

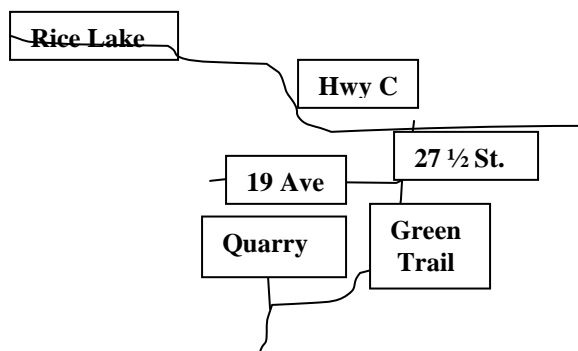
THE COUNTY CHRONICLER

Polk County Historical Society

March 2006

Meeting: March 28, 2006, 7:15 p.m.

Polk County Justice Center
Community Room



ROBERT HEFFNER of Rice Lake will be speaking on the oldest pipestone quarry in Wisconsin, (see page 2).

Executive Board Meets at 5:45
Lunch will be served after program.

**THE 2006 POLK COUNTY
HISTORY WOMAN OF THE YEAR
WILL BE INTRODUCED.**

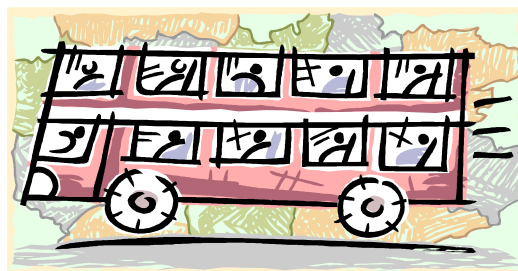


George Motz, Auctioneer

Polk County Historical Society will host an **Auction July 1, 2006**, in conjunction with Balsam Lake's Freedom Fest.

Auction items needed:

- Food
- Art Work
- Collectables



June 9, 2006

PCHS Annual Bus Tour will take us out of the county – to Barron County. We will visit:

- Old World Museum
- Carriages and Pedal Toys Land

We will have dinner at:

- Lutheran Church, Cameron

Polk County Historical Society March 28th, 2006, Speaker

ROBERT HEFFNER

31 W. Evans Street, Rice Lake, WI 54868

715-234-3587

Robert Heffner is a native of Barron County, born February 16, 1931, near Dallas, Wisconsin. He attended one-room country schools through the fifth grade after time the family moved into Barron. Heffner graduated from the Barron High School in 1949 and had already been working in the newspaper business for three years (part time during the school year and full time in the summer) learning to be a printer and pressman.

In 1951 Heffner enlisted in the navy and made two tours to the Far East with a seaplane patrol squadron at the close of and just after the Korean Conflict. He returned to Barron in 1955 and completed training as a journeyman printer-pressman; he then moved into the news department in 1957.

Heffner joined the news staff at The Chronotype in Rice Lake in 1960 as a reporter with responsibilities for the sports pages. Later he became City Editor and for seven years was Managing Editor. His last five years in the newspaper business was spent as assistant to the publisher being responsible for the *Early Bird*, special sections and covering city government.

Following his retirement in 1993, Heffner authored three books: *Life is a Learn'*, a book of poetry; *Cleared for Landing*, a history of aviation in Barron County; and in 2000 Heffner and The Chronotype collaborated in publishing an updated history of Rice Lake and surrounding area called *Rice Lake, Gem of the Red Cedar Valley*.

During retirement Heffner continued to be active in the Rice Lake area, serving on the Rice Lake Planning Commission for six years and four years on the Rice Lake City Council. Heffner is presently chairman of a Chamber of Commerce Committee called the Community Enhancement Committee; president of the Rice Lake Trails Foundation which solicits funds for expanding the city's pedestrian and biking trails; a member of and past president of the Kiwanis club; and currently adjutant of the Rice Lake AMVETS Post.

COMING EVENTS

The Polk County Historical Society meets the fourth Tuesday of every month, March through October, at the Polk County Justice Center in Balsam Lake at 7:15. The July meeting is a pot luck picnic held at Pine Park in Balsam Lake.

2006 Speaker Schedule

	Topic	Speaker
March	A Treasure in the Blue Hills	Bob Heffner
April	Mansions to Shacks	Rose Marie Vezina Braatz
May	True Story of Honey	David & Joan Michealson
June	World's Most Famous Airplane	Jon Cermin
July	Our Anishinabe Connection	Dan Mosay
August	Immigrating from Russia	Veronica Lasovsky
October	Wisconsin Interstate Park	Julie Fox

The Polk County Historical Society and The Red Hat Society present:



The War Years – Military Uniforms and the Folks Back Home Style Show

Red Hat Luncheon
September 21, 2006
Paradise Landing
12:30 – 4 p.m.

