



THE COLUMNS

Newsletter of the Pepin County Historical Society

Vol. XXI, No. 1

Affiliate of the Wisconsin Historical Society

March 2007

President's Message:

We are looking forward to the upcoming season at the Old Courthouse Museum. We'll be starting off with our annual Spring Meeting on April 15th; all members are encouraged to attend. Not only will we have a dynamic speaker, Mary Ellen Brue, but we will also be looking for your ideas for the Pepin County Sesquicentennial Celebration coming up in 2008.

Three seats on the PCHS Board of Directors will be up for election. These seats are currently held by Jon Dodge, John Solie and myself. All three of us have indicated our willingness to serve another three-year term, but anyone else who is interested in being on the board will have the opportunity to be nominated at the annual meeting. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the Spring Meeting; my family and I will be out of town visiting my son.

As always, I wish to thank our board members, volunteer hosts at the museum, the wonderful group of regular Tuesday workers who keep our museum growing

TOURS, RESEARCH, QUERIES

Persons interested in making arrangements for museum tours, doing research, asking questions about the collection, etc., should call the museum phone at (715)672-5423 or call the Pepin County Resource Office (715)-672-5709.

PCHS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

2:00 P.M. - Sunday, April 15, 2007

Durand High School - Cafeteria

Durand, Wisconsin

Featured presentation:

"Those Were the Days"

by Mary Ellen Brue

Mary Ellen Brue is a wife, mother of two and grandmother of four. She and her husband Don, live at Baldwin, Wis. She is the great-granddaughter of Caroline Coffin who was known as Miss Parker, the teacher, in the books about Caddie Woodlawn.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin River Falls, she has a B. S. degree in Elementary Education and a minor in Library Science. While student teaching, Mary Ellen began collecting materials and information about Caddie Woodlawn. She has continued to collect historic information while doing genealogical research.

Mary Ellen makes history come alive with her dramatization, presentation and display of pioneer time antiques and clothing. She provides information about the "real" people in the books *Caddie Woodlawn* and *Magical Melons* and information about Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Her repertoire of programs varies from 30-60 minutes and include: *"Pioneer Days"* (*Caddie Woodlawn* and *Laura Ingalls Wilder*); *"Those Good Old Days"* (the 1940-50's); *"School Days- School Days"* (rural schools and books); and *"Yesterday's Toys-Today's Memories"* (for church Mother/ Daughter events).

She was a substitute teacher at the elementary school level for several years, and then had a career as a professional staff member of the Girl Scout Council of St. Croix Valley in rural western Wisconsin. She is now retired. Her interests are her family, genealogy, reading and writing about the good old days and her memoirs.

Mary Ellen is a member of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, is a trustee on the Indianhead Federated Library System Board, and a member of St. Croix County Home and Community Education. She is a lifetime member of the Girl Scouts of the USA and is on the St. Croix Valley Girl Scout Camps, Inc. board of directors. She was a member of the Wisconsin Humanities Council Speakers Bureau in 20004-2005. She volunteers for a variety of community and church projects.

SOCIETY NEWS

PCHS TREASURER Galen Radle's financial report for 2006 shows the Society is in excellent fiscal condition. Expenses did exceed receipts for the year, however, good fiscal management in the past has resulted in a comfortable cushion with which the PCHS Board has to work. Receipts from memberships, memorials, donations, interest, and sales of cards, books, bricks, etc., during 2006 totaled \$7,076. Total 2006 expenditures, meanwhile, were \$8,163. Numerous repairs and improvements were made at the Old Courthouse Museum during the year (see below). Anyone who would like to see an itemization of expenditures can request a copy by calling the Old Courthouse Museum phone @ (715)672-5423 and leaving a message.

