

MENASHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

November 2011

Our October meeting on Genealogy was enjoyed by those who were present although it was a small representation of only 21 guests and members. The Board of Directors spend a lot of preparation time and sometimes financial costs are incurred to present you with informational, interesting programs by bringing in guest speakers and it is very disappointing when such a small group of people are in attendance. Delicious refreshments, appropriately displayed on the Halloween decorated table, were supplied by Debbie Peterson, Lucy Bruch, Bob/Colleen Smarzinski, and Wes/Carol Zimmer. We thank you all.

NOVEMBER 10th KOREAN VETERANS WAR EXPERIENCES -7:00 p.m.
ELISHA D. SMITH PUBLIC LIBRARY
CO. E ROOM (lower level)

THREE MENASHA RESIDENTS WILL BE FEATURED IN A 60 MINUTE DOCUMENTARY FILM ON THEIR KOREAN WAR EXPERIENCES AND WILL ALSO BE IN ATTENDANCE THAT EVENING. A COPY OF THE DOCUMENTARY WILL BE GIVEN FREE TO ANYONE MAKING A \$10 - OR GREATER - CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIETY. CONSIDER BRINGING A NEIGHBOR, FRIEND OR RELATIVE TO THIS EVENING OF REMEMBRANCES.

WELCOME

Nancy Grogan Kennedy, who is living in Iowa City, IA, recently visited our resource/mini-museum hoping to gather information about The Woodenware and Marathon as her grandfather and father were employed there. During her visit she purchased a membership to our society along with 1 of our historical books. Kathryn Babbitz attended our October meeting and became a member.

INFORMATION WANTED

The Menasha Historical Resource Center has very little history on our paper companies, that were the source of the city's existence, and have now become non-existent, (Marathon, American Can, Geo. Banta Publishing, Gilbert, The Woodenware, Whiting, etc.) If anyone has any information, or if you know of someone who might have, please contact us so that we may preserve that historical information and will then be available to people's inquiries.



A FRIENDLY REMINDER TO PAY YOUR DUES

THE MENASHA MEMORIAL BUILDING

The Memorial Building was built and dedicated in 1928 to the soldiers and sailors who gave their lives in the service of their country. It was the first community building in the area and was meant to be used by organizations and/or the city for various types of activities.

At the time, swimming was allowed in the river at the end of Park Street. There was a raft at the shore line and another a few yards out. There were dressing rooms and showers in the east side of the building for the swimmers to use. Old-timers remember when they would go there just for the showers.

As one entered the building, there was a soda fountain to the left. When there was something going on in the building someone was always available to serve a cold drink or some ice cream.

The small room to the Northwest was a fully equipped kitchen which could be used for making and serving lunches by the people who rented the upstairs for parties, etc.

Over the years things changed. Swimming was no longer allowed, so the East side of the building became a game room with ping pong tables and other facilities. The veterans played cards there on certain days.

Of course, the upstairs was the biggest attraction. In the early thirties, teen dances were held three nights a week. Records were played downstairs and some way piped upstairs. Disc jockeys, as we know them, had not yet come into being. Dancers were charged five cents to dance all evening, and their hands were stamped so they could go up and down and in and out. The doors to the balconies on the north side were open in good weather so dancers could go outside to cool off. Or they could go down the steps, across the bridges and onto the little island. That was a romantic spot on moonlight nights! The non-dancers usually were the ones who made use of that option.

The Park Dept. was always in charge of the building. At one time tennis players could get permits for court use there as the Park and Recreation Dept. had its offices in the building. Much later, the Health Dept. had its office in the East wing.

Besides dancing, the upstairs has been used for many things over the years –golf lessons, square dancing, aerobics and other kinds of classes, lectures, music programs, meetings and assorted get-togethers. It could be rented for a nominal fee by anyone who had a legitimate use for it. Many weddings are held in Smith Park and the bridal couple rent part of the lower level for the bride and her attendants to dress there.

