

## LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



### Ed Hill makes a return call

Over 25 years ago, when Antigo's Carnegie Library was in need of tuck pointing repairs, Ed Hill was called upon to do the work. Since then the building has been transformed into the museum of the Langlade County Historical Society and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The building, now about 108 years old, is again in need of repairs and once again Ed Hill has stepped in to do the work.

Thanks to the success of our "Windows to the Past" fundraising campaign we have been able to continue with much needed repairs to the exterior of the building. Repairing the mortar also required

replacing some bricks and this might not have gone as easily as it did were it not for Ed's knowledge and experience. Brick styles, materials, and sizes have varied over the years and finding replacements for a building over 100 years old is not a given. But Ed recalled doing some work on Northland University's Wheeler Hall in Ashland. The original building dates to 1892, about 10 to 12 years older than Antigo's museum and the bricks were very similar. The remodeling of Wheeler Hall left them with about 100 leftover bricks. Fortunately, Ed only needed about 90 replacements and so we got all we needed.



The project had to be completed before temperatures fell below freezing. The job has now been successfully completed. In the months to come the museum will continue addressing building improvements, including improved interior lighting.

### Annual Meeting and Board Elections

The Historical Society's annual meeting is held each November. At that time elections to the board take place. The board consists of nine members, three of which have terms expiring each year. This year the positions whose terms are up are those held by Judy Grimm, Terri Torgeson, and Dave Zingg who has replaced Jim Klapste. The nominating committee of the board recommends that Dave Zingg and Judy Grimm be reelected and is considering suggestions to replace Terri Torgeson who has chosen to not continue on the board.

Election to a three year term is open to all members of the Historical Society. Contact the museum for further information. Elections will take place at the annual meeting which this year will take place on Thursday November 21 at the Edison Hall at 623 Edison St. in Antigo. At the meeting nominations will also be accepted from the floor. The meeting will also include a brief update of museum activities and a featured speaker, Gary Hess, who will describe his grandfather's family business which was a cooperage in Madison that made beer barrels for Wisconsin

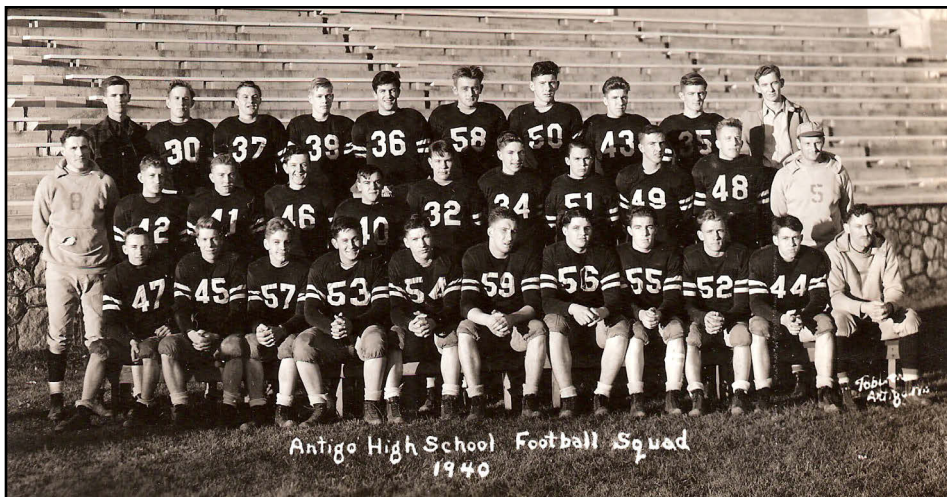
breweries, including those in Antigo. Additional information about the meeting and the guest speaker are enclosed on a separate newsletter insert.

#### **CURATOR:**

Mary Kay Wolf

#### **DIRECTORS:**

Dean Blazek	Joe Hermolin
Nancy Bugni	Terri Torgeson
Glenn Bugni	Dave Zingg
Judy Grimm	Diane Zuelzke
Lisa Haefs	



## Home of the Red Robins

When local football fans go to watch the Red Robins on a Friday evening they share a space that has a long history of football tradition and also government assistance to local communities. The economic stimulus packages enacted during the Great Depression resulted in many structures still serving Antigo about 75 years later. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) gave Antigo a new water treatment plant on First Avenue, many bridges over Spring Brook, including the Hudson Street Bridge, and the home field of the Antigo Robins football team. All were built in the 1930s and designed by the city engineer at the time, Henry Olk.

