

Summer 2021

LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



We Are Open Again

On Saturday June 12th, coinciding with the celebration of the renovations of Fifth Avenue, we officially reopened the museum after being closed for over 15 months. It has been a busy 15 months and there are many changes in the museum, including an addition that houses an elevator and restrooms on all three floors, thus making the building handicap accessible. Visitors have expressed approval of the design of the addition and renovations of the interior which include new ceilings, lighting, and a new heating/air conditioning system, replacing much of the obtrusive ductwork. Architect Rod Cox and general contractor JAS Construction, both from Wausau, have done a marvelous job.

The new Welcome Center on the first floor has information on sites and activities in Antigo and surrounding Langlade County. It is staffed later than regular museum hours: being open on Monday (10 am till 4:00 pm) and Thursday

evening till 6:00 pm and Friday evening (till 7:00 pm). The lobby in the new addition at the north end of the museum contains information brochures and is open 24/7.

The AVA Gallery reopened on the same weekend with a new show “Summer in the Northwoods”, in its renovated gallery on the second floor and hosted a reception the following Friday. The show will be in place throughout the summer.

The basement is still a work in progress, having been used as a storage area during construction. Curator Mary Kay Wolf is slowly restoring the space for displays. The research/archive room has been remodeled and has a little less room than previously but our collections of photos, old telephone books, high school yearbooks and other documents and books related to Langlade County’s history are available to the public.

We are excited to be able to welcome the public back into this Antigo landmark.



Museum entry: The view upon from the original main entry reveals the new lighting and ceiling on the first floor.

Welcome Center: The new Welcome Center is an inviting space to get information on sites and activities in the area.



AVA Gallery: The AVA Gallery reopened with a Summer in the Northwoods exhibit.

CURATOR:
Mary Kay Morrissey Wolf

DIRECTORS:
Dean Blazek
Fran Brown
Nancy Bugni
Glenn Bugni
Carol Feller Gottard
Chris Haedike
Lisa Haefs
Joe Hermolin
Diane Zuelke

THANK YOU

Thank You
To Let's Make History Fund:
From March 25, 2021 to July 8, 2021

Richard Brock
City Gas
Tom Houdek/Houdek Farms
Joseph & Trudi Jordan
Tony Koss
Jerome & Vicki Marx
Brian & Karen Prunty
Frank & Lena Simon families
Volm Companies

Items Donated:

James Bina: Vintage framed photographs, vintage wedding veil, Knights of Pythias memorabilia

Richard Brock: Native American artifacts

Robert Lompfrey: Native American artifacts

Linda Waldvogel: Native American beaded purse

Memorial Donations:

In memory of
Lee Dinsmore: from Joe Hermolin

In memory of
Robert Duerwachter:
from James & Ethel Fletcher
from Laura Maly & Michael Anderson

LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Continuing Education for Museum and Library Workers and Volunteers

Contrary to what some may think, summer time is not necessarily a time to put learning efforts on hold. Recollection Wisconsin is hosting a series of four Digital Readiness Fairs. The mission of Recollection Wisconsin is to bring together digital cultural heritage resources from Wisconsin libraries, archives, museums, and historical societies and share them with all of Wisconsin and also the world through the Digital Public Library of America.

To work towards this goal, they are hosting four virtual workshops through the summer. These free, virtual events are open to the public but require registration. Local history practitioners and invited

guest experts will share their experiences working with digital projects including their challenges and successes, "best practices" and a few lessons learned along the way. These events are not a "series" so you don't need to attend all four (but you are welcome to, if you like!). Each fair will include general sessions that repeat across all four fairs and two regionally-focused presentations. By the time this newsletter is out some may have occurred but they will all be recorded and made available at a future date. More details are available at the Recollection Wisconsin site:

<https://recollectionwisconsin.org/cop/digital-readiness-fairs>

A Fish Story and Others

One of the ways in which Recollection Wisconsin offers information about local history is through virtual exhibits on its web site. Recently, Joe Hermolin, of the Langlade County Historical Society, used material available through Recollection Wisconsin to compile a story on sports fishing in the Northwoods. It may be viewed at: <https://recollectionwisconsin.org/wisconsin-fish-stories>
Another virtual exhibit by Joe Hermolin describes the impact of Franklin Delano

Roosevelt's New Deal programs on Wisconsin's infrastructure. It may be viewed at: <https://recollectionwisconsin.org/franklin-delano-roosevelts-new-deal-programs>



Fish fingerlings from Madison were shipped by rail in special cars to Antigo, there to be unloaded and used to stock lakes. This was part of a virtual exhibit on sports fishing in the Northwoods by Recollection Wisconsin.

Keeping Your Cool in Summer

Summertime, when the living is easy, has its problems, one of which once was keeping your food from spoiling. Today refrigerators and freezers do the job but not too long ago people resorted to what Mother Nature provided - ice, which is plentiful in the Northwoods in winter. In Antigo, many households kept their groceries chilled during summer in ice boxes containing blocks of ice carved out of Kellogg's Pond (now Antigo Lake) and harvested and stored by the Healy Ice Company.

