THE EAGLE CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPEAKS DECEMBER 2007

"OLD ABE"

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- Check inside for your membership information!
- Semi-annual Membership Meeting on February 19



Have You Heard About "The Admirals Cow"

ARLEY ENGEL

While searching through some newspaper clippings that Eugene and Delores Harm had saved, and shared with us at the Chippewa County Historical Society. I came across an article which had been in the Chippewa Herald Telegram. The article starts out: Most everybody who has lived in this territory for any length of time probably knew Chet Meredith. Chet, prior to his retirement, was in business here for over a half century and during that time was on speaking terms with most all of the people in this area. The cow, which went all the way to the South Pole with the Admiral was shipped by rail freight and Meredith was directly involved. Not many people, however, know that Meredith had a hand in shipping a Dunn County Guernsey cow to the South Pole — via Admiral Richard Byrd back in 1933. Here is the story as written by Chet Meredith.

Yes, I can tell the story up to the time when she was loaded on the explorers ship in Boston, Mass. For the benefit of all who do not know me, I will give you enough of my background to qualify me to write this story.



As you walk the midway at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair, have you wonder what it was like in days past? This is the midway in 1923

LOCAL NEWS

STANLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY DAVID JANKOWSKI, REPORTER

Another busy year is drawing to close. It has been very memorable. A quick review of 2007 indicates that our pictorial exhibits related to the small-populated crossroads, villages or townships remain very popular with the visiting public. This year we featured the Village of Boyd and the Town of Delmar. Along with the Boyd exhibit, on June 9, Marcy Ruff, Curator of the Boyd History Room gave a narrated presentation, to a full house, on the "Early History of Boyd."

We were also pleased to have hosted the Clark County Historical Society semi-annual meeting on June 23. Those attending were treated to a special presentation on the "Palaces and Castles of Poland" given by Richard Kozibal, from Eau Claire. The Sew and Sew Quilting Club held their annual quilt show at the museum this year on July 28-29 and it was again well attended. Throughout the summer various classes visited the museum or held gatherings at the museum. Reunion groups are always welcome, as those attendees are good candidates for membership and continued support of our organization.

Our biggest undertaking this year was hosting the 2007 West Central Regional Convention of the Wisconsin Council for Local History on September 22. We were blessed with an absolutely beautiful day. The annual gathering attracted 68 attendees, mostly from within a 70 mile radius. Upon arrival attendees were treated to beverages and delectable ethnic pastries baked by our members. After official welcomes by our President Connie Pozdell and Stanley Mayor David Jankoski, and an update

COVER STORY CONTINUED

It may surprise some who do not know me that I am 82 years old, retired two years ago. was in business here in Chippewa Falls for 52 years. The first 25 years in the dairy cattle business, followed by 27 years in the farm implement business, known as the Meredith Tractor Farm. I had a 7th grade education and am one of thirteen children born in Chester, Iowa. At thirteen, I went out into the world to try to make it with this limited education. You will learn later on in the story why I believe God had a plan for me, and for all others who are limited in whatever it may be. He gave me an imagination and creative mind to compensate for this limited education. I worked mostly on dairy farms, first as a farm hand, then a herdsman, and next as a farm manager in Eau Claire county, gaining experience and a reputation as a good judge of good production dairy cattle. Now my imaginative mind starts to work.

At age twenty, while working in the Stanley, Wis. area, I met a good Christian girl, a bookkeeper and stenographer for the Northwest Lumber Co's store office. I asked her to marry me, thinking she would be a good teacher for me. If I succeeded in doing what I thought I could do, she would do the office work. She said, "I will," and now for over 61 years she has done much more than I expected. She gave me three fine children, two daughters and a son, led me to Christ, plus much more. This was all part of God's plan for me.

We moved to Chippewa Falls with an idea from my creative mind. I wanted my own business, so with my dairy cattle experience, I would call myself a Dairy Cattle Commission Agent, offering my services to assist, or buy dairy cattle for out of state dairies. I advertised in eastern states dairyman's journals, offering this service. I would drive these buyers to our dairy farmers where they could buy direct. The response to my ads was very good, and in a short time I was filling orders, or buying for these people, mostly from the Boston area. In those days they only milked their cows until the cow stopped making a profit for the dairy, and then replacement cows were bought. Before long I was getting a reputation for being trusted and competent as a dairy cattle buyer for all the cattle on the Hood Dairy Farms of Boston, then the largest dairy in the east.

