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



Langlade County Historical Society Newsletter

Fall 2006

The History of the Historical Society

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Curator: Mary Kay Wolf

Board of Directors

Sue Baginski

Dean Blazek

Pat Blood

Glenn Bugni

Jerome Filbrandt

Lisa Haefs

Joe Hermolin

Red Turney

Jeff Winter

Antigo has preserved its history almost from the start. The Deleglise family moved into its cabin in 1879. In 1916 the cabin was moved from the banks of Springbrook to the grounds of the old library, where it stands today. This may be the first attempt in Wisconsin at historic preservation.

In 1929 the Historical Society was established with Judge Parsons as president, Edward Goebel (publisher of a local German newspaper) as vice president, Sophie Leslie as secretary and Earle Holman as treasurer. The historical society used the second floor of the library as a museum.

In 1983 the museum outgrew its space and moved to St John's Convent. But in 1991 the church wanted the space and the museum moved into a building of the Antigo Coop Credit Union.

Then the museum was fortunate to receive a bequest of \$200,000 from the estate of Helen Tomany. The library, which had been in its building since 1905, moved into new quarters in 1997

and the museum moved back into its original home, this time taking over the whole building.

The building is a Carnegie Library and was designed by a prominent Wisconsin architect, Alan Conover. Andrew Carnegie funded almost 1700 libraries throughout the country, 63 in Wisconsin alone. Very few of the buildings still stand. The one in Antigo looks much like it did in 1905.

In the almost 10 years that the LCHS has occupied the building we have been very busy. In 1998 a major fundraising effort was required to restore the Deleglise cabin. Further restoration occurred in the fall of 2005.

The cabin is open for tours throughout the summer when the museum is open (Wed to Sat 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM)

The railroad is an important part of Antigo's history. In 2001 Barney Lazewski helped the museum obtain a caboose that now sits on the grounds. This past fall we purchased a locomotive after a major fundraising drive and we are now restoring it.

A recent fundraising drive enabled us to replace the furnace and air conditioning system in the museum.



Interior of the library



New Picnic Table

On a pleasant summer evening recently Dr. John and Elsa McKenna came over to the grounds of the museum planning to have a picnic and check out the progress on the locomotive restoration. Their plans had to change when they saw that the picnic table was filled with various parts, too heavy to relocate

without a work crew. So they generously offered to purchase a picnic table for the museum provided it would be used as a picnic table for anyone who wants to sit and relax.

Thanks to Doc and Elsa and we hope that someday soon the other picnic table will be freed up and more of us can gather at

Step Right Up and Win a Kewpie Doll



The display case in the museum entryway holds temporary displays of topical interest. With the fair in July the topic of interest was “chalkware” or “kewpies”. This is the name given to prizes won at fairs from the early 1900’s to the late 1950’s. Angela Schwartz of Antigo shared a small part of her collection of about 125 pieces with us. These have been collected at garage sales, flea markets, antique stores and on the internet.

Early pieces were less colorful and often painted on the front only. Later pieces were painted all around, more colorful and often contained glitter. They are quite

fragile and were sometimes used for target practice for BB guns or pieces used for writing chalk. As a result they are becoming increasingly difficult to find.



Elcho Rebuilt after 1923 Fire

The town of Elcho in the early 20th century was the home base of one of the world’s largest lumber dealers, Charles W. Fish. He had a colorful career as a sailor, gold prospector in the Klondike and iron worker before coming to Elcho to manage the Jones Lumber company general store. He eventually bought the store and lumber mill and prospered.

In 1911 he built the first Muskie Inn in Elcho. A fire in Feb 1923

destroyed all of downtown Elcho including the inn, drug store, bank, depot and general store. By summer Fish had it rebuilt in an architecturally cohesive style. The complex included a clubhouse, department store, hardware store and an opera house seating 500. The new “Ye Olde Muskie Inn” had 60 guest rooms. Its main lounge was 100 feet long with large fireplaces at either end. The inn hosted many conventions and vacationers over the years.



Flags of Our Fathers



The film “Flags of Our Fathers” directed by Clint Eastwood is scheduled for release Oct 20th. It tells the story of the men who raised the flag on Iwo Jima in World War II, an event captured in an iconic photograph taken by Joe Rosenthal and made into a monument.

The movie is based on the book

by Antigo native James Bradley. John Bradley, father of author James Bradley, was one of those men and is played in the movie by Ryan Phillippe.

