



Portage County Historical Society

Published by the Portage County Historical Society, PO Box 672, Stevens Point WI 54481
Tim Siebert, Editor

May 2001

President's Report

MATCHING GRANT STATUS

As of the writing of this newsletter the society has been able to raise over \$34,000 of the possible \$50,000. We have until the end of May to accomplish the task.

At this time we wish to thank all the members of the society who have donated to this fund raising campaign. We will publish the list of all contributors in a future newsletter. Again, thank you.

This drive becomes all the more important because our other investments have taken something of a hit on the stock market over the last few months. If you wish to help the society achieve the total \$50,000 please send a check to the society's address at P. O. 672, Stevens Point, WI 54481. Any amount will help and, remember, that any amount will double with the state's contribution.

We would like to thank Judy Lyons and Shirley Multhauf for their efforts in trying to raise the funds.

ALUMINUM CANS

We wish to thank everyone who has been leaving their pop/beer cans at the south basement door of the Water St. museum. With the cans collected in other places Mr. Siebert has been able to raise

over \$800. This money has been used for a variety of projects including this newsletter. Please continue to leave the cans as this has become an important bit of income for us.

If you wish to start leaving your cans, simply, leave them by the side door of the Water St. building and Mr. Siebert will take care of them.

BARN

As reported previously the society has taken out a loan so that we can reconstruct a barn on the portion of the Pierce building that was burned some years ago. The main structural portions of a barn located north of town were donated to the society last fall. We have hired a company from the southern part of the state that specializes in this type of work to put the parts back together and then

Table of Contents

<u>Article</u>	<u>Page</u>
President's Report	1
Sporting Events of the Past	3
Plover Portage Rendezvous	4
Kid's Day in the Park	5
Membership Application	6
Calendar of Events	7

put siding on the building.

Unfortunately the weather has prevented the project from starting. Hopefully, we can get the barn put up by the time of the Rendezvous.

PINK DEPRESSION GLASS

Part of the plans for the Engford house is to develop it into a 1920's-30's house. The society has a good collection of items for this period but we are looking for more of certain items. This would include, in particular, pink depression glass. If you have such items that you wish to donate please feel free to contact us about a donation. We are looking for any pattern in this color.

MEMBERSHIP

Last year was the best year we have had in terms of membership. The society now has over 290 current life members. Add to this well over 100 annual members the society reached a total of 425 members last year. PLEASE CONSIDER REJOINING FOR THE YEAR 2001.

The membership fees remain the same \$15 annual, \$25 business, \$50 contributing and \$100 life. See page 6 for an application

CHURCH/MUSEUM

We are in need of someone who knows simple carpentry and would be willing to do some finishing work in the museum-mop boards in particular. If interested please contact the society.

SOCIETY NEEDS

- Card tables — we need about 4 tables that are in reasonable condition.
- White sheets — these are used for a wide variety of things.

- Heavy duty shelving

GIFTS FROM OUR FRIENDS

- ♦ Mrs. Koniecki — variety of small household items, clothes and rocking chair.

ENGFORD, CIRCUS HOUSE

The Engford house was, originally moved in two parts. The taller, two story portion has now been placed on a new, full foundation. The single story portion is not yet on its foundation as that is still in the process of being built.

The time hold up has been both because of the weather and finding appropriate materials to use as sill plates. The only portion of the house that was in bad shape was the sill plates.

YELLOWSTONE CABIN

The Stevens Point Area Foundation donated \$1,000 last year to help with the foundation of this structure. Again, because of the weather we were not able to do anything. We hope to be able to put in the footings for the structure this spring so that work can begin on the interior of the cabin.

WATER ST. SITE DISPLAY

A remembrance of the men and women who served in World War II from Portage County is the theme of this two year display. The society is also in the process of gathering as many video interviews as we can from veterans as well as those who stayed at home and worked on the home front.

Anyone interested in telling their story is asked to contact Tim Siebert about

setting up a date. We hope to do many of these this coming summer at the Water St. site. We continue to look for items related to the military, in particular, photos of the service people in uniform during his or her time in the military. Obviously, we would also appeal for any other items someone might be willing to donate. The board does have a policy of not taking items on loan because of the possibility of damage to someone else's property.

DOCENTS


The society is, again, looking for docents to help look after the museums this coming summer. This would include both Saturday and Sunday at the Water St. site and either Thursday, Saturday or Sunday at Heritage Park. The days would run from 1:00 until 5:00 on each day. PLEASE LOOK AT YOUR CALENDAR AND SEE IF YOU CAN HELP US OUT THIS COMING SUMMER. If you are interested in helping please write to our address at PCHS, P.O. 672, Stevens Point.

