



PORTAGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Tim Slebert, Editor

August 1996

1st BRIGADE BAND CONCERT

On August 10 the historical society has the privilege of having an encore performance of the 1st Brigade Band. The concert will begin at 2:00 and last about 2 hours. The cost for the concert will be \$6 for reserve seats and \$4 for general admission. Many of you may remember the concert presented by the band at Heritage Park 7 years ago. They are a superb group.



We will also be privileged to have some 15 reenactors at the site putting together a Civil War encampment. This group puts on this type of presentation all over Wisconsin and the Eastern part of the U.S. The combined presentation will make a wonderful wrap-up to the two year commemoration that the society has been doing

on this county's role in the various conflicts that the U.S. has been involved in. The concert will take place rain or shine. There will be a large tent on site for both band and audience. Food will also be available



thanks to the Central Wisconsin Model Railroaders, Ltd. The whole concert will cost the society about \$3,000. To date we have not been able to raise a great deal from outside donations. Anyone wishing to help support this concert can send whatever amount you wish to the society. If you have any questions about the concert or wish to purchase tickets please contact the society at P.O. 672, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

HERITAGE PARK

This summer has seen a great deal of progress on the various buildings in the park. Thanks to Anton Anday, Cheryl Jean,

1st Brigade Band Ticket Ordering Form

Reserved Tickets: _____ X \$6.00 = _____
General Admission: _____ X \$4.00 = _____
(General Admission must provide own chairs)

Mail To: PCHS
P O Box 672
Stevens Point, WI 54481

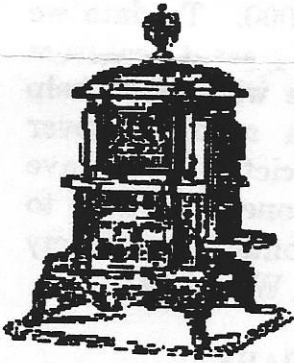
Name: _____

Address : _____

City/St/Zip: _____ Phone # : _____

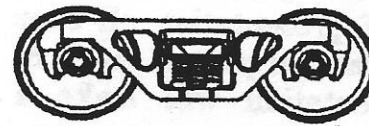
Jerry Rohlinger and Don Kottke the Franklin House and Depot have seen large strides taken in their rehabilitation. A portion of the park now has both a telephone system and an underground electronic security system installed. This has been very expensive but the board felt that after our fire disaster three years ago it was important to develop some sort of protective system. The telephones will function in the same way during the periods that the site is open. We will also be purchasing some hand held phones so that docents at the site can communicate with each other. Much of the background work for this project was done by Mr. Anday.

The Franklin House has also taken a great stride forward. The basement floor is now complete. The weather has prevented a speeder completion of this project. With the floor complete the society can now develop a work room in the basement and storage space for some portion of our collections. We hope to have work on this aspect begin in the next couple of weeks. On the main floor Ms. Jean has stripped the hall and main stair case of the old wall paper and ordered new paper to be installed in a pattern more appropriate to the 1870. She has also worked on the front door. This has been stripped and repainted. The last of the shelves in the pantry are also nearly ready to be installed. The board hopes to be able to repair some of the exterior boards (north side in particular), scrape the paint and redo the exterior in colors, again, more appropriate to the 1870. The color currently is appropriate to the 1890. The house will be white with some green trim. The cost of this project will be about \$2,500. Anyone interested in financially helping this project can send whatever amount you are comfortable



with to the society P.O. box. Mr. John Buatti has obtained for the society two new signs at the site that are now installed on the southeast and southwest corners of the park. They enhance the site a great deal and make it much easier to locate. Mr. Buatti has also purchased two smaller signs that will be installed somewhere along Bus. 51 and Hwy B pointing to where the park is located. He has also purchased, in the name of Mom's Computers, ads in the newspaper advertising the hours that the park is open.

The depot building has also seen much progress in the past few months. The footings for the semaphore are now in place and the structure, itself, can now be installed on the northeast corner of the depot. The interior floor has been rebuilt, sanded and finished. The plans for this year are now complete for the depot. It is planned that a formal opening of the depot will take place on July 20 at 1:00. Mr. Don Kottke and Mr. Jerry Rohlinger have been the major movers in getting the depot ready to open. Finally, two box car



trucks have been obtained by the Central Wisconsin Model Railroaders, and

it is hoped that the rest of the car can be brought onto the site in the near future.

The Pierce building, that portion that is left, has received a new roof. This was critical to the survival of any part of the structure at all. The north wall is beginning to "sag" and this must be worked on in the near future if the interior is to be used. As with many of our projects this will cost a bit of money. Anyone interested in helping to finance this project can make a check out to the society with a notation relative to the Pierce structure. Once complete, this portion

of the Pierce building, the society plans to operate a display of a print shop with many of the machines that have been obtained from local newspapers and other companies.