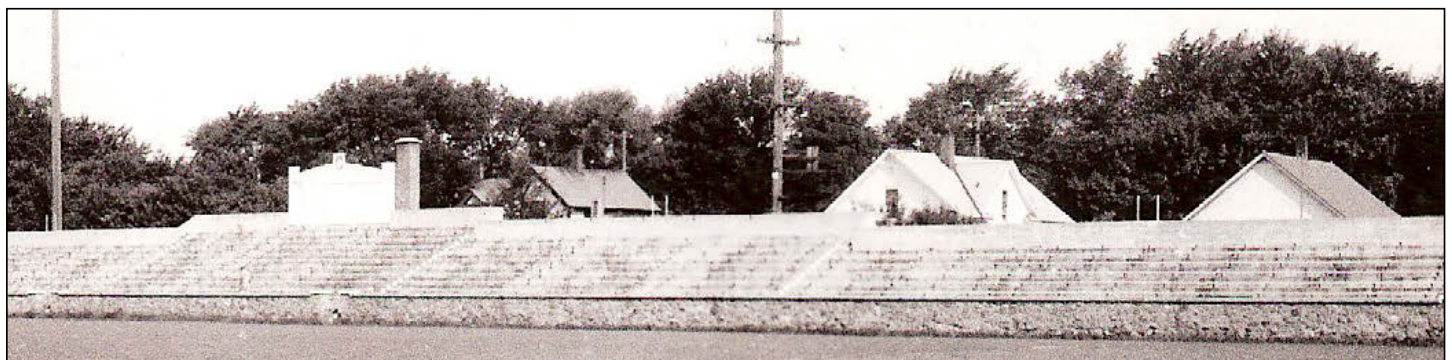
Top: 1940 Red Robins Football team.  
Bottom: Schofield Stadium 1939

Schofield Stadium, as it is now known, is at a site that was originally built over 90 years ago and was called Athletic Park. It could be the oldest prep football facility in the state. It was built in 1923 by the Antigo Athletic Association and inaugurated with a baseball game against Rhinelander on August 4, 1923. In the fall the field hosted the high school football games with fans seated in wooden bleachers. It wasn't long before Athletic Field required an upgrade.

In 1939 the WPA funded the construction of a new facility, built of bricks, reinforced concrete, and cement. The stands were not completed in time for the first home game of the season

on September 16. It was a day of celebration, called "Kick Off Day" with parades earlier in the afternoon and over 2,000 fans in attendance to witness the Antigo Red Robin's victory over Nekoosa by a score of 26-6. The high school band and American Legion Color Guard performed on the field. The stadium was officially dedicated at the next home game on October 6 when 3,500 fans and various WPA, city, and school dignitaries saw Antigo easily defeat Marshfield 45-0, with halfback Hal Fermanich scoring three touchdowns.

Over the years the stadium saw many footballers take to the field and a number of championships under the guidance of coach Schofield. In 1999 Athletic Park was renamed Schofield Stadium after the coach who led Antigo to three state championships and 15 Wisconsin Valley Conference titles during his 25 year career. Many improvements to the scoreboard, team meeting rooms, concession stands, restrooms, public address system, press box, storage facilities, and a field irrigation system have occurred in recent years. But the original structure, designed by Henry Olk and funded by the WPA remains an Antigo landmark, what might be thought of as a local Lambeau Field.



