



# The Pinery

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## *North Central Regional Meeting*

On August 17, the North Central Regional Meeting of the Wisconsin Council for Local History will be held in Wausau. The luncheon meeting is usually followed by reports from participating societies, a speaker and tours of local historic sites.

Early in the year, at a meeting of the Advisory Committee of the WCLH, it was announced that either Mrs. Robert Jacobson of Oconomowoc, Chairman of the Committee, or Mrs. Elmer Baker of Fond du Lac, Vice Chairman, would be speaking at each of the regional meetings on cooperation with school and youth groups. The Hawks Inn Historical Society of which Mrs. Jacobson is president has experienced success with school exhibits. Mrs. Baker, president of the Fond du Lac County Historical Society, has guided work projects for Scouts in the development of that society's Galloway House site.

When we receive further information about fees, reservations and program, there will be another notice of this event.

We could make this a Society outing by having a good representation at the meeting. Possibly those with cars could find room for anyone without transportation who wished to go.

## *County Park Tour --*

We haven't forgotten about it, but with weather and mosquitoes being what they are at present, we hesitate at this time to undertake such a tour.

Perhaps late summer or even autumn will lend itself to our plans. It could be an enjoyable autumn day outing.

## *20th Annual Society Meeting --*

We had a nice attendance at our 20th meeting on April 17 which was held in the Demonstration Room of the County-City Building. The "Trail of the Nations" film shown through the courtesy of the Pabst Brewing Co. was thoroughly enjoyed. It was interesting to learn about and see in color the customs and costumes of the various ethnic groups of Wisconsin still preserved today.

## *Report on Marker Projects --*

Your Board continues to give much time to discussions and committee reports on the markers for local historic sites and progress is steady though sometimes slow.

Last week word was received from Donald Anderson, of the Office of Sites and Markers, that the Advisory Committee of the Wisconsin Council for Local History, at its meeting on June 21, approved the nomination of the Jordan Dam and Power Plant as a Wisconsin Registered Landmark. We have now only to order the marker, co-sponsored by the Portage County Board, and wait for its completion before planning the dedication. Hamilton Viets is the chairman of the committee working up this marker.

Markers already erected in the County and City under the sponsorship of the Society are reported to be interesting and informative to many people.

## *Mr. Swanson Attends Curators Meeting --*

On June 20 and 21, Clifford Swanson, a member of the Board of Curators of the State Society, attended the meeting of that body held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the State Society.

In connection with the proposed project of rebuilding old Fort Winnebago and the Portage Canal, the Board of Curators visited Portage on June 20. The Governor of the State has appointed a committee to examine the possibilities.

Mr. Swanson's Local History Policy Committee reported on the newly prepared Articles of Incorporation for new affiliated local societies, and these were approved by the Board of Curators.

On June 21, the Board agreed that the State Society take over the Madeline Island Museum as a historic site. Madeline Island lies out in Lake Superior directly across from Bayfield and is the largest of the Apostle group. The Historical Museum at La Pointe was started ten years ago by Leo Casper, a Minnesota business man, and his wife, Bella. Its beginning, growth and development is an interesting story. The site itself is that of the Old American Fur Trading Co. The museum, open from June 15 to Sept. 15, will be a "must see" to all Wisconsinites. The Caspers, after 13 years of hard work say, "We feel it has been a worthwhile effort."

### *State Society Annual Meeting*

Several other members of our society who attended some or all of the June 21 & 22 sessions of the State Society Annual Meeting are Guy Gibson, Dorothy Kampenga, Malcolm Rosholt.

The new addition to the State Historical Society Building was dedicated at a banquet in the reading room of the Historical Society Library on June 21.

This new addition, approximately 75% of the size of the present building, was built at a total cost of about \$2,340,000. Stone of the same type as that used in the original portion--Indiana Bedford Limestone--was used and the design of the old building carried out in the construction of the new addition. The old building has been cleaned so that the stone matches the new addition.

Edward P. Alexander, Clifford Lord and Don McNeil, former directors of the State Society, were present to participate in the dedication ceremonies.

