

# THE EAGLE SPEAKS

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 2007



“OLD ABE”

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Tilden Creamery

## Where did they all go?

ARLEY R. ENGEL

One of the big topic’s at the “Old Wheaton Farmers Breakfast” at the Four Corners Restaurant and Bar on Monday mornings at 9:00 am is about milk trucks and milk routes to different creameries from the Wheaton area and surrounding townships.

Our conversation includes the type of trucks to the size of the enclosed milk vans of yesterday. At the early stage of milk hauling with trucks there was only open rack truck beds. Some of our breakfast crew hauled milk with these rigs. We have some of the last surviving haulers of this era in our breakfast crew. Robert Goulet started hauling milk in the Wheaton area about 1942. The route was to Dolly Madison Dairy in Eau Claire. The open rack truck was a 1937 Chevrolet, owned by my Uncle Fred and his brother Charlie Roberts. Trucks being smaller and narrower in those days this rack may have held only about 50 cans on the floor, with high racks at the front standard there was room to double deck maybe 10 more cans. There was a canvas tarp that was pulled over the top of the cans to keep some of the dust out from the gravel roads of the day.

Later on about 1944 the dairy required the haulers of grad A milk to have an enclosed van. My older brother Eugene Earl Engel used to ride along with Robert Goulet on this route, as a young lad about 9 years old. At this time World War II was going

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*All great things are only a number of small things that have carefully been collected together. Author Unknown*

## LOCAL NEWS

### STANLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### Stanley Hosts West Central Regional Convention on September 22

DAVID JANKOWSKI, REPORTER

Since the formal opening of our museum for the season the weekend of June 2 and 3, we have been busy with visitors and hosting events. Our 2007 exhibits feature the Village of Boyd, the Town of Delmar and Stanley 100 Years Ago — 1907. Many interesting artifacts and souvenirs of Boyd are featured.

Marcy Ruff curator of the Boyd history room located at the Boyd Village Hall has served as a consultant on Boyd history. Bev Hompe, ably assisted by Connie Pozdell, has again led the development of our 2007 exhibits. Volunteers, under Bev's direction, have also provided a great deal of assistance. The museum located at 228 Helgerson Street is open Saturdays and Sundays 1-4 p.m. during August and on Sundays in September.

During winter the Stanley museum underwent some remodeling and new construction. New front doors in the original building have been installed, new bulletin board space in the original building has been added and the former cloakrooms have been made into more user friendly storage space.

The Stanley museum had several presentations and special events during June and July. On June 9, Marcy Ruff gave a well received presentation on the "Early History of Boyd." On June 23, Stanley hosted the Clark County Historical Society, which held their semi-annual meeting at our museum. COVER

**STANLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### COVER STORY CONTINUED

strong and all the farmers were striving for the most production of milk that they could get to help the war effort. Plus, nearly all of our neighbors raised a cash crop of peas, cabbage and sweet corn. There were 243 German prisoners of war that were retained in some Quonset housing at the Altoona Fair grounds next to the Consumers Coop Shopping Center. These young men were put to work at the local canning factories, and in the farm fields to help harvest the food products. While our young men were sent to fight the war.

The milk hauling in Wheaton was done by many different individuals. I will name as many as we can remember and list the dairies they hauled milk to. Jim Stahlbush hauled to Ladysmith Milk Producers at Stanley, Charlie Reed hauled to Chippewa County Coop at Bloomer, Fred and Charlie Roberts hauled to Dolly Madison Dairy at Eau Claire, Ed "Spot" Langel hauled to Colfax Coop Creamery, Ed Menard hauled to Ladysmith Milk Producers at Stanley.

Ray Horvatin moved into the Wheaton area around 1945, he had a REO truck and hauled to Colfax Coop Creamery, then later changed to Rusk Coop Dairy. He had a 1946 stub nosed Ford somewhere in this period. All the milk haulers had snow plows for their trucks at this time. It was the only reason we could get out many times as the township did not have the equipment to get the roads plowed as quickly as they do nowadays. These snow plows had pump hydraulic lifts. This was a very tedious job, so the haulers usually had a rider go along just to pump the plow up or release the fluid and lower the plow when they drove into the driveways. Then the farmer usually needed a path plowed to another area on the farm making for more loss of time. Back to the routes, Ray changed dairies again about 1949 to Sanna Dairies at Menomonie then shortly after to Falls Dairy Company at Jim Falls. Leonard Geissler hauled to Tilden Coop Creamery. Merlin Harch bought a route and hauled to Falls Dairy at Jim Falls. Raymond "Red" Johnson hauled for Merlin.

