

# THE EAGLE

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



# SPEAKS

SEPTEMBER 2008

"OLD ABE"

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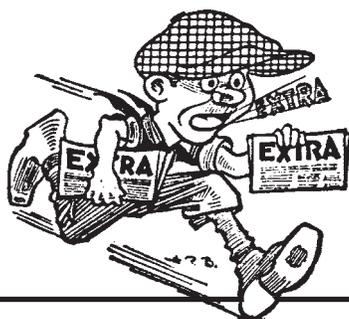
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## Where Did You Buy Your "Groceries" in the Late 1940's or Early 1950's?

ARLEY ENGEL

As a young lad growing up on our farm on the Wheaton Prairie, we raised about 500 chickens, we usually ordered 100 White Rock laying hens and 400 capons for their meat. In case you don't know what a capon is, the dictionary states, a capon is a cock (rooster) gelded to improve the flesh for the table, and oh it was so much fun to get these baby chicks, maybe only one day old. We put them in the nice warm brooder house. This was a 10 ft. by 12 ft. shed with sand on the floor and a brooder stove in the center to keep the chick warm. It was usually close to 90 degrees under the brooder stove. The little chicks would crowd together under this unit just as they would under a mother hen. We feed them chick starter mash from Zutter Elevators. These bags are where feed sack dresses and dish towels come from. You could almost see them grow a little each day as the ate a lot of mash and were always running to the water fountain for a drink. The time of year that we received the baby chicks was early March so it was still pretty cold outside. On a Saturday or Sunday my brothers and I would spend a lot of time laying



### Annual Picnic and Membership Meeting

Come join us for our annual picnic and membership meeting in Irvine Park. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, September 16, 2008 at the Irvine Park Activity Building. The Pot Luck Dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. and the Membership meeting at 6:30 p.m. Bring your favorite dish and join us for this important meeting to elect officers and directors.

Lumbering was the main industry in Chippewa Falls from 1836-1911. The people involved in the industry provided a rich colorful history. This lumber camp photo shows the many faces of lumberjacks.



## LOCAL NEWS

### STANLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DAVID JANKOWSKI, REPORTER

Summer is slipping by and, as usual, it has been a busy one. Before we know it we will have another year of history behind us!

Our building project that was announced in the May newsletter has actually begun. We have the foundation laid and are now awaiting the contractor to put up the structure. By the time you read this, the structure will be well underway. The building is being attached to our 2002 building and will have a connecting ramp that will run along the west and south side of the existing structure. Thus, visitors will not have to go outside to visit the new addition. We have installed in floor heating coils so we can heat the new structure at a low temperature, as most of the building will be for storage of artifacts. The front third will be used to exhibit our 1906 Cadillac. Funding raising continues and we have raised around \$79,000 to date.

Our summer activities so far have been extended hours on June 14 and 15 to accommodate visitors during the Stanley Rodeo and a "Sociability Run" on the same dates, which followed the former Yellowstone Trail. One visitor stated that "He thought our museum was the best kept secret in Northwestern Wisconsin."

On June 21, our meeting room was full for the presentation by Wisconsin author, Jerry Apps. No attendee was disappointed as Mr. Apps has a wealth of information to share and he presents it in an interactive way involving the majority of his listening audience. We were very saddened to have learned that the Wisconsin Humanities Council will no longer be co-sponsoring presentations of this nature in the future.

### COVER STORY CONTINUED

in the sand a little away from the brooder just to see how many chicks we could get to gather around us. But as they got older this area got to be a little stinky so we just sat a little farther and enjoyed the excitement of chickens running around and growing into nice size drumsticks, thighs and breast meat. At about 6 weeks old they were getting near butchering size. Maybe 1-1/2 to 2 pounds. This is when Dad started bartering with some of the grocery stores in Chippewa Falls. We had 4 or 5 stores that wanted freshly butchered chicken early Saturday morning. So on Friday evening we would heat up our double boiler, then go catch 25 chickens. We had slotted wooden crates to put them in until we were ready for the killing and removing of the feathers. In the killing process we would hang them by one leg held by a twine string with a piece of corn cob at the bottom end, the top end attached to a length of pipe 21 feet long. There was room for five people to be pulling feathers at one time. In the killing process we did not chop off the heads, we used a narrow blade knife which was inserted up the chickens mouth inside the beak and cut the upper roof of the mouth. There is a main vein in this area and the chicken bled very well. At one time we did chop the heads but the grocers said the women wanted the heads and feet on, as they used these items in making soup. We had to hurry along in this process as the water cooled very fast and hot water is needed to make the feathers come off much easier. We then took out the innards and put the chickens in our milk cooling tank — right next to the milk cans and pumped fresh cold water on them for the rest of the evening.