In the afternoon of June 21, Frank B. Freidel Jr. spoke on "Research and Writing in Recent American History" with commentary from E. David Cronin and Richard H. Leonard. After the banquet in the evening, Arnold Moss gave a dramatic presentation of some excerpts from the works of famous American authors.

On June 22, a panel consisting of Mr. Alexander, Russell Fridley and Abbott Lowell Cummings discussed "Historic Sites--Why and How?" with emphasis on preservation of historic neighborhoods.

Following presentation of awards at the Women's Auxiliary Luncheon, Millard F. Rogers, Jr., Director of the new Elvehjem Art Center, showed plans of that building and told of the progress being made on the project.

### *State Historic Sites--*

At Wade House, near Greenbush, the Jung Carriage Museum opened July 5. This will make an interesting addition to the already popular site, for the museum houses the famous Jung collection of hand and horse-drawn vehicles of all kinds and portrays the history of land transportation in Wisconsin between the Civil War and World War I. It is entirely fitting that it should be a part of the Old Stage Coach Inn, (Wade House) site.

Various improvements and additions have been made to the Circus World Museum at Baraboo: parking area, covered wagons of the 101 Ranch Wild West Show, livestock cars used by the Ringling's and Clyde Beatty circuses and other circus memorabilia.

### *Scott McCormick Writes of Some Portage County Creameries and Their Operators and Added Reminiscences.*

One of my uncles, F.E. McCormick, arrived in Portage County in September 1899 to run the Hetzel creamery near Almond. In 1902 he was married to Minnie Hetzel and they erected a house on the opposite side of the road. The house is now the property of a Mrs. Swanson, Dan Hetzel's daughter. Uncle ran the Hetzel creamery for ten years. He also ran the Arnott creamery for eight years.

My father arrived in Portage County in April 1902 and started the Eau Pleine creamery for the farmers. This was two miles south of Dancy. He stayed there for six weeks and then in May of 1902 went to run the Buena Vista creamery. My father was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin and raised near Soldiers Grove. My mother was from the Buena Vista area. She was born at the first farm west of the D.F.Gates farm. William O'Keefe was the last owner of the place. My grandmother Adams died when ma was a baby and she was brought up by her grandparents, Scott and Sylvia Clark.

My uncle, O. R.McCormick, arrived in Portage County in the Spring of 1903. He drove a team of horses from near Soldiers Grove to Hetzel. That summer he learned the creamery trade from F.E.McCormick. In the Spring of 1904 he went to Bancroft to operate the creamery. While there he was married to Rose Hetzel in 1908. He ran this plant until 1912 and then went to Stockton. He afterwards ran plants at Buena Vista and Plover. He made butter for Mr. Schmidt at the Stevens Point DairyProducts Co. He sent some butter to the State Fair in 1907 and received Sweepstakes prize. This was a score of 98.

You have heard of different businesses at Maynard's Corners. Edward Myers and Sanford Topping started a feed mill there. This was run by a traction engine. Sanford Topping built a house there. The business didn't last long and Sanford Topping sold the house to Thomas Footit. My father bought the house from Mr. Footit about 1903. In 1905 he moved the house and attached it to the Sylvia Clark residence. All of us boys were born in that house.

My uncles and my father are gone. Aunt Minnie lives with her oldest daughter in Red Granite, Aunt Rose is dead but one of the girls is Mrs. Ed. Rossier who lives in Plover. My mother is living and the oldest three of us boys are bachelors. The youngest is married and lives in Horicon. He has a family of three girls and a home of his own. He has worked in the John Deere plant for over twenty years.

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When the Centennial issue of the Stevens Point Journal was printed, I noticed a picture of the car that was owned by E. H. Joy. My father traded a motor cycle to A.J. Clements

for that car. The last man I knew that had the car was Byron S. Ward.

