

LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Summer Plans

It has been a long winter, setting records for snowfall. You might say it was a winter for the history books and, although we at the Langlade County Historical Society have been busy, we definitely are ready for spring.

Starting on Tuesday May 7th, the museum will be switching to summer mode with expanded hours. The museum will be open from Tuesday through Saturday, 10a.m. to 4p.m. The Deeglise cabin and 440 Locomotive will once again be open to visitors. To tour the cabin or the locomotive and caboose, register at the museum desk during regular hours and one of the docents or curator will accompany you to the cabin or locomotive. As usual we try to accommodate groups for special tours during off hours whenever possible.

This past winter, in addition to being open limited hours, we have been planning and fundraising for a major remodeling project. This is discussed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Planning is going well but we must still continue to raise money for daily operations including maintaining the building and its artifacts and archives and being available to help researchers and lead tours. Since we are entirely self-reliant financially we depend on grants and fundraisers to continue daily operations. One major event is our annual spring rummage sale. On Saturday, June 8, the museum will once again host its sale, selling items at the museum grounds from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. We are accepting donations to sell at the museum. If you have any hidden treasures in your attic or garage, please consider donating them to the museum. Drop off items or call us at 715-627-4464 during regular museum hours. (Sorry but we cannot accept large appliances or clothing.) This is one of our major fundraisers. Please consider donating and shopping at the museum.

On Monday, June 10, we will be serving refreshments at the Music in the Park concert. Donations of

pies or other baked goods would be appreciated. Please bring them to the concert site on the day of the concert. See you there!

In recent years a regular summer event at the museum has been our Railroad Picnic. We will not be hosting this event this summer because we may be in the midst of remodeling. It is hoped that by the following summer we will be able to show an improved, handicapped accessible, building as part of a major summer event.



Board member Diane Zuelzke finalizes a sale at last year's museum rummage sale.

Pie request: Bakers Needed

On Monday June 11 we will be serving refreshments at the Music in the Park. Please consider preparing some baked goods for us to sell at that concert. Bring them to the park shelter near the bandstand on that day at about 5:00pm.



CURATOR:
Mary Kay Morrissey Wolf

DIRECTORS:
Dean Blazek
Fran Brown
Nancy Bugni
Glenn Bugni
Carol Feller Gottard
Lisa Haefs
Joe Hermolin
Gary Whitman
Diane Zuelzke

THANK YOU

We wish to thank all the individuals and companies and organizations that are contributing to our **Let's Make History Building Campaign**. We are moving towards our goal.

Individuals and Families:

Rosemary Barnes
Patricia Barta
John and Shirley Boudry,
Trinidad and Kathleen Cuellar
Francis and Donna Gilson
Gary and Ruth Gray
Paul and Marlene Grinde
Judd and Bonnie Hollister
Dale Lenzner and Kristine Flowers
Janelle Markgraf
John and Elsa McKenna
Troy and Lisa Sennholtz
Lucienne Stege
Jim and Toni Thomas
Tonya Trabant and
Patrick McKenna
Warren and Jane Wagner
Charles and Amy Zanayed.

Companies and Organizations:

Antigo Optimists Club
Aspirus Hospital
(In honor of Dr. Meyer's
retirement)
Community Foundation of
Northcentral
Wisconsin
CoVantage Credit Union
J.W.Mattek and Sons Farms
Zelazoski Wood Products

Other Donations:

