



## Relive your Childhood with *Toy Stories*

Did you have a Spirograph? How about Shrinky Dinks? Mr. Potato Head? Childhood memories come alive at the Wisconsin Historical Museum's new exhibit, *Toy Stories*, a historical look at popular toys and games from the 1940s to the present.

*Toy Stories* allows you to explore the stories of individual toys and how they came to be. Did you know that Monopoly, now seen as a celebration of capitalism, was originally conceived to illustrate the immorality of corporate monopolies? Or that Play-Doh began life as a wallpaper-cleaning compound? Learn more about all your favorite toys and share your own stories too.

The exhibit includes timeless classics such as Barbie, Hot Wheels, and Twister, but also toys with intriguing Wisconsin connections like the Sno-Coaster,

American Girl dolls, and Duncan yo-yos. Vintage TV toy commercials in the gallery add to the show, as do memories of favorite childhood toys as recalled by famous Wisconsinites such as Governor Doyle, race car driver Matt Kenseth, journalist Tom Snyder, singer Al Jarreau, writer Jacquelyn Mitchard, and actor Eric Szmanda.

*Toy Stories* runs through May 26, 2007 and is supported by the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission with additional funds from the Overture Foundation. The exhibition is also made possible through the generosity of Edith Meerdink, Lee and Janet Geronime, the Empty Stocking Club, the FRIENDS of the Wisconsin Historical Society, and a gift in memory of Dorothy Mosher. Go to [www.wisconsinhistory.org/museum](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/museum) for more information.



🔑 *Connect to your past, visit [www.wisconsinhistory.org](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org)* 🔑



**4** Korean War  
Stories on WPT



**6** New properties  
on the Historic  
Register



**8** Unearthing the  
mystery of the  
Christmas Tree ship

# From the Director

## Ellsworth H. Brown

Once in awhile an organization should brag about its work. This is acceptable especially when praise comes from others, and our WHS Press has in fact received a number of awards in the past year.

*Mai Ya's Long Journey* by Shelia Cohen was selected for recognition in the Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices 2006, a listing Librarians use to purchase books. It also won the Juvenile Non-Fiction award from the Council for Wisconsin Writers, as well as the Children's/Juvenile Non-fiction Book Award from The Midwest Independent Publishers Association. Mai Ya is a Madison Hmong child, and this book is one in a series of nonfiction books that we publish for children that explore the lives of real Wisconsin people.

Many of us have enjoyed Jerry Apps' presentations on Ringlingville, but those who may not have the opportunity are able to buy the book: *Ringlingville USA*, which was just named an Outstanding Academic Title by Choice Magazine. How could anyone not like a book with the subtitle "The Stupendous Story of Seven Siblings and Their Stunning Circus Success"?

The Midwest Independent Publishers Association has identified no less than four of our books for Merit Award recognition. They are:

- Richard Haney's book "*When is Daddy Coming Home?: An American Family during World War II*, in the Memoir/Biography category. Haney himself was recognized with the UW-Whitewater Distinguished Alumnus Award . . . congratulations, Richard!
- *Third Down and a War to Go*, by Terry Frei, received the award for Recreation/Sports books.
- *Aztalan: Mystery of an Ancient Indian Town*, by former employee and State Archaeologist Bob Birmingham and by Lynne Goldstein, in the category of History.
- *Every Root an Anchor*, by R. Bruce Allison, in the category of Gardening books. It also won the Nature Book Award.

Finally, the "Legacy" episode of a collaborative Wisconsin Historical Society/Wisconsin Public Television series, *Wisconsin World War II Stories*, won a first-place award in the Best Documentary Category from the Milwaukee Press Club.

These awards are a testimony to the quality of the editorial staff at WHS Press as well as the authors.

A number of employees have taken to heart our commitment to reaching out beyond our doors. A happy risk is that I may not have recognized all of the Society employees who could be mentioned, but we can always print an amendment in the next issue. I'm enormously proud of our staff, and the people named below suggest their level of commitment beyond office hours.

