



Historical Perspectives

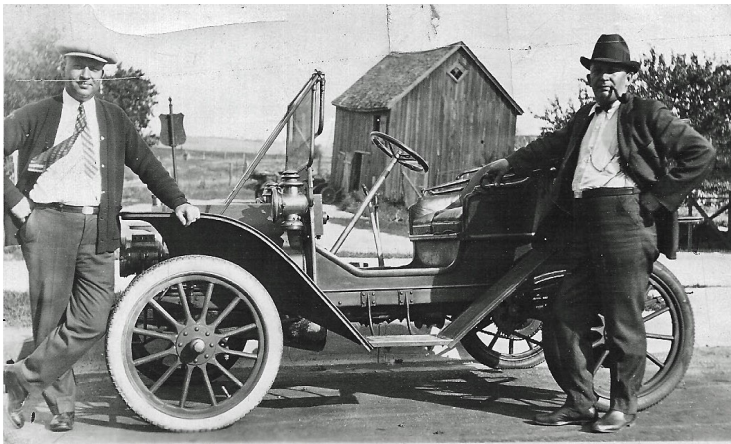
PORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 22, Issue 2

Summer 2011

History of Port Car Dealerships & Filling Stations

At one time there were at least five dealerships operating in the city of Port Washington. What happened to them?



Joe Blenker and Mr. Hames and a 1906 Buick

The July 20th Quarterly Meeting will be held in the showroom at the Schmit Bros. Ford dealership on Hwy 33. The topic of the program is “Car dealerships and filling stations in Port Washington beginning in 1908”. The program will include a slide show with pictures of the locations of the nineteen or so dealerships that sold automobiles in Port Washington beginning in 1908. In addition to the dealerships that provided gasoline at their establishments there have been seventeen service stations throughout the city. The term filling station changed over the years to service station and now “minimart” or “quik shoppe.” One hundred years have changed the focus of selling cars and gasoline. The customer now seeks gasoline and often lottery tickets and a quick snack or meal. Service to the car is usually done at the dealership. One thing remains the same at each of these establishments ... They are a gathering places for locals to chat about the events of the day and catch up on the latest gossip.

*Car Dealerships and Filling
Stations in Port Washington
Beginning in 1908*

Date: Wed., July 20th

Time: 7 pm

Place: Schmit Bros. Ford dealership on Hwy 33

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262-284-7240

Newsletter

open

Quarterly Programs

Mary Flierl

Membership

Ann Flierl

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portwashingtonhistoricalsociety.org

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Membership

\$20 Individual
\$30 Family
\$10 Student
\$75 Business
\$150 Lifetime

President's Message

It is hard to believe that we are at the midpoint of the year and the summer. Summer is a busy time for PWHS. The light station is off to a good start with a new director assistant in the person of Kathie Gordon, our Board Secretary, who has offered to take on the arranging of the tours and the guides for the light station. This will greatly assist the co-directors with that aspect of managing the building and program year. We still are looking for more guides, so please consider if you have time to offer in that direction. Kathie can be reached at 262-268-9734.

Summer brings the Maritime Heritage Festival and we are once again part of the heritage portion. We look forward to presentations by several members and a small display of artifacts. Last year's museum received local and state acclamation and this year's will also be notable. Volunteers are once again needed to help us pull this event off. Contact the office 262-268-9150 or Geri at 262-284-2547 or Jackie 262-284-9223 to help. Later in August we will have a society rummage sale. Information is included in a separate article in the newsletter. Fall will bring our Annual Meeting on October 19th and our Annual Dinner on November 5th.

In April the Capital Fund Campaign was given the challenge of raising \$50,000 in order to receive an anonymous donation of \$50,000. April 8th was the kickoff for the sale of our book on Port Washington and a public kickoff of the Capital Fund Campaign. With generous donations from several of our members that evening we got the campaign going with pledges that totaled \$10,000. Over the course of the past two months we have indeed made that challenge and now with \$100,000 plus we are working on acquiring the next \$100,000. Donations large and small have helped us reach this level. If you have not given, please consider doing so. If you have given already, consider whether you can give again. All donations are tax deductible.

A grateful thank you to all that responded to the appeal sent out in May. Each year it is necessary to raise general operating funds to support managing an office, printing newsletters, creating exhibits, preserving archives and artifacts and extending ourselves into the community. When one has the responsibility of a building 150+ years old there are always things that need to be taken care of. Our members are our support and we appreciate your dedication to helping to sustain us. It is not too late if one desires to make a donation to support the General Operating Fund, Light Station, or Capital Fund. All donations are tax deductible and can be sent to P.O. Box 491, Port Washington, WI 53074.

