NEW GLARUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 1/Issue 7/October 2018

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

The Board of Directors held its regular meeting on the last Tuesday morning in September and finalized its plans for Harvest Fest on Sunday, October 7. This year we are happy to welcome back the cheese makers, spinners, weavers, caners and basket-makers, woodworkers, soap makers, a blacksmith, 1st Brigade Band members, a Civil War re-enactor, the bee keeper, and a wheelwright, among others. Activities for kids will be featured, and their friend the Bernese Mountain dog will be back. Special activities will be shared with kids and kids at heart in the schoolhouse by Brownie Troop 7531 and long-time New Glarus teacher and museum guide, Marie Pagel. Brats and hot dogs from Ruef's Meat Market will be available for hungry visitors.

The Board elected Larry Klassy to serve as Vice-President following Mary Dibble's resignation from this position last month. Mary will continue to serve on the Board of Directors.

This season marked the first time an individual was hired to serve as coordinator of the museum for the summer season. The Board reviewed the position responsibilities, with Miranda's input and determined that this position should be continued in 2019. The number of hours needed to complete assigned tasks was less than estimated at the start of the season, resulting in less cost for the position, than anticipated. Areas to be addressed next season include increasing understanding of roles and responsibilities for tasks currently assumed by Board members and recruitment of staff. The Board recommended re-hiring Miranda O'Rourke to work with us again next year.

The Board awarded a certificate of appreciation to Gail Beal for the many hours she has spent over the past years coordinating and communicating with tour groups. A new volunteer for this role is being recruited for the months in which the Coordinator is not employed.

Recent Donations

Paul Vetterli donated an Atlas of Green County dated 1902. Mary Dibble donated some 33 RPM records of New Glarus Swiss musical artists including the music of Betty Vetterli, Robbie Schneider, the New Glarus Maennerchor and the Jodel Klub of Glarus, Switzerland.

"FOOTBALL AND CHEESE"

Long before the term "*Cheesehead*" was coined to identify fans of the Green Bay Packers and related sportswear accessories were created, Packers players were promoting cheese in Wisconsin! The New Glarus Post ran the advertisement pictured below on October 12, 1960, which notes in the fine print that "Cheese is a regular item at the Packers training table." Do you think the training table fare included Green County limburger? More recently, it was reported in 2016, by numerous sources, that Aaron Rodgers gave up consumption of dairy products, including cheese. Since then, Rodgers has suffered an injury in each of the following seasons. Hmmmm?

Well, most fans certainly won't give up cheese very willingly! The city manager of Bainbridge Island in Puget Sound tried! He felt banning cheese would help ensure a Seahawks victory! According to a January 2015 issue of Newsweek, he declared a cheese ban before the Packers played the Seattle Seahawks: ""Due to the relationship between the Green Bay Packers, their fans, and cheese, . . . the possession of and/or consumption of cheese or cheese flavored products shall be banned in Bainbridge Island City Hall." Unfortunately, the strategy perhaps worked, for the Seahawks defeated the Packers in overtime 28 – 22 to win the NFC Championship.

But, no matter who wins or loses, what's a tailgate party without a lovely array of cubed cheese speared on toothpicks in your favorite team colors? We think green Glarner *Sabziger (*Sap Sago) makes a great dip; and paired with gold cheddar and the two are the perfect companions to a Packers game day party at home!

Like a number of old photographs in the New Glarus Historical Society archives, the Green Bay Packers pictured below are unnamed. Do you recognize any of them? Send your guesses to admin@swisshistoricalvillage.org and we'll see what we can do to get the Packers archivist in Green Bay to help us name those players!

Cheese Festival

It's that time of the year when folks get back to finer (and more) eating. The OCTOBER CHEESE FESTIVAL answers expanded menu problems . . . coming when you are searching for something different. Cheese, of course, offers a variety for every taste, for any occasion . . . mealtime, snacks or special entertainments.

Get extra energy for zippy fall days . . . Cheese has it and it's high in protein, too!

Take a Tip from the GREEN BAY PACKERS

Wisconsin Cheese Fest

Wisconsin Cheese Fest

Athletes love good Wisconsin cheese. Watch the Packers above charge into that line-up of cheese treats. Cheese is a regular item at the Packers' training table.