- Michael Stevens, State Historic Preservation Officer, was chosen president-elect of the Association for Documentary Editing, an organization for those interested in editing and publishing historical and literary texts and for promoting their use.
- Ellen Penwell, Curator of Collections at Old World Wisconsin, is president of the Whitewater Historical Society.
- Jim Draeger, Architectural Historian, is a board member of the Fox River Navigational System Authority and a member of the Scenic Byways Advisory Board.
- Brian McCormick, Preservation Architect, is on the Main Street Council of the Wisconsin Main Street program.
- Steve Cotherman, Madeline Island Site Director, is on the board of directors of the Washburn Cultural Center
- Dee Grimsrud, Reference Archivist, is the Treasurer of Madison's Idun Lodge, Sons of Norway
- Bobbie Malone, Director of School Services, is on the board of the Wisconsin Society for Jewish Learning and the Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies
- Jennifer Kolb, Deputy Director of Museum Archaeology, is the State Membership Representative for the Association of Midwest Museums.
- Joe Kapler, Curator of Domestic Life, is the at-large board member for the Historical Administration Program Association of Eastern-Illinois University.

Thank you all for this extra professional and community service.

A few notes:

I am pleased to announce that Erin Foley has been hired as the full-time archivist at Circus World Museum. She worked part-time in their Parkinson Library before that, and we are pleased that the Library reopened full-time on September 18.

In closing, let me point you to a story in this issue of *Columns* about Reed School, a happy and fortuitous pending addition to our historic site collection. Fully endowed, it represents a period in Wisconsin education familiar still to many, but not heretofore in our collection.

—Ellsworth H. Brown



## Stories from the "Forgotten War"

### Korean War Stories on WPT

To many Americans, place names like Normandy, Iwo Jima and Hiroshima are burned into our consciousness and loaded with meaning. But what do the Chosin Reservoir, the Yalu River and Taejon mean? To many people, not much—that is why the Korean War is often referred to as the "Forgotten War." Korea was sandwiched between what have become pivotal global events, beginning five years after World War II and less than a decade prior to the protracted conflict in Vietnam.

But the three-year engagement that ended in a ceasefire is anything but forgotten by Wisconsin Korean War veterans and their families. Those memories are now recounted and preserved in a new two-part documentary, *Wisconsin Korean War Stories*, airing November 13th at 8PM on Wisconsin Public Television and on WMVS-TV/Milwaukee.

More than 54,000 Americans lost their lives during the war and another 8,000 remain unaccounted for by the military. "There are a lot of people who don't realize how bad

the Korean War was. It was a terrible war. It's the most forgotten war," says Chet Keszy of Mosinee who is featured in the program.

*Wisconsin Korean War Stories* is a project of the Society and Wisconsin Public Television (WPT), in association with the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. Marrying the skills of Society historians with the production capabilities of WPT, this documentary continues the collaboration that began with a five-part series on World War II and continues today with *Wisconsin Hometown Stories*, a 10-year effort to tell the history of the state, one town at a time.

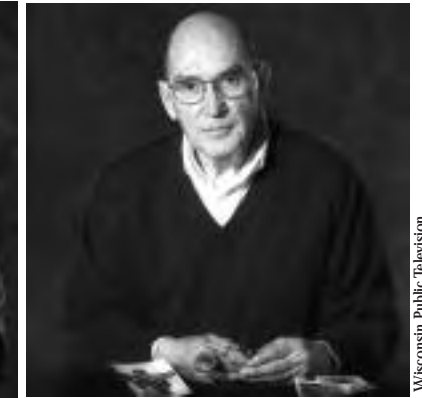
A companion book, *Wisconsin Korean War Stories*, will be published by the Society Press in 2008, and a traveling photo exhibit featuring eight veterans from the program will be visiting communities around Wisconsin in the coming months. Visit [www.wisconsinstories.org](http://www.wisconsinstories.org) for more information, stories, and photos from the documentary, and to post your own Korean War stories.



