NEW GLARUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

At its recent meeting, the Board awarded a contract to Roger Clark to wrap the fascia on the Hall of History and remove the chimney and repair the roof on the Blacksmith Shop. The Board is considering bids and next steps to repair the Log Church roof. Plans to spruce up the museum sign at the entrance to town were discussed and to reschedule the recent clean-up day that was canceled due to poor weather. Board members Freitag and Lienhardt will power-wash the Collectibles building prior to painting. In addition, the Board intends to work with Brian Bigler to identify areas of improvement for the museum.

Ann Marie Ott and Erica Loeffelholtz are working together, on behalf of the Board, to submit a Collections Care grant application to the Wisconsin Historical Society to purchase materials to organize and preserve photographs and other documents in the archives. The Board has committed up to $700 in matching funds for the materials.

The Board made a decision to allow a Civil War re-enactment group to camp on the museum grounds prior to the museum opening on May 28. In addition, they agreed to allow the New Glarus Public Library to hold several public education events on the grounds of the museum this summer.

Going forward the newsletter will be delivered by the 10th of the month rather than the 1st of the month to accommodate delivery of Board meeting decisions to the membership.

DONATIONS

The latest donation to our collection of artifacts comes from Jeanne Elmer following downsizing and her move to a new residence. Pictured at left is a wooden medicine cabinet that hung at the New Glarus movie theater. Jeanne received the medicine cabinet from her parents, Al and Ethel Elmer, who had originally acquired it from Virgil and Lil Klassy. Virgil worked as a projectionist at the theater and at the time the theater closed no one wanted the box. Virgil did not want to see it tossed out. Thanks to Gail and Brad Beal for working with the Elmers to preserve this piece of New Glarus history. The Board also accepted a $2000 donation from a family that indicated they wished to remain anonymous.

THE ONE ROOM RURAL SCHOOL

By Marie Pagel

Oh! The one room school, I only wish they were back. That's where we learned together and played together. I attended the Richland School, which had grades one thru eight. I had the same good teacher all eight years. I'm sure she inspired me to be a teacher.

I attended the Green County Normal in Monroe for two years. Two years was the requirement in 1945. I did get a B.S. later by attending night school, Saturday classes and summer school in Platteville.

My first school where I taught was the Sam Ball with fifteen youngsters, grades one thru eight. My first salary was $225 per month. School started at 9 o'clock and ended at 4 o'clock. We usually started the school day by all children around the flagpole and we recited the Pledge of Allegiance. We maybe sang a few songs before we began our lessons. The blackboard was an essential tool. Our assignments were on them. We also used them to practice math, spelling, and sometimes used them to play games during recess. The first and second grades were individual, but third and fourth, fifth and sixth, seventh and eighth grades were combined. On the even year we did fourth, sixth and eighth grade curriculum. On the odd year we used third, fifth and seventh. Our curriculum was reading, math, language, science, spelling, health, geography and penmanship.

We had standards to meet as there was a superintendent supervising teachers in the county. They often came, unannounced to see if we were teaching properly. Usually, the fourth grades had a little longer playtime. But we had a fifteen minute recess for all to use the restroom, get a drink and a few minutes to play. Of course, this time was used by the teacher to prepare for the next session. On nice days our noon hour was an hour long. We usually took turns saying grace, then we'd dive into our lunches, which was not fancy, and it was prepared by our moms. After lunch, teacher included, we played games together. We might have a good ball game, anti over the wood shed, pump-pump pull away, hide and seek, Pennsylvania here I come or whatever. On rainy days when we had to stay in, we might play fruit basket upset, musical chairs, button-button, even hang the man. Another good pastime and learning experience was dominoes. Our winter sports were, fox and goose, we built forts, went sleigh riding, maybe even skiing. We were never bored.

It was the teacher's job to see the school room was warm and clean. We usually planned our day and corrected papers, etc., before the children came. The children also had responsibilities which we alternated throughout the weeks. Boys and girls swept the toilets, water had to be brought in for drinking and washing our hands, blackboards washed, erasers dusted, the flag raised and lowered. If there was a wood burner, wood had to be carried in. I was lucky. I always had a wood burner.

I really enjoyed the one room school. We were like a big family. Everyone helped one another. I always said, "We learned together, played together, and ate together." Another advantage was when a class was in the front and we were discussing the lesson, some that were in their seats doing their work, were maybe listening, too.

