



# McFarland Historical Society

5814 MAIN STREET MCFARLAND, WISCONSIN 53558 PH: 608-838-3992  
Issue NO. 48

May 2013

For a color version, go online: <http://www.mcfarlandhistorical.org>

## Museum Opening & Memorial Day Bake Sale

On May 27, 9:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. we will be holding our annual bake sale and museum opening. Proceeds from the bake sale will be applied to operating expenses. We need your donation of pies, cakes, cookies and other goodies to make this event a success. Baked items may be brought to the museum Sunday, May 26, from 1:00 to 4:00 P. M. and on Memorial Day, May 27, from 8:30 to 10:00 A. M. You may be called and requested to bake goods for donation to the bake sale. 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. Carriage rides, provided by Wes Licht and his team of Morabs, will start soon after the end of the parade and run until about 3 P.M.

## Larson House Report

by Jane Licht

Thanks to the amazing dedication of volunteers and contractors, we continue to realize great progress at the Larson House. You can see this as you drive by. We have also been working inside the house. New old-fashioned plaster has been put on the walls in many rooms that have been painted with lovely colors. There is a new dehumidifier in the basement attached to our new furnace, thanks to Denny Frank's D&J Heating. Hyland Construction has removed the old porch to prepare for building a new one to look just like the original. The Landscape Committee is hard at work developing their plans, including a perennial bed, an herb garden constructed by Eagle Scout candidate Sean Kohl, and trees donated by Toddle-In Nursery and Trees on Wheels.

Rooms have been named by the following families: the children of Crystal Lokken, McFarland State Bank, the descendants of the five daughters of Obed Larson, the wife of Stanley Dodson, the younger daughter of Hartman Olson, the parents of Mike Harried, and the children of Howard and Anne Davis. Only two rooms are left for naming at this time. Contact Jane Licht for more information. 838-8178

**The "Buy a Board" campaign has been extremely successful. Individuals and families may purchase a board for \$25 only though this year, and the campaign ends on December 31, 2013. Contact Judy St. Clair for information 838-8739 or go to our website, [www.mcfarlandhistorical.com](http://www.mcfarlandhistorical.com) Be sure that you get your "honorees" on the list in the Larson House.**

Artifacts have been pouring in. Still needed are a low side buffet, preferably walnut and from the 1920's, and an antique hurricane lamp from the 1900 to 1930 time period. A huge thanks to all who have contributed their time, labor, money and artifacts for this community treasure.



We hope to be open for a "sneak preview" in time for the Family Festival in September. Volunteers are always welcome! Contact Jane, 838-8178.

*One of the many volunteer paint crews at the Larson House: (L to R) Glenn Nielsen, Dave Ebert, Jane Licht and Dale Marsden.*

# School History

by Wes Licht

Celebrating the beginning of McFarland High School and other educational highlights will be the theme for the exhibit in the lobby of the McFarland Historical Museum. It's been just 50 years since the founding of the present school district but efforts to provide good educational opportunities for area youngsters began long before that with the many one-room schools. Great students, dedicated staff and outstanding community support for the McFarland Spartans will be on exhibit this summer at the museum. If you have any school memorabilia such as photos, prom or Spartan sports souvenirs, year books, graduation tassels, student guidelines, historical newspaper articles or other interesting educational items, please consider sharing them with us so we can add to our theme story. Contact Wes Licht at 838-8178 (email [jlicht@sprynet.com](mailto:jlicht@sprynet.com)) or other board members.



## New Display in Annex

by Wes Licht

A large new exhibit is about to open in the Annex, the building behind the Log Cabin and the Museum. Early Farming is the theme of the entire display featuring the activities on the diversified farms that were prominent in this area around the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. From raising pigs to dairying, tobacco production, planting and harvesting various crops with seasonal activities such as haying and threshing all by hand or with horses for power. The resourcefulness and ingenuity of these local farmers is apparent with the early inventions and equipment on exhibit, all before electricity came to McFarland. Thanks to Sharon Payne, Dick Kohl and Wes Licht for their efforts to share the stories about early farm life through this new display.