MUSEUM NEWS

ATTENDANCE at the Old Courthouse Museum during 2006 was more than 600, up by at least 100 from 2005. The busiest day was September 16th when the City of Durand celebrated its 150th birthday; more than 250 people were in the building checking things out, viewing exhibits, asking questions, waiting to appear during the vintage clothing contest held on the front porch. The next busiest days when the museum was open to the public were (once again) during Durand Funfest Weekend. The largest groups touring the museum were in May during the annual Law Day/Mock Trials organized by the Pepin County Bar Association for fifth graders and the annual visit by third graders along with teachers and chaperones from Durand area schools.

OUR GENEROUS VOLUNTEERS contributed 670 hours of their time to keep our museum going and our Society on course during 2006. Four key volunteers show up every Tuesday and have been tirelessly (and tearlessly) cataloguing and protecting valuable photographs, letters, documents, artifacts, etc. Irma Bauer, Judy Schwellenbach, Pat Ulwelling, and Julie Rinholen have been regular Tuesday work-day volunteers.

OUR SATURDAY VOLUNTEER HOSTS contributed another 132 hours of time keeping our doors open to the public each week. Big THANK YOUs to all Volunteer Hosts!! (check page 3 for your assignments for 2007)

IMPROVEMENTS at the Old Courthouse Museum during 2006 included new lighting in the central hallway; the old eight-ft. fluorescent tube lighting system was replaced with halogen and incandescent spot and floodlights which better accent the exhibits. Clair Hurlburt Electric did the work. The storm-cellar door and steps to the basement at the rear of the building were replaced by 3-4-5 Construction. Gundy's Painting painted the new cellar doors and repainted the handicap-accessibility ramp. PCHS also replaced the green sign on the northwest corner of the lawn with a new black-on-white sign. But, perhaps most significant, PCHS purchased and installed a State Historical Marker on the front lawn. This marker will be listed among the state's historical markers and will attract folks from around the state to view this stately old building. PCHS paid for all these improvements and repairs.

Meanwhile, the County's insurance paid for replacement of the siding along the entire northeast side of the building, which was damaged by hail. We got a good look at the old wood siding underneath and it is still solid. However, the wood is so old workers doubted it would hold a coat of paint for very long.

Memorials received:

For	From
Ruth Auth	Ruth Herbst Galen/Bernadine Radle Thalice Nicklas
Arthur Bates	Galen/Bernadine Radle
Greg Dahl	Galen/Bernadine Radle Ruth Herbst Marie Schaefer
John Jordan	Galen/Bernadine Radle
Helen Plummer	Mark/Shari Werlein
Kenneth Pomasl	Galen/Bernadine Radle Gwen Kins Rockwell Marj Goodrich Greeley Bob/Betty(Goodrich)Hipke Bud/Caroline Goodrich Bill/Barbara(Goodrich)Clasen Eugene/Kitty Gibson Lindsay Pomasl Koepke
Herman Weissinger	Galen/Bernadine Radle
Georgeanne Wolf	Lee/Gayle Grippen



A gift membership to the Pepin County Historical Society is a great way to show your thoughtfulness and care for someone special.



Pepin County Historical Society

Officers:

President: Kim Wagenbach
Vice-Pres.: Jon Dodge
Secretary: Roberta Stuart
Treasurer: Galen Radle

Directors:

Rita Conlin, John Solie, Lois Laehn,
Jean Kannel, Lynn Coulson

"THE COLUMNS" is published three times a year by the Pepin County Historical Society.
Editor: Terry J. Mesch

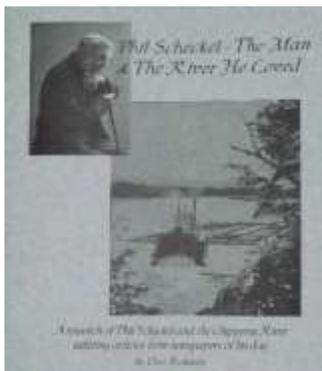
Signs of the Times



New sign on the NW corner of the front yard; created by Company One/Wm. D. Hoesser. The old green sign has been installed at the rear of the building.



New State Historical Marker unveiled Sept. 16th during the City of Durand's Sesquicentennial.