I taught school when you could love (hug) your students or maybe even discipline, if necessary. Parents usually supported the teacher. Rural schools had parent participation like the Mother's Club. On Halloween we had a basket social or a Christmas program put on by students. Moms and Dads, friends, neighbors even Santa put in an appearance. On Valentines Day we had a potluck and an exchange of Valentines. In the spring the teacher and kids raked the school yard. The reward was a wiener and marshmallow roast. School usually ended the first week of May as kids were expected to help at home. Everyone came to the picnic on the last day of school. We all played ball and games were provided. Another good year ended. The eighth graders received their diplomas in Monroe with all eighth graders throughout the county.

Modern technology is great but I do feel we need to learn some of the basics first.

A MOTHER'S CLUB RECIPE

Contributed by Elizabeth Vamstad Spengler

In the previous article written by Marie Pagel, she referenced support from parents in rural school life and one such support was the Mother's Club. The Mother's Club provided lunches and refreshments for special events and helped with parties at the school. Elizabeth Vamstad Spengler, Tucson, AZ, attended the Plainview School in the Town of Primrose. Elizabeth's mother Dorothy was a Plainview School Mother's Club member and it's likely that the punch recipe which appears below, "Rhubarb Scrub" was made for the Plainview students. Note that "Scrub" is likely a typographical error and should read "Shrub." Shrub is known as a drink with a history dating back to the 1500s in Europe and throughout American colonial times. It was made for medicinal purposes, was the remains of preserving fruits and often served as a soft drink or cocktail, depending on the addition of alcohol.

Old-Fashioned Rhubarb Scrub – Dorothy Vamstad

1 quart finely cut rhubarb	1 ½ C sugar	1 quart water
¼ C lemon juice	1/3 C orange juice	Dash of salt
7-up or ginger ale, to taste		

Cook rhubarb in water until soft. Strain. Add sugar, stirring until dissolved. Add fruit juices and salt. Chill. Add 7-up or ginger ale to taste when serving. Serve in tall glasses with crushed ice. Refreshing on a hot summer day.

Members of the Plainview School Class of 1960, including Elizabeth Vamstad Spengler, fourth from the right in the front row and teacher Fran Zimmerman, standing, back row right.

TEACHERS AT THE LEGLER SCHOOL 1885 - 1948

Information compiled by Linda Schiesser

This is a list of the teachers known to have taught at the Legler School established in 1885 until its closing in 1948. The Legler School was located in the Town of New Glarus. The school's original records have been missing and the list of information is not entirely complete. If you have additional information to share, please contact the Historical Society at: admin@swisshistoricalvillage.com or 608-527-2317.

1912-13 Bertha Streiff (married. John Hefty)	1913-14 Salome (Minnie) Hoesly (married Fred Duerst)
1914-15 Patsy Ross	1915-16 Esther L. Matzkee (married J. Robert Larson)
1916-17 Miss Kundert	1917-18 Miss Jacobson
1918-19 Esther Hein (Mrs. Ray D. Gierhart)	1919-20 Ameila Schiesser (married Clarence Hoesly)
1920-21 Jessie Woelfing	1922 Mrs. Henry Disch
1922-1931 Unknown	1931 Miss Eunice Zweifel (married Robert R. Breylinger)
1937-38 Idellis Thompson (Mrs. Gerald J. Paulson)	1938-39 Iris Elmer (Married Frederic C. Dahms)
1939-40 Unknown	1940-43 Ernest Lufi
1943-45Clara Held (Married Clinton Grib)	1945-46 Miss Beatrice Voegeli (married John Stenbroten)

The Legler School closed in 1948 and became part of the New Glarus School District in 1950. Nicolaus and Alma (Legler) Zentner purchased the building at an auction in August 1948. The building was moved to the Albert Legler property in the Village of New Glarus and became the home for Harold and Kathleen (Zentner) Ingwell (now Kathleen Elmer).

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1903, family and friends dressed in their best black attire to follow Fridolin (Fred) Kundert's casket down the boardwalk to the horse-drawn hearse, having attended the funeral in the almost brand-new Swiss Church. Fred was "grandpa" to Paul Klassy Sr. and Velma Hershberger, who provided this photo to the Bank of New Glarus for its 1993 calendar. Kundert was one of the founding fathers of the Bank of New Glarus and its first president.
https://www.newglaruspubliclibrary.org/1993-bank-new-glarus-calendar

Contact Us

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The Bank of New Glarus
Powering Growth in Our Community

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