



EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October 2007

Eagle, Wisconsin

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EHS

museum/ library
594-8961

open

Fridays and Saturdays,
9 am to noon

Wednesdays, 5-7 pm

Website: eaglehistori-
calsociety.org

EHS News

Renewals

EHS thanks the following for renewing at upper levels:

Sustaining: (\$25-\$49)

Edward & Susanne Mack

Donation

A donation of \$100.00 was given by Sandra & Paul Fisher ; a matching grant of \$100.00 was received from the GE Foundation. Thank you, Sandra & Paul.

Artifact Donations:

Stephanie Kalnes

Ellie Normington

Reine Wells

Jean Bowey

Merle Spellman

An oak display case was donated by Jill Steinhart.

A BEAR QUIZ

Can you match these names with the bears found throughout this publication?

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Hannah Hawk | 2. Sophie |
| 3. Dewey Read | 4. Billy the Kid |
| 5. Ursa | 6. Blossom |
| 7. Nighty-Night | 8. Sherman |
| 9. Jacob | 10. Sheriff Suhmer |

Not all the bears named here are in this newsletter. Pick the right ones.

Answers are on the back page, but no peeking ahead.

That means NO PEEKING AHEAD!

YE OLDE GIFT SHOP

The museum has a few gift items available for purchase. Members Nancy & Jim Manschot made and donated a variety of bees wax candles and note cards. We also have an assortment of rings made from different types of polished rocks. Historic plat maps of the Village and Town are available. Kids and grandkids would love a Junior Geologist Kit and assorted rocks. We still have some \$3.00 t-shirts left. Sizes youth medium, Child's large or adults small. Stop in and do some Christmas shopping.



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Museum Happenings

A week of heavy rain forced our annual outdoor event indoors on August 19th but fortunately the weather was warm enough to allow wine and punch to be served on the porch. Entertainment was provided by EHS members Mal and Ken Olson playing mountain dulcimer and guitar. The dancing man, a hand made toy, provided rhythm to some of the tunes.

Old friends from Eagle enjoyed visiting and checking out the museum exhibits while newcomers had an opportunity to question long time Eagle residents about the history of their homes and the people who lived in them.

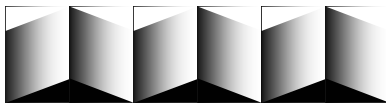
Despite the weather it was an enjoyable afternoon.



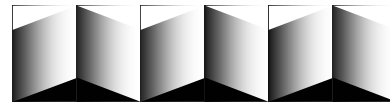
Members Ken & Mal Olson



Member Connie Potrykus & Pres. Jeff Nowicki



Web site



Please visit our new and improved website. We can be found at www.eaglehistoricalsociety.org. Ryan Hajewski is the webmaster, who designed and will maintain the web-site. Member Alan Ledrowski was instrumental in procuring our domain name and webspace. Thanks to both of these gentlemen for their help. You'll find information about recent and upcoming events, artists in residence, exhibits, historic photos, newsletters and more.



Another Beary Good Deed

Speaking of bears, our thanks go out to Connie Potrykus who made wooden stands for all the bears that needed them.



THE HUMOR OF YESTERYEAR-

The following are excerpts from a radio skit put on by St. John's Lutheran Church in North Prairie in the 1950's. The actors included Welthy and Edward Mueller. These priceless lines were the things we laughed at 50 years ago. See if you still find them funny or that you will admit to finding them funny. They may have been a little corny but there was no blushing in the audience.

TRIGGER MORTIS, FRONTIER MORTICIAN

The scene opens in the residence of Sam Alamode, wealthy rancher and owner of the Bar B Q Ranch in Sparerib, Texas. Sam is dying and talking to his lovely daughter, Pie Alamode, whom he lovingly calls Pie.

Sam: Pie, honey I'm dying again. Go call Trigger Mortis the frontier mortician.

Have hearse, will travel.

Pie: What's wrong with you, daddy?

What's your ailment?

Sam: I swallowed my thermometer and I'm dying by degrees.

Pie leaves to call the mortician. Meanwhile Joe Silver is hiding outside and listening to the conversation. He's a full blooded Indian and Sam always called him his faithful Indian companion Silver.

Joe: Let old Sam die . I wish he would.

Then I can get the ranch and be set for life. He's always got some fool disease. Last week he swallowed a dynamite cap and his hair came out in bangs. Before that he swallowed a hydrogen bomb and had an atomic ache. He's suffering from flower disease—he's a blooming idiot.

