

THE EAGLE

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



SPEAKS

NOVEMBER 2014

www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

"OLD ABE"

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Do You Remember Monday's Job in the 1940's?

ARLEY ENGEL

At our house in the Town of Wheaton, Monday was always wash day, and being this was a lot of work, it was the only day we washed clothes. Mother would wake my older brother and I for an early breakfast and then we helped get the wringer washer in the kitchen from the cold storage porch. After we got this machine in place the next items were two metal tubs, the same ones we took our baths in on Saturday night. These tubs were placed on two chairs along side the washer. One was filled with cold water out of the sink with a three-gallon pail while the other one was left empty. Next we brought in a 5-gallon copper boiler that just fit across 2 burners of the gas stove. We then filled it with



**Area History Center
will be Closed
for the Holidays
December 23, 27 & 30**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



HISTORIC MARKERS

JIM SCHUH

During October our Historic Marker Committee installed the new James Bate Historic Marker pictured above at the Pine Grove Cemetery in the Town of Arthur aka Drywood. We also straightened Bate family headstones. Members of the Historic Marker Committee also installed the new Chippewa Woolen Mill plaque between the Jacob Leinenkugel Leinie Lodge patio and Duncan Creek. The Chippewa Woolen Mill was a major employer. They produced high quality woolen apparel and blankets on this site that were sold nation-wide.

Ron Bakken who is working with a group to have a new boat landing built on Glen Loch near the dam recently contacted us. He is wondering if something can be done to improve the old icehouse building that remains near the site. I told him that we had recently been considering creating a historic marker for the site but we needed more information. Jim Campbell volunteered to conduct research and he and I visited the site during October. The fieldstone walls of the building are still standing but there is no roof. If anyone has information about this icehouse and locker plant business and its history please let us know. 🐾

THE BASIC RULES FOR CLOTHESLINES:

1. Hang the socks by the toes... NOT the top.
2. Hang pants by the BOTTOM/cuffs... NOT the waistbands.
3. Hang the clothes in a certain order, and always hang "whites" with "whites," and hang them first.
4. NEVER hang a shirt by the shoulders - always by the tail!
What would the neighbors think?
5. WASH the clothesline(s) before hanging any clothes—walk the entire length of each line with a damp cloth around the lines.
6. Wash day on a Monday! NEVER hang clothes on the weekend, or on Sunday, for Heaven's sake!
7. Hang the sheets and towels on the OUTSIDE lines so you can hide your "unmentionables" in the middle
8. Sub-zero weather?... clothes will "freeze-dry."
9. ALWAYS gather the clothes peg when taking down dry clothes!
Pegs left on the lines are "tacky"!
10. Line the clothes up so that each item shares one of the clothes pegs with the next washed item.

Mondays *continued from cover*

cold water, as we had no hot water in the house at this time. It took about a half hour to heat this water to boiling. In the mean time, mother would be sorting clothes for color. It was dad's job to pour the hot water from the boiler into the wash machine so mother or us kids did not get burned from the boiling water. It was now time for us kids to watch for our ride to school.

Mother's day was just starting. First she dropped a batch of white clothes into the hot water, then added soap, turned on the agitator and ran that cycle for 20 minutes. The next step would be to run these soapy clothes through the wringer into the cold-water tub. This was the rinse cycle. These clothes were then moved from the rinse water into the dry tub. They were ready to be hung outside on the clothesline and dried by Mother Nature. Before going to hang this load on the line another batch of light colored clothes was added to the now, warm water in the washing machine. By the time she hung this load of clothes the next batch was ready to be run through the soapy and clear water wringers. This cycle kept up through 5 or 6 loads of clothes. Mother was usually done washing and hanging clothes around 11:45 a.m. That was just in time to make lunch for Dad and the younger boys that were not yet old enough to be in school.

After 3:30 in the afternoon, brother Gene and I would arrive home from school. We would have a quick snack. Maybe this would be homemade bread with peanut butter and jelly, a glass or two of milk and a piece of cake. Our first job after snacks was to bring in the dry clothes from the line. We had the most fun in the wintertime when the clothes were frozen. We would bring in our Dad's overalls and sit them on a chair in the dining room. It would almost look like someone was sitting in the chair. The sheets we folded once and stood in the corner. These were called "freeze dried" clothes. Now we were ready to go and do our barn chores.

