

THE POLK COUNTY CHRONICLER

Polk County Historical Society

April 2006

Mansions to Shacks
April 25, 2006, 7:15 p.m.
Polk County Justice Center
Community Room

Historical Buildings of

St. Croix Valley

Vincent House
Dalles House
Clayton Hill
Saint Croix Inn
Cushing House
Baker Land and Title
Odd Fellows Hall
Fisk House

Executive Board meets at 5:45 p.m.
Lunch will be served after the meeting.



Rosemarie Vezina Braatz of

St. Croix Falls will speak on the historical buildings of St. Croix Falls on Tuesday, April 25, 2006. See page 2.



The museum needs a spring cleaning.

Tuesdays and Thursdays
You'll have supervision.

Rosemarie Vezina Braatz

Rosemarie Vezina Braatz moved from Madison, Wisconsin, to St. Croix Falls in 1956 and began her career as writer-editor at *The Standard-Press*. Her father-in-law, William R. Vezina, who was in the process of retiring from the newspaper, suggested that she write something about the history of the Vincent House, the 1880 hotel that was then being torn down. That sparked her interest in St. Croix Falls history, an improbable bent in someone born to German parents with her roots in Milwaukee.

With a background that included a bachelor's degree in journalism and marketing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Rosemarie was writing radio commercials for Madison station WIBA when the opportunity arose at the St. Croix Falls *Standard Press*. The newspaper then had its own "hot lead" print shop, complete with linotype and a hand-fed newspaper press.

While raising four children, she wrote and reported, mostly from home, features and a column, "Don't quote Me, But..." Many of those articles were based on historical themes, or recollections of old-timers of the valley. They served as a basis for the "St. Croix Tales and Trails" series printed in the weekly *Inter-County Leader* over a span of seven years, under the auspices and in support of the St. Croix Falls Historical Society. This body of work, in turn, became the nucleus of her recent book, *St. Croix Tales and Trails*.

Rosemarie's husband, Jim Braatz is retired Public Affairs Officer of the St. Paul District Corps of Engineers. He also writes, has several novels on disks, but hasn't submitted them for publication yet.

Rosemarie and former husband, Jack Vezina have four children:

Daughter, Liesel, and husband, Jeff Virchow, live in St. Croix Falls with two children, Allison and Ian. Allison is following her grandmother's footsteps as a freshman at the University of Madison.

Eldest son, Martin, and wife, Carrie, live in East Lyme, Connecticut with three children, Christine, Nikki, and Matt. Nikki is a freshman at the University of Connecticut.

Middle son, Rick, wife, Susan and two children, Charlie, age seven, and Mirabelle, age four, live in rural Centuria.

Youngest son, Bill and wife, Sue, live in Stillwater with three children, Jon, Kirsten, and Jane.

Historical books written on the St Croix Valley

by Rosemarie Vezina Braatz

St. Croix Tales and Trails is a compilation of articles that relate the history of the pioneer community of St. Croix Falls—the first community to be established in the St. Croix Valley—mostly through the perspective of the people who lived there.

The Battle of St. Croix Falls was printed in 1962 in conjunction with the erection of the official Wisconsin state marker in the Lion's Park.

Harnessing the Power is about the construction of the hydropower plant in St. Croix Falls, it was published in 2000.

Nevers Dam—the Lumberman's Dam was published in 1965. It is out of print, but is on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Wild State Park website. It is fully-illustrated, 38 pages, and can be printed off the website.

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/books/wildriver/neversdam/index.html>

March 28

What a great way to start a year! A large attendance and good program contributed to a very successful evening. A lovely plaque was presented to Rosemarie for her outstanding contribution to the history of the St. Croix Valley. Robert Heffner captivated the audience with his talk on the red stone quarry in the Blue Hills of Barron County. Dan Mosay contributed by explaining the Native American's history with pipes. The attractive display of museum catlinite pipes and lovely cake table added to the worthwhile evening.



The April 5 issue of INTER-COUNTY LEADER has articles and pictures of the March meeting with Bob Heffner Dan Mosay and Rosemarie Vezina Braatz, Visit on line at:

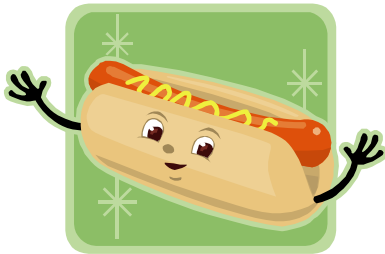
WWW.THE-LEADER.NET

Photos courtesy of Mary Stirrat and the Inter-County Leader.

