



**Wisconsin Historical
MUSEUM**

History Helpers

A Newsletter for the Volunteers of the Wisconsin Historical Museum • Spring 2009

**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATION WEEK
April 19 – 26, 2009**



Man flipping pancakes at "farm breakfast" as part of "June is Dairy Month" promotion in Washington County, 1989.

WHS Image ID: 6841

**THE INSIDE SCOOP
Volunteer Appreciation Event**

April 25, 2009 • 9:00 am–1:00 pm

To show our gratitude for all your efforts, we invite WHM volunteers to *Breakfast with the Archaeologists* followed by a behind-the-scenes tour of the treasures in the WHM collections. Look for your invitation to arrive soon.

Obama's Call Brings Upsurge in Volunteerism

With his inauguration, President Obama called for an increase in volunteerism to help the nation to "make ends meet" in a time of financial uncertainty. In a quote from Obama's *America Serves* project, "When you choose to serve—whether it's your nation, your community or simply your neighborhood—you are connected to the fundamental American ideal that we want life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness not just for ourselves, but for all Americans. That's why it's called the American Dream."

To launch this incentive the Martin Luther King holiday was enhanced as a National Day of Service. Obama urged American's from every walk of life to engage in their communities to make improvements via thousands of service projects. As millions of volunteers get involved, Obama's ability to inspire average citizens and organize them through online social networking has already shown itself to be a powerful tool for hope. As he has so famously said, "We are the change."

How does Wisconsin volunteerism rate? Very well indeed. According to the recently released *Volunteering in America* report the Midwest region lead the nation with 31.1% volunteerism. In Top 10 Mid-Size Cities for Volunteer Rate, Madison ranked 3rd with 42.3%. On average, Wisconsin's 1.5 million volunteers dedicated 164.9 million hours of service per year between '05 and '07. The estimated economic contribution of the volunteer hours served is \$3.2 billion annually.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEERING TRENDS

Number of Volunteers	60.8 million
Volunteer Rate	26.2%
Total Hours	8.1 billion

TOP PLACES FOR PEOPLE TO SERVE

Religious Organizations	35.7%
Educational or Youth Service Organizations	26.7%

TOP VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Fundraise or sell items to save money	27.9%
Collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food	24.5%
Engage in general labor.....	21.4%
Tutor or teach	20.5%

"We're all in this together. I think that's what the Obama team has taught me." — James Elder, National Day of Service Volunteer

Cheryl Korth, Office Manager and Monica Harrison, Special Events and Program Coordinator retired from WHM recently. We wish them the very best as they begin their next adventures.



*Cheryl Korth,
Office Manager*

What a wonderful place to have spent my last 23 years of working. I thought, from the day I started at the Museum, that it may be the place that I would retire from. And that thought is now a reality. To give you a sense of how long ago it was, I started 2 weeks prior to the Museum being opened for staff occupancy. That was January of 1986. By April of 1986 we opened to the public—a hoard of visitors and many many school children. What a year! As a supervisor said, if we could survive the first 6 months, we could survive anything. Being new and naive, it didn't seem all that bad to me even though there was a quick learning process for so many things.

It's been such a joy to work with the staff at the Museum (they are so smart) and to have met so many volunteers. I think saying "hello" to you volunteers was a big reason why I enjoyed my job. Where else can you work in a State service job where there are so many smiling faces arriving at your workplace!

Many times, your presence made my day (oh was that a Clint Eastwood line?).

Everyone has been so supportive of me in my work and with my health concerns. I hope that I can reciprocate in some way at some time. My husband, Karl, retired prior to me, so we have many plans, and the days are seeming to fly by. My hopes: to become a volunteer in some capacity, to purchase a good bike and exercise more, to spend more time with my family and have the grandchildren know all of grandma's weaknesses, to watch more meteor showers, to do more traveling, and to expand my brain with some good books when I can't do any of the above.

It's been such a pleasure to meet, greet and work with such a special group of volunteers. I will surely miss you all.

Cheryl Korth



*Monica Harrison,
Special Events and
Program Coordinator*

"Someday" has finally arrived for me—I have retired! In January 1983 I began working in the brand-new position of planning special events and programs for the WHS Museum. I can't think of a more interesting place to work than here! And the best parts for me were that I kept learning new things every day and had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people along the way.

It's incredible what we have done here with this retro-fitted building, too-small staff, and inadequate budgets. My colleagues here have been the most dedicated and creative people I've ever known and you loyal volunteers greatly extend our ability to reach out to the public. I'm so proud of all of you!

What's next for me? Along with Richard (my #1 volunteer who has retired, too), I will take my long-dreamed-of trip to baseball spring training in Arizona. Then we will build and move to our new home in the Baraboo Bluffs. We look forward to working many years with our gardens and fruit trees, fishing, spending more time with family, and traveling.