This was the tale of "wash day" at Engel's Little House On The Wheaton Prairie by Arley Engel



- ▶ Signs
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During the next few years each issue of our newsletter will feature an article on the 1913-1917 formation of Lake Wissota. Xcel Energy has provided the Chippewa County Historical Society and the Lake Wissota Improvement & Protection



Association. with written materials and approximately 1,000 images of dam construction in Chippewa Falls. We greatly appreciate their support of sharing this information with residents and members of our non-profit organizations.

Committees in sync!



Chippewa County Historical Society Committee Members

- * **Collection & Artifacts:**
 - * Nancy Schuh, Arley Engel, Lucyann LeCleir, Teri Stahr,
 - Photography Sub Committee:**
 - *Lucyann LeCleir, Donna Bourget
 - * **Building & Grounds:**
 - *Skip August
 - * **Education:**
 - * Marge Hebbing, Jerry Way, Catherine Lea, Evalyn Frasch, Ann Gordon
 - Docent Subcommittee:**
 - Pat Ahneman, Marge Hebbing
 - * **Exhibits:**
 - * Arley Engel, Nancy Schuh, Mary & Jim Erickson
 - Historic Markers Sub Committee:**
 - * Tom Larson, Jim Schuh, Arley Engel, Kurt Gaber
 - * **Finances:**
 - *Skip August, Kathy Forsgren
 - * **Membership:**
 - *Donna Bourget, Mary McKenna
 - Telephone Subcommittee:**
 - *Mary McKenna
 - * **Publicity:**
 - *Jim Schuh
 - * **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*

WHAT WAS HAPPENING 100 YEARS AGO AT THIS TIME ...

Chippewa River Dam & Power History

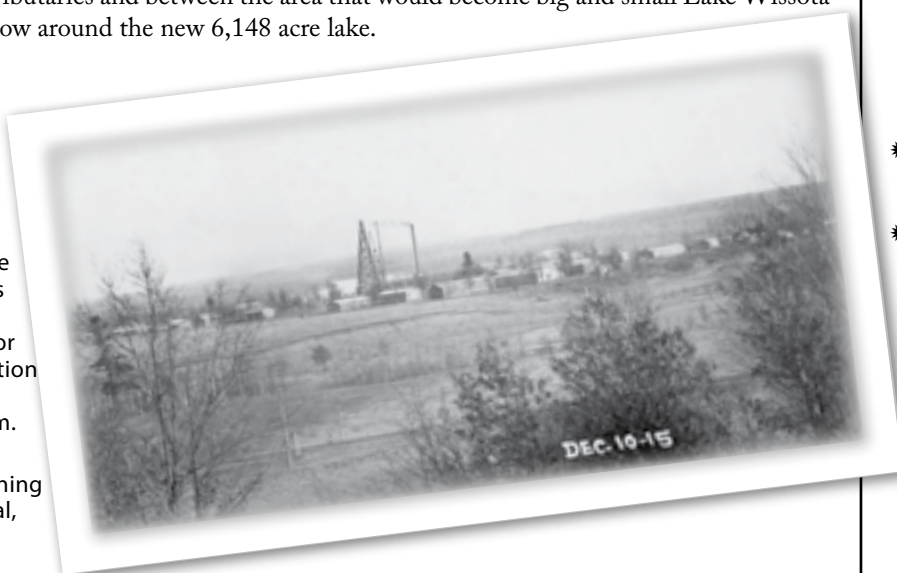
JIM SCHUH

Continued from September's The Eagle Speaks...

In the summer of 1914 Charles Kelsey and Joseph Brewer had just purchased the Chippewa Valley Electric Railway and Light Company that had been owned by a powerful group of lumbermen. These developers were now in the planning phase for building the world's largest concrete dam. The Wissota project was huge in its day, and even today, a century later, it would be considered a very large project.

