



Langlade County Historical Society Newsletter

Summer, 2009

Curator: Mary Kay Wolf

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Museum Events: New Art Space Planned

The Langlade County Historical Society, which runs the museum, has agreed to cooperate with a newly formed arts group. Part of

museum space will be reorganized to make room for a display of works by local artists. As plans develop we will provide updates.

Antigo Lake: An early industrial complex becomes a prime recreational area.

Work is beginning to develop a walkway and bike trail around Antigo Lake.

At the urging of Antigo Daily Journal, a Minneapolis landscape architect was hired to develop a plan for a park. Ramsdell's plan was presented in 1933 and called for rebuilding the dam at Fourth Avenue, landscaping to extend past Second Avenue up to the fairgrounds, an island in the lake, a children's playground, tennis courts and a beach and bathhouse.



Kellogg's Pond was a popular place to go ice skating.

When the Deleglise family moved into its cabin on the banks of Springbrook in 1879 there was no Antigo Lake. Antigo's first industries focused on lumber. A dam on the Springbrook River was built by the Novotny brothers to create a lake for their lumberyard. When Kellogg's Mill took over Novotny's, the lake became known as Kellogg's Pond. In the 1890's four companies circled the pond, manufacturing broom handles, screen doors and other wood products.

During the Depression funds were too scarce to implement the entire plan but New Deal federal funds enabled the city to clean up the lake shore, rebuild the dam at Fourth St. and build a new bridge over Hudson St.



A new Hudson St. Bridge was part of Ramsdell's 1933 plans for downtown Antigo.

Various civic groups and volunteers attempted to clean up the pond in the 1920's and make it a recreational area.

Further work took place in the 1950's and 1970's. Now, 75 years after Ramsdell's original plan, development continues.

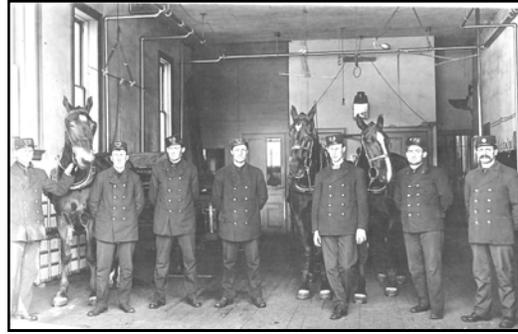
Antigo's Fire Department

In 2002 Antigo celebrated the centenary of its first paid fire chief. The first volunteer bucket brigade, however, formed in 1883 and Antigo got its first hand pump in 1895. Shortly thereafter a second hand steamer was purchased from Appleton.

The city didn't own horses and depended on volunteers to answer an alarm by bringing a team. In the next few years the city got more equipment and hired a steam fire engineer at \$100 per year.

In 1903 Antigo got its first paid fire department. Horses were stabled near the equipment and always kept their bridles and bits on. Some horses readily moved into place when the alarm rang but others were slow learners. In 1911 Antigo got its first fire engine but horses were still used to haul equipment on sleighs in winter.

The centennial of Antigo's fire department took place in 2002. A quilt commemorating the fire department was made recently using T-shirts



The fire department in the early 20th century was housed in the old city hall.

from the centennial. Anyone who was a member of the Antigo Fire Department prior to 2003 is asked to come to the museum during regular hours (Wed. through Sat. 9:30am to 3:30pm) to autograph the quilt.

The County Fair: A Local Tradition for over 100 Years



*Top: The crowd gathers around Beachy's aircraft after his flights at the fair.
Bottom: Horse racing was a popular attraction at the fairgrounds.*

The county fair is a tradition that dates back almost to the establishment of Langlade County in the early 1880's. In 1886 the Langlade Agricultural Society organized an exposition of farm equipment in the original opera house on Superior Street. It proved so successful that the following year the county purchased 40 acres of land at the north end of Antigo (at a cost of \$1,500) and erected buildings for agricultural exhibits (at a cost of \$1,300).

In addition to agricultural exhibits many popular attractions were held at the grandstand, including concerts and horse races, which proved very popular. The Antigo Daily Journal reported that in the 1930's on one particular day, 12,000 people attended the fair.