Another neighbor Herb Peterson hauled for Ed menard trucking to Ladysmith Milk Producers at Stanley. George Schwartz had a route to Chippewa County Coop Dairy at Bloomer. Bob Goulet worked for George in 1945-1946. In 1947 Bob bought his own route, this route was south of Eau Claire on Highway 85 in the Carryville, Rock Falls, Merridean area. This milk was hauled to the Chippewa County Coop at Bloomer. He had a new international truck on this route with an enclosed 66 can floor van with double decking racks front, center and rear. He also hauled 2 or 3 farmers milk to Gibson Dairy, a milk bottling plant near the Silver Springs Garden area. My brother Eugene would go on this route with Bob or if Ray Horvatin needed help, Eugene or I would go along with him. The day after he graduated in 1951 my brother Eugene bought his first route from Ray Horvatin — this started his career in milk hauling. Other than one year when he sold his route and went to California to work at a dairy, he has hauled milk all of his life. His claim to fame is 65 years of hauling milk with one year of vacation.

Other haulers from the Wheaton area were Lawrence and Dan Beaudette, hauling

*"I so enjoy this newsletter and always pass it on to friends or family to enjoy as well!"*

*Delores C. Woodford*



to Colfax Coop Creamery. Clem Bresina hauled to Chippewa County Coop and later to Clover Dairy Company in Chippewa Falls. Gerald Rowe also hauled to Clover Dairy Company. Ray Johnson hauled to Chippewa County Coop at Bloomer. Fritz Wikan had a route to Dolly Madison Dairy and Oak Park Dairy in Eau Claire. Ed Wikan hauled to maple Island Creamery at New Richmond, later the routes were switched to Boyceville Coop Creamery for Grade A and Connersville Coop Creamery for Grade B milk. Ed had a 1951 GMC when I first hauled for him, then in 1953 he purchased a 1953 GMC equipped with a 3 cyl diesel 3C53 engine, with a 5 speed manual transmission. And it was coupled with a 3 speed Browing auxiliary transmission, giving 15 speeds forward and 3 speeds in reverse. This was a tandem axle truck with a 104 can floor van, 6.5 cans wide and 15 cans long. A one of a kind rig for the times.

A little earlier than this, the Roarson family had a creamery in Albertville. Some of the haulers to this creamery were Chris Jensen, Frances Goulet and Herb Steinmetz. This is where Don and Dick Jensen got their start hauling milk. Eddie Topper hauled to this creamery. He was killed in an accident one foggy morning on Highway 29 just west of the Adolph Bove farm. A semi was passing another semi and they met head on. One of the first vehicles at the scene was a school bus driven by I.P. "Red" Berg. I am told that Red worked with the ambulance service out of Kemps Garage in Chippewa Falls at the time. Seeing the condition of the accident victims, they took the semi driver on the bus to St. Joseph hospital.

Norm Nelson hauled to Wisconsin Cooperative Creamery at Elk Mound. Ted Miller had a route to Chippewa County Coop at Bloomer. Later he started a route to Falls Dairy Company at Jim Falls, Ted later became a Fieldman with the dairy and Russel Culver took over his route.

Our Farmers Breakfast Group includes Robert Goulet, Jim Bowe, Jerry Schneider, Eugene Engel, Marvin Lynn, Jody Reed, Bill Goulet, Jim Syverson, Ken Syverson and me, Arley Engel. At one time or other we all hauled milk for these local haulers. What has happened? Where did they all go? Nearly all of the creameries are closed. Falls Dairy at Jim Falls and Sanna Dairy at Menomonie are the only ones left. Some other creameries in the Wheaton area in the days gone by include, Champion's Gold Seal Dairy, Town Line Creamery, Chippewa Model Dairy, Brunstads Dairy, Rooney's Dairy, Cripe's Dairy.

