



Old Franklin Township Historical Society Newsletter

December 2007 - Volume 1, Issue 4

Second Annual Chili Supper

On November 3, 2007 we held our second annual Harvest Chili Supper. This is a continuation of the fundraising project started last year to restore the hall & renovate the basement to use as an office and research area. Mary Frances Nachreiner again did a super job of organizing our chili supper, as she also organized our brat stand twice this past year. We appreciate her organization ability. Thanks also to our extra helpers: Teresa Lins, Judy Diehl, Ed Liegel and boys from school Jacob, Cody, Tony and Gary, we had a very successful event. Our community support has been great. Thanks!

Chili Supper Photos



Door prize winners:

Winner of the basket was Pat Blau & there were three other winners of a 24 pack of soda.



Tailgate table built by Wayne Dearborn. Thanks!

Silent auction winners were:

- Tailgate table – Kirk & Tara Neuman
- Christmas Cookies – Tim & Ann Ryan
- 6 Pies – Tim & Ann Ryan
- Hickory Nutmeats – Deb Moody

Old Franklin Township Historical Society would like to express a great "BIG THANK YOU" to everyone that has donated toward the renovation of the "Old Town Hall" this past year. Since we are a non-profit organization, none of this would happen without community support.

Donation for Renovation 2006-2007

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Allen & Sue Clapp | I Diehl Tap | Norm and Louise Kraemer |
| Allen Dischler | Irene Yanke | Peggy Jewell |
| Bettinger House | James & Carol Jeffries | Plain Investors |
| Bill & Helen Birkemeier | James & May Lou Roy | Plain Kwik Stop |
| Bill & Linda Kulow | James Geishirt | Ralph Ruhland |
| Byron & Joan Holston | Jason Schluter | Randy Liegel |
| Carol Meixelsperger | Jeff & Lynn Foster | Ray Ellenbolt |
| Dan & Teresa Lins | Jeff Meise | Red Hat Society |
| Dan Wankerl | Jeffrey Schluter | Richard Carver |
| Darryl Dischler | Jerome & Evelyn Nachreiner | Richard Vogt |
| Dave Ruhland | Jim & Lori Straka | Robert Nachreiner |
| David & Carol Lins | Jim & Rita Gundry | Robert Schanke Memorial |
| Dean and Marian Burmester | Joe & Lucille Wankerl | Rodney Liegel |
| Dick Powell | Joe & Polly Kraemer | Roger & Rita Liegel |
| Ed & Mary Jayne Liegel | John & Kathy Straka | Roger Bussan |
| Ed & Sharon Bettinger | Judi Diehl | Rudy & Ilene Feiner |
| Evy Weiss | Karl Kraemer | The Farmers Co. |
| Elsie Haas | Kenny Krey | The People's Community Bank |
| Eugene Setwyn | Kraemer Brothers | Tim & Ann Ryan |
| Felix Ring | Larry Blau | Tom & Soni Kraemer |
| Francis Hetzel | Liegel Acres | Vic & Jac Kraemer |
| Fred Kraemer | Linda & David Marquardt | Vicky & Vern Meinholz |
| Gary & Marcia Kraemer | Lori Terbilcox | Wayne & Phyllis Dearborn |
| George and Rita Brey | Marion Liegel | |
| George Soeldner | Marv & Kath Ruhland | |
| Gerald Meixelsperger | Michael & Katherine Kieler | |
| Gertrude Bindl Memorial | Michael Alexander | |
| Gloria Weth | Michael Cockren | |
| Herb & Linda Paulus | Mr. & Mrs. Richard Nachreiner | |

If you have donated money, and don't find your name on the list, please let us know.



Time to think ahead to Christmas shopping!

Get an early start this year. Our society has a few items that might make good stocking stuffers.

Contact any member of the society or mail to: Old Franklin Township Historical Society; 915 Wachter Ave.; P.O. Box 218; Plain, Wisconsin 53577.

Index to Hildegard Thering's book "A History of Plain, Wisconsin" \$10 plus shipping & handling \$2.90
(This is an index only)

Town of Franklin 1955 Centennial Parade – DVD \$20 plus shipping & handling \$1.10

Town of Franklin 1955 Centennial Parade – VHS \$20 plus shipping & handling \$2.80

Cards created by Patricia Blakeslee (with either photo or logo of old town hall on front) - \$5 each

Indian Artifact Presentation at Kraemer Library



On September 6, Thomas Pleger, Dean of the University of Wisconsin Baraboo/Sauk County, presented a slide program covering the entry of the first Americans into the North American continent through the land bridge that connected Asia and America by way of the Bering Sea Strait. The land bridge was the result of enormous amounts of water (snow and rainfall) being locked into glaciers, which covered much of the Northern Hemisphere. This was the last Ice Age when ocean depth dropped dramatically from lack of melt-water.

These first Americans were hunters and they followed their prey South and Eastward and eventually settled what is now Canada and the U. S. A. others followed the West Coast of

America and settled both North and South America.

Archeologists have established several stages of early human habitation. These stages are identified by the differing types of artifacts, which then can be associated within a time frame.