Complex architectural and engineering plans would be produced. Construction cost estimates would be needed for funding the Wissota Dam project. It was an enormous undertaking for its day and required planning for construction of a small town with houses, dining hall, school and hospital to care for the 700 workers and their families. An engineering firm was hired to determine the area that would be flooded and maps were needed to portray the 51 mile shoreline perimeter of the new lake. People living on farms within the boundaries of the project area would have to vacate the area or move their buildings to higher ground prior to filling the basin. The Yellow River Bridge, later known as the Cobban Bridge, was constructed in 1908 for a cost of \$12,744. It crossed the Chippewa River just upstream from its junction with the Yellow River in an area called the Yellow River flats. Because this bridge would be under water after creating the reservoir the six-year-old bridge would need to be removed. New bridges would be needed to be built over tributaries and between the area that would become big and small Lake Wissota for traffic flow around the new 6,148 acre lake.

This town was built to house the 700 workers and their families prior to construction of the Lake Wissota dam. Buildings included dining hall, hospital, school and homes.





CALENDAR

Nov. 18:

9:30 am CCHS Board Meeting

Noon Area History Center Birthday Lunch

1:30 pm The Past Passed Here Planning Meeting

Nov. 22:

9 am - 1 pm Museum Open Fourth Saturday

Nov. 25:

10 am Future Museum Meeting

Dec. 9:

10 am Future Museum Meeting

Dec. 16:

9:30 am CCHS Board Meeting

Noon Area History Center Birthday Lunch

1:30 pm The Past Passed Here Planning Meeting

Dec. 23, 27 & 30:

History Center Closed for the Holidays

Jan. 13:

Future Museum Meeting 10 am

Jan. 20:

9:30 am CCHS Board Meeting

10:30 am Historic Marker Committee

Noon Area History Center Birthday Lunch

1:30 pm The Past Passed Here Planning Meeting

Jan. 24:

9 am - 1 pm Museum Open Fourth Saturday

Jan. 27:

10 am Future Museum Meeting

Feb. 9:

6:30 pm CCHS Bi-Annual Membership Meeting
Chippewa Falls Fire Dept. History - Tom Larson



A Message From Your President

Well as I write this message I'm looking out the window and it is white out there. We do live in Wisconsin. The Historical Society finds this time of year to our advantage because people are looking for things to do inside. We have plenty of that, just ask Nate.

We have had some changes to the Board of Directors. Steve Rasmus and Jerry Way have resigned. We thank them for their contributions to the Society while they were on the Board. At the last Membership Meeting Mary Erickson was elected to the Board. Mary follows her Dad, Fred Dinkel, first President of the Society, in being active in the Society.

We had an excellent exhibit at October Fest this year. It featured children's toys. Thanks to Nancy and Mary and all those who helped with the exhibit.

We were also fortunate to receive a bequest from the estate of Betty Peterson. Julia Campbell, Betty's niece and executor of her will presented us with a check for \$5000. We are so grateful for this generous donation.

We have been working on putting to better use the committee structure that has existed for many years. The Historic Marker Sub Committee and the Publicity Committee have been the most active committees to date and both continue to make major contributions to preserving the rich history of our area. Recently the Collection and Artifacts and Exhibits Committees have been meeting regularly to move the Society's work forward. The Education Committee has begun work on a class project with the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire Public History Department.

The Committee on a future museum in Chippewa continues their work. SEH, a local engineering firm has looked at the proposed site and pointed out a possible minor wet lands issue that we are looking into. SEH has agreed to review our feasibility estimate. There is much to be done to make a new museum possible.

The Board of Directors established the Hall of Fame several years ago. Annually in the November newsletter the membership is given an opportunity to nominate people for induction into the Hall of Fame. The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to recognize the members, officers and directors who have made significant contribution the Chippewa County Historical Society.

Qualifications include but are not limited to:

- Served as an officer or director for at least one full term
- Contributed major artifacts, books or manuscripts to the Society's collection
- Donated a significant amount of volunteer time to the Society and/or its collection.
- Made a large monetary donation to advance the Society's mission
- Had a significant impact on the Society.

