

LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Annual Meeting Speaker

At the annual meeting on November 17 about 50 attendees heard about the history of the White Lake community from White Lake Historical Society member Judy Peterson. It is White Lake's centennial and there was a great interest in the history and the artifacts that Peterson brought to display. She traced the history of the area from the time of the Civil War and the Military Road and Lake Superior Trail, through the founding and abandonment of Van Alstine which was originally planned as a community of 5,000 but was not built. The forest products industry was an important force and the log drives and railroads were a vital part of the White Lake story. With the creation of the Yawkey-Bissell Mill in 1916 came the development of the company town of White Lake, named for the large deposits of marl in the lake. Yawkey-Bissell owned the boarding houses, homes, and

stores that mill workers lived in and shopped at. The saw mill continued until 1946, when timber resources were depleted. The flooring mill continued, in spite of a major fire in 1950. The damage caused by the fire was not as severe as it might have been due to the good luck of having winds blow out over the lake. The flooring mill still operates today under ownership of Robbins Inc. The fascinating history of White Lake and the surrounding community is preserved by the White Lake Historical Society which operates the depot museum.



Santa at the Museum

Santa was kept very busy at the museum this Christmas season. During the nine days he was there he listened to requests of 312 children, accompanied by 312 adults. Santa's patience encouraged even the shiest and reluctant of children to warm up, promise they had been good, list their wishes, and pose for pictures taken by parents and grandparents. While waiting their turn, cookies and punch kept visitors happy. Each child also received a toy or book. Thanks to the Antigo Daily Journal, Community Association of Retirees (CAR), and all volunteers for helping make this such a fun event. It is very satisfying for the museum to be able to participate in this annual event which has always been so popular and often introduces the museum to new people.

Board Elections

At the annual meeting this past November Fran Brown and Gary Whitman were reelected to three year terms on the board. Carol Feller Gottard was elected to replace Judy Grimm who has resigned from the board. At the following regular board meeting officers were selected for one year terms. They are Joe Hermolin president, Lisa Haefs vice-president. Glenn Bugni treasurer, Mary Kay Wolf secretary.

CURATOR:
Mary Kay Morrissey Wolf

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

THANK YOU

Items Donated:

- Mike Donahue Jr: Nurse outfits, flag, newspaper clippings, railroad items, 1959 Little League All Star photo
- Lorna Drehel: School books
- Judy Grimm: William & Ida Priem family portrait
- Rose Hoffman: 2 Kestner dolls belonging to Hilda & Ester Fehring
- Donna Osness: Wicker potty chair
- Karen Simon: Early area post card

Memorial Donations:

- In memory of: Robert Umsted
- In memory of: Ed Morrissey from Vanguard Charitable for ceiling and lighting renovations

Monetary Donations:

- James Aulik
- Langlade County Genealogical Society
- Jim & Kathleen Wing
- Timothy O'Brien

Membership Renewals:

- Dede Cromer, Roger & Kay Doran, Gary & Hope Fleming, Diane Flohr, Judy Grimm, Sheila Hall, Shirley Harder, Mary Josvai, William Johnson, William & Charlotte Kraft, Jeff & Cheryl Marx, Vicki & Jerome Marx, Jacob Meister, Jean Marilyn Hunter Preiss, Jackie Reynolds, Sandy Robrecht, Walter Rugland, Sam & Carol Steffan, Richard Strasser, Bill & Helen Williams, Norma Winter, Joyce Zaverousky

Special Thanks:

All volunteers who helped Santa at the museum (Bud Yakel) and Mrs. Claus and to the Antigo Daily Journal and C.A.R. for making it possible. In total 624 people visited Santa during the Christmas season and 4,173 people visited the museum during 2016. We also answered many questions by phone and email but have no accurate count.

Remodeling Plans Take Shape

Having contracted with the Wausau based firm, Funktion Design Studio, to help us with museum remodeling Gary Whitman, head of the building and grounds committee, has set up a schedule with Funktion architects to meet with the museum board to define the details of the project and how we will go forward.

The Funktion team has met with the board to review the project's scope and requirements as well as updates to building codes. An earlier Historic Structures Report, completed in 2003, is valuable but is now out of date in many aspects. The immediate goals include replacing current lighting fixtures and trying to restore a period appearance while including good lighting for museum displays. This involves some major modifications of the original building's use as a library. It will require some

planning to repurpose the building while maintaining its original character. The project will also review options for heating/cooling and replacement of ceiling tiles. Options for building and toilet handicap accessibility are also part of long term planning.

A timeline for initial planning stages has been established. Over the coming weeks the Funktion team, together with museum board members, will gather data, review the possibilities, prioritize needs, and evaluate costs. The board will decide which options would best suit our purposes and budget. We hope that by mid-March a finalized design will be complete and that we will be able to plan specifics, soliciting bids from contractors, and start fundraising to make the Carnegie Library great again- as a museum.