Now come my involvement with the Dunn County cow, which I bought for the Deerfoot Farm near Boston and was loaned to Admiral Byrd for his Antarctic Expedition in 1933. This cow was bought from Mr. Maves, near Menomonie, Wis., who was a dairy farmer, and who owned some outstanding dairy cattle.

This cow was the first and only cow up to this time, ever to be taken on an Antarctic Expedition. She furnished milk for the Admiral and his staff, and two years later, when he returned to Boston, she was still producing milk. At that time, I had brought a load of cattle to the Hood Dairy and Dr. E.A. Woelfer, Hood's veterinarian took me to see the above mentioned cow. She was not in the barn but was on public display in the lobby of Boston's finest hotel. What a thrill it was for me to see her again, in beautiful condition and knowing that I had a small part in the historic event. I had bought and shipped many car loads of dairy cattle to many States, and to a foreign country, but the load this world famous cow was in has been the highlight of my cattle buying career.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



A VOLUNTEER PROFILE

MARY MCKENNA

Lucy

Lucyann LeCleir is a hometown gal. She is one of ten children, having lived in Wheaton until 1950 before coming to Chippewa Falls. Lucy attended St. Charles grade school and McDonell High school. After graduation, in 1950 she started working for Chippewa County as a Deputy County Clerk. At one time she also worked for Tom Joas, an insurance agent. He was instrumental in helping her and her future husband find their home on Rural St. where she lives to the present day.

On June 15, 1954 she married John LeCleir (Fat Albert), a popular local musician. They had one daughter, Mary Kay. Lucy worked part time and then returned to full time work in 1960 for the city of Chippewa Falls as a Deputy and then City Clerk, a job she would hold for 36 years and 3 months. She retired on July 1, 1996. Her retirement began a whole new career in volunteer ism. Since 1996 she has put in countless hours at the Chippewa County Historical society working in the photo department in addition to giving tours. She has also served on the board of Directors and until recently was the recording secretary.

Lucy has also volunteered extensively for the Chippewa Valley Cultural Association in various capacities. She is a pioneer in the restoration of this beautiful building and has been vital to its renewal. Main Street Association in another of her volunteer destinations — helping collate and prepare the newsletters and do assorted tasks. The staff knows it can call on Lucy whenever help is needed, that is, unless she is helping somewhere else . . . she'll be there. In 2006 Lucy was elected as president of the Ladies auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1038, which is a very busy, active organization serving our veterans. With Lucy at the helm, you can be sure things will get done.

Lucy is an active member of the Notre Dame Catholic church and has probably been on most committees and helped with nearly every activity serving the parish community. She is also a booth worker, working to tally the votes every election day.

Her work in the photo room includes cataloging every submitted picture and in turn they are given an identification number. The information originally was placed on file cards but with new technology, they are put into the computer. The Wisconsin Historical Society dictates how they are to be filed. At present we have over 6,500 photos in our collection. This and many other details keep Lucy busy and the photo room running smoothly. We are grateful for her invaluable service and efforts to our organization and community as well. A big THANK YOU Lucy!

CALENDAR

Place these dates on your calendar

December 18 No Board of Directors Meeting

December 25 History Center Closed

January 1 History Center Closed

January 15 Board of Directors Meeting

9:15 a.m. History Center

January 16

Meeting of local history organizations — 5:30 p.m. Chippewa Falls Main Street

February 1

Last date to get material in for the next newsletter

February 19

Semi-annual Membership Meeting 7:00 p.m. History Center

No Board of Directors Meeting

The Eagle Speaks is published quarterly by the Chippewa County Historical Society, a non-profit organization established to promote and stimulate historical interest in Chippewa County, Wisconsin.

Mail any comments or future articles to 123 Allen St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729. 715-723-4399.

