



# Portage County Historical Society

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Tim Siebert, Editor

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## July 2001

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### President's Report

# We Made It!!!

Thanks to gifts from so many of you the society foundation has been able to meet the \$50,000 matching fund grant in the state budget. We were able to receive the same amount from the state and have now been able to invest \$100,000. It is our hope that this money will be able to add up to \$5,000 per year to our budget for Heritage Park in Plover.

This brings the foundation's total holdings to about \$213,000. We are deeply appreciative to all of those who donated to this fund drive. We will publish a complete list of the donors in the next newsletter.

In particular we would like to thank Shirley Multhauf, Judy Lyons and Jeanette Perkins for their efforts in raising several thousand dollars for this campaign. Without their many hours of work we simply would not have been able to achieve our goal. *THANKS.*

### MEMBERSHIP

We would also like to thank those of you who have joined or rejoined the society in the past year and a half. With your help we have been able to bring our

membership numbers to a point beyond last year. The year 2000 was our highest membership year ever. At this point we have over 435 members including 328 life members. If you have not rejoined for 2001 please consider doing so. The membership fees remain \$15 annual, \$25 business, \$50 contributing and \$100 life (life memberships do go into our foundation to help raise earnings from our investments.

### ALUMINUM CANS

Thanks to those of you who are placing your pop and beer cans at the Water St. museum. During the past two years we have been able to raise nearly \$1,000 from the cans. Please consider dropping off your cans at the south door of the Water St. museum and we will take care of them.

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## CHURCH MUSEUM

Thanks to the UW-SP museum class of Mr. Ed Marcks the society, again, has a display at the church museum. The students chose Work and Play at the Turn of the Century as their theme. This is one of the best efforts the museum class has put together in the nearly 10 years we and the class have been working together.

## FRANKLIN HOUSE

Thanks to the efforts of Cheryl Jean the upstairs of the house is nearly done. Ms. Jean is working on papering the last room on the second floor. When complete the house will have all of its various rooms completed. When done this room will be used as a children's room to be used to display our collection of children's toys and furniture.

## ENGFORD HOUSE

Because of the difficulties caused by the move and the failure of the mover to complete the job the society had to spend some \$13,000 to fix the situation. As a result we have not been able to move ahead on the reconstruction of the barn over the part of the Pierce building that burned some years ago. We hope to have this ready to go in the fall. This problem also caused a delay in putting a foundation under the Yellowstone cabin. This, too, had



to be put on hold until at least the fall.

## Depot

Don Kottke and his crew from the Central Wisconsin Model Railroaders, Ltd., have been busy this spring. The trim on the depot has been repainted, platform sealed, and windows re-puttied.

Name boards have been installed so everyone now knows where the depot originated. Also, a working crossing signal has been installed.

Work continues on the semaphore. We are hopeful that this year or next a siding can be installed. We will then be able to display railroad cars, etc.

## DOCENTS

We are still looking for docents for Heritage Park. We have not been able to fill all of the weekend slots and need people to do so. If interested please contact us at P.O. 672, Stevens Point or at 344-7607. Also if you are interested in doing some "labor" at the park we have a whole variety of things that need to be done. Please contact us at the same address or number.

## 4-H'ers

We want to thank this group for planting bushes, mulching, and general clean-up.

## 1941 - 1945

Our World War II Memorial display has been very well received. To date we have more people coming to the museum than we have had for any other display. This display is still early in its 2 year run but we are greatly pleased with the

response people have given to it.

The society has received a great many items for the display of our military collection as a result of this display. We are in particular need of photos of men and women who served in the military and any other items that pertain to their period of service.

If you wish to see the display the site is open from 1 to 5 each Saturday and Sunday until Labor Day.


### **Baruch Family**

Mr. Chad Baruch provided the Society with a dozen or so posters pertaining to the Holocaust. These fit well with the current display on World War II, especially since the display is in our Beth Israel Synagogue.