Some of the other hauler's into Falls Dairy back in the milk can days include: Milton "Mitz" Hartman, Duane Fox, Clem Fox, Jim Bergeron Perry Fisk, Ralph Arneson, Don Lemke and Jack McCann. I'm sure there were others in this period but these are the ones that I remember. That's all for now from Engel's Little House on the Wheaton Prairie. 🐄

## CALENDAR

### Place these dates on your calendar

June 26

Historical Society – Board of Directors  
9:15 a.m. History Center

July 17

Historical Society – Board of Directors  
9:15 a.m. History Center

Aug 1

Last date to get material in for  
the next newsletter



**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**

## LOCAL NEWS

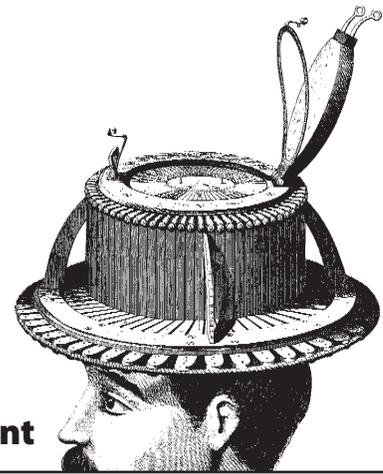
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Following a potluck lunch, Richard Kozibal from Eau Claire provided a special presentation on the Palaces and Castles of Poland. Richard is a retired professor and is very knowledgeable on Poland as he makes regular trips to that country. On July 28-29, a local quilting group held their annual quilt show at the museum.

Our group is now gearing up to host the 2007 West Central Regional Convention of the Wisconsin Council for Local History on September 22. A highlight of that meeting will be a narrated bus tour of three country churches (including the oldest Russian Orthodox Church building in Wisconsin) in the morning. Following the tour an ethnic meal will be served. Attendees will be able to interact with fellow preservers of local history all during the day. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Cost is \$20 and includes registration, morning coffee and pastries, bus transportation, admissions to three churches and lunch. An enjoyable day is guaranteed! Send registration and check to: SAHS, P.O. 142, Stanley 54768-0142.

Perhaps the biggest news is that we have torn down the house just south of our museum where our new 36'x70' exhibit and storage building will be built. We have received state approval of our plan, are currently soliciting bids and hope to start construction soon. The special exhibits in this new building will be a 1906 Cadillac that we recently received from the estate of a former member and the 1,400 beer taps that we received from another estate several years ago. We are excited about seeing this project completed as it has been on our drawing board for a long time. 🍷

## A Message From Your President



The computer age is coming to the Chippewa County Historical Society. While our Treasurer and Photograph Archivist have been using computers to assist them in their responsibilities we are far from utilizing this important tool through out all areas of the Society. Our goal is to have five computers networked to help us with all the record keeping required to preserve our counties rich history. John Hancock of Spectrum Industries has volunteer to help us get more computers and network all our computers. We acquired a computer from The Open Door Clinic when they upgraded their computers. This computer allows us to begin putting all the information about our artifacts on the computer to make it very accessible to all. The first step was to load up and use an Excel spread sheet that Freddie and Wayne Jensen had created listing basic information about the more than 5500 artifacts, books and manuscripts in the Society's collection. Changes are being made to allow this data to be sorted by donors last name and by general categories. These general categories such as logging, military, people, implements to name a few, will allow a person to reduce the records they have to search through to find the item they need.

Next came a search for software that other museums and historical societies are using. Susan McCloud of the Chippewa Valley Museum suggested the software they use called

PASTPERFECT. After looking at this software used by over 5000 medium to small sized museums we decide it was what we needed. The Board of Directors approved this purchase and suggested we look for someone who might fund this purchase. Thanks to a grant from The Casper Foundation we have the funds needed to order the software. We are anxiously are awaiting its arrival. The information in the Excel spreadsheet will be put into the new software and in addition all of the hand written detail about each artifact will be added. The software also will handle membership records, mailing labels for The Eagle Speaks, show what artifacts are on exhibit and what are in storage and many other helpful features.

We've had an increase in visitors the last several weeks. We feel we are the best-kept secret in Chippewa County and continue to work to make people aware of where we are and the exhibits we have in the museum. Our collection continues to grow with contributions from family members of Chippewa residents including some who don't live in the area anymore. We have artifacts from Dolores Beaudette as a result of her moving from her home to an apartment, Lawrence Crawley estate, Dorothy Holtz and Inez Holtz Kruger estate, Konsella Drug and Gene Harm's logging collection.

