

# THE COUNTY CHRONICLER

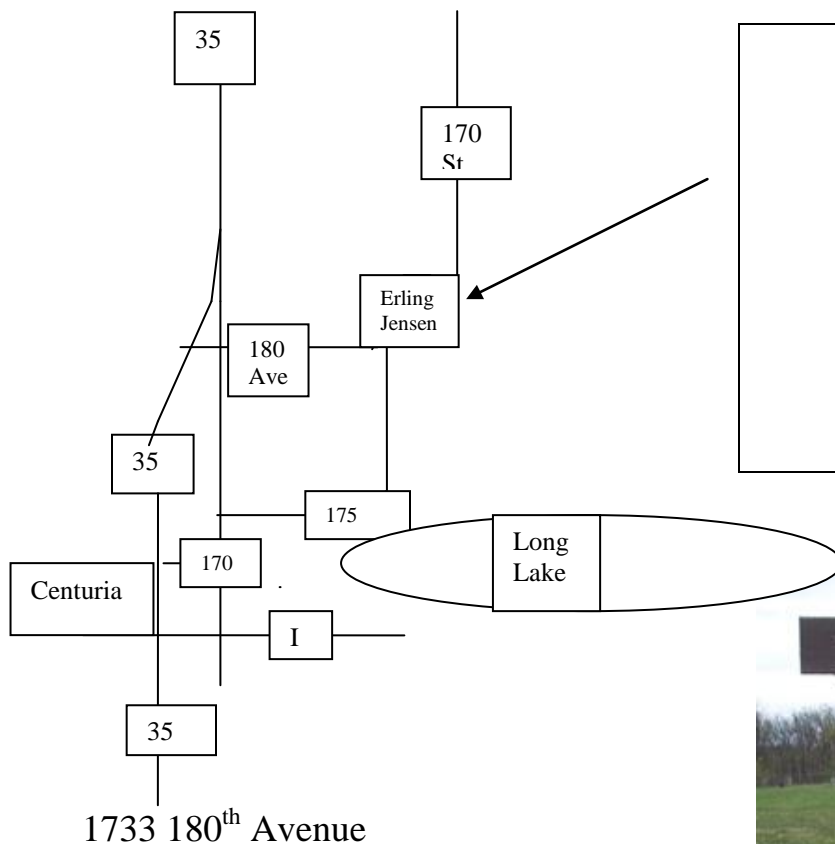
Polk County Historical Society

May 2007

## PCHS votes YES for Elevator Addition

The first order of business at the April 24 PCHS general meeting was the proposed elevator addition for the museum. President Muriel Pfeifer asked for and received a motion and second to go forward with the project. The voice vote passed with no discussion.

MILLTOWN



One mile north  
One and one half mile east  
Of Centuria

Spend an evening at

Erling, Betty & Marc  
Jensen's Memory Lane  
May 22, 7 p.m.

Filling Station  
Soda Fountain  
Vintage Cars



Cemetery Walk May 19  
See page 5

## **ERLING AND BETTY JENSEN**

Most of the Jensens in Polk County have a trail back to one of three areas—Luck, Bone Lake, or Eureka!

Erling Jensen, the host for Polk County Historical Society's May outing, is third generation Jensen from the Eureka area.

Grandfather Christ H. Jensen immigrated here in 1880 at age 18. In 1883 he was baptized and joined the Eureka Baptist Church. By 1888 he had purchased 40 acres of land in Section 17, Eureka Township and later added an 80-acre piece adjacent to the north where he built himself a home. Christ married recent immigrant, Inez Christina Jensen in 1898. Christ and Christina were both naturalized that year although Christ was the only English speaker at the time the 1900 census was taken. Christina was baptized and joined the church in 1901 about the same time as son Stanley J. was born. Following Stanley, in three-year intervals, came Stella B., Bernice A, Raymond, and Kenneth.

Stanley stayed on at the home place where he farmed with his wife Hazel Phelps This is where Erling and brothers Gerald and Eldon and one sister Louise started their lives. Before Erling started school, the family moved to the northwest corner of Long Lake in Balsam Lake Township. The Jensen children attended school at Centuria, a two-mile walk. Erling was in high school when the family moved to the present location where Erling and Betty raised their four children.

Pamela Kay, the Jensen's only daughter, teaches near Green Bay, where her husband Tom Hughes is superintendent of the same high school that sons, Kyle and Jonathon attend.

Sons Kerry and Rodney make their homes here in Polk County. Kerry and Ginger (Mauer) and daughters Alexis and Madeline and son Jacob live south of Dresser. Rodney and Adela and daughter Tia live on Balsam Lake. Marc lives on the home place.

All three sons work at Andersen Windows in Bayport, where their father worked for 35 years before retiring in 1996. Erling and Betty now spend their winter in Florida.



