NEW GLARUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Jeff Klassy, son of Historical Society President Larry Klassy, has planned and coordinated a book signing event that will take place from 3 to 6 pm on Saturday, October 8. Author Betty Plombon will be selling and autographing her novel, *The Horror of 1888: The True Story of the Crime, Escape, and Capture of John Kuehni*. Betty is a genealogist and the director of the Stanley, WI Historical Society Museum. She winters in Georgia.

Harvest Fest is scheduled for Sunday, October, 9 from 10 am to 4 pm and we are hoping to bring back many of our favorite demonstrators and vendors for the 2022 event. Always popular is the cheesemaking demonstration using the large copper kettle in the museum's Cheese Factory, with a chance for young people to "stir the pot."

The Board is considering whether to continue the annual Log Church Service. Despite low attendance at the most recent service, the Board decided they will schedule the church service again in August 2023.

The Board is very appreciative of the efforts that Ruth Pauli is making with documenting donations and updating accession records. Assisting Ruth are Gail Beal and New Glarus High School student, Abigail Biank. Abigail expressed her enjoyment of working at the museum this summer in a letter to the Board, and stating her intention to return to work again next summer.

DONATIONS

Donations of time are as valuable as cash donations, and for that reason we highlight the contributions of Ruth Pauli in this edition of the newsletter. Ruth grew up in the area, the daughter of Bob and Mary Ann Pauli. Beginning in 1990, Ruth worked as the Assistant Librarian at the New Glarus Public Library for eleven years before moving to Germany. While living in Germany, Ruth earned her Master's Degree in Library and Information Science as she continued working as a librarian. Ruth's love of history and preservation led her to take several archival conservation and management courses which makes her the perfect volunteer to help us catch up with documenting donations of artifacts and archival materials that accumulated over the past several years. Ruth said, "Working as a volunteer at the Swiss Historical Village has allowed me a chance to give something back to the community."

A BIRTHDAY GIFT DONATION

In August, the Historical Society received a generous donation from new Historical Society member Scott Hefty, in honor of his brother Tom's birthday. You'll see Tom, standing at the left and Scott on the right in this photograph taken during a visit to New in 1962. Scott shared: "at that time we were living in Golden Valley, Minnesota with our parents, Roger and Nancy Hefty and would routinely visit our grandparents on my father's side, Thomas and Berta (Bruni) Hefty. It's our recollection that this photo was taken around our uncle Jacob Bruni's home on 4th Street, across from Glarner Park. My brother recalls we would play baseball there with a couple of the neighbors' kids-- Chucky Bigler and Jimmy Elmer -- maybe. My brother Tom, sister Sara and I truly cherish our regular return visits back to New Glarus as it's such a joy to have an opportunity to continuously explore Hefty/Bruni ancestry." Thanks, Scott for your donation and sharing your memories about trips to New Glarus with your family.

THE FIRST 100 YEARS OF TOURISM ACTIVITIES IN NEW GLARUS

Documented by Elda & Linda Schiesser

Some individuals say that the tourism industry did not begin in New Glarus until the Pet Milk plant closed in the early 1960s. However, the residents of New Glarus have been entertaining visitors for nearly 150 years. In this edition of the newsletter we share documentation of those community events and residents' participation in regional and state sponsored tourism activities, too. Thanks to Historical Society Life member Linda Schiesser and her mother, Elda, now deceased, for their efforts to preserve this part of New Glarus History.

1878 -February 16 – Professor J. D. Butler writes in the Chicago Times about the Swiss Colony in Wisconsin for his readership. He expressed that " . . . likely for a century to show Wisconsin a canton more Swiss-like than Switzerland itself."

1883- Professor Butler wrote another article about New Glarus after his visit to Switzerland and a revisit to New Glarus on his return. This article spoke of the persistence and growth of the original core of Glarners

1891 – September – The Swiss of New Glarus Colony celebrated the 600th anniversary of Switzerland with special programs, speeches, and a tableau type pageant. Special trains brought 6,000 visitors to the celebration.

1895 – New Glarus celebrates its 50th anniversary with a parade, banners, and horsemen. Thousands of visitors joined this community in honoring the 6 original colonists still living.