I had an interesting visit with Rosemary Broeren, a teacher at Park View who is the assistant curriculum coordinator for K-5. She is working on incorporating more local history in the various classes. The conversation stimulated me to activate our Education

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 🍷



Tom Dachel



Eagle Bearers

Photo from the Civil War Exhibit

## Ancient History in Cadott's Riverview Park

JUDY GILLES

Imagine a mountain range vista 10 miles high stretching northeast from Wyoming through Wisconsin in southeastern Ontario. Imagine other vistas of vast shallow seas, mile high ice sheets, rivers flowing north to Hudson Bay or standing near the equator. At one time in our earth's history you could have seen all these vistas in Cadott. We have had mountains (1800 mya), seas, north flowing rivers, been located at the equator instead of half-way between the equator and the north pole (600 mya) and numerous polar ice caps over the last 1 mya. (Note: mya stands for million years ago)

A brief explanation of our vast geological history is now available at Riverview Park on the banks of Yellow River. Dr. Paul Myers, retired geology professor at UW-Eau Claire frequently studied the geology around the Cadott area. Dr. Myers designed 4 interpretive geological signs to provide a concise overview for community members and visitors. Two signs are located in the upper park and two signs are below the dam on the north side of the Main Street bridge.

An exciting part of this history can still be seen below the Cadott Dam. The Precambrian rocks exposed along the Yellow River contain elements of geological history not seen elsewhere and are well exposed. The rocks are dark grey amphibolites and their age is about 1,850 million years. The signs below the dam will help visitors locate the rocks.

Three of the signs were donated by the Cadott Economic Development Corporation and one sign by the McConville family. A park plot map interpretive sign, designed by Ben Polzin and donated by the Lions Club, will assist visitors in locating signage.

In a 2004 e-mail to Judy Gilles, Dr. Myers expressed some of his hopes for the impact of these signs. Myers hopes they will help to build community involvement and awareness of the importance of stewardship in preserving local history. This place is "our special place." He would like to see us increase each individual's appreciation of Cadott's unique geological history and his/her responsibility for preserving it.

With the arrival of warm weather take some time to visit the park and read up on our ancient history. Consider including in your plans a stop at one of our excellent local eating establishments to pick up a picnic lunch to enjoy at our beautiful park. 🍷

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Committee to get them working with Rosemary, who has volunteered to be on the committee, to develop tours, traveling exhibits, and other helpful material for teachers to use. Watch for more on this.

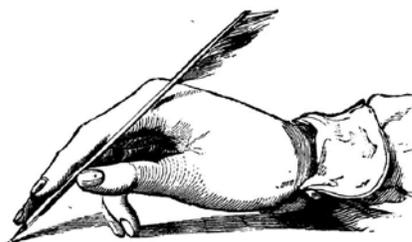
Got an interest in local history and a willingness to help out. We need you. There are lots of things to be done. We're here every Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. when we are open to the public and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. 12:00 noon for volunteers to work.

🍷 -Dave

Committees in sync!



# Donations



## Chippewa County Historical Society Committee Members

### \* Collection & Artifacts:

\*Evalyn Frasch, Nancy Schuh, Donovan Olson, Vicki Nelson, Terri Ouimet

### Photography Sub Committee:

\*Lucyann LeCleur

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\*Mary McKenna

### \* Publicity:

\*Jim Schuh, Betty Plombon, Wayne Meyer

### \* Space Utilization:

\*Don Baker

\* Chairperson

Correction from last newsletter: a \$35 donation from F.W. "Bill" & Sara H. Barnes should have been listed in memory of James Schumacher.

### Donations in Memory of: From:

Crystal Gordon	Kathy Forsgren .....	10.00
James Schumacher	Donald & Delores Bichner.....	20.00
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*Endowment Fund:  
 In memory of James Schumacher  
 and  
 To Honor - Winifred Glass Jensen  
 "For her unmeasured  
 contribution to the Society  
 and its accomplishments"*

Cecelia Loken, Hope Loken Klein, Joshua Klein

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY  
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 2007-2009  
 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

**DONATIONS** CONTINUED

John O'Neil

Robert & Nancy Morgan .....	10.00
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American Legion Post 77 .....	10.00
Marjorie McManus .....	10.00
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Ann Marie, Terry Durch & Family .....	20.00
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Mona Gasper .....	5.00

**Contributing Memberships:**

Dr. Gary & Carol Gienapp .....	\$50.00
--------------------------------	---------

**Life Memberships:**

Dave & Ann Gordon .....	\$175.00
Dick & Julie Stafford .....	175.00
Thomas Chisholm .....	175.00

**In Honor of:**

Winifred Glass Jensen	Cecelia Loken .....
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**Community Foundation Contributions:**

James Schumacher	Robert & Leatr Dirks .....	\$20.00
	Cecelia Loken .....	
Wayne Jensen	Northwestern Bank .....	200.00
	Duane E. Dingmann .....	\$50.00

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# THE EAGLE SPEAKS



SEPTEMBER 2007

*Preserving Your Past — For Future Generations*