Allan D. Conover: Architect of Antigo's Library

Antigo's Carnegie Library is on the National Register in part because it was designed by a prominent Wisconsin architect.

Allan D. Conover was an important Madison architect and civil engineer in the late 19th and early 20th century. During his career, he served as professor of civil engineering at UW, topographer for the state geologist, city surveyor for Madison, and a principal in the highly successful architectural firm of Conover and Porter.



Armory: The Armory building at UW Madison, later the Red Gym, still stands

Conover was born in Madison in 1854 and graduated with honors from the UW in 1874. While a student he worked on the Wisconsin Central Railroad engineering crew and on the southwestern geological survey. He joined the UW faculty in 1875 and became professor of civil engineering in 1879, a position he held until 1890. In 1885 he also started an architectural practice

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Armory - continued from page 2

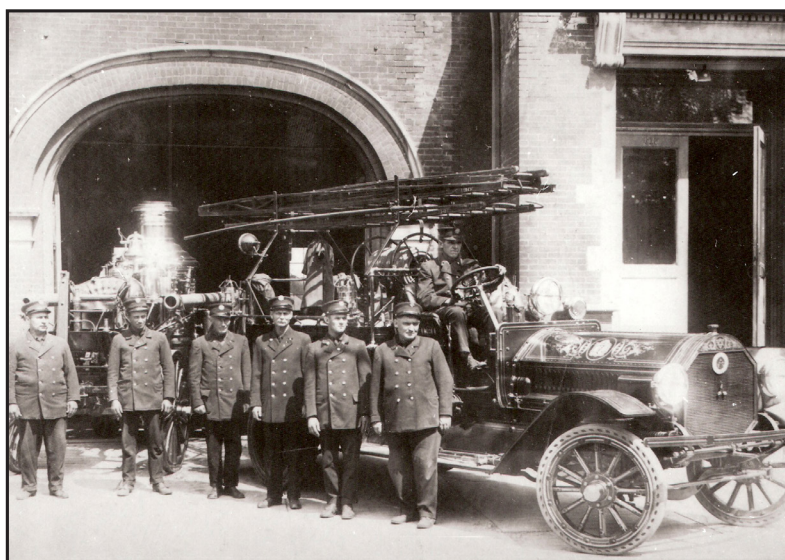
with L.F. Porter. Together they designed many buildings on campus including a replacement for Science Hall, destroyed by fire in 1884, the Armory and several buildings around the state. After the Conover Porter partnership dissolved in 1899 he continued designing buildings around the state, including Antigo's library in 1903. He lived in Madison until his death in 1927.

Sometimes the latest is not necessarily an improvement.

Antigo was incorporated as a city in 1885 and immediately purchased a hose cart and hose as well as a hook and ladder wagon to make up its fire department. At the time it had no team of horses. If the alarm sounded it was hoped that someone would show up with a team. If not, the wagons were hand pulled to the site of the fire. But by 1894 the fire department had a fire hall, hired a staff of four men and its own team of horses to go with the two wagons.

Horses were stabled at the fire house and always had their bridles and bits on. When the alarm sounded the horses knew to move into place and the harnesses were snapped in.

In 1911 Antigo made a great advance by purchasing a motorized fire truck. The Antigo Daily Journal claimed that "it is one of the finest machines of its kind in the state and nowhere in any city the size of Antigo is there a better fire protector." Bob and Roy, the fire department's horses were transferred to the Streets Department but it turned out they were still on call. The motorized truck had some problems in winter. If a fire occurred after a snow fall and the streets were not yet plowed the fire truck could not manage Antigo's roads. Bob and Roy were recruited back into action to haul equipment to the fire, sometimes on sleighs.



Fire wagon: The Antigo Fire Departments crew along with horses Bob and Roy in the early 20th century

Sled: In winter Bob and Roy sometimes hauled firefighting equipment on a sled.

Newer Engine: The motorized engine, purchased in 1911 was the pride of the city but did not always work well on snowy streets.

Have You Had Your Flu Shot?

A Each winter generally arrives with a new variety of the influenza virus and new concerns. We are unlikely to see anything that compares to the pandemic of 1918 that killed more than 50 million people world-wide, more than the casualties of World War I.

Anna Deeglise Morrissey was living in Antigo and received letters from her children in Minneapolis and Madison telling her how fortunate people in Langlade County were to be isolated from the flu problem which was devastating populations in larger cities.

But people of Langlade County were not safe. By early October 1918 the Antigo Daily Journal was warning: "Coughs and sneezes spread diseases: as dangerous as poison gas shells." That month over 400 cases were confirmed in Antigo and 150 additional cases in Elton and White Lake, with several deaths.