Sheldon Foundation

Remodeling Plans Take Shape

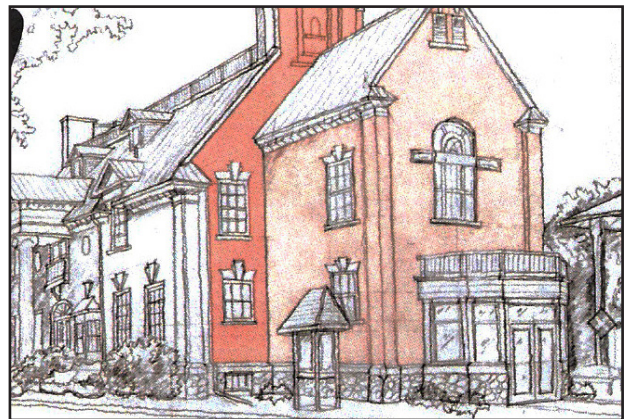
It has been a very busy winter at the museum. Last summer and fall, after some false starts, we finally developed a preliminary plan on how to proceed with the remodeling of the building. The primary goal was to make the building handicap accessible. If fundraising permitted we would like to improve the interior, especially with updates to the lighting, HVAC, and ceiling repairs, thereby enhancing the appearance and function of the display and research spaces. Some of the interior remodeling of the 1960s is definitely showing its age and further modifications made to the heating system in the early 2000s, while practical, are very unattractive. Our museum deserves a better look than what it has now.

Over the winter we have continued to work with a Wausau based architect, Rod Cox, who has experience working in Antigo at St. John's Church. Preliminary plans have been developed which involve the addition of a new structure at the north side of the building to house an elevator, restrooms on all floors, and perhaps some display space. The new structure's design will be compatible in style with the main building which was built in 1903-1905 and designed by a prominent Wisconsin architect, Alan Conover. It is on the National Register of Historic Places. More detailed plans are in development at this time. We hope that some construction may

begin by summer but nothing that will interfere with the museum being open during the summer, our busiest time.

We hope by Saturday June 8th, when the museum will be holding its annual rummage sale fundraiser, we will have further developed plans to display and share with anyone interested. Whether you are shopping or not, please visit on June 8th to find out how our remodeling plans are taking shape.

When we began our planning we set ourselves an ambitious goal of raising \$500,000 for the entire project with plans to eliminate some interior redesign if we fell short of our goal. To date the fundraising has been going very well thanks to the support of the community. Although we are not at our goal yet we are inching forward. Contributions have come from a few major donators and a great many smaller ones. Together they are adding up and we see no reason yet to revise our plans. These are exciting times as we work to adding to the legacy of the people of Antigo who have a long tradition of supporting our history as well as other community institutions.



Architect's sketch of the proposed addition to the north end of the museum that will house an elevator, restrooms, and some display space.

History Online

For over a century the people of Antigo have justifiably prided themselves in their efforts to preserve their history. In 1914 they saved the Deleglise cabin from destruction by moving it to the grounds of the Carnegie Library (now the museum). In the 1920s a group formed to preserve and display artifacts of the county's history – which in 1997 returned to its original home, occupying the entire Carnegie Library.

Many people have contributed to these efforts over the decades. But sometimes even historians must change with the times and recently museum staff and volunteers have been doing just that by through the internet.

Many aspects of our history are on our own web site and we continue to add to that collection. Another method is through our Facebook page. Recently, thanks to the efforts

