



Historical Perspectives

PORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.portwashingtonhistoricalsociety.org

VOLUME 27, ISSUE I

WINTER 2016

COMMERCIAL FISHING ON THE GREAT LAKES: PAST AND PRESENT

Mary Flierl

And you thought you know everything about Commercial Fishing on the Great Lakes!! The presenter of the program titled: **Commercial Fishing on the Great Lakes: Past & Present** for the Quarterly Meeting on Saturday, January 23, is Titus Silheimer, Phd. He has biology degrees from Lawrence and McMaster Universities.

Seilheimer is the Fisheries Specialist for Wisconsin Sea Grant and is based in Manitowoc. Before joining Wisconsin Sea Grant in December 2012, Dr. Seilheimer conducted applied aquatic research with the U. W. Forest Service, Oklahoma State University, and Conrell University. He has studied the ecology and habitat of fish in the Great Lakes, coastal wetlands, and Oklahoma streams.

The Quarterly Meeting will be held on Saturday afternoon beginning at 1:30 pm in the Lakeview Room at the Wilson House. It is open to the public and refreshments will be provided.



Titus Silheimer

Inside this issue:

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>News From the Port Exploreum</i>	3
<i>PWHS Gala: A Huge Success</i>	4
<i>Ozaukee Press Celebrates 75 Years</i>	5
<i>What's New at the Resource Center?</i>	6
<i>Denis Sullivan Revisited</i>	6
<i>Wisconsin St. School Bell Recognition</i>	7
<i>Mystery Painting</i>	7
<i>Donations and Memorials</i>	8
<i>Thank You 2015 Volunteers</i>	9
<i>PWHS Business Members</i>	10
<i>Executive Director Update</i>	11
<i>2016 Membership Renewals</i>	11



Sorting fish from a trap net

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Historical Perspectives

is published four times a year

President's Message

Dear Members,

The year 2015 was an exciting one for the Port Washington Historical Society. We continue to operate and improve the Historic Light Station, sharing that highly visible gem with visitors from near and far. The Resource Center is busier than ever with both the business aspect of the Society and the constantly increasing workload of cataloging and accessioning artifacts, photos, and collections. The work of all the volunteers at both of these properties is truly impressive.

After three years of hard work by a long list of volunteers, we opened the *Port Exploreum*. The *Exploreum* is a one-of-a-kind museum that integrates technology in a way that makes it as much of an experience as a museum. We learned quite a bit in the nine months that it has been open, and we will continue to learn and adjust the content offerings and operation to make it as meaningful and successful as possible. The *Exploreum* received rave reviews not only from visitors but from professionals in the museum and maritime history world as well as other non-profit organizations.

Another significant goal that was reached in 2015 was the successful completion of the *Exploreum* capital campaign. Through the tireless effort and leadership of Bill Moren we met and slightly exceeded the fundraising goal of \$2,540,000. This is truly an incredible accomplishment. Now that the *Exploreum* is operating and the capital campaign is completed, we will focus our efforts on fundraising for ongoing operational support for the *Exploreum* and the Society as a whole.

Three members ended their terms on the Board of Directors and two new members joined the board. Jackie Oleson ended her long tenure on the board, five years of which she was president. Jackie continues to be heavily involved with the Society in her role as Co-Director of the Resource Center. Deb Neulreich ended her term, and Sue Bruner finished her period on the board after many years, several of which she served as treasurer. On behalf of the Society I wish to thank Jackie, Deb, and Sue for all of their work on the board.

Our two new board members are Jim Pauly and Allon Bostwick. Jim and Allon are Port Washington natives and both of their families have long histories here. Coincidentally, Jim and Allon are high school classmates. We look forward to their experience and leadership on the board.

Our need for volunteers is greater than ever. With our expansion to operating three facilities, there are many volunteer opportunities for all. The vast majority of volunteer positions do not require any special skill, simply your time and willingness to help carry out our mission. You don't have to be a member to volunteer so please encourage family members and friends who may have an interest to volunteer with the Society.

The Society has always been a member-driven organization. We want to continue that tradition, and with our three properties the need for active members and volunteers is greater than ever. I want to challenge every member to encourage or recruit someone else to become a member of the Society. Perhaps you have a family member, friend, neighbor or co-worker that just needs a little nudge from you to join us in preserving and sharing our history!