Chippewa County Historical Society 123 Allen St., Chippewa Falls, WI **Open on Tuesdays | 9am-4pm**

FEATURED ARTIFACT



This is just a small sample of the Gertrude Casper shell collections. Gertrude said of her hobby:

"I must confess that I have been carrying on a love affair with seashells for many years. They hold a tremendous fascination for me....

Shells have a fascinating history intertwined with the story of mankind. Long before our remote ancestors came out of the caves, shells or mollusks were used as food, utensils, and ornaments. Later their use as money and objects of barter for trade helped shape the patterns of civilization.

...It is estimated that there are around 100,000 different species.

Sometimes it is hard to comprehend that a live animal can create such a gorgeous home. The line, pattern, shape and color make them truly works of art."

A Message From Your President

Where to start? There is so much to do it is overwhelming. Well take a deep breath and start handling one thing at a time.

My cell phone rang and the caller introduced himself as John Fleckner. It turned out he was visiting his son and family, Andrew Dane, who had indicated I was the new president of the Historical Society. John indicated he was interested in what we were doing at the History Center and would I like to talk with him about it. John and I met at the History Center and he handed me his card, which indicated he was the Senior Archivist, Archives Center Smithsonian Institution. Needless to say I was all ears and looking for advice. In the time we spent together I was able to begin to prioritize some of the overwhelming tasks I think need be addressed.

- 1 We need to get our vast collection of artifacts under control as well as deal with the large volume of artifacts that we receive weekly.
 - A major step toward this is the PastPerfect software, which we purchased. John indicated this is very good software and will help us. I attended a day seminar in St. Paul on the use of the new software. Believe me it does everything.
 - Our new Collection Policy will also help us gather information on incoming artifacts and decide what artifacts will be added to our collection.
 - Volunteer help is critical to accomplishing this goal. It is important to use the skills of our volunteers in meaningful work. We need to explore developing a relationship with the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire History Department for internships to help us.
 - We need to take advantage of resources available to us. John worked at the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison and indicated they are a great resource. I met Mike Stevens, State Historic Preservation Officer and Janet Dykema, Field Services Representative Northern Region Division of Historic Preservation Public History at the 2007 West Central Regional Convention in Stanley in September.
- 2 We need to have a web site to let people know we exist. John indicated it will increase people's awareness of our Society and Museum and also will be a source of volunteers.
 - Kim Helgeson, a computer person who developed a web site for The Open Door Clinic, has agreed to help the Historical Society get started on a web site.
- 3 We need to get our committees active.
 - In the February *The Eagle Speaks* the article "What do the committees do?" listed each committee and their responsibilities. Also each issue of *The Eagle Speaks* list committee members. The focus needs to be on getting these committees meeting regularly and have them establishing items they need to work on and getting them done.

MAIL TO: Chippewa County 123 Allen Street C	Historical Society
□ New Member □ Renewal	I am making an extra donation (over the amount of membership) to the CCHS in the amount of:
NAME	- AMOUNT \$
ADDRESS	Check below where you would like
CITY STATE	your donation to be recorded:
ZIP (9 DIGITS)	
TELEPHONE:	Other fund:
Check one below:	
□Individual\$10 □Family\$15	Please record this donation in memory of:
Life Member (1 person)\$125	
Life (couple same address) \$175	

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

We announced in the May *The Eagle Speaks* a transiting of all membership renewals to October. Each year the November *The Eagle Speaks* will show membership records. The following is the first list that will tell you when your membership needs to be renewed.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Ansdorf, Karen Barnes, Mr. & Mrs. William Barnier, Mr. & Mrs. James Barnier, Mrs. Robert Beaudette, Dolores Bergevin, Wayne Bichner, Mr. & Mrs. Don Bourget, Mrs. Donna Brady, Patrick F. Brenner, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Bruhling, Mr. & Mrs. Benny Busker, David A. Cardinal, Donald Christofferson, Mrs. Janice Bates Cook, Dr. & Mrs. Fred

