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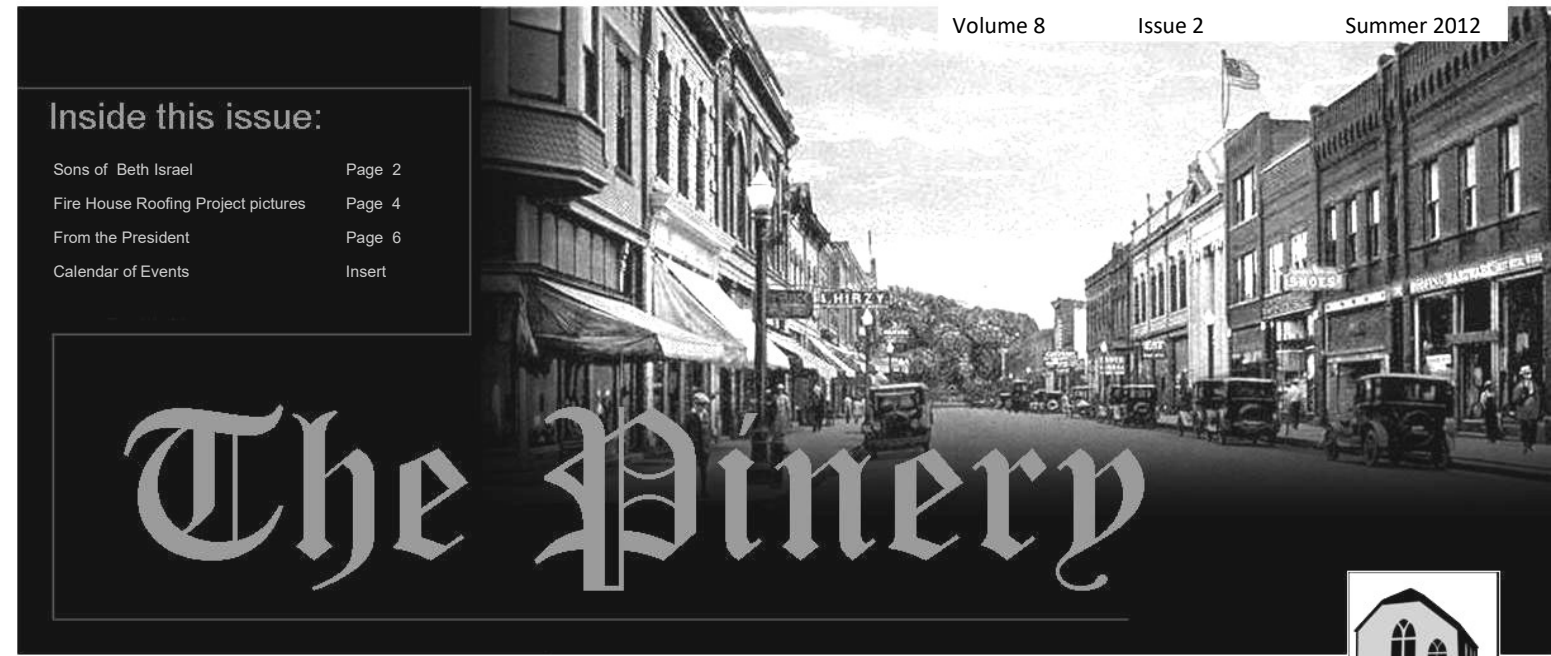
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The Pinery, A publication of the Portage County Historical Society
 Karen Zinda and Mark Seiler, Editors
 Masthead Design by Jessie Michelson



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The Pinery



Heritage Park

By Anton Anday

Heritage Park has been closed for the winter season to the public, but building maintenance and care continued. Research for local history is always continuing. In February we received a lot of archival materials and artifacts. Archival storage is also taking place at the Hie Corner School and the Engford research center. Restoration projects at the Park have started this spring and will continue during this upcoming construction season. A program of goals, objectives, plans for buildings of Heritage Park was also completed for 2012. We are looking for grants for some of the projects and future needs for Heritage Park. These include the post office roof at \$3,500, the country store roof at \$7,000, the Heritage Park mortgage at \$17,500, and funds for an archives/research center. If we do not have a vision for the future, nothing will ever get done.