The year 2016 will be another exciting year for the Society! We will be celebrating our 25th anniversary and will have many opportunities to celebrate that milestone including our Annual Gala in October.

Jeff Morgan, President
PWHS Board of Directors

NEWS FROM THE PORT EXPLOREUM

Wayne Chrusciel

On November 12 we introduced our new exhibit, “Nothin’ But Nets” and just as importantly, we unveiled the new Lake Michigan table. The “Nothin’ But Nets” exhibit pays tribute to the commercial fishing industry of Port Washington as well as the families that made this industry happen. Using a variety of artifacts and informational panels, the stories of how commercial fishing impacted Port Washington over the years are told, including those from descendants of the fishing families that many of us know. A special thank you to Rick Smith for his extra efforts in helping to tell these stories.



Our new Lake Michigan table has been a hit with all who have seen and explored it. Using unique and special programming, the table combines several live feeds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as well as information from the Automatic Identification System (AIS) for tracking large freighters on Lake Michigan. The end result is that visitors can watch projected wind patterns, air temperatures, wave heights and cloud cover around Lake Michigan. Once winter hits, we will also display ice cover on Lake Michigan.

Touch the table (which is in the shape of Lake Michigan) and small ships appear on the lake. When you touch one of the ships you will learn where these ships are, the direction they are heading and the speed they are travelling. Finally, we divided the lake into five zones in which visitors can explore content to learn basic information for each of the zones. If you



have not yet seen this table, please find time soon to do so.

During the first quarter of 2016 there will be three special programs dealing with specific areas of our “Nothin’ But Nets” exhibits. On Saturday, January 23, at 1:30 pm at the Wilson House, Titus Seilheimer will present a program on Wisconsin Fisheries. Rick Smith will present “Port Washington's Commercial Fishing Legacy” at the *Port Exploreum* on Saturday, February 20, at 1:30 pm. Finally, “Nothin’ But Nets: Behind the Scenes” will be presented by curator Matt Foss and intern Aurora Froncek at the *Port Exploreum* on Saturday, March 19, at 1:30 pm. Please mark your calendars and make plans now to join us!



PWHS GALA: A HUGE SUCCESS

The PWHS Annual Fundraising Gala was held on October 10th and by all accounts was a delightful evening and a huge success. The event returned to the Ozaukee County Courthouse historic boardroom where 135 members and guests enjoyed an evening of great food, refreshments, music, spirited bidding on auctions, and several fabulous raffles.



Once again the Port Hotel Restaurant and Inn served a delicious buffet. Gary Haseley provided three hours of wonderful music on his keyboard and his music was complemented with a performance by the Port Washington High School Jazz Band.

The Gala raised a record \$27,000! These funds are a key component of the annual operating support for the Society, and due to this record amount a portion will be allocated to retiring the letter of credit for the *Explorem*.

The Gala Committee wishes to thank the many donors who gave items for the silent auction, voice auction and raffles. Pete Didier auctioned off 12 great items in



the voice auction. A huge thank you to our generous sponsors and the Gala Committee for all of their work making the 2015 Gala a success.

Gala Sponsors: Shirli Flack, Port Washington State Bank, Bill & Jean Schanen, John & Vici Dohrwardt, Jeff & Rose Morgan, Schenck, S.C., Bill & Pat Moren, Lloyd Smith, Legacy Private Trust Company, Eernisse Funeral Home, Linda Nenn, Elegant Estates.

Gala Committee: Kurt Blum, Wayne Chrusciel, Amy Clark, Grace Eernisse, Ann Flierl, Mary Flierl, Kathie Gordon, Jeff Morgan, Haley Pfeuffer, Donna Rasche, Kathie Schaefer, Jean Schanen, Karen Weber.



Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with the event and to all of those who attended the event to help make it a success. We look forward to an exciting 25th Anniversary Gala in October 2016. Stay tuned!

HISTORY RESEARCHER-WRITER NEEDED

WANTED: Someone who enjoys writing historical information pieces for the newsletter

An interesting part of an historical society and its newsletter is sharing the history of the community and its people. It is part of the mission of our organization.

That said, it takes time to delve into a topic - through files, photographs, and even online research at times. Are you that someone who would be interested in being a history sleuth? The work can be done at home and on your schedule.

