

**THE COUNTY CHRONICLER**  
**Polk County Historical Society**

**September 2006**

---

Just Fiddling Around—The History  
of Fiddles and Making Them



Speaker Larry Lee Phillipson

September 26, 2006, 7:15 p.m.  
Polk County Justice Center  
Community Room

Larry Phillipson, author, musician, TV/radio personality, will be showing his video on violin making.. He will talk about, display and play several of the violins that he has made. Larry will show a disassembled violin to enable viewers to see the parts and explain the procedure of violin making and show some of the tools that are used. During the demonstration he will give a talk on his findings and theories of what makes the tone of the Old Italian Masters. Lunch will be served after the program.



Larry Phillipson  
[www.rockabillyhall.com/LLPhillips  
on.html](http://www.rockabillyhall.com/LLPhillips on.html)



## **POLK COUNTY CIRCLE OF HISTORY**

**The SEL Historical Society meets Thursday, September 21, 7 p.m.** at the Eureka Town Hall, formally Eureka School. The program will be stories of World War II memories. Robert Swanson will have a display of World War II memorabilia. Everyone is welcome. <http://home.earthlink.net/~ramble/>

**Polk County Genealogical Society meets Monday, September 25, 7 p.m.** at the Osceola Public Library. John Jenkins will lead a lesson on moving your photos into your family history book.

**St. Croix Falls Historical Society meets Thursday, October 26th, 7 p.m.** at the National Park Service St. Croix Riverway Headquarters. The speaker, Charles T. Clark, Clear Lake, will speak on Burleigh Grimes and other baseball legends of Polk County. The meeting is open to the public.

**The August meeting of the Amery Historical Society** on the history of the Amery Fall Festivals was videotaped and is being shown on the Amery station, Channel 26. Call Amery Telecom for dates and times, 268-7101.

## **2006 POLK COUNTY MUSEUM NEWS LASH and Other Summer Programs**

The **Land, Air, Soil & Water** educational program is a combined effort of the Polk County Historical Society, the D.D. Kennedy Environmental Area and the Polk County Land and Water Department. The LASH goal is to teach children the importance of learning about the past and saving the future. It provides a day of learning for area students consisting of a one-room school experience in the Lanesdale Schoolhouse, a tour of the Polk County Museum and an afternoon of environmental awareness at D.D. Kennedy Park.

### **April 19**

A group of Osceola fourth grade students started their day at the Lanesdale School under the able tutelage of Leona Cummings, 2005 Polk County History Woman of the Year. They proceeded to the museum for guided tours led by Ralph LaDuke, Jim Gisch, Marge Hallquist, Marilyn Reiten, and Rosalie Kittleson.



At the Kennedy Park, Amy Kelsey, Polk County Land and Water Coordinator, divided the students into three groups, and then rotated the groups to see three presentations. Amy talked about water resources in Polk County, the Balsam Branch watershed, how we affect water quality and contribute pollution, and what we can do about it.

Jeremy Williamson, Water Quality Specialist with the Land and Water Resources Department, brought the students on a wetland walk and showed them some aquatic insects, aquatic plants, and described wetland soils.

Dave Peterson, Conservation Planner for the Land and Water Resources Department, described soil types in Polk County, how we can protect our soils in agricultural fields and during construction, and how soils reach and pollute our waters. He had a watershed model to illustrate his points.

## **April 20**

The second group of Osceola students experienced our historical sites in Balsam Lake and proceeded to D.D. Kennedy Park where they participated in a walking tour of the park led by Rosalie Kittleson. Dale Cox and assistants from National Scenic Riverway conducted mucking—taking water samples and studying the water habitat.

**May 16**

The Luck Historical Society had an evening tour of the museum.

**May 17**

Valley Christian School students toured the museum.

**May 18**

Students of home schools joined Frederic and Clayton students for a day planned with the LASH program.

**May 20**

Seventeen ladies from the Amery Rambling Roses Red Hat Society toured the museum.

**May 24 & 25**

The Frederic School system sponsored Pioneer School Days at the Lanesdale School with Melinda Sorenson teaching.

**May 25**

St. Croix Falls fourth grade students enjoyed the LASH program.

