



14. Coffee pot (graniteware), from Peg and Richard Harthun, Plover.
15. Fireplace bellows; iron griddle folding box camera (with case and tripod stand); photograph (framed) of 1923 State Assembly, from Grace Halverson.
16. General McGlachiin Sword, from Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 568.
17. Jenny Lind spool bed, from Margaret Hillier.
18. Bread cabinet (metal); dresser mirror; rocking chair; commode stand; coffee can; baking soda can, from Elizabeth Gilkay.
19. Polish Womens Alliance plaque, local chapter 751; minutes book, 1940-1973, from Bernice Bartosz.

The PCHS appreciates the gifts noted above, thanks all of the donors for their consideration, and welcomes further donations to the preservation efforts of the Society.

#### STATEWIDE SURVEY TO IDENTIFY QUILTS AND THEIR MAKERS

The following notice appeared in the December 1982 EXCHANGE newsletter of the State Historical Society and should be of interest to our readers.

The State Historical Society's Museum Office has inaugurated a Wisconsin Quilt History Project to identify and collect the history of quilts and their makers. A statewide survey, coordinated by Chad Alice Hagen, will gather information on quilts made between 1800 and 1940 which are either Wisconsin-made or were carried to the state by those who migrated here. Anyone who owns a Wisconsin quilt, or knows of Wisconsin quilts held by others, are requested to write to Ms. Hagen at the Museum Office, c/o the Society, 816 State Street, Madison, WI., 53706, with a description of the quilt as well as of any other family materials that may provide additional knowledge about the quilt and its maker. The information collected will be organized and preserved at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin for use by future researchers, and may be the basis for a Society publication of collected histories and exhibits of exceptionally fine quilts.

On November 17th, David G. Tesch, a graduate of the UWSP College of Natural Resources and winner of the 1982 Win Rothman award, spoke at a public meeting of the PCHS on the topic "Presettlement Vegetation of Portage County, Wisconsin (1839-3853)". The presentation was based on his field work and Masters thesis. Below is an Abstract of his thesis.

Records from metes and bounds, private, and general land office surveys have provided basis for documentation of pre-settlement vegetation in various sections of the United States. Public land survey records of Portage County, Wisconsin (ca. 1839-1853), were used in conjunction with soil surveys for the reconstruction and analysis of pre-settlement vegetation. Four plant groups, comprising thirteen plant community types, were delineated. Drainage patterns and bodies of water are represented based on survey records. Median tree diameter was 10 inches (25.4 cm). Black oak (*Quercus velutina* Lam.) represented the highest frequency, and white pine (*Pinus strobus* L.) the largest basal area. Fraudulent survey practices were not noted; bias, if any, was insignificant. Beech (*Fagus grandifolia* Ehrh.) was recorded outside the established range. Comparison was made between three existing remnant communities and presettlement vegetation distribution with results indicating similar composition between both eras; although, ecological succession was apparent at several locations. Errors in handwritten survey copies and original maps were detected.

#### YOU'RE NOT LISTENING OUT THERE

The editor again solicits the support of all readers of THE PINERY. We are looking for articles, book reviews, short stories, poetry, genealogical information, etc., & historical tid bits, for possible publication in THE PINERY. If you have any material you would like to submit for publication please contact the editor.

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[The following is a summary of remarks by Maryanne Norton, Vice-Chairperson of Wausau's Historic Landmark Commission and Librarian of the Marathon County Historical Museum. Ms. Norton was featured at a public meeting of the PCHS on October 20, 1982]

WAUSAU'S PROGRAM DESIGNATING CENTENNIAL HOMES AND LANDMARK STRUCTURES:

In the early 1970's, communities throughout the country planned celebrations for the Bicentennial year of 1976. Wausau's city council passed an ordinance which created a Historic Landmark Commission. The mayor was given authority to appoint the nine members and duties were spelled out in the ordinance. Those duties are the listing, recording, protecting and preserving of sites, buildings and structures--really very similar to the objectives of the National Register of Historic Places.

The suggestions for landmarks come from the Commission members or the public. The form for designation asks the name, location, owner, condition of the property, and a description of the original and present appearance. Also requested is information on the architect or builder, style, date built, and sources of information. Space is provided for a discussion of the architectural and historical significance of the nominated property.

