



Historical Perspectives

PORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 20, Issue 2

Summer 2009

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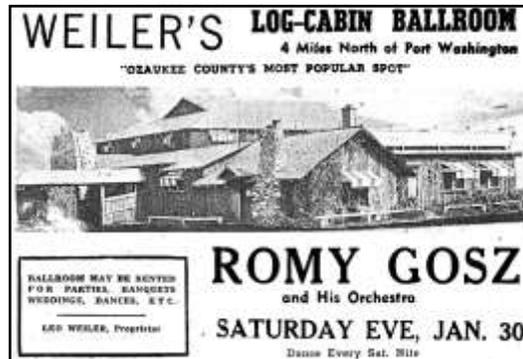
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Meeting at *Memories Ballroom*

Memories- Past, Present and Future – At the next Quarterly meeting, Lynn Klemm will discuss the history



Ozaukee Press advertisement, Jan. 29, 1943

of “Weiler’s Log Cabin” now known as *Memories Ballroom*. This truly unique facility was built in 1934 by Leo Weiler and it grew into a famous ballroom for dances and weddings. By the 1950’s, it became a beer bar under Sonny Smith’s ownership and in 1986 Marty Zivko changed the name to Port Zivko. In 1991, new owners, Dave Schultz and Bobi Does, began the restoration of the ballroom. In 2003, current owners Lynn and Bob Klemm and Rolland Roebuck took the restoration further to what is now a beautiful setting for weddings, reunions, community gatherings, ballroom dancing, and dinner

theater.

In preparation for the 75th Anniversary celebration this year, many stories from local residents were collected. Join in the conversation following the meeting on July 15th for additional sharing of stories and memories.

If you would like a ride to the meeting, please call the PWHS Grand Avenue Office at 262-268-9150 to make arrangements.

Quarterly Meeting
Wednesday, July 15th
7:00pm

Memories Ballroom

(Located at the corner of Hwy LL and Lake Drive, Port Washington—3 miles north of Allen

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President's Message

I would like to begin by offering praise to your Board of Directors. Besides serving to give guidance and advice to the Society they have been stepping up to the plate whenever needed. Your officers: Jackie Oleson as VP, Kathie Gordon as Secretary, and Linda Nenn as Treasurer all use extraordinary talents to accomplish their duties to keep us moving forward. They go beyond their duty descriptions. So please when you see them give them a generous thank you. Angie Cope, in addition to managing our website, has stepped forward to become the editor of the Newsletter and is doing a spectacular job, thank you Angie. Michelle Weiland lends her expertise to layout of the newsletter. New ideas have been generated by Grace Eernisse for fund raising events and we are moving forward on those. The Gold Rush is our annual appeals fund drive and is on going as I write, the Maritime Heritage Festival is August 14, 15, & 16th, and our newest event will be Nov. 7th, a Cornucopia of History.



The Gold Rush, turning your unwanted/unused gold or silver jewelry into a tax deductible donation has been extended through all of July with the generosity of Sharbuno Jewelers. So it is not too late to act. Of course please remember we accept checks and cash donations. This is our **only appeals fund drive so if the gold rush doesn't work for you, be generous with your checks.**

Maritime Heritage Festival is a labor intensive event to expose maritime history to the community. Sad to say it is not one that generates revenue but it is part of our mission statement. **Read more about the Festival in Jackie's report included in the newsletter.**

Our exciting Cornucopia of History event this fall is still in the early planning stages. It will be similar in format to the past Christmas galas so mark the date of November 7th on your calendars. Watch for e-mails and press releases. If you would like to be part of the planning team please let us know.

Summing up I would ask you to step forward as does the Board by giving a few hours to these projects. **Please don't wait for us to call you... step up and call us.** Geri Zehren, President

Storage Space Needed

As we sort through our collections it is painfully apparent that we lack a dry, humidity controlled storage space. Does anyone know of a space about 50 square feet that will accommodate some items? For instance, we have the Paul Wienen collection which needs about 50 square feet of space alone. It is a collection that the Society maintains although we do not need immediate access to at all times.

Anyone have attic or closet space or know of commercial space with storage areas?