**June 3**

The museum was part of Annalys Hanson's eighth birthday party. Annalys is a daughter of Nicole Hanson. Nicole has been PCHS secretary and served on the board before moving to New Prague, Minnesota.

**June 12-30**

Little Red Schoolhouse at the fairgrounds held its annual post-kindergarten one-room summer school classes with Vicki Engel. Vicki has taught these classes for over twenty years. Through the years she has collected nineteen century costumes that her students choose from to wear to school.

**June 23**

Laketown Homemakers toured the museum.



### **July 11-13**

Sally Lowe used the Little Red Schoolhouse for a small group of home school students.

### **July 13**

Janet Dykema, Field Representative of the Northern Region Wisconsin Historical Society, visited the museum, answered questions and gave advice on caring for, storing and displaying artifacts.



### **July 25-27**

Lanesdale Schoolhouse again opened the doors for children to experience school life 100 years ago. Thank you, Patricia Mac Donald, Luck, and assistant, Ashley Thompson, of Balsam Lake

### **July 19**

The museum had a record attendance of 40 visitors.

### **July 31 – August 11**

Ruth Mugerauer and Marlene Gustafson's vision of teaching children in the one-room school atmosphere became a reality 17 years ago in the Amery summer school program and they have taught together since its conception. Through the years it has been a treat for Balsam Lake residents to see the prairie costumed children walking to the park carrying lunch pails.

### **August 17**

A group of seventeen from St. Croix Industries toured the museum.

### **August 21**

Elevator addition blue prints were mailed to Wisconsin Historical Society for approval.

Twenty ladies of Grantsburg's Rambling Red Hatters toured the museum.

**Monday afternoons, June through August,** the Polk County Genealogical Society had representatives at the museum to assist visitors looking for historic information of Polk County or doing general family genealogy.

## MUSEUM BIRTHDAY THIRTY YEARS IN THE COURT HOUSE

Turn-of-the- century costumed hosts, Art and Patty Young, Rosalie and Darrell Kittleson, Jim Gisch and Dave Knutson greeted about 200 guests Saturday, September 2.

Erling and Betty Jensen arrived in their beautiful 1906 Buick.

Summer school teachers, Ruth Mugerauer, Marlene Gustafson, Patricia Mac Donald, and Melinda Sorenson, along with students help a provide pioneer atmosphere.



The variety of music performed on the lawn included, Larry Lindstrom and family of Milltown, the Gallagher family and friends of Dresser, Larry Phillipson of Amery and Wayne Thompson of Milltown.

Three local authors displayed, sold and signed their books: Alan Hanson, M.D., LeRoy Schwan, and Rose Marie Braatz.

Martha Filip held a sale table which brought in about \$100. Soap and jump rope making was demonstrated by Colleen Tolliver.

**The Polk County Historical Society** appreciates the dedicated work of each helper. The museum is alive because people give of their lives. Alan Stover, Osceola high school student, gave 20 hours a week, working at the reception desk and in the office. Ashley and Justin Thompson of Balsam Lake helped with the flower garden. It is wonderful to have our historical buildings used and we thank the sponsors and the teachers of our schools, the tour guides, the genealogy people, those who help with the newsletter, cleaning, repairing, yard work and miscellaneous jobs.

**The society received a gift** of money honoring Lloyd Johnson's birthday from his son, Brad Johnson. Marge Hallquist gave a gift honoring Ted and Shirley Zinn's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Alan Smith, Shoreview, Minnesota donated to the addition fund. The Johansen family of Luck left a nice donation in

the box after touring the museum. Marlys Nelson gave the museum a gift in her birthday card for the museum.

Marge Hallquist gave a short talk on the history of the society. Dan Mosay gave history of his family's involvement with the museum. Ann Hraychuck spoke of her years working in almost every room of the museum, starting as a secretary. Patricia Mac Donald relayed her thoughts on the experience of teaching in New York City compared to the one-room school.

Compliments, monetary gifts, and artifacts, were received. Thank you to everyone who made this day possible.