Now comes Saturday morning — we get our chores done early and remove the chickens from the cooling tank before the mornings milk cans can go into the tank. The chickens are put into wash tubs and covered with a clean white sheet and are ready for delivery to the grocery stores. Our first stop would be Perrenoud's Grocery on West Elm St. Al Perrenoud usually took at least 5 chickens. Next we would stop at Culberts Grocery on Elm St. and the normally took 5 chickens. Then we would go down on Spring St. to Butch Seyforth's Grocery Store where we usually sold at least 10 chickens, then on over to Grand Ave. to Gus Katzs Grocery here we sold 5 more, so our chickens were gone and we had picked up some groceries at each store. If we wanted to have chicken for Sunday dinner we had to butcher some more Saturday night!

Now on to a list of the grocery stores in Chippewa Falls in the late 1940's:

Brule's Grocery 311 N. Bridge St. ❖ Buppenhoff's Grocery 1 E. Canal ❖ Crystal Grocery Store 820 Jefferson Ave. ❖ Cote Grocery 202 S. Main ❖ Bert Dumars 304 Island St. ❖ Felber's Grocery 223 S. Grove St. ❖ Ed Gehl Grocery 363 W. Elm ❖ R.W. Gutknecht 440 W. Elm ❖ Johnson Grocery 226 E. Columbia St. ❖ Melvin Johnson Grocery 601 E. Grand Ave. ❖ Krueger Grocery 1038 Front St. ❖ Lange Food Shop 407 Bridge St. ❖ Leidholt Store 10 Jefferson Ave. ❖ Maloney Grocery Store 219 South Rural St. ❖ Marquardt Grocery 38 E. Grand Ave.



Eugene &  
Delores Harm



## A VOLUNTEER PROFILE

MARY MCKENNA

# Eugene

In this issue we feature a “gentle giant”, Eugene “Gene” Harm, as our volunteer profile. When I went to visit and interview him, I quickly learned it would be impossible to share his entire life’s story as there are way too many chapters and details to do it justice. I will attempt to scan his eventful lifetime and apologize to Gene if I miss, “some of the story”.

He was born January 7, 1924 in the town of Arthur in Cadott. His parents were farmers and he remembers picking rocks to help clear the land on the farm with his dad where he lived most of his life. For a few years the family moved to Cadott on Mill St. so his sister could go to high school. They returned to the farm about three years later and it remains in the family even today. He told of getting a grade of 100% in agriculture when he graduated from 8th grade, a sure sign of a good future farmer. He also excelled in the subject of English. He still is an avid reader having recently finished reading Barack Obama’s *Odyssey of the Mind*. Past favorites included: *Boys Life on the Prairie*, *Robinson Crusoe*, and *The Life of Wild Bill Hickok*.

Gene was to meet his future wife, Delores Lanners, on a “blind date”. They were married at Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Chippewa Falls in 1954 and eventually joined St. Anthony’s parish in Drywood where Dolores was actively involved in teaching catechism and worked on other committees. They were parents of 10 children: Edward, Lucille, Susan, twins David & Dennis, Mary, William, Robert, Joanne and Patricia. The size of their family caused an overflow of where to sleep them, so they remodeled their wood shed into a bunkhouse for the five boys. His sons worked the land with him. Gene and Dolores were a “match made in heaven” married over 50 years. Gene always had the ideas and Dolores did the telephoning and paper work.