Oh, oh here comes Pie Alamode's boyfriend , Arnie. Poor kid, he's an orphan-little orphan Arnie. I'll just slip away.

Arnie and Pie meet and embrace.

Announcer: We interrupt this love scene

to bring you a message from Peter Pan makeup. Use Peter Pan makeup before your pan peters out. This is the makeup used by stars, Lassie, Bullet and the Untouchables. Listen to this letter from Mrs. Margatroid Pluglehorn from Liverlip, Mississippi. " My face was so wrinkled I had to screw my hat on. Then I used Peter Pan makeup and I don't look like an old lady anymore...I look like an old man. I had my wrinkles tightened up and now every time I raise my eyebrows I pull up my socks.

Now back to Trigger Mortis, Frontier Mortician.

Trigger is answering his phone.

Trigger: Oh its you Miss Pie Alamode. You want me to come see your father? Well my hearse has been giving me trouble—I think I've blown a casket. I've got to quit using embalming fluid in the gas tank because the motor keeps

♦ . ♦ . ♦ . ♦ . ♦ . ♦ . ♦ . dying.
Pie Ala- mode hangs up
and goes *Trigger: Have your eyes been* to meet her

lover, little *Sam: No, they've always been* orphan Arnie in

their fa- *blue.* vorite meeting
place — the family
graveyard.

Arnie speaks: Darling, may I have your hand in marriage?

Pie: my hand —oh yes and my arm too. Let's go tell my father.

Meanwhile Joe Silver is plotting to kidnap Pie for ransom. He thinks Sam Alamode is dying, but he really isn't. Trigger Mortis is on his way to the ranch..

Trigger: Well, here I am. When you are at death's door, I will pull you through.

Sam: Good to see you, Trigger. Can you give me a good funeral?

Trigger: I'll give you a good funeral or your money back.

Sam: I'm a sick man, a sick man. The doctor told me to drink some medicine after a hot bath, and I can hardly finish drinking the bath. Trigger, I can trust you, can't I?

Trigger: Of corpse, of corpse, have I ever let you down?

Sam: I don't trust my faithful Indian companion, Silver. He has a sneaky look.

Trigger: I happen to know Sam, that he wants to kidnap your daughter and keep her from marrying little orphan

Arnie. (cont.on page 4)

(cont.from page 3)

Sam: Trigger we've got to do something. Think of a plan. I have a splitting headache.

Trigger: Have your eyes been checked?

Sam: No, they've always been blue. Trigger, why don't we put Joe in one of your coffins and ship him out of state.

Trigger: A tisket, a tasket, I'll put him in a casket. I was in love once so I know what Arnie and Pie are going through.

Sam: You were in love?

Trigger: Yes, I was stuck on a girl who worked in a glue factory.

Arnie: Hey, here comes Joe Silver. Get your coffin ready, Trigger

Pie: Daddy, lie down on the bed and act like you're dead.

Sam lies on the bed and holds his breath. Trigger takes off his shoes and everyone holds their breath. At this breathless moment, Joe arrives.

Joe: So I finally caught you, you scoundrel. You've cut my check so many times I have to endorse it with mercurochrome. I want to marry your daughter and nobody's gonna stop me. Sure, I'm tough. I've been sent up the river so often I get fan mail from the salmon. Even when I was a baby, people were pinning things on me. Now, I'm gonna get you.

Sam: Get him Arnie.

Trigger: Quick I have the casket open. Push him in.

The two push Joe into the casket.

Trigger: That takes care of him. Now I have to pick up a body . A fellow in town swallowed a quart of shellac and died. He had a lovely finish .

Arnie: How can we thank you? You'll come to the wedding, won't you?

Trigger: Yes, I plan to give you a tombstone for a present, but don't take it for granite.

Sam: Thanks, Trig. By the way stop over and play golf someday.

Trigger: Don't ever play golf with an undertaker...he's always on top at the last hole.

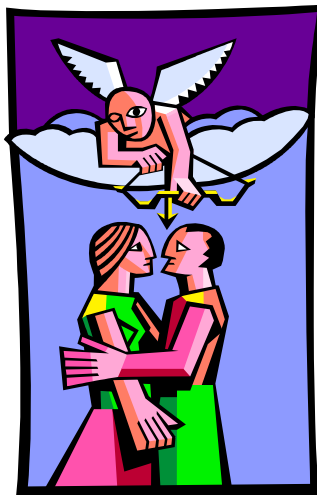
Arnie: Now we're alone, Pie my love. Someday you'll have my name.