Membership Information

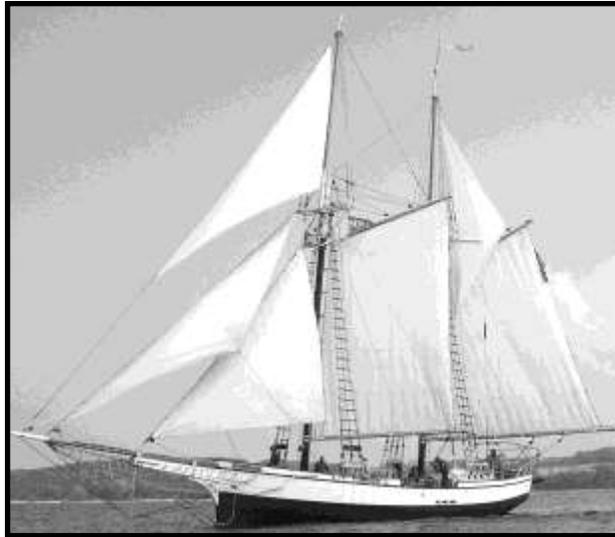
Members reside in a number of states including Illinois, California, Maryland, Texas, Florida, Michigan, Washington, Colorado, Minnesota and also from various locations in Wisconsin and our surrounding communities and the country of Luxembourg.

Membership cards will be provided only to the new Lifetime Members in the future.

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, renewal forms will be sent in July. Be sure to renew to continue receiving this newsletter.

Martime Heritage Festival in Port Washington

Maritime Heritage Festival is right around the corner and offers another fun weekend to showcase our community and its heritage. This year the festival will be located in the areas east of Franklin Street from the *Holiday Inn Hotel* to Jackson Street, with activities for families, music and food tents and vendors selling an array of merchandise. Rick Smith will pull from his vast collection of artifacts and knowledge of maritime history to create a museum exhibit.



The Schooner Madeline. Photo by crew member Edgar Bringman; courtesy of the Maritime Heritage Alliance. www.maritimeheritagealliance.org

In addition to the museum, the Society will distribute information and sell retail items in a tent at the north end of the North Slip. Like last year, the Light Station will have extended hours each day.

A \$3.00 passport will be sold allowing access to the museum exhibit located on the lower level of the *Holiday Inn Hotel* downtown. The passport also gives admission to the tall ship Madeline which will be moored in the West Slip adjacent to the Hotel.

Located east of Franklin Street from the *Holiday Inn Hotel* to Jackson Street

August 14, 15 and 16, 2009

Celebrate Port Washington's maritime heritage with a Historical Society exhibit, Light Station tours, music, food, ship tours, and more

Call 268-9150 to volunteer

How can you help to pull off this splendid weekend?

- ☞ Guide at the Light Station
(Friday and Saturday 12:00-5:00, Sunday 11:00-5:00)
- ☞ Volunteer at the Information Tent
(Friday and Saturday 10:00 – 2:00 or 2:00 – 6:00)
(Sunday 12:00 – 3:00 or 3:00 – 6:00)
- ☞ Volunteer in the Hotel Museum Exhibit
(Friday and Saturday 10:00 – 2:00 or 2:00 – 6:00)
(Sunday 12:00 – 3:00 or 3:00 – 6:00)



In spite of the construction on Johnson and Powers Street, the Lighthouse is open for tours including extended hours during Maritime Heritage Fest. Follow the signs for directions.



Downtown this Summer

Enjoy Port's beautiful downtown and check out these historical displays ...

"TAKE A SEAT IN PORT WASHINGTON"

In cooperation with the Main Street Committee and its "Take a Seat in Port Washington" campaign, Rick Smith has installed an exhibit at the Schumacher Building at 302 N. Franklin St. Rick's exhibit offers a glimpse into the history of the Wisconsin Chair Company and its wide variety of products including chairs, tables, school furniture and a wind up floor standing record player. Scattered along Franklin Street and Grand Avenue businesses are chairs decorated for the "Take a Seat" fundraiser. These will be auctioned off at Maritime Heritage Festival in August. Rick Smith's maritime themed, decorated chair can be seen at the Fireworks Popcorn on Grand Ave.

"ANCHORS AWEIGH!"

Celebrating 174 years of maritime heritage, the window exhibit at the Port Washington State Bank features a display of anchors courtesy of Rick Smith. Rick has also created a challenge for Port Washington residents. Seven anchors located on public land in Port Washington are pictured in the exhibit but not identified. Can you identify the locations of all seven anchors?



Warm admiration and appreciation is extended to Rick Smith for his continued efforts to promote the history of Port Washington.