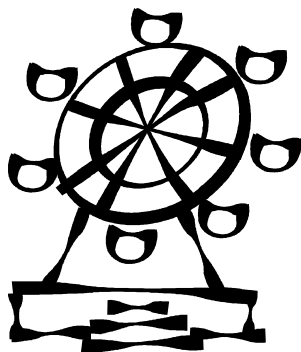
2006 ELEVATOR ADDITION FUNDRAISERS



July 1, 2006
Balsam Lake's Freedom Festival
Auction at Museum



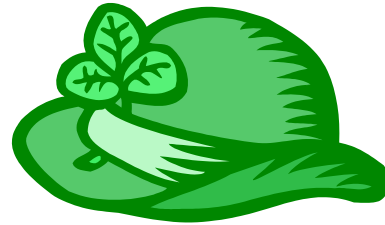
July 7 & 8
Dick's IGA, Amery
Brat Sales



July 27-30 Polk County Fair

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

The War Years –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.

Needed: Volunteers for fundraisers

Needed: Items for auction

**POLK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 11TH ANNUAL BUS TOUR
BARRON COUNTY PIONEER MUSEUM**

JUNE 9, 2006

COST \$25.00

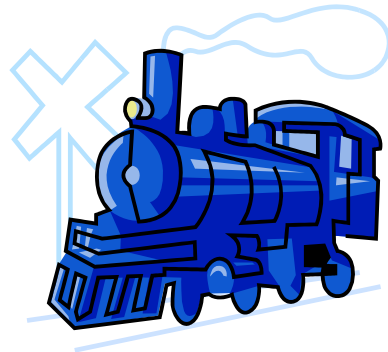
| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Coffee & Rolls AT AMERY SENIOR CENTER | 8:15 a.m. - 8:35 a.m. |
| Barron Pioneer Museum | 9:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. |
| Cameron Faith Lutheran Church Lunch | 12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. |
| Prairie Lake Antique Carriages & Pedal Toys | 1:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. |

We will travel by Trail Way Bus, 47 passengers with bathroom accommodations. Please have your reservation into the society by May 20. You can send your reservation and check into Carl Johnson, 307 W. South Amery, WI. 54001, or Muriel Pfeifer, 625 Dickey St., Amery, WI. 54001

Polk County Museum joins with
D. D. Kennedy Park at the
Polk County Sportsman Show
St. Croix Falls Fair Grounds
April 29-30



Osceola Historical Society
2nd Annual Historical Train Trip
Sunday, May 21, 2006
Leaves depot 2:30 p.m.
Contact John Jenkins
(715) 755-2254
Cost: \$10
Osceola members free



Polk County Museum Elevator Addition Highlights

A review of the PCHS Board past minutes shows that an elevator addition to the museum was discussed on January 22, 1985. A year later, Willis Erickson presented a drawing of an addition for the north side of building. Polk County's 150th birthday celebration's contribution \$6,556.15 to the elevator fund brought new hope of having an elevator in the near future. In January of this year the Wisconsin State Historical Society Historical Preservation Specialist met at the museum with the executive board. It was voted to go forward and hire state certified engineer, Eugene Krueger and 3-D Designer, Bill Mika to draw plans. Walter Brager supported this decision and encouraged us to move forward.

The elevator fund received \$9,500 in the past few months. Thank you to the following for your contributions:

- Lloyd and Eleanor Johnson
- JoAnn Hallquist
- Marge Hallquist
- Ethel Simenstad
- LeRoy Schwan
- Darrell and Rosalie Kittleson

We have \$96,000 of the needed \$100,000 to receive the \$100,000 matching grant.

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 |
| September | Building Fiddles and Fiddling Sounds | Larry Phillipson |
| October | Wisconsin Interstate Park | Julie Fox |

Polk County Historical Society Board Meeting March 28, 2006

Members present: Ralph LaDuke, Dianne Dueholm, Merle Bergren, Darrel Kittleson, Jim Gisch, Nicole Hanson, President – Muriel Pfeifer Director, Museum Director- Rosalie Kittleson.