# Roll out the Barrel

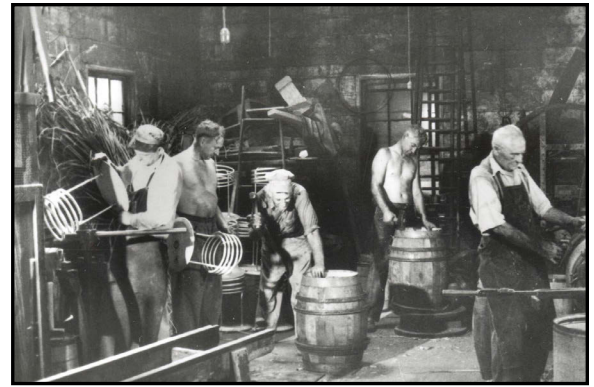
Francis Deleglise, the founder of Antigo, worked hard from the early days of Springbrook, later renamed Antigo, to keep the city dry. While he was successful in almost all of his battles, within 3 years of his death in 1892 two breweries were established in his city; the Antigo Brewery and Citizen's Brewery.

Beer tastes best when it has been aged in wooden barrels to pick up the flavor and aroma of the wood. Oak is often the preferred wood. While some larger breweries may make their own barrels, many smaller ones, such as those in Antigo chose to purchase them from a cooperage. An important Wisconsin cooperage was the Hess and Sons Barrel Cooperage in Madison.

Frank J. Hess Sr. was born in southern Bohemia on April 10, 1870. At age 14 he wanted to learn the cooperage trade. So he served a 3-year apprenticeship at the Pilsner Brewery in Pilsen, Bohemia. At

age 20 he immigrated to America, travelling by ship across the Atlantic and by train to Chicago. He worked in Chicago for a short time as a cooper manufacturing white oak beer kegs before moving to Prairie du Chien in Wisconsin. In Prairie du Chien he married Anna Stluka, and started his family.

Then in 1904, Henry Fauerbach of the Fauerbach Brewery in Madison, persuaded Hess to move to Madison to start an independent cooperage business. His business, The Frank J. Hess and Sons Cooperage factory was at Schenk's Corners in Madison for 62 years. It was Wisconsin's largest independent cooperage. They manufactured and repaired beer kegs for the Antigo breweries as well as other breweries throughout the state including those in Madison, Hausmann, Breckheimer, Baraboo, Beaver Dam, Brunkow and Mueller, Cassville, Chippewa Falls,



Columbus, Duluth, Fort Atkinson, Green Bay, Janesville, Jefferson, Kenosha, La Crosse, Mineral Point, Monroe, Oconto, Oshkosh, Portage, Port Washington, Potosi, Prairie du Chien, Reedsburg, Rhinelander, Sauk City, Sheboygan, Slinger, Superior, Watertown, and Wausau. Other clients included the Hamm's Brewery in Baltimore, Maryland; Star Brewery in Sioux City, Iowa; and the West End Brewery in Utica, New York. They also manufactured and repaired wine and whiskey barrels.

With the onset of prohibition in 1919 many cooperages went out of business since they lost their most important clients, including the Antigo breweries. Hess and Sons was able to keep going but just barely with other clients. When prohibition ended in 1933 business took off rapidly and continued for over three more decades.

In 1966 the Frank J. Hess and Sons Cooperage, now run by the sons, closed. It was the last cooperage factory in America that manufactured white oak beer kegs for the breweries.

Gary Hess, the grandson of Frank Hess Sr. will be the featured speaker at this year's annual meeting.



Top: Hess Family brewing 1949

Bottom: Hess Family 1947

Teachers' Standards from a 1915 bulletin on teacher conduct (generally women):

- 1) You will not marry during the term of your contract.
- 2) You are not to keep company with men.
- 3) You must be home between the hours of 8pm and 6am unless attending a school function.
- 4) You may not loiter downtown in ice cream stores.
- 5) You may not travel beyond the city limits without permission of the chairman of the board.
- 6) You may not ride in the carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother.
- 7) You may not smoke cigarettes.
- 8) You may not dress in bright colors.
- 9) You may under no circumstances dye your hair.
- 10) You must wear at least two petticoats.
- 11) Your dresses must not be shorter than two inches above the ankle.
- 12) Keep the schoolroom neat and clean by sweeping the floor at least daily; scrubbing it at least weekly with hot soapy water; cleaning blackboards at least once daily; and start the fire by 7 am.

