

# THE EAGLE

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



# SPEAKS

MAY 2011

www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

"OLD ABE"

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## They're Back Together Again

BY ARLEY ENGEL

This is my thought, as I woke up with pain in my right arm on Saturday morning February 26, 2011 from a pulled muscle and in need of a pain pill. I had been dreaming of how much I would be missing my "Elderly Buddy, Mr. Eugene Harm." To give you an idea of our camaraderie, I will take you on a tour of some of our trips around Chippewa County and surrounding communities for the year of 2010.

Lets start with Eugene's and Don Bichner's birthday party, January 7, at the Chippewa County Historical Society. Eugene and Don have been friends for many years, and their connection has been arrived at as members of the society. Above is a photo of them blowing out the candles on their Birthday Cake. Eugene was 86 at this time and Don 83.

Our next stop is the Cushing farm at Cobban. There is a very romantic old barn on this farm that was built in 1912. Gene tells of how the lumber to build the barn had been shipped to Cobban by rail. The barn is still standing and is now owned by the LeMay



**Area History Center Open  
Tuesdays 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

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



Cover photo:

Don Bichner and Eugene Harm celebrating their birthday at the Area History Center.

Page 2 photos:

We spent a whole day taking photos of round barns in Buffalo County.

An Amish 6-horse hitch pulling a 2x16 riding plow.

Page 3 photos:

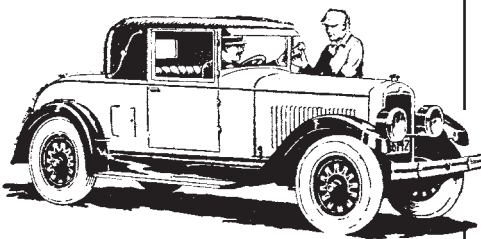
The leaning "tower" at Drywood across from the Harm farm.

Off-loading peas on vines into the pea viner.

Page 4 photos:

Eugene Harm and Ray Polzin at their 68th Class Reunion.

Another interesting style of round barn in Buffalo County.



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

***They're Back Together Again*** continued from cover

family. One day we toured the barn. It has a drive in for the horse and carriage, an living quarters, and a three section haymow with two sets of tracks for the old style hay fork. Mr. LeMay was born in the living quarters of this barn.

As we are out cruising, we travel to the Ray Peterson farm in the town of Colburn. Gene asked if I would go to the door to see if anyone was home. After knocking on the door a couple of times, my knocks were answered by Ray. I introduced myself and told him I had an old buddy of his, Mr. Harm, in the car and he said to please bring him on into the house. After which we had a very nice visit, with me getting in a few words whenever I could. Ray told us of a couple of old schools in the area that we hadn't taken pictures of yet, as this is one of the projects that I'm working on—to get as many photos as I can of what's left of the old country schools in Chippewa County. As we headed back to the Chippewa Manor Retirement Center, Gene asked if we could stop by the Harm farm to see the new AGCO tractor his sons Bob and Bill had recently purchased. After taking photos of the tractor and chatting with the Harm Boys, I noticed a silo on the farm across the road was setting at a 10 degree angle, and thought I better get a picture before the "Leaning Silo of Drywood" would be torn down. On the way down Highway 27 as we went by Alan Olynick's place, Gene asked if I would stop and take a photo of the pile of logs beside the highway. They were harvested from a timbered area on the south end of the Harm farm with some as big as 30 inches across. Nice logs for today's market. The sun was just right as we went by the Bohemian Hall on 27 and we stopped and took a photo which came out fine. Now we were running late and Gene had already missed one meal. I must inform you here that Gene had been on a feeding tube for nearly 2 years and I have been scared to try to render his Ensure directly into his stomach by this tube method, so we rush back to the Manor Retirement Center.