Cornelius Hill



Lee Schuff



Robert Kimbrough

Wisconsin Public Television

## Double Discount Week—Member Appreciation Day

Thank you! In appreciation of our members, the Society and Museum on the Capitol Square in Madison invite you to take advantage of a couple of member events in late November. We are offering a "Double Discount Week" November 24th through November 30th in the Museum Store and in our online store. What does that mean for you? Instead of the usual membership discount of 10%, **you will receive 20% off purchases during this period.** (Please note that this offer does not include vital records.) For online orders, enter "ddc" in the box directly below the membership number box to receive your 20% discount.

In addition, on Sunday, November 26th from 11:00 AM–4:00 PM, the Museum will open for a special Member Appreciation Day. Bring the entire family to see the latest exhibit *Toy Stories*. A curator will be on hand for tours at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 PM. As members, you can enjoy free refreshments during your visit. And don't forget to stop by the Museum store to pick out holiday gifts using your double discount and have them wrapped for free (Sunday only).

Moving? Have a new email address? Contact the Society membership office with your email and address changes at [whsmember@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:whsmember@wisconsinhistory.org) or call (888) 748-7479.

## COLUMNS



Published bimonthly, including an annual report, by the Wisconsin Historical Society, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706-1482. Erika Janik, editor; Roberta H. Couillard, designer. Distributed to members as part of their dues. (Individual membership for one person is \$40; family membership, \$50; senior citizen individual membership, \$30; senior citizen family, \$40; institutional, \$65). Wisconsin newspapers may reprint any article provided credit is given to the Wisconsin Historical Society and *Columns*. For membership information, write to the Membership Coordinator. Address all other inquiries to the editor, *Columns*. Periodicals postage paid at Madison, Wisconsin.

## Celebrations of Holidays Past

Winter events at the sites will make you laugh, sing, dance, eat, and have the historical adventure of your life. Chat with Father Christmas over a hearty breakfast, enjoy a holiday dinner with all the trimmings followed by a walk-along production of the Charles Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol*, or take a lamplight tour of the immigrant farmsteads, all at Old World Wisconsin.



Finnish immigrants prepare for the holidays at Old World Wisconsin



Father Christmas at Villas Louis



An 1890s Christmas at Villa Louis

Bob Granitaten

At Villa Louis, see and taste how one of Wisconsin's elite families celebrated the holidays in 1890 splendor. See interpreters re-enact the Dousman family's preparations for a visit from St. Nicholas on Christmas morning, or sample the family's favorite holiday treats at an open house to ring in the New Year.

And don't forget that the H.H. Bennett Studio and Circus World Museum remain open year round. See the calendar on page 16 for a list of dates and times for special winter events.

## Toy Donations at the Museum

To ensure that every child has a happier holiday, the Wisconsin Historical Museum will serve as a drop-off point for both Toys for Tots and the Empty Stocking Club, programs that provide gifts to needy children in the Madison area. From November 7 through December 14, you can leave a new, unwrapped toy at the Museum for Toys for Tots or make a monetary donation to the Empty Stocking Club, which uses the funds to purchase and distribute gifts. Toys for Tots is a program of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and the Salvation Army. The Empty Stocking Club is a service of the Wisconsin State Journal Youth Services, Inc.

## Bucky Books

Save money *and* help the Society by purchasing a *Bucky Book* at the Wisconsin Historical Museum this winter. Each \$35 *Bucky Book* purchase earns the Museum \$15 toward funding its summer 2007 exhibit on baseball. The *Bucky Book* can be purchased at the Museum store through mid-January, ordered by phone at (888) 999-1669 or online at [www.buckybook.com](http://www.buckybook.com) (be sure to list "WI Historical Museum" as your charity).

## GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

Give the gift of membership to friends and family this holiday season. Society members enjoy half-price admission at historic sites, free admission to the Museum, discounts at the Museum store and on genealogical research, and receive the colorful and informative *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. By becoming a member, you help the Society achieve its mission of helping people connect to their past. Thousands of people like you have already discovered the benefits of membership, so pass on the favor to your loved ones. Apply online at [www.wisconsinhistory.org/membership](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/membership) or call (888) 748-7479.