Wisconsin Archaeological Time Stages

10,000 B.C.- 5,000 B.C.

5,000 B.C.-1,000 B. C.

1,000 B.C.-1,000 A.D.

1,000 A.D.-2,000 A.D.

Ice covered to Early Archaic

Middle Archaic to Early Woodland

Late Woodland to Azatlan

Historic

Professor Pleger's slides were especially interesting, as they depicted what happened specifically in Wisconsin during these time periods. Joe Wankerl displayed an extensive collection of artifacts, which included examples from each of the Wisconsin Archaeological Stages listed above. Of particular interest were the tools such as axes, awls, knives, scrapers,



spear points, arrows and triangle points. Some of these tools were unique, since they were made from stones which are not found in this area. Some of the artifacts also came from the Wankerl farm.

To contact Dean Tom Pleger, write to:
Thomas C. Pleger, Ph.D.; 1006 Connie
Rd.; Baraboo, WI. 53913.

By Joe Wankerl

Would you like to submit articles for our newsletter...?



Do our readers have interesting local history or family genealogy?

Do you have any unanswered questions dealing with local history or family genealogy?

Let us know and we will print it in our next newsletter. Just send it to any of the officers listed on the back of our newsletter or email to Marian (Ruhland) Burmester trkyhnt811@lycos.com

Joe Wankerl hesitates to talk about himself, but he has extensive knowledge about his collection and very generously gave of his time, working with Professor Pleger, to prepare this presentation and answer questions after it. We were pleased to have 30 people attend our first free presentation. There will be more in the future.



Also displayed were a Winnebago basket and artifacts found on the Herman Weiss farm, now owned by Mike Wittman. The Winnebago basket was given to one of Plain's early settlers, Michael Nachreiner. In the 1850's, an Indian appeared at his log cabin door, situated on the south of St. Anne's Hill, and asked for salt pork in exchange for the basket. This basket was handed down in the Nachreiner family from Michael, to his son, Joseph X, to his son, Albert, to his grand niece, Phyllis Liegel Dearborn, along with the story about it. This basket is now a part of our society's collection. Lucy Herbrand brought the artifacts

from her son's farm, along with an article about Chief White Eagle, who used to come to their farm and pick up arrowheads and other artifacts.

By Phyllis Dearborn

Mystery Photo

We have this photo in our Diehl collection and think it is from the Plain area. Could it be the first motorized hearse? Does anyone reading this newsletter know anything about this picture?



St. Luke's High School In Action

World War II had finally ended and immigrant families in the U. S.A. could once again write freely to their families in Germany.

One of the first letters came from Sister Hartwiga Wankerl, Order of Notre Dame. She begged for food and clothing for her orphan children. She asked for enough muslin cloth to make "habits" for herself and the other nuns. The Nazi government destroyed all, their religious garb and they were forbidden to make new ones.

I was a Sophomore in St. Luke's High School at this time. I asked the Dominican Sisters of St. Luke's if they could help find the correct material for making the new Notre Dame habits. My parents purchased the cloth and sent it via C.A.R.E.

Then it was decided by the Dominican Sisters of St. Luke's that the Home Ec class would donate all their sewing projects to the Orphans in the orphanage in Germany. There was much excitement in class as each girl (there were no boys) chose a project such as a dress, blouse, jumper, shirt, or trousers and even a hat. Then everything was packed and again sent by C.A.R.E. directly to the orphanage at Grafenrheinfeld, Germany.

There were tears of joy when these two pictures of the German orphans arrived....all of them dressed in their new outfits. Note the Sisters' Habits! The smiles on the children's faces tell it all!

Joe Wankerl
October 2007



Orphan children with Sr. Hartwiga Wankerl



Clothes made by St. Luke's Students in 1945-46

Follow-up:

What is the oldest house in Plain?

Pam Soeldner Liegel informed us that her father, George, says the oldest house still standing in Plain is located on Oak Street presently owned by John and Jackie Jewell. It first stood on Main Street and was a saloon. When Henry Reuschlein sold it, the building was moved to Oak Street to make room for a bank and Tony Hutter lived in it. Later Louis Hetzel owned and lived in it for many years prior to the present owner.

Recent donations since September 2007 to our society include:

- 1) Souvenir bowl with roses in yellow tones-"Nachreiner & Beck, Plain, WI" donated by Sister Jean Ferstl, O.P.
- 2) Plat books and farm directories from the 1950's-60's donated by Kathy & Frank Dwyer.
- 3) Carved Walnut floor easel, and sample board of different barb wires used in the Old West, donated by Rosemary & Bob Pulvermacher.
- 4) 1940 Chimes and German Prayer book- donated by John Frank
- 5) Book "Kraemer Chronicle" donated by Gwen & Duane Kraemer
- 6) Class of 1947-individual pictures donated by Carrie Pulvermacher.
- 7) Colored stained glass pieces from the windows of the 3rd St. Luke's church after the "cyclone" donated by Joanne and Bob Schanke.
- 8) Early school pictures donated by Mary Anne Liegel.
- 9) "Plain Indians" baseball uniform donated by Damian Kraemer.
- 10) Dress and Casual WW I Navy Uniforms of William Dwyer donated by his daughter Maureen Dwyer Kraemer.
- 11) Two beautiful Communion Certificates donated by Bill Bergman from his family line dating back to 1878.
- 12) Souvenir plate in green tones-"Nachreiner & Beck, Plain, WI" donated by Sauk Prairie Historical Society.