*The new horse and buggy display is on your left as you enter the annex, next to it is the barn display.*

*Tobacco farming shown in this new display, (At right,) has not changed much and equipment like this is still in use on area farms.*



## Member Obituaries

### **Frederick J. Buhr, age 74**

Frederick J. Buhr, 74 of McFarland, died unexpectedly on Thursday, April 19, 2012 in his home. He was born November 20, 1937 in Sumner, Ia., to Bert and Pauline (Troester) Buhr. Fred attended Texas Lutheran College in Sequin, Tex. and graduated from the University of Dubuque in Dubuque, Ia. in 1960. He attended Wartburg Theological Seminary, and received his master's degree in social work from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee in 1968. Fred earned a degree in computer programming from Madison Area Technical College in June of 1992. He married Shirley Klinger in August 25, 1962. Fred was employed by the State Department of Health and Family Services. Survivors include his wife, Shirley Buhr of McFarland; son, John Frederick of McFarland; sister, Joan (David) Crapo of Bolingbrook, Ill.; and nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his mother in 1985, and father in 1993.

### **Celestine Hein, age 95**

Celestine "Sally" Hein, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Wednesday, February 20, 2013 at Agrace Hospice Care Center in Fitchburg. Mom was born in Greenville, WI on July 17, 1917, to Rudolph and Wilhelmina (Bauer) Trauba. Mom grew up in a small town under the stern, watchful eye of a patriarchal German father. Being the oldest, she often looked after her brother and her two sisters. Her family was among the first to have a car and she often rode shotgun with her Dad while watching her siblings as he promulgated his various schemes throughout Outagamie County. She attended a small parochial school in Greenville WI, graduated Valedictorian from Appleton High School and was thrilled, at 18, coming to Madison, to attend the UW, in 1935, intending to become a nutritionist. She met her future husband, the blacksmith's son, in a chemistry class, sharing the same lab station. They were married the following year, 1937, her husband 'got religion' both literally and in his career, and by 1957 they had 6 children. Sally is survived by her six children, Pat Gaustad, Clarence (Jill), Bill (Sue), Carol Ford, Dan and Jim; 13 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandson; sister, Nathalie Person.

### **Earl M. Anderson, age 83**

Earl M. Anderson, born October 18, 1929, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 26, 2013, at Skaalen Home in Stoughton. Earl grew up and lived all his days on his family's farm which he loved dearly. His love for gardening throughout his lifetime began at an early age when he helped his family tend their large garden. He was a member of the Hope 4-H Club and exhibited his prize garden produce each summer at the Stoughton Jr. Fair. He attended and graduated from Waubesa School in 1943, attended Cottage Grove School for two years, took a year off to help on the farm and then finished at Stoughton High School, graduating in 1948. Earl took pride in his family history and was an active member of the historical societies of McFarland and Cottage Grove. He was fond of his collection of radios and often exhibited his small engine collection at historical events. Earl loved bowling and shooting trap and had many trophies demonstrating his expertise. He was a 30-year member of the Hope Rod and Gun Club and a 50-year member of the Moose Lodge. Earl is survived by his longtime companion, Virginia Starin. He was preceded in death by his parents, Andrew and Mya Anderson.

### **Lyle L. Larson, age 84**

Lyle L. Larson of Cottage Grove, born July 21, 1927, passed away on May 18, 2012. He was born July 21, 1927 to Leslie and Emma (Brandt) Larson of McFarland. Lyle married Elsie Howery on October 9, 1948 in Cross Plains. Lyle was a businessman all his life. After serving two years in the U.S. Navy, he went into partnership in a grocery store in his hometown of McFarland. Later he worked for Gerber Foods and Red Dot Foods. In 1960, Lyle and Dan Herbeck built and operated Badger Bowl in Stoughton. He built, owned, and operated the N & I-90 Tour Center truck stop with gas station, wrecker service, and restaurant. With Larson Oil Company, Lyle provided gas and bulk oil to other stations, farmers, and fuel for home furnaces. His final business adventure was Larson's Self Service in McFarland. He enjoyed every bit of his work. Lyle was on the Skaalen Home board and served his church, West Koshkonong, in many ways. Lyle is survived by his wife, Elsie; two sons, Kim (Karen) and Jim (Mike); daughter, Laurie (Tom Downs); and daughter-in-law, Bev Larson. He is further survived by nine grandchildren. Lyle was preceded in death by his parents, a son, Joseph, granddaughter, Amber Brooke, and several friends and relatives.