Crane, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Crane, Mrs. Ruth Jean Dirks, Mr. & Mrs. David Elliott, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Falbe, Beverly E. Frasch, Mr. & Mrs. David Frazier, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Geissler, Marge Glass, William Gordon, Dave & Ann Harm, Mr. Eugene Howard, Mr. & Mrs. Roger Howell, Jan Hutton, Geraldine Jacobsen, Dorothy V. Jankoski, Mr. & Mrs. David Jensen, Winifred Glass Joas, Joe

Korger, Gertrude Larue, Mrs. Sam Lea, Catherine Loken, Cecelia Lowater, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Meehan, Gerald Melville, Travis Merrell, Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Meyers, Rita Morris, Mrs. Jan Nadreau, Mrs. William Nauman, Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Norseng, Charles Pearson, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Peloquin, Barb and Ken Pevan, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pickerign, William & Nancy Plombon, Betty

Pontius, Mr. & Mrs. John Prueher, Jean M. Rada, Margaret Railhle, Mr. & Mrs David Ray, Barbara & Jack Roegge, Mrs. William C. Rubenzer, Dorothy M. Rubenzer, Jon Schafer, Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Scheidler, Brian Schuh, Mr. & Mrs. James Seyforth, Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Stafford, Dick & Julie Thorpe, Gerald O. O'Neil, Ellen Marquardt, Larry

THESE BUSINESSES SUPPORT OUR NEWSLETTER Stop by and let them know how much you appreciate it!





RENEW MEMBERSHIP WHICH WILL THEN BE GOOD UNTIL OCTOBER 2008:

Allen, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Carlson, David Cunningham, Mary Daniel, Danny & Jaque DeLong, Susan M. Engel, Gale & Mary Ann Ferguson, Jan F. Fisco, Lenore & Joe Forrest, Loretta Felce Goodall, Neil Greenwood, Marcie Heyen, Leola M. Joas, Gerald E. Kenealy, Ken & Toni LaFaive, Clara Larson, Tom LeCleir, Lucyann Lux, Blanche Martin Lyne Paul Maurer, Beverly Mazur, Conrad & Judith Meyer, Wayne Murphy, Ione Nehring, Peggy O'Donnell, Charles Oman, Paul Pinch, Harriet Playter, Jinx & Steve Pozdell, Connie Reiter, Paula Repp, John C. Rifleman, Mary P. Roth, I.D. Rushmann, Heidi Schumacher, Ruby Smith, Virginia

Sydejko, Helen & Joseph Thurman, Karen Willett, Adelaide Willi, Bernard Willi, Gail Willi, Lois Woll, Irene

MEMBERSHIP GOOD UNTIL OCTOBER 2008:

Ahneman, Pat Anderson, Mary Kelly Boos, Lalie Burfisher, Eloise Gingras Campbell, James & Henrietta Champion, Russell and Family Chisholm, Thomas & Nancy Cote, Deverne DeLong, Maxine Demars, Leon Dondlinger, Patricia Engel, Arley & June Erickson, Richard Forsgren, Kathryn Frederick, Dale & Edna Gaier, Mr. & Mrs. Gary Gasper, Mrs. Mona Gibbs, Jackie Gienapp, Dr. & Mrs. Gary Gilles, Robert & Judith Hable, Tom & Gloria Houghton, Barbara Bray Jones, Deane L. Jones, Eleanor Klatt, Dorothy Klawiter, Mary

Leinenkugel, William Magyar, Richard McDowell, Catherine McKenna, Mary Meier, Roger Menzel, Joyce C. Meredith, Robert & Barbara Mickesh, Dennis Miller, Carlton Miller, Vincent Minnick, Martha J. Nyhus, Evelyn Picotte, Jeanne Pritchard, Jeff Schneider, Marilvn Susedik, Tina Swanson, Philip Thorson, Reverend & Mrs. Don Tlachac, Norbert Weiss, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Wolfe, Mrs. Bernice Woodford, Mrs. Frank Zien, David

MEMBERSHIP GOOD UNTIL DATE LISTED:

10/09 Bayerl, Borghild M. 10/09 Flater, Mrs. Jo Ann 10/09 Quinlan, Mabel 10/09 Zimbehl, Bill 10/11 Minarovic, Sharon Fox

Check for your membership information here!