Veterans Buffet Dinner
November 11, 2006
Tac Entertainment Center
12:30 – 4 p.m.

Polk County Historical Society Board Meeting October 25, 2005

Members present: Carl Johnson, Phyllis Gabrielson, Ralph LaDuke, Dianne Dueholm, Art Young, Merle Bergren, Jim Gische, Darrel Kittleson, LeRoy Schwan

President – Muriel Pfeifer Director- Rosalie Kittleson

Call to order: Meeting called to order by President Muriel Pfeifer at 5:46 P.M.

Agenda Additions: Horse sulky, Lansdale School, Nicole Hanson resignation.

Secretary's report: Jim Gisch motioned to accept secretary's report, seconded by Carl Johnson. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was given by Lois Hoff (presented a bank statement of activity for the month). Leroy Schwan motioned to accept Treasure's Report, seconded by Darrell Kittleson. Motion carried.

Director's report was presented by Rosalie Kittleson.

October 8 and 9, 2005 Darrel Kittleson and David Knutson attended the attending the Wisconsin Regional Historical Conference in Rhinelander.

Balsam Lake open house on October 7 and 8 received 60 to 80 visitors at the museum, donations taken equaled \$100.

October 8 Rosalie Kittleson and Jim Gisch accepted a check from the Indianhead Choir in the amount of \$405.25.

The Balsam Lake Homeowners Association gave a donation on October 25 for \$1000.

Rosalie and Darrel Kittleson made a presentation to the Amery Community Club.

Unity students helped clean up the Lansdale School, it was discovered that mold was on shelves of displays. Other students addressed envelopes for the elevator fund drive, they completed A through I.

There was also a concern with drainage at the Lanesdale School. Discussion was held with the Village of Balsam Lake City workers to bring in dirt to fill in low areas. Gutters were recommended, price was quoted \$832, and funds will

be taken from the county account. Unity students helped move boxes and worked on the attic.

Mary Stirrat from The Ledger took pictures of the Centuria Street Lamp.

Walter Brager called to notify the society that he was pleased with this month's newsletter. He would like a financial report and an idea of the actual costs of the elevator construction. He will be presenting it to the foundation board in January. Rosalie Kittleson will be meeting with the architect and contractors.

Artifacts donated were military uniforms and pictures.

A copy repair technician was called in over the month; they charge normally \$125 per hour plus \$75 travel expense. A service repair contract is \$150 a year.

Correspondence: A letter was received from Wisconsin Council of Local History in regards to sale of archival equipment. A letter was received by ERA Muske notifying the Society of a pending donation of \$100 for the L.A.S.H. education program. A thank you card was received from Experience Works thanking the society for participating in their senior volunteer program. (Thank you to Jim Gisch for participating in the program).

Various brochures from Wagon Landing Christmas Tree program were received; they will donate \$5.00 to the elevator fund for every tree sold to new patrons who mention the Polk County Historical Society.

Respectively submitted:

Nicole Hanson

Polk County Historical Society Board Meeting December 13, 2005

Members present: Phyllis Gabrielson, Ralph LaDuke, Art Young, Merle Bergren, Darrell Kittleson, Leroy Schwan
President – Muriel Pfeifer Director- Rosalie Kittleson

Call to order: Meeting called to order by President Muriel Pfeifer at 6:05 P.M.

Director's report was presented by Rosalie Kittleson.

Motion made by LeRoy Schwan to allow Rosalie Kittleson to add an administration cost to grant application of 10 percent in addition to the original grant request, seconded by Merle Bergren. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Muriel Pfeifer read a letter from the Wisconsin State Historical Society. (Letter will be held with secretary minutes.)

Old Business

Unpaid invoice to the Osceola Sun, Rosalie Kittleson will talk to Lois Hoff about payment.

New Business

1. Election of Officers - President, Vice President and Treasures positions. Secretary- Patty Young.

Motion made by LeRoy Schwan to caste a unanimous election of President and Vice President, seconded by Phyllis Gabrielson. Motion carried.

2. Women – History of the Year, Muriel Pfeifer asked that the board have an input on the nominee. Motion make by Phyllis Gabrielson to nominate Rosemary Braatz as Women of the Year, Seconded by LeRoy Schwan and Darrell Kittleson. Motion carried.

3. Membership, a letter will be sent out to members to remember to pay dues. Muriel asked who should send out the letter. Darrell Kittleson suggested the Board of Directors call a meeting to stuff envelopes; it should be the Boards job to organize mass mailings. Muriel Pfeifer asked for volunteers for wiring membership dues.

4. Rosalie Kittleson asked that donors for the elevator fund receive the newsletter for a year or at least one newsletter. Muriel Pfeifer suggested three (3) month subscription. Muriel Pfeifer asked that Judy Wester put something in the newsletter letting people know that they will have three (3) free newsletters.