### **Eldred Mansford Swingen, age 95**

Eldred Mansford Swingen died November 13, 2012; he was born in Cooperstown, N.D. June 6, 1917, the only child of Henry H. and Anna Beata (Stai) Swingen. He was raised in Village of Hannaford, North Dakota and attended public schools. Eldred graduated from University of North Dakota in 1939, with a B.S. in Commerce. He was a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity, Phi Eta Sigma, Beta Sigma Phi, Blue Key, and Delta Sigma Pi. Eldred attended Harvard Law School, was a member of the Hugo Black Law Club, and was drafted to the U.S. Army before Pearl Harbor. He was commissioned at the Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and assigned to the 905th Field Artillery Battalion, 80th Infantry Division, serving as S-2 Captain. Eldred was awarded the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster and 4 battle stars. After service in World War II, he graduated with an LLB from University of Wisconsin Law School in September 1946. In the same month, he was married to his patient sweetheart, Virginia Eighthmy Smith at Bethel Lutheran Church. Together, they raised a daughter, Regina Anne. His first employment was as district claim agent for the Chicago & Northwestern Railway with offices in Chicago, Mankato, Omaha, and Madison. He was a founder and sole survivor of the firm of Swingen, Stern, and Lenahan with offices in Madison and Oshkosh. Eldred was a partner of the firm of Johnson, Swingen, and Atterbury. Eldred was a member of Bethel Lutheran Church, Maple Bluff Country Club, the Madison Club, Ygdrasil Literary Club, and Torske Klubben of Madison. His passions included family, model trains, golfing and world travels. Eldred was also an avid Packers fan. He is survived by his wife, Virginia Swingen; and daughter, Regina Anne Swingen Lee of Cookeville, Tenn.

I want to support local history as a member of the McFarland Historical Society. Please enroll me as a new  or renewal  member for 2012.

(Select one membership option)

- Individual  \$ 10
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Make your check payable to and mail to : McFarland Historical Society,  
 P.O. Box 94, McFarland, WI 53558

**Obituaries (cont.)**

**Eleanor Seekins, age 90**

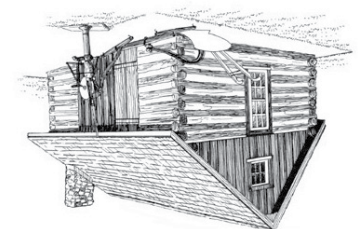
Eleanor Seekins, McFarland, passed away on Thursday, May 9, 2013. She was born in Philadelphia, Pa., on March 19, 1923, the daughter of Earle and Catherine (Wilson) Peterson. Eleanor was a long time resident of McFarland and very active in the community. She was a devoted member of McFarland Lutheran Church. Eleanor enjoyed volunteering her time and contributing monetarily to many local organizations and projects.

She is survived by her four children, Philip (Lisa Isenberg) Friedlund of St. Paul, Minn., Linda (friend, Rod Burmeister) McFarlane of Rio, Gary (Carol) Friedlund of Crete, Ill., and Deborah (Rick) Sawyer of McFarland; nine grandchildren, Sarah (Andy) Pierce, Martha (Mike) Johnson, Gustaf Friedlund, Tiffany (Don) LaBelle, Cherise (Torvic) Caradine, Jason (Melissa) Friedlund, Nathan Friedlund, Scott (Kathi) Sawyer and Shane (Lisa) Sawyer; 11 great-grandchildren; and sister, Jean Pierzchala. Eleanor was preceded in death by her parents; and her husband, Guy.

**Memorial services will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, 2013, at McFarland Lutheran Church, 5529 Marsh Road, McFarland, with the Rev. Kelli Schmit officiating. Burial will follow in Lower McFarland Cemetery. Friends and relatives are invited to a luncheon, following the burial, in the church fellowship hall.**



**Boxholder  
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