Jackie Oleson
President

Maritime Heritage Festival

August 19-21, 2011

by Geri Zehren

If you have not marked your August calendar do it now – August 19th, 20th, & 21st.

How exciting! Our harbor will once again see tall ships docked for the three day event- Friends Good Will, Brig Niagara, and Pride of Baltimore plus harbor tours. Note: we are the only port on Lake Michigan to feature tall ships this year. Great entertainment has been booked for the stages over the weekend. A cardboard Regatta, vessels of cardboard and duct tape, is a new event. Imagine the “Titanic” award given for the most spectacular sinking. With vendors of art, good food, and beverage in our Rotary Park this will be a weekend to make Port Washington proud. Visit the website

www.portmaritimefestival.com for more information.

PWHS will provide the heritage part of this wonderful festival. Sorry no canoes or reenactors this year. The good news is that once again two members stepped forward to help



with our participation to share the heritage of our maritime history. “Reflections on Port Washington” is the program title. The Holiday Inn has

made the lower level meeting room affordable for our use during the three day event from 11:00AM to 4:00PM. The “Reflections” include Rick Smith doing a slide program on the “History of the Harbor” and John Enright’s slide presentation is the, “Women Keepers in the History of the U.S. Lighthouses”. A third program is yet to be announced. There will be artifacts and pictures in the room for viewing. We will also be promoting the sales of our new book, “Images of America, Port Washington”.

This busy weekend will require many volunteer hours. Volunteers are needed for the tent sales, to supervise the lower level room, and assist at the Light Station. Please contact us if you have not “stepped forward”. Geri Zehren, (262) 284-2547 – Jackie Oleson, (262) 284-9223 – Kathie Gordon, (262) 268-9734.

RECEIVE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

The PWHS is offering the option of receiving *HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES* (this newsletter) electronically. Help save the costs of paper, printing, postage, and labor. If you would like to receive *HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES* via email rather than a paper copy mailed to you, please send an email to portwashistsoc@att.net; indicate your name and state that you prefer to receive the newsletter electronically.

There’s Still Time to Donate

It’s not too late to send in a gift to our Annual Appeal or Capital Campaign. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law and will help support the Society’s programs and offices.

Light Station News

The Light Station opened mid-May with a new display in the Generator Building—a schooner galley. Mr. Smith continues to enhance what is already a wonderful museum depicting life in the 1800s in Port Washington. If you haven't been to the Light Station lately, check it out. It's a great place to take your visiting friends and relatives for an educational and beautiful tour.

Upkeep plans for the summer include replacing the wood railing on the light tower gallery as well as painting the wood siding on the buildings—but of course, that requires the cooperation of Mother Nature!

We have also welcomed Kathie Gordon as the new Tour Guide Coordinator and Director of Tours for the Light Station. Kathie learned the

ropes of guiding guests through the LS rather quickly out of necessity as several of the tour guides could not return this year. She is also seeking more volunteers to help with the tours. Guiding only requires the ability to learn some basic information about the LS and a tour guide book is provided. While we are open Saturdays from 11:00 to 4:00 and Sundays from 12:00 to 4:00, our guides can do 2-hour shifts rather than a full 4- or 5-hr shift. Also, climbing to the tower is not a requirement, as we always make certain that one of the guides on each shift is capable of that skill and the other guide(s) simply give first floor tours. If you have a few hours to spare each month, please contact the Historical Society office: 268-9150 or Kathie: 268-9734.



ANNUAL DINNER

The Historical Society's second Annual Dinner will be held at The Patio Bar and Grille. This year we are honoring veterans and in particular wish to honor families who have lost a family member while he or she was serving our country—from the Civil War to Desert Storm. If you have information about a serviceman or woman from the Port Washington area who gave their life during their service, we need the

information to commemorate their life. And if you are a veteran, we need to know that as well. This will be a "red, white and blue" veterans' night. We promise good food and entertainment, a silent auction, door prizes and more. If you have information to share about a family member, please contact Kathie Gordon at 262-268-9734.