~MEMORY LANE~

## **RECIPES ON DISK—HONOR OPAL & ALL HOMEMAKERS**

### **OPAL VIVDALE PETERSEN JOHNSON**

“Born the fifth of eight children to Betel and Marie (Mortensen) Petersen, Opal came after Pearl before Ruby. . . I’m sure Bertel and Marie look down with satisfaction.”

The beginning and the end, but is it the end? It is the end of Opal’s 1989 handwritten account, both sides of four pages, to her sisters and brothers and families on the occasion of the family party on Lake Hubert. Opal’s life ended here on earth this last fall, but she left a legacy of notes, articles, and pictures of the Polk County area.

The Polk County genealogical and historical societies received many boxes of her collections. As I went through her boxes, the one that touched me the most emotionally was her collection of recipes. Recipes reach not only the body—they reach the core of womanhood—nourishing the family, body, and soul.

In the dispersal of lifelong family belongings, recipes are hard to depart with. They represent not only happy smells, happy sounds, and happy faces but also sustenance in hard times.

The Polk County Historical Society wishes to put together a collection of recipes representing all the diversified ethnic cultures that make our county. The goal is to put these recipes on a compact disk that would be available to sell as a fundraiser for the elevator addition project. The disk would be dedicated to Opal and all the other homemakers in Polk County.

We would like you to help us collect your favorite family new and traditional old recipes. Please send them to:

Polk County Historical Society  
Box 41  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

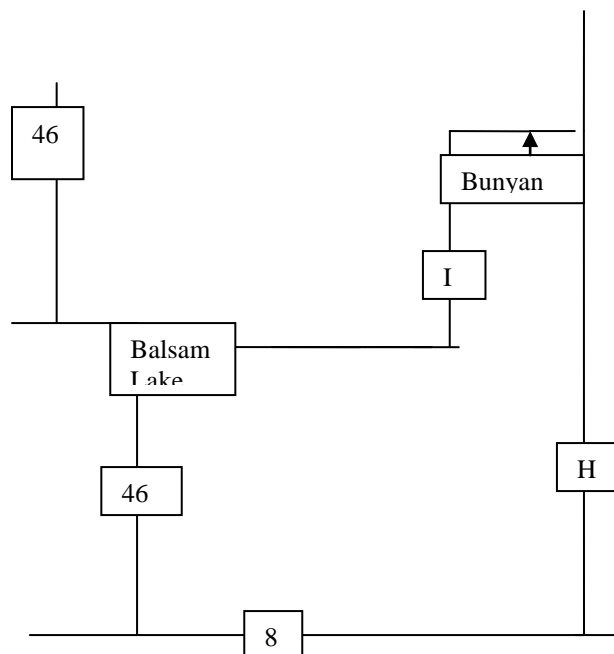
Alice Anderson      alley2@centurytel.net

The first schools have toured the museum. How about you? Have you seen the change in the Chell room? We have a museum to be proud of! Rosalie has single-handed done a wonderful job readying the museum.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### 2007 Schedule

Date	Topic	
May 11	Clayton School Tour	90 Students
May 16 & 17	Frederic School Tour	60 Students
May 18	St. Croix Falls School Tour	75 Students
May 19	Cemetery Walk	Bunyan Cemetery
May 22	Filling Station/Car Museum	Erling & Betty Jensen
June 9	Bus Tour to Crex Meadow &	Forts Folle Avoine
June 26	Stereoscopes	Ralph Weber
June 30	Auction/Bake Sale	At Museum
July 25	Picnic	Dan Mosay
August 18	Big Band Dance & Dinner	Generation II
August 28	Rocks	Gladys Wickert
September 25	Early Canoes	Phyllis Knutson
October 23	Christmas in October	At Museum



### BUNYAN CEMETERY WALK

Union Protestant Cemetery  
of Wisconsin

MAY 19

Coffee & rolls at  
East Balsam Baptist Church  
9:30 a.m.

## **CIRCLE OF HISTORY**

### **Sterling Eureka Lake Town Historical Society**

Thursday May 17, Business meeting 5:45, Program 7 p.m., at Cushing Community Center. Loretta Pedersen of Blackberry Hills will demonstrate Hand Spinning and Weaving and natural dyes. See [www.blackberryhills.com](http://www.blackberryhills.com)

### **Cemetery Walk**

Saturday, May 26, 1 p.m., Pioneer Cemetery on Evergreen Avenue in the Sterling Barrens

### **Laketown Lutheran Cemetery Walk and Service.**

Sunday, May 27, 10:30 a.m., SELHS is joining with the Laketown Lutheran church members and neighbors to honor Roy Hennings (Dr. Squirt), who was a veteran of World War I, but has never had a veteran's flag marker. Roy wrote for many newspapers and magazines for over 40 years under the name of Dr. Squirt. The Hennings family helped start the Laketown Lutheran Church and were partners in the first store in Cushing. Members of the family will be attending. Several families will be highlighted on a cemetery walk. A light lunch will be served.

### **Memorial Day Program**

Cemetery Walk Wolf Creek Cemetery and Church.  
Monday May 28, 11 a.m.