James Bradley’s book, signed by the author, is for sale at the museum.

Joe Rosenthal, photographer of the flag raising, died recently at the age of 94. It took 1/400 sec to take the photo but it followed Rosenthal for the rest of his life. Some claimed it was posed but he argued that he could not have captured the drama had he tried. To those who thought him a hero he said :”What difference does it make who took the picture? I did but the Marines took Iwo Jima.”

The Museum Takes Its Show on the Road

The museum received a grant from Alliant Energy in Madison to fund equipment that could be used to create displays of our history in the community.

To date we have used put together photo exhibits from our archives. At Market Days we showed Antigo's downtown in the old days. At Liberty days we had a display of Langlade County residents and the roles they played in the Civil War and World Wars I and II. At Mole Lake we had a display of

photographs taken by A.J. Kingsbury in 1908-1910 showing local Ojibwa life styles and in September a display of the history of logging in Langlade County at Forestry Days at Kretz Lumber.

We welcome input from the community on topics of interest that we could cover, possible venues for displays and ways to present our heritage.



Photos:

Upper :Market St. Display Antigo Lower: Mole Lake Heritage Days

Annual Meeting Set for Thurs. Nov. 16

On Thursday Nov. 16 the Langlade County Historical Society will hold its annual meeting at the Knights of Columbus hall.

The evening will begin with cocktails at 5:00PM and dinner at 6:00PM followed by a program at 7:00PM. Dinner entrées will be chicken and beef tips.

The program will consist of an update on the 440 locomotive restoration project by Glenn Bugni

and a presentation of Antigo's landmark buildings by Joe Hermlin.

Tickets for this event are \$17.00 per person. Reservations must be made by Friday Nov. 10th, 2006. Mail or phone in reservations to Langlade County Historical Society, 404 Superior St. Antigo, WI 54424. To reserve by mail return the form in this newsletter. Otherwise call the museum (627-4464) to reserve and pay at the door.

Board Elections:

It is at this meeting that elections for board members will take place. At the moment there are four vacancies on the nine member board. Board terms are for three years. Anyone interested in serving on the board should send a letter to the museum by November 1.

Quilt Raffle:

The Cut Up Quilt Guild has donated a quilt to be raffled as a fundraiser.

Tickets are \$1/one or \$5/six. Tickets are available at the museum. The quilt and opportunities to buy tickets will be at the meeting.

Drawing will take place at the meeting.

Thank You to the Following

FAMILY OF LILLIAN STEGER: her wedding dress and photo from 1913

MARY ANN WALDVOGEL: 100th anniversary St. Joseph plate, army cookbook, crumb tray

EVELYN PISKULA: ledger book, old photo's, wedding photo

MARY YAKEY: old pen / booklet for students for penmanship

MARY JANE PAFF: railroad spikes

RUTH ANN LADOWSKI: 7 old kids books

GEORGE BLUMENSCHIN: war medals

ROSE HATTZ: Indian charm bracelet, saving bonds, ration books

NANCY BRUCE: old swimsuit, leather mail bag

HELEN MCNAMARA: antique wall telephone

NATHAN TORBERSON: 1913 Laughlin-Kelly co. calendar

ROSE ANN KUHLEMEIER: postcards

ROBERT RICE: WWII foot locker

GIFT SHOP SALE

Hurry in for some great deals

See Attachment in newsletter

Some items would make great Christmas gifts

Membership Information

Individual 1 year: \$10.00

Individual 3 years: \$25.00

Family 1 year: \$25.00

Family 3 years: \$60.00

Jrniior (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 along with the Deleglise cabin and a railroad caboos 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 help 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.



Arguably Wisconsin's first effort at historic preservation. In 1916 the people of Antigo moved the Deleglise cabin to its current location from the banks of Springbrook rather than have it torn down.

Registration Form for the Fall Banquet: Includes Dinner and Program

Date: Thursday Nov. 16

Time: Cocktails at 5PM; Dinner at 6PM; Program at 7PM

Location: Knights of Columbus Hall, 535 Center St. Antigo WI, 54409

Entrees: Chicken and Beef Tips

Cost: \$17.00

Number Attending _____ Names _____

Amount Enclosed @\$17/person _____

Reservations must be made by Friday Nov. 10, 2006.

Mail to Langlade County Historical Society, 404 Superior St., Antigo WI 54424

Or call (715) 627-4464