

MENASHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

October 2011

Our September potluck "Kick-Off" was a great success with 25 people attending. The weather and bees cooperated and a vast variety of foods complimented the Spanish hamburger and buns, which was provided by the society's board members, along with their contributions of an additional "dish-to-pass". After lunch Nancy Barker presented facts regarding the Smith family in relation to the park.

OCTOBER 13 – 7:00 pm – MENASHA PUBLIC LIBRARY CO. E ROOM

This program is designed to introduce individuals, unacquainted with family history, to the joy and excitement of discovering their ancestors. Karen Hale, from the Appleton Family History Center, will teach you how to get started. Marg Crane of the Appleton Genealogical Society (also a member of Menasha Historical Society) will be on hand to answer questions about local resources. The public is always welcome to attend so bring a neighbor or friend.

REMINDER

Tax-exempt dues are payable in person or mail to our P. O. Box 255
\$25.00/couple \$15/per individual

THANK YOU

Mark Ropella and his Career Academy students, located at Appleton North High School, have been assisting with the layout and printing of our newsletters. We are so appreciative of his active interest and involvement in the Menasha Historical Society. In addition he has made a monetary donation to offset our monthly expenses. Next time you see him please take a moment to thank him.

HELP WANTED

For many years the Board of Directors has been furnishing homemade refreshments after each meeting. We are now asking for volunteers to step forward and help with this amenity. Although those talented bakers have served us unusual and delicious bars/cookies it is not necessary if you would prefer to purchase them. Call Dolores Gear 722-3635 to coordinate and offer your services.

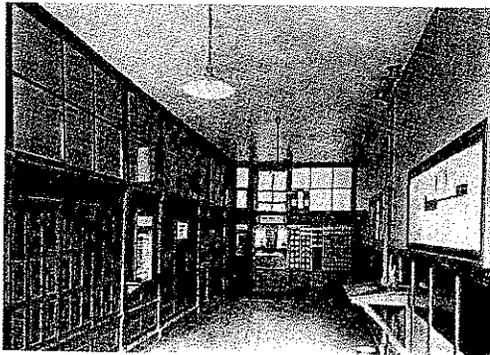
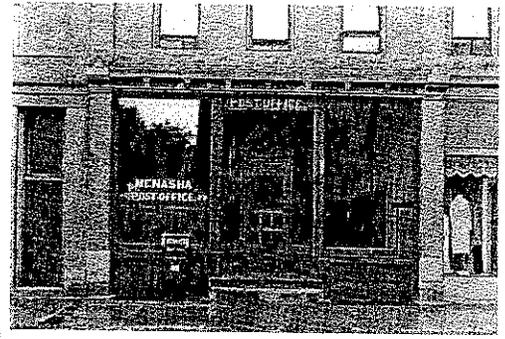
We, of course, always need persons interested in keeping our Resource Center and mini-museum open and workable. As the years pass so quickly it is vital to have persons of a younger generation become actively involved so spread the word and recruit. We are in dire need for 1 or 2 persons to fill unexpired board member positions. Fresh, new ideas, concerns, knowledge (from the past, present and future) are always necessary. At the present time we hold our meetings on the 1st Tues. of each month @ 9:00 am.

PLEASE GIVE THIS SERIOUS CONSIDERATION! No specific talent is needed just concerns in "KEEPING MENASHA HISTORY ALIVE".

MENASHA POST OFFICE

(As imminent changes for the Menasha Post Office are pending I thought it would be interesting to revisit when and how it began)

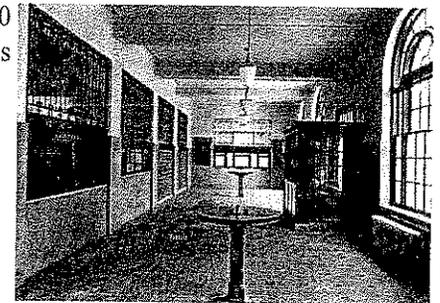
A Post Office was established in Menasha on November 14, 1849 as a 4th class office. A steady growth in receipts advanced its status to 3rd class on March 31, 1902, 2nd class on July 1, 1902 and 21 years later, on July 1, 1923 Menasha had achieved the highest position of 1st class. It was located with a land and law office in the 500 block on Broad St. Future locations included Chute St., the future site of the Sonnenberg Pharmacy, the Tuchscherer block, a frame building where the future First National Bank was to be located, the Masonic block and the Clovis Block at 219 Main St. until completion of the new Federal post office building located at the corner of Broad and Racine Streets. Menasha even had its pony express often carrying mail on horseback to Waupaca. When the steamboats arrived during the 1850's mail was brought from Oshkosh & Fond du Lac and by stagecoach over the plank road to Appleton & Kaukauna. In 1960 railroads took over hauling the mail.



The 1st rural mail service for Menasha was established April 15, 1902 and was perhaps the only 1st class post office in the US with only 1 rural route. City delivery service began on Feb. 1, 1904 with 4 regular carriers. On Dec. 15, 1928 air mail was extended to include a spur service with stops at Whiting Airport. On the 1st day of service the pilot was forced to land at Whiting airport due to heavy fog. Later the mail was transported by truck to Oshkosh from where it was flown to Milwaukee. On April 15, 1932 direct air mail service to Menasha-Neenah began and was transported directly from the airport to the M/N post offices. While the patronage of local manufacturers, business establishments and patrons advanced the post office to 1st class the George Banta Publishing Co. contributed as high as 9 tons per day. Since 1930 approximately ½ the annual receipts have been received from that company.

