



RECOLLECTIONS

APRIL 2011

Museum Notes

MAHS Museum

P.O. Box 463
204 Main St.
Monticello, WI, 53570
(608) 938-4216
MAHS@tds.net

Hours of Operation

Saturday 10 AM – 2 PM
or by appointment
Closed for the season
December – April

Board Members

President – Mary Davis
Vice-Pres. – Karen Brugger
Secretary – May Burgy
Treas. – Jennifer Blumer
Member - John Casey
Member - Michael Wayland
Member - John Stenbroten

Collection Manager

William Zimmerman

Collection Archivist

Karen Gempeler

Volunteer Coordinators

Docents - Alice Voegeli
Programs - Donna Ferguson
Membership - Carol Schultz
Newsletter - Roger Dooley

Attention everyone! The Monticello Area Historical Society's annual dinner and election of board members will be held Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at 6:30 p. m. at The Dining Room at 209 Main.

The buffet dinner costs \$25.00 per person. This price is based on a minimum of 30 participants.

Please make your dinner reservation as early as possible, but not later than May 3rd, by sending your cash** or check, made payable to MAHS, to:

Monticello Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 463
Monticello WI 53570
Attn: Jennifer Blumer

**If you send cash please be certain to include your name and address in the envelope.

Dues Increase

Annual members brace yourselves for a much needed dues increase. Effective May 1 the annual membership dues will increase to \$10.00 per year, the family membership will be eliminated and life membership dues will increase to \$100.00.

This increase became necessary after we calculated that the annual cost of the newsletter was a bit more than the \$5.00 annual dues. In the future members who are not current with their dues will not receive a newsletter.

New Biennial Display

The museum's new 2011-2012 display will be about past and present Monticello area sports. We are asking anyone who may have some interesting family sports mementos and who would be willing to loan them to us for the two year display period to contact us.

We may not be able to display all items because of our limited space but we would like to have a selection to choose from. Sports include, but are not limited to, team sports such as tug-of-war, softball, football, basketball, baseball and individual sports such as

horseshoes, roller skating, badminton, tennis, fishing, shooting, archery, croquet, darts. I don't think we will accept Euchre as a team sport, though.

April Meeting

The April general membership meeting will be held Thursday, April 28 at 7 p.m. in the Zwingli church basement. Following the business meeting Mr. Ron Twellman will give a presentation about the Experimental Aircraft Association museum in Oshkosh. All area residents are invited to attend.

Thank you to the following people for their donations this quarter

Robert Elmer—Book of poems written by Monticello author Lea Kilgore-Nottingham.

Debra Witte—Wedding garments of Mr. & Mrs. Albert Marty, circa 1907. A ladies fancy hat and hatpin, a blue denim sunbonnet and several postcard photographs of Monticello. She's also allowing us to digitize Irene Marty's family photograph albums.

National Historic Cheesemaking Center—A cast-iron pot-bellied heating stove used at the Stewart tunnel.

John Ochsner—Large Green County map with all country schools marked.

Thanks to our volunteers

This will be the last newsletter of our membership year—remember, our year is from May through April—so it's time to extend our appreciation to the volunteers who have helped us keep the museum and society functioning this year. In addition to those listed below, there are volunteers like **Ron Blumer** and **Mike Davis** who have stepped up to help with odd jobs and others who have volunteered for jobs but not been called upon yet. We thank you too! Once the second floor storage/work area is complete we will be able to plan a real schedule for volunteers to help sort, dust, clean and catalog artifacts. Hopefully, next year the thank you list will extend off the page!

Mary Davis and the **Board of Directors** for steering the ship and keeping the bills paid.

Karen Gempeler for continuing to catalog our artifacts despite the dust and construction debris she often has to wade through to reach the museum office.

Karen Brugger for her entertaining and timely window displays.

Carol Schultz for maintaining our membership rolls.

Donna Ferguson for being the dynamic talent agent who discovers and schedules our monthly meeting entertainment.

Alice Voegeli for coordinating the Saturday docent schedule each year.

William Zimmerman for volunteering to replace me as the museum Collection Manager!

Jules Cappelle for providing and maintaining the MAHS web site.

John Casey for printing our quarterly newsletters.

Museum Renovation Update

Since the photos were taken the north walls have been dry walled and painted. We are now waiting for plywood flooring to be laid over the old board floors then we can move the artifacts over to the new area. The contractor can then proceed with the demolition and reconstruction of the south side of the second floor. This phase won't take so long because the heating ducts and electrical wiring have already been roughed in. There is still a lot of work for us to do but the end is in sight.



Left-Willie Zimmerman is inspecting the rooms prior to beginning wall demolition.
Below-Approximately the same area with the walls removed and the artifacts moved to the south side of the floor.



The construction on the north side of the floor is done, furnace and ductwork are installed and the electrical wiring is roughed in. Insulation and drywalling will be done soon,



When this region is drywalled and painted the artifacts will be moved into the new area and the whole demolition/construction process will start on the south side of the floor. When finished we will finally have a place to provide permanent storage locations for our catalogued artifacts.





