



# Langlade County Historical Society Newsletter

*Winter, 2010*

**Curator:**  
 Mary Kay Wolf  
**Board of Directors**  
 Dean Blazek  
 Glenn Bugni  
 Nancy Bugni  
 Steve Bradley  
 Judy Grimm  
 Lisa Haefs  
 Joe Hermolin  
 Jim Klapste  
 Terri Torgerson

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## Annual Meeting Update

This past November the Langlade County Historical Society held its annual meeting and banquet.

In the business portion of the meeting, the contributions of retiring board members Sue Baginski, Patrick Blood, and Red Turney were gratefully acknowledged. Although all three are leaving the board, they continue to be involved as museum volunteers. The three newly-elected board members are Judy Grimm, Jim Klapste, and Terri Torgerson.

The program by Dr. John McKenna focused on the history of medical practice in the county from its earliest settlement in the 1880's and

continuing through two small "house" hospitals in Antigo and the establishment of Antigo's current hospital and clinics.

Dr. McKenna's presentation was filmed by Cody Schmidt of the Media Productions class at Antigo High School for cable television. A DVD of the talk is available for viewing at the museum.

Dr. McKenna, Joe Hermolin at the museum, and Sarah Olafsen at the hospital are planning to present the material in a book as well. It should be completed in time to celebrate the opening of the new hospital.

People at the museum were saddened by the passing of Ed Morrissey this past December.

Ed was not only a part of the region's history, being a direct descendant of Antigo's founder Francis Deleglise, but also important in preserving the history. He served on the historical society board and was president for many years. He was part of a core group that established the museum in the Carnegie Library and restored the Deleglise cabin. His stories and banter with volunteers and visitors will be missed.

## Santa Comes to the Museum

Once again this year, the Antigo Daily Journal made it possible for children to visit Santa Claus at the museum.

Over a period of nine days, he greeted 189 children, checked his list, and found out who was naughty and who was nice. Each child received a small gift of a stuffed animal or book and some cookies and candy

canes provided by the museum and by C.A.R.

Among the many of Santa's helpers during his stay at the museum were curator Mary Kay Wolf and museum board members and volunteers Nancy Bugni, Glenn Bugni, Laurie Fellner, Joe Hermolin, Cliff and Marion Hoffmeister, and Helen Morrissey.



## Francis Deleglise in the Civil War

Last newsletter contained excerpts from a translation of a letter Francis Deleglise wrote describing the Battle of Bull Run in which he took part. The letter continues with an account of the Battle at Sharpsburg where he was wounded.

With the two infantries approaching each other...”we kept closing ranks as the men fell. We continued our fire another 10 minutes, when 5 at my right and one at my left had fallen.... Then my company did not have more than 3 or 4 men and a sergeant.... I calmly aimed and fired on a man who fell. At the same time we received the order to abandon the field. Instantly I got a bullet in my right cheek....I got a second bullet in the

middle of my thigh under the left buttock near the joint. I recharged and fired a second time when I received a third bullet 4 1/2 inches higher than the first bullet. Although I was already covered with blood, that increased the flow quite a lot. I left at a gallop as fast as possible. I threw my carbine on the ground as soon as I had passed two battle lines. By that time I was completely covered and blind from blood.”

Francis Deleglise received some treatment in the field and then in Washington. He spent time in rehab in New York and eventually, at war’s end, in Madison. This will be detailed in future newsletters.



*Francis Deleglise fought in Bragg’s Rifles, the Iron Brigade under the banner shown above.*

The museum has several documents related to the Deleglise family. They have been sorted and catalogued by Lee Dinsmore. The archives contain 19 letters that Deleglise wrote to his wife, father, and uncle describing his training, battles, and injury rehabilitation experiences. The museum plans to have the letters scanned and made available online.

## Movie Theaters

The Hanus family has been associated with the entertainment business in Antigo from 1894 to 1961, running entertainments such as small circuses, vaudeville, drama and musical stage



productions, silent movies and talking movies.

It began when John Hanus at age 15 was hired as a handyman at the Bijou Opera House, Antigo’s first place on entertainment. He went on to manage the new opera house, built in 1905.

For a brief period between 1912-1920, he also travelled throughout northern Wisconsin

and the Michigan U.P. exhibiting films using a portable system.

In 1930 together with his sons, he opened the Home Theater on Superior Street. He continued to operate the Home Theater until his death in 1957, and the family ran it until its closing in 1961.

In its 31-year existence, the Home Theater went from silent movies to 3D and Cinemascope. Today, it is the Professional Building but the theater skeleton lies beneath the offices.

# The City Park of Antigo: Helen Benishek

Antigo was the home town of a woman who, in the early 20th century, was a pioneer in the field of landscape architecture,- a newly-developing discipline.

Helen Benishek was born in 1896 in Antigo, graduating from Antigo High School in 1914. She worked for a year at the library and studied landscape gardening before entering the University of Wisconsin-Madison to gain a formal education in the subject, graduating in 1919. She returned to her home where her father was mayor and she began her profession.

