

THE COUNTY CHRONICLER

Polk County Historical Society

Volume #1 Issue 4

June

2003



Clayton Jorgenson will be our speaker for our June 24, 2003 meeting.

Clayton will be speaking on the

Early Tote Roads in Wisconsin

Clayton has studied this for many years and is the Northwestern Wisconsin Expert.

Clayton is a high-energy speaker that you are sure to enjoy!

He will be telling us about the early roads in the area during the time when this was a territory and the early years after it became a state.

7pm, Tuesday, June 24
Center Building
Balsam Lake
6pm Board Meeting



HONORING
AND
THANKING
STAN PECK
FOR

TWENTY-FIVE

YEARS
SERVICE

See page 2

Stan Peck

Stan was born August 1st, 1911 in Minneapolis, MN. He grew up in Wayzata, a suburb of the Twin Cities. He stayed in that general vicinity until he graduated from high school.

After high school, Stan moved to Hudson, WI. to work for his cousin in his auto garage. That is where he met his life long love, Isabelle Hurst. They met on Valentine's Day, 1931. They were married for 68 years until Izzy's death in March, 2002.

Stan and Izzy lived raised their three children in Richfield, MN. They stayed there until 1966. Stan and his brother Truman owned and operated a filling station, which later became an appliance store and finally a sporting goods store. After closing the store in 1963, Stan sold real estate and worked at Montgomery Wards. In 1966 Stan and Izzy moved to Danbury, WI to build and operate a campgrounds on Lake Minerva. They sold Timber Trails in 1972 and moved to Eureka Center where Stan still lives today.

Stan was elected the first president of the Richfield Civic Association, held office in the Isaac Walton League and was president of the Richfield Business Men's Club. He and Izzy were charter members of the Emerson Ave. Congregational church. Here in Polk County, Stan has been involved in the Historical Society, Masonic Lodge, Nature Club, and United Methodist Church. Stan's 25 year involvement in the Polk County Historical Society included distributing brochures, spring cleaning, helping as Willis catalogued donations. He helped with tours and He and Izzy spent many hours hosting the museum every summer.

Stan is still busy taking care of his beautiful gardens and lawn just east of Eureka and he invites anyone to stop in and visit. It would be a nice drive from anywhere in the county. It's always good to find **Eureka!**

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"MUSIC, ARTISTS & REFRESHMENTS ON THE MUSEUM LAWN"

Bring a friend or family to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere on the lawn of the museum.

JUNE 28TH features:

The Interstate Band

Dave Stone Clay Potter

Kris & Friend demonstrating the art of making wool hook rugs



OUR CURATORS WISH LIST:

Our displays through the years, including the 1920's are excellent, and we are always looking for different items to add to these displays, but

We are starting a new emphasis on collecting items from the 40's, 50's & 60's.

Visit the area by the old kitchen in the basement and you will see the beginnings of a 40's display.

Keep your eyes open for items from this period and help us collect.

LIBRARY DISPLAYS

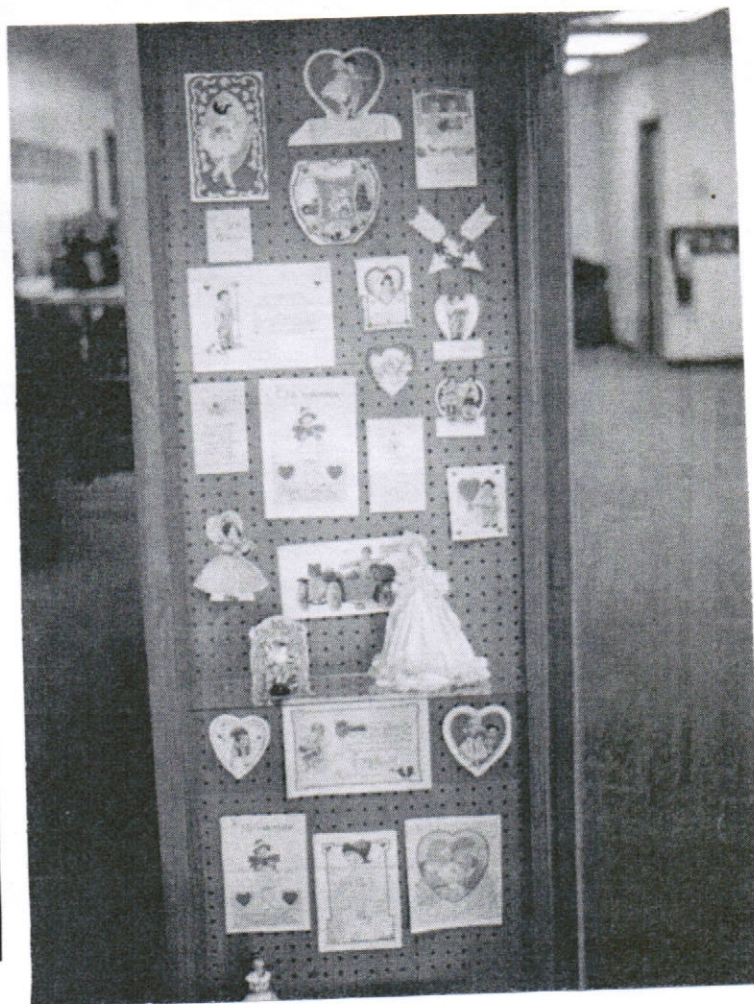
A Reminder to Change!