*Save the date:
Saturday,
November 5th, 2011.*

LEAVE A PERSONAL LEGACY

DISCOVER THE BENEFITS OF GIVING WISELY



Leaving a legacy often means handing down what we value most. For many of us, that includes making certain that our children and grandchildren will inherit our precious history and heritage.

When preparing your estate plan, please consider the Port Washington Historical Society. Your efforts will help ensure that the Society can continue its mission to preserve local history and provide enriching educational opportunities for all generations.

We can show you how to leave a lasting legacy by making a “planned gift” to the Society. Current IRS incentives provide additional tax-related financial benefits.

A planned gift can help you: gain peace of mind; reduce income and or estate taxes; reduce or avoid capital gains taxes; increase your current income; make a larger donation than you otherwise could; or make a gift when you no longer need the assets.

The Port Washington Historical Society can talk to you about simple and affordable charitable gift annuities. You make a gift and receive an immediate income tax deduction for a portion of your gift and in return the Society agrees to make fixed payments to you for life. It’s possible this method will increase the yield you are currently getting from equities or CDs.

There are many options for making planned giving a win-win way to achieve philanthropic and financial goals. Contribute from your will or trust at no cost to you during your lifetime, use a charitable gift annuity that gives you guaranteed income for life or use a charitable lead trust that simply protects your assets. To learn more about these gift options, please contact Jackie Oleson 262-268-9150

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

You can make a big difference to the Port Washington Historical Society by remembering the Society in your will. The mission of PWHS is: To preserve local history and provide enriching educational opportunities for all generations. When preparing or updating your will, please think about including the Port Washington Historical Society in your plan. Your doing so will guarantee that the Society’s mission will continue. No amount is too small to make a big difference.



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that some employers will match contributions to a nonprofit? If you are contributing to a nonprofit, you may

want to inquire whether a matching contribution is available from your employer.

2010 PWHS Maritime Museum Receives *Wisconsin Historical Society Exhibit Award*

The Port Washington Historical Society is very proud that the Maritime Museum put together for the 2010 Maritime Heritage Festival in Port Washington has earned the *Wisconsin Historical Society Museum Exhibit Award*. The award is given yearly to permanent, temporary, and traveling exhibits that opened the previous year. One of the eligibility criteria is that the exhibition must have been organized by the applicant institution. We were the applicant institution and Rick Smith was the planner, facilitator and main work force behind it.

Award criteria covered who our audience was, the authenticity of our content from reliable sources and how it related to the audience, the conservation of original materials, the communication of a clear set of ideas, and a design that supported and enhanced the ideas, themes, organization and tone. Rick put months into the planning and layout of the museum. Merton and Wayne Lueptow provided a space that was remarkable in its size, location, visibility, and usability. Weeks were spent setting the museum up so that visitors young and old could visualize Port Washington and its history.

This museum featured focus areas that depicted a shipwreck, the rigging of a schooner, a ship's galley, a logging camp, and a dining room of Wisconsin Chair Company artifacts. Additional displays included artifacts of shipwrecks, elements of the city's fishing industry, the restoration of the local 1860 Light Station, anchors, ship lanterns, newspapers and photos of the city and the ships that visited. A large part of the museum was dedicated to representing the lost ships and their crews, how they lived and the role they played in moving the commerce of Lake Michi-



Lincoln Elementary School children posed for a photo after touring the 2010 Maritime Museum on Franklin Avenue

gan.

The museum was open on Saturdays from late July, through August and into September, and daily during the Maritime Heritage Festival. Over 1,600 people, including classes of fourth graders, visited the museum. This temporary museum showcased what could be if the Society had a permanent location with museum space. The Wisconsin Historical Society Museum award validates our efforts to fund raise toward that goal.

This summer we have exhibits in several downtown windows in vacant Franklin Street buildings, as well as an exhibit in the upper level of the Niederkorn Library. Please check them out and pass the word. The mission of the PWHS is to preserve and educate. A permanent location for the Society can give us the ability to have a museum where the history of our delightful little city can be shared year round.

Plan to come to the quarterly meeting on July 20th when the award from the WHSM is presented to the Port Washington Historical Society.

RUMMAGE SALE FUNDRAISER

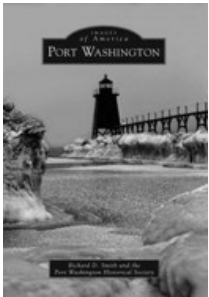
Did we ask you this before? Yes, we did. Are You Ready? Will you help sponsor a PWHS Society Yard/Rummage Sale - 2011?