We are now already into the end of March with more trips coming in April, one being to Colby to visit a friend of ours from The Forest History Association of Wisconsin, Alan Gurtner. Alan and his family own Ray's Market. They built a new processing building and store combination not far off the Abbotsford exit, after a devastating loss by fire of their place in Unity. It has always been fun to take Eugene to visit with Alan as their interests are the same as mine. We talk the same talk. When traveling in this area it is always fun to head south on Highway 13 to Marshfield then take Highway 10 west to the Neillsville area then north on County O and into the Amish and Mennonite country. One day when I stopped to chat with one of these gentlemen I asked him how far he went to school, and he said oh about 2 miles, and if he got tired of walking then he would run. This area has schools for the communities almost like we did back in my country school days, with theirs being more of a ranch style home, with LP Gas for heat, but they still use outdoor toilets. Think of them frosty day's "Burr" it's cold in those little houses. I took Eugene past our old home farm on county F in the town of Wheaton a mile north of the old Highway 29 or the new County X. The farm is now owned by a Liedl family and they have painted the house and barn to their old splendor when they were



built in 1919 and 1920 during the good times after WWI. As we traveled around the county we both enjoyed seeing the new modern machinery but there is a soft spot in our hearts for the old stuff also.

One day in May we took a tour in Buffalo county to take photos of the old round barns that are still standing. We found only six or seven of the 17 or so that are still listed as surviving. On our way back we toured into Pepin County and stopped to visit Eugene's daughter Joanne, her husband Dan Lerum and their children Samatha and Jacob. We found Joanne working at their eating establishment on Highway 35 in downtown Pepin. What a beautiful place, decorated with a water falls made with rock from the Harm farm in Drywood. Gene said he could never get Joanne to pick rock at the farm but she sure hauled them by the pickup load to be used in the building of this water scene at the front of their new place of business. It is a beautiful restaurant with a Ice Cream Parlor and an antique and knick-knack store included. Of course the main building is decorated with memorabilia of old machines from the Harm Farm supplied by Eugene and Dolores. Joanne took time to feed Eugene while we were there and then we headed back to the Manor.

Eugene enjoyed his meal time at the Manor with the assistance of the staff on duty. No matter who the young ladies were that fed him, they always carried on a conversation with a little history of Chippewa County thrown in by Eugene just to keep the girls' interest up. It was fun to watch and listen to the stories from both sides.

On the 7th of June, Eugene and I stopped to see a friend of mine Mr. Ken Wheeler. Ken lives north of the old X bar at Bateman. The purpose of this stop was to get some information and a photo of an old school bell that has been donated to Pioneer Park, the home of our local antique tractor and machinery show. This bell was donated by Clinton Jenson. It was in the bell tower from the Frazer School which was located on Highway N, West of Albertville Road on the north side of the old Chris Jensen farm. It has school district #3 Town of Wheaton cast into it's form. The question is why does it say the Town of Wheaton when this school was in the town of Howard?

Eugene took great pride in the items he donated to us at The Chippewa County Historical Society and The Cadott Area Historical Society. He was also heavily involved in acquiring log memorabilia to be used in the Logging History Museum at Keshena. Eugene, Don Bichner and I took a trip to visit this place a few years back. The items on display at this place are awesome. A gentleman by the name of Jacque D. Vallier collected and paid for all these items, then he built seven buildings representing the old days of logging to house them. After this was all completed, he donated the entire setup to the local Indian Tribe. The Keshena Museum is located ¼ mile north and ¼ mile west of Keshena.

Eugene and I had the pleasure of going on a ride with our local antique car club on the Yellowstone Trail, this ride was setup by Joann and Paul Oman, they were great hosts and it was a beautiful day for a ride. Some of the stops we made were the Yellowstone Cheese House in Cadott, a Catholic Church in Boyd, the Stanley Historical Society, a very

## CALENDAR

- May 17, 9:15 a.m.  
Board Meeting
- May 17, Noon  
Area History Center Birthday  
Lunch
- May 24, 1 p.m.  
Chippewa Falls History Coalition  
Meeting Canceled
- June 7, 1 p.m.  
The Past Passed Here Wrap-Up  
Meeting
- June 21, 9:15 a.m.  
CCHS Board Meeting
- June 21, 10:30 a.m.  
Historic Marker Committee
- June 21, Noon  
Area History Center Birthday  
Lunch
- June 28, 1 p.m.  
Chippewa Falls History Coalition  
Meeting
- July, 19, 9:15 a.m.  
CCHS Board Meeting
- July, 19, 10:30 a.m.  
Historic Marker Committee  
Meeting
- July, 19, Noon  
Area History Center Birthday  
Lunch
- July 26, 1 p.m.  
Chippewa Falls History Coalition  
Meeting