The now established Chippewa County Historical Society has its early beginnings due to Gene Harm. Through the years he and his now deceased wife, Dolores, were involved with several historical societies. They were charter members of Cadott, Stanley and Chippewa County Historical Societies. Our Historical Society is indebted to Gene for his invaluable contributions of artifacts. His donations comprise nearly all of the logging room displays. His recent gift of numerous log stamping hammers is a wonderful addition to the logging room. The log stampers hammer initials into the wood to identify the logging companies. Having these items is a treasured part of the history of logging. Much to his credit, Gene was very active in the Forrest History Association since 1990. He also actively assists with the “Past Passed Here” event held in Allen Park each spring; helping Arley Engel, a close friend, who has a trailer bed of memorabilia, a museum of sorts on wheels.

Eugene is a storehouse of information about many historical events and facts but tends to shift away from sharing much about himself personally. To sit with him and see tears well up in his eyes as he pours out his experiences is to realize the heart of this man who has never stopped giving and serving others and loves doing it. 🐾

## CALENDAR

Place these dates on your calendar

### August 19

Board of Directors meeting  
9:15 a.m. History Center

### August 26

History Coalition  
1:00 p.m. History Center

### September 13

2008 West Central Regional Convention  
Dunn county Historical Society  
– Menomonie

### September 16

Chippewa County Historical Society  
Annual Pot Luck Picnic & Membership Meeting  
5:30 p.m. Irvine Park Activity Building

### September 26-27

2008 Annual Local Historic Preservation Conference  
Madison

**The Eagle Speaks** is published quarterly by the Chippewa County Historical Society, a non-profit organization established to promote and stimulate historical interest in Chippewa County, Wisconsin.

Mail any comments or future articles to 123 Allen St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729. 715-723-4399.

**Chippewa County Historical Society**  
123 Allen St., Chippewa Falls, WI  
**Open on Tuesdays | 9am-4pm**

## **Directors Needed:**

Interested in being on the board of directors? Call Dave at 723-2647.



## **FEATURED ARTIFACT**



### **Tools**

You thought you had a lot of tools! Bob Herbert was responsible for our Tool Room, which has more than 250 tools. This is just part of one wall of the display. There are some that will challenge you to determine what they did.

### **We have moved into the 21st century!**



Go to [www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org](http://www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org) and view our new web site. Its just started and soon we will have our newsletter and brochure on the web site and much more to come.

## **A Message From Your President**

Just as you thought summer would never come its hot and muggy in early August as I write this article. Present day happenings can affect history. The headline in the Chippewa Herald on July 17 was "Museum considers next move after city votes to end lease". The article reported "Chippewa Falls City Council on June 24 approved giving the museum (Chippewa Falls Museum of Industry and Technology) 18 month notice to move from the city-owned building at 21 E. Grand Ave". The article quotes Tom Halbleib, President of the museum's board of directors, "Other than having some casual conversations, the Chippewa Falls Museum of Industry and Technology hasn't aggressively sought a new Museum location. That certainly will be part of our strategy going forward." This news may have a positive result. It may be the catalyst to get the area history organizations working together to get a new museum for Chippewa.

After reading the article I called Tom on Monday to be sure he was aware of the History Coalition that was started last fall. It just happened that the Coalition had a regular meeting schedule on Tuesday and I invited Tom to attend the meeting. CFMIT has been a part of the Coalition the beginning I wanted to be sure Tom who recently became president was aware of the Coalition. Tom agreed to come to the meeting.

The Coalition devoted the meeting to CFMIT and their need for a home. The meeting attendance included people from Chippewa County Historical Society, Chippewa County Genealogical Society, Cook Rutledge Mansion, Chippewa Falls Parks & Recreation Department, and Chippewa Valley Cultural Association. Chippewa Falls Main Street was not able to attend because they are looking for a new executive director and Chippewa Falls Public Library was having their annual book sale.

Tom began the meeting by giving the history of CFMIT and the present situation. The Coalition agreed that this kind of a situation was just why the History Coalition was formed. The Coalition agreed to use its collective voice and effort to look into the issue of a new museum for Chippewa. The Coalition agreed that Chippewa could only support one museum and agreed to look into options that would provide space for the Historical Society, Genealogical Society and CFMIT. Preliminary discussions included what kind of space was needed and what might be available. 40,000 – 60,000 square feet was an early guesstimate and some locations were the Mason Shoe Building on River Street, the vacant lot on Bridge Street across from the Salvation Army and the vacant Notre Dame Middle School next to the Heyde Center. We agreed that to accomplish getting a new museum up and running in 18 months is not possible. If plans are well under way on a new museum before the end of the 18 months maybe Chippewa Falls might give CFMIT and extension on their lease.