Please submit your nominations by December 31, 2014.

The energy level and volunteer enthusiasm continues to be high and you can expect many changes to our museum. Stop by or better yet get involved. *Dave*



COUNTY NEWS

Stanley Area Historical Society

DAVID JANKOSKI, REPORTER

Our museum officially closed for the season on October 4, after being open that day for visitors attending the Stanley Boyd All School Reunion. We had another busy summer and held three special programs. The first was held Saturday, June 7, when Marianne Storm displayed her creations and discussed the art of making wool tapestries, rugs, wall hanging, and chair seats. The second was held on Saturday, July 12, when local artisan, Donna Haas, displayed her special quilts and discussed the art of quilt making. Donna is an artisan in her own right and has developed patterns that are sold internationally. Our final event was held on Saturday, September 27, when former employees of the Stanley Corporation and its successor companies were invited to a reunion we hosted. The 45 attendees did a lot of reminiscing about working at this manufacturer of table tops and chair backs.

Many new exhibits this summer drew particular interest. A large, interesting and informative exhibit was featured in the north gallery. Stanley businesses in the 1950's and 1960's were remembered with pictures and artifacts. Businesses featured were in existence between 4th to 8th Avenue. A number of these exhibits will be featured again in 2015.

We have begun digitizing our collections. With a \$700 state grant, and other donations from our members, we have purchased the needed equipment including Past Perfect Software. A host of volunteers plan to work on this project during the winter.

We have a couple of projects planned for this winter. We are going to be reconstructing a corner of our north gallery room. With reconfiguration it is expected we will have better exhibit space and some additional storage space.

Best wishes for a Blessed Christmas Season and a Happy New Year. ❧

Donations



Donations in Memory of:

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Mary Zais	Nancy Loft
Robert Crane	Joe Placek & Sandi Shaurette
Clarence Maloney	Don Bichner

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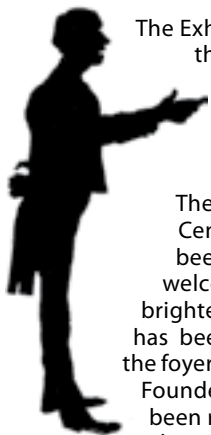
Arley Engel	Chi Hi Class of '54 Reunion
LucyAnn LeCleir	Mary Kelly Anderson/Tour Group

Other Donations:

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 Estate of Betty Peterson (\$5000)

Lifetime Memberships:

Russell & Annette Champion	Family Lifetime Membership
Dave & Rita Raihle	Family Lifetime Membership
Gary Swartz	Single Lifetime Membership
Marge Hebring	Single Lifetime Membership



The Exhibits Committee set up a display at Octoberfest. This year's theme was "Kindergarten," and a colorful children's toy/furniture collection was featured (see photo right).

The Area History Center entry has been made more welcoming. A new, brighter chandelier has been installed in the foyer and the Allen/Founders Room has been rearranged and clutter reduced.

We have also added a portrait of Jean Brunet, the Frenchman hired by the American Fur Co. to build the first sawmill in Chippewa Falls.





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Consultant Comments: Applying for Grants