**Polk County Historical Society  
Board Meeting  
August 22, 2006**

**Directors Present:** Ralph LaDuke, Diane Dueholm, Merle Bergren, Art Young, Carl Johnson, Darrell Kittleson, and Muriel Pfeifer. **Absent:** LeRoy Schwan. **Others present:** Rosalie Kittleson, Lois Hoff and Patty Young.

**Call to order:** President, Muriel Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 5:50

**Agenda Additions:** # 10. September. lunch #11. Johnson check

**Secretary's Report:** Motion by Darrell Kittleson to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carl Johnson, passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Given by Lois Hoff. Motion by Carl to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Art, passed.

**Director's Report:** Read by Rosalie Kittleson. She asked the board's permission to seek grants to pay for the taping of Marge Hallquist and Dave Knutson discussing museum artifacts and displays. Motion by Ralph La Duke, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Diane Dueholm for Rosalie to go forward with grant requests, motion passed. She also suggested that we pay Todd Pfeifer \$100 for his work and use of his equipment in painting the building we used at the fairgrounds. Motion by Merle Bergren to make that payment, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Darrell Kittleson, passed.

**Correspondence:** The Regional Convention will be in Ashland on September 16th. Muriel has the information if anyone has an interest in attending.

**Old Business:**

1. We made \$225 on our raffle ticket sales.
2. Rosalie applied for a \$3000 grant from the Deaver Foundation for Pioneering Schooling. It will pay for supplies and transportation cost reimbursement to the public schools.
3. We made \$339.03 at the brat stand at Dick's Market.

**New Business:**

1. Steve from St. Croix Restoration will work on the drainage issue at the Lanesdale School. The basement needs to be painted with a water sealer and some of the peg boards need to be replaced because of past water problems. Rosalie has added this to the budget request.
2. The upstairs displays need to be completely cleaned in September and October.
3. The museum will close after Labor Day. Rosalie will continue to go to the museum two days a week.
- 4 Tickets are available for the Red Hat Tea to be held on September 21<sup>st</sup> at Paradise Landing. The fashion show will be of military uniforms and the dresses for the same time periods.
5. Our annual election is in October. A letter of resignation has been received from Jim Gisch. He and Merle Bergren are ending their first term. Merle is eligible for reelection. Rey Lark has indicated that he's interested in serving again. We also need someone to fill the remaining two years of Nicole Hanson's first term. President Muriel appointed Merle and Ralph to be the nominating committee.
6. There was a discussion regarding e-mail newsletters. Most felt that we should go back to mailing all of them. Darrell Kittleson made a motion that we drop e-mail, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ralph LaDuke, passed. There was a discussion about keeping the Polk County Libraries on our mailing list, it was decided that we should.
7. Rosalie passed out copies of the budget request that she will present to the county board on Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. It is close to meeting their request of a 10% cut.



8. There is money in our budget to promote special events in 2007. Darrell made a proposal that in 2007 we consider reducing the number of days the museum is open to four days per week. Tuesday and Thursday are the slowest days. Most board members said they would not like to see it closed; some related how disappointing it had been to them, to arrive at a museum and find it not open that day. No decision made at this time.

9. The 2007 bus tour will go to Burnett County June 8<sup>th</sup>. Stops will include Forts Folle Avoine in Webster, Alpha Cheese Plant, Alpha Covenant Church and Old Settler's Cemetery.

10. The September meeting will be the 26<sup>th</sup>; lunch will be served by Carl Johnson and Ralph LaDuke.

11. A check for \$100 was received from Bradley Johnson in honor of his father, Lloyd's, birthday. We are to use it as we choose; all were in agreement that it should go into the elevator fund.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Submitted by Patty Young, Secretary

This is an architectural drawing similar to plans sent to Madison for approval.





THE VISION FOR THE NEW ADDITION  
P. O. Box 41  
BALSAM LAKE, WI 54810

THE POLK COUNTY  
CHRONICLER  
September 2006

- Page 1. September 26  
Fiddling Around  
Larry Phillipson,  
Speaker
- Page 2. Circle of History
- Page 3. Review of the Year
- Page 6. Birthday Open House
- Page 7. Board Minutes
- Page 9. Addition Drawing

