

THE COUNTY CHRONICLER

Polk County Historical Society

March 2007

THE LAST FRONTIER

ALASKA

OUR 49TH STATE

Rey Lark, Jay Bergstrand and Darrell Kittleson will guide us as we ride the Alaska railroad, travel the highways, see the sights of the glaciers, mountains and hear about the incredible musk ox.

2007 History Woman of the Year, Helen McCann, White honored

March 27, 2007

7:15 p.m.

Polk County Justice Center

Refreshments will be served following the program.

Board meeting at 5:45 p.m.

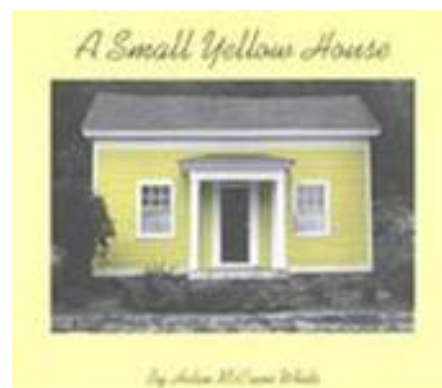
MARCH

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

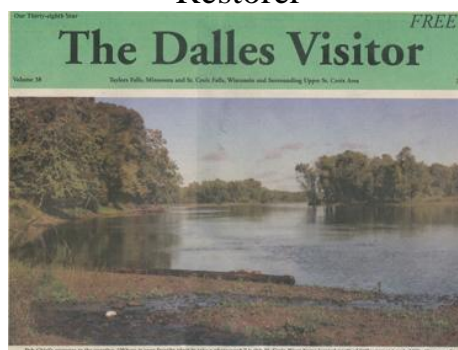
2003 Marguerite Hallquist
2004 Elsie Wood
2005 Leona Cummings
2006 Rosemarie Braatz



HELEN MCCANN WHITE
History Woman of the Year



Writer, Historic Home
Restorer



Editor, Publisher

HELEN MCCANN WHITE

HISTORY IS HER BUSINESS

When Helen McCann White was a young girl, she moved around a lot to small towns accompanied her father, a Methodist minister, assigned to various churches. Edward McCann served the St. Croix Falls, Eureka, and Wolf Creek Methodist Churches between 1941 and 1944. She didn't know anyone in the new towns she moved to. But, that didn't last long.

"What I would do is get acquainted with people," said White. "I would see them on their porches and I'd just start talking to them. I'd ask them, 'How long have you lived here?' 'Where did you come from?'" It was my way of adjusting to a new environment and also, I suppose, the beginning in my interest in history."

That interest has lasted a lifetime, and has led White into the world of history in a big way. She has written books, published newspapers, done a radio show and restored buildings, including the Taylors Fall's jail.

White graduated from Hamline University, working her last two years in the manuscripts department of the Minnesota Historical Society before enrolling at the University of Minnesota, studying American history and literature. There she met her husband, Dr. Henry Gilbert White, a resources economist with the university and later with the government.

During the next twenty years his career led them from Utah and Colorado to Japan, the Philippines, and France. Helen followed with their three children and her trunk full of manuscripts. Characteristically she engaged in a variety of other jobs along the way. In 1961 they settled in Washington D.C., where she completed research for her first book, *Hot for the Gold Fields: Northern Overland Wagon Trains of the 1860's*, an account of wagon train emigrants, who traveled from Minnesota to the gold fields of Montana.

With retirement in 1965, the Whites came back to Minnesota and bought a farm in the St. Croix Valley north of Taylors Falls. Henry White died in 1967. A short time later White moved to Taylors Falls, restoring and living in the Schottmuller building. Other restoration projects of hers include the 1850's Taylors Falls jail, which opened 1981 as a Historical Bed and Breakfast.

In 1969 she started the annual newspaper, *The Dalles Visitor*, which features historical accounts of the towns along the St. Croix Valley. The first paper was 16 pages long and 10,000 copies were distributed. The 2006 edition was 24 pages long with 30,000 copies distributed. White remained responsible for most of the editorial content of the *Visitor*, she had various helpers over the years, including her son, Bruce and his wife. After 30 years as editor of *The Dalles Visitor*, Joanne Frank took over five years ago and continues at this time.