- Signs
- Stickers
- Graphics
- Banners

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# MEMBERSHIP FORM

*They're Back Together Again* continued from page 3



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

- Types of Memberships:
- Individual (1 Year)..... \$20
  - Family (1 Year) ..... \$25
  - Contributing Member (1 Year)..... \$50
  - Life Member (Individual)..... \$125
  - Life (Couple) ..... \$175
  - Extra Donation ..... \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO:  
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 Society  
 123 Allen Street  
 Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

impressive place, the Wayside Park at Thorp then on to Owen where there is still an original marker on one of the older buildings in town which tells you to take a right turn at this corner.

Another day we took a ride over to Edgar to visit an antique pea vinery on the Leroy Lange Farm, we both had many fond memories of the old pea vinery of the Chippewa Canning Company. It was a great display and we even bought fresh peas at \$1.00 for a 5-quart plastic pail full. It was fun to watch the whole family work on the pea harvest. Leroy even sent us down into his woods at the end of the field to check out his log house—a real neat cabin with twin sleeping lofts connected to a spiral stairway and a walk way between the two lofts.

We have a photo of Joe Joas, Eugene Harm, Jim Schuh, and myself taken on Joe's 96th birthday party, depicting some of the old and some of the new timers at the history center. A photo that can never be repeated. I also had the chance to travel with Eugene and an old classmate Ray Polzin to their 68th year class reunion at the new Four Corners Restaurant at Cadott. They had six of the original class members present. Interesting day for them and me. In September there was a convoy of antique cars touring around Chippewa Falls. Tom Wall had headed up this group but was not with them the day we took photos of the cars. They said the cars ranged from 1917 back to 1908. There were some very beautiful old cars including a Columbia, Mitchell, Talbot, and Overland and almost any kind of Model T Ford that one has ever heard of.

Eugene and I took many trips to the old farmstead in the woods north of Crescent to watch the construction of the "Man House," a cabin in the woods built by the farming Harm Boys with the help of the rest of the family members. I would take Eugene to the Farmer's breakfast when he felt up to it. At the Farmer's Breakfast a bunch of us older farm kids from Sunnyside School in Wheaton get together on Monday mornings to chow down and spread the bull. We all enjoyed Eugene's company at these gatherings. We celebrated Eugene's 87th birthday on January 18, 2011 at the history center, a little late but that's our scheduled monthly birthday party. This turned out to be the last time we enjoyed his presence there. I had stopped to visit at his apartment a few times after this but we never made any more trips. On Monday night February 14th I called Eugene to see if he wanted to attend the February birthday lunch on Tuesday, he said maybe not as he was having some stomach pain.

On Tuesday morning at about 7:30 we received a call from Eugene's daughter Joanne stating that Eugene had been taken to the hospital about 11:00 o'clock Monday night due to severe stomach pain and he had passed about 5:00 o'clock on Tuesday morning. The end of an era for the two of us. No more trips for two *Historical* fellows. Good bye old buddy it's been a great trip. Eugene's wife Dolores had passed away on June 2, 2005 she was also very active with historical activities in and around the Chippewa Valley and did most of book work to help Eugene in their quest for local history. *That's all for now from Engel's Little House on the Wheaton Prairie.* 🍷



The 2011 Hall of Fame inductees, pictured at the Semi-Annual meeting March 22nd from left are, Lalie Boos, Don Bichner and Pat Ahneman. Their contributions and years of volunteer service were outlined in the CCHS February newsletter.



