

Summer 2014

LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Our Gift Shop

When visiting our museum be sure to stop at our gift shop. We have 440 locomotive caps back in stock as well as booklets

on Antigo's Landmarks, a book of Kingsbury's photographs of Langlade County and surrounding area, "Deleglise Log Cabin" maple syrup and souvenir plates and 440 related clothing items.



Rummage Sale Success

Our annual rummage sale is one of our major fundraisers. This year it was held on June 7 and was one of our best ever. We made about \$1,300 to help run our programs. We are grateful to all who donated items for the sale and all those who helped at the museum on that day. In the top photo museum volunteer Cliff Hoffmeister demonstrates a snow blower and chipper/shredder while finalizing a sale. In the bottom photo shoppers gather on the museum lawn to examine smaller items.

ArtStart Show

Several items from our significant collection of Indian beadwork are taking a brief trip away from home this summer. The ArtStart gallery at 68 S. Stevens Street in Rhinelander is hosting its feature exhibit this year from June 13 to August 30. "Folk Story: Handmade Meaning" tells an authentic tale, creating connections between art and people. Displays of folk art from around the state are featured, including items from our museum.

Our collection of Indian beadwork is due to a generous donation of Richard Brock and we are happy to share a part of it with our neighbors in Rhinelander.

CURATOR:

Mary Kay Wolf

DIRECTORS:

Dean Blazek
Fran Brown
Nancy Bugni
Glenn Bugni
Judy Grimm
Lisa Haefs
Joe Hermolin
Dave Zingg
Diane Zuelzke

THANK YOU

Items Donated:

Tammy Clauss:	Antique women's dresses
Dave Doucette:	Newspapers & magazines
Cheryl Fleckenstein:	Old school texts
Rev. Jim & Cheryl Rowe:	Paintings of the Carnegie Library
Frances Shafel family:	History of the Shafel & Banczak families & Frances Shafel's memoirs
Ed Stasek:	1939 menu & roster of CCC Camp 657 in Elcho

Memorial Donations:

In memory of Jerry "Pud" Young from Jim & Connie Hubatch

In memory of Bruce Beiersdorf, Chris Hubatch, Sally Leaser, Russell Lynett, Anton Rank & Frances Shafel from Jim & Connie Hubatch

Monetary Donations:

Braun Woodlands Foundation within the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin

Membership Renewals:

Fred & Kathleen Kelm
Mitchell & Sharon Zmuda

Lifetime Membership:

James K. Hardy & Diane Dei Rossi

New Members:

Robert Harmon

Jeremy Marsh & Kristin-Noll Marsh

LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

World War I

On June 28, 100 years ago, an incident occurred in eastern Europe that initiated a series of events that would come to involve people all over the world, including those in Langlade County. Gavrilo Princip, a 20 year old disaffected Bosnian Serb, assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, in Sarajevo. Austria was soon at war with Serbia and, because of a network of alliances, Germany was drawn in as a partner of Austria while England, France and Russia, known as the Triple Entente, were allied on the opposing side. By August other countries and colonies of the European combatants were drawn into what then became known as "The War to End All Wars" and today is known as World War I.

The United States at first remained neutral. There was considerable sympathy for England and its allies but it was not universally popular, especially in Wisconsin with a significant German-American population and an agricultural based economy. But by 1917 German submarine attacks and attempts by Germany to get Mexico involved on its side broke the back of the national peace movement. However several dissident voices remained in Wisconsin, including the progressive Wisconsin Senator Robert La Follette. On April 4, 1917, two days after President Wilson called for a declaration of war; La Follette argued before Congress that involvement in the war would divert attention away from much needed domestic reform. When congress officially voted to declare war on

April 6, 1917 nine of Wisconsin's eleven congressmen and Senator La Follette voted against the declaration of war.