Program Chairman, Muriel asked for volunteers to coordinate speakers for the monthly meetings. Darrell Kittleson offered to take the job; he asked that all suggested go through him.

5. Financial committee: Muriel Pfeifer will be asking 3 candidates.

6. 2006 Fundraisers: Darrell Kittleson that a raffle be held, the headquarters being located at the Polk County fairgrounds during the fair. A permit is \$25.

7. Horse Sulky repairs. Motion made by Darrell Kittleson to allocate \$350 for repair of the horse sulky. seconded by LeRoy Schwan. Motioned carried.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Darrell Kittleson. Seconded by LeRoy Schwan. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Nicole Hanson

**Polk County Historical Society Board Meeting
January 24th, 2006 Polk County Gov. Center**

Special meeting called to order by President, Muriel Pfeifer at 4:30 P.M.

Members present, Jim Gisch, Darrell Kittleson, Merle Bergren, Art Young, Nicole Hanson, Ralph LaDuke, Muriel Pfeifer, LeRoy Schwan. Also present Rosalie Kittleson

.
Purpose of meeting was to discuss alterations to original plan for the elevator addition, which was to have been 3 stories in height. After receiving blueprints and a cost estimate of \$280,000 by Steve of St. Croix Restoration, Mr. Braeger responded that the cost was too high and asked that we proceed with a scaled back version so we could get started more quickly. The scaled back version would be the elevator and a one-story office space with a handicapped accessible restroom. It would be built to accommodate the two upper stories at a later date. He is anxious for us to begin and will ask the board members of the Deaver Foundation to release their \$100,000 even though we have not made a complete match at this time. Mr. Braeger has requested that the addition be named to recognize the Deaver Foundation's contributions. A suggestion was made that the elevator itself be named in honor of Willis Erickson. A motion was made by LeRoy

Schwan, seconded by Ralph LaDuke and approved by all present that we proceed with the scaled back version.

Jim Sewell of the Wisconsin State Historical Society and their architect, Chip Brown had requested additional photos, which Mary Stirrat had taken and sent to them. Because the building is on the National Register of Historical Places they will have some say on design, and their permission is desired before we proceed. With the WSHS approval of our design, the proposal will go to the County Board and they will make a request for three separate bids for the project. The County Board will interview all bidders.

The Northstar Event Center (formerly, The Tac Entertainment Center) has been reserved for a military uniform and women's style show on Nov. 11th. The \$500 deposit was borrowed from the elevator fund. Uniforms from every war will be shown and the dresses for the ladies will come from a private collection and the Festival Theater.

A suggestion was made that we use the web pages of Jolene Jones, John Jenkins and the Polk County History site for advertising our special activities, tours, and fund-raisers.

Museum happenings: Marilyn Reiten will be the coordinator for the 2006 season.

Jim has installed a high-rise stool in the women's restroom.

The auction will be on the museum grounds on July 1st.

We will be selling brats on July 7th and 8th at Dick's Market in Amery.

Rosalie will write a grant for funds to design an expansion of the garden to flow along the walkway to the new addition.

Jim Gisch will be terminated from Experienced Works in July because their new wage calculations put him over the allowed income to participate in the program. The board requested the specific facts of the termination so letters of protest can be written to those in authority.

Patty Young, Sec.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Elevator Addition

In October we had an open discussion on the proposed addition to the northwest of the museum courthouse. At this time we were waiting to hear from Mr. Chip Harry L. Brown III, Government Assistance & Training Specialist for the Wisconsin State Historical Society Division of Historical Preservation and Public History.

In January we finally received correspondence and I quote Mr. Brown,

We have concerns with the proposed elevator tower addition as it is currently designed... the new addition will adversely affect the historic integrity of the courthouse building. It is our position that adding the elevator tower to the rear of the existing addition would not adversely affect the building, would meet your needs and likely would be cost effective...

On January 31, 2006 board members, Art Young, Merle Bergren, Ralph La Duke, Darrell Kittleson, and Jim Gisch met at the museum with Jim Sewell, Senior Preservation Architect, from Madison to discuss a new plan favorable to the Wisconsin Historical Society Preservation Division. Sewell advised us to build north of the present addition. With a quorum of five members present, a decision was made to hire an architect. I contacted Polk County Building and Park Manager, Debbie Peterson about procedure to continue. I also called Walter Brager, administrator of the Park-Deaver Trust to inform him of the recommendations of the State Historical Society, and our decision to hire an architect.

We will continue to keep you posted on the progress and procedures. We hope that you will support this project. We have received 90 percent of our \$100,000 goal. We have an auction, two brat sales, and two style shows planned for 2006. If you can donate your time to help in any of these events, please let us know. We also need items for the July auction. All items auctioned will be donated from the community. Thank you so very much for your help and support. I am looking forward to our 2006 season.

Sincerely,

Rosalie Kittleson, Polk County Historical Society
jlw

