



NORTHWOODS HISTORIAN

Merrill Historical Society, Inc.

Vol. 33 No. 2

Fall 2010

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NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS

If it seems like just yesterday that MHS announced an e-mail address change, you aren't far off - it was in the June newsletter.

However, due to the service change from Verizon to Frontier, it has changed again. Please make note and address any future e-mail correspondence to the Society office at :

merrillhs@frontier.com

Keep up-to-date on the Capital Campaign Progress and other Society news at:

www.merrillhistoricalsoc.com

Do you realize...MHS is having a fund drive?

Recently one of our own Historical Society members was overheard stating that our building project is on hold. Wrong! The start date has been changed to April of 2011 because of the uncertainty of fall and winter weather; because we will be in a better position to get competitive bids in January; because many organizations have already committed their discretionary funds for this year. Most importantly, although input on our project has been very positive and many people are excited about what the new Merrill Culture & History Center can do for our community, we need a corresponding financial response. Words are not enough—we need your **PLEDGE now**.

Here is a critical issue to consider: the Merrill Historical Society Board is applying to a number of organizations, businesses and foundations for donations and grants that potentially could contribute in a major way to our fundraising effort. One of the questions these groups ask is “Do you have the support of your members?” That question is, frankly, embarrassing to answer right now because, since our June kickoff, **ONLY ABOUT 20% OF YOU HAVE DONATED OR PLEDGED TO OUR PROJECT.**

Without the support of our own members, outside groups are understandably hesitant to give to our cause. Let's use the Merrill Community Foundation as an example. They have given us \$10,000 of a \$30,000 pledge. The next \$10,000 will be paid only when we reach \$350,000 in total donations and pledges; we will not receive the final payment until we reach \$500,000 in total donations and pledges.

We will be submitting two or three grant applications in November, so your immediate commitment to the project is vital. The Historical Society Board of Directors pledged \$50,000 to kick off the fund drive. Now it's up to you to do your part. Your dues do not contribute to this special project.

If you have already sent in a donation, thank you for your prompt response! However, please consider adding to your initial gift over the next couple of years. Those who donate \$1,000 or more will have their names preserved in a special way in our new building.

If you have yet to make a donation or pledge, remember that the **next three or four months are CRITICAL** in making our 2011 groundbreaking a reality! Don't procrastinate. We need you to take action now!

Let's not settle for anything less than 100% PARTICIPATION in making our once-in-a-lifetime dream come true.

EVERY MEMBER CAMPAIGN~100%~EVERY MEMBER CAMPAIGN~100%~EVERY MEMBER CAMPAIGN



**Merrill Historical Society
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- American Association of State & Local History
- Midwest Art Conservation Center
- Wisconsin Council of Local History
- Wisconsin Federation of Museums
- Pommerscher Verein of Central Wisconsin
- Forest History Association of Wisconsin
- Merrill Chamber of Commerce

- + If you are planning on making a donation closer to the end of the year, pledge now and pay later. This will allow us to plan definitely for construction.
- + Seriously consider making a multi-year pledge. If every one of our 500 members would give \$10 a month—just \$10!—for three years, we would have \$180,000 toward our goal. We wouldn't be embarrassed to tell a foundation about that kind of support!



- + Make your donation as painless as possible by taking advantage of our treasurer's offer to bill you or charge your credit card on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis.
- + Of course, if you are financially able to give more than your "share," please do so to help others who are not as fortunate.

The Merrill Historical Society Inc. is a private nonprofit corporation.

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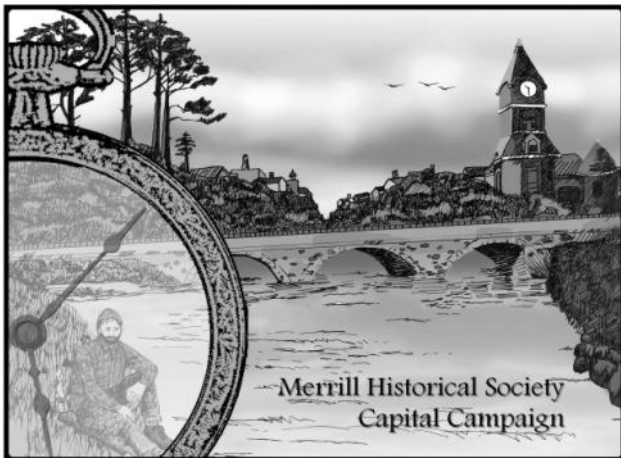
Northwoods Historian:

