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Museum Hours:

Wednesday to Saturday:

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Langlade County Historical Society Newsletter

Summer 2007

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Curator: Mary Kay
Wolf

Board of Directors

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Dean Blazek
Patrick Blood
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Glenn Bugni
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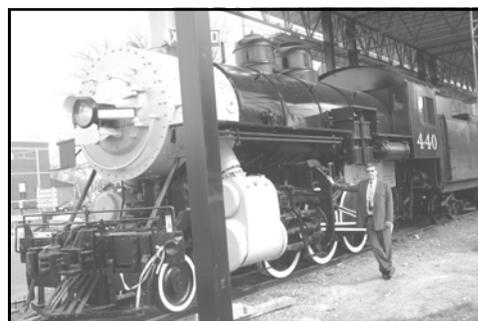
Events at the Museum: 440 Dedication

For almost two years volunteers worked to restore the 440 steam locomotive: a symbol of the role of the railroad in the growth and economy of Langlade County.

The dedication ceremony took place on June 7 and provided more excitement than desired. Severe weather forecasts all day and tornado sirens forced the party indoors.

The rain did not dampen the enthusiasm of almost 200 people who took part in the recognition of this important new attraction at the museum. After the formal ceremonies people could examine the names on the plaques of donors and get something to eat and drink. By then the

skies cleared and it was possible to sit outside. Many people, young and old, lined up for a chance to blow the train whistle.



Top: Project Manager Glenn Bugni at the 440.

Middle: Fundraising Chair Steve Bradley and Mike Haefs at the grill.

Bottom: Museum volunteers Elvira Frisch and Elaine Artymiuk examining the plaques of donors names.

When the Circus Came to Town



Circus Parade on Fifth Ave. on July 23, 1906

Antigo, like most of Wisconsin, has a history of circus involvement.

Before this photo of an unknown circus parade, three men with no experience decided to enter the business. Fred Burns of Wausau had a trick horse. John Hanus and Fred Boldt of Antigo became his partners to form the B B & H Circus.

It consisted of a 35 member troop

and 16 piece band. It opened at the Fairgrounds on May 17, 1899 then, in its 13 wagon caravan, on to Ma-ton and Aniwa. It traveled to parts of Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Michigan U.P. but eventually failed. Burns and Hanus continued with other circuses with greater success.

Hanus went on to manage the Opera House in 1905 and then the Home Theater.

Summertime in Langlade



Rental Cottages Pelican Lake early 20th century

Summertime, fishing and northern Wisconsin are all linked and not just because Antigo is the home of internationally known Mepps lures.

Housekeeping cabins sprung up almost as soon as

logging declined. In the 1920's and 30's Chicago gangsters gave the area more notoriety than it wanted.

In the 1950's the Hy-Land Lakes Association promoted the area of Langlade and parts of Oneida and Forest

Counties with its "more than 100 lakes and more than 1,000 miles of trout streams."

A booklet promoting the area lists several lakes and their fish as well as accommodations, night life possibilities and visits to the Kraftwood estate. People were encouraged to use the Flambeau; a fast, air-conditioned train from Chicago.



Detail from a promotional brochure from the 1950's

Opera House

John Hanus (1878-1957) was an early entertainment entrepreneur in Antigo. His experience in the circus (see page 1) was only part of a career spanning 63 years. He began at 15 as a handyman at the Bijou Opera House. In 1905 a new opera house was built he became its manager. The theater hosted vaudeville and magic shows. Uncle Tom's

Cabin was a perennial favorite. In addition the main floor was used for auto shows, livestock displays and dances. The basement had a roller skating rink and billiards tables. It was Antigo's first venue for movies and showed Birth of a Nation.

During World War I the building served as an armory.

John Hanus continued to run movie theaters in Antigo with

family members until his death in 1957.

Today the Opera House contains apartments.



The Opera House hosted the high school prom in 1911

School Trips

As the school year ends the museum hosts many field trips. This year over 200 children from five schools and the Boy Scouts visited us.

The recently restored locomotive was the biggest hit.

We asked the children what items of theirs might be dated by the time they grow up. The most common sug-

gestion was video games but cell phones and other electronics were also common. One boy offered his family's push lawnmower as a future museum item.



Students from West examine a telegraph key .

A Quilt With A History

Ellis Gerald completed a quilt started by her grandmother but interrupted by the Civil War.

