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Museum Hours:
Wed to Sat. 9:30 to 3:30



Langlade County Historical Society Newsletter

Winter 2007

Events at the Museum

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Curator: Mary Kay Wolf

Board of Directors

Sue Baginski

Dean Blazek

Pat Blood

Nancy Bugni

Glenn Bugni

Lisa Haefs

Joe Hermolin

Joe Sveda

Red Turney

Annual Meeting

The Historical Society held its annual meeting this past Nov. 16 with a banquet, business meeting and program at the Knights of Columbus. About 80 people attended. Part of the program included a drawing for a quilt donated by the Cut-Ups Quilt Guild. The winner was Tami Boomer of Tomahawk. Proceeds went to the 440 Fund. The program consisted of an update on restoration of the locomotive and a description of some of Antigo's landmark buildings. Current board members Pat Blood and Joe Hermolin were reelected and Nancy Bugni and Joe Sveda were also elected to three year terms.

Locomotive Progress

Restoration on the locomotive continues and construction of a shelter to cover the locomotive and caboose is well underway. We hope to continue through the winter and complete the project by spring: in time for a dedication ceremony.

Museum Changes

A room upstairs is being converted into a "Railroad Room" with displays related to the railroad and its role in the history of Langlade County. Most of the remodeling work is being done by volunteers Red Turney, Jeff Marx and Cliff Hoffmeister. Work will begin next on a household room upstairs.

Santa Visited the Museum

Santa spent part of eight days at the museum, visiting with about 200 children and making his list (and checking it twice). The museum lobby displayed old toys so that children visiting Santa would know about a time before video games and iPods.

Winter Changes

The Deleglise cabin and caboose will reopen on Memorial Day weekend.

Donors to the 440 are asked to visit the museum to check the spelling of names for the plaque.

Christmas at the museum



Thanks to Jerome (Jerry) Filbrandt

Jerry Filbrandt (l) receiving a certificate of appreciation from the board, presented by board president Joe Hermolin (r)



Jerry Filbrandt retired from the board this past Dec. He will be missed by all who helped operate the museum. He served on the board of directors for about 40 years, longer than most current volunteers remember.

He first was involved when the museum occupied the second floor of the old library and was

instrumental in the museum's expansion. When, after two other locations, it returned to the old library Jerry's knowledge and enthusiasm in local history assured the proper maintenance of the building.

Everyone interested in our history owes him, and his wife Rosemary, a big thank you.

The CCC in Langlade County

Although it was over 70 years ago, Ed Drab remembers it as if it were just yesterday. He was climbing a forest watch tower at Summit Lake when, half way up, he froze. The crew leader climbed up behind him and advised him to just put one foot up then the next and not look down. He made it to the top.

Ed, now in his nineties, is one of about 200 members of the CCC Camp No.657 which was first based at Summit Lake and then Otter Lake in Elcho. He recently donated his memorabilia from his CCC days to the museum.

The Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) was a New Deal program meant to provide employment and training to young, out of work, men. In 1933 a camp was set up in Summit Lake with the men living in tents. The following year more permanent barracks were erected at Otter Lake in Elcho.

Most of the men came from Milwaukee with a few locals. They were housed in the barracks, lived a military-like life style and worked to build fire lanes and towers, bridges, reforest logged areas and occasionally fought forest fires. They earned \$30 a week, \$25 of which was sent home to their families.

Ed Drab's stories and photos describe an important era in our history and one that only a few are left to describe. His material will be organized and displayed at the museum.



CCC Logo



Left: Summit Lake tents

Right: The CCC marching to new barracks in Elcho

Below House



The house at 802 Lincoln (at Third Ave.) may be one of the oldest extant houses in Antigo and, with much remodeling over the years, has been in the Below family since it was built in 1892. Julius Below was born in Germany in 1858, Minnie Heeressen, whom he would marry, in 1859. Julius learned both his trades as a tailor and chiropractor in Germany. He came to the U.S. in 1881 and settled in Oshkosh. He married Minnie in 1883. They moved to Antigo in 1886.

