



The Pinery

Publication of the Portage County Historical Society of Wisconsin

President's Report

HERITAGE PARK

Much of the work on the park has been stopped because of the winter weather. However, we have been able to bring the heating plant for the Engford House onto the site in preparation for installation. We have also laid plans and completed the frost footings and slab for the Yellowstone Cabin which has been sitting "up" for the past year and a half.

The Society board has also turned its attention to the general store. In order to make this site usable, a secure foundation must be placed under it. Such improvements would also provide more storage space for our artifacts. In order to achieve this, the site under the building must be excavated and a basement installed. Mary Egle has obtained a bid of \$6,600 for the masonry work on this project. Other aspects of the work are to be donated. We would very much like to begin work on this project and are asking for donations to help. Eventually, this would not only be a general store but the plan is to use a number of early Copps items to create a store

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that preserves the history of an important business in the community

GIFTS FROM OUR FRIENDS

- 1 Jerry Rohlinger - several pieces of furniture and other smaller household items.
- 2 Charles Rumsey - army uniforms items.
- 3 George Rogers - father's WW I uniform.
- 4 Roy Shafranski - religious items.
- 5 Bonnie Maher - cart from Folding Furniture Company.

NEEDS

- 1 Cleaning materials - Murphy's Oil Soap, Windex and all purpose cleaners.
- 2 Pink Depression Era Glass items.
- 3 Rags to be used for cleaning.
- 4 Cleaning supplies - Murphy's Soap and such items.

DOCENTS

The society must line up people who are willing to donate a Saturday or Sunday to the Heritage Park site as a docent. If we do not get enough volunteers the society must hire someone to work the site and this means funds that will not be put toward the development of the park. PLEASE contact the society if you can work on a given day between June and September.

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In Memory of Portage County's World War II Veterans

Features displays on the men and women from Portage County that served in World War II. Included is a world map with the locations where Portage County servicemen were lost in action.



June 8 thru Sept 8
Saturday & Sunday
1:00 - 5:00 PM





Plover Portage Rendezvous Threads of History



This summer's Plover Portage Rendezvous, July 20-21, will begin to change its emphasis. Thanks to efforts by Mr. Jerry Rohlinger and Ms. Andrea Mielke the summer gathering is going to focus more on "Threads" and less on the re-enactors. "Threads of History" will focus on 'fabric' arts and crafts of the mid-1800's. Ms Mielke has invited craftspersons ranging from spinners, quilters, tatters, soap makers, butter makers, candle makers and others. All of these participants will be under large tents that the Society will be providing.

Again, for the third year, Loose Strings Quartet will perform on Saturday from 2:00 - 4:30.

This year we will have a Buffalo Burger and Brat sale hosted by Phil and Iona Hausler's Low Land Bison Ranch located on Hwy 'C' west of Stevens Point. We do hope to, again, have a pie and ice cream sale to go along with the event. We have contacted last year's host but they cannot do it again. We have contacted several new groups but without any success. If anyone knows of a group interested please contact Jerry Rohlinger 341-2069.

We hope that this will bring people to the event that, perhaps, were not interested in the buckskinners that have been to the past rendezvous. Anyone wishing to assist by being a volunteer to sit in one of the building or work an entrance gate please call Mary Egle at 592-4282.

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Rising Star Mill Summer Schedule

Located in downtown Nelsonville

Fly Fishing Workshop: June 1st. Call Stuart Grimstad, 677-3454 for additional information, cost and times.

Water Color Paint: June 26, 27, 28. A workshop by Mark Brueggeman, call 677-3881 for additional information, cost and times.

Art Show: July 12-14, Mark Brueggeman is the featured artist. Same weekend as Iola Car Show.

ALUMINUM CANS

Please keep the cans coming as they are helping us both publish this newsletter and purchase a number of odds and ends that keep our sites running. To date the cans have brought in well over \$1,000 in about 2 years.

Emerson School

With the assistance of Architect and PCHS member, Tom Brown, the Society was able to take videos and photos of the interior and exterior of this historic building before demolition began. We were also able to salvage the following articles: slate blackboards, 4 display cabinets, High School designation on the front of building, interior windows from the auditorium, and the unopened metal box sealed within the cornerstone. This box will be opened at the April School Board meeting.

DOROTHY VETTER

Long time member, Dorothy Vetter, has left \$10,000 to the society in her will. The funds will be used for major projects currently underway.

(Continued on page 5)



Recreation in Portage County 100 Years Ago

See what people did for entertainment 100 years ago.

**Baseball games
Picnics
Fishing**



**June 8 thru Sept 8
Saturday & Sunday**

Web Site

by
Jerry Rohlinger

Finally after 6 months of work our site is being hosted by the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point! This is tremendous boost to our accessibility. Most schools filter out all sites being hosted by our former web host. Now schools can have unrestricted access to this rapidly growing source of local history. The only thing remaining is securing our own domain name.