The action taken by the Coalition was to form a sub committee to look at the needs of the three groups and develop a business plan to meet these needs. Skip August and Deb Johnson (CVCA), Bill Flaherty (CFPRD) and Jim Schuh and myself (CCHS) have agreed to serve on this sub committee. The History Coalition will continue to meet and determine how it can begin to work on getting Chippewa a first class museum.

This makes some of the Historical Society's earlier conversations about a new museum and the formation of the History Coalition very timely and makes it critical for us to accelerate our efforts to preserve the rich heritage of Chippewa County. I will keep you informed and will be asking for your support as we work to get a new museum for Chippewa. *Dave*

# Donations

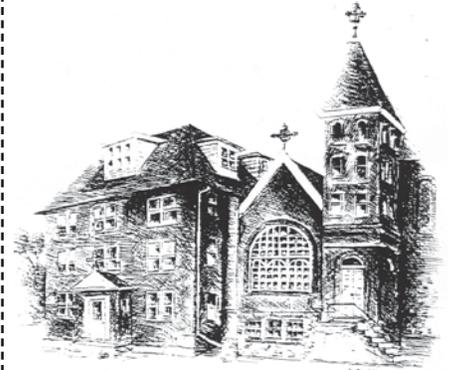


## It happens every fall!

October is the month that memberships are renewed. Don't miss a issue of "The Eagle Speaks" and your chance to support our effort to save the rich history of our area. Send in your 2009 dues now.

*(The Board of Directors in May 2007 made all memberships due October 1st).*

## MEMBERSHIP FORM



### Donations in Memory of:

	From:	
Norma Langworthy	Robert Goulet & Mary Klawiter	\$10.00
Florence E. Bleske	Arley & June Engel	5.00
Florence E. Bleske	Richard & Kathryn Engel	5.00
Norma Langworthy	Jim & Nancy Schuh	10.00
Norma Langworthy	Shirley Liedle	5.00
Norma Langworthy	Kathy Forsgren	5.00
Norman E. Fisher	Arley & June Engel	5.00
Bill Barnes	Donald & Delores Bichner	15.00
Bernard W. Swoboda	Arley & June Engel	5.00
Catherine M. Karlen Memorial	Arley & June Engel	5.00
	Anonymous	5.00

### Other Donations:

	From:	
Michael Pope's Birthday	Ann Welke	\$5.00
	Conrad & Judith Mazur	25.00
	Bernard Willi	10.00
	Eleanor Jones	10.00

### From Visitors:

.....	\$12.00
.....	12.00
.....	4.00
.....	5.00
.....	18.50
.....	8.00
.....	8.00
.....	18.50
.....	10.00
.....	12.00

## Cook-Rutledge Mansion Update

The Cook-Rutledge Mansion Elegant Dinner winner will be drawn on October 1. The winner may host a dinner for ten at the

Mansion, catered by Dean Parent of Esca Ars, LLC

on the date agreeable to the winner and to Dean. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 6 for \$25.00 and can be purchased from any Board member or by calling the Mansion at 723-7181.

Pretzel lovers will be glad to learn that Ursula Whelan's treats will be on sale at the Mansion booth during Oktoberfest on September 19-21, as will tickets to this year's Home Tour scheduled for September 27.

Visitors to the mansion this fall will notice four new storm doors which have been purchased and installed in an attempt to conserve both energy and in the long run, money. Proceeds from the fundraisers mentioned will defray the cost of these beautiful and practical additions to the historic home.

NAME

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Types of Memberships:

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- Family (1 Year) ..... \$15
- Contributing Member ..... \$50
- Life Member (Individual)..... \$125
- Life (Couple) ..... \$175
- Extra Donation ..... \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO:

Chippewa County Historical Society  
123 Allen Street  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Lumbering was hard and demanding and feeding the crew was important. In camp the cooks served the crew in the dining hall.

The crews were in the woods during the middle of the day so lunch was brought to them by ox drawn wagon.