1907 – The Schuetzen House was dedicated during the village's Kilby activities. The new Imperial Band was presented for the first time during the event as well as other special musical groups. The "Shooting Park" was crowded with many visitors.

1912 – The New Glarus Mannerchor was formed and became the showcase and ambassadors for New Glarus by performing at various Swiss events. These men sang together until 1921.

1915 August 16-17 – Governor Emanuel Philipp, a Swiss descendant, was the keynote speaker at the 70th celebration of New Glarus' colonization. It was at this time the Pioneer monument on the grounds of the Swiss United Church of Christ was dedicated and which is on the site of the first cabin built in 1845.

1919- The local people continued to have community activities with local people performing in groups, skits, and other musical acts. This drew many people to the community.

1920 – In some meadow in the area, a Sunday afternoon game of Hornussen was the entertainment. Teams would compete for small prizes. Other communities would send their team to see who the best was. This was another form of tourism because families joined the players.

1925-August 13 -"The Wisconsin Farmer" had an article about New Glarus and its colonist journey from Switzerland and listed the "Superb" as the ship of these immigrants. The community celebrated its 80th anniversary and honored 2 original colonists still living.

1927 – The Yodel Club was organized. They would become the unofficial ambassadors for New Glarus now and into the future.

1927-1929 – Many articles about New Glarus and its Swiss connection appeared in the "Wisconsin Magazine."

1928 – October 19- The Mannerchor New Glarus was reorganized and included some of the old members. A new constitution was adopted with the standards to foster "Gemuetlichkeit" and to sing Swiss fold songs. This group is responsible for organizing and hosting the Swiss Independence Day celebration called "Volksfest." It is held on the first Sunday of August.

1930 – February 6- A ski tournament was held on Primrose Ski Hill.

1931- May 31 – The Old Lead Trail marker at the New Glarus State Park was dedicated by the New Glarus chapter of the American Legion.

1936- A Swiss style building as constructed at 406 2nd Street. This tavern began the Swiss exteriors trend for the main street in New Glarus.

1935 – New Glarus residents wrote and produced a pageant over three days in August honoring the 90th anniversary of the founding of New Glarus.

1938- September 4 & 5 – The first presentation of the Wilhelm Tell Pageant was declared a success. Each year the Swiss of New Glarus presented this play in German and English.

1938 – September 22 – The Swiss Historical Society was organized. The museum would be the beginning for collecting and preserving the Swiss heritage for others to see.

1940 – Mrs. Esther Streiff (W.W.) Stauffacher began serving Swiss dinners in her home as a way to educate and entertain small groups of people who came to New Glarus.

1942- For entertainment over 200 people attended a Yass (Swiss card game) tournament.

1948 – February – The Swissconsin Dairy Maids (Doris Steussy, Betty Kneubuehl, and Lila Schneider) performed at the Memorial Union in Madison.

1948- May – The New Glarus Yodelers, the Wilhelm Tell Usherettes, and others from New Glarus took part in the Wisconsin State Centennial Celebration held in Madison.

1952 – October 26 – This Week Magazine featured New Glarus. Clementine Paddleford, its food editor highlighted various Swiss-American dishes. Many pictures of the Wilhelm Tell Pageant also appeared.

1978 -September 24- Swiss men have been challenging each other in the wrestling ring for many years in Switzerland. New Glarus revived this sport called "Schwingen" with a meet between a group of men from Switzerland and a group of men from New Glarus. Matches were held each September in the following years: 1979, 1981, 1984, 1987, 1990 and 1993.

We will print information for the years following 1978 in a future edition of the newsletter. Photographs were retrieved from the Historical Society archives and can also be found here: https://search.library.wisc.edu/digital/ANewGlarus

DID YOU KNOW?

September means back to school and this photo depicts one of the 1920s era classes of the Meadow Valley School. Meadow Valley school was located several miles southwest of New Glarus. This school closed, along with other rural schools, around 1962 and attendees joined students at New Glarus public schools thereafter.

The owners of this schoolhouse have opened its doors, on occasion, for former attendees to visit and reminisce about school days gone by.

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The Bank of New Glarus
Powering Growth in Our Community

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