Antigo health officials took action. On October 11 they closed schools to minimize contacts. A few days later they closed all pool halls and bowling alleys fearing that high school aged boys not in school would congregate there. Soon afterwards they closed theaters, churches, and even curtailed funeral services – all to minimize gatherings of people.

While no official quarantines were enacted, homes that had an ill resident were advised to put a placard in the window on which was written "INFLUENZA" in letters at least 2 inches high. Residents of the home not having to go to work were told to stay inside while workers, if not ill, could go out but not to public gatherings. Once residents in the home recovered the placard was only removed after 4 days and the home had been thoroughly cleaned.

By early November Antigo had 600-700 confirmed cases. Often

several members of a household were affected and there was no one to prepare meals. The Red Cross organized production of meals in the Domestic Science classrooms at the high school with teachers and students preparing soups and broths, chocolate and rice puddings, custards, oatmeal, stewed prunes, baked apples, and potatoes. Boy Scouts delivered the meals to homes where people were too ill to cook.

By mid-November the number of cases began to drop. The Palace Theater reopened. Churches, lodges, and other public places reopened by late November. Schools did not officially reopen until December 2 but many parents kept their children at home a few more days. By December normalcy was returning and people were getting into the Christmas spirit. We will never know exactly how many succumbed to the flu in Langlade County in the fall of 1918, at a time when


people were anxious to celebrate the end of World War I.

To Prevent
Influenza

Keep warm in one of our Beautiful New Coats or Suits. Our prices are fixed so that we can satisfy every one, rich or poor. TOMORROW is your chance.

Coats at \$15 and up.
Suits at \$22.50 and up.

THE STYLE SHOP
F. COHEN, Prop.



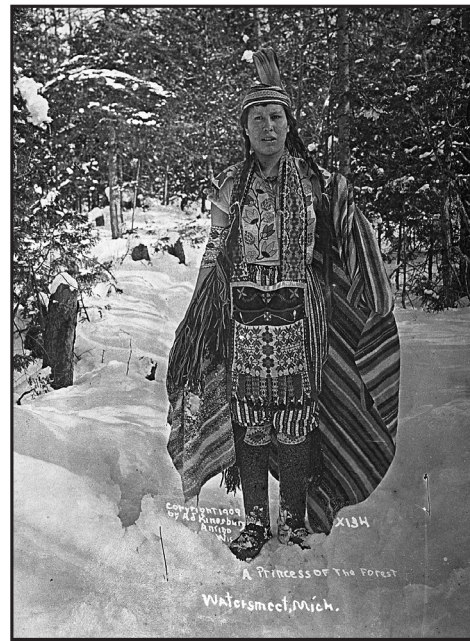
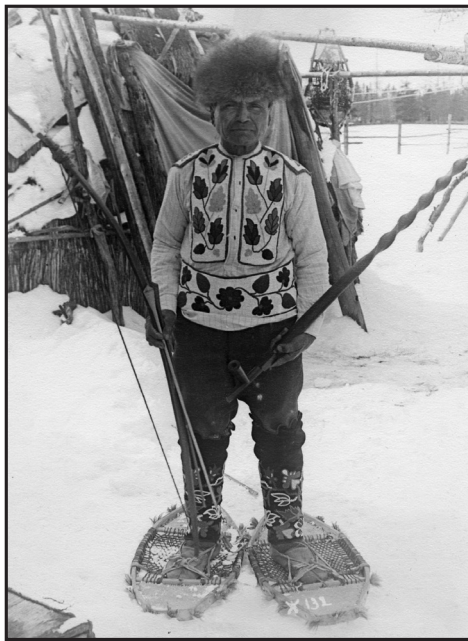
Many ads in the Antigo Daily Journal promoted healthy life styles, such as keeping warm, during the flu outbreak of 1918.

Winter provides several opportunities

Top row: Skaters on Kellogg's Pond (Antigo Lake), Children in Ormsby go for a ride in a one horse open sleigh

Middle Row: Ojibwe at Lac du Flambeau dressed for hiking in the snow

Bottom Row: Skidding felled timber in logging camps, before and after mechanization



ADDRESS:

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 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

Sunday February 19th: The museum will be serving refreshments at the Civic Music Concert. Donations of baked goods are appreciated and should be brought to the concert at the high school.

THE MUSEUM GETS AN ORGAN TRANSPLANT

This organ was originally in St. John’s Catholic Church in Antigo. When St. John’s got a new organ this one travelled to Elton. When the Elton congregation joined White Lake the organ went to a Catholic Church in Langlade. It was later purchased by Mrs. Grazewig for her home. Her godchild Anita Peters donated it to the museum/schoolhouse at the Langlade County Fairgrounds. Recently it was transplanted to the museum. It is still playable!



404 Superior Street
 Antigo WI, 54409