



The Pinery

PUBLISHED NOW & THEN BY THE PORTAGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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GREETINGS!

It is time to report again to you, the members of the Portage County Historical Society, some of the recent activities of Your Organization. As you know your Board meets each month to keep the wheels turning and there have been some very interesting happenings during the past few months.

MEMBERSHIP -

As of November 1, 1959 our membership is as follows:

In Stevens Point -	65
In Portage County -	23
Outside Portage County -	9

Total - 97

Why not join others in the County and City to join us? We accomplish more as we grow.

WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR -

The City News Service in Stevens Point has kindly consented to display and sell the Wisconsin State Historical Society Calendar for our local Society. It is a courtesy which is appreciated. We know you will want one of these not only useful but lovely calendars which feature our own state, so just stop in at the City News Service for your copy. They are only \$1.00 - Make nice Christmas gifts or cards also, especially to send out of the state.

PILGRIMAGE TO BARABOO -

This was made on September 19 by 24 members and friends of the Society. The day was cloudy, cool and windy but we all

enjoyed the trip made in a Mid-State Transit Bus from Whiting and our picnic lunches eaten in the lee of a building which served as a windbreaker at Devil Lake State Park.

The afternoon was spent at the Circus World Museum in Baraboo and at the Sauk County Museum in that city and both places were thoroughly enjoyed.

Several comments on "let's go some where next year" were heard so perhaps we will plan going to some other interesting place in Wisconsin next year.

109 YEAR OLD PIONEER BUILDING MOVED -

The first tax-supported school in Portage County and what is also believed to be the oldest building in the County has been moved from its original site at 420 Clark Street in Stevens Point to the eastern side of the Wisconsin River in an area slated for future park development.

The building was donated to the City by S. Mendal Shafton and Mrs. Rose Shafton and its moving costs have been shared by the future owners of the site upon which it stood for so long, the City, and the Portage County Historical Society.

The City will have title to the building and its restoration and management will be administered by a Board made up of members of the City Council and the County Historical Society.

The building will eventually be restored as far as possible to its original condition to stand as a reminder of pioneer days.

The footing for the foundation is in but the weather being what it is at present the foundation which is to be made of the original stone foundation, if possible, and the actual placing of

of the building on the foundation will probably have to wait until spring.

Temporary committees are being set up by the County Society to do research work for the restoration and the financing of the restoration.

Several methods of financing the restoration have been discussed, and since it must necessarily be a county and community effort and project and since everyone in the county should be interested in this historical landmark, you are invited to register any suggestions with the Society Board and should anyone be interested in making contributions, the Society will gladly receive them.

OCTOBER 31st

saw the following Society members in Madison out at the State Historical Society Building.

Mr. Clifford D. Swanson, who is a member of the State Board of Curators of the State Society, was in attendance at a meeting of that Board during the day.

Mr. Malcolm Rosholt, President of the Portage County Historical Society, and Mrs. Rosholt attended the reception and the dinner for Dr. Fishel, the new Director of the State Historical Society.

Mrs. Win Rothman and Misses Edna Carlsten, Carolyn Rolfson and Marie Swallow attended the day long Institute held by the State Society and the reception at 4:00 P. M. for Dr. and Mrs. Fishel.

OUR EXHIBITS-

We hope many of you are enjoying the Society's exhibits in their display case at the County-City Building. This case is at the left in the foyer of the County side on Church Street.

The first one displayed the Ethnic groups of the County and was a loan from the State Historical Society.

The second was a History in the Making display, showing the growth of the FIRST INTEGRATED SCHOOL DISTRICT IN WISCONSIN which is located in Portage County at Amherst. The charts and explanatory material for this exhibit were prepared by Miss Alice Gordon, Elementary Supervisor of the Integrated District, whose home is in Nelsonville, and by Miss

Winifred Harvey of Amherst, who is in charge of the high school History Department and Library facilities in the school. Both are members of our County Society.