Pie: I never did find out....What is your last name, Arnie?

Arnie: My name is Arnie R. Square.

Pie: What a lovely name I'll have. Mrs. Pie R. Square.

And as the sun sinks slowly in the west, we leave the lovers as they plan their future. Tune in tomorrow for the first episode of "I was a teen-age spinster", brought to you by the gardener's magazine, Weeder's Digest.



A Bears Tale

A massive bear hunt took place in Eagle in May and June. Carol Lake, Pat Wilton, Kay & Jerry Perkins, Don & Elaine Ledrowski, Mark & Julie Dexter, Mary & John Vymetal Taylor and Jane Reinke searched every yard, tag, garage, rummage sale, flea market and auction to find the perfect bears. The result was bears of every size shape and color. Businesses and organizations have been busy dressing bears. You will have an opportunity to meet Sherman, Hannah Hawk, Sophie, Blossom, Fire Fighter Ursa, Jacob the Good Shepherd, Billy the Kid and many more bears.



The bears have been displayed at the museum and went on the road. Their first gig was a one night only on October 12th at St. Theresa's fabulous fish fry. Then they waltzed over to Chase Bank for a two week engagement October 15-27. Their next venue will be a limited engagement at Tasty Z's on Nov. 2nd, 3rd and 4th. They also will appear at the Eagle Business Association dinner at Old World Wisconsin on November 14th.

The entourage will return to the museum to recuperate and rest up for their final whirl wind tour through Eagle. They are booked at Alice Baker Memorial Library November 12-24. After that they will swing over to Citizens Bank (Eagle Branch) November 26th to December 1st. Their last public appearance will be at Eagle Elementary School for the Palmyra Eagle Community Band concert starting at 7:00 P.M.

December 3rd
Visit
tioned off at a
be able to place
The high bid-
3:00 P.M. The



any tour site and vote for your favorite bear. The bears will be auctioned off at a silent Auction. A bid book will travel with the bears and people will be able to place a bid at any of the above locations and at our annual holiday raffle. Bidders will be able to pick up their bears Saturday, December 8th after the raffle will be held at the municipal building from 10:00-3:00 P.M.

Kettle Moraine's Lost Bison Herd

Excerpts from the Scuppernong Journal, Kettle Moraine Natural History Association, with permission of Ron Kurowski, editor

Could a recent donation of an old mounted bison head and a DNA test prove that a small herd of bison still existed in the Kettle Moraine region at the time of settlement? Recently the DNR museum received a mounted bison head from John Stannisch, a descendant of pioneer Jonathan Betts. The Betts Farm is located in the Town of Eagle, a few miles south of the Forest Headquarters on Betts Road. The mounted head is from a bison that was reportedly shot by Jonathan Betts in the early days of settlement near Oconomowoc.

Jonathan Betts came to America from Norfolk, England in 1830 and spent 4 years in Rome, New York. He then moved to La Salle Co., Illinois and drove stage for a few years. In 1838 he moved to Eagle, WI and formed a partnership with F. Draper and farmed part of the Eagle Prairie. They were some of the first settlers in the area. Mr. Betts operated a 6 yoke oxen sod breaking plow for several years and became well known throughout the area, having plowed thousands of acres of virgin prairie sod.

I found his occupation to be very interesting as it helps support his story of seeing buffalo. If he was plowing that many acres of prairie, he would have spent considerable time in the buffalo's main habitat, greatly increasing his chances of finding them. It also would have explained why he said he killed one in the Oconomowoc area, as he was probably working in the area. (Cont. on page 6)

Congratulations, Bill

Member Bill Beck was featured in an ad in the Milwaukee Journal sponsored by the DSAW, the Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin. He wrote the following for the paper:

My name is Bill.
 I have Down Syndrome
 I love Elvis.
 I have a job folding towels.
 It makes me feel good to help people.
 One day I want to be married, or be a life
 guard.
 I like swimming.
My problem isn't how I look.
It's how you see me.

We should all be that wise.



Bill Beck

(cont. from page 5)

THE LOST BISON HERD

The remarkable story of Jonathan Bett's Mounted buffalo head has once again brought attention to the fact that buffalo, perhaps even a small herd might have existed in the Kettle Moraine as late as 1842.