He writes:

Unfortunately, my father is no longer alive to tell the story of his family's experience during the war. As best I am aware, it is as follows:

My grandfather, Ernst Baruch, was a successful young banker and an orthodox Jew in Hamburg, Germany. The Baruchs had lived in Germany for many generations and were devoted to their country. My grandmother, Hanna Baruch, was raised as a Christian but converted to Judaism to marry my grandfather. My father, Dr. Robert Baruch, was born in Hamburg in 1935. My grandfather lost his job when the NAZI government decreed that Jews could no longer work in banking, and was like all Jewish men forced to add "Israel" to his name. After living through Kristallnacht in 1938, my grandfather had seen enough. He left Germany for the United States. My grandmother and father left shortly thereafter. It took some time due to the restrictive American policy on Jewish immigration, but they too were



eventually permitted to settle in the United States. After passing through Ellis Island, my family settled in Galveston, Texas. Though he had been a successful banker in Germany, my grandfather lived out his days as a struggling insurance salesman and died in his mid-50's. My grandparents and father, of course, had to desert virtually all their personal belongings and furniture in Germany. I never once knew my father to complain about any of this. Instead, he always expressed gratitude at having survived. On one occasion during his 1998 battle with terminal cancer, he told me that every day he lived after 1938 was a blessing that so many others were denied.

We thank Mr. Baruch and the Yavneh Academy of Dallas.

### **Web Site**

The UW - Stevens Point servers will be hosting our web site later this summer. Thanks to the efforts of Arne Arneson, we will have our own domain name, access to all of the technology and resources of the University. The Portage County Genealogy Society will also join our web site.

What does this mean? Well, it means that we will not have those nagging little ads pop up on every page, better reliability, and no limit to the size of our site. The University will have shortly available online census data, obituaries, and other data. This will be accessible from our site as well as through theirs.

For those that have not visited our site, it is there to promote our Society and the provide a research center for Portage County History. Currently about 300 articles are available to read online. If these were printed out in book form it would require at least 1,500 pages. We will promote our site to the school districts

within Portage County for research use, especially for fourth grade Wisconsin History classes.

Currently we are averaging 2 inquiries a week. People are primarily seeking genealogy information, but they also ask about Portage County. With the addition of the Genealogy Society and adding this site to the available Genealogy search engines we should see an increase

in visits.

Another advantage of this site is our ability to sell books and gain members. We have gained several new members this way. One is from New York state. This person would never has known about us without a web site.

Several Societies have begun sites

# Plouer Portage Rendezvous

## July 14-15, 2001

### Heritage Park

Plover Wisconsin  
Corner of  
Willow Dr. and Washington Ave.



#### Re-enactment of:

- Wisconsin Frontier Life 1760-1840
- Tomahawk and Knife Throws
- Traders
- Period Crafts and Arts
- Blacksmiths

Children's Games Daily at 1:00 PM

#### Admission:

- Adults \$2.00
- Children \$1.00
- Family \$5.00

Saturday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Sunday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM



This Event Hosted by:  
Portage County Historical Society  
[www.geocities.com/pchs\\_54481](http://www.geocities.com/pchs_54481)

Loose Strings  
Quartet  
Sat 2:00 - 4:30

**Pie & Ice Cream Social**  
Hosted by  
Assembly of God Church - Plover

Sat. 11:00 - 4:00  
Sun. 11:30 - 3:00

similar to ours but, no one, including the State Historical Society, has the extensive online articles we have.

To date this project has cost the Society virtually nothing in terms of funds to build and maintain. Its has been put together by volunteer efforts.

**Oral History**

These interviews were taken in April 1987 by students in Mr. Wayne McCaffery and Mr. Anton Anday. The criteria was that only remembrances of the period 1910-20 be used. Here are some of the oral remembrances.

Story by: *Cristina Champaco*, age - 102  
 Recorder: *Carolle Champaco*



# Kid's Day in the Park



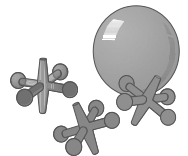
**August 12, 2001**

**10:00 a.m. -- 4:00 p.m.**

**50 cents per child**

**at**

**Heritage Park**



**Explore the historic park, learn how to make cornhusk dolls, paper airplanes, become a master at jacks and marbles...and learn many other secret games of the past!**



A Miracle

On a beautiful spring morn, April 10, 1912, I had finally got to see the largest ship ever built. The unsinkable ship they had called the Titanic. We set sail that day from South Hampton, England to New York. The excitement in me was unbearable as I entered inside. It looked like a palace of royalty, I knew I would never forget the beauty of it.

