



The Pinery

PUBLISHED NOW & THEN BY THE PORTAGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 10 April 15, 1965 No.1

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Portage County Historical Society will be held in the Demonstration Room of the County-City Building on Wednesday, April 28, 1965. Refreshments served 7:30 to 8:00 p.m. Meeting called at 8:00 p.m.

The program will be on "River Rats and Lumber Rafts". It will be a trip down the Wisconsin River as shown in 30 pictures (slides). These pictures are from the famous Henry R. Bennett collection.

Bennett came to Kilbourn (now Wisconsin Dells) in 1865 after service in the Civil War. He set up a photography studio where he displayed scenic pictures never attempted before. His pictures of the breathtaking Dells helped make it one of the most popular recreation areas in America.

His photographs of raftsmen at work are unique. They are pictures of actual Wisconsin lumbermen in 1887. They show raft building and men eating, sleeping and working on the rafts. Bennett's photography gives the story of a historic industry as it was taking place. He traveled along with the crew on their trip from Arpin's Mills, Wisconsin Rapids to the Mississippi. Bennett took some of the first candid camera and action shots ever filmed. He is considered one of the outstanding photographers of his own or any era. The Bennett studio is still in existence in Wisconsin Dells operated by his daughters and grandchildren.

LANDMARKS

We are still talking about them. It is true that the special program was held late last summer throughout the country on this subject, but one can report an important landmark at any time. Do you

know of one in Portage County you have neglected to report to your Society?

100 YEARS

We are still asking you to report to the Society if you have a Centennial Certificate. These certificates were issued to Wisconsin citizens in 1948 who were direct descendants of Wisconsin Citizens in the state in 1848.

Owners of farms that have been in the same family for 100 years or more are awarded Century Certificates.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

From Joseph Pfiffner, records of the early justices in Portage County.

From Alf Anderson, pictures of early Stevens Point.

The Society also had Ray Specht take pictures of the interior and exterior of the Cate House near Amherst. These show the unusual architecture of this early day home.

1965 OPENINGS

May 1 will mark the opening date of most of the State's Historical Buildings.

Stonefield Village of the 1890's in Nelson Dewey State Park near Cassville, Wisconsin has had crews working all winter on five units that are expected to open this coming summer in the village.

A major addition will be the telephone exchange located in a typical home of the period. The dedication of this is scheduled to take place on July 15.

Other places where work has been going on are the interior of the book shop, the meat market and the confectionery. The village

jail will be moved to Stonefield from Lone Rock. This will be set back from the street leaving room in front for the fire station. Part of the money required for this unit has been donated by the George Banta Foundation which also financed construction of the church and the Stonefield Gazette building.

Stonefield Village, the State Farm Museum and the Nelson Dewey Home, home of Wisconsin's first governor, at Cassville form a most interesting unit for a "Seeing Wisconsin Weekend".

That same week end one could also visit the Villa Louis and Brisbois House, The Medical Museum and the Old French Cemetery at Prairie du Chien.

CIRCUS WORLD MUSEUM

This site at Baraboo opens May 8. This has had many additions since members of the Society visited it a few years ago and is well worth another visit. The Circus advertising car at the Circus World Museum, which has contained a small exhibition on the manufacture of circus wagons at Baraboo, this year will contain a display on circus billposting. The exhibition was financed by a \$1,500 grant from Ray and Marion Newman of Milwaukee.

AMERICA'S FIRST KINDERGARTEN

This building is on the Octagon House grounds at Watertown. It was moved there exactly 100 years after being used as a kindergarten by Mrs. Carl Schurz and has been restored. A general museum has recently been erected on the grounds also. This makes an interesting threesome to visit all in one place. The site is operated by the Watertown Historical Society.

THAT TIME OF YEAR

It's April again! That means that our Portage County Historical Society dues are due again. How about attending the April meeting and paying up for 1965-66? Those who cannot attend should mail their \$1.00 to Mrs. Nelis R. Kampenga, Route 1, Box 148, Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

EXHIBIT IN CASE AT COUNTY CITY BUILDING

We've had a railroad exhibit in the case for some time. If you haven't seen it, stop in

at the County City building and look it over. The exhibit will be changed in the near future.

We will welcome ideas for future exhibits from any of you and if you would like to help with some exhibit you may have in mind, just contact Miss Edna Carlsten, 1509 Ellis St., or phone her 344-5656.