Interested? Respond to Jackie in the Resource Center at 262-268-9150 or portwashhistsoc@att.net.

OZAUKEE PRESS CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

History was made in Port Washington 75 years ago when a native son's dream of publishing a community newspaper with the reproduction quality of a magazine and the aggressive reporting of a daily newspaper came true. The newspaper was *Ozaukee Press*, and when the



first issue came off a secondhand printing press in a small building on Main Street on August 14, 1940, it was the first photo-offset newspaper in the United States.

The newspaper started by Bill and Marie Schanen astonished readers with the clarity of its reproduction. The Press led a technical revolution in the newspaper industry—within 25 years nearly every newspaper in the country except the largest metropolitan dailies would be printed by the method pioneered in Port Washington. William F. Schanen Jr., fresh out of the University of Wisconsin with a master's degree in English, loved to write and take pictures and was bored by his job in the advertising department of the Weyenberg Shoe Co. in Milwaukee. So he went to work for the weekly newspaper in Durand, Wisconsin, and in a short time knew he wanted to be a small-town newspaper editor. Schanen toured the state on an unsuccessful quest for newspaper to buy. A card sent to his fiancée Marie Jacque, then a teacher in Waukesha, read: "Since last card: Darlington, Prairie du Chien, Viroqua, Richland Center, Baraboo, Reedsburg, Mauston and now Sparta and LaCrosse. No Luck." He returned to his hometown determined to start

a newspaper different from anything he had seen in his travels.

He was inspired by *Life* magazine, the large format weekly news magazine that published the works of the country's best news photographers. Much like *Life*, his newspaper was a tabloid with bold headlines, news stories written in a lively style and pictures reproduced larger and more clearly than readers had ever seen in a community newspaper. Schanen and his new wife Marie set up shop in rented quarters on what was to be the site of the current *Ozaukee Press* building. In the spring of 1940 they produced a free eight-page shopping publication called *Ozaukee Ads* on the meager printing equipment of the company they called *The Schanen Press*.....

Come on in to the Resource Center to hear (as Paul Harvey used to say) "the rest of the story." In this age of consolidation and the demise of local newspapers, the Ozaukee Press is remarkable in its adaptation to the times and its survival in trying times. We would love to share the story of the Press with you and the community. "75 Years of the Ozaukee Press" will run through the summer of 2016.

A reception celebrating the exhibit will be held on Saturday, January 23, 3:30-6:00 pm following the PWS Quarterly Meeting at the Wilson House.

Our thanks to Bill Schanen III for supplying the above information and content for the panels of the exhibit.

Celebrating 75 Years of the Ozaukee Press

Join us in the launch of our new Resource Center exhibit featuring the Ozaukee Press and its 75 years of chronicling the daily life of the community of Port Washington and northern Ozaukee County.

*A reception will be held
Saturday, January 23, from 3:30-6:00 pm
at the Resource Center
205 N. Franklin Street
following the Quarterly Meeting that day
at the Wilson House*

WHAT'S NEW AT THE RESOURCE CENTER?

We have several new volunteers!

A new face at the Resource Center is Jodi Dickmann, a longtime resident of Port Washington and newly retired. Jodi is volunteering in the office to help with the bookkeeping and data management. Jodi was a long-time employee of Simplicity and comes with experience that is much appreciated. She will work with Holly and Bob Wilke and Geri Zehren.

Another new face is Bonnie Bartelt who is volunteering as a greeter and currently helping to organize our extensive files. Bonnie is retired as well and brings office experience to our office. We are pleased to have the

extra help from both Jodi and Bonnie.

This fall the exhibit at the Resource Center has changed to highlight the *Ozaukee Press* and its 75 years of publication in Port Washington. The exhibit will run now through summer to next fall. Stop in to check it out.

Our thanks to Bill Schanen and the *Ozaukee Press*, Kathie Schaefer, Irene Taylor, Rick Smith and Ron Voigt for their assistance in creating the exhibit.

Jackie Oleson & Geri Zehren
Co-Directors of the Resource Center

DENIS SULLIVAN REVISITED

I'm so accustomed to doing a Maritime Report for the Newsletter I thought I would submit an article on the wonderful visits from the tall ship, *Denis Sullivan*. She was docked in our harbor four weekends from June to September. There were sailing tours, deck tours, and educational events. The impact on the city was so great that the visits will be continued in 2016.

