The Eagle Speaks

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2018

www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

"OLD ABE"

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Monday, September 10 | 6:30 pm

CCHS Bi-Annual Membership Meeting
at the Area History Center

Featuring
JoAnn Parks speaking on
Map Use to Interpret Family History

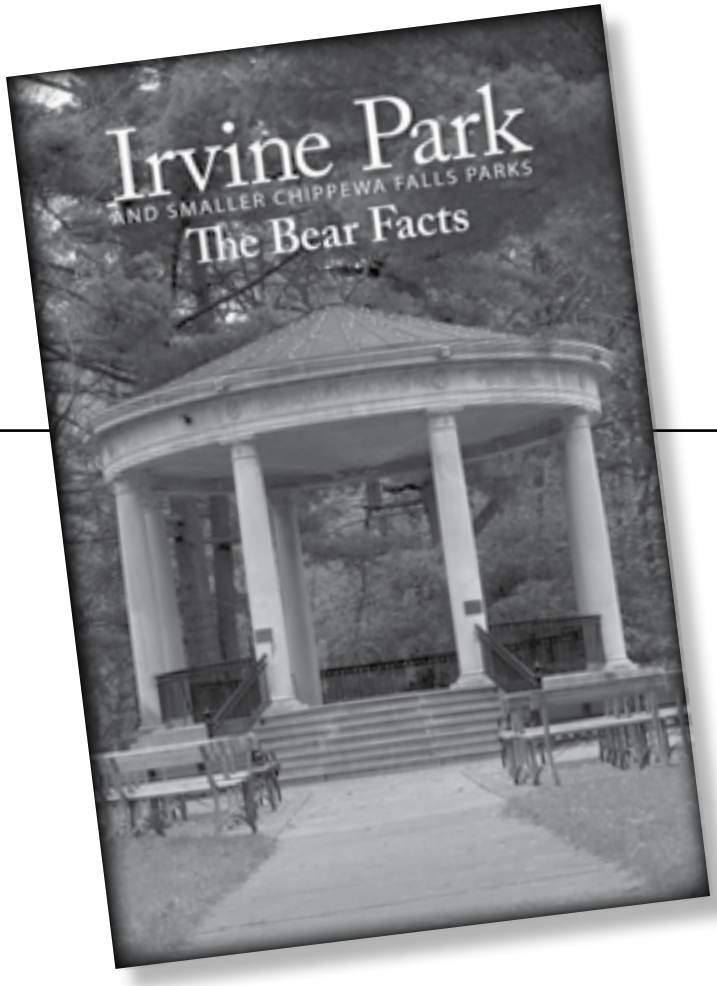
Co-authors Anne Keller, Donna Bourget and Jim Schuh show their new publication while sitting on a park bench near the Black Bear Exhibit in Irvine Park.

New Book Tells History, Features of Irvine Park

BY MARK GUNDERMAN

A new book detailing the 112-year history of Chippewa Falls' iconic Irvine Park will help support the new Chippewa Area History Center. *Irvine Park (and smaller Chippewa Falls Parks) The Bear Facts* tells the history of the park since William Irvine and the Chippewa Lumber and Boom Company donated land for the park in 1906. Irvine Park is best known today for its zoo, a rarity for a community the size of Chippewa Falls, and the popular Christmas Village lighting display.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



CCHS Bi-Annual Membership Meeting

Monday, September 10, 2018
6:30 p.m. | Area History Center
123 Allen Street

Please join us for our CCHS Bi-Annual Membership Meeting

Presidents Progress Report

PROGRAM:

Czech and Norwegian Heritage

How To Use Maps To Interpret Family History

SPEAKER:

JoAnn Parks

JoAnn is a retired Geographic Information System Professional (GISP) She is a member of the Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA). She is the Treasurer of the Town of Arthur.

Irvine Park Book CONTINUED FROM COVER

Authors Anne Keller, Donna Bourget and Jim Schuh describe all of Chippewa Falls' parks, with rich details of their natural environments, history and growth. Their work is the result of about year of work researching, gathering recent and historic photos, and interviewing local residents about their memories and stories of the parks.