WEBER TACKLE COMPANY

About a year ago the society obtained a series of 16 mm films used by the Weber Company to promote its equipment. Mr. Joe Neidbalski contributed the films to the society. The films consist of some 12 reels and deal with trips to various places such as Florida to show off the fly equipment. The local branch of the Wisconsin Musky Club contributed \$100 to the society to transfer some of the film to video tapes. With this money 3 of the reels were transferred to tape.

We wish to thank both Mr. Neidbalski and the Musky Club for their contributions.

GIFTS FROM OUR FRIENDS

Phil Kallas donated a number of toys, including an American Flyer train set, and books to the society.

Mr. Jack Larson donated a wooden ironing board and several smaller household items.

Mrs. Wondzell donated white sheets and light bulbs.

Jim Krems donated several items from his father(Raymond) period in the army and made it possible for the society to obtain a naval uniform from the World War II era.

NEEDS

The society is in need of a variety of things to assist in the development of the Heritage Park site. We would like to thank the people who have already donated such items as light bulbs and white sheets (items we always seem to need more of) but we must also obtain some larger items that are costly but necessary to maintain the park site.

1. The largest item and most costly is

a large, riding mower. The cost of these is around \$1,500 we simply can not afford to put funds toward this. To date Mr. Anday has been using his own mower which is showing signs of wear. If you wish to donate a second-hand, good condition mower or contribute to the purchase of one please let us know.

2. A pump sprayer that can be used on some of the weeds around the plaza area and front of several of the structures or one or two containers of Round-up.

3. The society is still looking for military items that will fit into our display.

MAYOR GALLERY

The current Stevens Point mayor, Gary Westcott, will now have his photograph in place in the Center Point Mall in the Mayor Gallery. This is the last of the mayors that the society has been able to obtain and get mounted. Mr. Haiverson photo was framed and mounted about three months ago. We still do not have photos of seven of the early Mayors of the city but the chances of finding those are very remote. Several are from the Civil War period and have very common names. The result is that we simply can not determine which man was our mayor from the many men with the same name. We do hope to continue this program in the future. Please stop in at the mall and see the gallery.

NEXT SUMMER

The society has been in contact with the UW - SP museum studies class and we have a tentative plan to set up a new display in the church\museum hall next summer. The theme will revolve around the role that logging, lumber and paper have played in this area.

As stated the plans are tentative because of university budget problems but if this works the display should be an interesting one since this industry was and is at the heart of the northern Portage County area.



Hie Corner School

Continued from the last newsletter. A conversation between Anton Anday and Ms. Knoll (Johnson).

Part II

I received further communications from Ms. Knoll which read as follows.

There are more things I remember when I went to this school. There was a wood box on the right side of the heater for chunks of wood. This big heater had a metal jacket around it there was some kind of a design in it. That square whole in the ceiling as we first came in was for the rope for ringing the school bell. The school bell rope was hung on a hook up high on one of the clothes hooks. The wall in between the two open door ways in the hall had two or three rows of hooks for the children clothes. As we came in the door way, there were hooks for the children's clothes on both sides of the wall. Under the east window on the right side were shelves for lunch pails. Also there was a picture on the south wall, up over the second glass book case, of a girl with a blue bird setting on a tree limb. But,

I don't remember what the name of the picture was. There was a hand turning pencil sharpeners that set on the middle window sill on the right side There were pull window shades. They could be pulled up or down for the sun by a small rope like. There was a metal globe map on the floor stand. There was a school wall clock, on the light side of the wall, up over the bulletin board. There was a wood Cupboard, on the left side of the door way in the main room, where school paper, school dishes were kept. The hall way sides did not go all the way up to the ceilings, only the center wall did. There was a wire waste basket that set in back by the Phonograph. Near by the hand sink was a ledge that sat a white enamel water pail, with a white enamel dipper. There also was a looking glass in a white wood frame, I would say 16" x 20" in size. This was above the hand sink on the east wall. There were curtains on the lower half of the windows I remember my first teacher, use white gift tissue paper, fold over a spring rod and pinned, to keep them on. There wasn't any cloth curtains those days. On the North hall wall, was for hanging clothes. The hall door to the right, stood a three burner kerosene oil stove to heat up hot lunch dinners. The rest of this space from the kerosene stove, to the north wall, was many shelves for lunch pails or dinner pails. That metal rod that hangs from the ceiling, hung a gas mantle lamp and in the hall at Christmas time a gas mantel lantern was used at night There wasn't any electric lights in that school, they were put in after I left there Also there was a roll of hand paper for to wipe our hands on. This was below the looking glass. Also there was a clear glass container for green liquid soap. When one should touch the bottom it would release the liquid soap, this was on the wall, by the hand roll wiping paper. This kettle that was used to heat the hot food. It was blue enamel inside and white enamel inside, which held water for warming the food. There was a wire waste

basket to put the dirty hand paper in, that sat on the floor by the hand sink. This hand sink was the size of a small single white enamel sink, with a white enamel wash dish, for washing hands. As when one came through the door on the left side, in the School room was a shelf, a big Webster's Dictionary, for the children to use. On the wall above the phonograph hung a big school calendar. On the right side wall between the first and second window, was another bulletin board. There was a waste basket, a wire one, that sat on the floor by the teachers desk. A long handle dust pan and broom and snow shovel, and a small shovel for cleaning out the wood ashes from the heater, was kept in the hall. A metal can of kerosene was kept in the hall also for the three burner oil stove. This small square Whole up front of the ceiling. I don't recall, what that was for. I remember on the teachers desk was a wire basket, for grading papers. Also a container to hold pencil 's and pens.