The Commission selects the landmarks based on historical and architectural significance. The nominations eventually go to a committee of the city council which approves them and sends them to the entire council for final approval.

The Wausau ordinance gives no protection to the landmarks. It cannot stop or even delay demolition. The Landmark Commission has no municipal financial support, although the ordinance states that the city could fund our programs. Needed money comes from local foundations. Fortunately, the financial needs are limited. The official landmark plaque is the biggest expense. It was designed by a Wausau artist and produced by a local firm. The date is engraved for each building.

In addition to the landmark designations, we wanted a way to recognize old houses. Wausau has maybe 200 very old homes, most of which would never qualify for landmark status, because they are not architecturally or historically significant. But they are nice old houses and they add character to our city. It was our hope that calling attention to the old houses would encourage owners and neighborhoods to care for and to take pride in their houses.

So in 1981 the Landmark Commission created the Centennial Homes Program for 100-year old homes. The first year there were 15 inquiries about homes. Only seven were over 100 years old. The award certificate lists the name of the house, address, signature of the Commission Chairperson, and the date.

We do NOT automatically award Centennial Homes certificates. The owner must apply. Right now I could probably list 30 houses I know are over 100 years old. But until and unless owners apply, the houses will not be listed. But we do not reject any house because of its condition. And there is no vote of approval required by the Commission or city council.

There are a number of ways to determine the age of a building for Landmark designation or Centennial Homes. There are publications which tell how to date structures. The abstract gives names of owners of the lot, and those names can be checked against city directories. Birds-eye-view maps are useful. Tax records

may record a sudden increase in taxes--a good indication a building was erected. Plat books sometimes show buildings. And newspapers are the most valuable. Research on old buildings is slow and very time consuming.

Until last spring, the Wisconsin state government did not recognize Historic Landmark Commissions, and there was some question of their legal status. But in April our state legislature passed a law recognizing the authority of municipalities and counties to establish such commissions.

### FEATURE # 1

[For those readers who were unable to attend the public ceremony, we are printing below the speech delivered by Malcolm Rosholt at the cornerstone laying for the Portage County Historical Society Museum (Old Methodist Church) in Plover, October 1, 1978]

It seems only yesterday that the first school house in Stevens Point collapsed under a sheet of wet snow and with it went the dreams of the Portage County Historical Society for a museum. Today, in a different building, equally as historic as the old school on Clark Street, the dream of the Portage County Historical Society is being fulfilled, and, from the looks of it, I don't think anyone from the street department will be able to splash any wet snow on the roof.

Like most communities that have saved an old building from the bulldozer, the restoration of this former Methodist Church has taken time and patience, many committee meetings and seemingly endless talk. But this is the American way and it is a tribute to the members of the Historical Society that they did not give up. They recognized a need in the community and they have gone ahead to fulfill this need. People everywhere, I am sure, are pleased that this has been done. They are pleased because they now have a place to leave their precious heirlooms and artifacts and pictures. And they will leave them here because they know that here these reminders of the past will have a permanent home, in fact, a place of honor. For these old things--why not call them old? that is what make them unique and precious--these old things talk to us. They tell us something about ourselves that we otherwise would not know.

And to the future curators of this museum, let me say this: by all means try to identify every object that is donated to the museum, who donated it, where it was used, and, if possible, what it was used for.

In my travels around the state, I am saddened by the lack of identification found on things in smaller museums. No donors name are attached to the objects and no explanations.

As time goes on I hope, too, that someone will donate an old-fashioned wall telephone to the museum. When this gift is received, I suggest that you hang it near the entrance, just high enough for everyone to reach, because one of the first things the visitor will do is to take the receiver off the hook and determine whether anyone is talking on the other end of the line. This is what I call "contact museum viewing." People like to touch old things, as if testing to see whether they

are real. It is not possible for a museum to have too many things that the visitor can touch because of the danger of breakage and accidents. But there is little damage to a telephone as long as it is securely bolted to the wall and as long as the receiver has a good cord on it.