Volunteer of the Quarter

Grafton resident, Marlene Richart responded to a notice in the Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel looking for clerical help three years ago. Since then, she has spent two hours every other Monday afternoon volunteering at the Research Center. Today she continues to assist with clerical tasks at the office where she enjoys history and working with people. Her background as an elementary teacher and later as a receptionist at a hair salon provides welcome expertise. Marlene is from the Fond du Lac area, and moved around with her husband, Tom, whose position with the



U.S. Forest Service took them to Ohio, Pennsylvania and Rhineland before settling in Grafton in 1984.

Marlene takes the initiative on many tasks from filing, mailings, sorting, learning the computer and she always keeps a smile on her face. Bad winter weather is the only thing that keeps Marlene away. Her dedicated and excellent service to the Society is greatly appreciated and we congratulate Marlene on being the Volunteer of the Quarter, Summer 2009.

Gardening To Win the War

At the beginning of World War II a rationing system was introduced across the United States. Everything from gasoline and rubber to automobiles, sugar, coffee, meats, butter and canned foods and milk were all rationed.

In 1942 the government launched the National Victory Garden campaign calling on farmers to plant a garden of nutritious vegetables. It was expected that Wisconsin would have 185,500 gardens by summer's end.

Originally the Victory Garden wasn't for everyone. According to a March 1942 Ozaukee Press article, **"Persons inexperienced in gardening and especially those without suitable soils, equipment and supervision" were instructed to "look to another defense activity as a means of expressing their patriotism."** But with the national spirit being what it was, by 1943 the campaign had expanded in Port Washington to include the back yard garden.

"The only sure way to beat food rationing and still do your patriotic duty to the nation and armed forces is by developing your own victory garden" reads a February 25, 1943 article in the Ozaukee Press. Mr. Carl Gilman, an Ozaukee County Farm Agent, held meetings to show residents how to prepare and plant seed beds. In March of that same year, Port Washington residents were invited to join the Cedarburg Garden Club for a Victory Garden presentation by Mr. H.J. Rahmlov, secretary of the Wisconsin Horticultural Soci-

ety. This was followed up by a fruit tree pruning demonstrations by another County Farm Agent, Guy Hales, at William P.

Wilke's home at 440 W. Grand Avenue and another at W.J. Knappe's home at 197 S. Eva Street.



Image from the Library of Congress

In May of 1943, the Ozaukee Press featured a two page photo story about the planting of a Port Washington Victory Garden by a mysterious Mrs. X. As insurance against an unsuccessful garden, Mrs. X wished to remain anonymous. In an article a week later, two gentlemen guessed at the identity of Mrs. X, but incorrectly. The reply by Bill and Marie Schanen read, **"Well boys, you have guessed wrong. Mrs. X lives on the opposite side of town from Mrs. Wilburn or Mrs. Green."** So, who was Mrs. X?

Today, gardeners aren't calling their gardens Victory Gardens but are applying the same patriotic minded attitude toward self sufficiency and re-

(Continued on page 6)



Poull Bros. Hardware and Mangel's Floral Co. supported local efforts, advertising in the Oz. Press.

(Continued from page 5)

source conservation. Whether you call it a Recession Garden, Freedom Garden or just a **Back Yard Garden, today's trend is more of a** grass roots effort than a government organized campaign. People are taking a lesson from the past and tilling under their lawns to plant nutritious gardens. First Lady **Michelle Obama's organic garden on the White House South Lawn** hearkens back to the Victory Gardens of Eleanor Roosevelt and **Port Washington's own Mrs. X.**

My Living Legacy

by Jackie Oleson

Have you ever regretted that you never got **around to recording a relative's "story"?** I have. Not just my grandparents but also my parents. Once someone is gone, their life story is gone also. Maybe it is time for you to document your life.

One day, a few weeks ago, Dick Liersch came into the Historical Society Office and **told us about a way to record one's "story."** Dick has created a how-to CD entitled *My Living Legacy* that explains how to document **one's life story. CDs are available** through the Historical Society with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the Society. Call the Office on Grand Ave at 262-268-9150 to obtain a copy or you may download the **program through Dick's website at** www.mylivinglegacy.net.

Dick is also interested in working with the Historical Society to hold a session to record **individuals' stories. If you are interested in** helping with such a project please call 262-268-9150. Either endeavor is a valuable tool in preserving the history of our families.