One particular attraction seems unusual today. The Wright brothers started the age of aviation with their flight in 1903. On September 8th, 1912 local residents got their first look at an airplane. Fairgrounds officials hired a pilot for \$1,000 to fly over the grandstand. More than 10,000 people showed up to watch barnstorming pilot Lincoln Beachy fly over the grandstand and then surged onto the field to get a closer look at his machine. In all, Beachy made three separate flights. In the first he flew over the grandstand then ascended until out of view before returning to earth. In the second flight he raced against a motorcyclist in a five mile course and the third flight featured several daring maneuvers in view of the grandstand.

Picnic in Railroad Park: August 19

Ever since the museum arranged to buy and renovate the 440 steam locomotive we have celebrated our railroad heritage with a summer picnic on the museum grounds.

This year the picnic is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19th.

Once again, celebrity chefs Steve Bradley and Mike Haefs will be working the grill and the Pinetones will be providing music.

Further details will appear in the Antigo Daily Journal and the museum's web site as they develop.



Music by the Pinetones will again be featured at the museum's railroad picnic.

A Day at the Museum

Springtime and the end of the school year mean field trips to the museum. This spring we were visited by

North Elementary, Springbrook, Antigo Middle School, Peace Lutheran and a 4H group.



North Elementary class

Rummage Sale Fundraiser



Curator Mary Kay Wolf arranging items for the sale.

On Saturday June 6th the museum held a fundraising rummage sale. We thank all members who donated items and also the volunteers who helped at the sale. We were able to raise about \$1,000 to help run our programs.

Thank You

Donations

Bill Brandt: Police Department memorabilia

Richard Brock: Indian artifacts, books about Indian history and arts

Sharon Hanson: Rural post office memorabilia

Raymond Hartleben: Photographs

Judd Hollister: 1939 Wisconsin travel guide

Viola Hoppe: Spinning wheel and accessories brought from Germany

Ray Husnick: Postcards, magazines

Winnie Krueger: Post cards, corps jacket

Richard Lund: map, Red Owl jar, WPS items

Rita (Aulik) Mattek: photos women's clothes, postcards

Debra Tetting: School desk

City Hall: Henry Olk's blueprints when he was city engineer

Cash Donations:

Lorraine Servi

Frank & Lena Simon family
Karen Traut

Mrs. Casimir Winski

Knitters Group

Langlade County Genealogy

Society

Sheldon Foundation

Membership renewal: Lee and Perk Dinsmore

New Member: Lindsey Maloney

Thanks to Rummage Sale Helpers

Sue Baginski, Dean & Polly Blazek, Nancy & Glenn Bugni, Joe Hermolin, Bill Ingram, Jeannie McMeekin, Helen Morrissey, Toni & Jim Thomas, Greg Wolf
and all the donors of items.

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Email: lchs@dwave.net
web site: www.langladehistory.com
Museum Hours:
Wednesday to Saturday:
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

New Membership Dues

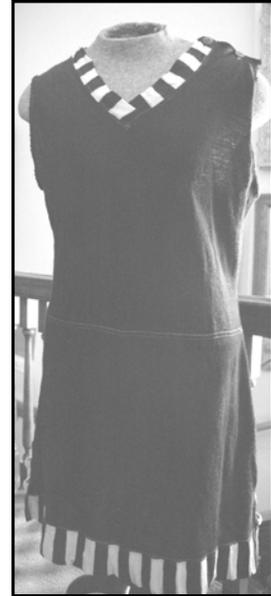
Individual, 1 year: \$25
Individual, 3 years: \$50
Family, 1 year: \$30
Family, 3 years: \$70
Junior (18 or younger), 1 year: \$3
Business, 1 year: \$100

Items from the Museum: Bathing Suits

In the early 1900's going to the beach was a more modest and less comfortable affair. The two women's bathing suits date from around 1910. The one on the far right is made of wool.

Upcoming Events

Wed. Aug. 19: Annual Railroad Picnic on the museum grounds.



Langlade County Historical Society
404 Superior Street
Antigo WI, 54409