Part of Sherman's army camped out on the family farm in Kentucky, staying several days, helping themselves to some garden items and butchering a hog. When they left they inadvertently took a bag of fragments

planned for the quilt. Ellis' family moved to Wisconsin in 1910 when she was five. The incomplete quilt came with them and Ellis eventually finished the project while living in Crandon.

Ellis taught school in Crandon before marrying and moving to Antigo. On July 14 this year she will be celebrating her 102 birthday.

Ellis Gerald and the family quilt.

The quilt is currently displayed at the museum.



Refrigeration: Old Style

Summertime means problems of food storage. This is now solved by electrical refrigeration but not long ago people used ice.

Kellogg's Pond (now Antigo Lake) was the source. In February blocks were cut out using special saws. Ice blocks were hauled off and stored in an ice house insulated with sawdust.

In 1932 the railroad used 3,500 tons of ice to cool

farm produce and air conditioned passenger cars.

Ice was also used by individual households. When the ice wagon came a card in the window indicated if ice was needed and how much.

The Healy Ice Co. on Fifth Ave. advertised "Clear Springbrook Ice". In 1932 it employed 44 men to cut and store over 8,000 tons of ice at its two ice houses near Hudson St. on Fifth Ave.



Cutting and hauling ice from Kellogg's Pond

Thank You to the Following:

Jim Aulik: Framed Brotherhood of Locomotive Certificate from 1897.

Dean Blazek: Old maps, scrapbook, coins from Fish Lumber Co., "quackery medicine" devices.

Everett and Peg Brandt: C&NW Railroad first aid kit.

Richard J. Brown: old gun.

Glenn Bugni: Typing test pamphlets.

Mr. & Mrs. R. Burkhart: family history, Civil War letters.

Gerald Cline: Antigo Daily Journals from 1937.

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Janet Fischer: Trombone & music from her father's dance band.

James Fonder: Books on family history.

Virgil Friebel: Old photographs of Antigo.

Bruce & Pam Goberville: Chairs from the old Opera House.

Carol Gresch: Scrapbooks from Little Chicago Homemakers Club.

Caryl Hellmut: Philco Radio from the 1930's

Richard Hoffmeister: Evinrude motor stand.

Judd Hollister: Railroad lanterns, Sheriff campaign poster.

Mary Sue Kestly: Post cards, books, sketchbook, gems.

Fred & Meda Mates: Scrapbook of Antigo airport.

Helen Morrissey: C & NW Railroad oil can.

John Parsons: Judge Parsons' courthouse office chair.

Don Persen: Cameras, photo equipment and photos of his father's.

Janice Reynolds: WWI Coin tokens.

Eunice Rice: Technical manuals, recreational booklet of Wisconsin.

Jim Roessner: Old Life & Look magazines.

Noel Safford: Old family and Antigo pictures.

Louise Schleis: Red Cross volunteer dress & cap.

Lorraine Servi: Antigo Daily Journal clippings.

Cash donations from:Suring School and Janice Reynolds.

New Membership Dues

Individual, 1 year: \$25

Individual, 3 years: \$50

Family, 1 year: \$30

Family, 3 years: \$70

Junior (18 or younger), 1 year: \$3

Business, 1 year: \$100

Life Member: \$250

The Langlade County Historical Society is organized to preserve, advance, and disseminate knowledge in the history of Langlade County. We try to achieve these goals by maintaining the museum, the Deleglise cabin, a railroad caboose and locomotive on the grounds. In addition, we use our archives to prepare presentations for the public and assist researchers.

The Society needs volunteers to greet visitors and help organize and catalog our material. Anyone who can help on a regular basis or occasionally is encouraged to call the museum.

Looking for Help: We are preparing a booklet on Antigo's landmarks. This includes extant buildings that are important because of architecture, who lived there or because important events took place there. If you have ideas or old photos we could copy please contact the museum.

Local Events: On Sept 15, 2007 the Langlade Memorial Hospital Auxiliary will sponsor the Parade of Homes with proceeds benefiting the Oncology Department



Items from the Museum: Chairs from the Opera House

The Opera House on Fifth Ave. Antigo's second. It opened in 1905 and hosted a number of concerts, stage plays, vaudeville acts and silent films. Chairs in the orchestra section would be removed providing space for trade shows and dances.

These chairs from the Opera House were restored and donated to the museum by Bruce and Pam Goberville.

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