



The Pinery

PUBLISHED NOW & THEN BY THE PORTAGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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EXHIBIT CASE - COUNTY CITY BUILDING

Thanks to the courtesy and co-operation of the County Board, a wall case in the lobby of the County Building has been made available to the Portage County Historical Society for exhibit purposes.

Items of historical importance will be displayed as well as arrangements portraying pertinent factors in the development of the county.

It is anticipated that the first exhibit will be on display at the formal opening of the new Court House.

THE CIRCUS WORLD MUSEUM

Of interest to all Historical Society folks will be the opening of the Circus World Museum at Baraboo on July 1.

The world premiere of "The Big Circus" will be shown at the two Baraboo theaters on that date. The \$5 tickets for the premiere are also one year memberships in Circus World Museum, Inc., an affiliate of the State Historical Society and besides admittance to the movie will also admit the holder to the museum at any time during the membership period.

OUR FIELD TRIP

We've talked about a field trip to the Circus World Museum, the Historical Society Museum at Baraboo and the Devil's Lake State Park and surrounding area.

At the Society Board meeting the 18th August 15 seemed like a likely date. A bus would leave in the morning for Devil's Lake State Park where we could have our picnic lunch - each person providing their own lunch. The afternoon would be spent in Baraboo at both Museums and members of the Sauk County Historical Society will greet us at their Museum.

The round trip can be made for between \$3.00 and \$5.00 but we must have 30 people interested in making it. We must know about your interest and reservation by August 5. Any officer of the Society can be notified.

Your friends are welcome to go whether they are members of the Society or not.

1959-60 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE PORTAGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At the Annual Meeting of the Society held in the College Library Theater in Stevens Point on April 22, the following were elected as new members of the Board of Directors: Leland M. Burroughs, Ralph J. Anderson, M. J. Willett of Stevens Point and Elmer Ross of Plover.

Other members of the Board are: Mr. Malcolm Rosholt of Rosholt, Miss Winifred Harvey of Amherst, Miss Alice Gordon of Nelsonville, Mr. Clifford D. Swanson and Mr. Had E. Manske of Park Ridge, Mr. Nelis R. Kampenga of Plover and Mrs. Win Rothman, Mr. C. E. Nebel, and Miss Marie Swallow of Stevens Point.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors the following were elected as officers of the Society"

Malcolm Rosholt, President
Nelis R. Kampenga, Vice President
Miss Alice Gordon, Secretary
Mrs. Win Rothman, Treasurer

COUNTY HISTORICAL ITEMS OF VALUE AND INTEREST

If you have a short (one column in The Pinery) historical story of interest about some section of our county - its township villages or crossroads, send it in. We'd like to have it for publication. The next issue of THE PINERY will come out in early fall and we'd run two of these stories if we had them.

YOUR TREASURER REPORTS

that 64 members sat right down and returned their \$1.00 for their 1960 membership in the Portage County Historical Society. To them our thanks and appreciation. So much of our running expense is financed through the dues received that every \$1.00 really counts.

We are again enclosing a slip for you to return with your dollar if you are "among the missing". Please sit down and do it now. You may remember that Morris Carey pointed out that the cost was a trifle over 8 cents a month, so we know you have just forgotten and are not protesting the cost.

Besides your dollar we need your personal participation in the Society's activities. Various plans are in the making that sound interesting. You won't want to miss hearing about them and participating whenever you can.

NEW ADDITIONS MADE TO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Valuable additions have been made to the archives of the Portage County Historical Society since the last issue of the PINERY. These include:

The first plat of Portage County, dated 1876, a gift of Joseph Bonowski, town of Hull; the county plat of 1903, a gift of Miss Mildred Paulson, town of New Hope; and the county plat of 1915, a gift of Dr. A. R. Cook of Stevens Point.

A ledger, dating to 1857, kept by the several Bentley Brothers while engaged in shave shingle operations south of Shantytown Lake (just across the Sharon town line but in Marathon County), in addition to a day book kept by S (for Samuel) Y. Bentley while operating a shingle and saw mill on the Plover River in the 1870-80s, and two charge account books kept by Bentley with the H. D. McCulloch store in Stevens Point during the same period, have been presented to the society by Mrs. Adam Bentley of Stevens Point.

Two ledger-journals kept by Milo S. Wood & Sons in connection with a store operated near their saw mill on Mill Creek in the 1880-90s. have been presented to the Society by Mrs. Wallace Diver, town of Linwood.