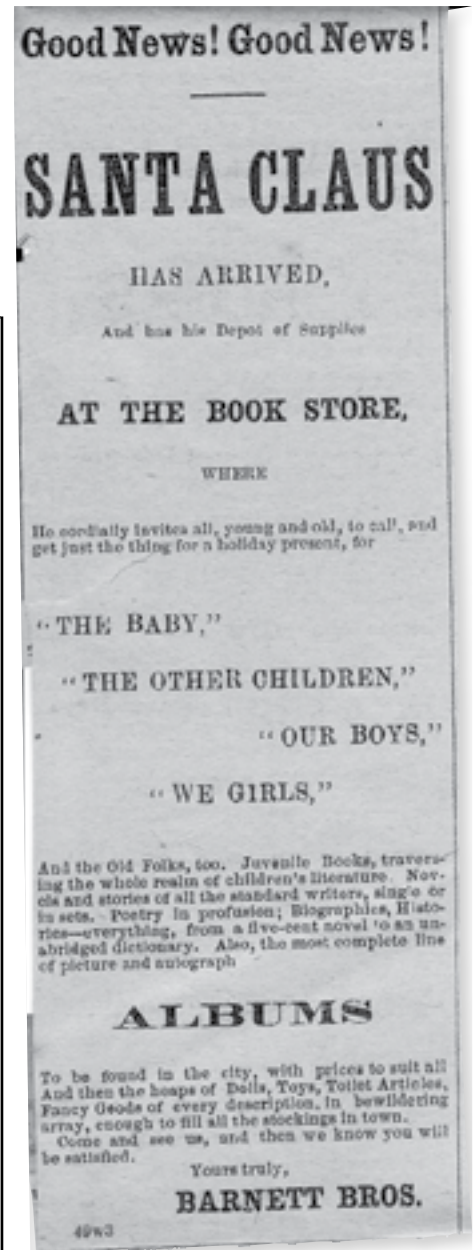
NATHANIEL GREEN

Ask anyone who's worked at Chippewa County Historical Society the past few months, and they'll tell you that grants have been one of the subjects I talk about a lot. The Historical Society has won grants in the past, most notably for *The Past Passed Here*. It's my hope that that success will continue with grants we've been applying to, that will help us with some projects inside the museum.

If you're not familiar with grants, the easiest way to define them may be to say that they are either money or other resources awarded to someone to complete a specific project. Some grants are for individuals, while others are designed for organizations like Chippewa County Historical Society. Some grants are competitive, meaning not all eligible applicants get the grant, while others are non-competitive. Chippewa County Historical Society has just applied for two non-competitive grants, the Collections Assessment Program grant and the Museum Assessment Program grant. These grants don't award money, but instead pay for a museum or collections assessor to evaluate the museum and provide extensive feedback on the museum's strengths and weaknesses. It also provides hundreds of dollars worth of free information and resources to help the museum apply for competitive grants to improve in the future. I worked closely with others at the Historical Society to make sure we met all the eligibility requirements, and fully expect to be receiving help from these grants in the near future.

We've also applied for a competitive grant through The Community Foundation of Chippewa County, a foundation that has previously awarded grant money for *The Past Passed Here*. If we're fortunate enough to receive this grant, we will use the money to create an engaging new exhibit on the fur trade. Of course, grants are only one important source of support CCHS relies upon in its daily operations. Donations from members and visitors remain vitally important for the day-to-day expenses that come with maintaining the museum. Without your support, CCHS would not exist to preserve and exhibit this area's unique and important history. ❖

1877
Chippewa Herald
Barnette Bros.
Book Store
Santa Claus Ad



PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

JIM SCHUH

You can now read 30 of our previous newsletters on our website.

Our Facebook site has 236 people who have "liked" our page. New information is posted frequently. During October, six posts with 11 photos were added. If you haven't already done so, please visit our site and "like" it. Our Website and Facebook addresses can be found on the back cover of this newsletter.



This early example of Chippewa Spring signage was donated by Mary Hatleberg of Cornell. Notice it says "Drink A Water Not A Drug." This may be referring to the cocaine in Coke.





HEARD ABOUT TOWN

The Past Passed Here...

The Past Passed Here has a new canoe! Because this mode of transportation was the only way to transport fur and fur-traders we have wanted a trade canoe to demonstrate voyager arrivals for our event. Now we can do that in style. The canoe was donated by Marvin Belknap, painted to look like birch bark by Chuck Card and Kurt Gaber of Gaber Signs gave us a great deal on adding our event logo. Thanks to these dedicated volunteers! The canoe is safely stored for the winter and will make its debut on Cinco de Mayo in Allen Park!

We are in need of volunteers to help at The Past Passed Here which is held May 6-10.

If you are interested we have a variety of tasks that we need help with. Please contact Jim Schuh 715-726-2376.



Chuck Card and the new canoe.