Helen McCann White's name belongs with W.C. Folsom, Ray Stannard Baker, and James Taylor Dunn as respected St. Croix Valley historian, scholar and preservationist.



Helen M. [White]
Elizabeth (Rogers)

Edward [Ned]
Rev. Edward

Phyllis A. [Caine]
Rosemary [Banta]

Thank you to the following for providing the information for this article:
Hamline University alumnae newsletter, December, 1984, Minnesota Historical Press

LOOKING AHEAD

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 p.m. The July meeting is a pot luck picnic held at Pine Park in Balsam Lake.

2007 Speaker Schedule

Date	Topic	Speaker
March 27	Alaska	Kittleson, Bergstrand, Lark
April 24	Know your Antiques	Phillipsons, Martin, Celloti
May 22	Filling Station/Car Museum	Erling Jensen
June 26	Stereoscopes	Ralph Weber
July 25	Picnic	? Dan Mosay
August 28	Rocks	Gladys Wickert
September 25	Early Canoes	? Phyllis Knutson
October 23	Christmas in October	At Museum



route66photographs.com



wikipedia.org/wiki/Stereoscope



<http://www.agatenodule.com/>



BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, comprising of Darrell Kittleson, Joyle Anderson and Dorene Hendrickson, met February 26. Absent was Ralph LaDuke.

The addition's architectural plans were discussed. The discussion included changes in the placement of the window positions on the north entrance side. Electrical and plumbing drawings are yet to be drawn. Each floor was studied and questions answered. Questions concerning the masonry work will be forwarded to the Wisconsin State Society Preservation Department and the architect. Elevator addition information will be presented at the coming board and general meeting, March 27.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Grant writing was my main activity this winter. I have sent in grants to the following: Excel Energies, Western Electric Energies, Centurytel, Lakeland Communications, Amery Area United Way, and Polk Burnett Round Up.

A letter to solicit funds was sent March 8 to local businesses. A letter was sent to Lion District Governor Richard Mousel asking permission to mail soliciting letters to the local Polk County Lions Clubs.

The filming of the history and inventory for the museum's second DVD was completed by Cine-Cermin Productions Inc; Cermin will now start the editing. With additional editing, this video can serve many purposes; an educational tool for students, use in our PA system, use with audible headsets, use in presentations outside of the museum.

We will be preparing for school field trips and will need volunteers as guides. Brochures and buttons are being made for the students.

Many of the displays were thoroughly cleaned after closing, but much cleaning and shining is waiting for warmer weather. We will appeal to the Unity school community service program for additional help.

Rosalie

DONATIONS

Memorials for Rosamond Nelson were given by Marge and JoAnn Hallquist and Darrell and Rosalie Kittleson.

A memorial was given by Harvey and Marilyn Stower for Darrell Van Amber.

Carter and Joyce Dedolph gave a donation toward the garden project.

Emily Hedlund Hengst paid for a Century Farm sign to be placed

Wal-Mart donated \$1,000 for the work we do in the area.



Operation Round-Up

®

<http://www.polk-burnett.org/roundup.htm>

Polk-Burnett is pleased to provide financial support to community programs through Operation Round-Up. Funding for the program is donated by member-owners of Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative, who round their monthly electric bill up to the next even dollar amount. The monies are combined, and grants are awarded quarterly by a committee of Polk-Burnett members.



**Polk County Historical Society
Board Meeting
October 24, 2006**

Director's Present: Ralph LaDuke, Merle Bergren, Art Young, Carl Johnson, Diane Dueholm, Darrell Kittleson and Muriel Pfeifer. **Others present:** Rosalie Kittleson, Lois Hoff, and Patty Young.

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

Secretary's Report: Approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Updated auction tally and bank statement presented by Lois Hoff. Approved on a Carl/Art motion.

Director's Report: Read by Rosalie Kittleson.

Committee Reports: The financial committee met in June and again in October. Merle Bergren presented their recommendations on the use of the interest from our CD; currently it's going into the money market fund.