### **Polk County Genealogical Society**

#### **Funeral Practices**

Monday, May 21, 7 p.m., at Osceola Public Library. Bob Williamson will speak on funeral practices.

### **HAPPY 120th BIRTHDAY, AMERY!**

Thursday, June 7th, 7 p.m., Council Chambers, Amery City Hall. In 1887 the area that was known as "Big Dam", a reference to the dam built across the Apple River, was officially named the Village of Amery after William Amery, a prominent Polk County citizen. That year the Soo Line Railroad extended tracks through Amery and the next half dozen years brought many settlers and a building boom to Amery. Join the Amery Historical Society for birthday cake and an evening of reminiscence by those who have helped move Amery from a village to the city it is today.





### **ARCHITECT DRAWING OF PROPOSED ADDITION**

The addition will contain a meeting room in the entrance level. The second level will contain the handicapped bathroom and an office. Two windows, (not pictured) will be in the office. The third level will contain climate-controlled storage area and might contain area for genealogists and research.

### **MONDAY AFTERNOONS AT THE MUSEUM**

The Polk County Genealogical Society meets at the museum every Monday afternoon, 1-4 p.m., June through August. This year they will be indexing the names in the local family history collections. They also will be available to help anyone with questions concerning genealogy. We encourage families to submit their stories to the museum in order for them to be available to future generations.

Contact: Richard Kretzschmar  
kretweed@cornernet.com

*From the desk of the President...*

Muriel Pfeifer

The April 25, 2007 board meeting of the Polk County Historical Society was a busy one with many items to be discussed. The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were given and approved. Rosalie gave the Director's report and discussed the problems that have come up on the roof repair and the elevator addition. She is confident the obstacles will be overcome and we can complete these projects. Judy Wester will be sharing the responsibilities with Rosalie. We are still awaiting the annual reports from the Luck and SELS Historical Societies – Patty will send a reminder letter.

Our Bus Tour is scheduled for June 9 (yes, a Saturday). Watch the newsletter for itinerary, and call Carl Johnson at 268-8353 for reservations. The cost this year will be \$30. Other activities that are coming up are the Auction on June 30 (contact David Knutson if you have donations) and the Veterans Dinner Dance on August 19 at The TAC Entertainment Center.

Old Business – Christmas in July has been moved to October and we will have our meeting and an open house at the museum. New Business – The newsletter was discussed and the type-size will remain the same, and we will continue to mail it. The Polk County Historical Society will have a booth at the St. Croix Casino on May 14, and volunteers came forward for both shifts. Permission was given to Judy Wester to start a project for a Historical Recipe CD as a fundraiser. Watch the newsletter for more information. Our annual pot-luck picnic will be held at D.D. Kennedy, and we will also be able to visit the new Education Building there. We are sponsoring a Bunyan Cemetery walk on May 19. Refreshments will be served at the East Balsam Baptist Church at 9:30 with the walk to follow. A free-will offering will be taken. Pioneer School will be the week of July 30<sup>th</sup> at the Lanesdale School. There will be a charge of \$50.00. The "Little Red Schoolhouse" at the fairgrounds will be shared by the Luck and SELS Historical Societies with the help from the other societies during the fair. The meeting ended with Dave Knutson reporting on the workshop he attended in Eau Claire on "Managing Historical Records."



## Director's Comments

The museum is looking very nice with new displays. The displays were completed with the help of Marilyn Reiten, Martha Filip, Dave Knutson, and me in preparation of the 2007 school tours and visitors. The Unity High School students again helped with spring clean up with yard work and many different chores throughout the museum. I will be working with a 4-H group and St.Croix Falls school students for additional help at the Lanesdale School.

Thanks to the Marion Park Deaver Foundation, Amery Community Foundation, and the Amery Farmers Co-op, we now have an Educational Center at the Kennedy Park to accommodate the school tours for conservation and history studies.

The coal room roof was repaired and new ventilation is improving the movement of air in the basement. This is helpful in keeping the basement dryer for the preservation of artifacts. The elevator addition is now in the hands of the county to put out for bids; we are waiting to see the notice in the Inter-County Leader. We hope to start ground breaking this year. Jon Cermin has volunteered to help with the lighting at the museum; many of our lamps need to be replaced. We will be looking at some new lighting that has been recently introduced to the public. Can you believe May 29 will be our third program? We have had very interesting speakers, and it is always fun to see everyone enjoying the luncheons and conversation after the meetings.

Rosalie

The society has in its collections some pre-1900 photographs of local Ojibwa families. These are excellent pictures waiting to have a real special purpose. Could a quality book with the pictures accompanied by Ojibwa teachings be a possibility? Could they be enlarged mural size for background in Native American Room? As far as we know we are the only one with these pictures. They were taken around Balsam Lake and are of excellent quality. This is a treasure waiting for its full potential. These pictures need one person with a vision. Could it be you?