I could not continue my journey on the big ship because of the little money I had, so at the next stop I had to get off. At Queens Town, Ireland I had gotten off and boarded the ship that was accompanying the Titanic. The Liner Carpathia.

That night as we followed the Titanic, we had heard a loud noise. The Titanic had struck a massive iceberg. I had ran to the deck and saw scattered fleets of life boats already in the water and bodies floating about. As we came closer many people came upon our boat. I ran to help the wounded on board. That night seemed like it lasted forever. Since the ship was doubled we had to race to New York.

The ship was silent with questions



that were too early to explain. As I had taken a moment for myself, I realized that it was a miracle that I had run out of money.

*(Cristina was born in 1885)*

Story by: Florence Pipe, age - 89

Recorder: Tim Klepps

The Stagecoach

Mrs. Florence Pipe and her husband Raymond Pipe, who died just seven years ago, ran a stagecoach stop along with Raymonds parents, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Pipe. The stagecoach stop was in Sheridan, Wisconsin, which is located between Amherst and Waupaca, Wisconsin, five miles from Amherst and seven miles from Waupaca. Florence's job was to fix meals for guests. She was nineteen at the time in 1917, getting married only a few months before. Florence could remember Raymond's job, taking care of the horses when they came in. He would water them, check hooves and brush them.

In 1919 Florence had turned 21 and

**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: \_\_\_\_\_



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

Raymond 23. Raymond's father died of a heart attack and his mother turned the stagecoach stop over to Raymond and Florence. Raymond's mother moved down the road in a little house. Florence Pipe stated, "This was the turning point of my life". It was at this time that she started to teach school across the street, at the Pipe school. Florence can remember hiring a couple of Indians, who lived in a little tribe in the woods behind their barn, to work at the stagecoach stop. Florence said, "the Indians were good workers, but they liked to steal things". Raymond and Florence ran a 220-acre dairy farm after they shut down the stagecoach stop in 1936. Florence was still teaching at the age of 38, while she was raising her family. "Raymond and I had four children, three girls and one boy".

After teaching and having reached the age of 60, they also closed down the farm in 1962. "The kids were long on their own and Raymond and I were living fine." Florence said that "looking at the pictures of the family, stagecoach and farm brought back memories". In 1980 Raymond died of a heart attack. Florence said "the nine bedroom house suited me just fine". At the age of 89 she still lives there by herself, healthy and as happy as can be. She lives there just during the summer months.

*(Florence was born on May 21, 1898)*

And Finally, an interview conducted in October, 2000 by a Russian exchange student who graduated from SPASH in May 2001. This is about the 1960's and it is always interesting to have a view point other than our own.

Interviewed: Florence Shulist  
 Writer: Vladimir Gainullin  
 10/15/00

In this century, the history of

United States was very important not only for American citizen, but for all the people in the world. In the 1960's a lot of changes were occurring in the USA. The civil rights movement, space race, and the Cuban missile crisis to name a few!

I interviewed my wonderful host family's grandmother. She is a 77-year-old woman who still has great mental abilities. Florence Schulist was born in Milwaukee in May of 1923. During the sixties she lived in Rosholt, a little village outside of Stevens Point. During this decade Florence was taking care of children and running a local tavern with her husband.

She told me the most memorable event of the 60's was the assassination of President Kennedy.

"I remember the day perfectly, I walked into the kitchen, and the song that was playing was interrupted by a news bulleting saying the president was shot." She said. "Everyone was sad for weeks; shock was the only word that could describe how we felt. Americans as a whole was somber."

Florence said the most important day in the 60's was the day Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon.

"It showed Americans that the great mystery of space was now uncovered. It was something new; when a space launch wasn't an everyday affair. This was something spectacular that everyone was talking about!" I could tell that this was an extraordinary event, but I still had to remind her that Russians were the first to be in space.

Florence told me a lot about how Americans felt both great happiness and great sadness during the 60's. "It was a strange decade that involved the best and the worst of times. It's a shame that America had to loose such a great



The Society holds a monthly meeting 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, WI 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:

PCHS Newsletter, 1418 Wisconsin St., Stevens Point, WI 54481

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