Her visits also mean that Port Washington is again considered a commercial port. Because of that the city is eligible for a Harbor Assistance Program grant to help repair

the breakwater.

It was a win/win event for all of us as we saw more visitors to the Resource Center, Light Station and of course our new *Exploreum*.

The city will be looking for enhanced relationships in their partnership with Discovery World. Tall ships and schooners are a part of our rich lake heritage. The Society should consider how we will help to celebrate a 2016 return of the *Sullivan*.

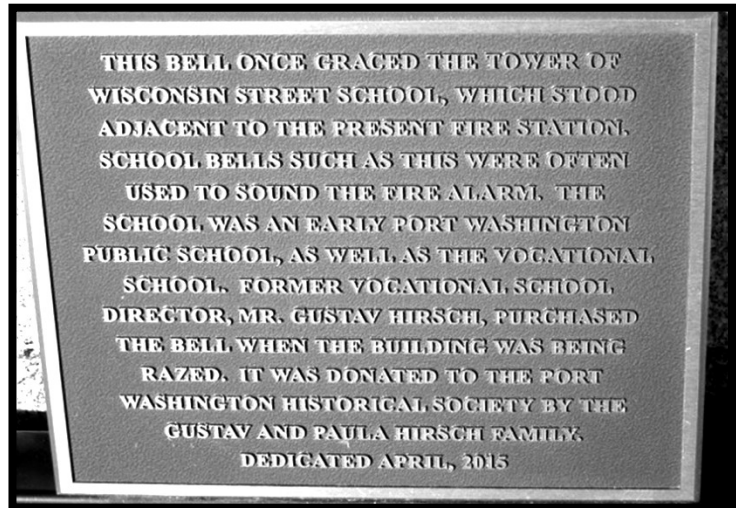
Geri Zehren
Resource Center Co-Director



WISCONSIN STREET BELL RECOGNITION

On November 23 the bell that graced the tower of the Wisconsin Street School was publicly recognized in its new location and thanks given to those that helped make it happen. On hand were Port Washington High School T&I teacher Taylor Last, former student Ryan Luft, Fire Department Assistant Chief Steve Schmidt, Fire Chief Mark Mitchell, John and Virginia Hirsch and Light Station Assistant Director Linda Nenn. John and Virginia represented their family's contribution of the bell, rescued by their father Gustav Hirsch in 1957. Missing from the photo was former student Skye Sandlin.

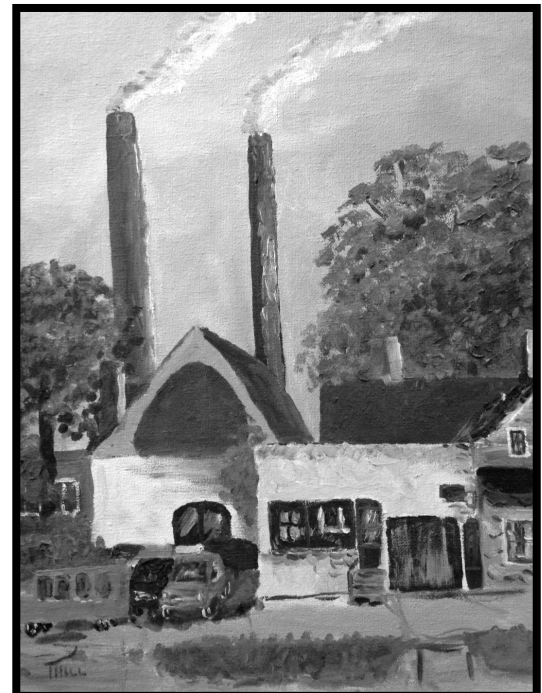
The project was a blend of cooperation between the Port Washington Historical Society, the Port Washington Fire Department and the Port Washington School District. The bell is part of Society collections and is on loan to the Fire Dept who provided the location and funds for the plaque. Over several years, students at the high school worked on creating the bracket for the bell. The bell rests not far from where it originally hung in the tower of the Wisconsin Street School.



MYSTERY PAINTING

Recently a small painting was donated to the Historical Society. The artist's name, Thill, appears in the lower left corner. We would like to know more about the painting. Does anyone know what the buildings in the foreground of the painting might be?

