



June 2002

The Pinery

A Publication of the Portage County Historical Society

President's Report

HERITAGE PARK

Since the last newsletter a number of events have taken place at Heritage Park. The Old Time School program at Hie Corner School has been completed for all fourth graders of the Stevens Point Area School District. The Tri County school system as well as some parochial schools have participated in the event. Thanks to all the teachers who volunteered to teach this spring and to Judy Lyons who coordinated the program. The Portage County Leadership Conference, Portage County Genealogical Society and the UWSP - LIFE program - Preserving Your Heritage - also used the facility for their programs. Other activities, besides restoration, are planned for later this summer. Community usage of the park is substantially increasing and that is good news.

Three major construction projects have been under way this spring besides regular restoration of buildings.

As many of you know, we have for several years, been trying to cover the crawl space that remained after much of the Pierce building was removed. Part of the

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problem was financial, but also the way to develop the site, to be functional, was difficult. Mary Eagle has come to our rescue. Ms. Eagle is in charge of the general store. To work on this project, the society was required to move a number of items stored in this facility. The problem was, where do we put all these artifacts? It was decided, to put a full basement under the Pierce Store and use it to transfer some of the items there, so that the general store could be worked on. The basement has been put in thanks to the financial efforts of Ms. Egle. The Society must now put a cover over the basement that will, eventually, serve as the floor for the barn that will be erected over the site.

Thanks to a grant from the Stevens Point Area Foundation of a thousand dollars and some of our funds, the Society has been able to put the Yellowstone Cabin on a footing and build a floor in the cabin, which previously did not have a floor. We have also been able to construct a fire safe area at the back of the cabin to store some of the items from the park's buildings that we have kept for archival work. Thanks to Mr. Ron Ligman, we also have enough storage files for this purpose. The Cabin has been painted its original color and internal restoration is continuing. A deck in front of the Cabin as well as landscaping around it will have to be completed. Heat and electricity must also be installed for its intended use. When the Cabin is completed it will function as the onsite office of the Society. Then continue with the siding and railroad artifacts on the siding. The project involved the acquisition of the ties, rail and all necessary equipment in preparation of the space. The Canadian National Rail Road has given these items to us along with a Green Bay and Western caboos. The caboos will be placed on the siding in the next few weeks. The Semaphore at the depot is completely functional and the internal restoration of the second floor is continuing. All this work is being done by the Central Wisconsin Model Railroaders to whom we own a tremendous amount of gratitude and thanks. Without them the depot would not exist.


At the Engford House the north and west side of the building has been scraped

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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





Rising Star Mill Summer Schedule

Located in downtown Nelsonville

Volunteer Work Day: Saturday June 9th 1:00pm - ? Feel like cataloging artifacts? Cleaning Windows? Raking gravel? Hauling Trash? We are hosting a workday with a large variety of jobs that we'd love to see accomplished.

Water Color Paint: with Mark Brueggeman. June 26, 27, 28. 9:30-2:00 (1/2 hour lunch break) An intermediate to advanced level watercolor workshop with artist Mark Brueggeman from Nelsonville. 15 students maximum; registration will fill quickly. Call Janet Eschenbauch at (715)677-3881 for more info. Bring a sack lunch. Refrigeration available.

A Circle of Drums: The Rhythm of Life with Bill Kehl Saturday June 29th. 1:00pm-3:00pm \$15 A dynamic and interactive musical experience designed to explore the timeless tradition of percussion. No prior experience necessary. Bill will bring part of his drum collection from throughout the world, but if you have a drum of your own, bring it along.

Music with Bill Kehl and Dennis Hawk: Flutes of the Americas/Rhymes of the World. The blended talents offer an engaging evening for all ages. Saturday June 29 7:30pm \$6.00 at the door.

Art Show: 17th Annual Open House-Art Show. July 12-14 9:00am - 6:00pm no admission fee Join us for another visual feast of local artisans' works. 2002 Featured Artist will be Nelsonville's own Mark Brueggeman.

Music with Maggie Simpson: From Wyoming, Maggie's music "falls into a jazzy, folk-rock vein" that has been described as a cross between Joni Mitchell and Shawn Colvin. Friday July 26 7:30 pm \$6.00 at the door.

The Art of Performance with Maggie Simpson: Saturday July 27, 10:00am to 2:00pm (1/2 hour lunch break) \$30. Maggie has created a powerful format that includes a series of profound, performance related exercises to help participants experience vast, untouched realms of their own capacity. Bring a sack lunch. Refrigeration available.

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Writing Workshop: with Michael Smith. Saturday August 24 3:00-5:00pm \$15 Michael will talk about his approach and his attitudes to writing, and share ideas that have helped workshop participants get started or improve their writing.

Music With Michael Smith: One of the few undisputed geniuses among singer-songwriters today. Sure to be sold out, tickets **MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE**. Call Laurie at (715) 677-4710 Saturday August 24 7:30pm. \$10.00 Advanced sales only

Music with Andru Bemis: Saturday September 7th 7:30 pm \$6.00 at the door This young singer-songwriter from West Chicago writes music that's been compared to Leon Redbone, Woody Guthrie and Tom Paxton.

Music with Art Stevenson and High Water: Saturday September 21 7:30 pm \$6.00 at the door. Welcome back the incredible talents of this bluegrass combo for a Rising Star tradition. Always a favorite. Bring a blanket...it could be chilly!



and primed in preparation for painting. Some minor external construction of a lean to and decks to the outside will take place this summer at this facility.