So remember what I told you: get an old telephone installed. A museum is, after all, a sort of land of make-believe. We make believe we are sharing in our past. We look at these old things, wondering how it was with grandma and grandpa, or whether grandma and grandpa had as much fun in life as their grandchildren or great-grandchildren. We sometimes even envy our ancestors, but let's not envy them too much. Consider what happened when grandpa broke the point of his walking plow. He was probably trying desperately to finish plowing a field for early potatoes, and now this blankety-blank plow share rams into a stone and breaks the point. Grandpa can't run into town and get a tool shop to repair it. He has to unhitch the horses, drive them back to the barnyard, hitch the horses to a wagon or buggy, and drive to a blacksmith in the village. By the time he gets home, it's time for chores. He has been all day repairing that plow point. Today, if a tractor breaks down, most farmers don't even stop to repair it. Jump on another tractor. That's how. Leave the other one till a rainy day or next winter to fix.

No, I do not envy the good times that our ancestors allegedly enjoyed, nor do I envy their so-called simple life, because I do not think that spending a whole day getting a plow point repaired was very simple. I imagine it was miserable.

The restoration of this old church for a museum follows a trend all over Wisconsin and the nation. And that trend points to a vastly renewed interest in our past. Of course we have always been interested in the past. But what I am thinking about is the renewed interest in our immediate past, and this is important, for unless we save it, no one else will.

This renewed interest is taking shape not only in the restoration of old buildings and sites, but in the decorative arts. Restaurants are looking for old logging pictures to enlarge and hang in their dining rooms. Hotels and drinking establishments, where people sit and take their leisure, are looking for cant hooks, broad axes, rifles and other memorabilia to decorate their walls. Suddenly, there is a premium on antiquities, and I suspect it will not be easy to acquire these objects for the museum in competition with this new surge of interest. Or is it a fad?

Nevertheless, this renewed interest in our immediate past is most encouraging. I personally take pleasure in looking at the private collections found in public places. But what dismays me about all this is the other side of the coin. I refer to the subject of Wisconsin history in our schools. In my visits to schools throughout the state, I hear librarians, over and over, say, "we don't teach Wisconsin history in our high school, but the fourth graders study it over in the elementary school."

How did this system ever get started? Are fourth graders in a position to make comparative value judgements on history? Of course not. It is my feeling that the Wisconsin history course should be discontinued in the fourth grade and advanced at least to the eighth grade level, but even better, to high school level.

I am aware of a few high schools in the state where Wisconsin history is being taught, but I believe they could be named on the fingers of three hands. In each case, where the subject is taught, someone on the faculty has been told to draw up

a course of study and teach it. The teacher has no guide lines because he, or she, has no standard text to follow. Our book shelves are crammed with all kinds of histories, travel stories, Jesuit Relations, biographies of famous men and women of Wisconsin, etc., and yet not a single text book on the sum of their parts.\*\*

The education department of the state does not discourage any school from setting up its own course in Wisconsin history, but it seems to do little or nothing to guide or encourage such a program.

Our university system, which is second to none, is also to blame. I am aware that the humanities departments are fighting for survival against career-oriented courses, and that student body count is often more important than courses with content. But unless the university system in Wisconsin takes a hand in this and begins to train teachers in the study of Wisconsin with its many roots in the many ethnic communities that make up our great state, who else can we turn to?

One school librarian told me recently that the students in her school couldn't care less about Wisconsin or its history. I did not contradict her, but does anyone care about anything unless he or she is led to believe in its value by someone more experienced? Are students without guidance interested in the history of the United States? I'm afraid not. It's up to our teachers to lead students to an interest in our past, whether it be American history or Wisconsin history. That's what teaching is all about.

Today, with the opening of this new museum in Plover, Portage County will have still another place to preserve its precious heirlooms and pictures. I congratulate the members of the Portage County Historical Society for seeing this project through to its logical conclusion. It is a time for rejoicing, and a time for all good men and women to come to the aid of their cultural heritage in this great state of Wisconsin which we love and glory in.

\*\* A publication that goes a long way in meeting this need was published in 1979 by Barbara and Justus Paul entitled THE BADGER STATE: A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF WISCONSIN (William B. Eerdmans Publisher).

