

THE EAGLE

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



SPEAKS

SEPTEMBER 2012

www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

"OLD ABE"

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Back Home on the Farm

BY ARLEY ENGEL

Garden stuff that we raised on our farm in the Town of Wheaton were strawberries, plums and raspberries. We picked wild blackberries, currants, cranberries and blueberries. Pears and peaches were store bought in season. Underground crops were carrots, potatoes, beets and radishes. Our above ground plants were started as seedlings in the house to be transplants when they had grown to a height of 3 to 6 inches, and the ground was warm enough, and the threat of frost was over. These include tomatoes, cabbage and tobacco. We had three different types of apple trees and two black walnut trees. Our onions were transplants from stock that we bought at Zutter Elevators.

We had ground cherries that came up every year on their own. They were called volunteer plants. The cucumbers and squash were planted 5 to 7 seeds per hill. They were spaced 6 feet apart with plenty of room for the runners. Strawberries were placed in rows about 16 inches apart and as they grew the runners created what is called beds. Green beans and peas were planted in rows and spaced 3 to 4 inches apart as was the lettuce. Asparagus was planted in beds and could be cut five to seven times a year. Our rhubarb was also in beds along the garden fence. The sweet corn was planted in a patch with the rows being 12 feet long and six feet wide for better pollination.



Mark your calendars and save this date :

CCHS Bi-Annual Membership
Picnic Potluck
Irvine Park Activities Building
Monday, September 10, 5:30 p.m.
See program info on page 7



Yellowstone Trail Centennial Celebration

JUNE 2, 1912 - JUNE 2, 2012

SOCIABILITY RUN

Chippewa County Historical Society

Yellowstone Trail Centennial Celebration and Sociability Run

JIM SCHUH, Vice President & Event Coordinator

JUNE 2, CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI More than 200 people joined us at our old fashioned picnic and about 20 of them traveled all the way from Minnesota on the Yellowstone Trail. Nearly 100 eye catching classic cars were on display in Irvine Park.

Thank you to all of our volunteers and sponsors who made it possible for us to coordinate another first class event celebrating local history. Arley Engel, Kurt Gaber, Tom Larson and Paul Oman helped me with planning. This core team also helped in many other ways. Arley wrote about the event in our last newsletter. Paul sent invitations to antique auto enthusiasts and coordinated an antique auto camping display. Kurt sponsored banners, signage and commutative auto stickers. Kurt's son Hunter helped with signage and coordinating parking at the event. Skip August and Rusty Volk helped me clean the tram vehicle that Skip drove to shuttle guests through the park. Mary McKenna and Nancy Schuh handed out welcome bags and sold stickers at the registration table. The kitchen crew did an amazing job preparing and serving our picnic lunch. My wife Nancy pre-cooked 600 brats the day before. Patrick Kurtenbach and Allen (Jake) Jacobson grilled brats and hotdogs. Ann Keller, Lucy LeCleur and Diane Whelan served food and Teri Stahr collected donations and lunch tickets. Dave Gordon and Jim Campbell served beverages.

I served as the MC in the historic 1908 picnic pavilion. Dave Gordon welcomed our guests, thanked our volunteers and handed out plaques to centennial businesses. Mayor Greg Hoffman read a proclamation and Jerry Way played his original songs about William Irvine and The Yellowstone Trail. Connie Pozdell, immediate past president of the Stanley Area Historical Society, thanked us for coordinating the event. Diane Whelan cut and served a beautiful sheet cake. Jeff Prichard took photos. Yellowstone Trail promoters, Alice and John Ridge, sold Yellowstone Trail books and promotional items. The Executive Director of the Yellowstone Trail Association, Mark Mowbray, attended and wrote the article on page 3. ♣





“My compliments to all involved in this wonderful event.”