## COUNTY NEWS

### Stanley Area Historical Society

DAVE JANKOSKI, REPORTER

The Stanley Area Historical Society held their annual meeting on January 29. The highlight of 2010 was the grand opening of the new addition on July 10 and 11, with Dr. Ellsworth Brown, Director of the Wisconsin Historical Society as the main speaker. The annual audit of the financial records was reported on, a 2011 budget was adopted, and election of officers and board members occurred. Dave Jankoski and Fred Evans were elected President and Vice-President and Dick Davis, Mary Fitzsimmons and Bev Hompe were returned to the Board of Directors. Dick Davis and Betty Plombon were recognized for serving 35 years on the Board of Directors.

New 2011 exhibits include the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, a gallery of calendars from Stanley area businesses, and an outstanding collection of Red Wing pottery. In addition, the military case has been completely redone and a number of other exhibits have been rejuvenated to include new and different artifacts. If you haven't seen our newest addition opened in July 2010, it houses our 1906 Cadillac, a collection of 650 beer taps, a Coca-Cola collection and many other interesting items. On August 20, Bob Seidl, a local history teacher, will be presenting a talk on the Civil War at the museum at 2 p.m.

We have completed a new workroom in our 2001 addition, which also houses three document files. A new book project has Stanley area natives writing stories on their memories of growing up in the area.

The Stanley Area Historical Society museum is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. during June, July and August. During September, the museum is open only on Sundays from 1-4 p.m. Groups wishing to tour can make arrangements by calling 715-644-5880. Red Hat groups are welcome.

## THE MARSH RAINBOW ARCH BRIDGE

JIM SCHUH

The City of Chippewa Falls held Public Information Meeting #2 for the Marsh Rainbow Arch Bridge on 4-14-11. Ayres Associates Project Engineer Chris McMahon studied eight alternatives. The options ranged from do nothing to replacement with a new concrete arch bridge that would cost \$1,855,000. The most supported option by the public and the recommended alternative from the Project Engineer is: "Repair and re-stain the bridge and make it a one-way bridge. (This would eliminate the Functional Obsolescence of the bridge.)" The cost of this option is \$210,000. The Chippewa Falls City Council voted unanimously May 3rd to support the Plan Commission's recommendation to repair the bridge and have it handle only west-bound traffic. A third public information meeting will be scheduled later this year. Work on the bridge is not anticipated until next year at the earliest. The City of Chippewa Falls City Council will need to act on approval of project expenditures and scheduling prior to work taking place.

The Chippewa County Historical Society supported the options that included repairing and preserving the bridge. We have sought assistance from the WI Trust for Historic Preservation and encouraged residents to support bridge restoration. We thank all of the people who took time to write letters and attend the public meetings. Without your input and participation it is possible that another option, other than restoring this important historic architectural community asset, would have been recommended.





### The Past Passed Here!

Once again visitors step back in time in Allen Park. With students looking on, shots were fired and a large canoe was paddled down stream through the early-day mist to the landing spot at the south end of Allen Park. This was the thrilling opening of The Past Passed Here 2011 school days. The hands-on nature of many of the activities and the small size of the groups (10-14 students per group) added to the overall experience.

This year's groups included all of the 4th graders from the Chippewa Falls public schools, Holy Ghost and Christ Lutheran, comprising about 400 students and 19 classrooms. Since 2005 close to 2700 4th grade students have attended.

The Past Passed Here 2011 was a great opportunity for the 4th grade students to experience, in an authentic setting, a myriad of games and activities from the everyday life of the French Voyageurs, Lumbermen, and early settlers who would have passed through or inhabited this part of Wisconsin. I want to thank the Chippewa County Historical Society for their coordination and the Past Passed Here planning committee and volunteers, under the direction of Mary and Dennis Brown, for the tireless work in putting together and running this fun and educational event. Like I said last year, it just keeps getting better and better!

*Catherine Lea, PPH school coordinator*

If you didn't get to The Past Passed Here last week, you missed a very impressive, educational festival. The Chippewa County Historical Society's mission is:

- a. To stimulate historical communication, education, interest and exchange of information to/with individuals and organization
- b. To provide instruction and/or assistance through educational programs, workshops and seminars to its members and the general public.

I can say the second year of producing this event exceeded all expectation and accomplished our mission. Mother nature chose to cooperate this year with good weather instead of the cold, windy, rainy weather of last year.