## New Books Highlight Milwaukee's Past



### *Silver Screens*

Larry Widen and Judi Anderson

Movies have captivated Milwaukee audiences for more than a century. From the early shows of the 1890s to the mega-plexes of today, movie-goers past and present have all felt that excited hush as the lights begin to dim.

This magical experience is vividly brought to life in the newly revised edition of *Silver Screens: A Pictorial History of Milwaukee Movie Palaces*, by Larry Widen and Judi Anderson.

As Widen and Anderson show, a movie's capacity to enchant extends beyond the show's appeal. Milwaukee's historic venues often have a dream-like quality to them—the Oriental Theater with its rich murals, statues of Buddha and porcelain lions, or the historic Pabst Theater, with its balconies, rich velvet curtains, and a two-ton Austrian crystal chandelier. The elaborate "movie palaces" of the Roaring Twenties were architectural wonders of art, decor, and imagery that enhanced the experience of going to the theater.

Memories of these buildings bond Milwaukee residents in a quiet, but powerful way. This pictorial journey through the history of Milwaukee's theaters, some soberly photographed in their decline, will cause readers to reflect on what "progress" has meant and accomplished. Widen and Anderson's book ensures that theaters that have already vanished from the landscape will remain forever embedded in the city's collective memory.

More than a "pop culture" history, *Silver Screens* is a tribute to the age of romance, a reminder of the necessity of preservation, and a gift to theater lovers of all ages.



### *Cream City Chronicles*

John Gurda

Most cities have mayors who sing—the untold job requirement of city leaders, even if it's only to struggle through the national anthem at baseball games. But Milwaukee has a different tradition: singing mayors. Since the 1940s, the city has had a series of mayors whose songs became part of their political

identity—Carl Zeidler with "God Bless America," John Norquist with a repertoire of popular and ethnic tunes, including "Jak Szybko Mija Ja Chwile" and "Blues Suede Shoes," and Henry Maier, who even composed his own song, "The Summerfest Polka."

The story of Milwaukee's singing mayors is just one of the lively tales in *Cream City Chronicles: Stories of Milwaukee's Past*. Written by award-winning author and historian John Gurda, these stories represent the best of Gurda's popular Sunday columns that have appeared in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* since 1994, and reveal the people, events, landmarks, and institutions that have made Milwaukee a unique American community.

Follow the development of Milwaukee's distinctive neighborhoods—the South Side blend of Poles and Mexicans, for example—and its rise from a fur trade post to a port city and industrial center—where else but Milwaukee can you find an upscale coffeehouse sharing quarters with a Sewerage District museum? From singing mayors to summer festivals, from blueblood weddings to bloody labor disturbances, the collection offers a generous sampling of tales that express the true character of a hometown metropolis.

Accompanied by historic photographs, the stories in *Cream City Chronicles* tell us how we got here, to this time and place, and demonstrates that no matter where we live, the story of the community around us can provide a lively context for our own stories.

To learn more about *Silver Screens* and *Cream City Chronicles*, including ordering information, visit [www.wisconsinhistory.org](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org) or contact the Wisconsin Historical Museum store at (608) 264-6428, or toll-free at (888) 999-1669.

## Carry Your Books in Style

This 19" x 14" x 5" canvas tote features The Ingenues, an all-girls band and vaudeville act, serenading the cows in the University of Wisconsin Dairy Barn in a scientific test of whether the cows would give more milk to the soothing strains of music. Taken by Angus McVicar, the image accompanied an article published in the *Capital Times* Aug. 6, 1930. This image is one of almost 14,000 images created by Angus B. McVicar.