BY MARK MOWBRAY, Executive Director, Yellowstone Trail Association

This was the first day of my 36-day western road trip on the Yellowstone Trail this summer. I thought it might be a fitting place to begin, and it certainly was! After coffee and gas fill, I explored the interesting Yellowstone Trail route through town in both directions. Then I explored Irvine Park, checked out the zoo, and hung out where the old cars started arriving around 10 am from all over Northwestern Wisconsin...and there were even some from Minnesota.

And what old cars they were...35 or more from 1909 through 1930, the heyday of the YT, and many more from later years. The oldest cars had a designated parking area on the grass in the park area that had been a campground for early Yellowstone Trail travelers. The cars were magnificent, each and every one!

John and Alice Ridge, of Yellowstone Trail Publishing, had their great books, T-shirts, maps, and other items available for purchase and were kept quite busy throughout the day.

The Chippewa County Historical Society did a bang up job of organizing and promoting this event, and with the sponsorship of many local businesses, had a very nice luncheon in the historic Park Pavilion. Sokup's brats and Leinenkugel's beer are at the top of my favorites list. I really enjoyed the lunch, the entertainment, and the chance to meet so many nice folks and see their cars. My compliments to all involved in this wonderful event. 🍷





CALENDAR

Sept. 10

5:30 p.m. CCHS Bi-Annual Membership Picnic Potluck Irvine Park Activities Building

Sept. 18

10:30 a.m. Historic Marker Committee Meeting

Noon Area History Center Birthday Lunch

1:30 p.m. The Past Passed Here Planning Committee

Oct. 16

9:30 a.m. CCHS Board Meeting

Noon Area History Center Birthday Lunch

Nov. 20

9:30 a.m. CCHS Board Meeting

Noon Area History Center Birthday Lunch

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

NOTES FROM THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

BY ANNE KELLER

The Chippewa County Genealogical Society is housed in the same building as the Historical Society. Its ever-growing library is on the second floor. The building is the former Notre Dame Convent on the “East Hill” of Chippewa Falls, right next to the church building. As you drive into the city from the south, you can see the church as you look up the hill to the right

I have been in many genealogical libraries, and I truly believe that ours is outstanding. It holds histories of area families, churches, towns and villages, townships, buildings, and organizations, as well as the actual documents and resources that yield information about those subjects.

The faithful CCGS volunteers continue to compile and extract data from the myriad of sources in its library, and each Tuesday (9:00 am–4:00 pm) they help whoever might stop by to ask for research assistance. There have been many, many visitors this summer. You are encouraged to visit in person and “check us out.”

New Chippewa County Historic Marker Brochure

BY JIM SCHUH

During the mid 1980s a brochure was created in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Chippewa Falls. It was photocopied on blue paper and listed about 45 historic markers in the county. The Chippewa Falls Area Visitor Center has requested additional brochures. Rather than reproducing a brochure that had become outdated the Historic Marker Committee decided that we should redesign this promotional piece.

Kurt Gaber, owner of Gaber Signs, volunteered to donate design services. His assistant, Cindy Hilger, created a new layout. It includes nine color photos and a county and city map each showing locations of our 53 historic markers and the six Wisconsin Historical Markers located in Chippewa County. The full color prototype is extremely attractive and user friendly.

Now comes the question: How are we going to pay for printing? I have spoken to Dale Zweifelhofer at Rooney Printing and he will print a mockup, provide cost estimates for various quantities and then potential sponsors will be contacted. If you have an interest in becoming a sponsor for this project please call Jim Schuh at 715-726-2376.



Teri Stahr
Her reenactment name is
Mashkiki Mukwa Eqway
(Medicine Bear Woman)

Committees in sync!



