NEW GLARUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 2/Issue 8/November 2019

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

At the October meeting, Larry Klassy was elected President of the Board of Directors by a unanimous vote. The election was held in order to comply with the by-laws for the organization which prescribe the set of officers.

The Board is exploring options for using online banking and accounting software beginning in 2020. The Board approved Ott's request to establish automatic payments for all utilities and other recurring expenses. The Board also approved a proposal to transfer cash to short term Certificates of Deposit for the time period when the museum is closed and expenses are reduced. Ott will present options at the November meeting.

Board member Dibble provided an update on the Hall of History exhibits project. Dibble has submitted two grant applications to the New Glarus fund of the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin. One grant application seeks funding to continue consulting services with Brian Bigler, who has been instrumental in developing and implementing a Hall of History exhibit change plan. The second grant application seeks $5000 to support the cost of design, production and installation of exhibit panels. Preliminary estimates for components and installation of the project suggest that the total cost for Phases I and II will be between $15,000 and $20,000. The Board viewed Park Printing's proposal for an overall color scheme for the panels. The color scheme is based on colors in a poster depicting St. Fridolin on a textile banner including parchment, brick red, black, dark brown, navy and blue gray. No decision was made at this meeting and more details will be reviewed in the future.

THANK YOU TO THE BANK OF NEW GLARUS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Daniel Rivera and the rest of the staff at the main branch of the Bank of New Glarus for printing copies of the newsletter for our membership, free of charge. This support has made it possible to deliver a professional looking publication on a regular and timely basis. We couldn't do it without you!

HARVEST FEST

Our Harvest Fest tradition continued in 2019 with 466 visitors braving the brisk wind and cold to experience a walk back in time and old traditions. This year's event brought together new and returning volunteers sharing their time and talents with members of the Historical Society, elders and many families with young children from our community and the surrounding area.

New Board member Erica Loeffleholtz coordinated the bake sale this year following many years of leadership by Gail Beal. Hot coffee and cider, along with plenty of baked goods warmed bodies and spirits. We thank the following individuals for their donations of baked goods that raised $326 for the Historical Society: Steve Gmur, LouAnn Bodenmann, Denise Anton Wright, Phil Hanna, Gail Beal, Sandy Colstad, Holly LaGue, Brooke Matthews, Brenda Massei, Emily Hefty-Dieckhoff, Howard Weber, Sue Janowiak, Bekah Stauffacher, Nancy Loeffelholtz, and Barb Anderson. Youth volunteers, Andrew and Tyler Altermatt provided refreshment delivery service to demonstrators throughout the morning of the event.

Nearly every building on the grounds housed one or more volunteers sharing information and demonstrating arts and crafts as well as other early settler skills. The New Glarus Fire Department generously donated tables, volunteers Mary Funseth and Sarah Altermatt helped with set-up and demonstrator support and LouAnn Bodenmann served as the cashier for the event.

Hall of History offerings included New Glarus emigrant history from Duane Freitag, Civil War history from Pete Ott and genealogy and family history research with representatives of the Green County Genealogy Society Judy Huber, Bill Holland and Linda Schiesser. Kim Tschudy manned the print shop and helped youngsters make take-home posters.

Area cheesemakers included Bruce and Ben Workman, Tom Dahman, Luke Buholzer, Jeremy Wahl, Ruedi Boucher and Matt Hinze. Larry Klassy, Amy and Matthew Burdette, along with Emma Yaeger demonstrated rope-making. Youth volunteers included Mackenzie Tschudy at the corn grinding station and Girl Scout Troop 7531 made up of 4th graders Claire Mondloch, Evelyn Beal, Charlotte and Eloise Czerwonka. The girls and their leaders, Carrie Czerwonka and Heidi Mondloch, offered kids' activities in the Schoolhouse. Linda Uttech demonstrated basket weaving and fiber arts were demonstrated by Emily Nie, weaver, as well as spinner, Mary Ann Hanna.

In the Farm Implement building was Master Gardener Volunteer, Mary Nelson sharing information about prairie plants and seed collection. Newcomer Holin Kennen of Dancing Lamb Fibers in Evansville joined Scott Johnson, and his infant son, Felix of the Low Tech Institute in demonstrating the process of converting the flax plant to linen thread. Fifth generation fire-fighters Andrew Ott and Aaron Funseth manned the firehouse with Andy displaying tools and materials he uses in creating hand tooled leather shields and accessories for firemen. In the northwest corner of the grounds, a display of early horse carriages was provided by Howard Kietzke and Carla Wolf described the world of bees, honey and bee-keeping in the Swiss Bienenhaus.

Alphorn music was provided by George Albright and Heinz Mattman along with Damion Babler entertaining guests on his concertina. Food offerings included samples of sauerkraut from Dan and Tracy Gartzke and Marlene Funseth, delicious bratwurst made and grilled by Hoesly's Meats and a variety of cheeses offered by Green County Dairy Queens strolling the grounds throughout the day. We hope you enjoy this sampling of photographs. Check our Facebook page for more images in the coming weeks. Our sincere appreciation to everyone who made the event a big success!