FEATURE #2

The Society recently received a gift from Lee H. Krembs of Olympia, Washington, consisting of an extensive Krembs Family genealogy (typed) and an attractive scrapbook of clippings and photographs relating to the Krembs Family. With this in mind and because of the significance of the Krembs Family to Stevens Point history, the editor thought it appropriate to reprint the following tribute to Alexander Krembs Sr. that appeared in the Journal column "Stevens Point Through the Years" by the late Alex Wallace/

STEVENS POINT THROUGH THE YEARS

By ALEX WALLACE

Chapter 847 (Dec. 30, 1946) and Chapter 848 (Dec. 31, 1946)

Jan. 28, 1911. Death of A. Krembs, Sr. Announcement of the death of Alexander Krembs, Sr., which occurred at his home Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 25, 1911, will be received with deep regret by many hundreds of personal and business friends. On July 9, 1873, at Milwaukee, Mr. Krembs was married to Miss Elizabeth Biegler of Richfield, Washington county, since which time they have maintained one of the pleasantest and most hospitable homes in the city. He is survived by Mrs. Krembs and their six sons, all of whom occupy honorable positions among their fellow men. The sons are Fritz A., Emil A., Alexander, Anton C., Moritz and Franz J. Fritz and Anton have for several years been associated with their father in the hardware store. Alexander is the proprietor of the drug store at the corner of Main Street and Strong's avenue. Moritz and Franz J. are practicing dentistry in this city and Emil is cashier of the Lincoln county bank of Merrill. There are also 10 grandchildren. Mr. Krembs' father's family consisted of 15 brothers and sisters, only two of whom are now living. They are Max Krembs of this city, who has been connected with the store for many years, and Mrs. John Gebhardt of Wausau. (I am going to use considerable of the article about Mr. Krembs' death because his experiences show very well what the early pioneers had to contend with.)

A brief sketch of Mr. Krembs' early struggles and final success is given below. It is a copy of an article written by himself and placed in the cornerstone of the new business block which he erected in 1895 at the corner of Main Street and the Public Square. Up to that time he had occupied the wooden building erected for him on the same corner by Martin Perkins, to which he alludes to in his personal history. Many years previous to this, however, his business had outgrown this building and he had used a number of other wooden structures adjacent to the main store. The following is what he wrote in regard to his personal history.

"I was born on March 14, 1840, at Dischigen, Neresheim, Kingel of Wurtemberg, Germany. Came to America on the steamer Belgic from Antwerpen to New York and arrived at Fond du Lac on Oct. 28.

On Dec. 22, 1856, I came on stage from Fond du Lac to Stevens Point and was engaged as clerk in the United States land office, Abraham Brawley being register and A. G. Ellis receiver. Stevens Point at that time had a population of from 400 to 500 inhabitants. I stayed in Stevens Point in the above position about a year and a half and then was engaged by Charles Hoeflinger, who bought the merchandise of Desert and Cate of Mosinee. After a six month stay at that place Mr. Brawley again called me to his office and gave me a position as head clerk. Owing to Brawley's removal from the office I concluded to leave and went to Fond du Lac, with the intention of joining an uncle of mine and going overland to California. This did not meet the approval of my parents and I sought employment elsewhere.

"Through a friend I was called to Constableville, N. Y., in Lewis county, where I remained one year. I then returned to Fond du Lac and after a six months' stay, being employed in Hopkins & Serve's dry goods store, went to Milwaukee, where I was employed in Mack Brother's store until 1861. At this time Charles Hoeflinger, having been elected member of assembly and

being treasurer of Marathon county, desired my services and I was appointed deputy treasurer of Marathon county from December 1861 to 1862."

"As it had always been my endeavor to start in business and being urged by my oldest sister, Mrs. Antonette Hoeflinger, I went to Stevens Point to call upon my brother, Charles, who then kept a small tin shop and a few stoves and proposed to enter into partnership, adding hardware to the tin shop. My brother was more than pleased and accepted my proposition, if we could manage to raise the necessary funds. Our finances were very limited, hardly enough to defray traveling expenses. This, however, did not frighten me in the least. Upon returning to Wausau I met the smiling countenance of my sister and Carl Hoeflinger, and left Wausau with the promise that whenever ready Hoeflinger would assist me to select a stock of hardware. Arriving at Fond du Lac and making my intentions known to my father, he showed a cold shoulder, thinking that with no money of my own I could never succeed. The second day after my arrival I met Mr. Ebert, city treasurer of Fond du Lac, who gave me a position as clerk at a salary of \$75 per month."