Donations in Memory of: From:

Rolland J. Fox	Arley & June Engel \$5.00
Lois Joyce	Arley & June Engel 5.00
Lois Joyce	Richard & Katherine Engel10.00
Stan Hagen	Arley & June Engel 5.00

Other Donations

From: Roxana Simon\$20.00 Gertrude Korger100.00 Michael Haley100.00

From Visitors:

	\$10.0
	8.00
	9.00
	5.00
	22.30
	5.00
	7.00
	1.00

Chippewa County Genealogical Society Membership Meeting Change

Regular membership meetings will be held on the fourth Saturday of the months of January through May, and September through November.

See details on page 8



LOCAL NEWS CONTINUED

Stanley Historical Society CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

from Michael Stevens, a Wisconsin Historical Society representative, we were off to visit three area ethnic churches. Our first stop was at Boyd where we heard a brief history of the St. Joseph Catholic Church and the studio that designed and manufactured the beautiful stained glass windows. After an awe inspired viewing we traveled to St. John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church located at Huron. Here we were provided a history of the Russian immigrants who settled the area in the early 1900's, their faith and the building of their original church in 1906. After this unique visit, the group headed for St. Mary's Czechochowa, for our final church visit. Here we were provided a history of the Polish settlement of the area, the building of their church and the Black Madonna painting that hangs over the altar. A special treat provided at this church were members of St. Mary's choir singing three hymns in Polish. Tired and hungry, the bus was boarded and headed for a delicious Polish and Russian ethnic meal at Alberta May's Restaurant in Stanley. After lunch, attendees returned to the museum for an educational presentation on managing a museums collection presented by Janet Dykema, Field Service Representative, in the Northern Region, for the Wisconsin Historical Society. Ms. Dykema also presided at the Regional Roundtable, which enabled attendees to discuss issues and concerns and explore solutions to problems with members from other historical societies. Near the conclusion of the convention Betty Havlik, Vice-President of the Wisconsin Council of Local History conducted the business meeting and presented a certificate of appreciation to Connie Pozdell for Stanley's hosting the 2007 Convention. After visiting the local museum and saying good-byes to new acquaintances, attendees departed for home tired but richer for having been provided an opportunity to learn more about the business we are all in-"Preserving Local History."

Our museum officially closed for the season September 29, and is now only open by appointment. Volunteers work each Tuesday afternoon during the winter months catching up on accessing donated artifacts, doing research and working on next season's exhibits.

Merry Christmas and our best wishes for the New Year from all of us at the Stanley Area Historical Society. 🌤

Chippewa County Genealogical Society News

ROGER N. WHITING, PRESIDENT

As we approach the new year of 2008, it is important to report that the Chippewa County Genealogical Society (CCGS) has changed its regular membership meeting dates.

Effective immediately, CCGS will hold its regular membership meetings on the fourth Saturday of the months of January through May, and September through November. There is one minor exception to this calendar and it is due to Easter. The regular March 2008 meeting will be held on the third Saturday or the 15th.

The meetings will continue to be held in the library at the Area History Center. The library will be open at 9 a.m. with the meeting starting at 10 a.m. and ending about noon. The library will be open until 2 p.m. for those who would like to stay and use the Area History Center resources for genealogical research.

Chippewa County Historical Society Committee Members

 Collection & Artifacts:
*Evalyn Frasch, Nancy Schuh, Donovan Olson, Vicki Nelson, Terri Ouimet

Photography Sub Committee: *Lucyann LeCleir

Building & Grounds: Don Bichner

 * Education
*Arley Engel, Dave Gordon, Gail Willi, Cathy Lee

Docent Sub Committee: Lalie Boos, Pat Ahneman

* Exhibits

* Arley Engel, Don Bichner, Eugene Harmon, Nancy Schuh

Historic Markers Sub Committee: * Tom Larson, Jim Schuh, Arley Engel, Kurt Gaber

Finances: *Dave Gordon, Kathy Forsgren

* Membership: *Shirley Liedl, Mary McKenna

Telephone Sub Committee: *Mary McKenna

* Publicity:

*Jim Schuh, Betty Plombon, Wayne Meyer

Space Utilization: *Don Baker

* Chairperson



Did you know Chippewa Falls had ferry service? We did in 1903.