Night School by Bob Schneider

In the October issue of the Historical Society's newsletter we printed a brief excerpt of a short story written by Bob Schneider. The story describes Bob's special memories of his youth and school days. Here's the next part of ***Chapter One, Out One Night*** for your reading pleasure. . .

ROBERT! The teacher called out. 'What are you doing?' 'Nothing, nothing, I'm, I'm, just tying my shoe,' I stuttered. I sat up in my seat and decided I needed to find out more about this metal structure. I would make it my mission to see where it went. As the final school bell rings I felt a huge relief having made it through another day. I left the classroom with an excitement for finding out more about this tube.

The classroom door opened into a large area with rows of lockers on the walls. Other classroom doors opened into it as well and just around the corner from my classroom door was a section of large windows that look out over the cafeteria on the lower level. Next to the windows is a very wide wooden staircase that leads all the way up to the third floor high school level. All the rooms in this old building have very high ceilings. As I look up I can see all the way up to the ceiling of the third floor. It's so high up I can hardly make out the wooden detail in the middle of the third floor ceiling.

The corridor is now filled with grade school students rushing in all directions. As busy as it is, it's relatively quiet. All students have been instructed with two rules after class. They must be quiet when leaving the classroom as the older grades are still in session and they must never go up the stairs to the high school level. These rules were commanded by our principal and enforced by each of the teachers. Students who broke these rules would be sent to the principal's office for a verbal reminder then would have to stay until the entire high school was released. Sometimes they would also call your parents to come and get you. I understood these rules very clearly and wasn't about to offer myself up to that type of embarrassment.

I made my way over to the section of large windows that were just off my classroom. I wasn't particularly in any hurry but I did want to see the end of the large gray tube that went down past my classroom windows. There it was! I saw it before, many times, but hadn't noticed it in the same way as today. All of a sudden I'm extremely fascinated with what it's used for.

By this time most of the students were leaving and some of the teachers were back in their classrooms. As I spent time looking out these corridor windows, I noticed a large window ledge on both the inside and out with a heavy steel frame and a window latch. It had a small metal shaft that slid forward or backward along the window ledge and would trap a small catch to lock the window. The interesting part of the latch is that you don't notice if it is in the lock position or the unlocked position. I wondered if I was to leave the window unlatched it would be latched the next morning when I came to school. I unlatched the window and checked it the next morning only to find it was still unlatched. I would then lock it again. I would do this from time to time to see if anyone would notice it was unlatched and would lock it. No one ever did. This was one of those times to test the school's security system again. It was almost time for me to act. I looked around for any teachers. They had gone back into their classrooms and there were only a handful of students still left in the hall area. I inconspicuously slipped the latch to the unlatch position and left the building.

Outside all the grade school students were waiting for the bus. I was headed to the back of the school to see about that large metal tube. When I reached the back of the building I could see it. As I stood back from the building, I could see that one end of the tube was open and the other end went up the side of the building at a 45 degree angle while connected to the third floor high school level. I moved closer to the building to get a better look at it. I stood next to the building just outside the cafeteria and looked up under it. The lower end was anchored onto the top of a concrete wall that stood about ten feet above me. The wall formed part of an alley that was used for trucks to deliver food to the cafeteria. The tube had to be high enough for the trucks to drive under to clear it. On top of the wall was a landing with a railing around the open end of the tube as if it was made to discourage people from getting close to it but open enough to get into it. My curiosity was pushing me to get closer. I reached the bottom part of the railing, turned and climbed up to the landing. I slipped through the railing and stood in front of the huge opening. I immediately saw a sign over the top that said, 'DO NOT ENTER'.. . . . *To be continued. . .*

DID YOU KNOW?

This year we celebrate an increase in visitor attendance with 635 more individuals visiting the museum than in 2018. The flag display in the entrance building was especially colorful! We welcomed visitors from all 50 states with the exception of Rhode Island as well as the Territory of Puerto Rico. Residents of Wisconsin were well represented. Eighty-one percent of the 72 counties were noted. Counties without representation included: Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Florence, Green Lake, Iron, Kewaunee, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Richland, Rusk and Vilas.

Visitors signed our guest book from the following foreign countries: Albania, Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canadian provinces, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Honduras, India, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom and last but not least, many Cantons of Switzerland.

Contact Us

New Glarus Historical Society & Swiss Historical Village Museum
612 7th Avenue, P.O Box 745
New Glarus, WI 53574
www.swisshistoricalvillage.org
608-527-2317
admin@swisshistoricalvillage.org

NEW GLARUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY & SWISS HISTORICAL VILLAGE MUSEUM
612 7th Avenue, P.O Box 745
New Glarus, WI 53574

Recipient Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code