



# The Pinery

PUBLISHED NOW & THEN BY THE PORTAGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## GENERAL MEETING

There will be a General Meeting of the Portage County Historical Society on Wednesday, November 18 at the County-City Building in the Demonstration Room. Refreshments 7:30 to 8:00 p.m. and social half-hour. Come and visit with your Historical Society friends and bring a friend with you.

Program will be presented at 8:00 p.m. by Marie Swallow, Program Chairman. It will be a talk on Landmarks of Europe, the United States and Wisconsin including Portage County and will be illustrated by slides.

## CALENDARS

The Society has a number of Wisconsin Historical Society Calendars for 1965 for sale. You may get copies at \$1.00 each from any member of the board of Directors. They will also be available the night of the General Meeting. They make fine Christmas cards or gifts, especially to someone who used to be a Wisconsinite.

## CANCELLED TRIP

We are sorry the Fall trip had to be cancelled because of the weather. However, we have a rain-check on it, and perhaps this Spring we can journey to Oshkosh by bus and have our ride on Lakes Winnebago, Poygan and Butte des Morts on the Chief Oshkosh which is a replica of an early day stern wheeler the Paul L. We will try to plan for this trip in late Spring. Watch for the date next Spring. We can take a few more than signed this Fall. Let's have a full bus load.

## ATTENDED MEETING

Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Kampenga attended the Third Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Council for Local History at Madison on Saturday, Oct. 3d. Both report an interesting day. Mr. Kampenga was especially interested in the session on genealogical research and the facilities for it. This was a part of the meeting of the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society which convened on the same day.

## DOES ANYONE HAVE COPY

Once again we call your attention to the fact that we are still looking for a copy of the book THE CAVE ON THE YELLOWSTONE by Helen Sharman. The first and last chapters contain information on early day Eau Pleine and Stevens Point that we would like. Or, does anyone have any old papers or information on Lewis Bleau? He was the man who told the story of his Winter in the Cave on the Yellowstone to Helen Sharman who wrote the story several years later. Helen Sharman was teaching in the Eau Pleine school that winter and lived in the Bleau home.

## SEEING WISCONSIN

Did you visit an historical site this past summer? If you didn't put that down as a must for next summer. We have several interesting ones in the state and not all are historical. Two archeological ones are: Lizard Mound on Highway 144, 2 miles north east of West Bend and Astalan on Highway 30, 3 miles east of Lake Mills. Both are parks. Then for more Indian lore there are several markers in the state on or near the site of Indian battles, especially of the Black Hawk War.

## LANDMARKS

August 1, 1964 was the opening date for a nation-wide American Landmarks celebration. This was America's contribution to UNESCO'S International campaign for monuments. The celebration continues until November 30 of this year. Included in this was American Landmarks week, Sept. 28 through October 4. Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, Honorary Chairman, stated that the aim of the Celebration is "to awaken and renew an interest and pride in the greatness of our vast inheritance and the vital necessity of its preservation in this changing world."

The Wisconsin Council for Local History observed American Landmarks Week during the State Historical Society's Annual Institute for Local History at Madison, Oct. 3. Wisconsin has a Registered Landmarks program on which the Council has been working for the past two years. A part of this is an inventory of all area historical sites and markers produced by the 80 historical societies that make up the council.

A landmarks celebration at one special time when so many can participate is splendid, but for us in Portage County, why not a landmarks program beginning now and extending through 1965 until all historic sites in Portage County are listed. This is an activity every member of the Portage County Society can participate in. SEND YOUR LIST OF WHAT YOU BELIEVE TO BE LANDMARKS IN PORTAGE COUNTY to your Society President, Mr. N.R. Kampenga. It may be a building or just the site of some historic place or where an historic event took place. Give an accurate location and full description as possible. We will list all contributions in a later issue of THE PINERY.

Lists should contain sites of geological, geographical, archeological, and architectural significance, as well as those of historic importance.