This event's success was the result of a group of dedicated, interested people working together. They provided an excellent event that educated all the fourth graders in the Chippewa Unified School District along with other people who attended The Past Passed Here. I want to take this opportunity to recognize those involved.

Mary Brown with the help of her husband Dennis took on planning of this year's festival, days after finishing the 2010 event. She ran a number of planning meetings for the 2011 event. Mary started setting up the site on Saturday and oversaw the complete set up, which went on until the first students arrived Wednesday morning. Beside budgeting and controlling expenses she supervised the tear down of the event.

Marge Hebbring, a new Society Board Member, wrote a grant that resulted in having funds to pay the fourth grader's admission, reimburse re-enactor expenses and add educational and entertaining musical acts to the festival. It also relieved fund raising pressure.

Jim Schuh recruited sponsors, coordinated free media publicity and arraigned for Jerry Way, Les Fils du Voyageur and The Pinery Boys to entertain the public on Saturday. He also took on writing the script for use with the fourth grade and organizing the Society's exhibit at the festival. Arley Engel whose health prevented him from doing his usual great job with the exhibit, helped get some of his artifacts available for volunteers to move them to Allen Park. While not as big as Arley's usual display, the buffalo was available for kids to have their pictures taken on it. Jeff Prichard helped man the Society's display and talked with the students about the lumbering era and other Chippewa industry. Jeff also came in early every morning and made sure the grounds were clean.

Chuck Card not only set up and ran the sawing competition he also ran the food booth. Brandy Lasiewicz staffed the entry gate for every student session. Catherine Lea, Community Resource Coordinator, Chippewa Falls Schools Pupil Services Center once again coordinated getting about 400 fourth graders to the festival and oversaw their participation.

Kris Kunshier was hired to be in charge of the camp operations and layout. She arraigned for authentic educational re-enactor camps demonstrating butter churning, Dutch oven pie baking, weaving, wool spinning, teepee living, primitive toys and weapons, etc.

Finally thanks to all the other volunteers whose help make the festival a success. Another successful The Past Passed Here. See you there next year. *Dave*

Above: French Voyageur re-enactors approach the camp in Duncan Creek in a 25 foot fur trade style canoe.



# We Made History Come Alive

BY MARGE HEBBRING

The Chippewa County Historical Society presented “The Past Passed Here” May 4-8, 2011. Over 400 students from the Chippewa Falls School District attended the encampment. The re-enactors expressed a special interest in educating the students and the public in the history and culture of the fur trade era and life among the early settlers of the Chippewa Valley. The Chippewa Falls area has a rich history of fur trading, logging and manufacturing. Approximately 29 re-enactors from as far away as Michigan and Grand Portage, Minnesota made history come alive for the visitors. Demonstrations included hawk throwing, atlatl and bow and arrow instruction, butter churning, pie baking, and barrel making. The students also enjoyed the paddle races, jewelry making and playing the “cat and mouse game.” Other events such as storytelling activities and the arrival of a canoe powered by voyageurs added to their experience.

The weather seemed to be the main topic of conversation as the re-enactors enjoyed their best weather in nine years. The sun shined and the birds flew overhead as children played and adults enjoyed buffalo burgers and fry bread.

Authentic examples of different living structures varied from a simple overturned canoe and a tarp to wedge tents, four wall tents and tipis. Many different styles of clothing could be seen including, the hats, pipes, sashes and the capotes of the voyageurs, the fancy outfits of the French ladies and gentlemen, the kilts of the bag pipers, and the buckskins, beadwork and moccasins of various American Indian tribes.

The candy vendor sold licorice, fudge and rock sugar while the fry bread tent offered fillings such as sausage, fruit and meat and cheese. The Chippewa County Historical Society offered a delicious menu of buffalo burgers, hot dogs, fresh pretzels, whole pickles, voyageur stew and root beer floats made with Olson’s Ice Cream.