Memorials & Donations

Annual "Gold Rush" Appeal Donors

Linda Nenn
James Koenen
Grace Eernisse
Sue Bruner
Gwen & Byron Johnson
Carol Heinen

Historical Society Donations

Rick Smith
Jacquelyn Oleson
Roy & Geri Zehren
Angie Cope

Nancy Mersereau Memorials

Ronald & Mary Anne Mandich
Sue Bruner
William & Celene Brumlic
Steven & Holly Ann Ostermann
Mary E. Flierl
Patricia Gibes
Mr & Mrs Richard Hawley
J.C. or W.R. Miller
Mary J. Rathburn
Judith Helnore
Marlene L. Christensen
Ann & Bill Flierl
Mark & Merla Mersereau

Memorial Gifts

William O. Moeser memorial by Paul & Judith Trump

Henrietta Leason memorial by Kathie Gordon

In Memoriam

Mary Beth Bostwick Paape
Grace Pretty
Eugene Paulson

Port 4-H & the Ozaukee County Fair

2009 is the 150th anniversary of the Ozaukee County Fair. Port Washington residents have a long history of support and involvement in the County Fair through 4-H Clubs.

In the early 1900's, the US Dept. of Agriculture felt that adults in the farming community were not open to implementing new agricultural practices. However, the youth of the time were willing to "experiment" with new ideas and would then share their experiences and successes with adults. Rural youth programs became a way to introduce new farming and home economics technology to adults.

The first 4-H clubs in Ozaukee County were formed in 1927 when Guy Hales, the County Agricultural Agent, drove around the county talking to parents.

Port Washington's first 4-H Club was the Wee Wonder Club formed in 1932 by Marie Didier Watry. Of eight clubs in Port over the years, the Knellsville Club is the only one currently active. It was formed in 1953 or 1954 by Myron and Doris Johansen and Mrs. Nic Winkel. Charlene Johansen was also an early leader. Eventually, Elvira Brunnuell led the Knellsville Club **for 25 years. Sadly, Elvira's written records** were burned in the Port Washington Town Hall fire of April 11, 2000. Today, a youth 4-H member is elected annually to serve as **Historian for the Club's activities.**

Over the years, the Knellsville 4-H Club met at the Port Washington Town Hall and later at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. Today the club meets monthly at the First Congregational Church. At the height of membership there were over 110 youth members. Today, the Knellsville Club thrives with nearly 60 members under the leadership of Mary Sampont, Jan Dommer, Cindy Roden, Sherry Melichar and Janet Zausch.

The Port Washington Club has evolved from a largely rural group into a diverse and exciting mix of city and country kids. Kids enjoy learning an array of science, arts, crafts and leadership skills with a strong emphasis on community service. Through displays, exhibits and demonstrations of the **year's projects**, 4-H clubs have been an exciting part at the County Fair.

This year the Ozaukee County Fair begins with a celebratory kick off parade on July 26th at 1:00pm that will include a Knellsville 4-H Club float. The parade begins in downtown Cedarburg on Washington Avenue and ends at the Ozaukee County Fairgrounds. Anniversary events will follow including a picnic, musical entertainment and games. The fair begins July 29 and goes until August 2nd.



Happy 150th Anniversary to the Ozaukee County Fair!

PORT WASHINGTON 4-H CLUBS

- **Flying S Ranch**—1973
- **Harborview**—1954-1959
- **Knellsville**—1953 or '54-present
- **Maple Grove**—1943-1944, 1946-1951, 1958-1961
- **Port Clovers**—1974-1980
- **Seven Hills**—1964-1978
- **Wee Wonder (Garden Club)**— 1932
- **White Stallion (later Shady Lane)**— 1950-1953



PORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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www.portwashingtonhistoricalsociety.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Historical Perspectives is a quarterly publication of the Port Washington Historical Society—a volunteer, non-profit organization.

August 14, 15 and 16, 2009
Maritime Heritage Festival
October 21, 2009
Quarterly Meeting
November 7, 2009
Cornucopia of History
Watch for details in the coming months

Wednesday, July 15, 2009
Quarterly meeting & program 7pm
Memories (see pg. 1 & above for details)
July 18, 2009
Fish Day
July through August, 2009
Gold Rush at Sharbuno Jewelers

QUARTERLY MEETING
Wednesday, July 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
Memories "Weilers Log Cabin"
Located at corner of Hwy LL and Lake Drive (3 miles north of Allen Edmonds)
Port Washington, Wisconsin
If you would like a ride, call the PWS Office at 262-268-9150
Public and guests welcome!

Society Calendar