President's Message CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

- The Collection & Artifacts committee needs to focus on getting our collection under control.
- The Education committee has a challenge to work with the schools to support the local history curriculum.
- The Exhibit committee needs to convert our exhibits from rooms full of artifacts to educational exhibits with artifacts protected so the public can tour the museum by themselves if they desire.

I attended the 2007 West Central Regional Convention in Stanley on September 22, 2007. It was a very informative day. We toured the St. Joseph's German Catholic Church, with its impressive stained glass windows. St. John the Baptist Church which is the oldest Russian Orthodox Church in Wisconsin. The final stop was St. Mary's Czestochowa Church. After lunch Janet Dykema, Field Services Representative, North Region, Wisconsin Historical Society did a Collections Management Basics Workshop. The workshop focused on Collections Policies, Managing the Collection, and Caring for the Collection. I was happy to learn that our new Collection Policy approved by the Board this year is ideal. It was also helpful to learn that the new software we purchased to kept track of our collection is highly recommended.

Well as you can see we have lots of activity and opportunities at the Chippewa County Historical Society. The waters fine come on in. 🍽

The Admiral's Cow CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Our son Don, just out of High school had worked that summer on the Deerfoot Dairy Farm in Massachusetts where I had shipped this guernsey cow that was loaned to Admiral Byrd. Don helped to pose that cow for her picture before she loaded on Admiral Byrd's ship. Don went out with many loads of cows for me in those days. One express carload I shipped from Barron, Wis. When Don got into the car the temperature was close to 50 degrees below zero. Of course cows created plenty of heat on these trips. This was quite a contrast to the load I shipped to the Panama Canal Zone in the heat around 100 degrees.

There you have it readers, how and why I was qualified to write this once in a lifetime story about the cow that brought fame to Dunn County, to Mr. Maves who sold the cow to me to ship, and Chippewa Falls. To me the hero is not Admiral Byrd but Mr. Maves who rased such fine dairy cattle as to have one selected to go on such a historic expedition.

As Paul Harvey says: Now you have the rest of the story. That's all for now from, "Engel's Little House on the Wheaton Prairie. 🍽

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Important Notice of items to be voted on at the February 2008 Semi-Annual Membership Meeting

Due to an oversite elections were not held at the September membership meeting. The Board of Directors has asked all officers and board members whose term expires in December 2007 to remain in office until the February 2008 membership meeting.

The following are the terms that are expiring:

Vice President – Arly Engel (appointed by the president in 2007) has agreed to run for another two year term 2009)

Directors – Gail Willi 2007 and Lucy LeCleir (appointed by the president in 2007) have agreed to run for another three year term 2010. There is one vacant position for the Director class of 2009 and Director class of 2010. Candidates are being recruited and they will be nominated at the membership meeting for these vacancy.

In addition to the election of Officers and Directors a by-law change is being recommended by the Board of Directors. Presently the by-laws require the terms of the President and Vice President be a different year than the Secretary and Treasurer. The Board of Directors recommend this be changed so the terms of President and Treasurer expire in the same year and the Vice President and Secretaries be the following year. It should be noted at present we have combined the duties of the Recording and Corresponding Secretaries in one position. We want to keep the option open to go back to two secretaries and are not recommending a change to the by-laws at this time.

Article VI Elections: Section 1. b. The President and Vice President Treasurer shall be elected in alternate years of the Vice President and Secretaries (2). and Treasurer. To accomplish this change, if approved, we only need to extend Mary McKenna's term one year to 2009. The officers' terms will be:

President - Dave Gordon 2008 Vice President – Arly Engel 2009 (2007 elected for two year term) Treasurer – Kathy Forsgren 2008 Secretary – Mary McKenna 2009 (Extend term one year) CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AREA HISTORY CENTER 123 Allen ST. Chippewa Falls, WI 54729-2898 715-723-4399



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THE EAGLE SPEAKS

DECEMBER 2007

Preserving Your Past — For Future Generations