FOR THIS MONTH

A special committee of the County Historical Society has arranged an exhibit around the theme of Wisconsin Heritage Month. A card written in the form of a quatrain probably expresses this theme better than prose:

Wisconsin,
Land of the Big Rushing River,
These are a part of your heritage -
Symbols of another age.

The display consists of eight artifacts which were secured through the courtesy of the Rosholt Historical Museum. They are:

1. Powder horn brought from England (date uncertain). Gift of Melvin Rustad in 1953.
2. L-shaped Prow used for splitting shingles - known as shake shingles. Gift of Dave Simonis in 1948.
3. Box used by William Reading (probably in 1870's and 1880's) to carry field account book while logging on Plover River. Gift of Mrs. Mabel Whitely, Stevens Point in 1958.
4. 32 caliber rifle with hexagonal barrel. Gift of Quinton G. Lemma, Wausau in 1956.
5. Sewing machine used by Bodil Klincke, great grandmother of Harold P. Anderson, in township of Alban probably in the late 1860's and early 1870's.
6. Stamp hammer with initials S and W probably once used by lumbermen on the Little Wolf River. Gift of Ole P. Dobbe in 1948.
7. Broad Ax made in town of Alban by Peter Rozek probably in 1890's. Bought at local auction by Henry Schulist in 1948.
8. Candle wick trimmer brought from Island of Lolland (off east coast of Denmark) in 1867 by James Rasmussen, and probably used by his father before him. Gift of Ole Dobbe in 1955.

FOR A FUTURE EXHIBIT -

We'd like fans of a by-gone day. If anyone has a fan used in the 1800's or early 1900's they would like to loan for the exhibit, we'd appreciate having them. Will you kindly contact Mrs. Win Rothman at 550 Briggs Street, Stevens Point.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

A brief history of the FIRST INTEGRATED SCHOOL DISTRICT IN WISCONSIN would seem appropriate since we have just had such a fine historical exhibit of it on display.

It was established by the Portage County Board's Committee on Schools, July 1, 1948, and a special County Committee on Integrated Schools was appointed to direct its administration.

An Integrated school provides elementary and high school education within a certain prescribed area and is required to give special educational services and supervision. In return the State makes available special State Aids.

Periodic expansion in both plant and facilities at Amherst have been accomplished since its inauguration in 1948. The Tomorrow River District, as it is called, thus far has added instruction in Vocational Agriculture, Homemaking, Music, Physical Education, additional library services and provides the necessary supervision that is required. A building for vocational agriculture was constructed in 1950, while a new physical education plant was opened in 1953 making it possible to remodel the old gymnasium for additional high school classrooms and for a Junior High school room.

On July 27, 1959, as the Annual School District Meeting, it was voted to build a new elementary school in 1960, further expanding the facilities. In 1948, the area had twelve one room rural schools. With the integration six of these were closed and the children were transported either to Amherst or other grade schools in the district. With the completion of the proposed new Elementary school, the remaining rural schools will be closed and all Elementary Educational facilities

will be maintained in Amherst and the villages of Amherst Junction and Nelsonville, with all children of the district being transported to these schools.

It is worthy of note that Portage County has shown an awareness of the need to improve educational facilities for the growing generation and has, historically, the FIRST INTEGRATED SCHOOL IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

we will try to give you a brief history of the Rosholt Integrated District.

Other School District changes will come to Portage County with the new laws requiring all school districts to become a part of a high school district and as they come we will make note of this HISTORY IN THE MAKING.

OUR NEIGHBOR TO THE NORTH -

The Marathon County Historical Society, our neighbor to the north, cites its rapid growth. Founded in 1952 with 25 adult and no student memberships, today it boasts an adult membership of 1,500 adults and more than 2,500 students.

This county organization was also the first winner of the Reuben Gold Thwaites Award as the outstanding historical society of Wisconsin during the past year. Edward Fromm of Hamburg is president of the Society. The Society has a splendid museum in Wausau and also employs a director who is John L. Stoutenburgh, Jr. When you are in Wausau, stop in for a visit at their museum. You'll enjoy it.

HERITAGE MONTH
November 26 - December 25