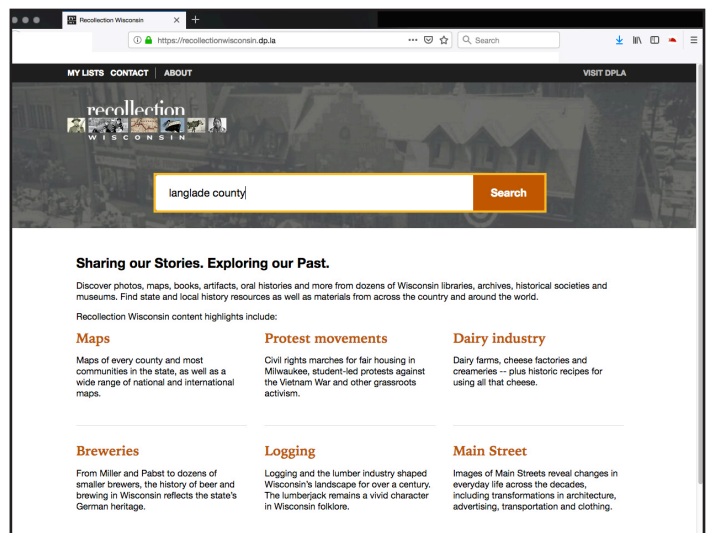
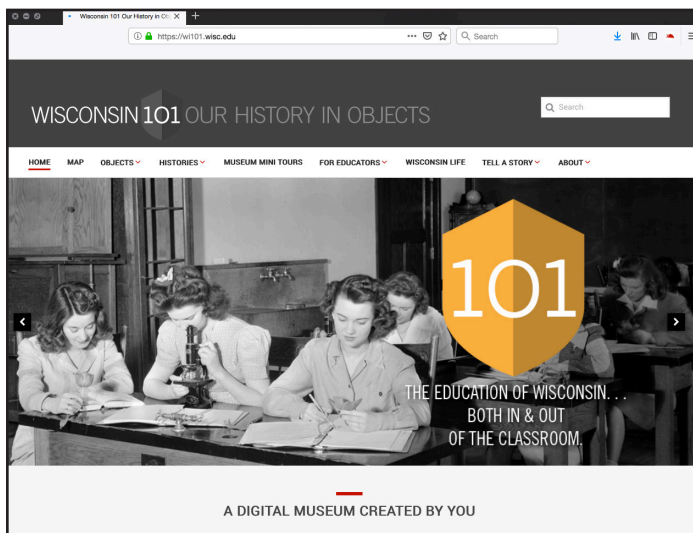
of curator Mary Kay Wolf, we have become more active in showing life in Antigo over the years by posting photos on Facebook. In some weeks over 30,000 views have been recorded and conversations have taken place among viewers who share memories or answer questions asked by others. If you are on Facebook check it out and join in the conversation.

Two other sites provide us with an opportunity to reach out to a wider public. Recollection Wisconsin hosts a site where museums and libraries, including ours, post photographs and documents in their collections. In 2018 there were over 10,000 views of our collection. A Swiss scholar, writing a book on Swiss immigration to the U.S., requested permission to use Francis Deleglise's recollections of his Civil War experiences in his book. Another request came from a theater group in Ontario, Canada for permission to use our photographs

of logging camps in the design of sets for a theater production. We can hardly wait for the DVD of the comedy which they promised to send.

A second site is Wisconsin101: A History in Objects. Museums such as ours submit a photograph of an object along with some stories related to the object. Together these stories tell the history of Wisconsin. We have published photos and stories related to three objects: a pillow sham made for an enrollee to the CCC Camp in Elcho by his sister, a bowling pin made by the Vulcan factory in Antigo, and a fishing lure made by Mepps.

Both the Recollection Wisconsin and the WI101 sites are also packaging their material around themes for use by teachers and researchers. It is well worth spending some time exploring these sites.



Just type Langlade County into the search box of either site <https://wi101.wisc.edu/> or <https://recollectionwisconsin.dp.la/> to find content from our area.

The Wolf River - Restoration

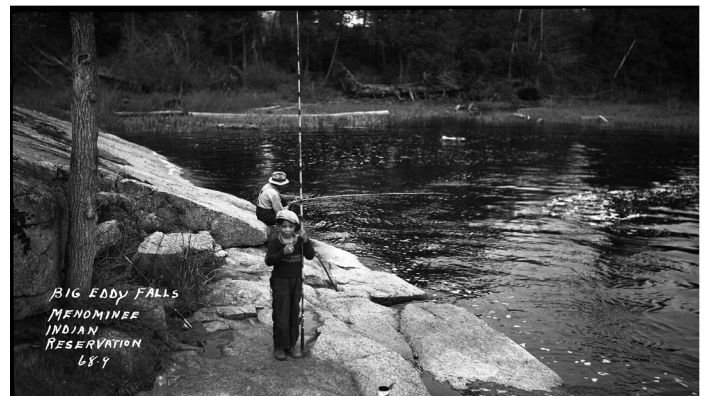
The Wolf River has a long and storied history, particularly the portion running through eastern Langlade and Menominee Counties. The Wolf has played a major role in economic development of the region, extending from the Civil War, through the heyday of logging river drives, and, more recently, as a popular tourist destination.