Langlade County residents more eagerly embraced the war than other regions of the state. As early as June, 1916, Otto Berner of Antigo set in motion a series of steps to organize an infantry company in Antigo. Once war was declared recruits came from all over the county and by July 185 volunteers had formed Company G of the Wisconsin National Guard with O.A. Miller captain, Otto F. Berner First Lieutenant and Vernon J. Quigley Second Lieutenant. On June 6, 1917, Antigo businessman John Hanousek purchased the Opera House on Fifth Avenue and donated it to the city to be used as an armory. Recruits trained at the armory, then Camp Douglas, Wisconsin, and then at Camp McArthur near Waco, Texas where they became the 107th Trench Mortar Battery Company.

On February 17, 1917 they set sail for Europe where they saw action in France near the Belgian border. Much of the history of the company was documented by William Wessa, an Antigo studio photographer who was in the 107th TMB and photographed his fellow soldiers in training, in combat, and during leisure moments in Europe.

On April 20, 1919 they set sail for home and when the troops returned to Antigo in May 17, 1919, they received a heroes' welcome with a parade down Fifth Avenue.

4-H of Langlade County

One of the highlights of summer in Langlade County is the Youth County Fair which is organized by the 4-H clubs of Langlade County.

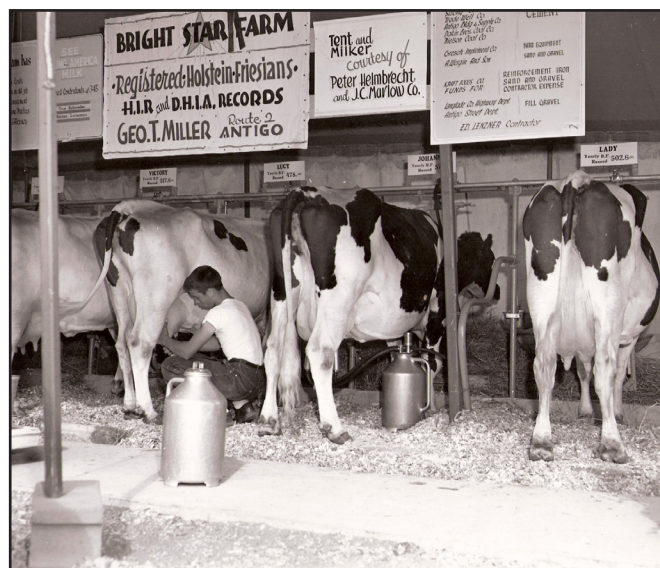
The 4-H organization has a long and rich history which this year celebrates its 100th anniversary in Wisconsin. Attempts to make public education more connected to rural life through hands-on learning goes back even further. In 1892 organizers of the Kewaunee Fair organized a youth movement where participants exhibited fruits, vegetables, and livestock. The success in Kewaunee led, in 1905, to expansion of the program to other counties and cooperation with the University of Wisconsin. The participation of the university was consistent with the pioneering efforts of the university in what became known as the “Wisconsin Idea”. The university saw reaching out to the community as part of its mission. Much of the groundwork of the “Wisconsin Idea” was formalized in the Smith-Lever Act

of 1914 in which the federal government established a system of extension services so that land grant universities could inform people about recent developments in agriculture as well as many other issues. This led to the formation of the 4-H organization in Wisconsin.

On a cold and rainy afternoon of April 4, 1924 Elizabeth Salter, Assistant State Club leader, and Dora Dessureau, Langlade County Superintendent of Schools, motored to Polar to organize the first 4-H club in Langlade County. Mrs. Hintz Parsons agreed to be the first 4-H club leader but since she was moving to Deerbrook the first club became the “Deerbrook Progressive 4-H Club”. 48 members enrolled in the following projects: canning (7), gardening (1), calves (5), potato

(8), poultry (6), and sewing (23). Within months there were ten other 4-H clubs in Langlade County. By the fall of 1924 the 4-H held its first exhibits at the County Fair. Three members showed calves, two members showed chickens, representing a total of five different clubs. Throughout the 1920s 4-H continued to grow in numbers of clubs and individuals and in participation at the fair. Much of the growth was due to the efforts of John Omernik who became County Agricultural Agent in January, 1926. The fair also increased space dedicated to 4-H livestock displays. By the early 1930s Langlade County’s fair, along with 25% of all Wisconsin county fairs were organized by 4-H clubs

Today, as 4-H of Wisconsin commemorates its 100th anniversary, there are 11 clubs in Langlade County involving 270 youth and 98 adult leaders.