The docent will receive a key for the day involved and does not need any particular expertise in the displays. Anything that the docent should be aware of will be given to them before the time that they will sit the museum. We need people who will keep an eye on things as people go through and answer simple questions about the displays. This information will be provided to the docent.

Plover Portage Rendezvous

This year's Rendezvous is welcoming back the Pie and Ice Cream Social. The members of the Assembly of God Church in Plover are hosting this event. Come out for the food!

The hours that the Rendezvous is open for the public has been shortened. We did this at the request of our re-enactors



and it will allow us to man the ticket booths and other Society areas more effectively. To do this we need people to volunteer to sell tickets at our three entry ways. Please call us: Jerry at 341-2069 or Tim 344-7607. More information is found on our poster on page 4. Please come out and help.

CHURCH MUSEUM

The UW-SP museum class is again preparing a display for the church museum in Heritage Park. The theme this year is, "Work and Play 100 Years Ago".

Kid's Day in the Park

August 12, 2001

A new event hoping to draw additional interest in our Heritage Park as well as our other sites. This event is geared specifically for kid's and families. Games from our past will be presented. A Park entry fee of 50 cents per child is asked. See poster on page 5 for more information

Sporting Events of the Past

Football fans in 1895 were implored to learn the Stevens Point Normal School fight song for the big game against the "Appleton Boys" from St. Lawrence. Fans were urged to "come out and learn the yell and give it your all whenever the opportunity presents itself."

For those who may have forgotten, the song went:

"Bleh, Boom, Bah
U rah rah,
Normal, Normal
U rah rah
Tigers."

The show of support must have paid off, for the locals squeezed out an important 8-0 win in spite of conditions that were described as "too hot and too dusty." Alas, the Normal boys went on to lose the state championship game 10-0 to Whitewater - a team described as "those doughty kickers from the south."

Stevens Point boasted an amateur

baseball team in 1910 called the Hooligans. No word on whether the players were ever involved in any bench-clearing brawls.

The roller skating craze officially hit the area in 1911 when the county's first indoor rink was opened at the Empire

Plover 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



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



Amusement Hall. Skating fees were 10 cents and skate rentals were 15 cents. The new facility bragged of being “ventilated and sanitary.”

The area’s first softball league arrived in 1930 when the Stevens Point Softball League was formed. Eight teams participated in the fast-pitch league. All games were played at the Stevens Point Fairgrounds.

March 2, 1937

Roy Menzel shines

STEVENS POINT — Roy Menzel, former Stevens Point High School basketball player, is bringing Stevens Point, his



Kid's Day in the Park



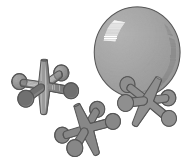
August 12, 2001

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

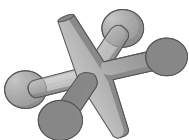
50 cents per child

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!





former high school coach, his family and him-sell a great deal of publicity in eastern metropolitan and collegiate newspapers.

A junior at the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Finance and a regular center on Penn's basketball team, Roy has literally burned up eastern cage courts and has received no end of notice in the public press.

He is credited with introducing a new style of basket shooting in the eastern game, with breaking a single game scoring record which had stood for years and with being one of the top scorers for the season in the Eastern Intercollegiate League.

Crowds of more than 10,000 people have attended nearly every game in the Palestra home gymnasium of the Penn team. The increased attendance is attributed to the performances turned in by the Penn players, notably Menzel and (Tony) Mischo, and to the fact that the team is leading its conference.

Against Dartmouth, Menzel scored 21 points to set a new individual scoring record at Pennsylvania. In numerous games, he has been Penn's high scorer and he is leading all Philadelphia college and university players in scoring.

In its account of the Dartmouth game, one Philadelphia paper reported: "Roy Menzel, rangy Penn center from Stevens Point, Wis. gave one of the greatest exhibitions in years by scoring eight field goals and five straight free throws for 21 points. Although conceding several inches to Dartmouth's centers, the western lad could not be stopped."

The boy who is heaping all the publicity on Stevens Point is attending the Wharton School of Finance on a Hardware Mutual Casualty Company scholarship won while he attended Stevens Point High School. Besides being a good basketball player, Roy is an excellent student.

During the Matching Fund Drive your \$100 Life Membership Counts as \$200

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



Calendar of Events

Heritage Park

Recreation in Portage County 100 years ago.

Plover Portage Rendezvous
July 14-15

Kid's Day in the Park
August 12

Synagogue Museum

In Memory
of Portage County's
World War II Veterans

Featuring photos, maps, items, videos, and more.

Open Saturday and Sunday
1:00 to 5:00 mid-June thru Labor Day.

Rising Star Mill

The only event set at this time is the Arts and Craft show held during the Iola Car Show weekend, July 13-15



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

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 92
Stevens Point,
WI
54481