Call to order: Meeting called to order by President Muriel Pfeifer at 5:45 P.M.

Secretary's report:

Changes to December 2005 meeting as follows:

Item #4 Stated: Darrell Kittleson offered to take the job; he asked that suggested go through him.

Should be: Darrell Kittleson offered to take the job; he asked that suggestions go through him.

The auction on July 1st will be held at the museum not at the Lansdale School. Motion to accept changes by Darrell Kittleson, 2nd by Jim Gisch, motioned carried.

Motion to accept the secretary notes for the January 2006 meeting by Jim Gisch, 2nd by Darrell Kittleson, motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Given by Lois Hoffman. Motion to approved treasurers report by Ralph LaDuke, 2nd by Dianne Dueholm, motion carried.

Rosalie Kittleson presented director's report.

Motion to pay \$60 for advertisement in the Dallas Visitor by Dianne Dueholm, 2nd by Merle Bergren, motion carried.

Correspondence: Muriel Pfeifer received information on workshops from the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Old Business

Jim Gisch's position with Works Experience: Muriel Pfeifer provided correspondence from Bob Massey explaining the qualification changes.

Update on Elevator: Rosalie Kittleson spoke with Walter Brager; the foundation meets on April 17, 2006.

Public Address system: Ray Larken resigned from the P.A. Committee for the system that has been in the works for 3 years, \$1,500 has been invested in equipment. Darrell Kittleson will be speaking to a sound systems specialist to develop digital technology.

New Business

1) Committee's

a. Financial Committee: Merle Bergren, Fred Salmon and David Knutson

b. Building Committee: Darrell Kittleson, Ralph LaDuke, Joyle Anderson and Nicole Hanson

c. Flower Garden Committee: Rosalie Kittleson and Dianne Dueholm.

1) Master Gardeners

d. Eagle Scout Garden Project.

2) Directors Contract: motion to accept contract agreement made by Nicole Hanson, 2nd by Ralph LaDuke, motion carried.

3) Membership: Rosalie Kittleson suggested everyone try to “bring a friend”.

4) Little Red School House during the fair: A letter was received from Russ Hansen with the Sterling/Eureka/Laketown Historical Society suggesting a cooperation of displays with other historical societies.

5) Bus Tour to Barron County set for June 9th.

6) 2006 Fundraisers:

a) Brat Stand at Dick’s Foods in Amery on July 7th and 8th. Volunteers are needed.

b) Auction set for July 1st; ads will be run in the paper for donation of items.

c) Yellow Building at the Polk County Fair grounds: Darrell Kittleson received approval for the use during the fair, a raffle will be held. Darrell Kittleson will be collecting items. Muriel Pfeifer will contact someone at Trinity Lutheran to make the raffle tickets.

d) Mass Mailing of 200 local medical related businesses: Rosalie Kittleson estimated the costs to be \$400 for stationary and \$350 in postage.

Dianne Dueholm motioned for a second mailing, Nicole Hanson 2nd the motion, motion carried.


7. Jim Gisch painted the tool room and miscellaneous projects over the winter. He reported that the roof was leaking; it will be addressed to the county board.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Ralph LaDuke, 2nd by Jim Gisch, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Nicole Hanson

Visit our website:

PolkCountymuseum.com



Polk County Museum
Preserving the Past for Future Generations
Main Street
Balsam Lake, WI

Tours and Information
715 483-3979

[Home](#) | [1st Floor](#) | [2nd Floor](#) | [Basement](#) | [The County Chronicler / News](#) | [Links](#)

Muriel Morgan Pfeifer ~ 715-268-6578 ~ mpfeifer@amervtel.net
Rosalie Kittleson darose@centurytel.net ~ **Judy Wester** westdale@centurytel.net

Thank you for visiting the Polk County Museum Website!
Our website address is PolkCountyMuseum.com

We are located on Main Street in Balsam Lake, Wisconsin

Hours:
Sundays thru Saturday 12:00 - 4:00
Including Holidays

Admission Prices
Adults \$3 ~ Students \$1
Children Under 12 Free when accompanied by an adult