Chuck Egle of Custer presented Portage County Historical Society with the gift of two Summit Ash, one Skyline Honey Locust and two Selkirk Flowering Crab trees from McKay Nursery Company. The donation is part of McKay's "Color It Green" giveaway program. The trees were delivered to and planted by the staff of Egle Landscaping on May 7th at the park. We thank them for their contributions.

The Board feels that this is a tremendous amount of work to have been accomplished in this short period of time. Thanks to the Central Wisconsin Model Railroaders, students of SPASH and others who contributed and volunteered to complete all these tasks in the last two months. We are extremely grateful.

WATER STREET MUSEUM HIT

Sometime during the weekend of May 4, someone broke into the basement of the Water Street Museum and created a great deal of mess. They broke in through a window that had been covered with a metal shield using metal screws. A fence post was used to pry the covering off, break through a square foot window and jump ten feet into a furnace room. In doing so, the intruder also used the ductwork to break his fall, thus ripping it off the ceiling. He then proceeded to smash a number of items stored in the furnace room. The intruder then made his way into the kitchen and smashed or

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tossed around a number of items stored there. He then made his escape through the back emergency door. Although the cost of damage may not be high, the mess left behind was bad and required several hours of work by three people to clean up. We did lose a number of items used for displays, picture frames, dress accouterments and so forth, but no major valuable items were missing or destroyed. I wish to thank two of our members, Karen and John Zinda, who responded right away to appeals for help to both close up the “entrance” and help with the clean up. We would still have a mess had they not come right away.

THE NELSONVILLE MILL

Window replacements at the Mill are continuing at this time. Gravel was also delivered for the parking area. The adopt a window project is continuing. Partial success has been achieved through this program, but a great deal more is needed.

All in all, all is good at the Mill. We would like to thank Janet Eschenbauch, Laurie Reser/Low and the Mill Committee for all their work at that facility.

PROJECTS

The Board would like to offer the membership and others in the community the opportunity to help make one of the buildings more permanent or help in the development of one of the remaining structures. Significant donations to any of the structures will not only help us develop that particular site but will also allow the

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 1 | Bancroft Depot | 9 | Engford-Circus House |
| 2 | Caboose Restoration | 10 | Doctor’s Office |
| 3 | Pierce Building (Barn) | 11 | Post Office |
| 4 | Pierce Building (Print Shop) | 12 | Hei Corner’s One Room School |
| 5 | Church Display Hall | 13 | Yellowstone Cabin |
| 6 | General Store | 14 | Synagogue |
| 7 | Precourt Blacksmith Shop | 15 | Nelsonville Mill |
| 8 | Franklin House | | |

donor to have his or her name placed on a plaque either in the structure or in the office at the Park (Yellowstone Cabin). One can make donations to each of the structures in the park or to the Synagogue and/or Mill. The structures in the park include:

We thank you in advance for your generosity.

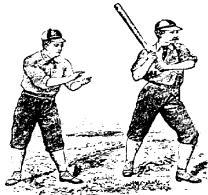
Honor Board

The board would very much like to develop an “Honor Board” for each of the buildings we have. The Hei Corner’s School already has the beginnings of such a plaque and we would welcome other contributors. At the school anyone donating \$100 to \$499 has their name placed on the plaque. For a donation of \$500 or more the person

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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**



“buys” a desk in the school and has their name placed on it.

The depot has a similar board with the donor’s names being placed on a mail sorting board located in the ticket office. This involves anyone donating \$100 or more to the depot’s development.

Similar honor rolls are being set up for each of the buildings. The Board would also like to have a visual account of the funds raised for each building with some sort of Thermometer placed in or near each structure showing how much has been raised.

NEEDS

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

Web Site

Our web site now has its own domain name, www.pchswi.org This will make access to our site easier. Work on the new Online Archives being renamed in honor of Malcolm Rosholt continues. This should be completed very soon.

If you don't have a computer or are uncertain on how to use one, please go to the County Library and the people there will assist you. Its worth the effort!!

Threads of History and Plover Portage Rendezvous



Vendors are still registering for this event. So far we have people selling and demonstrating in the following areas: broom making; felting; wood carving; spinning; butter making; soap making; tatting; and bobbin lace making.

We will have an ice cream social thanks to the SPASH Cheerleader's Booster Club. They will be selling ice cream and soda on Saturday from 11:00 to 4:00 and again on Sunday from 11:30 to 3:00.



The Low Land Bison Ranch owned by Phil and Iona Hausler will be selling Burgers and Brats made of buffalo meat on Saturday from 11:00 to 4:00 and again on Sunday from 11:00 to 3:00.

Loose Strings Quartet (or maybe even 5) will be performing on Saturday from 2:00 to 4:30. They always put on a good show specializing in Blue Grass.

We still need people to volunteer some time as ticket sellers and as guides in our buildings. Contact Mary Egle at 592-4282 or Tim Siebert at 344-7607.



In our next issue:

“On January 1, 1976 a group of Native Americans, mostly Menominee man, moved in and took over the Alexian Brothers Novitiate near Gresham, Wisconsin. The group called itself the Menominee Warrior Society....”

Read about Tim Siebert's *active* duty while in the National Guard in an article entitled:

“Sleep Well, Your National Guard is..”





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

The Society at (715) 344-4423 or email to pchs_54481@yahoo.com

See our web site at www.pchswi.org

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

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