Cost is \$14.95, \$13.46 for members



## Local History Highlight Milwaukee County Historical Society

Housed within an architectural landmark in Pere Marquette Park, the Milwaukee County Historical Society (MCHS) collects, preserves, and shares materials relating to the history of the Milwaukee area. The MCHS, founded in 1935, houses a museum that features a variety of permanent and temporary exhibits exploring different aspects of local significance, many of which are drawn from the vast collection of artifacts, documents, and photographs contained in the research library. They have recently completed phase one of a three-part restoration effort, resulting in the restoration of 27 intricately designed, cast-iron windows and the installation of a public art piece called LifeLight that uses LED light to enhance the building's architecture.

In addition to its main center, the MCHS operates three historic house museums that date back to the 1840s: the Kilbourntown House in Shorewood, the Lowell Damon House in Wauwatosa, and the Jeremiah Curtin House in Greendale. They recently acquired Trimborn Farm in Greendale, a nine-building, Civil War era farmstead in the midst of a major metropolitan area.



The south face of the Milwaukee County Historical Society

Milwaukee County Historical Society

Current and upcoming MCHS exhibits include:

- "Person to Person: Communicating Identity through Wisconsin Folk Objects," an original exhibition developed by the WHS Museum that highlights centuries of Wisconsin folk art. It runs through January 14th, 2007.
- "Billie the Brownie" exhibit celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the beloved Milwaukee radio personality's first appearance on WTMJ Radio in 1931, and is shown in conjunction with release of a new children's book by author who grew up with Billie! It runs from November 11, 2006 through January 2007.
- "100 Years of Service: The Alpha Kappa Alpha Story," a traveling exhibit organized by the Cincinnati History Museum, focuses on the first African American sorority that will be presented from January 20 through April 8, 2007 in conjunction with Black History and Women's History Month.

The MCHS also offers a lunch-time lecture series on the third Thursday of each month and publishes a quarterly magazine, *Milwaukee History*, and several books. Learn more about the Milwaukee County Historical Society at [www.milwaukeecountyhistsoc.org](http://www.milwaukeecountyhistsoc.org).

### What to know before you go:

MCHS is located at 910 N. Old World 3rd St.  
Tel: (414) 273-8288  
Museum Hours:  
Monday through Friday 9:30 AM-5 PM  
Saturday 10 AM-5 PM  
Sunday 1 PM-5 PM

## Investing in Local Communities

Efforts to improve and support historic preservation in seven Wisconsin communities got a monetary boost this year with the awarding of nearly \$80,000 in Certified Local Government subgrants. These grants can be used to fund a variety of preservation projects, such as educational brochures, historical surveys, nomination papers for the National Register of Historic Places, and municipal preservation plans.

West Allis and Whitewater will use the money to conduct intensive surveys of his-



Lancaster Courthouse Square

toric buildings while Lodi, Lancaster, Platteville, Marshfield, and Hales Corners will be preparing National Register of Historic Places nominations for significant resources in their communities. The information gained from these projects will aid property owners, promote economic development and reinvestment, support historic tourism, and provide the cities with information to assist in future planning for the preservation of these irreplaceable resources.

The Certified Local Government program is a federal program administered by the Society to encourage and assist historic preservation by local governments. Only communities with certified historic preservation programs are eligible for subgrants. More information about the Certified Local Government program in Wisconsin is available online at [www.wisconsinhistory.org/hp/clgs](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/hp/clgs)

## National Register of Historic Places: Recent Wisconsin additions

### Sheboygan Light, Power & Railway Company Car #26 Village of East Troy, Walworth County Date of Construction: 1908



The Sheboygan Light, Power & Railway Company Car #26 was constructed by the Cincinnati Car Company in 1908 and served Sheboygan and other Sheboygan County communities for thirty years. Public transportation—first by horse-drawn carriage and then by streetcars—was common in larger cities in the 1880s and 1890s. By the early 1900s, streetcars had become lighter, curvilinear and wood-framed. Car #26 was one of these wooden cars, which typically consisted of a vestibule at either end with both a smoker and coach compartment in between. The last interurban streetcar in Sheboygan ran in November 1938.