"Phil Scheckle - The Man & The River He Loved" Compiled and written by Don Rahman. This book was published by PCHS in December of 2006 and is available for \$10 per copy. Call (715)672-5423 for details.

SATURDAY VOLUNTEER HOSTS FOR 2006

May 26	- Rita Conlin & Terry Mesch
June 2	- Gwelda Glaus & Lou Simpson
June 9	- Judy Schwellenbach & Joyce Haigh
June 10	- Terry Mesch & Lori Miller
June 16	- Roger & Alice Bauer
June 23	- Chuck & Lois Laehn
June 30	- Don & Irma Bauer
July 7	- Jon & Loni Dodge
July 14	- Diane Bauer & Carol Danzinger
July 21	- Gerald & Deanna Rippley
July 28	- John & Linda Solie
Aug 4	- Pat Miller & Sadie Hagness
Aug 11	- Pat Ulwelling & Evelyn Holmstadt
Aug 18	- Pat & Rosemary Achenbach
Aug 25	- Kim and Lynette Wagenbach
Sept 1	- Roberta Stuart & Rosemary
Carlisle	
Sept 8	- Galen & Bernadine Radle
Sept 15	- Don & Jean Kannel
Sept 22	- Bernard & Lorraine Brenner
Sept 29	- Donna Setterlund & Jean Kannel
Oct 6	- LaVern Crapser & Joanne Gilbault
Oct 13	- Linda DeLong & Julie Rinholen

Old Courthouse Museum is open Saturdays 1 - 4 pm.

Any of the above volunteer hosts with scheduling conflicts should contact Volunteer Host Coordinator Lois Laehn at 672-4883.

The Old Courthouse Museum periodically needs hosts for special events and Saturday substitutes. If you would like to serve as a museum host, please call 672-5423 to leave a message.



This miniature log cabin on display in Room Two in the museum was modeled after an actual log cabin owned by Steven and Mary LaPean. The cabin stood in the Town of Waterville, a couple miles west of Arkansaw, along what is now Pickering Lane.

Pepin County Historical Society
OLD COURTHOUSE MUSEUM
 Washington Square
 P.O. Box 74
 Durand, WI 54736

PRST STD
 Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. postage
PAID
 Durand, WI
 Permit No. 5



PCHS ANNUAL MEETING -

Sunday, April 15

2 pm - DHS Cafeteria

Guest Speaker: MARY ELLEN BRUE

"Those Were the Days"

(see inside for details)

DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 2 - PCHS Board @ Museum 5:00 pm
- May 18, 19, 20 - Spring Art Tour (museum open)
- May 26 - Opening Day of '06 Season
- Jun 6 - PCHS Board @ Museum 5:00 pm
- July 11 - PCHS Board @ Museum 5:00 pm
- July 16 - Potluck Picnic 5:30 pm @ TBD
- Aug 1 - PCHS Board @ Museum 5:00 pm
- Sep 5 - PCHS Board @ Museum 5:00 pm
- Oct 3 - PCHS Board @ Museum 5:00 pm
- Oct 13 - Last Day of '06 Season
- Oct 14 - Fall Meeting 2:00 pm @ TBD

Join us!

MEMBERSHIPS:

- \$5 Individual
- \$8 Family
- \$25 Friends of Museum
- \$25 Business/Professional
- \$50 Contributing
- \$100 Sponsor
- \$1000 Lifetime

A ***GREEN DOT*** on your label indicates your 2007 membership dues have not been received! Please send ASAP!

Name _____

—

Address _____



The Pepin Depot Museum is located along State Highway 35 in the Laura Ingalls Wilder Park in the Village of Pepin. This building was the original Pepin depot and was saved from destruction years ago by a former railroad employee. Now restored, it's full of railroad and steamboat memorabilia donated by museum patrons. Volunteer staff are on hand to help bring the past alive. Souvenirs are for sale. The museum is open daily May through November. Support your local historical museums.