The Wisconsin Humanities Council provided funding that enabled planners to provide entertainment on Saturday. *The Sons of the Voyageurs* and the *Pinery Boys* entertained the crowd with their songs about fur trade life and the adventures of the logging industry. Also, on Saturday the *Wandering Minstrel*, Jerry Way, accompanied by percussionist Jim Schuh, entertained visitors and two bagpipers provided music throughout the day. The Wisconsin Humanities Council supports programs that use history, culture and discussion to strengthen community life for everyone in Wisconsin.

On Saturday night, a potluck supper brought all the re-enactors together for some great food and interesting conversation. Re-Enactor-Teri Stahr said: “Returning to the Past Passed Here event at Allen Park was like coming home.” She also stated that eagles could be seen flying overhead when they set up her tipi and also again when they were packing up to leave. 🐾



Photos left to right:  
A Scottish bagpiper leads Fancy Man and Lady Catherine (Lea), portraying the fur company owners, to the canoe landing welcome ceremony.  
Fourth grade students, with their teacher, pose for a photo on Arley Engel’s buffalo at the CCHS lumberjack tool display.  
The Pinery Boys sang songs and portrayed the lumberjack lifestyle.  
A cooper describes and demonstrates the art of making wooden containers.  
Wandering minstrel Jerry Way, accompanied by percussionist Jim Schuh, plays songs that he has written about Chippewa Falls’ colorful history.  
The Sons of the Voyageur sang songs in French from the fur trade days and welcomed our volunteer Loretta to the stage.

Committees in sync!



**Chippewa County Historical Society Committee Members**

**\* Collection & Artifacts:**

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

**Photography Sub Committee:**

- \* Lucyann LeCleir, Donna Bourget, Jeff Pritchard

**\* Building & Grounds:**

- \* Steve Rasmus

**Space Utilization Sub Committee**

- \* Steve Rasmus

**\* Education:**

- \* Catherine Lea, Evalyn Frasch, Ann Gordon, Rosemary Broeren, Marge Hebbring

**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

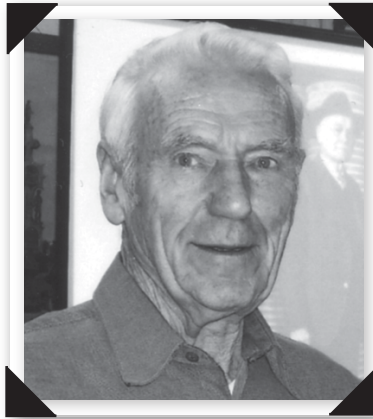
**\* Publicity:**

- \* Jim Schuh, Wayne Meyer

**\* Newsletter:**

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

\* Chairperson



Don Bichner

**A VOLUNTEER PROFILE**  
**MARY MCKENNA**

*Don*

He's an Honorary Life member of the Chippewa Valley Cultural Association, a Lifetime member of the Historical Society and one of three newly elected to the 2011 History Hall of Fame. This is a glimpse into highlights of his journey as we profile him and his accomplishments.

Mahtomedi, Minnesota, a small town on the east shore of White Bear Lake, is where this story begins. Don was born to Helen A. (Weber) and Frank V. Bichner, a carpenter by trade. Don was the youngest of three children, and had a sister and a brother. He attended St. Peter's grade school taking a streetcar for twelve cents each way unless another parent would offer him a ride thereby pocketing the change for candy, he relates with a chuckle.

Don went to Mahtomedi High School in Minnesota and his wife, Dolores attended Stillwater High. They were introduced by Don's cousin. Their future was put on hold because he enlisted in the United States Navy just one day before his 18th birthday. She faithfully waited for him during the two years he served in the South Pacific during World War II. Don said he saw a great deal of the world during this military service.

After corresponding during those years, on June 23, 1948, Don and Dolores became husband and wife at St. Jude's Catholic church. Together they raised four children: Craig, Laurel and twins Mike and Mark. Their offspring brought them seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

While Don worked along side his father learning carpentry, he would find employment as a bus driver and later he went into partnership with his brother in a Texaco filling station. About 1965, a job brought Don and his family to Chippewa Falls where he went to work for Powers Heating Controls.