Education and presentations on the history and heritage of Portage County continued for a 4-H club, schools, and other civic organizations. It went into high gear this spring, when the "Old Time School" program at Heritage Park, during the month of April, included about six hundred students and seventy-some adults. In May, the tour of Portage County for third graders included three hundred students and other public members. We had student groups as far away as Medford visiting our Heritage Park facilities.

The manuscript on the "Murals of Stevens Point" is in progress and we are looking for voluntary publication by interested parties. Preparations for the UWSP -- LIFE programs on the "Murals", the history of the Sacred Heart Congregation in Polonia is completed, and a new request for a LIFE program on Portage County Circuses has been scheduled for this fall. We accomplished substantial work this spring and look forward to a busy summer season.

Our thanks go out to:

Bill and Kathy Zimdars, Joyce Slack, Elbert Rackow, Royce Rossier and others who so generously contributed archival materials and artifacts for the Society's use.

We also like to thank the Worzella family, Joe Okray, Central Wisconsin Model Railroaders, Earl & Virginia

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How to read your mailing label

Like all non-profits we have had decreased or lost funding over the past year - funding which has always helped us to operate our four sites in Portage County: Heritage Park in Plover, The Rising Star Mill in Nelsonville, Beth Israel Synagogue Museum and Historic Fire House N^o 2 in Stevens Point. That's why we ask that you read the codes on your mailing label, and if it says "donor" consider making another donation this year, if it says "complimentary" - consider joining, if it says "elected official" - well ... support us in every way you can, if it says "life", you have made a one time payment large enough to entitle you to this designation, however, continued support is always welcomed, if it says "Jan-12 it means your annual dues are due and we appreciate your continued support (dues run on the calendar year - Jan-Jan).

Thank you for your investment in Portage County's history. Together we can keep growing the Portage County Historical Society.

Thank You for your Continued Support!

The Dinery

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Baeten, Jami Stuetgen, school PTOs and anonymous contributors who make our restoration projects possible.

Thanks to Don Kottke, Fred Hasse, Larry Misiewicz, and Cheryl Jean for donating their skill and resources to make Heritage Park such a viable project.

Thanks go out to the volunteer teachers who have contributed so much of their time to the "Old Time School" program at Heritage Park. They are John Knowlton, Santha Bickford, Joyce Chekouras, Pat Abbrederis, Eileen Payne, Fran Vollrath, Suzanne Fee, Arlene Meyerhofer, Merida Houser. A special thanks goes to Carl Whittaker for his continuous commitment to this project.

Fire House Renovation - Phase 1 Completed

By Karen Zinda

In May, Stud Brothers Construction LLC and Coyote Steel Roofing completed Phase I of Historic Fire House N^o 2's restoration project. This phase included the rebuilding of the bell tower, roofing the two story portion of the building, and adding a flag pole and flag to the top of the bell tower.

The project was funded by donations from members and other interested parties (see insert for a complete list of

donors), a National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Special Projects Grant, and a grant from the Seramur Family Foundation.

A special thanks goes out to Thomas Brown Architect who provided the architectural drawings, Jeff Finger of JPF Engineering who did the stress figures, Norm Meyers Jr & Sr, who own the house next door and allowed us to use their driveway, and Veolia Environmental Services who donated the dumpster.

Thanks to all who contributed!

We are currently working on bids and fund raising for Phase II, the flat roof on the rear portion of the building.



Fire House ca. 1885

From The President

The Historical Society will be celebrating its Heritage Days one week later this year-July 28 & 29. We will, again, focus on agriculture as our theme. However, a couple of other events are planned for the weekend. It is tentatively planned that Ruthie and Frank Clark will be with us to give talks and tours of the Engford house and the circus

world as they knew it.