THE INDIAN SCARE

In the early spring of 1862 or 3, I overheard John DuBay, who was a half breed of French and Menominee parentage, and who had been an agent of the Hudson Bay Fur Company for many years, telling my father that the Indian runners from Northern Wisconsin had passed the night before and told him that the Sioux were on the warpath in northern Minnesota and were coming into Wisconsin to exterminate their ancient foes, the Chippewas, and also other Indians and the white people whom they claimed were occupying their hunting grounds. He said their message was, "that before the grass was four inches high the ground would run rivers of blood", and urged everyone to be on their guard.

That the Indians believed this report was evidenced before the week was over by a flood of canoes of every kind and size from a birch bark canoe that would hold two with their worldly possessions, to big "dug-outs" that would hold ten or twelve, all going in haste to Green Bay (Fort Howard) for the protection of the United States troops. These Indians of which there were many hundreds, came from the reservations in northern Wisconsin, Chippewas from LaPointe or Bad River, Court Oreilles and Lac du Flambeau.

The Menominees from north of Wittenberg went on their ponies or afoot, and the roads were filled with them, as well as stages and wagons filled with white people who were looking for a safer place to stay.

The people in Eau Pleine mostly decided to stay and protect themselves the best they could. Every night we went to bed expecting to be awakened by the war whoop of the Indians and probably tomahawked and scalped before morning. News traveled slowly in those days so it was three weeks of terror before we heard that the government troops had been sent to Minnesota, the up-rising out down and the Sioux driven back to their reservations. This was good news for us and we dared draw a long breath again.

We soon forgot about our scare and the Menominees went back to their reservation.

But it was the first of August before the northern Indians went by on their way back. The last group to go, about two-hundred-fifty Bad River Indians, stopped and camped on the bank of the river just below DuBay's Landing, which was a favorite place with all Indians, to hold a medicine dance because one of their chiefs was very sick and their other remedies had failed to help him. They stayed there three days and the monotonous pound of the tom-toms never ceased in all that time. A large white dog was killed and boiled as this was supposed to be very good medicine. Nothing was of any avail and the chief died. After this they resumed their journey to their reservation on the shores of Lake Superior. We were not sorry to see them go as some of them had managed to get liquor and drunken Indians were not the very pleasantest neighbors.

-- Mrs. Florence Whitney

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.

NOTE: This Indian Scare occurred in 1862, when, while the white men were away engaged in the Civil War, the Sioux under Little Crow attacked the white settlers. The Indians were compelled to surrender to Col. Sibley and in 1863 they were removed beyond the Missouri. I remember hearing my grandmother, who lived on the east side of Lake Winnebago, tell about hearing about this up-rising and how frightened they were for days.

OUR POSTPONED TRIP

The type of Spring weather we have had hasn't been conducive to much planning for our boat trip on Lake Winnebago. Poygan and Butte des Morts on the stern wheeler, the Chief Oshkosh, but we haven't forgotten about it and will get in touch with the folks at Oshkosh about a date later this Spring or early Summer. You will be notified but you can notify us of your interest in the trip at any time.

WISCONSIN CALENDARS

We had great success with our calendars this year. Let's make it better next time. This is one of our few ways of adding to our treasury. 200 calendars were ordered,

and 188 were sold, making it necessary to return only 12 this year.

The State Historical Society reports on the sale of the calendars as follows: "More Wisconsin Calendars were sold this year than ever before. The total sale was 114,000 but the Society received 6,000 more orders that could not be filled.

This year in anticipation of equal business, the society has ordered 121,000 calendars printed."

AN INVITATION

A letter from the South Wood County Historical Society at Wisconsin Rapids brings us an invitation to their last regular meeting of the year which is also a celebration of their 10th anniversary. The letter stated that they had decided to celebrate their 10th anniversary by inviting their sister societies from the central part of Wisconsin.

This meeting will begin with a noon dinner at the Paper Inn in the YMCA building at Port Edwards. There will be a short business meeting followed by a program. The guest speaker will be Wm. Schereck of the State Society. He is the State Society representative on the Wisconsin Council for Local History.

The meal of swiss steak and all the trimmings is \$1.75 to be paid for when you register. However, if you plan to attend, contact Mr. N.R.Kampenga by April 19, so that he can send in reservations. They do want to know how many to expect. Remember the date, Saturday, April 24.