Donated cast iron scalding pot delivery to our museum. From left; Les Stanley, Sparta, WI, Joe Stanley, Mapleton, ND, Jim Stanley, Barron, WI and Dave Gordon, CCHS President

Big Package Delivered

JIM ERICKSON

Good things come in small packages they say. Well, not all things. Les Stanley, Sparta, WI, Joe Stanley, Mapleton, ND, and Jim Stanley, Barron, WI, arrived at the History Center to fulfill a wish of Les and Joe's father. A wish made something like twenty years ago. Their father, George "Pat" Stanley of Holcombe, said that Joe and his family could use the old Cast Iron Hog Scalding Pot as long as they wanted. But when they felt it was the right time and had had some really good use of the pot, he wanted it to be donated to the History Center in Chippewa Falls.

Now I've seen large scalding pots before, but this was huge. I estimate that pot to be something around 200 pounds. Were these guys (I just stood and offered suggestions) up to the task? Never underestimate the Stanley guys. They used cardboard to carefully protect the pot in its travel from North Dakota all the way to Wisconsin. Nothing harmed! Then, out came the 2 x 4's and straps to manhandle the beast. Next, out of the truck, then back into it, to drive to the back of the building to better unload and get through a wider door and steps. Out of the truck again. Ooops. The tires on the two-wheeler to be used were almost flat. "Never mind," said Les. "I've got a battery-operated compressor in the glove compartment." I mean, these guys were prepared for this! Then they cleverly handled the pot by laying the two-wheeler on top of it, strapping it down tightly, and then up righting the whole thing to wheel it to the basement steps. Four guys is what it took to wrestle the strung up cauldron down the two flights of stairs, but it now sits safely at the Center awaiting its next placement.

A little background on the pot, itself. The grandfather, James Stanley, moved the pot from Necedah to a farm near Holcombe in a covered wagon. On the farm, of course, the pot was used to scald hogs (to help remove the hair, etc.) and other butchering needs then typical on a farm. But it was also used to boil down maple syrup and to make lye soap. And, when the need arose, the pot was generously loaned to the neighbors.

Continued on page 9



Looking for a unique Christmas Gift?

Give a CCHS membership and your gift will keep on giving all year long with our newsletters!

Membership Committee Update

DONNA BOURGET

Thank you for your support. We are now 143 members strong – 94 lifetime and 49 yearly members. It is through our partnership that we are able to continue to make history matter.

As members you:

- 1. Support the preservation of our priceless collection of artifacts, images and local history, making them fully accessible to the public.
2. Contribute to educational programs by:
- Providing "history kits" for teachers, students, or anyone who might enjoy looking into the past.
- Supporting a re-enactment event "The Past Passed Here" for the public and more than 600 fourth-grade students studying Wisconsin History.
3. Support the construction and maintenance of more than 50 historic markers throughout Chippewa County.
4. Fund imaginative exhibits at the museum that reenact special moments in time.
5. Have access to our library holding hundreds of historical books and documents and to the genealogical library with thousands of genealogical records for those interested in tracing their family tree.
6. Enjoy entertaining programs at bi-annual meetings and Saturday open houses.
7. Receive quarterly issues of the CCHS newsletter The Eagle Speaks.

We invite you to visit us and take a tour through our fifty-room museum.

Big Package Continued from page 8

Grandson Joe Stanley moved the pot to Mapleton, ND, in 1993 and there it stayed until now. Not an idle pot, it was used hanging from a tripod for campfires with family and friends. Two daughters were married in Joe's yard and the now aging pot was used again to boil sweet corn. Dozens of ears of corn were boiled in that pot. As you might expect, stories were told and much laughter surrounded each use of the mighty pot.

You know, this kind of thing is what makes volunteering at the History Center so much fun. You don't know where and with what you will get entangled, but when you find so much utility, productivity, making ends meet, and just downright practical use in an old hunk of iron, and then learn of the joy and laughter so many experienced just circling that old, a bit rusted pot, well...not much is better than that. To paraphrase Joe, "I'm not sure I'm finished with that old pot. All the stories of which it was a part will continue to be told again and again in our family." Best of all, it's expected to be part of a display at some future time in the History Center. Everyone, then, but especially friends and family of the Stanley's, will be able to circle that pot and wonder at the old stories.

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NOVEMBER 2014

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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:

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