The first time I was in Stevens Point was by train. My folks took three of us from Arnott to Stevens Point. This was in 1910 and I wasn't quite four years old. I didn't appreciate a train ride then. The next time I got to Stevens Point was by auto. My folks took two of us to the Fair in 1911. This auto was a 1910 two cylinder Reo. When we were about to leave the Fair the whistles had started to blow in the city. I heard Soo Line No.5 whistle in and out of town.

We lived in Stevens Point from November 1920 until April 1923. I wish I had taken an interest in historical things while we lived in Stevens Point. I had just started to take an interest in them when we moved out. At that time the grade teachers started us to make books called Pioneer History. When those teachers started us digging into the past I started to look for old catalogs on threshing machinery, autos and dairy machinery.

In 1933 I looked through my grandfather's house and found two piles of old farm papers. I kept all ads and pictures on threshing machinery. All news about dairy plants at that time was pasted into books. I have quite a few pictures of the old creameries in Portage County. I also have a file of books called "Wisconsin Farmer's Institutes" from 1889 through 1915.

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Not long after we received the above communication from Mr. McCormick, the following item appeared in the May 26, 1968 Sunday issue of the Milwaukee Journal:

#### AFTER 20 YEARS PAPER CARRIER TO END CAREER

Princeton, Wis. A bicycle riding newspaper carrier for more than two decades, 62 year old "Scotty" McCormick plans to hang up his newspaper sack.

McCormick, whose rounds were so regular that Princeton residents could set their clocks by him, is training a boy as his replacement.

"Scotty" has been delivering Milwaukee Journals since the late 1940's. His conscientious work and early delivery of Sunday papers are a tradition here. Each Sunday he arises at 1 a.m. folds the Journal sections together and starts delivery by 2. By 4, early risers can have the paper with their coffee.

He's retiring, he says, "to have a little time to do some of the things I haven't been able to do". That includes visiting historical sites, collecting pictures on railroads, threshing rigs and old cars and writing. But he hastens to tell friends "I won't retire altogether." He plans to continue his delivery of advertising hand bills and charity flyers, and there'll be time for errands too.

#### COUNTY SEAT CENTENNIAL --

One hundred years ago, on August 1, 1868, Portage County voted to move the county seat from Plover to Stevens Point. This was not without prelude.

Twelve years before, in 1856, the County Board of Supervisors had voted \$10,000 for construction of a new Courthouse in Plover. It was Albert Ellis, editor of the Wisconsin Pinery who raised the issues that spurred Stevens Point to challenge this move.

In 1858 Stevens Point was prospering, had exceeded Plover in population and had applied for and received its charter of incorporation. The issues that Albert Ellis raised in the Wisconsin Pinery and backed with data were not to be denied. Stevens Point was disproportionately represented on the County Board and was aggrieved by heavy inequity in tax assessment. Citizens in the young pioneer community responded to these grievances vigorously. Plover fought back. H. G. Ingersoll, editor of the Plover Times battled furiously in his columns but too late. The strength of the northern sector of Portage County was unexpected, the margin of victory on that August 1st, one-hundred years ago, was close but decisive. In 1869, the \$10,000 was voted to the construction of a courthouse at Stevens Point and by 1871 the building was ready for occupancy.

#### Sylvester, Wisconsin

Hancock, our neighboring village to the South on Highway 51 was also thriving in 1858. It received its articles of incorporation in that year.

The Oshkosh Daily Northwestern presented an interesting story on Hancock in its June 14, 1968 issue, headlined: VIA HANCOCK, PORTAGE TO STEVENS POINT A 24 HOUR TRIP.

Hancock prior to 1858 was named Sylvester after its first settler and was a major stop in the 24 hour John B. DuBay Stage Company route between the city of Portage and Stevens Point. The trip required an over-night stop-over at Coloma Corners at the John Drake Hotel, known on the route as Half-Way House. The one-way fare was \$3.50. The Wisconsin Central upon its advent in 1878 made Hancock a central stop and closed the stage line period. The railroad station still stands.

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*Have you paid your 1968 dues?*

If not, right now is a good time to send your dollar to the treasurer:

Mrs. N. R. Kampenga  
Route 1, box 55  
Stevens Point, Wis. 54481