Last year, the authors released Lake Wissota, The Dam Story, marking the 100-year anniversary of the opening of the hydroelectric dam that created Lake Wissota, a destination site just to the west of Chippewa Falls. Irvine Park (and smaller Chippewa Falls Parks) The Bear Facts is similar in format, size and style.

Proceeds from sales of both books will go to support a new Chippewa Area History Center that is in the planning stages.

"We hope our new book will help the community stay connected to its history both by keeping alive the rich memories associated with Chippewa Falls' historic parks, and by supporting the History Center project, which will help preserve the stories of Chippewa County and the people who have called it home," Schuh said. "And learning more about the parks deepens people's appreciation for the wonderful gems they are."

The book will be available in early September for $20 from the Chippewa County Historical Society, 123 Allen Street, Chippewa Falls. To order by mail, send a $25 check payable to CCHS with "Irvine Park book" in the memo. The book will also be available for a limited time from Country Treasures, 216 N. Bridge St.; Foreign Five, 123 N. Bridge St.; Chippewa Falls Main Street, 514 N. Bridge St.; Chippewa Falls Parks and Recreation Office, City Hall 2nd floor, 30 W. Central St.; SandBar & Grill, 17643 50th Ave.; and Chippewa Falls Area Senior Center, 1000 E. Grand Ave. ❧

Second Graders Visit History Center

MARY ERICKSON

On a warm day in May, 68 Parkview Elementary School second graders visited the Area History Center where they were they were greeted by the above costumed volunteers—Marge Hebbring, Mary and Jim Erickson, Debbie Smith and Jim Schuh.

The first thing they saw was the fur trading exhibit where many furs, artifacts, hunting tools and other items were displayed and the importance of fur trading in the area was explained. Then, on to the logging exhibit where the various logging jobs were shown, as well as loggers clothing, saws and log stamps. Old logging photos were also on display.

Next, the students entered a room set up as an early train depot equipped with a very old typewriter, telegraph key, lanterns, and mail bag grabber among other things. Local evolution of communication and transportation were described by a locomotive engineer dressed as Casey Jones.

In the last room, Grandma's Kitchen, the students experienced going into an old fashioned kitchen. There they saw an early "flip" toaster, hand-pump vacuum cleaner, laundry equipment, old irons and a roomful of old-time cooking tools usually found in a kitchen many, many years ago.

Learning about the history of their home town, Chippewa Falls is part of the second grade curriculum and this visit brought to life Chippewa Falls of the past. ❧

(If we have missed anyone please let us know)

Donations

In Memory of:	From:
Pat (Myrl) Ahneman	Salem, AR VFW Auxiliary
Charles O'Donnell	Luanne Hanson
Pat Ahneman	Shirley Leidl
Pat Ahneman	Jane Kragness

General Donations:

Kathleen McMullin
Chi High Class of 1958

Committees in sync!

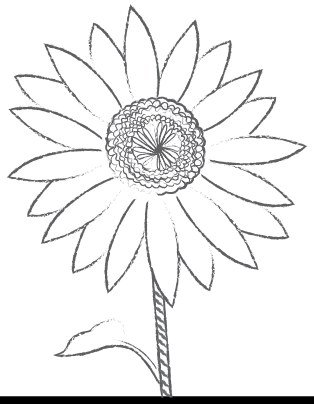
Chippewa County Historical Society Committee Members

- **Collection & Artifacts:**
  *Cate Murphy, Mary Erickson

  Photography Subcommittee:
  *Donna Bourget, Debbie Smith
- **Building & Grounds:**
  *Skip August
- **Education**:
  *Marge Hebbring

  Docent Subcommittee:
  Marge Hebbring, Jim & Nancy Schuh, Andy Mayberry
- **Exhibits**:
  *Marge Hebbring, *Mary & Jim Erickson, Donna Bourget, Teri Stahr
- **Historian**:
  *Nancy Schuh
- **Historic Markers:**
  *Tom Larson, Jim Schuh, Kurt Gaber, Joe Niese, Jim Erickson
- **Finance:**
  *Skip August, Cate Murphy
- **Membership:**
  *Mary McKenna
- **Publicity**:
  *Jim & Nancy Schuh
- **Newsletter**:
  *Jim Schuh, author & editor
  Elly Rochester, layout & design
  Nancy Schuh, author & proof reader
  Jim Erickson, author & proof reader

** Chairperson*



A Message From Your President

It's the end of August already. It will not be long and kids of all ages will be back in school. That includes my two grandchildren who are returning to college. Time marches on.

