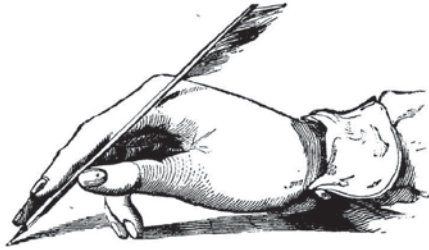
While at Stout, she was to meet her future husband, Todd. They married a couple years after graduating. He was driving truck at the time, so she went on the road with him. She did drive a little but never considered herself a truck driver because she couldn’t back the darn thing up. Her dad would’ve been happy to vouch for the fact that no one should ever let Elly go in reverse with two pieces of equipment hooked together! After a couple years of bouncing around the U.S. in a semi-truck, they settled down in the Chippewa Falls area. She then began working as an in-house graphic designer at PESI and met our very own Jim Schuh—little did she know that they would work together again here at the Historical Society.

It was in 1991 that they started a family with Zechariah being the first of their lovely children. He was followed by Isaiah, Maggie and Elizabeth. She says children change everything for the better and they also make you wonder, “what in the world did I do with my time before?” After her children attended a few years in regular school, Elly learned about and fell in love with home-schooling and she has been doing it ever since and her children have thrived under her tutelage.

Elly enjoys all things “crafty” and tends to jump in big. Shouldn’t your first quilt be king-size with embroidery around all the squares? She decided to tat necklaces for all seven of her bridesmaids—but of course, she had to learn how first. A lovely lady named, Maude Twigg, of whom it was said, “she could tat in the dark”, taught Elly and her mom how to tat—so



# Donations



**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**  
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## Donations in Memory of:

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Tari Stahr.....	125.00

*Please also see event sponsor donations on page 2.*

## A VOLUNTEER PROFILE *continued from page 8*

they could get the necklaces done for the wedding. Now, when Elly stops by the Historical Society to pick up the newsletter articles, she always spends some time admiring the beautiful tatting and tatting shuttles in the entry display case. And then, while you are at it, why not volunteer to stencil a wall in the church kitchen with a homemade stencil when you have never stenciled before? (Please don't tell the ladies at St. Peter's.) Having seen it, I can personally tell you, it is a beautiful work of art. Elly says, "Sometimes to get to do the really fun stuff. . . you just have to VOLUNTEER!!"

We are grateful to Elly for having taken on the task of designing our newsletter. Her strong faith, close family and willingness to volunteer her time amidst a busy schedule are much appreciated. 🐼

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# THE EAGLE SPEAKS



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