After interurban lines were dismantled, the remaining cars were usually sold to other interurban lines or to private owners. Car #26 was sold to a private party who used the car for a summer home. The Behrend Doedens family purchased the car in 1947, and continued to use it as a summer haven. In 1988, Paul Doedens donated the car to the Friends of the East Troy Electric Railroad Museum in East Troy, Wisconsin. Ten years later, Dan and Carolyn Doedens and Don Lenz, under the auspices of the Friends of the East Troy Electric Railroad Museum, organized the Interurban Car #26 Restoration Association to finance the significant rehabilitation of Car #26. The car now operates in conjunction with the East Troy Electric Railroad Museum on Wisconsin's only operational interurban track in the Village of East Troy.

### Temple Beth Israel 1475 Water Street, Stevens Point, Portage County Date of Construction: 1905



Incorporated in 1905, Beth Israel Congregation built this synagogue to serve the Stevens Point Jewish community which had its beginnings in 1873 and grew to about forty families after the immigration of Eastern European Jews.

Temple Beth Israel is a rectangular wood frame structure with a Jerkin-head or clipped-gable, shiplap siding, a metal roof, and stone foundation. The windows are gothic arched with frosted and colored glass. The sanctuary, remodeled in 1951, is largely intact, including Torah scrolls and other religious objects.

The synagogue served Jewish families from numerous communities in Central Wisconsin, primarily Stevens Point, Marshfield, and Wisconsin Rapids, but also Fremont, Weyauwega, Pittsville, Adams, Waupaca, Friendship, and New London. The congregation grew to as many as 100 members between 1930 and 1960. Membership began to decline in the 1960s and in 1986 the congregation disbanded.

With its disbanding in 1986, Beth Israel Congregation deeded its synagogue to the Portage County Historical Society which operates it as a museum, online at <http://www.pchswi.org/>

### Decatur Dickinson House 411 State Street, Neillsville, Clark County Date of Construction 1891



Born in Pennsylvania in 1836, Decatur Dickinson came to Madison at the age of 19, but returned home at the onset of the Civil War to enlist in the 45th Regiment of the Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. After the war, he returned to

Wisconsin and settled in Neillsville where he remained until his death in 1915. Dickinson became a successful general merchant, who supported the booming logging industry. As other successful Neillsville residents constructed opulent homes, Dickinson began his status statement in 1891 on the highest spot in town: it would cost an unheard of five-thousand dollars. The local newspaper hailed the house "one of the finest if not the finest residences in the city and sets the pace for those which are to follow."

The color and exuberance of Queen Anne architecture, as found in Dickinson's house, reached Wisconsin in the 1880s. As industrialism expanded, the Queen Anne style satisfied middle class desire to show off their newfound success and wealth. English furniture designer Charles Eastlake inspired the style of this Queen Anne. The spindling, curved brackets, sunburst motifs and incising of the Dickinson house imitate the decorations found in Eastlake furniture.

The interior of the home is handsomely detailed with a spindled stairway that winds its way to the second floor. Fireplaces greet guests in the entrance hall and the sitting room. Window and door openings have wide-grooved surrounds with corner blocks topped with a four-pointed crown, and high ceilings make the most of the home's many windows.

### Other properties listed:

Baptist Church, Ripon,  
Fond du Lac County

Cipra Wayside Mound Group,  
Town of Wauzeka, Crawford  
County

Daniels Town Hall,  
Town of Daniels, Burnett County

Shadewald I Mound Group,  
Muscodia, Richland County

Sisson's Peony Gardens,  
Rosendale, Fond du Lac County



Daniels Town Hall interior



Sisson's Peony Gardens



## Director's Circle

Each year, the Society and the Wisconsin Historical Foundation recognize major Society supporters at the annual Director's Circle event, a special reception and program held in Madison. More than 100 people attended the event this year, held on October 4th, where they viewed an exhibit on political cartoonists from Wisconsin and listened to nationally syndicated political cartoonist Joe Heller from the *Green Bay Press-Gazette*. Society Director Ellsworth Brown also spoke to the guests, thanking them for their generous support of the Society.