The Historical Society is alive and well. The Capital Campaign continues on and has now raised $1,775,000. We are fortunate to have Frank Smoot, Executive Director of the Dunn County Historical Society in Menomonie, helping the New Museum Exhibit Committee begin to consider what new exhibits will be housed in the eagerly anticipated Chippewa Area History Center. There was a nice article in the Chippewa Valley Business Report about our dream of a new museum.

The Board of Directors has been looking at its committee structure and making adjustments to work toward a new museum. The Collection and Artifact Committee is taking a hard look at the artifacts now housed in the History Center with the goal of not moving any artifacts to the new museum that do not fit our collection policy. We have several years of items tucked in many corners of the former Notre Dame Convent. *The Past Passed Here* is now under the Education Committee. We created the position of Volunteer Coordinator to increase the volunteer base needed for getting ready for a new museum. The Historian position, which has been unfilled for some time, has been activated and will now continue to keep the very interesting story of our historical society updated. We changed the status of the Historical Marker Committee from a sub-committee of the Exhibit Committee, to full committee.

As happens each September, we will hold our semi-annual membership meeting Monday September 10, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. at the History Center, 123 Allen Street, Chippewa Falls. Nancy Schuh has arranged for JoAnn Parks to be our guest speaker (see page 2). Also at this meeting we will hold elections of officers and directors. *Dave* ❧

Chippewa Area History Center elevation plan.

CALENDAR

History Center open every Tuesday | 9 am-4 pm

Sept. 10
6:30 pm | Biannual Membership Meeting

Sept. 18
Noon | Area History Center Birthday Lunch

Sept. 25
9:00 am | Capital Campaign Executive Committee

Oct. 16
9:30 am | CCHS Board Meeting
Noon | Area History Center Birthday Lunch
1:30 | *The Past Passed Here* Meeting

Oct. 23
9:00 am | Capital Campaign Executive Committee

Nov. 20
9:30 am | CCHS Board Meeting
Noon | Area History Center Birthday Lunch
1:30 | *The Past Passed Here* Meeting

Nov. 27
9:00 am | Capital Campaign Executive Committee

Great news, donations have reached$1,775,000!

We're now over half-way to our goal of $3.5 million. We appreciate your support of history preservation and education. ☛

Total Campaign Goal: $3,500,000
Construction begins at: $2,450,000

Gifts and Pledges

Received as of August 31, 2018:
$1,775,000

Chippewa Area HISTORY CENTER
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Please note:
As explained in the "Donor Recognition Plan", we are printing only the names of those gifting $100 or more to the Capital Campaign.

We do, however, sincerely appreciate the many gifts under this amount! If you believe your gift was omitted or listed incorrectly, please call 715-723-4399. We apologize for any errors and will do our best to correct them.

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B. A. Mason Trust

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Skip and Jill Thaler
Spectrum Industries

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James and Arlene Wright
Russell, Gary and Steven Champion
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George and Peggy Fleming
Gary and Carol Gienapp
Sheldon and Ruth Gough
Les and Marilyn Harrison
Becky Post
Sheila Rooney
James A. and Judith A. Rubenzer
Diane Hopkins Whelan

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Del and Donna Bourget
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Chippewa Falls Elks Club
Chippewa Falls Lions Club
Chippewa Falls Optimist Club
Country Treasures
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Gary B. and Judy Gaier
Jerry and Mary Kuehl
LucyAnn LeCleir
Tim and Carrie Leis
Gene and Arlene Lopas
Jan and Denny Metzdorf
Charles and Christina Norseng
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Don Zutter
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OTHER GIFTS and PLEDGES
($100 to $1844)
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Daniel Clumpner
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Joye and Carl Dobos
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Patrick and Susan O'Donnell (Charles' 90th)
Dave and Mary Lee Olson family
Carol Peck
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Joshua Rizzo
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Jim and Jeanne Barnier
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NEWS FROM THE PAST

