

Menasha Historical Society

What's old is new again

April 2015

A beacon to our visitors returns

Thanks to some basement investigating by Historical Society Board members, the original brass light fixture has been reinstalled on the front façade of the Memorial Building. The fixture had been removed sometime during the 1990's having fallen into disrepair. Thankfully the fixture had not been discarded but simply placed in a back corner of the basement, awaiting discovery and some TLC by City workers.

Some new glass and brass polishing with elbow grease has once again created a unique feature that has been rewired and hung back in its

original spot above the front entry. Please take the time to thank our Menasha Public Works and the Parks and Rec department for a marvelous job.

Well done!



Upcoming Program:

Geo. A. Whiting Airport

Presented by Ken Syring

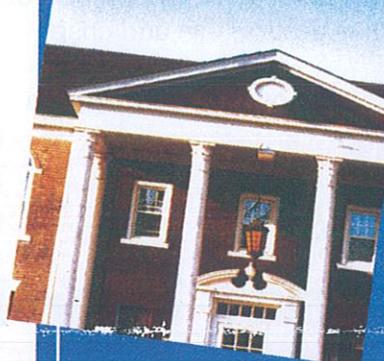
Please join us **April 9th** for a riveting story of a bygone era from Airport Road and Hwy 47.

Local historian and Historical Society member Ken Syring will tell a wonderful tale of the Geo. A. Whiting Airport (now Wittmann Park area), which many of you may recall, was a hub of activity for several decades, located on the north end of Menasha.

Time: 6:30pm-8:30pm (program will begin promptly at 6:30pm)

Place: Company E Room, Elisha D. Smith Public Library

Photo taken mid -
1990's



Resource Center

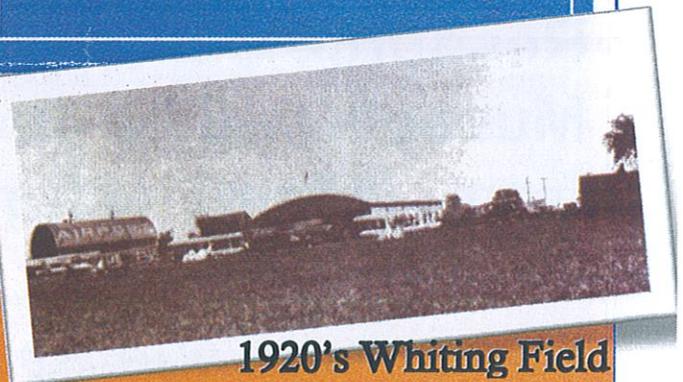
Hours and Information Requests

The Resource Center and Board is operated by volunteers who will attempt to make time for tours, *by appointment only*.

We request that you have a group of no less than 5 for tours.

Please be patient awaiting responses to inquiries for historic data and other requests.

If you would like to volunteer and assist, please contact us.



1920's Whiting Field

Crisp Molasses Cookies

3/4 c. vegetable oil or melted shortening 1/2 tsp. salt
1 c sugar 2 tsp. baking soda
1/4 c. molasses (dark) or sorghum 1/2 tsp. cloves
1 egg 1/2 tsp. ginger
1 tsp. cinnamon
2 c. flour

Mix all ingredients together. Chill dough. Drop by teaspoon or roll in hand, then in sugar. Bake 12 minutes in 350-degree oven. Cookies are about 3 inches across, thin and crisp.

I baked them yesterday, very good. -Nancy Ropella



Little Red Caboose

Thanks to due diligence, perseverance and our community, your Little Red Caboose has regained its dignity in Smith Park. We are proud to say the caboose which is sporting shiny, new paint is once again ready for visitors. The fund raising efforts are still underway to finish paying for the restoration costs, but the work is completed and she looks amazing. Our next hopes are for evening lighting and a new roof over the pavilion protecting this wonderful asset to Smith Park and the City of Menasha. We are just shy of our costs of \$15,255.36.

To date the community has donated \$14,187.02.

Thank you so much for seeing the beauty in this landmark.

If you would like to donate to this project and future maintenance, please send your tax-deductible donation to the address listed below.

If you have interest in submitting an article for our newsletter, please contact us at the email provided below.



Plan for it: Saturday May 16

A day of events in Smith Park and the Memorial Building including the rededication of YOUR Little Red Caboose

Presented by the Menasha Historical Society with Mayor Merkes presiding

Time: 1:00pm

Location: Caboose enclosure

– followed by Ice Cream Social

Resource Center and Museum will be open from: (10am) – (3pm)

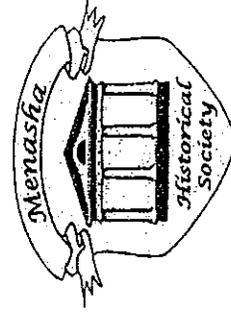
Many more events also scheduled. Please see enclosed itinerary.

SAVE THE DATE

Thank you, for your support and recent donation to the restoration of the Smith Park "Little Red Caboose"! Please join us on **Saturday May 16, 2015 at 1:00 PM** for the re-dedication of the Caboose and free ice cream social. Please see below for the complete **event schedule starting at 10 AM** in Smith Park, Memorial Building and Isle of Valor.

- 10 AM to 2 PM** – Artifact displays and information in Smith Park
- 10 AM to 3 PM** – VFW Serving, Burgers, Brats and Hotdogs
- 10 AM to 3 PM** – Historical Society Museum open for viewing
- 10 AM 11:30 AM 1:00 PM** Effigy Mound group tours.
- 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM** – Kids "Be an archaeologist" event.
- 11 AM to 1:30 PM** – Artifact identification stations.
- 12 PM - VFW Armed Forces Day "Isle of Valor" Behind Memorial Bldg.**
- 1:00 PM** – "Little Red Caboose" Re-dedication, plaque and ice cream social.
- 2 PM to 3 PM** – Archaeology of Doty Island presentation

If you have any questions please contact the Menasha Historical Society at 920-840-4373 or e-mail: menashahistorical@yahoo.com



P O BOX 255
MENASHA WI 54952