Cartoonist Joe Heller gives attendees an inside glimpse of his work.

Bob Gramblaten

## New Historic Site

Starting next May, the Society will have a new historic site to add to your list of summer travels. Reed School near Neillsville is a one-room schoolhouse that will focus on interpreting rural school life between 1915 and 1951. The school comes to the Society through the generosity of philanthropists Gordon and Helen Smith of Potomoc, Maryland, who will deed it to the Society in December.

Gordon Smith attended Reed School for only one month in the spring of 1939,

but the experience left a lasting impression that he was determined to share with future generations. His cousins Glenn Suckow and Linda Grottke both attended Reed School and never missed a day in eight years. Smith purchased the school, which closed in 1951, and funded its top-to-bottom restoration. His family foundation is also providing an endowment to fund the site's educational programming and ongoing maintenance. The Reed School site will allow today's students and visitors to experience a day in the life of a pupil in a one-room school long ago.



Reed School near Neillsville

Bob Gramblaten

## Patterns of History at the Iowa County Fair



Tamara Funk, Curator at Pendarvis, in an 1876 dress and Craig Dunigan in an 1878 sack suit.

Molly Daugherty

Visitors to the 150th Iowa County Fair were treated to a historical costume show on August 31st in Mineral Point. Society Costume Curator Leslie Bellais entertained the crowd with photographs, fashion plates, and cartoons, while several models (many from the Society) in period dress spanning from 1835 to 1901 brought the fashions to life on stage. Bellais began her "Patterns of History" costume program in 1994, using clothing patterns drafted from original 19th century garments in the Society's costume collection. The County Fair marked the debut of a new addition to the show, an 1881 avant-garde gown, worn by WHS Museum staffer Andrea Hoffman. Many of the patterns featured in the program are available for purchase in the Society's Museum store, online at [www.wisconsinhistory.org/shop](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/shop).



## Reading Room Makeover

The Library Reading Room at Society Headquarters is more than 100 years old—and showing its age. The room is one of the few spaces in the building used for the same purpose today as the day the Society opened, and has served millions of visitors over the decades in its grand, two-story space. Two new projects are studying ways to protect this historically significant room while also improving library services to meet the needs of the 21st century.

Since the Society building is on the National Register of Historic Places, addressing Reading Room issues requires the preparation of a Historic Structures Report. This study will analyze everything from the lights and mechanicals to the paint on the walls and carpet underfoot, which will then be used to guide the subsequent rehabilitation.

Besides studying what is best for the building, the Society is also studying what will work best for visitors to the Library. The Library has used the same basic approach for decades without asking patrons how their needs can be met, particularly in light of increased use of Web-based information. This study will explore how visitors currently use the room and what they would like to see in the future.

Both studies should be complete in the coming months and will play a key role in protecting the Reading Room and making it more accessible to visitors.



The Reading Room at Society Headquarters

WVH-26478

## Microfilm?

Microfilm users from 11 states descended on Madison in September for the 19th Annual Midwest States Micrographics Conference hosted by the Society's Microfilm lab. The conference brought together micrographic users, primarily from government agencies, for two days of discussion on information management, current imaging operations, and the continued relevance of the medium.

In this increasingly digital world, the idea of putting something on film can seem antiquated and behind-the-times. But microfilm is an important part of Society efforts to preserve Wisconsin's cultural heritage because it saves written or printed text and images from further degradation caused by use. Microfilm uses proven and reliable technologies, and it's long-lasting—information on film will still be obtainable 500 years from now. Microfilm can also be easily scanned into digital systems, allowing documents to be easily accessible online while also remaining on film for long-term preservation.

Most conference attendees feel that digital and microfilm technology work well together and will only improve as new products come on the market. Digitizing pre-1923 newspapers currently held on microfilm is especially popular in many states right now, which allows researchers to keyword-search a treasure trove of information.