The minutes of the American Red Cross

Chapter, Rosholt village for the years 1917 - 1922, in addition to a ledger kept by the J. O. Nelson Restaurant in Rosholt village in 1914-15 have been presented to the Society by Mrs. Charles Erickson, Menasha, Wisconsin.

Miss Genevieve McDill, Minneapolis, Minn. has presented photographs of the McDill saw mill and flour mill as well as of the original home of the McDill family overlooking McDill pond (today within Whiting village).

The discharge papers of William Reading who served in the Civil War, later a lumberman on the Plover, have been presented to the society by Mrs. Mabel A. Whitley of Stevens Point.

These documents are all being added to the collection of the Portage County Historical Society maintained in a special file at the central depository of the State Historical Society in the Library of the Wisconsin State College at Stevens Point. They will be available to research students or anyone interested in consulting them for reference. The Portage County Historical Society is anxious to preserve any document of historical value such as account books, ledgers, day books, letters, diaries and papers. Nor need these documents be 100 years old to qualify; contemporary documents are equally important because 100 years from now they too will be "old". Drop a card to the Society president, Malcolm Rosholt, Rosholt, Wis., and notify him of any materials which you would like to have preserved and he will call and pick them up. Former residents who have moved away from the county, but have documents of interest on the county or city of Stevens Point, are urged to communicate with Mr. Rosholt and if these materials cannot be picked up, arrangements may be made to pay the postage or express charges.

In addition to documentary evidence of the past, the Society is interested in preserving photographs of buildings, mills and factories of all descriptions, homes, shops, churches, schools, vehicle family reunions, etc. However, efforts should be made by the donors to identify (on the back if possible) the location and probable date, and the persons (if any) on the photograph.

AS MANY REMEMBER IT

Mr. Burroughs has given us a delightful picture of The Market Square in Stevens Point as many of us remember it.

In those days it had a truly Old World atmosphere and was said to be the only one of its kind in this part of the country. Of course, with the changing generations, it lost much of its quaint old worldliness.

In the 1920's every day was Market Day on the Square but on Thursday business reached its height.

The Polish people settled in and around Stevens Point to the north and north east. Here they found the sandy soil that would produce the necessary potatoes and grains for food stuffs, and it is these people who, in bringing their produce to market, made the Square both picturesque and famous in the early days of this century.

THE MARKET SQUARE - 1920

Portage County has moved to town;
You can see it up and down
Our Market Square.

Women plump as plenty!
Women wrinkled old as our River!
Women young as our River after rain!
Women and color everywhere
Along our Market Square.
They come through the heat of a hundred
hayfields in July;
They come in the cold of a winter
mackerel sky.

Men strong as work and lean as a long day
They come friendly as humanity on a
holiday;
They come like pioneers staking out a
claim,
Yet their place on the Square is always
the same.
They bring all the color, the smell, and
the sound
Of farm on farm for miles around.

Corn on the cob sold sight unseen -
You may test each ear by the feel of the
green.
Slabs of bacon and hunks of beef
And link sausage shaped like a Christmas
wreath.
Chickens with cold yellow feet in the air-
One pin-feathered rigor mortis for every
pair.

Loads of June hay with their sides
whipped away;
A lonely calf tied to a wheel to bellow
all day.
Strained honey not too strained for the
money;
Cords of wood always a foot to the good.

There is something so native about the
market
There is something so compelling about
the market
That you stop your car and park it.

Thursday is market day in Market Square -
There is beauty of color everywhere;
Beet red, tomato red, red apple red,
Spring flower green and pale vegetable
green,
Potato brown, ocher, nut brown,
Jonquil yellow, ripe squash yellow,
Blackberry black and blueberry blue.....
Every pigment of summer and fall
Asserting itself from every stall.

When do people come to Market Square?
The River finds no one there;
The City finds no one there.....
Sunrise and a morning star,
They look again and their they are
Emptying color from every car.
Perhaps you've heard or would like to
hear

The story of a modern Paul Revere
Mounting the horse in front of the
leather store
Where it has stood for many a year -
Mounting and riding and calling:
"Come to Market Square;
Come to Market Square;
All Portage County will be there."

- Leland M. Burroughs

THIS ISSUE OF THE PINERY

is being sent to all who were members of the Society last year. If you have not renewed your membership you will find a slip enclosed to help you to do so. The next issue will be sent only to members for 1959-60. (That is to April 1, 1960) You see postage is an item in sending out material.