Julius was a tailor at first but would later practice what was then called "chiropractics". In 1942 he was recognized as the oldest practicing chiropractor in the U.S. He was 85.

When Julius Below came to the U.S. he left behind a younger brother, Karl von Below. In 1944 Karl von Below was one of the Nazi officers involved in an unsuccessful plot to assassinate Hitler in a bomb planted in a briefcase at a meeting at Hitler's headquarters.



Photographs at the left
Top: The Below home in 1898
Bottom: The home today

Flags of Our Fathers Movie Premier



The film "Flags of Our Fathers" directed by Clint Eastwood was released this past October and Antigo was fortunate to be able to host a premier prior to general release.

Palace Theater owners Barb and Mike Suik did much of the

work, with assistance from the Historical Society, The Antigo Daily Journal and the Bradley family.

Over 200 people, including members of the Bradley family, attended this invitation only event.

Remembering Willard Ackley's Settlement

In 1979 the Langlade County Historical Society celebrated Antigo's centenary with a marker at the site of Willard Ackley's trading post. He was the county's first white settler who married a Chippewa princess and together they helped others who came to the area, including the Deleglise family.

The site is on the south side of Hwy 64 west of Antigo next to the Eau Claire River. Riverview Golf Course is in the background.

Time has not been kind to the marker but a museum volunteer has recently restored it.

The text on the marker reads: "Willard Ackley (1818-1894) At this site, about 1830, Ackley became Langlade County's first white settler, operating a logging camp, trading post, stopping place, farm, and helped pioneers. Chippewa Indian princess Ma Dwa Ji Was No Quay, daughter of chief Me Gee See (Great Eagle) became his wife Mary. She doctored with herbs and practiced midwifery. Erected by the Langlade County Historical Society July 4, 1979."



Olde Time Toyland

In keeping with Santa's visit to the museum the display in the lobby consisted of a large collection of old time toys, many on loan from Helen Morrissey



Thank You to the Following for Items or Cash Donations

Dean Blazek: Railroad depot sign

Nancy Blood: School books, women's clothing

Richard Craig: A letter from 1917 describing, in detail, a railroad trip

Ed Drab: CCC memorabilia and old cameras

Judy Grimm: Beaded Czech purse

Marley Herrin: Books and old postcards

Kevin & Sue Kautza: Display case for railroad room

Ken Kramer: Photos of local musicians

Russ Lynett: WWII flight pants of Joseph Lynett

Jeff Marx: Police badge

Dr. John & Elsa McKenna: Old medical and household items

Chris Mireski: Military items previously on loan

Frank & Irene Seidl: 1900 clothing catalog from Krom's store

Donald Simon: 1965 National Guard photo

Jean Weaver: Metal bucket from Kommer's Hardware

Merlyn Wield: Photos and posters of local bands

Cash Donations to the museum from:

James Aulik

Elizabeth Bradley

Bradley Funeral Home

Schmidt family of NJ

Lorraine Servi

United Church Women's Group

Women's Club of Antigo

Membership Information

Individual 1 year: \$10.00

Individual 3 years: \$25.00

Family 1 year: \$25.00

Family 3 years: \$60.00

Junior (18 or younger) 1 year: \$1.00

Business 1 year: \$100.00

Life Member: \$200.00

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 is always looking for volunteers to greet visitors at the museum, help organize and catalog our material and maintain our holdings. Anyone who can help on a regular basis or just from time to time is encouraged to call the museum. If you have an interest in helping preserve our past we have a job for you.

The Langlade County Historical Society welcomes new members Kevin & Laura McKenna, Jackie Reynolds and Leonard Hubatch



Museum Items: If the shoe fits.

Younger museum visitors often view this item, which looks like a prop from an old science fiction movie, with puzzlement. But those of a certain age utter a nervous laugh. From the 1930's to 1950's this "shoe-fitting fluoroscope" was found in many shoe stores. Children tried on new shoes and inserted their feet in the lower opening. Three viewing ports allowed the child, parent and shoe salesman to examine the fit. Obviously the health hazards of radiation were unknown to most people.

This one came from the Family Shoe Store on Fifth Ave. in Antigo.