Many thanks goes to all those who helped us with their pictures for the 150th Exhibits.



From the President's desk....

Renovating the Town Hall is coming along, as funds are available. As I write this November 2, the fixtures in the bathroom are now installed, along with a small sink in the hospitality cabinet, where we will be able to plug in a coffeepot. The water heater has been installed and the heating system will be working shortly. New fanlight fixtures in the research area and a new light in the entry hallway, along with completion of electrical work in the basement will be accomplished by the end of November. These projects will deplete our remaining balance in the building fund.

We thank the community for supporting us at the September Brat Stand and Chili Supper, both of which were successful. November 30 completes the first year of our fundraising project and we are more than halfway toward our goal of \$65,000. This next year we hope to raise enough funds to have bookcases made and installed, purchase acid-free storage materials, as well as at least one computer that will support the PastPerfect software needed for museum and membership management. The Sauk County Arts, Humanities, and Historic Preservation Committee has granted us \$1600 to purchase this software (yes, it is very expensive); now we just need a computer with enough RAM to run it. If anyone out there knows of a computer guru/geek that could help us keep our computer system running smoothly, once we have it, please let someone on our board know.

We are so pleased that a member of our community, Joe Wankerl, is providing the articles for our December newsletter. Community involvement is critical to the success of our society. Thank you, Joe. We encourage anyone reading this, to submit articles for further newsletters. We can be proud of our local history, and telling our stories is a way to preserve it.

Grateful thanks goes to MaryJayne Liegel for all the time she spent this past summer collecting wonderful pictures and then preparing the great exhibit in the Town Hall for the 150th Anniversary of St. Luke's.

This newsletter completes our first year. How did we do? We had hoped that this newsletter would promote increasing membership and donations by letting the community know what we are about. Marian Burmester has done a wonderful job in setting up and publishing the newsletter. Thank you, Marian! If you enjoyed reading the newsletter, and are not yet a member, please consider joining us. Beginning in 2008, we will be doing as all other societies do; that is, sending the newsletter only to members and monetary donors.

Until next time..... Phyllis Dearborn email: pdear@dishmail.net



"If you don't know your history, then you don't know anything. You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree."

~ Michael Crichton

PHOTOS CELEBRATING ST. LUKE'S 150TH

We held an open house at
the old town hall in
conjunction with Alumni
Weekend & the Parish
Celebration.

October 13, 14, 20 & 21



Mary Jayne Liegel spent many hours collecting & decorating the old town hall honoring St. Luke's 150th. Some of the topics covered were prom, Irish jig dancing, band, old school books, student homework, Holy Communion, and many old school photos. This is just mentioning a few of the topics. The walls were just covered with old photos from the early 1900's to present day. What wonderful memories were brought back!



Christmas Wish List

- New interested members & volunteers
- 8-10 ft. used table-wooden top for research area
- Printers & copier or source for obtaining good used one
- Computers-at least 2 late models
- Build bookcases
- Files & computer desks



Memorial Donation

Do you have a loved one that you wish to be remembered through a donation?

Please complete the card below:

Donation In Memory Of _____

Donor _____

Address _____

Send to:
Mary Jayne Liegel, Treasurer
S8552 Valley View Rd.
Loganville, WI 53943



1918 Cyclone/Tornado Project

Just a little reminder, we are still looking for information, photos, stories, etc on the May 21, 1918 tornado. We will soon begin writing, but it is never too late to accept more material for our book. Our project deadline is June 2008.

Please contact:

Phyllis Dearborn, president; 1525 Honey Creek Drive; Plain, WI 53577; phone: 608-546-2395; pdear@dishmail.net

Marian Burmester, director; E3225 Hwy 58; LaValle, WI 53941; phone: 608-985-8063; trkyhnr811@lycos.com



Martin Yanke farm in Irish Valley



Another view of Lone Rock



Old Franklin Township Historical Society

915 Wachter Ave.
P.O. Box 218.
Plain, WI 53577

Postage
Stamp

PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE

This has been an exciting year because of the terrific leadership of our president Phyllis Dearborn and all the teamwork from the rest of the officers and directors. With all the community support that we have received hopefully this coming year can be just as exciting.

President: Phyllis Dearborn; 1525 Honey Creek Dr.; Plain, WI 53577

Vice President: Mary Frances Nachreiner; 1240 Oak St.; Plain, WI 53577

Treasurer: Mary Jayne Liegel; S8552 Valley View Rd.; Loganville, WI 53943

Secretary: Sandy Stiemke; E5551 Narrows Creek Rd.; Loganville, WI 53943

Directors: Karen Beth; 101 Park St.; P.O. Box 125; Rock Springs, WI 53961

Marian Burmester; E3225 Hwy. 58; LaValle, WI 53941

Jim Geishirt; S8598 Valley View Rd.; Loganville, WI 53543



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!