Notes About Folks By One Who Knows

Nick Bieri, who died some six or seven years ago at the home of his niece, Mrs. Albert Weissmiller, in Monticello, made his livelihood for many years catching wolves and foxes and collecting the bounty offered for

them, and by marketing honey which he obtained from trees he located and claimed.

He lived for many years with his brother, Fred, in Washington Township and spent all his time hunting and fishing, sports in which he had few, if any equals. He would sit hours on end watching the lair of a wolf or fox to determine whether there were young. When he definitely decided that there were he would get the cubs, take them to the county seat and obtain the bounty offered for their capture.

Mr. Bieri also knew every bee tree within a radius of 30 miles of his home, which at one time was a well-furnished and equipped cave. In those days, though there was no written law upon the subject, it was considered sufficient if a man finding a bee tree placed his mark upon it. The tree was his until he had removed the honey. If the tree, at some future time, became the home of a swarm of bees he had to re-mark it, at that time, to again make it his property. No mark held over indefinitely. Anyone who stole honey from a marked tree was one to be scorned, indeed, and that seldom did happen in those days when much of the law was unwritten. Many were the trees which bore Mr. Bieri's mark and large was the amount of honey he would collect during a season.

Gone now are most of the wolves and foxes and bee trees with the colorful characters of the past who knew so much of nature and her folk. Few are the men today who have ever taken honey from a bee tree or shot a wolf or fox in

this country or know as much about the woods and game as did Nick Bieri, Ruben Fulsom and some of the other men who made their living from such knowledge.



At Least Hermie Can Translate Gobbledegook

Until residents of Monticello get the hang of it their new “ecological site” is keeping its more familiar name, Hermie's Dump, as a footnote. Herman Blum, caretaker of the state-licensed village dump said, “I don't think anybody understands that other word.”

According to Webster, an ecological site might be a place for the study “of the interrelationship of organisms and their environments, especially as manifested by natural cycles and rhythms, community development and structure, interaction between different kinds of organisms, geographic distributions, and population alterations.” In other words, a dump.

—Ray Barth Photo

Thanks to a donation by Robert Elmer we now have a copy of Lea Kilgore-Nottingham's 1942 poetry book "Bittersweet". His Internet search skills turned up two copies, one he purchased and gave to MAHS and the other copy was purchased by an anonymous donor and given to the Monticello Library. I've included several excerpts from the book to show the talents of our local poet. Bob also publishes "Family History Notes", a Swiss genealogical on-line newsletter, and invites people to subscribe by sending a request to Bob Elmer raelmer@charter.net.

BITTERSWEET

Perhaps it takes its name from life itself,
Which, sweet to every man has much of gloom.
Take heart, my friends, from lowly bittersweet,
When dark and lowering clouds your lives surround,
Lift high the flaming badge of courage, too,
And lend your bit of cheer to all around.
Gay bittersweet now brightens my dark room,
In ivory vase upon the mantel shelf.

COLD

She lay in bed this woman old,
I wonder why I feel so cold,
The fire is on, I've blankets four,
Can all this cold come in the door?
The next day late, cold in her bed,
Her body lay, but she had fled.

MONTICELLO

Monticello, like a jewel
Set between two emerald hills
Threaded on a silver ribbon
Which the narrow channel fills.
Fringed about with oak and maple
Serenaded by the birds
Center of the farmers haven
Home of countless dairy herds.
Calm and peaceful in the valley
No unrest that cities give,
Far away from crowds confusion
Where men still have time to live.

INSECURITY

Lura, three years old, stood by Mother's bed
Never very bold, and she softly said,
When she saw the baby there, she knew not how
Snuggled close to Mother, "What will me do now?"

HOUSECLEANING TIME

I wish I were a lucky bruin,
And when the sun shone in the spring,
To show the utter rack and ruin
The dinginess that winters bring,
Then when I gazed on wall and ceiling
Where cobwebs hung in gay festoons,
I never once would think of kneeling
To clean the dust and clear the rooms,
But would, without a look behind me,
Leave my old den, with brief adieu,
And, when approached the winds of winter,
Go find a cave, both clean and new!

POSTPONEMENT

As I listen to the whistle
Of the engine on the track,
Loudly call, "I'm going places,
I'll bring you back, I'll bring you back.
As I listen to the rumble
Of the car wheels steady hum,
They are calling, calling always,
"Will you come, will you come?"
But I answer, as I listen,
To their rhythm and their rhyme,
(From my fire-side warm and cozy,
"Some other time, some other time."

RECOMPENSE

It might be a roast, or it could be stew,
Food fit for a king, or a bite or two,
But when he has eaten, she's sure to hear,
Those welcome words, "A good dinner, my dear!"

Though her feet are tired, and her back aches sore,
And she says to herself, "All cooking's a bore,"
When he smiles at her, all her cares seem light,
And she hears again, "A good dinner tonight!"



Guess who's
hanging in
Rep.
Tammy
Baldwin's
Washington
D.C. Office?