Chippewa County Historical Society Committee Members

A VOLUNTEER PROFILE

MARY MCKENNA

Teri

Minnesota's loss became our gain back in 1976, when Teri Stahr moved from the Twin Cities with her two daughters, Tiana and Sabrenna. Big city life was not desired by Teri for her girls and Chippewa Falls was, as she put it, "A Dream Town." Everything about our fair city attracted her: Irvine Park, the people and much more. Born in St. Paul, Minnesota to parents, Deloris and Lucky Floetl; Teri married Marvin Opsahl on November 14, 1981 at the Cook Rutledge Mansion. In addition to her three children, she is the proud grandma of two grandsons: Josh Stahr and Austin Roetter.

Once in Chippewa Falls, this busy lady worked for Walker's Decorating in Eau Claire for a short time and then moved on to Wall to Wall Carpet and Decorating for a few years. She managed the decorating for the Chippewa and Eau Claire stores. Next she did Foster Care for twelve years and her son, Channing, was the first of the 36 children she cared for and later adopted.

During all this time, she was buying and selling antiques, doing shows plus giving talks on the subject of antiques. She held many estate sales around the area and when the owners of the Chippewa Antique Mall, of which she was the manager, decided to sell the building, she decided to move and open her own place: henceforth the birth of the Picket Fence Antique Mall!

After many years of volunteering for the Main Street Association, she joined the Historical Society. She felt the History Center might be a fitting organization to host "The Past Passed Here." After all, it was all about teaching youth and adults about our proud history on our very own Historical site. Not many groups can claim this! The event on the lot where Korger's Decorating now stands and then moved to our present site, Allen Park, an ideal spot for us! Teri started with one TiPi for Pure Water Day's, then Main Street took on the event and now the History Center has adopted the project. We have watched it grow from 400 to about 650 fourth grade students who come to play and learn with us. As we grow, we will be able to offer this learning experience to more students and the public in the future.

While "The Past Passed Here" is Teri's pet project, no dust grows under her feet. She is a long time member of the La Voyagers Du Val Du Chippewa and has been active in rendezvous and Pow-wows for over 25 years. She loves the idea of introducing young people to what the History Center has to offer. Her outgoing personality is perfect for greeting and meeting all the interested people and just being surrounded with all the artifacts in our museum makes it pleasurable for her.

Teri's enthusiasm and zest for life is certainly evident in every task she takes on and she is pictured above in our "The Past Passed Here" event photo. Her exuberance is a real asset to our organization and we are grateful for her contributions. 🐾

❖ Collection & Artifacts:

* Nancy Schuh, Arley Engel,
Lucyann LeCleur, Terri Stahr,

Photography Sub Committee:

*Lucyann LeCleur, Donna Bourget,
Jeff Pritchard

❖ Building & Grounds:

*Skip August

Space Utilization Sub Committee

*Steve Rasmus

❖ Education:

* Marge Hebbing, Catherine Lea,
Evalyn Frasch, Ann Gordon,
Rosemary Broeren

Docent Subcommittee:

Lalie Boos, Pat Ahneman

❖ Exhibits:

* Arley Engel, Nancy Schuh,
Lucyann LeCleur

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



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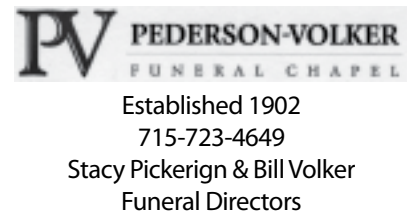
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Back Home on the Farm continued from cover

Cash crops raised on our farm were peas for the Chippewa Canning Company, Cabbage for Lange's Canning Company in Eau Claire, cucumbers for the Pickle Factory in Chippewa Falls and sweet corn that we trucked to the Lang Canning Company in Menomonie. The tobacco was raised, processed, baled and stored until spring when the buyers came to the farm to purchase. All these items required tender loving care plus many hours of hoeing weeds and thistles. Then mother had the job of canning all these food stuffs, which meant many hours by a hot stove, not including all the other chores of a farmer's wife. Take a look at this list of goodies that she canned. Green beans, rhubarb, sweet corn, blackberries, carrots, raspberries, potatoes, venison, beets, pork, tomatoes, beef, asparagus, cranberries, apples, tomato juice, peas, onions and pickles.