Above: Cow being milked at the 1947 fair.

Bottom: In 1947 the youth milking contest tent attracted quite a crowd.



The County Fair

In August of 1886, seven years after the founding of Antigo, the Langlade County Agricultural Society was formed. The county's population at the time was less than 1,000. That fall the Society sponsored the first county fair on October 4 and 5, at the old Opera House in the 500 block of Superior Street. Fair officials arranged to have horse trotting and running races on a course along Superior Street south from the 500 block to the bridge over Springbrook. Single admission was 25 cents for adults and 10 cents for children. A season ticket for the family sold for \$1.

The fair was so successful that the county government appropriated \$1,500 to secure 40 acres of land for permanent grounds for an annual exhibition. An exhibition building was erected for \$1,300. The grandstand and race track were added in 1888. From then to the present there has been an annual county fair held at those same fairgrounds in Antigo. In 1979 a study proposed a new grandstand with improved restroom facilities,



Barnstorming pilot Lincoln Beachy entertained 12,000 fairgoers with three separate take-offs and landings over the grandstand at the fair in 1912. After the show spectators were able to exam the plane up close.

a new track, and a multipurpose building. This was accomplished in the mid 1980s.

County officials, then as now, searched for a major attraction to draw crowds to the fair and in 1911 they scored a major coup. John Schwitzer of Wausau was hired to fly his plane from Wausau to the county fairgrounds. Because of ties to both Wisconsin and Minnesota, Schwitzer named his plane the Minnesota Badger. Airplanes were

very new and the Minnesota Badger was the first home-made plane built in Wisconsin. His flight from Wausau to Antigo and landing at the fairgrounds marked the first time someone was paid to fly in Wisconsin. About 6,500 people came to the fair to witness the event.

The following year fair officials hired barnstorming pilot Lincoln Beachy. The Antigo Daily Journal reported "Towns up and down the Northwestern line sent large delegations and schools in many of the neighboring towns closed down so that pupils could see the Langlade County fair." Over 12,000 people, almost the equivalent of the entire population of the county, saw Beachy take off and land on three separate flights and perform stunts over the grandstand. They were then allowed onto the field to get a close view of the aircraft. Barnstorming was a dangerous profession. Beachy died in a plane crash less than a year later.



Museum Fieldtrips

As the school year ends the museum hosts tours of elementary school classes. A trip to the museum supplements the classroom experience. Groups from North Elementary, West Elementary, and Spring Valley visited us in May. Pictured are members of Mrs. Fleishman's fifth grade class from Spring Valley School.



*Top: At the 440 locomotive.
 Second Row (left to right): In an old style classroom, an old wool bathing suit, a dental examination set-up
 Third Row (left to right): at a shoe store x-ray stand, trying a player piano under the supervision of curator Mary Kay Wolf, entering the Deleglise cabin
 Bottom Row (left to right): Studying a copy of Francis Deleglise's discharge papers from the Civil War, typing on Deleglise's office typewriter.*



ADDRESS:

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 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
 10 a.m. to 4 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 16: Railroad Picnic at the museum
July 28: Serving pies at Music in the Park
June 13 to August 30: ArtStart Gallery in Rhinelander is displaying part of our collection as part of Folk Story exhibit

ITEMS FROM THE MUSEUM

This old style milking machine was an improvement on hand milking as demonstrated in the 1947 milking contest at the fair (see page 3).



404 Superior Street
 Antigo WI, 54409