Landscape architecture had evolved as a discipline in the

late 19th century and the American Society of Landscape Architects was formed in 1899 with 11 founding members.

Helen Benishek was likely one of the few women in the profession. She married L.P. Tradewell in 1920; and, despite household duties of raising L.P. Tradewell's children from a former marriage and her own children, she continued working in her profession. An early project was to design the layout for Elmwood Cemetery.

Sadly, Helen Benishek Tradewell passed away in 1931 at the age of 34 after a brief illness.

When spring comes to Antigo, people will visit her best known project: Antigo City Park.

The museum is researching Helen Benishek and her contributions to landscape architecture.



*Top: Helen Benishek's high school graduation picture*

*Bottom: The old park bandstand*

## Thank You

**Claude Bickler:** Backpack sprayer  
**Phil Beck:** High school yearbooks  
**Richard Brock:** Indian artifacts, books  
**Dennis Buck:** Furnace model  
**Janice Cahak:** Old postcards  
**Bob Curran II:** Old computer  
**Robert Duerwachter:** Charles Fish legal papers  
**Kay Doran:** Train pictures  
**Rose Ellison:** 1909 plate  
**Larry Evans:** Shoe last, hand made crutch  
**Barbara Finkler:** Dy-dee doll  
**Sue Gerard:** 1913 communion picture from St. Hyacinth's  
**Jackie Kerska:** Photos related to the airport  
**Jane Kielcheski:** Camera equipment from Wessa and Brush Studio  
**Truman Koehn:** Railroad memorabilia

**Janet Larsen:** Pulley  
**George MacDonald:** Fire bucket  
**Elsa and Dr. John McKenna:** Documents related to Dr. Eugene McKenna, clothing  
**Harry and Pauline Mills:** Photos, Antigo High School yearbook  
**Harold and Joanne Norem:** Photo of Ludwig Krause  
**Jim Roesner:** Blue Books 1958-1998  
**Grace Schmitt:** Citizens' Brewery tray  
**Michael Seis:** Railroad memorabilia  
**Gary Smith:** Portraits of Mr. & Mrs. John Smith  
**Marlow Strehlow:** Bowls  
**Ann Stubbs:** WWII memorabilia  
**Joe Sveda:** Old irons  
**Red Turney:** Military memorabilia  
**Ed Vavruska:** WWII Memorabilia  
**Mitch and Sharon Zmuda:** Military memorabilia

### Cash Donations

**James Aulik**  
**John Barker**  
**Dean and Polly Blazek** in memory of Ed Morrissey  
**Jim and Connie Hubatch** in memory of Thomas Jensen and Clarence Kalkofen, Jack Baraniak, Dewayne Cahak, Gerry Hanke, and Nettie Nicholson  
**Leone Laehn**  
**Barney Lazewski** in memory of Doris Lazewski  
**Judy Peterson**  
**Lynn Rankin**

### New Members

**Robert Hogan & Sylvia Denison**  
**Judith Grimm**  
**Jim and Carol Klapste**  
**William and Charlotte Kraft**  
**Terri Torgerson**

### Renewing Membership

**Dorothy Rasmussen**  
**Walter Rugland**

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web site:  
www.langladehistory.com

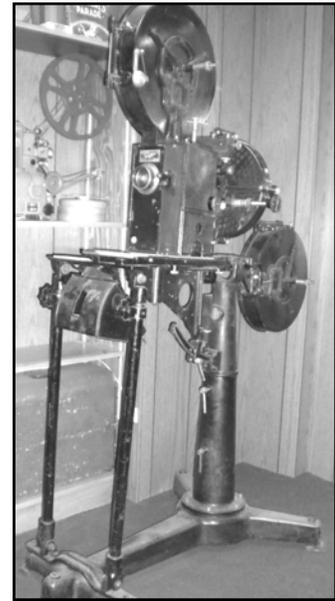
Museum Hours:  
Thursday to Saturday:  
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**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  
Life Member: \$250

**Upcoming Events**

On Feb. 3 The museum will be hosting the concession at the Civic Music concert. We are asking members to make cookies, brownies, cupcakes, etc. You may bring these to the museum on Thursday, February 3 before 3:30 p.m. or to the Antigo High School Commons before the concert at 6:30 p.m.



**Items from the Museum:**

Movie Projector:  
The projector from the Home Theater in in the museum's camera room.

Langlade County Historical Society  
404 Superior Street  
Antigo WI, 54409

Joe Hermolin is involved in accumulating, cataloging, and making available a number of images of Antigo's photographer Arthur J. Kingsbury. Two images below are particularly interesting.

Top: The reception desk at the Carnegie Library is the same desk visitors encounter when they enter the museum.

Bottom: When Antigo was made the county seat in the 1880's, a courthouse and jail were erected. In 1905 a new courthouse was built on the same site. In this photograph the old courthouse has been torn down; the new courthouse is complete but the old jail house still stands.