We had a separate dry room in the basement to store squash, cabbage, potatoes and onions. All of this on an 80 acre farm, plus the regular corn, oats and hay crops. We raised cows, pigs, chickens, ducks, geese and rabbits for food, milk and eggs. Even with all these jobs we still found time to go hunting and fishing to put a different variety of food on the table.

Today, 60 years later, we have gotten very lazy. When first married over 50 years ago, June and I raised a smaller garden than we had raised on the farm as there were only two mouths to feed. Then we had two kids and of course had to "punish" them by planting a larger garden which required weeding and hoeing plus lots of tender loving care.

This continued until the kids were in the fifth and sixth grades and June had been rehired at Uniroyal as a secretary. She was lucky enough to get on the 7:00 am to 3:30 pm shift but this led to many trying times as the kids and I would harvest our garden produce after I got home from work at Griffin Doege Auto Parts and after supper which was around 6:30 pm in the evening. It was bad timing for all of us, as this was the hottest part of the day. To heat the pressure canner for canning pickles, green beans, tomatoes or beets created a very warm house for the rest of the evening and of course we had no A/C at this time. We had a few family feuds before we decided it was better for June and I to work harder to make more funds and buy our produce already processed.

This gave us more play time. We purchased a pickup with a camper, then started touring around the state of Wisconsin, which we all enjoyed. One of the topics at our Monday morning farmers breakfast is "What do you think will happen with the Hmong gardeners in our township as they move into their third and fourth generations?" Best bet is their gardens will be much smaller. *That's all for now from Engel's Little House on the Wheaton Prairie.*

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COUNTY NEWS

Stanley Area Historical Society

DAVID JANKOSKI, REPORTER

Since our last report, the Stanley Area Historical Society has been concentrating on developing a prairie grass and prairie flower covering on our new lot south of the museum buildings. This has been a difficult year to plant ground cover, as the weather has not cooperated. Although we followed our consultants directions it is too early to know what the outcome will be.

In April we sponsored an "antique appraisal" which drew over 100 participants who brought in more than 200 items to have appraised. We are looking forward to repeating this again in April 2013. It was a great experience and brought in many out of area visitors. And we heard many, "I can't believe you have so much in your museum."

Our museum continues to be open through the month of August 1-4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. In September we will have the same hours but on Sundays only. Attendance this summer has been good averaging around 20-25 most weekends. Our volunteers have been faithful and that makes it easier to be open as much as we are. Volunteers have continued to work weekly at the museum to enhance exhibits and accession donated items.

This summer we have been participating in a "Passport Project" with museums in Thorp, Colby, Loyal and Neillsville in an attempt to increase attendance and expose people to each museum. Participants carry a "passport" from museum to museum and receive a punch during each visit. After they have visited all the museums, they will be eligible for drawings of items donated by each museum. The program concludes at the end of August.

We hope to see many of you September 7 at the West Central Regional Convention, hosted this year by the Thorp Area Historical Society. ❦

A Message From Your President

An important part of The Chippewa County Historical Society's mission is to stimulate historical communication, education, interest and exchange of information to/with individuals and organizations. Well that has been the focus since our last newsletter.

On June 2 thanks to Jim Schuh we hosted lunch for The Sociability Run of antique car owners celebrating the 100 anniversary of the Yellowstone Trail. Don't miss Jim's article in this issue on the event. It is amazing to me that we have 18 businesses in Chippewa Falls that are over 100 years old.

On June 16 Nancy Schuh had set up an exhibit showing some of our rich history at the Solstice on Grand Art Faire. The exhibit featured some signs from past Chippewa businesses, photographs from the lumbering era, and automobiles of the past. Most important were Jeff, Mary, Kathy, Lucy, Arley, Jim and Nancy who were there to talk with the visitors about the Historical Society and our museum.