Where and When are now determined: Saturday, August 27th. The location is 205 N. Franklin, next to Portico Gift Shop. Thanks once again to the Lueptow family for the use of their building. The hours are from 8:00AM to 2:00PM in conjunction with the Farmer's Market. Items can be dropped off on Friday, August 26th between 10:00AM and 2:00PM. If that isn't possible please call us for other arrangements.

Check out those closets and cabinets for items you aren't using but are just too good to toss? Don't toss them away, no clothing or electronics please.

We ask donors to put a price tag on each item. When items are delivered a donation slip listing the items and value will be given to the donor for their tax purposes: PWHS is a 501c3 organization. Value is established by the donor for their contribution to the PWHS rummage sale. Items will not be returned unless special arrangements are made in advance. Call with your questions or to make arrangements to donate. Thanks to all of you who participate. Do you want to help with the sale? Give us a call: (262) 268-9150- office, (262) 284-2547 Geri Zehren, (262) 284-9223 Jackie Oleson.

Port Washington History Book from Arcadia Press



The new book on Port Washington from Arcadia Press is for sale at the Light Station, the PWHS Office on Grand Avenue and the Portico store on Franklin Street. **Proceeds from copies sold through the Historical Society will benefit the Society.**

For more information, contact the Historical Society at: 262-268-9150.

Show you care with "WE CARE"

The Port Washington Historical Society is a participant in the Pick 'N Save "We Care" Community Dollar Program. Our Organization will benefit when our members list the number 620430 of the Historical Society on their Advantage Plus Savers Club

Card application or a change form are available at the service counter of any Pick 'N Save store. A percent of all purchase dollars will be donated to the Historical Society.

**PWHS
"We Care"
Number
620430**

Thank you to those who have already signed up.

PWHS Receives Wisconsin State Historical Society Grant

An application was made to the WSHS for a matching grant for the stabilization and preservation of artifacts from Dan Muller, a artist of the West who lived with Bill Cody in his early years and later in the Port Washington area . We are pleased to announce receipt of a grant of \$520 that will allow us to complete cleaning and preserving items of Muller's that came to us in 2004. Work began in 2010 and can now be completed. Among items to be completed is the framing of a large panoramic picture of Dan at a Nevada rodeo. Some Muller items are on display in the upper level of the library this summer. Stop by and take a look at Dan's clothing, books and painting.

SOUNDS OF THE PAST

By Mary Flierl

WEST SIDE

The steam engine puffing along the Chicago Northwestern rails on the west side of Port Washington, stopping at the water tower to fill the tank. The shrill sound of the steam leaving the stack. The chug of the train as it powers up for its journey.

The squeals of the pigs awaiting their fate in the slaughter house behind Herzinger's Butcher Shop on Grand Avenue.

The crow of the roosters in the early morning from neighbors who had chickens, roosters and rabbits in their backyard sheds.

DOWNTOWN

The whistling of the wind in the Electric Company Crane. The sound of the crane as it moved back and forth as it emptied the coal boats or rearranged the coal piles.

The welcoming or exiting coal boat horn as the ships moved in and out of the harbor.

The low "be-ow" of the foghorn.

The 1 o'clock Wisconsin Chair Factory Whistle calling all workers back to work after lunch.

The fire siren sounding the call to the volunteer fire department.

NORTHSIDE

The slow stroke of the tolling of St. Mary's bells when someone died and when there was a funeral.

The chanting or the litany of saints in the processions around the St. Mary's neighborhood during Rogation Days.

NEIGHBORHOODS

The sound of coal rushing down the coal chute into the coal bin in the basement.

The milk bottles clattering in the basket as the milkman replaced the empties with new bottles in the milk chute.

Children playing "hide and seek" or "kick the can" in the neighborhood until the streetlights went on to signal when it was time to go home.

The soft whirr of the push lawnmower.



The sound of the automobile's manual shift of gears, especially on the hills of Port Washington.

The recess bell at school signifying the end of lunch or recess. It was a bell rung by one of the older students.

We need your help! Please submit your memories. Memories of places, events, people, organizations, schools, etc. The articles can be one or two paragraphs or longer. We would like to have our members share their memories of Port and the area. Keep in mind our scope includes the Town of Saukville, Fredonia, Belgium, and part of Grafton as well as Port Washington.