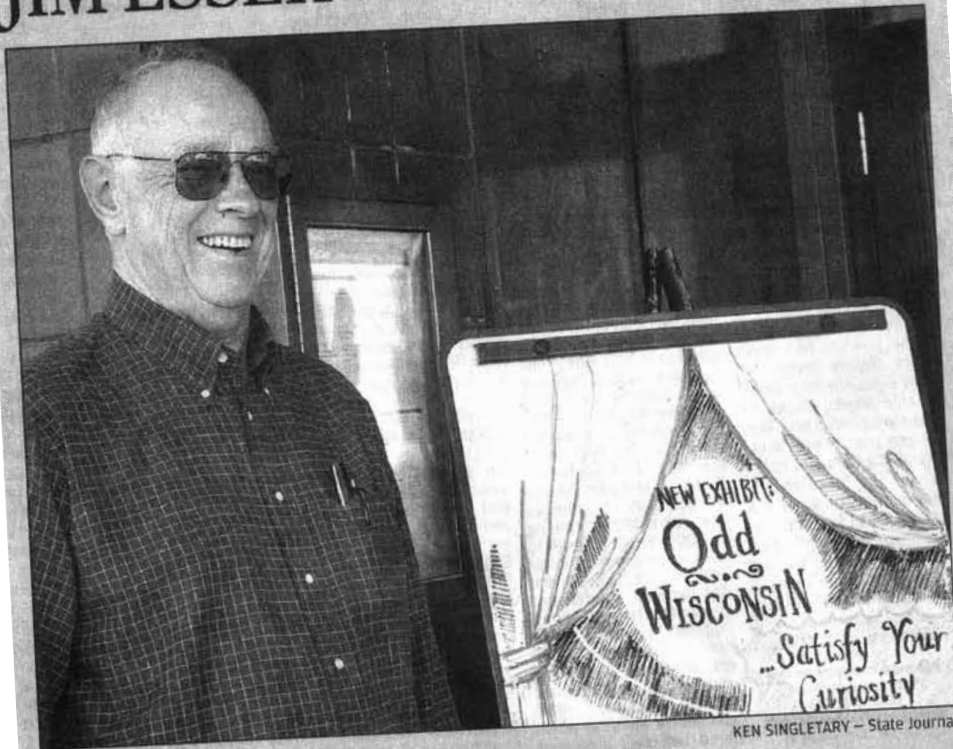
I won't miss the commute or spending sunny days in the basement office; I will miss your friendship and being a part of the museum team. And pie week, too! Look for me occasionally in the program audience, in the exhibit galleries and, of course, in the store.

Ciao a tutti!

Monica Harrison

AS SEEN IN THE *WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL*
 Sunday, March 1, 2009

KNOW YOUR MADISONIAN
JIM ESSER



Jim Esser is a volunteer tour guide at the Wisconsin Historical Museum.

Name: Jim Esser

Hometown: Born and raised in Madison. I have lived here my entire life except for a year in New Mexico when I was a boy and several years in the Army in the early '60s.

Family: My wife, Kathy, two daughters in Madison area and a son in Salt Lake City.

Age: 70.

Occupation: Retired from Amtelco where I was a product manager. Amtelco builds telephone messaging and communications equipment

and is based in McFarland.

What volunteer work do you do? I'm a docent, doing tours for school groups at the Wisconsin Historical Museum on the Capitol Square. The groups are generally grade-school age, usually fourth grade.

Why do you volunteer there? I have always enjoyed history, and working with a group of fourth-graders forces me to learn and to think on my feet because they ask so many challenging questions.

What other volunteer work do you do? I also work

at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore on Cottage Grove Road and I shop weekly at the Community Action Coalition and at Second Harvest for the food pantry at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Monona.

What have you learned while volunteering at the museum? I've learned how rich the history of Wisconsin is and how wonderful the place is that we live in.

What are your other interests? Amateur radio, photography, computers, reading
 — Interview by Ken Singletary

BULLETIN

Welcome New Volunteers:

- Holly Browkowski
- Amanda deFiebre
- Allison Ertl
- Joe Hart
- Danielle Kamps
- Christine Kubala
- Laura MacIntosh
- Shimeng Mai
- Aaron Minerath
- Dennis Schalk
- Libby Schmeisser
- Jenny Schroeder
- Sam Schubert
- Andy Stravers
- Doris Thompson
- Amy Williams
- Betsy Wilson
- Haiying Zhang

Best Wishes to and Thanks to Our Retiring Volunteers:

- Tena Beno
- Richard Harrison
- Monica McCann

Happy Anniversary Volunteers:

JANUARY

- Betsy Ellis • 19 Years

FEBRUARY

- Jim Esser • 5 Years
- Kathy Esser • 5 Years
- Mike Harrington • 13 Years
- Rita Harrington • 9 Years
- Stephanie Lowden • 23 Years
- Ruth Meier • 17 Years

APRIL

- Tim Rhue • 1 Year
- Claudia Silva • 2 Years
- LuAnn Stibb • 9 Years

MAY

- Julie Morello • 13 Years

SPECIAL EVENTS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you can only volunteer in the evenings and on weekends we have the volunteer opportunity for you! Most of our special events take place after Museum hours. We often need assistance with exhibit receptions, Playtimes of the Past family projects, Taste of Wisconsin Traditions dinner series, and so much more.

Please contact Kristina Clark, Volunteer Coordinator at 264-6563 or kristina.clark@wisconsinhistory.org for more information.

DOWNTOWN WORKS WEEK

Volunteers needed to help at Rooftop Opening Ceremonies at Monona Terrace on June 22, 2009. We will be giving away promotional materials, visitor passes, and raffle tickets.

LINCOLN'S 200TH BIRTHDAY

Help us celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth. Mary Todd Lincoln will be at the Museum for a performance and reception. We'll need lemonade and birthday cake servers, greeters and other assistance.

TASTE OF WISCONSIN TRADITIONS

We are currently putting together a Taste of Wisconsin Traditions dinner series for autumn and the holidays. If you like a good meal with your history please contact us. We need help with catering, clean-up, and facilitation of these dinners.

SUMMER EDUCATION PROGRAM

If you like to share history with children and their families, please consider signing on for one or more of our summer educational activities. It will bring out the kid in you!



A group of children wear rabbit costumes on the grounds of Dudgeon School, 3200 Monroe Street. May 19, 1932.

WHS Image ID: 17863