View our site at <http://library.uwsp.edu/pchswi>

I would like to thank Arnie Arneson and David Timm of UWSP for their efforts in initiating this move and continued technical support. Without them it would not have happened.

The Online Archives makes up about 75% of the site. This section represents about 1,500 printed pages of history. Work has begun on renaming and redesigning this section as the "Malcolm Rosholt Online Archives" in honor of his efforts to record this area's history. I do not have a target date for this to happen, hopefully, within the next 2 months.

The number of people visiting our site has increased by 50% since the move. So has our requests for information. I am looking for people to assist in answering these people's questions. Any volunteers?? Email me at jad1@g2a.net or call 341-2069.

The Stevens Point Area Genealogy Society is also located on our site. Rob Whitmire has been assisting in this area's development. Soon this will have much

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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: _____



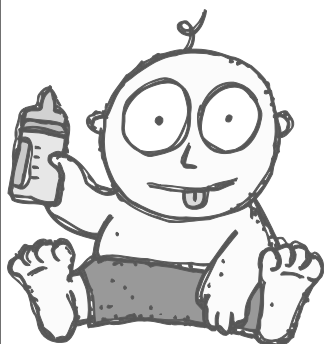
Annual \$15
Business \$25
Contributing \$50
Life \$100

information on how to get started and web sites to visit in your family search.

We are constantly looking to add new material. We will consider anyone's history of their family, business, organization, school, church, sports team, etc. Just contact us about your articles. If you don't have a finished article but want to preserve your



Orphans -- Here in Portage County!!



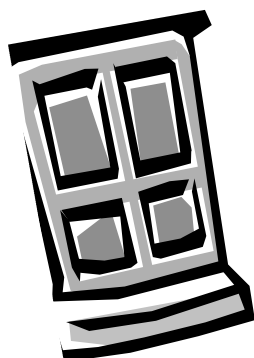
The Rising Star Mill Committee in Nelsonville has established a program to assist these wayward souls!



Lend a Hand

Beginning immediately, for a sponsorship fee of \$100, your family can adopt one of 15 windows on the Mill that is in desperate need of replacement. If more than 15 families respond then maybe all of the windows in need of replacement can be done.

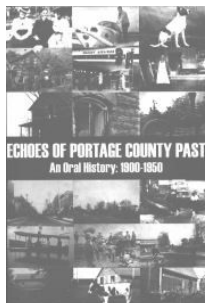
Call Janet Eschenbach at 677-3881.



Recent Society Publications

Echoes of Portage County Past

An Oral History: 1900 - 1950



\$10.00

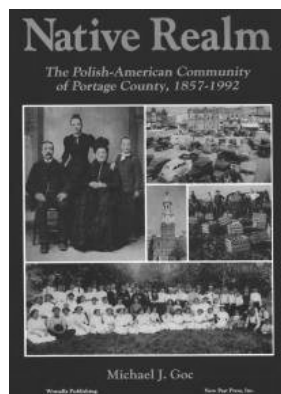
"That night as we followed the Titanic, we heard a loud noise", states Cristina Champaco aged 102. "The gangs, headed by Al Capone and Bugs Moran, were in constant competition. Each tried to persuade saloonkeepers to buy beer from them"; "Harry (Firkus) opened the letter and read to himself that Al Capone had killed his brother"

These and many other stories are recorded by Stevens Point High School History classes during April of 1987.

Native Realm

by

Michael Goc



\$35.00

Portage County, Wisconsin, is the home of one of the oldest Polish-American communities in the United States. Polish immigrants settled here, built solid farming communities and contributed mightily to the growth of the city of Stevens Point. In the course of nearly a century and a half, they created a unique community -- American as any other, but also well aware of and proud of its Polish heritage.

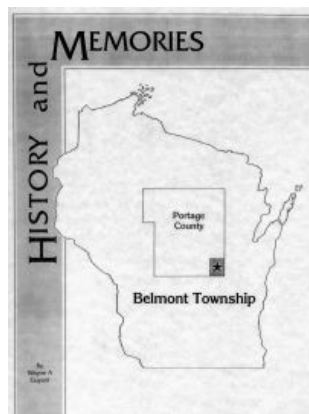
This book chronicles the development of the community, from the arrival of its first settlers in 1857 to the present. It tells how a hard-working people made a home for themselves and created for their children a new Native Realm.

This reprint of the fast selling 1992 release.

History and Memories

by

Wayne A Guyant



Vol. 1 - \$10.00

Vol. 2 - \$20.00

Everything you ever wanted to know about Belmont Township! These two volumes contain the best history of any Portage County Township. All the first settlers, those that followed, the schools, cemeteries, church histories, and finally the stories of the people.

Mr. Guyant spent a lifetime gathering the data for these books. PCHS is proud to have gotten permission to reprint these books from the last copies available.

Another must for genealogists.



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 return address below or call:

Tim Siebert (715) 344-7607

or

(715) 344-4423 and leave a message

For contributing articles or comments on the Newsletter:

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

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Stevens Point, WI 54481

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