

404 Superior St., Antigo, WI 54409
Phone: (715) 627-4464

Email: lchs@dwave.net
web site: www.langladehistory.com

Museum Hours:

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



Langlade County Historical Society Newsletter

Summer 2008

Inside:

Page 2: Keeping the museum open
Phlox
Antigo's water treatment plant

Page 3: Judge Parsons
Thank you notes

Page 4:
Items from the museum

Curator: Mary Kay Wolf

Board of Directors

Sue Baginski
Dean Blazek
Patrick Blood
Glenn Bugni
Nancy Bugni
Lisa Haefs
Joe Hermolin
Joe Sveda
Red Turney

Museum Events: Picnic in the Railroad Park

Almost 350 people came out on a pleasant summer evening to enjoy a picnic in the Railroad Park. This addition to the landscaping of the museum grounds has been in the planning and construction stage for over a year and began with the moving of the Deleglise cabin from the north side of the museum to the south side.

The park is not yet complete. Still to be installed is the stand displaying the plaques listing donors to the locomotive restoration. Although this could not be completed in time for the picnic, it did not deter the community and visitors from enjoying the space, the food, and the music of the Pinetones.

Plaques should be on display in a few weeks.

Work also continues on the landscaping and further displays such as depot luggage carts.



Top: Chefs Mike Haefs and Steve Bradley were kept busy all evening.



Middle: Enjoying the music of the Pinetones while picnicking.



Bottom: Curator Mary Kay Wolf and George Shinnars enjoy a quiet moment.

Other Museum Proceedings:

During the upcoming summer museum volunteers will be collaborating with the Antigo High School Cable 3 news crew to place a number of presentations on local history onto DVDs. These will be shown on Cable 3 and eventually will be made available for viewing

in the museum. Topics include: Kraftwood Gardens, the railroad in Antigo's history, the CCC camp in Elcho, the story of the Deleglise family, Antigo's landmark buildings, and more.

Individuals with knowledge and materials

would like to work on other topics are invited to discuss a project with Joe Hermolin at the museum.

The museum is also collaborating with the Neff Switch-Horizons 4H club on a history project.



Jaimie Spychalla of the 4H presented her research on Ed Neff at a recent club meeting.

Dinner at the Deleglise

With the successful completion of the 440 locomotive restoration and the establishment of the park, the historical society must turn its attention to maintenance of the museum building and its collection. As a fundraiser, the society will be sponsoring a raffle. The winning prize will be a catered dinner for six to be served in the Deleglise cabin.



The cabin as it appeared in 1885. On September 20 it will host a catered dinner for six, the prize in our raffle.

The dinner will be served on Saturday September 20th and the winner may select his or her five companions.

Tickets will be available soon and may be purchased at the museum or through any board member.

Tickets are \$10 each or three for \$25.



The planting crew for the railroad park include: Front row (left to right): Barb Arnold, Connie Schmeiser, Mary Mollet . Back row (left to right): Nancy Bugni, Lynn Frey, Toni Thomas, Sharon Zmunda, Gregg Born, Trudy Bula, Mary Herman.

The Settlement of Phlox

The village of Phlox was settled before Antigo, in 1879, when two brothers, Joseph and Mose St. Louis along with Joseph and Louis Bergeon came to the area. Joseph St. Louis built a dam on the Red River and at that site he established a series of three saw mills, each of them eventually burning down. The St. Louis brothers also

built a wooden rail railroad between Phlox and Elmhurst, a distance of about 9 miles where it was to connect with the main rail line. The Tram Road, as it was called, went through dense forests and swamps. It only made one trip. In spite of the bad luck of the St. Louis brothers, Phlox did grow.



The Phlox tramway, meant to carry lumber to Elmhurst, only made one run.

The Water Treatment Plant



The water plant was designed by city engineer Henry Olk.

When Franklin Delano Roosevelt was inaugurated 75 years ago, the country faced 25% unemployment. FDR's "New Deal" saw several public works projects to improve infrastructure and provide employment. The Public Works

Administration in 1938 helped Antigo build a new water treatment plant. It was then the largest construction project undertaken in Antigo (cost of \$177,000) and was 49% funded by the PWA. The architecture is typical of the Art Deco style of the day.

Judge Parsons

Judge John William Parsons was important to this community and also to the Langlade County Historical Society.

Born in 1861 in New York state, he moved with his family, first to Michigan and then to Wisconsin where he grew up. He worked on the family farm near Clintonville and later on the railroad.

By 1879 he married and moved with his family to homestead in what is now Polar. There he was elected to his first public office: town constable.

