



McFarland Historical Society

5814 MAIN STREET MCFARLAND, WISCONSIN 53558 PH: 608-838-3992
Issue NO. 35 May 12, 2008

Memorial Day Bake Sale at the Museum

The McFarland Historical Museum opens for the season on Memorial Day, May 26. It will be open for touring on Memorial Day from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm, and then every Sunday, thereafter, from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. through September

The traditional Memorial Day sale of homemade pies, breads, cakes and cookies will start at 10:00 A.M. Also for sale will be ice cream sundaes, hot dogs, root beer floats and popcorn for all to enjoy as they watch the parade make its way down Main Street.

Proceeds from the sale will be used to provide matching funds to a \$700 grant application to purchase computer software and equipment for the digital recording of the museum's historical records.

Donations to the bake sale are gratefully accepted! Baked goods may be delivered to the museum on Sunday, May 25, 1:00 - 4:00 P.M. and on Monday morning May 26, 8:00 -10:00 A.M.

"Horse Power for Work and Play," This Year's Museum Theme

"Horses are prancing into popularity again," wrote Dorothy Helmke in one of her weekly columns some decades ago. But horses have always been popular. Nowadays they are not often used for work, but from the beginning of McFarland's history and well into the first part of the 20th century, horses were extremely useful and, in fact, necessary, in various roles in business and agriculture. Draft horses, light horses and every kind of horse in between were employed to facilitate the growth and progress of our village and the surrounding countryside.

In addition, they supplied important transportation

needs and hours of recreation for resident families. In making life easier and more productive or in making life more fun, the horse was an important part of the early history of our community.

An vintage wagon from stoughton is the focal point of the display in the lobby of the museum along with a great deal of horse paraphenalia and some surprises.

Photos on display from our farmer friends in the area show draft horses doing farm work and light horses providing necessary transportation. We welcome stories or photos of horses in the life of your family, as we work to preserve

the record of this important aspect of local life. Contact Wes Licht, 838-8178, or Crystal Lokken, 838-7892, if you can help.



A horse-drawn wagon parked in front of the general store was a common sight in McFarland 100 years ago.

Grant Written

By Gini Nichols

The McFarland Historical Society has just recently written and submitted a grant proposal to the Wisconsin Council for Local History. We are seeking a grant of \$700 to purchase PastPerfect software. This computer program will enable the McFarland Historical Society to electronically catalog its artifacts, documents, photographs, and books. If we are granted the money, the McFarland Historical Society will match the funds and purchase a laptop computer, digital camera, and scanner to fully utilize the software. The proceeds from the Memorial Day bake sale will be used toward these matching funds.

Membership Application Card Enclosed

Please support the McFarland Historical Society by renewing your membership if you have not already done so this year. The furnace fund drive is still open for donations. Come over to the museum on Memorial Day and check the new heating system.

**McFarland Historical Society
5814 Main Street
P.O.Box 94
McFarland, Wis 53558**

Thanks from the President

We have had a long and cold winter. With the new furnace it won't matter as much anymore. I would like to thank everyone on the board who worked on the project, especially Wes Licht, Tim Mitchell and David Houghton for the many hours spent in the attic. Crystal Lokken and Gini Nichols cleaned and emptied out the kitchen cabinets so Tim could make way for the furnace. Thank you Kevin Macke for getting the design work done and Mark and Larry for the installation work and thank you for donating a good portion of your time. Thank you Tom Duffy for generously donating the furnace. Thank you Steve Mykytyn for zone control and dampers and obtaining parts from RPC for a greatly reduced price. Thank you to Bernie Esch for your generous donation off the electrical bill.

We saved a great deal too by our do-it-yourself help and paid up expenses out of our savings. I would also like to thank everyone who donated toward the furnace fund. We have collected just over \$1114 cash donations and are still appealing for an additional \$6000 to complete the fund drive.

Dale Marsden
President, McFarland Historical Society

*Place
Stamp
here*

Antique Fair a Big Success

by Crystal Lokken

An early 1900s camera, heirloom cookie recipe, 1930s mesh purse, 14k gold ladies pocket watch from the 1890s, paintings, a Hensen puppet...

What a great variety of antique treasures were shared at the annual meeting of the McFarland Historical Society on Sunday, March 2, in the Community Room of the E. D. Locke Library!

Great grandmother's baby shoes, carved wooden clock, miniature porcelain doll, puzzle box, willow chair, an impressive collection of vintage cracker jack prizes...

Shirley Baumann, antique dealer and art appraiser of Heirloom Appraisal and Estate Services, took charge of the afternoon. Her introductory remarks were rich with information about our antiques, including their care, as well as suggestions for appraising and insuring them.

A homestead certificate, a book of sermons in Norwegian from the 1700s, horse blankets, horse shoes, vintage toy train, a DeLaval sign, an antique doll, and a Nash truck ornament.

The annual business of the society preceded the program. An important item of business was the announcement of the installation of a new furnace at the museum. The present members of the society board were reelected. They are President Dale Marsden, Earl Anderson, Ken Brost, Mary Dahlstron, Virginia Dodson, David Houghton, Wes Licht, Crystal Lokken, Gini Nichols, Tim Mitchell, Christi Mykytyn, and Jackie Utter.

Brian Utter, manager of Cable Channel 12, videotaped the event for broadcasting later.

New Furnace Installed

by Tim Mitchell

February and March were busy months at the museum building as a new high efficiency heating system was installed. The old furnace, installed in 1971, was very inefficient and costly to run. The new system features zone control and will allow curators to work comfortably in portions of the museum that were previously too cold.