John Stannisch's first recollection of the buffalo head was in the late 1950's when he worked on the Bett's farm, then owned by his Uncle Robert and Aunt Lillian Betts Stannisch. His uncle was an avid hunter and had one room devoted to hunting equipment which is where he first saw "ol' Buff", as the family members referred to the mounted buffalo head. In 1960, his Uncle and Aunt sold the farm and gave the mounted head to John's dad. Eventually, his dad gave ol' Buff to John in 1970 and he has had it right up until he moved out of the area and donated it to a museum.

Experts were called to examine the DNA and try to determine the age of the Buffalo head. Even if the DNA test fails to provide us with proof, I still believe that a small herd of buffalo still existed at settlement time. The thing that makes this believable for me is having another pioneer family say they also observed buffalo and killed one.

THE STORY OF A BARN

This story is taken from the Milwaukee Magazine,
first published in February, 1941

The barn still stands today on Betts Road. The
farm is currently owned by Don Malek.



As might be expected, the celebration of The Milwaukee Road's 90th Anniversary has produced a highly interesting piece of historical side lighting.

In a letter to the Milwaukee Journal recently, Mrs. Betts Burden, of Milwaukee, had the following to say:

"The first bill of lumber sent over that run (the line that extended from Milwaukee through Waukesha) was consigned to my paternal grandfather, Jonathan Betts, to build a barn near Eagle, Wis., although that village was not officially named until about one year later. Grandpa Jonathan had to wait on the right-of-way to flag the train to a stop. The barn still stands, square and true, on the Betts homestead, its hand-hewn frame held together entirely by oaken pegs."

Those timbers are part of the first shipment carried by the Milwaukee Road.

With that enticing piece of information as a lead, The Milwaukee Magazine did a bit of sniffing around the Betts homestead and came away with a few more interesting facts.

Jonathan Betts moved from New York to Eagle in 1835—on foot, dressed in the year's fashionable buckskins. With a companion he hesitated a while at Chicago, tempted by a real estate salesman's assurance that some day a huge metropolis would be built where they were standing. However, the parcels of land offered were far too swampy to seem of much value, so they moved westward and settled at what is now Eagle.

The crew of the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad Co. (predecessor of The Milwaukee Road), breaking ground for the laying of the steel, gave the locality the nickname of "Shirt Tail Bend."

Mr. Betts purchased the farm land from the government for \$1.25 an acre. Mrs. Luella M. Betts, daughter-in-law of the old settler, and present owner and operator of the farm, still has the two deeds conveying title to the property. One is signed by President Tyler and the other by President Polk.

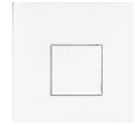
It is interesting to know that when the homestead was first established, most of the family's provisions had to be fetched by ox cart from Milwaukee, which was then a trading post run by Solomon Juneau.

The barn was remodeled in 1912, and the outside was covered with newer lumber. However, many of the original timbers are still to be seen on the inside. And that is the story of the first load of lumber hauled over the tracks of the first railroad in Wisconsin.



The Betts Barn stands
today as it has for over
150 years.

Eagle Historical Society, Inc.
217 Main Street
P.O. Box 454
Eagle, WI 53119-0454



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Palmyra-Eagle Band will have their Christmas Concert in Eagle on December 3rd at 7 p.m. It is held in the Elementary School. As always the band will provide sweet treats and punch in thanks for the support of all who attend their concerts. Besides providing great music there are some pretty good bakers in the band. Come and enjoy the music and the treats. This also will be the last stop on the amazing bear tour. All bears will be displayed at the concert.

Answers to the Bear Quiz

Page 1, Dewey Read
Page 2, left, Sheriff Suhmer
Page 2, upper right, Sherman the golfer
Page 2, lower right Sophie, the bank teller
Page 4, Billy the Kid, bank robber
Page 5, left Ursa, the Firefighter
Page 5, upper right, Hannah Hawks
Page 7, Jacob the Good Shepherd



December 8th is the date of the December Raffle and Teddy Bear Silent Auction.

Raffle Items will be on display from 10 a.m.-3p.m. at the Eagle municipal building.. The drawing will be held at 3:15 p.m. This is your last chance to bid on the bears. Winning bidders may pick up their bears at 3:30 p.m.