### Chippewa County Historical Society Committee Members

❖ **Collection & Artifacts:**

\* Nancy Schuh, Evalyn Frasch, Donovan Olson, Vicki Nelson, Terri Ouimet

**Photography Sub Committee:**

\*Lucyann LeCleur

❖ **Building & Grounds:**

Don Bichner

❖ **Education:**

\*Arley Engel, Dave Gordon, Gail Willi, Cathy Lee

**Docent Subcommittee:**

Lalie Boos, Pat Ahneman

❖ **Exhibits:**

\* Arley Engel, Don Bichner, Eugene Harm, Nancy Schuh

**Historic Markers Subcommittee:**

\*Tom Larson, Jim Schuh, Arley Engel, Kurt Gaber

❖ **Finances:**

\*Dave Gordon, Kathy Forsgren

❖ **Membership:**

\*Shirley Liedl, Mary McKenna

**Telephone Subcommittee:**

\*Mary McKenna

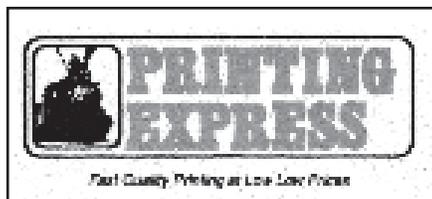
❖ **Publicity:**

\*Jim Schuh, Betty Plombon, Wayne Meyer

❖ **Space Utilization:**

\*Don Baker

\* *Chairperson*



### LOCAL NEWS CONTINUED

**Stanley Historical Society** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

This summer, we have had many visitors interested in seeing the 1906 Cadillac that we have temporarily on display in our Logging and Farming Building. We also had the vehicle in the Stanley Rodeo Parade on June 15 and at the Lions Club Watermelon Festival Car Show on July 27.

During the weekend of July 26 and 27, the museum again hosted a Quilt Show put on by a local group. Our 2002 addition was full of beautiful handiwork.

We will be hosting several fall events that will be reported on in the next newsletter.

Among the major happenings will be a Town of Worden Reunion on September 6 and an All School Reunion on October 4. In addition a bus tour is also anticipated in October.

During the latter part of July, volunteers began to refinish the floors in our 2002 addition. The floors have had a hard workout and thus need to be refinished in order to keep them in tiptop sharp. ❖



COVER STORY CONTINUED

❖ McPhee Grocery 223 N. Bridge St. ❖ Misfeldts Grocery 14 S. Grove ❖ Morris Grocery 341 Stanley St. ❖ National Tea Co. Food Store 215 Bridge St. ❖ O'Grady Grocery 502 Bay St. ❖ Perrenoud Grocery 410 Elm St. ❖ Potter Grocery 340 Carson St. ❖ Redard Bros. Grocery 704 E. Grand Ave. ❖ Red Owl Stores 216 Bridge St. ❖ Schwaners Food Shop 510 Bridge St. ❖ Sokup's Grocery 624 Bridge St. ❖ Super A&P Store 13-17 W. Grand Ave. ❖ Willette Grocery & Meats 5 E. Canal St. ❖ Willi Grocery 501 Woodward Ave.

Plus there were wholesale and retail meat markets: Beaudoin Meat & Grocery 419 S. Main ❖ The Dipple Market 620 N. Bridge ❖ Handt Market 816 E. Grand Ave. ❖ Max's Market 13 S. Grove ❖ Shafer Bros. 123 Greenville St.

And at this time we had the Meat Packers: Peter Fox & Sons Co. Wagner St. do you remember their calendars — they had photos of the 12 Peter Fox sons all mounted in a row with their head photos mounted on the body of a turkey.

Now you have my story of some of our life style back in the late 1940's after the war when times were quite good in The Chippewa Valley. That's all for now from Engel's Little House On the Wheaton Prairie. ❖

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# Ben Franklin

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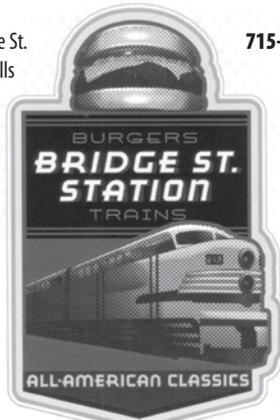
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# THE EAGLE SPEAKS



SEPTEMBER 2008

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