Local resident, Kevin Macke, served as the project leader and was instrumental in providing engineering services, obtaining materials and recommending expert installers.

Larry Bambrough of Larry's Sheet Metal, crafted the intricate metal ducting. The ducts were installed in the attic in order to preserve much needed museum space and retain the appeal of the interior rooms. Mark Pierick was our expert installer who made all the parts and pieces come together, while chaperoning several

eager museum volunteers.

Steve Mykytyn donated the zone control system and obtained other material at-cost. He also provided environmental monitoring and design services. Bernie Esch of Electrical Solutions performed the electrical wiring and made a substantial donation of labor.

Wes Licht and David Houghton wrapping insulation onto ducts to be installed in the attic.

Several museum board members volunteered over 115



hours of free labor and got quite an education in heating systems in return. They were: Wes Licht, Dale Marsden, David Houghton and Tim Mitchell. These volunteers greatly reduced our labor costs and Kevin was highly complimentary of their workmanship.

We were pleasantly surprised when we received word that Tom Duffy was donating the cost of the 120,000 btu furnace; a very substantial donation! Thank you Tom! The society's members also rose to the occasion with substantial donations amounting to around \$1110.00. Thank you to our generous members!

By the generous contributions of these many individuals we were able to meet our goal of installing a first-class, cost efficient system that will serve the society far onto the future and help preserve McFarland history. Everyone is anxiously looking for the early arrival of winter to put our system to the test! Perhaps not everyone!



McFarland in 1900

By Gini Nichols

The Stoughton Courier published "Community" news in its weekly editions. News from McFarland was published every three to seven weeks. There were 10 McFarland columns published in 1900. The following are clippings from the 1900 newspapers:

January 5, 1900: Mrs. J.M. Anderson's home was the scene of a pleasant social gathering last Thursday evening. The occasion was a supper given by her to the pupils of the M. E. Sunday school together with their parents and teachers. Nearly one hundred guests were served, after which an Xmas tree was lighted, which part was very much enjoyed by the smaller ones. The guests of honor were Mr. and Mrs. Dougan, the former pastor and his wife. It seemed like old times to have them in our midst, and all, even the wee tots had a hearty welcome for them. The evening's enjoyment closed with music after which the good nights were said and all went away feeling that they had spent a very enjoyable evening.

A number of young people enjoyed a sleigh ride last Friday night, driving out to George Siggelkow's where they were pleasantly entertained until the early morning.

January 26, 1900: The Messrs. Abram Brickson and Frank Moore are sporting some new ponies. We suggest that the latter be careful how he leaves his tied while at church.

February 23, 1900: Dr. Bolton's lecture on "What to Shoot and How to Hit," was the best of its sort that ever was delivered in this place, so say all that were lucky enough to hear him. The doctor is an able speaker and would hold the attention of almost any audience we think.

The funeral of Miss Emma Lewis occurred at the Norwegian Lutheran Church Monday afternoon, Rev. Bredesen officiating. A large concourse of relatives and friends followed her to her last resting place.

The men of this place will give their annual banquet on the evening of March 6th. All who want a good time should not fail to be present as this is the event of the season.

April 6, 1900: A very enjoyable time was had at the home of J. W. Custer last Wednesday evening. A number of our young people drove over and surprised his son George. We understand that one of the young men had quite an accident, occasioning his young ladies to walk some distance in the mud. Of course we sympathize with his feeling, but hope he will forget about his embarrassment in performing the duties of his new office, that of town clerk.

June 15, 1900: Miss Clara Larson and Lewis Severson were married at the former's home

Tuesday afternoon. The bride's many friends of this place wish them all success and happiness. The couple will make their home near Deerfield.

June 29, 1900: Rev. Waller, of Madison, conducted services at the Nor. Luth. Church last Sunday. Rev. Rue will preach here July 8th.

July 13, 1900: Miss Sara Johnson has returned home after spending the winter in Nebraska. Miss Hazel Torgeson of Stoughton is visiting at the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Shetter.

July 27, 1900: Quite a number of people from this place took advantage of the low rate to Clear Lake, Iowa, last Sunday.

August 24, 1900: P. F. Nelson went to Minnesota Tuesday evening to spend a week with his brother in Albert Lea and Lake Mills.

The home of Dr. MacLachlan has been brightened by the arrival of a little daughter in Madison.

November 23, 1900: Mrs. Brandt arrived her Tuesday from Dakota where she was detained with sickness.

Herman Aaroen and little daughter returned from an enjoyable trip through the west.

National History Day

by Christi Mykytyn

On Saturday, May 3rd, 440 young historians from across the state competed at the Wisconsin Historical Society's National History Day. High School and Middle School students traveled to the Historical Society on State Street to compete in a number of categories hoping to move on to the National Competition in Washington DC. Christi Mykytyn, board member of the McFarland Historical Society, judged the Individual Junior Documentary event as well as being a final judge for Group Junior Documentaries. Other categories were Papers, Exhibits, Performances, and Web Sites. Entries reflected the annual theme for 2008: Conflict and Compromise in History. Students in the documentary event created video or slide presentations on a variety of topics, from 'Balancing Man's Conflict with Nature' to 'Father Groppi: Hero to the People, or Foe?'

One of the Group Junior films that advanced to the National Competition was "Small Town, Big Strike: The Story of the 1974 Hortonville Teachers' Strike." It was just as educational for the judges as it was for the students during the day long event. All of the students were very knowledgeable about the subjects that they chose and the quality of work they presented was very impressive. If you are interested in being a judge for National History Day next spring, please contact the above named board member.