



ARTIFACTS

Volume SUMMER

JUNE 1992

THEY PICKED OUR BRAINS

Wauwasha County Historical Society asked your Director and President to speak at their annual meeting at Wautoma in April. Pam and Marshall presented an hour long program, outlining our inventory procedures, accession forms, storage techniques and cataloging procedures. Their Museum is located in an old jail building in Wautoma and their "Guiding Light" recently passed away taking much of their information, know how and records to the grave with him. To quote their president, "You might say we are literally beginning from scratch."

They had heard of our systems that have been put in place at South Wood County Historical Museum and asked that we share our knowledge with them, which we did. This followed a private tour of their museum just before the talk.

Whether they follow our suggestions or not we are not sure, but it is elating to know that they turned to us for information. We are not in the consulting business, but it is nice to know that others recognize our Society and its people for a job apparently well done!

OUR FORMAT IS NEW,
THE TYPE STYLES ARE DIFFERENT,
CAN YOU READ THIS EASILY?

WE'D LIKE YOUR REACTION TO THE
NEW STYLE OF THE NEWSLETTER.

Is the second floor beckoning? June, a traditional month for brides and grooms, weddings and flowers. What better way to begin the season than by displaying wedding dresses from our clothing collection. Each a beautiful creation from special days of the past.

We have chosen three dresses and one gentleman's waistcoat to display. There are also some special keepsakes included. We have ring boxes, one fashioned as a church bell, shoes, special hair adornments and bridal pictures from some turn-of-the-century couples.

NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW!

This summer visitors to the museum will be presented with an all new folder which has been prepared for that purpose. The folder features photos of specific artifacts rather than rooms like our old one did. This way room themes can be changed and the brochure will still be up to date.

In addition to being available at the museum, supplies will appear at the Chamber of Commerce Office and local hotels and motels.

NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW!

THE MEDICAN MAN COMMETH

Old medical records of Wisconsin Rapids indicate that the first man of medicine in this area was Dr. C. W. Whitney (any relation to Dan Whitney of lumber fame?) in 1855. A year later, Dr. Patrick Hurley hung out his shingle in Centralia, (any relation to sawmill operator Hurley?). Dr. Hurley served the settlement of Frenchtown (Port Edwards), making the trip there on horseback; the saddlebags taking the place of the familiar black Doctor's bag. In later years, when a suitable road was built, Dr. Hurley had built the area's first buggy. It was built by George Cariveau.

Dr. Hurley was joined in medical practice by Dr. DeMarr and Dr. Witter. (Any relation to Isaac Witter?) Dr. Witter managed to serve as local postmaster for several years.

Dr. F.X. Pomainville, in a tape recording at the museum, recalls that a housewife often scrubbed the kitchen table in preparation for surgery such as removal of tonsils or appendicitis. He continues to tell how he amputated a lumber jack's leg in the Commercial Hotel, using only whiskey as a sedative. According to Pomainville, the drug belladonna was the accepted cure-all of the time, obviously the aspirin of those years.

The first hospital was a four bed room located over Otto's drug store in downtown Grand Rapids. Hospital charges were often paid for with milk and other foods such as jams, potatoes and canned foods.

A nurse's school operated up to the early 1920's. The rate of pay for a nurse varied from twelve to sixteen dollars per month, depending upon experience.

WEEKEND SPECIALS

A copy of the September 15, 1939, NEKOOSA PORT EDWARDS NEWS carries the following weekend specials featured by Huber's Grocery of Nekoosa.

Catsup (14 Oz bottle)	10c
Heinz soup	3 cans/25c
Cookies (2lb bag)	25c
Butter	1lb/25.5c
Ring Bologna	1lb/15c
Men's Flannel Shirt	\$1.29

It appears that Hubers would be the place to shop if the store was still in existence today! But Korbol & Oliver, just down the street from Hubers was offering:

Ladies Housedress	\$1.09
Red Salmon (16 oz can)	25c

To put things in proper perspective, wages at the mill were approximately 25c - 30c per hour.

ARTIFACTS

A publication of
South Wood County Historical Corporation
540 Third Street South
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(715) 423-1580

Editor: Pam Walker

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Children's Room Has New Look

The "Toy Room" on the second floor (previously called the Children's Room) has been moved to a new location in a larger room and renamed. After new carpeting, painting, drapes and several newly constructed glass display cases were installed, the display is being installed for this summer's viewing.

In contrast to the old room where you were only permitted to stand in the doorway to look at the contents, the new arrangement invites you to walk in for a closer look. Children of all ages will have a chance to see toys of bygone eras.

We are in need of additions to complete our display. Do you have antique toys you would like to donate? Some specific items we are looking for are:

- Cast iron toys (trains, trucks)
- War time paper and wooden toys
- Homemade toys
- Locally manufactured toys
- Toys made of old beer cans (Japan)
- Windup or spring driven toys

We already have plenty of dolls beds and a vast collection of dolls, but welcome additions if not already represented in our collection. The cut-off date for toys presented is about 1950 which brings the collection through WW II.

THE SKY IS FALLING, THE SKY IS FALLING

Watch out for your head as you enter the Museum!! The "Capitals" on top of the four columns at our front entryway are deteriorating and will be repaired in the very near future.

(cont. top of next column)

A Capital is the fancy capping adorning the top of the column and is made from a plaster-like material. Moisture has penetrated them and they are peeling and even crumbling. Therefore, after erecting scaffolding they will be cleaned, repaired, sealed and painted. We will also put some mechanism around them to discourage nesting birds.

At the same time, we will install vents in the columns to allow adequate air circulation and prevent rot. With the completion of this \$900 project, the exterior work will be nearly complete. Just one step closer toward our 1993 goals.

Dear John:

It has come to our attention that you are a bit dismayed with the condition of the exhibits in the basement. We know that this is your favorite place to volunteer, hopefully it will remain so when the renovations are complete.

For the time being we had to remove the railroad exhibit to treat the walls, floor and ceiling...our intention is replace the artifacts by June. We hope you will enjoy the recreated depot.

As for the Surveyor's exhibit, although it seems down-sized compared to the past display, this area is scheduled for renovation for Spring of 1993. We are grateful for your attentiveness to these areas.

SWCHC Staff

Summer Calender of Events

Betty Zimmerman,
PR and Promotions

May 26 - June 23

Porcelains by Ruth Rockwood

Mrs. Rockwood is a true artisan. Her porcelains are exquisite in detail and color. She does all her own firings. The figurines have many individual additions. Mrs. Rockwood will be at the Museum May 31, 1992, to talk with you!

June 28 - July 28

Cast Toy Soldier Collection

This collection is owned by Herman "Bud" Wagner and contains Mignots, Britons, Military miniatures, Connoisseur figures, Dime Store soldiers, Tin flats, composition figure and plastic. Contains most every type of toy soldier made in the last 100 years. Also, "G.I. Joes". Mr. Wagner will be at the museum several times during the exhibit run and will be happy to discuss his collection and give you information on you soldiers.

August 2 - September 1 Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department

Memorabilia and picture commemorating over 100 years of service to the Wisconsin Rapids area.

August 8

Displays honoring the 25th Anniversary of Wood County Home Health Service. Personnel will be here to talk to you about the history of their organization.



SOUTH WOOD COUNTY
HISTORICAL CORPORATION

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Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

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