Back in the early days of the renovating process of the Heyde Center, Carol Way was recruiting, for someone to repair a hole in the roof. Prior to the Art show she'd post her "wish list" for preparation help and Don volunteered his services to fix the roof. He joined a group of faithful volunteers that worked tirelessly restoring the building. In addition to the work done inside, Don was instrumental in the erection of the impressive Flag Pole in front of the Heyde Center for the Arts building. Being resourceful, he recycled the paving bricks from the city streets. He has created signage for the Heyde Center as well using his skill working with wood. His fond wish for the Center is to have a canvas stage curtain recreated





MARY TODD LINCOLN

THE CHIPPEWA COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
POTLUCK INDOOR PICNIC WILL BE HELD  
AUGUST 22 AT 5:30 P.M.  
AT CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.  
PROGRAM SPEAKER WILL BE FORMER  
FIRST LADY MARY TODD LINCOLN,  
THE WIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN,  
PORTRAYED BY BETTY CROWLEY.



## NOTES FROM THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

BY ANNE KELLER

A friend, a good researcher who lives here in Chippewa County and has access to all the recorded information for her family, used courthouse records to verify family records. She shared her family tree with a cousin who subsequently changed and added information according to his knowledge of the family legends. Then he placed the "tree" on-line. Did he acknowledge her work? No. Did he change data? Yes. If this was your family that you "found on-line," would you have the correct story? No.

The computer has redirected the course of the entire world. It has certainly made an impact on our daily lives—our homes, our businesses, our hobbies. In the case of those whose hobby-obsession includes genealogical pursuits, the computer has become a serious partner. "It" does our research, organizes our work, finds locations, and helps us be in contact with real people. Of course, all of these facets are wonderfully connected to our "doing" our family tree research.

Research is so much easier than it was only a few years ago when, if you needed information, you sent a letter of request, included a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and waited for who-knows-how-long for a response. Now a click of the key and... voilà... information!

BUT—and here's the real hint—be skeptical! Be sure the web site you find is reliable. Look to see who sponsors the site, who or what organization is involved in the information it presents. If an individual has placed information on-line, check for accuracy and authenticity.

The internet is wonderful. Use it wisely. ♣

### A VOLUNTEER PROFILE *CONTINUED*

like the one that hung in the auditorium years ago. It depicted the Chippewa Saw Mill, the original McDonell High School building, and Notre Dame Catholic Church.

About 1990 Don became involved with the History Center due to his love of history and artifacts. He worked with now deceased, Jack O'Neill, on numerous building projects, an invaluable service by these two men.

Don also faithfully served as a Board Member for eight years and his expertise in the craft of wood-working is evident throughout the building in signage and seasonal decorations. He enjoys the outdoors and loves nature, biking, wine-making and had a successful maple syrup operation on his property until recent years. He even built a chalet and set up a kitchen to serve breakfast to family, co-workers and friends after he demonstrated how maple syrup was produced. Members of the History Center were invited to partake in this experience and to savor the end product.

Irvine Park is another place Don is an active volunteer. He was one of a number of volunteers that built a foot bridge over the creek in the park. He has been very involved in the Native Tree project and constructing the mile long trail that will highlight a variety of trees to educate young and old alike. He hopes to see this project completed.

While Don traveled extensively while in the military, he relished the two-week trip he took with his wife and friends to Germany not long ago. They were fortunate to see a great deal of Europe while there.

You are in for a treat if you see one Don's displays sometimes featured in the local Library along with those at the History and Heyde Centers. Look east up on the "Hill" to view the majestic flag waving as a reminder of how much we owe and proudly honor Don for his time and treasured contributions to our community. Don has also generously contributed to our "new museum" fund and he has challenged the members of the Chippewa County Historical Society to collectively match his gift of \$2500.00! ♣



Visit our display  
at the Valley Art  
Association 3rd  
Annual Solstice  
on Grand Art Fair.  
Held at the  
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**2010-2012**