The displays that we have in our local libraries are a great way to show the community the historical wealth collected by our county organization.

We need to take this responsibility seriously, and try to change them every six months.

Now is a good time to put a display up representative of our Polk County Birthday.

It's an excellent place to put one of the large colored posters. If you would like Judy to prepare some pictures of early Polk County to add to your display, call Judy at 646-1447 and she will have them ready at the June 24th meeting.



Sterling, Laketown & Eureka Historical Society

The Polk County Historical Society welcomes a new area affiliate. It is

"Sterling, Eureka and Laketown Historical Society".

This group has been meeting officially for nearly one year after two years of meeting informally.

The **"SELHS"** meet on the third Thursday evening at the Cushing area community center (the former Cushing Elementary School). They have several projects underway. Mark Johnson is collecting and organizing information on the drainage of the marshland area to the south of Cushing. People have brought pictures and donated records of the process. A huge dredge was brought in from Iowa to dig the ditches nearly 90 years ago. Until that time South Cushing was much like Venice, although the Scandinavians preferred rowboats to gondolas.

Another on going project is copying old records and pictures by scanning the originals into digital format on a computer. This makes very high quality copies quickly and inexpensively that can be shared by computer, CD-rom, on the Internet or by printing.

The Polk County Historical Society welcomes this new group to the growing network of local societies in our county and our desire is that we will all work together to enrich the appreciation of history in Polk County.

SELHS Board of Directors
Ione (Christenson) Muelhauser, President
Donna Blair, Secretary-Treasurer
Sherman & Betty Jensen, Advisors
Mark Johnson
Joan Swanson

Louise Swenson
Linda Harris
Russ Hanson
Betty Wilson
Betty Larson

The Sterling Old Settlers Picnic is coming, June 22. It is at the Cushing School at noon. It is a potluck picnic that started in 1939 celebrating the people who pioneered in the area. The picnic has evolved from being the Old Settlers Picnic to the **"Community Picnic"**, old and young are invited.

Dear Members & Friends of The Polk County Historical Society,

We want to give a huge thank you to Ted Zinn for lining up our programs for the meetings in March, April & May. Thank you, Thomas Butcher, for the informative Civil War History. Thank you Willis & Elaine Erickson for serving lunch. We're looking forward to the June meeting when we will be learning from Clayton Jorgenson about the history of our county, state & territorial roads, 1800-1875.

The board of directors voted to change the admission price at the museum as of May 15, 2003. The new prices are:

\$3.00 for individual \$5.00 for family \$1.00 for student

The genealogy group will continue to be available at the museum on Monday afternoons to help people with genealogy. It was decided that the genealogy pages will no longer be sent with our newsletter.

The painting project on the East Farmington (Little Red) schoolhouse at the fair grounds is completed inside and out, after many, many hours of work. Thank you to the following for helping: Todd & Tim Pfeifer (St. Croix Falls students), Phyllis Gabrielson, Willis Erickson, Jim Gish, Carl Johnson, Art Young, and, Darrell Kittleson. Vickie Engel is conducting pioneer style school at the building for the next four weeks.

Our player piano is back in working order again and sounding beautiful thanks to Howard Tangberg.

Pioneer School sessions are being held this month at the Lanesdale School in Balsam Lake for Amery students. The teachers are Marlene Gustafson and Ruth Mugerauer.

The society was represented this spring at two shows: the Sportsman Show at St. Croix Falls, and the Expo Fair at Turtle Lake. Library displays are being updated and changed by members. (note page 3)

We received a \$500.00 grant from The United Way for a PA system to be used in the Native American, Military, Farm and Tool Rooms.

This year we have received memorials in memory of the following: Otto Nelson, Dave Slater, Herb Dashler, Nichole Riegel, Neil McKenzie, Ray Lallier, Ray Bainbridge, Rev. Marvin Anderson, Olive Christenson, Jared Andren, Dick Tucker, Phyllis Anderson, Doris Usher, Rev. Dale Franson, Merle Peterson

A Polk County 150th Year Birthday flyer is included in this newsletter. Help us advertise.

Sincerely, President and Director, Rosalie Kittleson



Polk County Historical Society
Box 41
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN A SMALL TOWN WHEN...

You don't use your turn signal because everyone knows where you are going.

Third Street is on the edge of town.

You dial a wrong number and you talk for fifteen minutes anyway.

You miss a Sunday in church and receive get-well cards.

You write a check on the wrong bank and it covers it for you.

You can't walk for exercise because every car that passes offers you a ride.

You drive in a ditch five miles out of town and word gets back to town before you do.

Someone asks how you feel, and then really listens to what you say.