Old Factory On High, Cedar, Razed

HOLLY MEIER / MARCH 21, 1952

If you have an "El Nilo" or "77" cigar laying around the house, treat it with loving care. Unwrap it carefully, wet it down, and enjoy the smoke at your leisure. And when you have it smoked down to a short butt, blow the final drag of smoke up toward the ceiling and watch the blue, grey cloud dissolve into the air for it will be the last time you will be able to do it. The "El Nilo" and the "77" have vanished from the market, victims of modern production and methods and a change in the habits of smokers.

The Bollinger Brothers and Pepin cigar factory, last of its kind here in Chippewa Falls, is being ripped down and when the destruction is completed another old city landmark and another city industry will have faded.

Way back in the period before WW1, around 1917, cigar making was a flourishing business here in the city. No less than seven factories were in operation when the Bollinger Brothers went into business. The two Bollingers, Walt and John, together with Emery Pepin, opened shop in a place purchased from L.W. Bethke, on 11 W. Grand Ave., but the business closed down during the war. After the shooting stopped, Walt Bollinger and Pepin bought out John Bollinger's interest in the factory, and also purchased the building which up until now served as the home of Bollinger Brothers and Pepin cigar factory.

Employing up to 8 men in flush years, the factory turned out over three and one-half million hand-made cigars in its thirty odd years of operation, including the "Northwestern," the "Shamrock," the "LaDema," and the two modern brands the "El Nilo," and the "77."

Bollinger and Pepin were opportunists, making cigars to fit any occasion. For an example, when President Alvin Coolidge vacationed on the Brule River, in the northern part of the state, the firm manufactured 30,000 cigars, called the "Brule," and sold them all during Coolidge's stay.

The old building, which is located on the corner of High street and Cedar street, and which is currently being razed, was originally constructed on Bridge street, between Central and Grand. It was moved to its present location, and was used, among other things as a schoolhouse. When the building was purchased, it was in ramshackle shape, and the cigar firm put over $3,000 into its repair.

But now after over 30 years of operation, the cigar making trade here in the city is all wound up. Reason given is that after WW1, the smoking trend has gradually been leaning toward cigarettes. This, coupled with the fact that modern machinery is taking over the cigar making trade and machines can produce a cigar faster and more cheaply than a man, has made the business a non-paying proposition.

And so, the "El Nilo" and the "77" will no longer be around. They have followed the "Shamrock" and the "La Dema" into oblivion. ❧

Time Capsule: The Chippewa Herald

Beginning last September the Area History Center, comprised of the Chippewa County Historical Society and the Chippewa County Genealogical Society, began partnering with the Chippewa Herald newspaper to highlight our wonderful historic photo archive. Below are the next 14 since our last newsletter.

These can be seen online at:

- http://chippewa.com
- www.facebook.com/ChippewaAreaHistoryCenter
- www.facebook.com/ChippewaCountyHistoryCenter

Since June 2018 the Time Capsules included these featured articles and photos:

- ☛ 1978 Cheerleader Squads
- ☛ Remembering Keystone School
- ☛ Poppies Honor Ultimate Sacrifice
- ☛ Family Remembers 1958 Tornado
- ☛ Walk a Mile in Shoe Manufacturing
- ☛ The Fire that Struck Leinenkugel's
- ☛ Chippewa Valley's Dairy History
- ☛ "Butter Boy" Highlight of County's First Courthouse
- ☛ Cannon fire welcomes in the Fourth of July
- ☛ Chippewa Falls has a Fair History
- ☛ Union Station's Reach Pulses through the City
- ☛ Wee Boy Goes on Train Ride
- ☛ Orphan, Lumberman, War Hero and Farmer: Thomas Price
- ☛ Thaddeus Pound had Dreams ❧

Chippewa County Historical Society
ENDOWMENT FUND

Support the Chippewa County Historical Society

An endowment fund in the name of the Chippewa County Historical Society has been established through the Community Foundation of Chippewa County.