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Membership Information:

Annual:	Individual...\$16	Family...\$21
	Senior Individual...\$13	Senior Family...\$18
	Organization...\$15	Business...\$25
Lifetime:	Individual...\$200	Family...\$300

Please address any questions concerning membership to the office: 715-536-5652



Thank You!

We extend our sincere and profound gratitude to all who have contributed and pledged to the \$1 million *It's About Time* Capital Campaign to date. Many Society and Community members have stepped forward to get us off to a good start but much work remains to be done. We have only 3 months before bids go out in January, 2011.

To those who have not yet contributed, we ask: ***“Will you help us create a History and Culture Center Merrill can be proud of; a place to showcase Merrill’s rich history and educate future generations?”***

To those who have already made a one time donation, we ask; ***“Will you also consider making a financial pledge for future years?”*** Your pledge of support over the next 3-5 years may well be the determining factor in making the project a success. Please consider a 3-5 year pledge of continued support.

Thank you.

Donations and Pledges to date:

\$222,000

PLEDGE FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

I wish to remain anonymous

PLEDGE AMOUNT

USE PLEDGE TO SUPPORT

\$ _____

Overall Project

\$1,000

Library

\$750

Collections

\$500

Exhibits

\$250

The Pinery

\$100

Reception Area

\$50

Heritage Wing

\$ _____

Outdoor Plaza

My pledge payment is enclosed.

- Checks Payable to: **Merrill Historical Society**
- Credit Card Information Below

I (we) will pay the above Pledge

Over ___ years (Up to 3 yrs or Over \$1,000 to 5 yrs)

Bill me -or-

Charge my Credit Card

Monthly Quarterly Annually

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Credit Card Type

Credit Card No

Expiration Date



RECENT / CURRENT EVENTS

Artists Showcase: For the months of September and October, the Merrill Historical Society is hosting an Artist's Sale and Showcase with some of the talented local artists of the Merrill Area. The new Merrill History & Culture Center Capital Campaign is opening up a chance for more partnerships with our local arts community as we bring more cultural events to the Merrill area. The show started with three dates in September. There are two more opportunities to see the show and purchase some lovely gifts for yourself or others on Thursday, October 28th and Saturday, October 30th. Both shows will run from 11 AM to 4 PM.

The Artist Showcase has also given us an opportunity to exhibit some of the Historical Society's own collections. Jim Novak, violin restorer and craftsman, was one of the artists featured on October 2nd. Violins given to the Society over the years were exhibited that day, including one crafted by H.J. Engstrom, a local shoemaker, in 1932. Mr. Novak had earlier purchased a violin at an auction, and noting the names H.J. Engstrom and Merrill, Wisconsin inscribed on the instrument, he contacted the Merrill Historical Society for more information.

Artists who are participating in the show/sale are: Bill Pittman, Jeanette Biederman & Rich Prange, Louise Schotz, Rita Weichman, Rich & Becky Flatau, Marge Piikkila, Steve Lenhart, Karen Krombholz, Ruth Koblitz, Tom Burg & Sharon Thatcher. Joining us on the 28th will be Sarah Williams and Jamie Kalvestran. There are wonderful baskets, weaving, quilting, jewelry, cards, and books from local authors. Many of these artists offer classes and are demonstrating some of their talents at the shows.

You can support the Merrill Historical Society by purchasing an item, as the artists have agreed to donate 5% of their sales to the Society for our Capital Campaign.

UPCOMING EVENTS

***Wednesday, October 27 ~ Speaker Tom Burg
7:00 p.m. at the Heritage Wing***

Tom Burg, Author of "Route of the Northwoods Hiawatha" will be speaking about this historic passenger train. On exhibit to accompany his talk will be items on loan from the Milwaukee Road Historical Society.

