



# The Pinery

PUBLISHED NOW & THEN BY THE PORTAGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## MAURICE RICE, JR. TO SPEAK

The Annual meeting of the Portage County Historical Society will be held in the Demonstration Room, of the County City Building on Wednesday, April 17, beginning at 7:00 P. M. Coffee and donuts will be served and there will be a short business meeting.

Maurice Rice, Jr., a student of Wisconsin Indian affairs, will speak on "The Tribal Migrations of the Winnebago Indians." Plan to attend this interesting lecture. Mr. Rice is presently doing graduate work at the U. of Wis.

## RECENT ADDITIONS TO HISTORY FILE

Recent documentary additions to the society's file include the family history of William Cwen, one-time county judge and city mayor of Stevens Point. Wayne Owen, 614 Church Street, a son of Judge Owen, has contributed these papers. A tape recording was also made by Mr. and Mrs. Owen at their home on Church Street. Many interesting events of the past were recalled which will make this tape recording a "live" document for future historians.

## LETTER READ AT COMMON COUNCIL

A letter from the society was read at the meeting of the Stevens Point Common Council on March 18. The directors of the society urged the Council to utilize the foundation of the Pioneer School on the Wisconsin River embankment.

It was suggested that a picnic shelter could be constructed, or, if possible, that the Pioneer School be reconstructed. The society has the architect's plan for the restoration of the school which was to be used before the old building was demolished by heavy snows a year ago. These plans would carry out the original design of the school.

In the same letter to the Council, the society expressed its willingness to cooperate in the naming of new streets for the city in an effort to associate the street with pertinent events of the past.

## BILL INTRODUCED ON YELLOW BANKS

A bill (No. 386 A) relating to establishing a Yellow Banks recreation area as a new recreational facility was introduced by Assemblyman Norman Myhra on March 7 and the hearing came up on March 20 at Madison. Malcolm Rosholt attended the hearing on behalf of the society and the Portage County Park Board. He was accompanied by Dr. George Dixon, professor of sociology at Central State College. Mr. Rosholt stressed the need for a park or recreational facility on the state level in central Wisconsin and pointed out the accessibility of the Yellow Banks site (a mile west of Plover) in relation to Highways 51 and 54 and also to Highway 10. There is no state park for campers or trailers between Devils Lake and Rib Mountain.

Dr. Dixon stressed the scientific and esthetic value of a state park facility in Portage County, and described the advantages it would have for students at Central State College who wished to carry on research in conservation, biology and archaeology.

No further action could be taken on the bill, however, owing to the fact that the 1961-63 biennium was nearly ended and that no funds were available in the present biennium. But it is hoped that the bill may be amended to be included in the next biennium. If you are interested in this, write to your Assemblyman, Normen Myhra, and explain how you feel about it. Tourism is a matter of importance not only to the present in Wisconsin, but of even greater importance to the future. The society feels that every effort should be made to preserve not only the Yellow Banks on the east side of the Wisconsin River, but the islands within the river lying between the townships of Plover and Linwood. The Plover town board has already taken an important step in creating a public landing for boating enthusiasts a short distance down river from the Yellow Banks, and a public golf course has been laid out across the river in Linwood.

#### DIRECTORIES WANTED

Do you have, or do you know of anyone who has a telephone book or books or city directories, dating back to the 1920s and 1930s? The society is anxious to get these for its file. They are valuable to research students and every effort should be made to preserve them. Too often we tend to forget that it is the business of a society to preserve not only the record of the distant past but also the record of the present. Keep this in mind when you clean out the attic, or move to a new house, or give up an old house.

If you have any of these 1920s and 1930s books or directories, notify Malcolm Rosholt at Rosholt or leave at the College Library with

Mr. Nelis Kampenga, Librarian, a member of the society.