First Floor Galleries

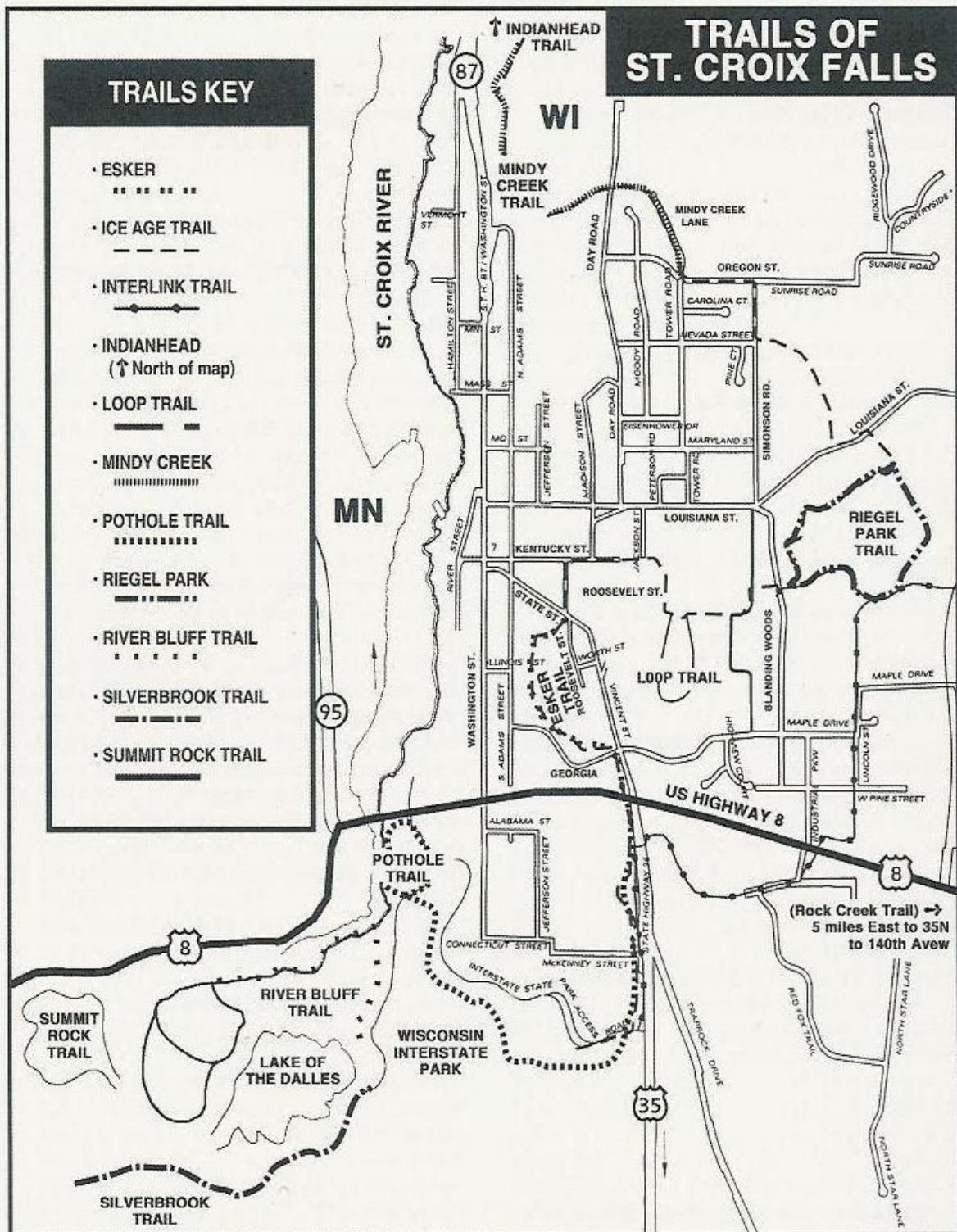
- Early Polk County
 - o Barber Shop
 - o County Store
 - o Doctor's Office
 - o Hat & Shoe Shop

Second Floor Galleries

- Life & Times Exhibit
 - o Court Chamber
 - o Victorian Parlor
 - o Victorian Bedroom
 - o School
 - o Log Cabin Furnishings

Basement Galleries

- o Jail
- o Shop
- o Farming
- o Railroad



St. Croix Tales and Trails by Rosemarie Vezina Braatz, page 248.