## Back to School

In spite of students' complaints about returning to the classroom the importance of education is noted in the beginnings of the country. The Northwest Territory, which included Wisconsin, was established by an act of congress in 1787. It was one of the first acts of the newly formed congress in a new country. It included the statement: "That religion, morality and knowledge, being necessary to the government and happiness of mankind, schools and means of education shall be forever encouraged."

Early settlers in Langlade County also considered education vital. The county's first school, in the eastern part of the county, was built in 1873, six months after the area's first settlers arrived. A teacher from Shawano was hired to instruct 5 students aged 5 to 18. She had to arrange to bring a blackboard from Shawano with her.

Finding the right teacher was not easy. People came to teaching from various backgrounds and with varying qualifications. Formal teacher training in United States did not begin until the 1800s and the first normal school was established in 1823. In 1863 a normal school



*Above: Antigo High School home economics class 1909-1910*

*Below: Antigo 3rd and 4th grade*

system was established in Wisconsin as part of the university system. Nine state normal schools were established by 1916. In 1901 the state authorized establishment of county normal schools in order to meet an ever increasing demand for teachers. The state agreed to fund up to 50% of the cost with the county funding the rest. In September 1905 the Langlade County board unanimously voted to fund a county normal school. The second floor of the just opened library was divided into four classrooms. In August 1906 Langlade County Normal School opened its doors to 35 student-teachers, becoming the state's 11th county normal to educate teachers for rural schools.

In time, teacher training demanded more than the space in the library so, in 1926, a teachers college was established across the street from the library. That normal school continued to train the county's teachers into the 1960s. Today that building houses the Boys and Girls Club.



# Life of a River Pig

In early days pine logs were floated to markets and sawmills by “river pigs”. It was dangerous work, generally undertaken in early spring.

River pigs awoke at 3 am, had breakfast at 4 am and were on the river by 5 am. The first task, “sacking”, involved wading into the river, often breaking through a thin ice layer and moving logs out to where the current would take them downstream. One river pig stated “after being in that cold water for a while you didn’t know if you had feet or legs.”

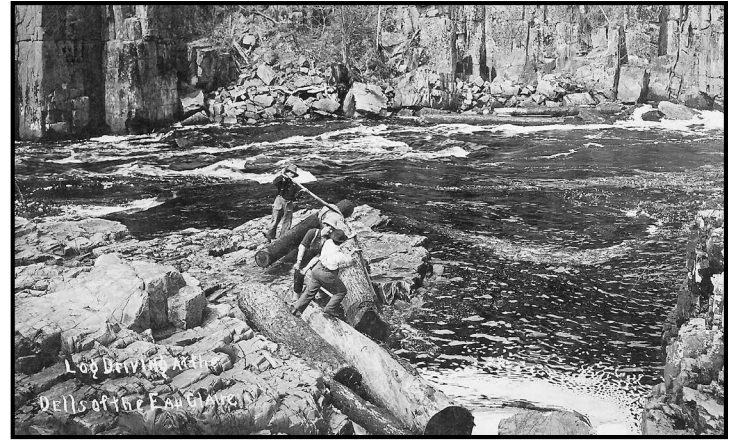
The men had two lunches, at 10am and 3 pm. When possible, lunches were served on the river from a

“wanigan”, a raft carrying the cook, an assistant, and provisions. Supper was served in camp which moved downstream with the drive. After a day’s drive the river pigs sometimes trekked 4 to 10 miles back to camp for supper and an opportunity to dry their clothes over a fire.

Log jams were a regular occurrence. One major jam took 5 or 6 days to clear. One logger recalled a friend being swept off a log by a

low hanging branch and drowning before help could reach him.

The Antigo Daily Journal of June 17, 1930 reported the last log drive down the Wolf River, a drive of just a few miles to a railroad siding.