Watch Your Packers Every Weekend

Sept. 25—Chicago Bears*

Serve Up Your Own CHEESE FESTIVAL

FLOWERS THAT TELL TIME

What does New Glarus have that few other places in the world can claim? It's the floral clock at the entrance to our community! Wikipedia suggests that there is some debate about the location of the very first floral clock. Some believe it had its origins in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1903. But, some documentation places the first clock in Les Avantes, Montreau, Switzerland, in 1900. Overall, the floral clock grew, so to speak, out of the Victorian era of planting elaborate and colorful garden beds and carpets. Today you can also find floral clocks on the border of North Dakota and Manitoba at the International Peace Garden, in Geneva, Switzerland , at Niagara Falls, and in New Zealand and Scotland, to name a few places. Robbie Schneider, Swiss immigrant and owner of the New Glarus Hotel for many years, sparked the idea for a floral clock in New Glarus, modeled after a clock he had seen planted in Zurich. Robbie felt the clock would be a natural attraction to welcome tourists to New Glarus. When the New Glarus Yodel Club toured Switzerland in 1960, he took Mayor Gilbert Ott to Kursaal, near Interlaken, to see the gardens and floral clock in that town.

Building the floral clock was a community effort. The Yodel Club and Maennerchor made the first contributions followed by gifts from the Edelweiss Stars, the Lions Club and New Glarus Businessmen Association. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Arnes were looking for a project to fund as a thank you to the citizens of New Glarus who came to their aid after a tornado caused major damage to their farm. Their pledge of $1000 to create the floral clock was also made in memory of Jacob and Marion Becker Stauffacher. Land on which to build and plant the clock was donated by Harvey and Sally Ott, Mrs. Bertha Ott and Mrs. Gilbert Ott in memory of their recently deceased brother, son and spouse, Mayor of New Glarus, Gilbert Ott.

The mechanism for the clock was obtained from The Turmuhrenfabrik Thun-Gwatt Company for $2000. The New Glarus Community Betterment Committee, at the time led the project which became a community-wide effort. Services including time and labor took care of dirt for fill and landscaping as well as erection of the Wilhelm Tell sign and flagpole. The Wilhelm Tell Sign was designed by Joy Anderson Freitag, the winner of a local contest held to develop a Village of New Glarus symbol.

The community groups continued efforts and were finishing work in August of 1964, in preparation for the dedication ceremony following annual Kilby services at the Swiss United Church of Christ. The ceremony on a very chilly, windy day included young flag throwers, musical entertainment and a dedication by Reverend Linus Wierwill of the Swiss United Church of Christ.

Unfortunately by November, the clock hands stopped moving and it took some time to find the appropriate skilled craftsmen to do the repairs. Although details were not documented in the local newspaper, the clock did get repaired and was a popular photography stop for passers-by and visitors to New Glarus. One local resident, who grew up in Monroe, WI, reminisced, "as a child I would beg my father to stop by the clock whenever we drove to Madison; I was totally fascinated by the clock." A colorful postcard created in the late 1960s remains popular among tourists in New Glarus today. It depicts the Wilhelm Tell usherettes posing around the perimeter of the dial of the clock.

The floral clock was maintained by Village of New Glarus staff for many years. Today the floral clock is planted and maintained by Green County Master Gardener Volunteers and local residents Mike and Teresa Colney. Keeping the clock running has been an ongoing challenge with moisture and corrosion creating problems, but with much research and perseverance the clock's hands maintain fairly accurate time. Each year Mike and Teresa place plants in a variety of colors, changing the layout and planting design, including a display of the Swiss flag every five years. Recently, with input from the New Glarus Historic Preservation Committee, the Wilhelm Tell sign was repainted using historically correct colors.

The floral clock may be one of just a small number in the world, but perhaps more importantly it remains a symbol of community commitment that continues to represent the Village and Swiss heritage of New Glarus 65 years after the idea first became a local dream. For more information about the history of floral clocks, visit this website:

http://arnoldia.arboretum.harvard.edu/pdf/articles/2017-75-1-floral-clocks-carpet-beds-and-the-ornamentation-of-public-parks.pdf

SPIRITS VISIT NEW GLARUS

In the late 1800s Spiritualism became very popular in America, and mediums claiming to channel the spirits of those who had died conducted seances in homes and on stages for believers and the curious. New Glarus was not immune to the craze, and a reporter noted the following in the Monroe Sentinel on Feb. 1, 1888. "While Mr. Woodward, the test medium, was visiting relatives in New Glarus recently, a circle was formed one evening, which a number of friends joined. During the evening the manifestations were so great and numerous that one young man, it is said, was completely unnerved, and fainted dead away at the sight of the strange phenomena, to such an extent, that it required considerable effort to restore him to consciousness. - We had supposed that the citizens of New Glarus were proof against spirits of any nature, dead or alive – material or immaterial."

We thank the Bank of New Glarus for their support in publishing the New Glarus Historical Society newsletter.

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