Ms. Knoll indicated that she will search her photo albums and send us any and all pictures from the school. If she would recall anything she will write it down and provided for us. I asked if she could talk to others in her class or before her attendance time at the school for purposes of gaining more information about the building and those who attended it. She indicated she would. The interview ended about forty-five minutes after it started. I gave her my address for any further communications. The Interview was a pleasant encounter in a very busy day.

P.S.- She also informed me that the Portage County 150th anniversary edition of the Stevens Point Journal has made a mistake in identification in that the Pipes school house built on the property of Raymond Pipes was and is in the township of Amherst and not in the Village of Amherst.

RR History

by Jerry Rohlinger

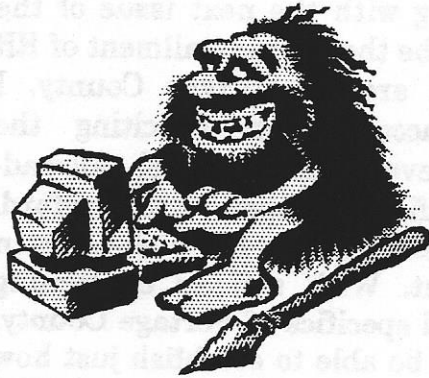
Beginning with the next issue of the newsletter will be the first installment of RR history in and around Portage County. I have been successful in soliciting the assistance of several noted model railroaders from Marshfield, Waupaca, and Medford. These gentlemen are also RR historians in their own right. With articles concerning their locale and specifics of Portage County, I think we will be able to establish just how important railroading was to Central Wisconsin's development. Most histories fail to fully document the integral part the RR played in everyday life. Hopefully, over the course of these articles, I can establish for the younger members or the children just how important and the immense effect RR's had in shaping the beginnings of our modern era.

The first installment will be parts of a "History of the SOO Line" by James Lyden. This is an unpublished manuscript found in the SOO Line files when the Wisconsin Central Ltd was formed. No one knows who Mr. Lyden was. Barry Karlberg of the WCL gave a copy of this history to the Central Wisconsin Model Railroaders several years ago. This manuscript has been considered for publication by PCHS as a fund raiser. Unfortunately, there are some illegible portions and possibly some pages missing. Needless to say, a lot of work would have to be invested before this history could be published.

I am currently scanning this into my computer, cleaning it up, and saving it before it is lost.

P.S. I cannot guarantee that articles will appear in every newsletter. There will be times when more important news will take precedence.

MEET TIM'S PRODUCTION STAFF



Jerry Rohlinger



John Buatti

It's been a pleasure developing this newsletter to it's final layout. With the completion of the "upper" half of the Mailer, that is, page eight we are finished!! We welcome any suggestions and KEEP THOSE ARTICLES COMING.

Pages 7 and 8 are designed to be torn off and pinned up where ever you keep important notices of things to do. It also has all the information you'll need to contact the Society or attend a meeting.

Thanks
Jerry & John

Membership Application/Renewal

The Society needs your support! Your renewal or new membership is necessary for the Portage County Historical Society to continue the preservation of our past.

Mail To:
Portage County Historical Society
P.O. Box 672
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Renewal _____ New _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Phone #: _____



Annual \$15
Business \$25
Contributing \$50
Life \$100



Portage County Historical Society's
Calendar of Events

Heritage Park

Open every Saturday from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM throughout the summer month till after Labor Day.

Aug. 10 --- 1st Brigade Band 2:00 PM concert.
Rain or Shine. Order tickets using order form on page 1.

Synagogue Museum

Open every Saturday from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM throughout the summer month till after Labor Day.

"The Home Front -- Women in War" is the focus of this year's exhibits. See the stories of Portage County women and other women with local ties during the period 1914 - present.

Rising Star Mill

Aug. 17 High Water, Blue Grass music, 7:30 PM.
\$5.00 admission.

For additional Information call:
Laurie Low
(715)677-4710



The Society holds monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings start at 7:30 PM and are held in the basement of the Synagogue Museum, 1475 Water St., Stevens Point, 54481, phone # (715) 344-4423. All members and the general public are welcome.

To contact the society, write to the address below or call:

Tim Siebert, (715) 344-7607

or

Carla Boettcher (715) 344-6383

For contributing articles or comments on the newsletter, send to:

PCHS Newsletter

1418 Wisconsin St.

Stevens Point, WI 54481

Typed articles are preferred.

Portage County Historical Society
P.O. Box 672
Stevens Point, WI 54481

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