***Sunday, December 12 ~ Santa Lucia Concert
4:00 p.m. at the Heritage Wing
Don't miss this audience favorite!***

Admission is free, however—due to limited space—Tickets are required!
(Tickets available beginning December 1st at the Merrill Historical Society Office)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Merrill Memorial Park is embarking on a program to mark cemetery gravesites that do not have a memorial marker. The program is called "Adopt a Stone". If you would like more information contact the cemetery office at 715-536-2297 or write to Merrill Memorial Park at P.O. Box 314, Merrill, WI 54452.



2010 LINCOLN COUNTY 4-H FREE FAIR

Though you may be unaware of it, the Merrill Historical Society takes an active part in the Lincoln County Fair each year. The Society is responsible for programming and staffing the Brickyard School Museum Open House, provides ribbons for the "Best of Show" winners in the Antiques category, and presents the Century Farm Awards. In spite of the rain, this year was another successful fair.

Brickyard School

Brickyard School opened its doors to 2,239 visitors during the 2010 Lincoln County Fair. The new exhibit was entitled "Radio Comes to School," and featured the Wisconsin School of the Air and its role in the one-room rural school.

The history of the state's School of the Air, one of the nation's longest-running radio schools, was outlined. Several favorite programs and instructors were highlighted. Photos of an eager troop of students heading off to Professor E.B. Gordon's Music Festival in the early 1950s were displayed. A science center was constructed in a corner of the school, as encouraged by the host of the award winning radio program "Afield with Ranger Mac." Fond memories of those radio days, submitted in writing by Lincoln County residents, were mounted for visitors to enjoy. On Sunday afternoon the public was invited to sing along to melodies introduced over the air by Professor Gordon, popular host of "Journeys in Music Land." Retired educator Elaine Tabor led the singing and Bea Lebal was the accompanist.

Each year, many fair visitors stop at Brickyard School to view the Society's treasury of photographs of Lincoln County one-room rural schools and the students who attended them. Another attraction is the collection of albums that document ten years of visits to the school by Merrill area first graders.

Approximately fifty volunteers from the Lincoln County Retired Educators' Association and the Merrill Historical Society served as docents at Brickyard School during the 2010 fair. Twenty-two members of those organizations also welcomed Merrill area first grade students to the school to experience elementary education as their ancestors may have done. Beginning on September 27th and continuing through October 15th, each of fourteen first grade classes participated in the morning program. A total of 237 students, 14 teachers and many interested parents, grandparents, school principals and school board members attended.

Third grade students in Merrill area public and private schools also benefit from the Merrill Historical Society's educational outreach programs. The School Connections Committee, chaired by Jim Boettcher, arranges for third graders to view the contents of a traveling trunk assembled by the Historical Society. A stereoscope and a lace-up corset are among the many fascinating artifacts inside the trunk which give a glimpse of daily life in early Merrill. This is the 10th year the trunk has been circulated. School custodial staff facilitate the transfer of the trunk from school to school throughout the year.

Antiques Best of Show Award Winners - 2010 Lincoln County 4-H Free Fair

Category	Item	Winner
Cobalt Blue	Vase	Joan Hinz
Brass	Large Walnut Shell	Sue Kunkel
Clear Glass	3-pc, single pattern	Marilyn Schenzel
China	3-pc, single pattern	Jessica Woller
Kitchen Hand Tools	Old Sieve, hand can opener & strainer spoon	Carol Schmidt
Depression glass	Pink Cherry Blossum pattern bowl	Kay Yohn
Photo Album	Album	Margaret Sense
Wicker	Rocker	Joan Hinz



2010 Century Farm Award

On behalf of the Merrill Historical Society Bob Gruling presented a Century Farm Award to Dirk & Jessica Heidemann on Friday, July 16th at the Lincoln County 4-H Free Fair. Their 104 year old farm is located at N1243 Range Line Road, section 24 in the Pine River Township. This 40 acre parcel was purchased by Dirk’s great-grandfather, August Heidemann, in 1906 and became part of a larger tract of land he had purchased earlier. August Heidemann told his grandson, Victor, that while still living in Germany, he purchased land in Pine River Township “site unseen.” He and his wife Fredericke immigrated to the U.S. in 1888 and came to the Merrill area.