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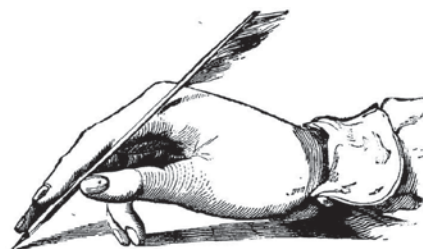
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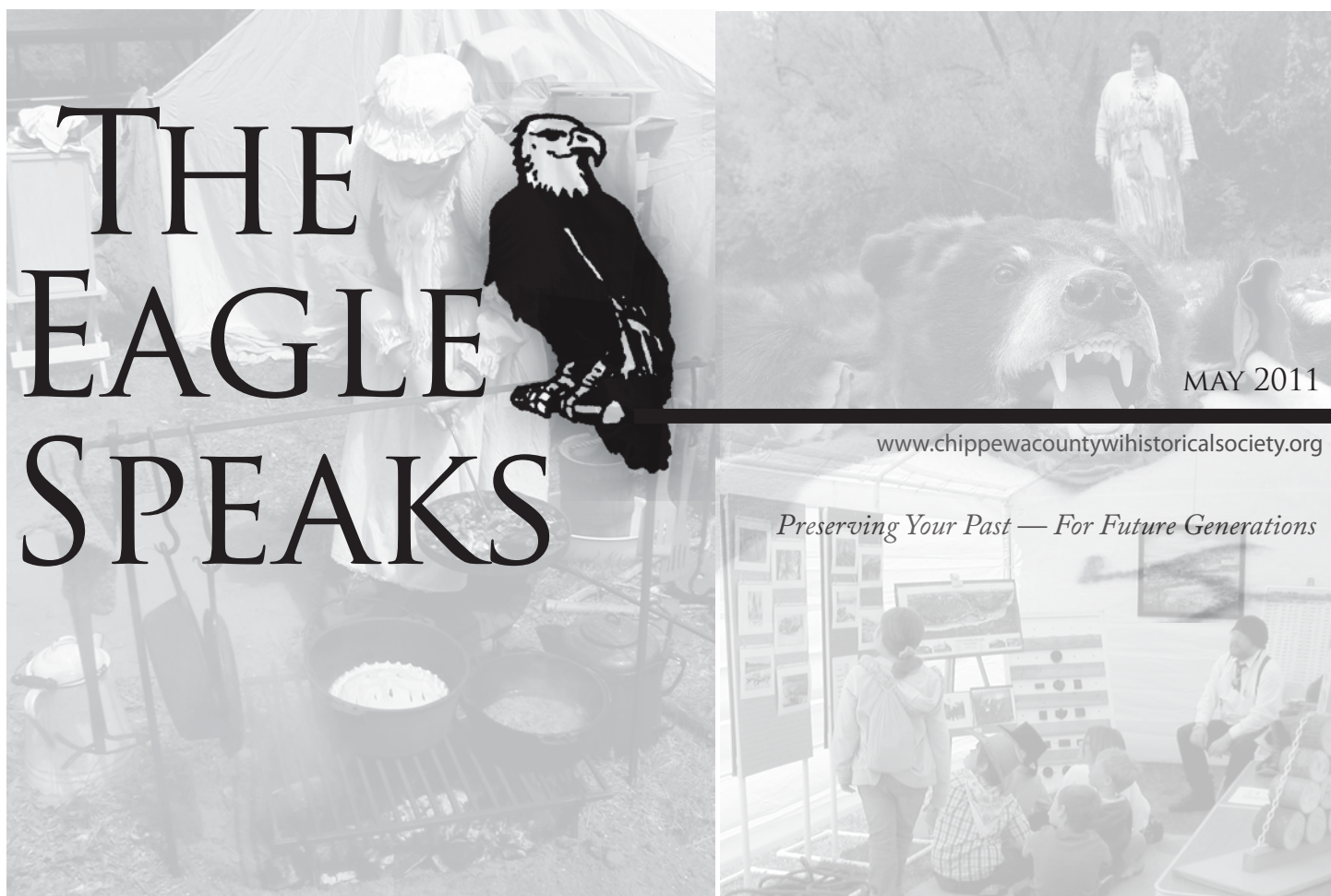
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