

Waterskiing in Wisconsin — Image ID 38508 (Six members of the Dorwin family)



The theme for Archives Week 2006 (October 15-22) is "**Wisconsin at Play**," the recreational activities, leisure pursuits, sports, hobbies, and games that Badger State residents have engaged in over the years. We want to encourage you to comb your archives and historical collections for items that document this off-hours part of Wisconsin life. Plan a program for your community and users that highlights your "Wisconsin at Play" collections.

Programming Suggestions

This list of program ideas is only meant to suggest possibilities. Brainstorm with others in your community to develop other ideas that fulfill the mission of Archives Week. Involve as many people in your area as you can. Be imaginative!

Classroom Collaborations: Give an educational presentation for National History Day students on how to use primary sources. Conduct a class project to write about recreational activities in Wisconsin. Work with a teacher to develop lesson plans that incorporate historical records by or about local athletes, sports, hobbies, and games.

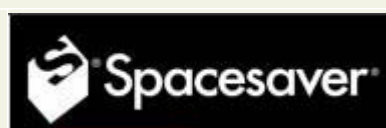
Local Media: Work with your local newspaper to print a photograph or letter that relates to leisure activities in Wisconsin from your collections each day of Archives Week. Publicize any events underway in conjunction with Archives Week. Suggest a news story that contrasts the sport, hobby, game or leisure activity that occurred in your area of Wisconsin with it's popularity today and how that's changed.

Public Programming: Develop a campaign to collect documents from your community that should be preserved for posterity. Many families keep photographs, trophies, and newspaper articles of sporting events and leisure activities. Publicize your collecting efforts during Archives Week and enlist the interest and support of your community. Create an exhibit of items from your collections and invite school classes and community groups to guided tours of the exhibit and of your institution. For even greater exposure, move the exhibit from your institution to other public spaces, such as the post office or a school exhibit case. Work with community groups to create public programs or panel



discussions about popular leisure activities, both past and present. Put on a Home Movie Night event, bringing people in your community archives. Record reminiscences of your community members. Their recorded memories can be your most precious historical records. Host a viewing of films featuring Wisconsin at Play. Organize a family history night, when your genealogy patrons have your collection to themselves. Encourage parents and grandparents to bring members of their families' younger generations to learn about their family history.

Who Sponsors Archives Week? Archives Week is an annual celebration and is co-sponsored by the Society in conjunction with the Wisconsin Historical Records Advisory Board, a volunteer board appointed by the Governor. The Society would like to thank Demco, Inc. and Spacesaver, Inc. for their generous support of Archives Week.



Historical Records: Keys to Our Cultural Heritage

Archives Week is an annual celebration of the value of Wisconsin's historical records, the original documents that tell the stories of our families, communities, business and civic organizations, and government institutions. During Archives Week, archival repositories, libraries, and other institutions around the state hold programs and exhibits to promote the value of historical records.



Counter Balance, Image ID: 2163

Historical Records Are Everywhere!

Historical records are not just dusty papers in an attic or dark archival repository; historical records are alive and everywhere! How many of the following items do you have in your home?



Boating on the Lake, 1937: Image ID: 7163

- Social security card
- School report card
- Immunization record
- Speeding ticket
- Record of births, marriages & deaths (sometimes recorded in the front of a family Bible)
- Birth certificate
- Diary or journal
- Letters that you've received or copies of letters that you've sent
- Marriage certificate
- A newspaper clipping about your child's basketball team or an obituary
- Bills, check stubs, mortgage papers
- Letter of acceptance to a college
- Photographs
- A scrapbook holding any of the above

These are all examples of historical records, and you can probably add many more possibilities to the list. Here are more ways that historical records are part of our daily lives:

- Churches keep records about the baptisms, marriages, and deaths of its parishioners
- Doctors and hospitals keep records on the patients they treat
- Businesses keep records that document a new invention or product
- Civic organizations (such as Kiwanis, Lyons Club, Rotary International) keep a constitution, meeting minutes, and a membership roll
- Courthouses have criminal, divorce, and civil case records

The lists go on and on! Modern lives are extensively documented, and repositories that have historical records contain the keys to understanding lives from the past.