1. The curators are allowed to spend up to \$1000 per item to a maximum of \$5000 per year. Approved on a Carl/Merle motion.
2. The museum director's salary is increased by \$1500 per year. (Darrell and Rosalie excused themselves prior to the vote.)

Old Business:

1. The elevator is on hold with the Department of Commerce in Madison. They have ten points they want addressed. Rosalie has been in contact with all concerned parties.
2. Election: Patty Young volunteered to serve the remaining year of LeRoy Schwann's term; approved on a Darrell/Diane motion. Rey Lark had earlier volunteered to serve the remaining two years of Nicole Hanson's term; approved on a Carl/Patty motion. Jim Gisch and Merle Bergren are going off the board; they served as our nominating committee. The two names on the ballot are Dorene Hendrickson and Patricia MacDonald.

New Business:

1. We again discussed printing placemats featuring local historical societies to place in restaurants. Each society would be responsible for selling ads to four or five businesses in their area. Muriel will check further on the cost to print 5,000.
2. Discussed Rosalie's idea for Christmas in July; there would be a display of decorated Christmas trees for 3-4 weeks. People would pay to display the trees.

3. Fundraisers:

- a. The veteran's celebration was cancelled for this year. Muriel suggested we have it next year on June 16 which would be Flag Day.
- b. Auction will be on June 30; Dave Knutson will chair.
- c. Golf on the ice; a suggestion was made that it could be called the "Willis Erickson Memorial."
- d. Muriel presented information on recycling printer cartridges. The postage-free mailers would have our code and we'd receive credit for each returned.

4. Jim Gisch wants to work at the museum this winter as a volunteer and has two projects that need approval.

a. Install a window on the first landing in attic; approved on a Patty/Carl motion.

b. Cut an opening in the wall between the office and the storage room behind the General Store. This will make records easier to access for genealogy research. Approved on a Patty/Darrell motion.

5. Grantsburg Society has acquired an old school house and asked if we might have old school books we could lend them. Discussed, but no decision made.

6. Darrell attended the Luck society meeting and was asked if we might give them some artifacts when their building is completed. We will discuss at that time.

Adjournment on a Ralph/Darrell motion at 7:07.

Submitted by Patty Young, Secretary

At the general meeting that followed there were no nominees from the floor for board members. A unanimous vote was declared for Dorene Hendrickson and Patricia MacDonald to each serve a three-year term on the board.

Our next board meeting will be on December 12. We will meet at the Justice Center at 5:45 to elect officers for 2007.

**Polk County Historical Society
Board Meeting
December 12, 2006**

Call to order: President Muriel Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 5:45.

Directors Present: Ralph LaDuke, Carl Johnson, Darrell Kittleson, Muriel Pfeifer, and Patty Young. **Others Present:** Rosalie Kittleson.

Agenda Additions: Under new business: 2007 calendar, museum director's contract.

Treasurer's Annual Report: Presented by Rosalie for Lois Hoff. Motion to approve by Ralph, seconded by Patty; passed. Rosalie also presented a report on the accounts we have with S & C Bank, motion to approve by Darrell, 2nd by Carl, passed.

Director's Annual Report: Highlights were read by Rosalie Kittleson.

Communications: A reminder from the Salvation Army that they need bell ringers.

Old Business:

1. Placemats: The Copy Shop gave a quote of \$137.50 for 1,000. Muriel will ask them for a quote on 5,000.

New Business:

1. Election of officers: Muriel Pfeifer agreed to serve as president for another year.
2. Christmas in July; nothing new to report.
3. Fundraisers:

The veteran's style show has gone a new direction: Martha Filip would like to have a dinner dance with a big band theme. Some modeling would be done but that would not be the main focus. The Red Hat Society will not be a sponsor this year. Darrell suggested that it be held the third weekend in August.

b. Auction will be on June 30; Dave Knutson will chair.

c. Golf on the ice; could it be coordinated with the Balsam Lake fishing contest?

d. Muriel handed out 2007 calendars and we highlighted our meeting nights.

e. Rosalie's contract as museum director was read. Motion to accept by Patty, seconded by Carl, passed.

Adjournment on a Ralph /Darrell motion at 7:07.

Submitted by Patty Young, Secretary