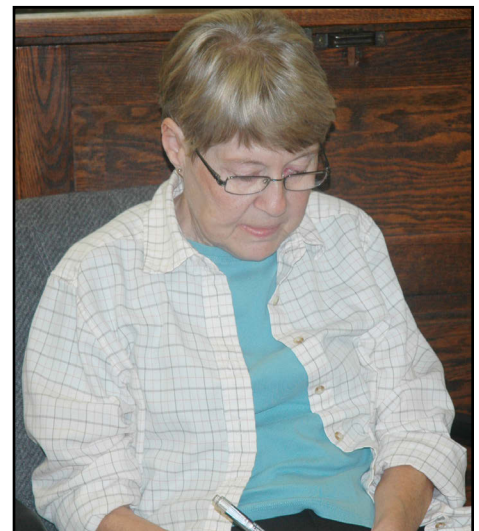


Above: Loggers working on the Eau Claire River at the dells. Photo by A.J. Kingsbury

# Museum Hours change

Extended summer hours at the museum have ended. We are still open from Thursday through Saturday but Tuesday and Wednesday are now days for reorganization. We are grateful to those who volunteered over the past months. Sue Kramer and Nancy Bugni kept the doors open on Tuesday while Mary Mollet and Jim Posselt performed those duties on Wednesday. In addition we had Bailey Helms, a middle school student, help organize files and scan photographs. Toni Thomas and Nancy Bugni did the landscaping over the summer.

From top left clockwise: Sue Kramer, Mary Mollet, Bailey Helms, and (left to right) Toni Thomas and Nancy Bugni



## THANK YOU

**Donations:**

- Lloyd Anstutz: Old newspapers, photographs, post cards, school diploma
- Marjorie Beck: Children's clothing, wooden rocking horse, bassinet
- Elvera Frisch: Her wedding dress, photos
- Gordy Flohr: Oil and gas cans
- Jennie Helm: Photo displays of 1950s restored Chevy of Pioneer Classic Auto
- Dolly Klee: Children's reading and play books
- Susan Kramer: Shorthand book, Antigo HS yearbooks
- Dale & Beverly Mork: clothing items
- Sherry Perkins: Framed portraits
- Ray Scroepfer: Fireman's asst. chief uniform jacket
- Dwight Vincent: WWII military model airplane collection

**Donations in Memorium:**

- In memory of Alice Cahak from Dean & Polly Blazek
- In memory of Betty Koss from Dean & Polly Blazek
- In memory of Betty Bradley, Alice Cahak, Ann Peck, Roland Sage, Nancy Schultz from Jim & Connie Hubatch

**Membership renewals:**

Jaquelyn Reynolds

**New Members:**

Diane Flohr

**New Volunteers:**

Nancy Bugni, Susan Kramer, Jake Wojciechowski

We would like to thank all members & volunteers who helped prepare items for and who helped serve at the Civic Music Association concert.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Annual meeting: Thursday Nov. 21 at the Edison Club (details enclosed)
- December: Santa at the museum (time and dates to be determined)

## ITEMS FROM THE MUSEUM



The Leica camera, introduced at a Leipzig trade fair in 1925, revolutionized photography and inspired photographers at least as much, if not more than, digital photography eight decades later. Its portability and

mechanical superiority dramatically changed photojournalism. The camera captured many iconic images of the 20th century throughout the world. It was used by Life photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt's to shoot the picture of a sailor kissing a nurse in Times Square on V-J Day in 1945 and by Korda's to portray Che Guevera in 1960, a photograph reproduced on millions of T-shirts and posters. The museum's 35mm rangefinder Leica was owned by Don Petersen who had a photo studio in Antigo in the 1950s.

**ADDRESS:**

404 Superior St., Antigo, WI 54409  
 Phone: (715) 627-4464  
 Email: lchs@dwave.net  
 web site: www.langladehistory.com

**MUSEUM HOURS:**

October 1 to May 1  
 Thursday to Saturday:  
 May 1 to October 1  
 Tuesday to Saturday  
 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Individual, 1 year: \$25  
 Individual, 3 years: \$50  
 Family, 1 year: \$30  
 Family, 3 years: \$70  
 Junior (18 or younger), 1 year: \$3  
 Business, 1 year: \$100  
 Life Member: \$250

Over the summer we had over 2,400 visitors to the museum, including people from many states and Australia, Denmark, Finland, Holland, Iceland, and Norway.

Some guest book comments included: "Brings back old memories", "Very interesting", "awesome!", "Love the train", "beautiful displays & lovely arrangements", and "Nice volunteers!"