"At the expiration of two months, and with \$150 in my pocket, I wrote to my brother, Charles, and Mr. Hoeflinger to meet me in Fond du Lac as I was ready and had arranged matters for the purchase of a stock of hardware. They came and we went to Milwaukee. At Milwaukee they went to the Republican house and I visited Mr. Eno Meyer, who kept a drug store near the old La Crosse depot. I boldly, but kindly asked him to assist me with a loan of \$600 or more. Not to go further into the struggle I finally succeeded and Mr. Meyer handed me a letter of credit on the firm of G. G. Green & Co. The next day we bought our stock, about \$1,000 worth, being the most necessary articles demanded in a small store. (Later Mr. Krembs obtained \$200 from his father with which to defray the freight on his stock of goods, and then he says.)

"In the fore part of January, 1863, we started in business, the name of the firm being C. Krembs & Bro. Business was better than we expected and owing to the prompt payment of our bills and hard labor (we often worked in the tin shop until 2 o'clock in the morning) and had our credit well established. In 1864 I was elected assessor. On Dec. 29, 1865, we lost our entire stock by fire, with only \$1,500 insurance. Notwithstanding that we were losers of about \$12,000 (this gain was mainly caused by the advancing market) we did not lose our courage but made arrangements with Martin Perkins to build the wooden structure wherein I have been doing business ever since. In 1866 I was first elected city treasurer and this fact added much to our financial standing abroad.

"Since the death of my brother, Charles, which took place on Oct. 23, 1876, the decline in merchandising and various other considerations did not permit me to meet my constant ambition to erect a new store ere this. It is with pride that I now pay the debt which I owe to our beautiful city and its kind and industrious people. May this store prove to be a lasting monument and bear in remembrance its founder. May prosperity guard the future as it has the past and approve of my sincere gratitude. May God bless the soil over the stones whereupon this structure is built, and also those who have directly or indirectly assisted its completion. In the presence of God and in memory of the laying of this corner stone I herewith sign my name.

"ALEXANDER KREMBS,

"May 3, 1895."

The death of Alexander Krembs marks the passing away of one of Stevens Point's best and most honorable citizens. He had probably been engaged in active business longer than any other man in the city and during all these years, covering a period of nearly half a century, those who met him

in either a social or business way were always his friends. His disposition was a most kindly one, he was a gentleman by nature, he was considerate and affable to all with whom he came in contact, he never intentionally hurt the feelings of any one and to these desirable qualities was added the strictest integrity. No man can truthfully say that Alexander Krembs ever wronged him and his cordial and cheery greetings will be a pleasant memory in the minds of a long list of friends. The passing of such a man is a distinct loss to any community.

(In the early rafting, saw mill logging and log driving days the Krembs store took a very important part in the development of those industries by furnishing cable and other material used by the rivermen. This was a convenient point for those running the river because they tied up here before running the rapids. While tied up here they replenished their foodstuffs at the J. O. Johnson store, the Hoeffler store and other pioneer stores of those days. The log drivers could buy their can hooks, peaveys and pike poles at the Krembs store, the loggers could buy their chains and other necessary materials there and rotary saws, belts and nearly all of the essentials necessary for the operation of their mill. I doubt if there was another institution in this city that took such an important part in the development of the pineries as did the Krembs store.)

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Portage County Historical Society's 2nd Annual Trip to Historic Sites

CIRCUS WORLD MUSEUM, BARABOO, WISCONSIN

Saturday, May 21, 1983. Leave promptly at 7:15 a.m. Return about 5:00 p.m.

Charter bus leaves from Happy Joe's Pizza and Ice Cream Parlor parking lot, 200 Division Street, Northpoint Shopping Center, Stevens Point.

Cost: (1) Round trip charter bus ticket \$7.50

(2) Admission to Museum:

Adult. . . . . \$7.00

Child, ages 5-7 . . . . . 3.50  
(Child under five admitted free)

Adult member of State Historical  
Society . . . . . 3.50

Senior citizen (age 65 and over). . . . 5.60

Food is available on Museum grounds or bring lunch. Free picnic area.

On your own you can also visit the Al Ringling Theater, homes of circus magnates and stars and their tombs, and the International Crane Foundation headquarters.

Co-sponsored by Happy Joe's and Portage County Historical Society.

Reserve next May 21 for this trip to Baraboo.

Early tickets available at Happy Joe's. At other convenient locations, later.

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