Today the Recreation Dept. uses the building for its many activities and there is a day-care program during the school term. The East wing is used to house the Menasha Historical Society Resource Center & mini-museum providing Menasha residents and visiting guests with information and memories of our historic past.

The city fathers were ahead of their time in providing a building such as this for the use of the citizens of Menasha. However, it has not been without its opponents as there was a time when its usefulness was questioned but it appears to have been a good investment after all.



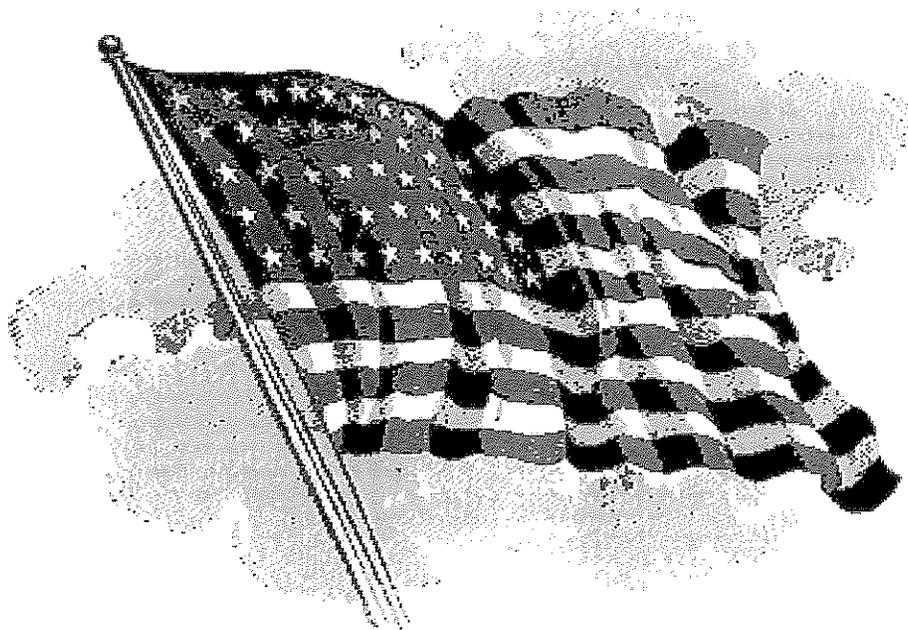
FLAG FOLDING TRADITION HAS DEEP MEANINGS

The military honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the American flag 13 times before handing it to the next of kin at the burial of a veteran. The following are 11 of the 13 reasons why:

- The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.
- The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.
- The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave their life in the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.
- The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn to in times of peace as well as in times of war.
- The fifth fold is a tribute to our country.
- The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.
- The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces.
- The eighth fold is a tribute to the one entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.
- The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood.
- The tenth fold is a tribute to the father.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nations motto, "In God We Trust." When the flag is folded and tucked in, it reminds us of those in the Armed Forces of the United States who have fought to preserve for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning.



THE MEANING OF VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day is an annual United States holiday honoring military veterans. It is a federal holiday that is observed on November 11. It is also celebrated as Armistice Day or Remembrance Day in other parts of the world and falls on November 11, the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I.

(Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 with the German signing of the Armistice.)

The holiday is commonly printed as Veteran's Day or Veterans' Day in calendars and advertisements. While these spellings are grammatically acceptable, the United States government has declared that the attributive (no apostrophe) rather than the possessive case is the official spelling.



RESOURCE CENTER & MUSEUM

(Located at 640 Keyes Street)

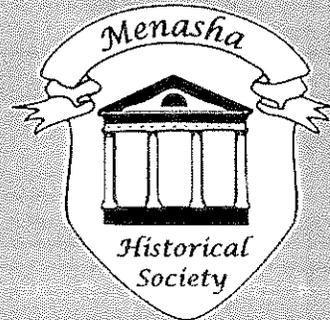
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