When this Landmark Inventory is complete, a copy will be sent to the Wisconsin Council for Local History. And, of course, we will have this complete record in our own Society files. These inventories from all the societies in the state when combined will be a valuable document on local history in Wisconsin.

It will be one of the most complete listings of historic buildings and places in the country.

## CENTURY CERTIFICATES

While we are on the subject of inventories, let's have an inventory of Century Certificates. They are the people in Portage County whose farms or homesteads have been in their family for 100 years or more. They have or should have a Century Certificate. Also, in 1948 at the time of the State Centennial, certificates were issued to individuals living in the state who were direct descendants of people living in the state on or before 1848. Who in Portage County has one of these Centennial Certificates? This would make a fine bit of history to preserve.

## COLOR MAP OF WISCONSIN MUSEUMS AND SITES

The State Historical Society issued this past summer a three colored map showing the location of historic sites and museums. Information on the sites and museums is given on the reverse side along with a key for ready location. It is entitled: "A Guide to Historic Wisconsin". If you didn't get a copy, you might try writing the State Historical Society for one. However, their supply of 40,000 may be exhausted.

## THE STORY OF THE FLOOD

In June 1880 the dam at Tomahawk broke and the water rushed down through the towns of Merrill, Wausau, Mosinee and Stevens Point which were located on the river. It swept everything before it. The force of the water broke the dike which was located where Briggs Street now is. This dike had been built to keep back the water at times when it was high. When it broke the waters rushed down through George Street and on again to the river. It was on a Sunday morning and the people who had gone to church had to go home in boats. The water came up to the big gate on the east side of our home. Barn doors, fences, small sheds and hen houses went floating through town. I saw an old hen floating down the river on a barn door.

My father's cow had been out in the woods that day and when she came home at night there was a wide river which she had never seen before. My father kept talking to her and calling, "come Bossie" until at last she plunged in and swam across. She came to my father and rubbed against his shoulder as much as to say, "thank you for telling me how to get across."

The men had received warnings of the danger the night before the flood and they had worked hard all night long putting in bags of sand and rocks to try to keep the water from coming over the dike. It was three days before the water began to go down and it was nearly a week before one could cross George Street.

--Mrs. Mitchell

The above was written in 1927 and is taken from a collection of materials on The Story of Stevens Point, compiled by Marie Swallow in 1927-28.

REGISTERED LANDMARK

Is there a place in Portage County, in one of its villages or in Stevens Point that you think should be listed in Wisconsin's Registered Landmarks? If so, fill in the blank below and return same to your Society. It may be sent to Mr. N.R. Kampenga, the president of the Society. His address is Route 1, Box 148, Stevens Point.

We would like to submit several nominations to the State Society and feel that everyone in our Society should have a chance to submit a nomination for local consideration. Perhaps the local Society can in this way find several really important landmarks.

The following are given as examples of what is meant by landmarks that might be marked and registered. All are in the villages and rural areas.

1. At 510 College Avenue the old home of the first Mayor of Stevens Point, William Schofield. The exterior of this building still standing has been changed only by a front porch replacing a stoop.
2. Moved from 704 Main Street to 706 College Avenue a few years ago was the building known as the Wadleigh home. It was built by Oren Briggs, a pioneer merchant for whom Briggs Street was named. There are no apparent external changes.
3. Built in 1856 and known as North-western Young Ladies Seminary (sometimes called Young Ladies Institute) and later known as the Burr home was a building which formerly stood at 702 Division Street. Many years later two houses were made of it when it was moved to Oak Street - 109 and 111 Oak Street today. They still carry the imprint of the old pioneer structure.

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NOMINATION OF SITE FOR WISCONSIN REGISTERED LANDMARK

1. NAME OF SITE \_\_\_\_\_
2. LOCATION (If in a city or village give specific street address; if in a rural area, describe in reference to nearest marked road. Make your location description very clear)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. NOMINATED BY \_\_\_\_\_

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