July 11 thru 15 we had a booth at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair. Marge, Teri, Nancy and Arley put this exhibit together. The exhibit highlighted the Indian, French Fur Trading and Lumbering eras. The volunteers who were at the booth to talk with fair goers brought the eras to life.

We were fortunate to have inmates from the Chippewa Valley Correctional Training Facility help with cleaning the museum, moving artifacts and exhibits and painting. A room was emptied and painted for Dennis Mickesh to display his collection of artifacts that show the history of surveying in Chippewa County. Look for more about this display and its opening. Another building item was the repair of the building roof. Our lease with Notre Dame Church includes our responsibility for repair and maintenance. So we had an \$8,000 bill to repair the worst part of the roof, which was half of the roof. The remaining half of the roof will last another two to four years. Should any of our members and readers be willing to help off set this expense, it would be greatly appreciated.

Marge Hebring and Mary Brown have just submitted a grant application to The National Endowment for The Humanities. The grant request if funded will provide funding for The Past Passed Here for three years, create curriculum and teacher training related to TPPH for the schools local history requirement, create a French fur training exhibit, and improve the Native American exhibit.

I'd like to remind you of the membership meeting September 10, 2012 at Irvine Park. We will elect officers and directors at the meeting. I'm pleased to inform you that all the people presently serving as officers and directors in those completed terms have agreed to run again for these positions. Hope to see you on the 10th. *Dave* ❦

Solstice on Grand volunteer trio—
Mary, Kathy and Jeff



CHIPPEWA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2012-2014

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Donations



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Jack Walker Crawford	Arley & June Engel

Other Donations:

Visitors	\$309.00
Barbara McIlquham Tour	100.00

CCHS Bi-Annual Membership Program

Featuring in Costume—Dennis Mickesh

Irvine Park Activities Building • Monday, September 10, 5:30 p.m.

Dennis will portray George Stuntz a surveyor from Grant County who journeyed up the Chippewa River in 1849. His presentation will review the endeavors of this early surveyor.



During the last year, owner of Country Treasures Gold Crown Hallmark Store, Joyce Pugh, restored the storefronts on the buildings to the left. She added a second story facade to her center building to reflect the character of the previous building in this location which was destroyed in a fire. An extensive interior renovation was also completed on these properties located at 216 N. Bridge Street. During 1989 Joyce restored the facade of the 1889 Cardinal-Bergeron building on the right. Thank you to Joyce for improving the character and quality of her buildings that are located in the Bridge Street Commercial Historic District which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

OFFICERS

❖ President

Dave Gordon, 6854 182nd St.,
Chippewa Falls 723-2647 (2013)

❖ 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 (2012)

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 (2012)

❖ Nancy Schuh, 5432 178th St.,
Chippewa Falls 726-2376 (2012)

❖ Teri Stahr, 7493 County Hwy K,
Chippewa Falls 723-9007 (2013)

❖ Arley Engel, 5294 90th St.,
Chippewa Falls 723-5124 (2014)

❖ Rosemary Kilbridge, 18294 75th Ave.,
Chippewa Falls 723-3995 (2012)

❖ Marge Hebring, 7361 203rd St.,
Chippewa Falls 723-5278 (2013)

❖ Jim Campbell, 110 Chippewa St.,
Chippewa Falls 723-5495 (2012)

Chippewa County Historical Society

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Our new improved website includes our purpose, organization history, description of our museum's exhibits, a calendar of events, our newsletters from 2007 through 2011, a link to The Past Passed Here website, a list of Board Members and contact information.



Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChippewaCountyHistoryCenter

You can see numerous photos of our events, post your comments and photos, visit and "like us". Click "About" to read about our mission, overview of the origination, membership levels and costs, regularly scheduled meetings and artifact donation information.

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THE EAGLE SPEAKS



SEPTEMBER 2012

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