If anyone has any information about the painting, please contact Jackie in the Resource Center by phone at 262-268-9150 or email at portwashhistsoc@att.net.





Wish List
 Stamps
 Office Max gift cards
 Long-arm stapler
 6-foot ladder
 I Pad for archive center





DONATIONS & MEMORIALS



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Charlie Mayhew
Kim Mueller
Jackie Oleson

A SMALL TRIBUTE TO A GREAT LADY

PWHS is the Society it is today through hours, days, months, and years of volunteer time. The list of volunteers and their service is endless. Often we don't recognize their efforts enough. We would like to take a moment to reflect on one volunteer that we lost this year, Sally Ziegler.

When we needed someone to organize the rummage sale, help with Christmas on the Corner, greet at the Light Station, open the Resource Center for a Saturday, or assist with an event, we called Sally. A lifetime member, she was always there with her smile to help out. She is gone and we miss her. Thank you Sally for all that you gave to this Society.



IN MEMORIAM

*Marge Lampert
Sally Zielger*



PWHS 2015 VOLUNTEERS: THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF YOUR TIME!

Like most volunteer organizations we exist because of the generosity of our volunteers to give countless hours to run committees, do the jobs necessary so that the organization runs smoothly, or do the jobs no one else wants to do. There are a lot of behind-the-scenes work being done that makes the Port Washington Historical Society successful. We heartedly thank each and every one.

Ardie Ahsmann	Mary Downing	Alice Horton	Eric Oleson	Daniel Solorzano
Gabby Ansay	Caitlin Dreier	Mryia Hubert	Allyson Olivier	Sarah Spaeth
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Brian Barber	Grace Eernisse	Jessica Jens	Julie Pannemann	Paul Steffen
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Jodi Dickmann	Marge Hoffmann	Elaine Nulph	Sarah Smith	Sally Ziegler
Mike Didier	Emily Holtebeck	Jackie Oleson	Mary Smittkamp	Marie Zirbes

These were the volunteers that generously volunteered their time to support the 1860 Light Station Museum, the Resource Center, Society activities and the *Port Exploreum*. We sincerely apologize if anyone was inadvertently missed. Please let us know so we can correct it. Thank you all!

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THANK
YOU

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Planning for the Society in 2016 has begun in earnest. A marketing and event calendar is being developed which will be shared with everyone once it is completed. This calendar will identify opportunities for the Society to reach out to the community to tell our stories. There will be a greater effort in 2016 to jointly promote our three facilities and to raise the overall awareness of the Port Washington Historical Society with residents and visitors alike.

One major effort that will be undertaken in 2016 will be to expand our volunteer base and to have these volunteers available to staff not only the *Port Explorem*, but just as importantly the Light Station and the Resource Center. Haley Pfeuffer, our Volunteer Coordinator and Member Manager, will be reaching out to those who volunteered in 2015 to encourage participation in the coming year, and we planning our strategies now on how we will solicit new volunteers for all of the properties in 2016.

All members will be receiving our new Membership Brochure and information for renewing your memberships sometime in late January. In case you are not aware, memberships are now on a 12-month rolling basis, which means that your renewal date will be dependent on when you purchased your membership. Due to the opening of the *Port Explorem* this past year, ALL members had their 2014 memberships extended until April 2015, resulting in most members needing to renew by April of this year. Watch your mail for more information soon.

I look forward to seeing everyone soon, whether it be at the *Port Explorem*, during a Quarterly Meeting, or at either the Resource Center or Lightstation. Please feel free to contact me at either 262-284-2406 or email at crwshall517@hotmail.com if you have questions, comments or concerns.

Wayne Chrusciel, PWHS Executive Director

2016 Membership Renewals

Your 2016 membership renewal will be dependent upon when you purchased your membership. Anyone who purchased a membership before April 2015 will have an expiration date of April 1, 2016. Otherwise, your membership will expire twelve months after purchase. There will be a special mailing on membership renewals occurring late January.

**PORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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

Upcoming Events

QUARTERLY MEETING
Saturday, January 23
1:30 p.m.

Wilson House Lakeview Room

April Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, April 20

Wilson House

Elaine Nulph is presenting the history and mystery of Harrington Beach State Park.

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