



MENASHA CITY SQUARE 1888

MENASHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER APRIL, 2009

LOOKING BACK

If, as a child, you wished you could grow up to be a fireman, your dream came true at our March meeting. Our firemen and their equipment keep us safe. Thanks, firemen! And thanks to Marty at Michiels Bar and Grill for a very good lunch.

LOOKING AHEAD

Same date: Thursday, April 9th; same place: Resource Center; same program: Jack Speech, Neenah Historical Society representative. He will tell us about the history of Neenah. Jack is informed and able as a speaker, and we'll learn more about our neighboring city. But not the same time! **NOTE CHANGE OF TIME - 1:00 P.M.** When we discovered April 9th was Maundy Thursday, a decision was made to not compete with local churches. We moved our time from evening to afternoon. So -- **IT'S THURSDAY, APRIL 9th AT 1:00 P.M. AT THE RESOURCE CENTER.** We plan to lure you with offers of dessert at 1:00 p.m.

April is always our annual meeting. This year there is no election because all present officers and board members will continue to fulfill their elected term of office.

MAY MEETING

May is our annual "Spring-trip" meeting. This time it's to Brillion on Thursday, May 14th. The Brillion Historical Society has a museum of interest to us, showing what a small town can do. Following the tour, we'll enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. More information in the May newsletter.

PRESERVATION MONTH

Our Historical Society will be partnering with Menasha merchants and the City's Landmark Commission to celebrate Wisconsin State Preservation Month. We will celebrate Saturday, May 16th downtown and Sunday, May 17th at Smith Park and the Memorial Building. The resource rooms will be open to display our spruced-up center. Tours of the caboose, history of the Indian mounds and tours of the Isle of Valor will be provided. At the Memorial Building Nancy Barker will give Menasha history talks and answer questions at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 o'clock. We are looking for volunteers to man the building, bake cookies, make coffee, etc.

LONGEST DAY OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

There will be a celebration downtown Menasha on Saturday, June 20 put on by the merchants to celebrate the longest day of the year. There will be music, food, and entertainment. The Menasha Historical Society has been asked to participate. We are looking for volunteers.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Long-time member Dolores Gear has served as president, board member and all-around reliable helper. Dolores, presently serving as secretary, also assists with typing and mailing the newsletter. She reminds us of our jobs and volunteers whenever given an occasion which calls for help. Do you know how often you've eaten one (or more) of her cookies? We can always count on Dolores, and she does it all with a smile. Thanks, Dolores. Rah! Rah for you!

NOTES FROM NANCY B. (EASTER)

How many remember the colored baby chicks and bunnies in the pet store windows? Pets that survived usually ended up at our farm in less than a month. A good law was passed when it became illegal to dye animals. We saved money by using onion skins and beet juice to dye our eggs. We were always happy for a warm Easter because then we didn't have to wear brown cotton stockings and could wear our new Easter bonnets and ankle socks to church.

MEMORIES BY CARYL HERZIGER (ARBOR DAY)

When we moved to Park Street across from Smith Park in 1953, there were so many oak and elm trees that we could not see the homes on Cleveland Street across the park from us. Later, it was so difficult to watch as, one by one, the elms in the park began to fall prey to Dutch Elm disease. Over 210 trees had to be removed in the park along with twelve of the elms in our own yard. I remember my husband, Bill, going from door-to-door around the park asking residents to contribute to buying replacements. Today, park care-takers have done an excellent job of reforesting Smith Park. When I drive past the park, I can see evidence that this will again be a real woods.