Send your articles or ideas to Mary Flierl at:

Port Washington Historical Society

P.O. Box 491

Port Washington, WI 53074

Or email them to: portwashhistsoc@att.net

DONATIONS & MEMORIALS

With much gratitude for continued support:

PWHS Operating Fund Donations:

Betty Ewig
 Thomas & Jean Klein
 Frank & Michelle Hinc
 William & Virginia Klein
 Eric & Jackie Oleson
 Ann Flierl
 Bill & Pat Moren
 Gordon & Sally Sharbuno
 Bill & Lonie Ross
 Doug & Ardie Ahsmann
 Lloyd Smith
 Mark Dybdahl
 Weldon & Louise Reed

Light Station Restoration Fund

Donations:

Betty Ewig
 Wardrobe Safari
 Thomas & Jean Klein
 Byron & Gwen Johnson
 Eric & Jackie Oleson
 Roy & Geri Zehren
 James & Sarah Gerloff
 Dan Smith
 Lloyd Smith
 Marianne Kartheiser
 American Legion Post 82: new Flag

Commemorative Bricks

Kathy MacDonald:
 Hermann/Nieman families
 In honor of Sue Ahner's birthday

Capital Fund Campaign:

Mark Dybdahl
 Todd & Keelyn Lyon
 Betty Savage
 Mark & Kathleen Mitchell
 Jo Ann Stade
 Port Washington – Saukville Rotary Club
 American Legion Van Ells Schanen Post No. 82
 Grant Smith: in memory of Herbert & Beverly Smith
 Ken & Sue Bruner
 Amazing Accessories/Wardrobe Safari

Joyce Buchholz: Johnson School Bus Service
 Dr. Doug & Vicky McManus

Vicki Popp
 Bea Krier
 Pat Wilborn
 Don & Barb Gilmore
 Lawrence & Diana Verheyen
 Carol Heinen
 Deb Neulreich
 Mark & Cathy Schowalter
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 Harborview Homemakers
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 Sam Demerit
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 Chris & Brigitt Kincaid
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 Dorothy Nowicki
 Marc & Grace Eernisse
 Weldon & Louise Reed
 Thomas & Jean Klein
 Betty Ewig
 Jeanne Appleman
 Joe & Joan Groh
 Bill & Jean Schanen
 Dan Smith
 Paul Hansen
 Eric & Jackie Oleson, Roy & Geri Zehren, Bill & Pat Moren, Staff of the AGS Library, UWM: in memory of Mary Ann Seffker (Angie Cope's mother)

PLEASE PATRONIZE THESE BUSINESS MEMBERS

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262-268-9734

414-460-0045

Holiday Inn

135 East Grand Ave
Port Washington, WI 53074
262 284-9461

Wardrobe Safari

228 N. Franklin Street
Port Washington, WI 53074
262-284-3300

Fashion forward adventure

MEMBERSHIP

NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

Tim & Bernadette Bink
Bethanne Scheel

NEW LIFETIME MEMBER

Weldon Reed

NEW BUSINESS MEMBERS

The Portico
Holiday Inn

We appreciate the promptness of members renewing their memberships. If you have overlooked renewing, please return the form below.

Members are scattered around the country from coast to coast--California, Texas, Colorado, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Florida as well as one member in Luxembourg.

Port Washington Historical Society MEMBERSHIP FORM

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

☐ Annual Individual \$20
☐ Annual Family \$30
☐ Annual Student \$10

☐ Individual Lifetime \$150
☐ Business \$150

Membership year runs from January 1 - December 31

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION:

Also enclosed is a tax deductible contribution of \$ _____ to benefit the Society.

Name(s) (Please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

_____ Please contact me! I'd like to volunteer for a project or committee.

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF :

\$ _____

Please make checks payable to the Port Washington Historical Society

Send your renewal and/or memberships to:

Port Washington Historical Society

P.O. Box 491

Port Washington, WI 53074-0491





PORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 491
Port Washington, WI 53074-0491
www.portwashingtonhistoricalsociety.org

Society Calendar

QUARTERLY MEETING
Wednesday, July 20, 2011 at 7:00p.m.
Schmitt Bros. Ford
Highway 33
Public and guests welcome!

August 19 – 21, 2011
Maritime Heritage Festival

July 2011
Dan Muller Exhibit at Library

Saturday, August 27th
Rummage Sale, 205 N. Franklin St.

November 5, 2011
PWHS Annual Dinner