When Langlade County was formed, he became the register of deeds and later judge. He served in the original courthouse and in the new (current) courthouse, built in

1905. He served as judge from 1902 until his retirement in 1938.

His interest in history led him to become one of the founders of the Langlade County Historical Society when it formed in 1929. He served as its first president.



Judge Parsons at his desk in the courthouse. A recent biography of Judge Parsons is in the museum.

Special Thanks to Helpers for the Cabin and Park

Many people contributed to the museum grounds. **Trudy Bula** planned the old-time flowers and **George Fleischman** worked on the cabin.

Additional thanks for various plants are due to: **Jim Draeger** (planters), **Kevin Bula and Terry Kretz** (transporting plants), **Cindy Kuhls**, **Pat Peterson**, **Deb**

and Paul Syrjala Merc Hanneman Howe, **Mary and Gene Herman**, and **Lorraine Servi** in memory of **George Teske and Henry Green**.

Further work and donations by: **Melissa Duffek**, **Jim Draeger**, **Dennis Schmidt**, **Bill Thomae**, **Don & Nick Wirz**, **Vera Tveten family**,

Dean Blazek, **Al Remington**, **Bill and Beth Kelly**, **Terry & Jamine Kretz**, **Cliff Hoffmeister**, **Red Turney**, **Joe Hermolin**, **Mary Kay Wolf**, **Glenn Bugni**, **Aaron Brandt**, **Nick Rekowski**, **Adam Kind**, **Josh Solin**, **Jesse Kautza**, **Brian Jansen**, retired teachers group, **C.A.R.**, **Sheldon Family Founda-**

tion, **City of Antigo**, **Langlade County**, **Vanguard Charitable Trust**, **Co-Vantage Credit Union**.



George Fleischman worked on the cabin.

Thank You to the Following:

Donations:

Didi McKenna: Adding machine.

Dean Blazek: maps & bank scrip

Nancy Bugni: retail items, German poetry book

Paul & Dee Dailey: Medical items.

John Hafner: JFK commemorative plates

Ben Hoerman: Military coat.

Marion Hoffmeister: 1949 St. John's class picture

George Latta: Wedding invitation

Sandy Leffler: Aprons, WW1 photo postcard

Michael Love: WI statutes book

Jack Marciniak: Photo of Fernwood class of 1939

Didi McKenna: Adding machine

Helen Morrissey: Household items

Earl Mortenson: Model of a horse team hauling logs

Thomas Murphy: Biography of Judge John Parsons

Glendy Nichols: Postcard views of Antigo

Martin Schmunk: Military shells

Joan Schunke: Clothes

Dorie Stephan: Map, sampler

Lucienne Stege: Dolls and accessories

Judy Turney: Household items

Thomas Wilson: WW2 bayonet

Worth While Women's Group: patchwork quilt

Special Thanks: Lillian Fronck volunteered her time to the museum for many years but can do so no longer. She will be missed.

Cash Contributions:

Kenneth Butters

Louise Schleis

Helen Winski

The Sheldon Family Foundation

Member Renewals:

Greg, Mary Kay, and Kirsten

Wolf

Help wanted:

The museum needs volunteers willing to greet visitors on Saturday mornings or afternoons and take them to the cabin or caboose if requested.

Upcoming Events:

August: A display of CCC memorabilia at the Antigo Public Library (all month) and a talk on August 12 in the library at 6:pm.

Sept. 13: Display of logging material at Kretz forestry field days.

Sept. 20: Parade of Homes 12 to 4pm as a benefit for the Volm Cancer Center of Langlade Hospital.

Ongoing: Continually changing displays at City Hall.

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 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, to help organize and catalog our material, and to 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.

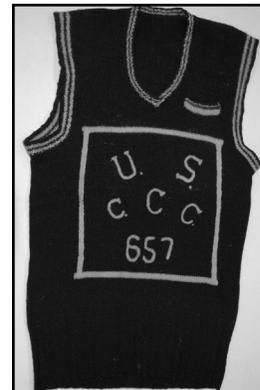
The museum lobby has display cases of changing exhibits.

If anyone has ideas or items for future displays, please contact Mary Kay Wolf at the museum.

Items from the Museum:

When Ed Drab left the family farm in Rolling Township to join the CCC's at Camp 657 Elcho, his sister made him a pillowcase (left) and a sweater (right).

These and other CCC memorabilia will be on display at the Antigo Public Library during the month of August.



Langlade County Historical Society
404 Superior Street
Antigo, WI 54409