When James K. "Jimmy" Lush became postmaster in 1849, his hat served as his office but was soon replaced by a small place in a building. When Jeremiah Crowley became postmaster in 1853 he used a small glass pigeonhole in his printing shop for the post office. As postmasters changed, they would change to the place where they were in business. 2 were editors, 2-dentists and 2-deaf mutes.

Feb. 1929, after many years of effort by citizens, Menasha was finally allotted \$100,000 through the public buildings act and in 1931 the Treasury Dept. advertised for proposals to be opened for the sale or donation of a site containing approx. 29,000 sq. ft. Bids were submitted on 6 sites and on July 6, 1931 the intersection of Broad & Racine Sts. was selected. McMahon Engineering Co. surveyed the site and forwarded the detailed plat on to Washington for final acceptance along with soil and topographical surveys. Definite information was received on Nov. 21 that the site for the post office had actually been purchased and final payment made. The first concrete was poured for the basement walls on May 5, 1932. The corner stone was laid on July 15, 1932.



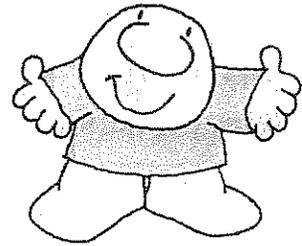
Increases in postage stamps occurred every few years. 5-cent stamps increased 1 cent; 1978 -13 cent stamps increased to 15 cents; March 22, 1981-18 cents; Nov. 1, 1981-20 cents; Dec. 1984 to 22 cents and we all know that has doubled by 2011 to 44 cents/"forever" stamps or 45 cents/regular stamps. In 1963 the Post office introduced the zip code and after 3 months of operation the department had won a psychological battle. Even if people were not using it, they're talking about it. ZIP is mentioned in comic strips, cartoons and crossword puzzles. ZIP code signs are up in post offices, on mail trucks, letter boxes everywhere. Even Santa Claus now has a ZIP code number - 99701.

2011- On to the PRESENT --we are now adding more numbers to our zip codes and with the Internet availability the mail is slowly disappearing and we're sad to think -- probably disappearing in the not too distant future which will then become the PAST. Only time will tell-----"THE REST OF THE STORY".

POSITIVE THOUGHTS/POSITIVE THINKING

“If life seems like it’s all uphill, you must be reaching your peak.”

- Tom Willson, creator of Ziggy

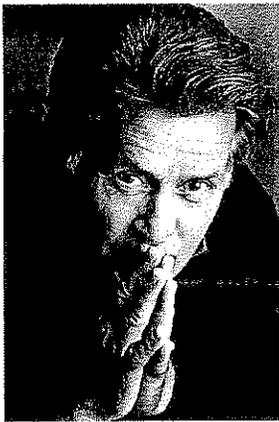


“Always bear in mind that your resolution to succeed is more important than any other one thing.”

- Abraham Lincoln

“Life is too marvelous, too wonderful, too brimming with color for me to get tired.”

- Singer, Eartha Kitt



“Fear is useless. Faith is necessary. Love is every thing.”

- Martin Sheen

“Spend the afternoon. You can’t take it with you.”

- Author, Annie Dillard

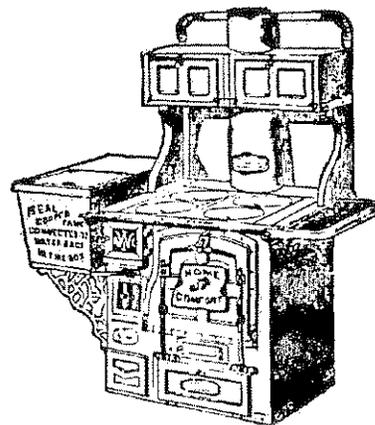


“The most amazing thing about a miracle is that it can’t happen until all else has failed.
That’s God’s favorite time to work.”

An OLD recipe from the past---submitted by Katie LaMore

Mrs. Truman's Ozark Pudding

½ cup sifted flour
2 tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt
2 eggs
1 cup brown sugar
1 tsp vanilla
1 cup chopped nuts
1 cup peeled & chopped apples



Sift flour, add baking powder, beat eggs and add sugar. Stir into dry ingredients vanilla, apples & nuts.

Bake in greased pan at 350 degrees for 35 minutes. Serve with whipped cream or ice cream.

RESOURCE CENTER & MUSEUM

(Located at 640 Keyes Street)
P.O. Box 255
Menasha, WI 54952
jchew2366@yahoo.com
menashahistorical@yahoo.com
www.menashahistorical.webs.com



OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| PRESIDENT | Nancy Barker |
| VICE-PRESIDENT/RESOURCE DIR. | Katie LaMore |
| SECRETARY | Dolores Gear |
| TREASURER | Nancy Ropella |
| OFFICE ADMIN./NEWS EDITOR | Jean Chew |
| Paul Brunette | Tom Konetzke |
| Dick Loehning | Bob Smarzinski |
| Carol Sweet | |