#### 22 SOCIETY MEMBERS ATTEND MEETING

South Wood County Historical Corporation was host Saturday, March 23, to the North Central Regional Wisconsin for Local History Convention held at Port Edwards. 22 Portage County Historical Society members were in attendance and enjoyed their visit to the Nekoosa-Edwards Paper Company Historical Museum, the luncheon at Paper Inn and the Program which followed the luncheon.

Dr. Leland C. Pomainville, Chairman of the Wisconsin Council for Local History presided. Before the program got under way, the South Wood County Corporation honored Mrs. Estelle Farrish, their curator, by presenting her with a silver tray for her fine service, and a corsage for her 86th birthday - that day.

Mark Whittier, a student at St. Vincent de Paul School, Wisconsin Rapids, gave a brief history of the French regime in Wisconsin using a map of the old Northwest and Great Lakes waterways to illustrate points brought out in his talk.

A descriptive talk on Andersonville Prison (Confederate prison in Georgia during the Civil War) was given by Mrs. Fern Amundson, a teacher at Sacred Heart School, Nekoosa. She used a copy of the picture map drawn from memory by Thomas O'Dea, a prisoner there. (This picture is one of two in this section of the state.)

There are 9 societies in this region. 8 Society Presidents were present and gave accounts of the work of their societies. Marquette County just organized in 1962 did not report. Dr. Pomainville described the work of the Council. Mr. Wm. Schereck of the State Society, who is the State Society representative on the Council, stated that the society is asking the legislature for funds to hire three museum and education specialists

whose main job will be to spend their time and come to our communities to personally help with museums, exhibits and educational programs.

Mr. Shereck stated that the 101 member attendance at the meeting was the largest of any regional meeting held thus far. Nearly one fourth of the entire membership of the region was in attendance.

Mrs. Lutz of the Iola Historical Society is to be the new regional representative of the North Central Region, replacing Dr. Pomainville whose term expires. The Regional Meeting will be held at Iola next year.

#### A BIT OF HISTORY

Post offices today in Portage County are located at:

Stevens Point	Junction City
Flover	Amherst Junction
Almond	Bancroft
Amherst	Custer
Nelsonville	
Rosholt	

Did you know that at one time or another nearly three dozen other post offices have existed in the county? Ever hear of:

Alban, Arnott, Blaine, Belmont, Boyington, Buena Vista, Badger, Crocker's Landing, Coddington, Eau Pleine, Ellis, Garfield, Grant, Haffron, Hull, Hetzel, Keene, Lanark, Lone Pine, Madely, McDill, Meehan, Mohawk, New Hope, Peru, Polonia, Shaurette, Stockton, Surrey?

Some were established in the 1850s, others in the next 3 or 4 decades. A few survived only a few years, but the majority were discontinued between 1900 and 1910, probably not only with the decline of the community but also with the coming of the Rural Route.

#### AROUND THE STATE

One Local and three County Historical Societies were approved by the Board of Curators of the State

Historical Society at its fall and winter meetings. They are, The Friendship Rural School Historical Society in the Loganville area of Sauk County, The Marquette County Historical Society, The Jefferson Historical Society, and the Hartford Historical Society.

The Friendship Rural School Society purchased an abandoned rural school they had attended as children and have restored its interior as it was years ago. It was built in 1875. The grounds will be developed into a wayside park with the help of the township and county boards.

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Societies in the Winnebago Land Region will make a study of historic sites. Each society in the region will make a complete survey of places of historical interest and existing plaques and markers. From this study a regional sites list will be made up which can be studied for the possibility of state and local societies marking.

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The largest Historical Society in the state is the Kenosha County Society with 757 members. Waukesha County Society has 641. Third in size is Oconto County with 531 members, and this in the less congested area of northern Wisconsin.

#### DUES DUE NOW

April is here, which means that the dues for 1963-64 are due. If you have not paid, remember to do so.

The Pinery will be sent this time to all members on the list the past 2 years. With the increase in postage the next issue will undoubtedly go to only "Paid Up" members.