Ownership from August & Fredericke Heidemann to present:

- 1906 to 1921 August & Fredericke Heidemann
- 1921 to 1951 Fred & Ella Heidemann
- 1951 to 2009 Victor & Marjorie Heidemann
- 2009 to Present Dirk & Jessica Heidemann



August & Fredericke Heidemann

Volunteers Needed:

Looking ahead to the future of a new museum with increased visitors and exhibits, additional help will be needed. In preparation, the Society is seeking to compile a list of volunteers. There are many ways you may become an active participant. If you have an hour a day, an hour a week, an hour a month or even an hour a year, we would be grateful for your participation. Some of the ways you can assist are listed below. Please fill out this form and return it to the Society office at 102 E. Third Street, Merrill if you would like to be involved. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

YES—Count me in!

Please check your area(s) of expertise/interest:

- Is writing your talent? Assistance is needed with the newsletter.
- Have an artistic flair? Help prepare and set up exhibits.
- Good with computer graphics? Help design brochures and assist with newsletter.
- Like visiting with people? Become a docent, host an event or museum exhibit.
- Have carpenter skills or just like to paint? General Maintenance help is frequently needed.
- Like to sit and visit while you work? Assist with folding mailings & newsletters.
- Have a knack for filing and organization? Keep the gift shop records or assist in the office.
- Love genealogy & history? Assist with research or work on the House Tour.
- Have another talent we might use? Let us know:

Hours/Days I am available _____

Number of hours per month: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

☛ Memorial Gifts ☚
June 16 - October 5, 2010

In Memory of Will Bogenhagen

Bob & Eppie Gruling
Larry & Bea Lebal
Bob & JoAnn Opsahl

In Memory of Bob Kunkel

Bob & Eppie Gruling
Bob & JoAnn Opsahl

In Memory of Jean Monti

Bob & Eppie Gruling

In Memory of Art Perkins

Bob & JoAnn Opsahl

In Memory of Elliot Schotz

Bob & Eppie Gruling

In Memory of Walter Shepard

Larry & Bea Lebal

In Memory of Rita Benson Silas

Virginia Hinz

In Memory of Eileen Zahn

Jerry & Joyce Bacher

In Honor of Beverly King

Ramon & Fern Hernandez

In Honor of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Skip & Barb Ott

David & Carol Finanger



New Members

JoAnne Rajek & Bruce Germond
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Gunell Heggblom
Don & Sarah Litzer
Yurgen & Ruth Ann Markewycz

Julie Nelles & Family
Robert Rusch
Sister Ann Wittman

Welcoming new members reminds us that there is “strength in numbers” and that “many hands make light work.” With the Capital Campaign underway and plans for the return of exhibits, many involved supporters are needed. Strengthen the Merrill Historical Society by inviting a friend to join. It’s another way you can lend your support.

Merrill Historical Society Membership Application

Please complete this form and return it, with your check, to:
Merrill Historical Society, Inc., 102 East Third Street, Merrill WI 54452.

Annual Memberships:

- Individual..... \$16
- Senior Individual (62 yrs) \$13
- Family..... \$21
- Senior Family (62 yrs)..... \$18
- Organization \$15
- Business..... \$25

Lifetime Memberships:

- Individual \$200*
 - Family \$300*
- * Quarterly Payments Available

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____



**HISTORIC MERRILL COMMEMORATIVE CALENDAR
2011**

**2011 Historic Merrill
Calendars
On Sale Now!**

\$8 each
(\$10 Mailed)
Makes a great gift!

Available at the Society office
and at:

- + Book World
- + Dave's County Market
- + Johnson Gifts & Home Décor
- + Le Roy's Hair Care Center
- + Mike's Barber Shop
- + VIP Office Products.

Visit the Merrill Historical Society table at the Church Mutual and Bell Tower Craft Fairs
on Saturday, November 13th. ~ Historic Calendars, note cards, publications and more!

Start your holiday shopping early!



Northwoods Historian

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