With this endowment, gifts will remain intact as the principal grows; earnings from its investments will support the Historical Society. Gifts to this fund are administered through the Community Foundation of Chippewa County. To make a donation to this fund visit **yourlegacyforever.org** or contact the Foundation at 715-723-8125.

Sweet & SOUR Oktoberfest

Join us at Octoberfest!

September 14-16, 2018
Northern Wisconsin
State Fairgrounds

Visit the CCHS Sweet & Sour Display featuring our Heritage of Maple Syrup and Sauerkraut. We have created and shared cultural exhibits for several years at Octoberfest!

WWI, The Troopship Tuscania and Oscar Bjork

NANCY SCHUH

Veteran's Day 2018 marks the 100-year anniversary of the end of WWI. The Armistice with Germany went in effect at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918.

Many young men from Chippewa County served their country proudly during WWI. We have been fortunate to have a few artifacts that originally belonged to one of those men, Oscar Bjork, donated to the Historical Society.

On January 24, 1918, Oscar sailed out of New Jersey on board the Tuscania, a luxury liner that had been refitted as a troopship. It carried approximately 384 crew members and 2,013 army personnel, including many soldiers from the Chippewa Falls area. On the bitterly cold evening of February 5th, it was torpedoed by a German submarine and sank only a few miles off the coast of Northern Ireland. About 210 of the crew and troops were lost.

The wreck of the Tuscania lies between Scotland's Islay Island and Northern Ireland's Rathlin Island under 330 feet of water. Many of the soldiers on board were saved and cared for by local people.

Fortunately Oscar survived this ordeal and we are grateful to have been given his Tuscania Survivors Certificate and his Roster of the Wisconsin Tuscania Survivors Club along with his uniform. In the Roster he is listed as Vice President of the Club.

The following is an article that ran in the Chippewa Herald six days after the Tuscania was torpedoed:

CHIPPEWA HERALD | FEB. 11, 1918

All But One From Chippewa Accounted For

All those from Chippewa County who were on board the Tuscania have now been officially accounted for except the following whom it is still believed are safe: Clair Metzenbauer, Route 1, Earl Weisenberger, Jim Falls and Fred Duxbury.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

WWI CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

The relatives of the above had received no word from Washington up to the time of going to press. A dispatch was received this morning from Washington that stated that all Chippewa area men except Metzenbauer had been accounted for.

List of the Saved:

Peter Pangborn	Everett Hale
Raymond Wilmarth	Henry Schmidtmeyer
Francis Loughrea	Edwin Bushland
Signard Simonson	George Shaw
Barney McMahon	Edward Paul
Charles Pregent	William Sweeney
Rudolph Stone	Erick Benz
Richard Thornton	Nathan McIntyre
William Gereau	Ernest Morency
Oscar Bjork	Leo Corneiller
Walter English	Guy Wiseman
Ingwald Hanson	Clarence Mitchell
George Borgenheimer	Mike Cosgrove
Louis Hartman	Edmund Yell
Hans Christenson	Forrest Tapper
George Stengel	William Olson
Hilton Doege	

Sadly, according to the WWI Honor Roll Book for Chippewa County the following three young men from Chippewa County drowned that day: Claire Metzenbauer, Earl Weisenberger and Art Harvey. ❧

Membership Form

Chippewa County Historical Society

DATE

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE / ZIP

TELEPHONE

Type of Membership:

Full Time Student ☐ $15 (1-year)

Individual
☐ $25 (1-year) ☐ $70 (3-year)

Family
☐ $35 (1-year) ☐ $100 (3-year)

Contributing Member
☐ $60 (1-year) ☐ $170 (3-year)

Life Membership
☐ $500 (individual) ☐ $750 (couple)

I would like to make an additional donation

$_____

MAIL TO:
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123 Allen Street
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Chippewa County Historical Society

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Sweet & Sour Oktoberfest

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September 14-16
See page 8

The Eagle Speaks

SEPTEMBER 2018

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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.

Mail any comments or future articles to:
Chippewa County Historical Society,
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