In the 1860s path of the Wolf, long used by American Indians, was proposed for development of the Lake Superior Trail and the Military Trail: a way to move troops from the Michigan Upper Peninsula to Green Bay, in case the British, via Canada, entered the Civil War siding with the South. Its military value was doubted by some at the time. It never proved of military value but the routes were later used by trappers, loggers and eventually settlers. In the 1870s a series of dams made log drives possible. It is estimated that in 1873 half a billion board feet of timber floated to mills in Oshkosh. By the early 20th century railroads had replaced river drives and work began to restore the wild nature of the Wolf. Dams were removed, native brook trout, decimated by logging, began to repopulate the river and rainbow trout were introduced.

Today the Wolf continues to be a destination for sports fishermen as well as paddlers. The Wolf River, 225 miles long, is one of two National Scenic Rivers in Wisconsin, along with the St. Croix. It is protected by the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Protection Act of 1968. Restoration of the Wolf as a scenic waterway began after the heyday of river drives but did not always go smoothly. A drought in 1931-1933 led to diversion of water to farms. Excessive use of pesticides in the 1950s and the threat of a polluting mine in Crandon, headwaters of the Wolf, in the 1970s all motivated a number of conservation groups to become active in preservation of the river. In 1967 the Federal Government, through Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall, and with Senator Gaylord Nelson providing the impetus, allocated half a million dollars to preserve nearly 90 miles of the Wolf River and its various feeder streams in Langlade and Menominee Counties. This has become an excellent example of restoration of a natural setting and the benefits that derive from that restoration.

As a tourist destination it has impacted the Menominee Reservation as well as Langlade County economically.

Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson who led efforts to preserve the Wolf in 1967 went on to be a major founder of Earth Day in 1970. It is celebrated on April 22. Those efforts led to many bipartisan environmental protection statutes. Earth Day grew into an international movement, the largest secular holiday in the world and celebrated by over one billion people. Next year will be its 50th anniversary. In 1995 Senator Nelson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, for his efforts.



Lower: Dams along the Wolf made log drives manageable. Their removal after the days of the log drives helped restore the Wolf.

Upper: Years of work helped restore the Wolf into a popular fishing and paddling destination.

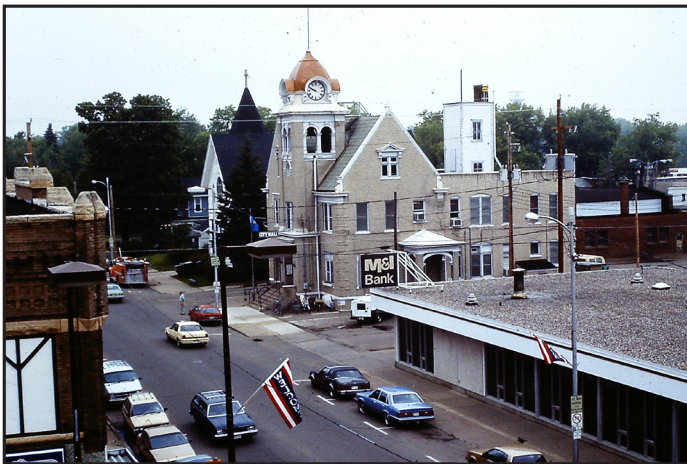
Historic Downtown Antigo

With new impetus in restoration of Antigo's downtown let's look at scenes from what was once a thriving downtown (and may be again).

Top row: Celebrating Antigo's 75th birthday in 1953; Snowmobile races downtown in 1960s

Middle Row: Old City Hall (now the library site); Department stores on 5th Ave.

Bottom Row: Scenes on 5th Ave. of 1960s



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

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

Sat. June 8: Rummage sale at the museum from 8am to 1pm. Donations now being accepted.

Mon. June 10: Refreshments at Music in the Park. Bakers- please bring donations to the shelter at 5pm

ITEM FROM THE MUSEUM:

Outboard motor

It won't be long before we are out on our local lakes. Here is an old Evinrude outboard motor.



404 Superior Street
Antigo WI, 54409