The Antigo Daily Journal reported on February 2, 1932, with the Depression devastating the economy, that "Forty-four men will be employed by R. Healy Sr., the largest number of jobs to be provided in Antigo at any one time this winter." The men were split into two crews, a night and day crew, and they worked fast while weather cooperated. Healy had planned to cut and store as much ice in previous years but a late start due to unexpected

warmth that year delayed the formation of thick ice. By the start of February, after a cold snap, it was only about half as thick as usual, but, at 16 inches, was thick enough to begin the ice harvest.

In 1932 Healy could cut twice as much ice in a given time because he had developed new mechanized ice cutting saws, powered by automobile engines, to replace the earlier horse-drawn cutting saws. The reduced thickness of the ice that year meant that Healy had to cut over a larger surface area. The city closed the skating rink west of the Hudson Street bridge so he could cut there.

Healy that year stored 7,000 tons of ice at his two ice houses on Fifth Avenue near Hudson Street for his patrons. An associate, Henry Keen, stored an additional 2,200 tons in a warehouse near Watson Street. He employed 19 men for his operation, another boost to the local employment rolls.

Other regular customers of Healy's business included the Pacific Ice Cream Company (840 tons), Minert Fox Farm (105 tons), Brown Dairy (70 tons), and Century Fox Farms (70 tons).

Likely the biggest consumer of ice from Kellogg's Pond was the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad. An ice house at the Antigo railyards stored 3,500 tons of ice while an additional 14 rail cars of ice were shipped to the Watersmeet, Michigan for storage. In summer, Chicago & Northwestern Railroad refrigerated freight cars carrying produce and air conditioned passenger cars throughout northern Wisconsin were cooled with ice from Kellogg's Pond.

Many old timers recall the summers when, as children, they followed the ice delivery man or played around the icehouse in the railyards in order to get chips of ice to chew on.



Healy:

Healy cut blocks of ice out of Kellogg's Pond and used horses to haul them to an insulated warehouse on Fifth Ave.

Icehouse model

A manufacturer of kits for model railroad enthusiasts used the Antigo icehouse as a model.

Learning to Teach

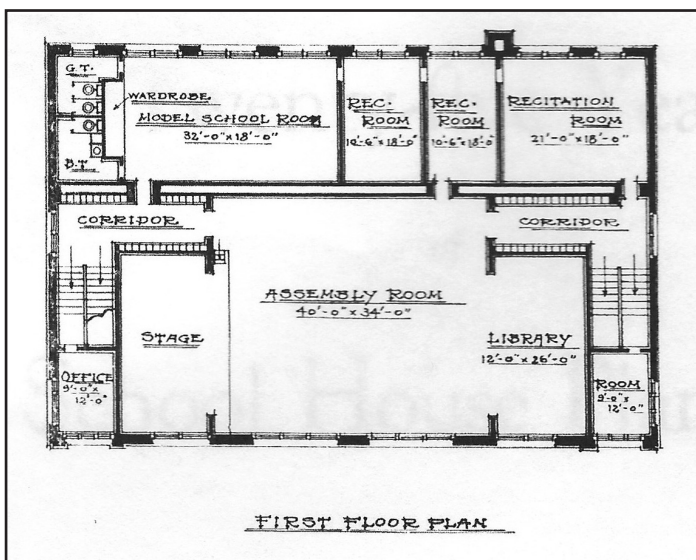
When the Carnegie Library opened in 1905, the second floor was used as a training school for elementary school teachers. The first graduating class consisted of 11 students but demand for teachers quickly grew and, by 1925, with a graduating class of 28, a new facility was planned for across the street, on Superior Street. The building was designed by the firm Parkinson and Dockendorf of LaCrosse. It specialized in buildings related to education state-wide and was highly regarded. Some of their buildings would later be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Parkinson and Dockendorf began designing buildings around 1905. Recognizing the unique needs of education buildings, they worked closely with educators, principals, school superintendents, and school board members to determine special requirements. At the time