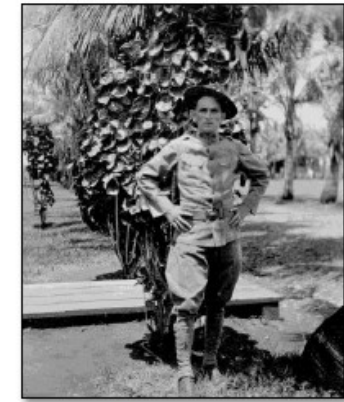
On Saturday, at 1:00 pm Judy Cook will give a presentation on the role of women in the American Civil War. Ms. Cook has lived in the Washington D. C. area all her life and has been touring with Civil War programs up and down the east coast as well as the U. K. We are privileged to have her perform for us as family connections will bring her to this area. Ms. Cook specializes in programs with a particular interest-in this case the role of women. The program presents carefully chosen songs woven together with historical details, quotes, letters from her own ancestors and images. Powerful narrative songs dovetail effortlessly with sentimental

Victorian tales and sprinklings of whimsical pieces. Her presentation and delivery combine her joy of singing with historical detail to delight all listeners. The presentation will be free to everyone interested in all aspects of the Civil War.

The board would also like to publicly welcome our newest board member-Diane Lang. Ms. Lang is employed in the UWSP archives and has excellent skills in both research and archival work.

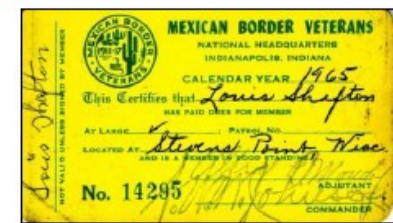
The society is still looking for aluminum cans, any type of aluminum, electrical cords of any type and old Christmas tree lights. We are also looking for anything made of copper or brass-small or large. The items can be left by the metal shed on the south side of the Synagogue museum at any time.

Brownwood County who died in World War II. After his death in 1956, his will included \$800,000 in bequests for various organizations, including a college in Brownwood, a scholarship at his alma mater, the University of Wisconsin, a university in Israel, and \$100,000 to a hospital in New York for charity patients. He did not forget Stevens Point, where the Bunin family had found a welcoming home in America: He included a bequest for Congregation Beth Israel. Nohum and Samuel are buried in the family plot in the New Home Cemetery in Milwaukee.



Louis Shafton (1893-1967), a nephew of Israel Shafton, a founder of Congregation Beth Israel, immigrated to Chicago from Russia in 1909. He enlisted in the Army in February 1914 before the United States' entry

into World War I, and was deployed in the Philippine Islands, pictured on the left--then a territory occupied by the United States-- and in 1916 in the Mexican Border Campaign.



1917-1919 he served in France in Company A, 14th Regiment of the First Infantry Division. In France he was wounded on his arm in the Second Battle of the Marne in July 1918. In September 1918 he was gassed during the Battle of St. Mihiel, which disabled him for the remainder of the war. On March 19, 1919 the Stevens Point Journal wrote (headlines pictured on the right):

Decorated with Service stripes, wound stripes and medals of honor, with a record of length of service in France perhaps unequalled by that of any other resident of Portage county, Louis Shafton is home after four years' service in the regular army.

He was discharged from the Army on June 4, 1920, and in 1939 received the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in World War I.



After the war Louis worked as a travelling salesman for a time before settling in Milwaukee, where he and his wife Sara lived until 1925. They moved to Stevens Point where he operated a filling station and Badger Tire & Auto Parts on 2nd and Clark Streets. Later he opened the Badger Tire & Supply Co. on Park and Prairie Streets. Louis was an active member of Congregation Beth Israel, the B'nai Brith, and veterans organizations. For more than 30 years, he and his wife attended most state and national conventions of the American Legion, pictured here at a Legion convention in Washington D.C. in 1954. With his death, joint military rites were conducted by the Veterans of World War I, Portage County Voiture 830, 40 et 8, and the American Legion, followed the next day by



GOES TO FRANCE IN FIRST PARTY

Louis Shafton after Eighteen Long Months in Europe Returns Home for a Visit and is about to Receive Discharge

WOUNDED IN SOISSONS FIGHT

Recovers and Takes Part in Battle of St. Mihiel Where He is Gassed by Germans

the Jewish funeral service in the American Legion Hall in Stevens Point, rather than in the synagogue, which had only limited seating capacity. Louis and Sara are buried in the Hebrew Cemetery in Wausau, Wisconsin.

The Dinery



From the press conference announcing the grant last year (upper left), to completion of the project (middle bottom).— a pictorial display of Phase I of the Historic Fire House N^o 2 restoration.