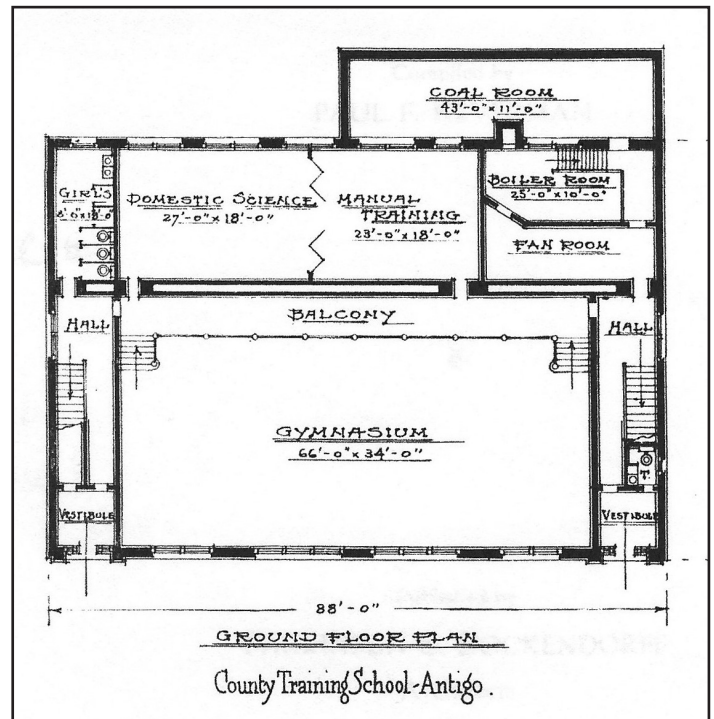
they designed the Langlade County Teachers College they had in their employ, an educator with extensive experience of 19 years, 14 as a superintendent of schools. Their designs were constantly evolving based on feedback from educators and changing trends in education. They worked hard to achieve buildings that were attractive as well as of sound construction that were economical to build and maintain. In 1926, when they built the Langlade County Teachers College, they had already accumulated an impressive list of accomplishments- 18 high schools, 14 graded schools (public and parochial), 16 high-graded and junior high schools, five teacher training schools, and five special buildings such as vocational schools. The stone building for Antigo included a gymnasium with a spectator balcony, an auditorium, and classrooms.

The Langlade County Teachers College was completed in time for fall classes at cost of under \$60,000. It trained elementary school teachers for almost 50 years. In the 1960s rules governing teacher qualifications changed, requiring a four-year college degree. Current teachers were grandfathered in, continuing to take qualifying make-up classes in the building until 1971. With its use as a teachers' training school gone, the building was repurposed to become a community center that housed the Langlade County Department on Aging. More recently it has become the home of the Antigo Boys and Girls Club.

Throughout its almost 100-year history, this building has hosted organizations and events that have enriched the life of the community.



The original floor plan of the Langlade County Teachers College building, designed by the firm of Parkinson and Dockendorf of LaCrosse in 1925.

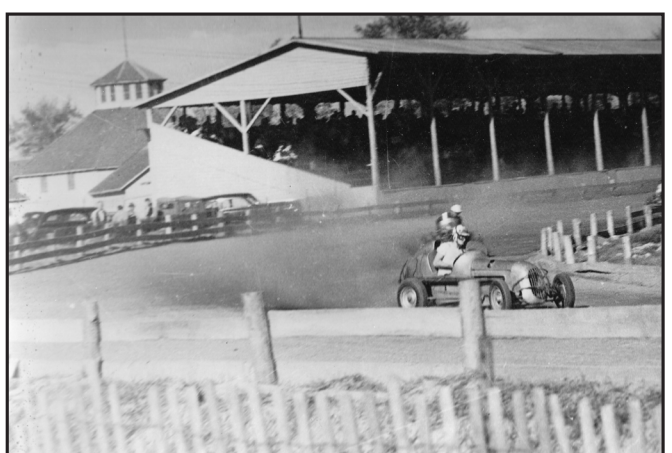
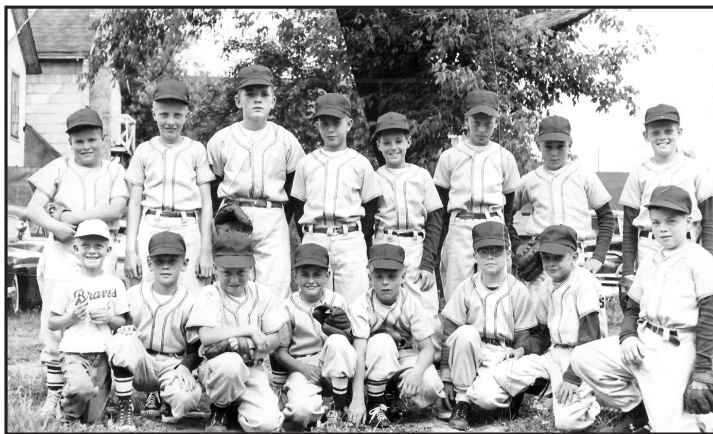


Summer in the Northwoods offers many diverse outdoors activities

Top Row: Left: Antigo July 4th parade in 1911; Right: Seining for minnows at Pelican Lake

Middle Row: Left: Antigo Little League team in 1957; Right: A productive fishing outing at Minocqua Lake

Bottom Row: Left: Leisure time at Hemlock Resort in Eagle River; Right: Car races at the Langlade fairgrounds in 1948



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

AVA Gallery: Summer in the Northwoods exhibit till Sept. 15

Welcome Center Hours (in addition to regular museum hours)

Lobby/ brochures: 24/7

Desk area: Mon. 10 am to 4 pm
Thurs. till 6 pm
Fri. till 7 pm

ITEM FROM THE MUSEUM:

Women's bathing suits were much more modest in the early 20th century.



404 Superior Street
Antigo WI, 54409