Over the years, the Society has preserved onto microfilm

just about every type of material we collect—newspapers (old and new), periodicals, monographs, manuscripts, public records, government documents, and scrapbooks, to name a few. The Society currently digitizes microfilm on-demand for customers and has used microfilm for online collections like "Turning Points in Wisconsin History." Some institutions are looking at doing everything digitally and phasing out film-imaging, but at this point, digital preservation remains problematic so microfilm will continue to be relied upon for historically significant information for decades to come



Three men make microfilm copies at the State Office Building in 1942

WVH-13865

## Finding Early State Government Publications



The Society's Library is the official depository for all Wisconsin state government publications, with holdings dating back to Territorial days. However, many of these documents, particularly those dating from 1845 to 1976, were not easily found because they had not been added to the online catalogs of public and college libraries around the state.

Now, over 10,000 new or improved records have been added

to MadCat, the University of Wisconsin-Madison online catalog, as a result of a project called Enhancing Statewide Access to Wisconsin State Government Publications with funding from an LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) grant, Wisconsin Reference & Loan, and the Society. These publications contain a bit of everything—from visionary planning reports to statistical evaluations of programs

and policies—and span the breadth of Wisconsin governmental work, from health to tourism to development and education.

These additions will enable Wisconsin residents with Internet access to locate information on the Society's state government publications from anywhere in the state, enhancing their ability to acquire copies of those publications via the Society's document delivery service, interlibrary loan, or direct borrowing. The project also provides cataloging records for public and academic libraries throughout the state to use in describing materials in their own collections, improving access to materials in the collections of local libraries.

Work on the project began in early 2005, and so far, has increased the number of online records by 40 percent. Society staff has already noticed a significant increase in questions concerning Wisconsin older state government publications and requests for loans throughout the year. Cataloging government publications also makes it easier to select materials for digitizing in the future.

## Collecting the history of pharmacy

Prescription medicines touch our lives and the lives of our families on an almost daily basis, but most of us rarely think about the history of this important facet of daily life. One of the lesser-known special focus collecting areas of the Society's Library-Archives is the history of pharmacy and pharmacy education in the United States. This collection, known as the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy (AIHP) Archives, operates in association with the AIHP, which is located on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus.

The AIHP Archives includes 18 collections that total more than 460 cubic feet documenting pharmaceutical organizations and important individuals in the history of pharmacy. One of the most significant collections in the

AIHP Archives is the records of the United States Pharmacopeia (USP), the non-profit organization that has for more than 180 years established the formulas and set the standards for quality and consistency of medicines in the United States and around the world. Recently, USP transferred an additional 80 cubic feet of records to the Society's Library-Archives. Along with the records came a grant of nearly \$8000 to assist with work on the USP collection. The Library-Archives Division is grateful to USP for providing money to make this important collection more accessible to researchers.



Pharmacist in Madison, 1950

## Cataloguing Senator Nelson's Papers

Over a thousand boxes of papers, audio and video tapes, and photographs from Senator Gaylord Nelson rolled across the Society lobby this August for processing. Although the records have been available to researchers and members of the public since they were acquired in the 1970s and '80s, the Society has long aimed to make them more accessible. The collection was so large, though, that it was beyond the ability of the regular Society staff to take on this huge project. But thanks to a grant from the Evjue Foundation, the Society has hired a part-time archivist and two assistants to sort, organize, and catalogue all of Nelson's senatorial papers, which will increase access and ease-of-use

to future researchers. The extra staff will work under the direction of Society archivist Carolyn Mattern and expect to complete the job in about a year. The Evjue Foundation funded a similar project last year, allowing the Society to arrange and describe the papers of Senator William Proxmire.



Wisconsin Senators Gaylord Nelson and William Proxmire

# Out & About Wisconsin

The trips listed below date from the end of July through the middle of September and represent a sampling of Society staff outreach efforts to help people connect to their past.

**ASHLAND** • July 31 • State Archaeologist John Broihahn unveiled the Lucerne Maritime Trails sign in Bay View Park, part of the State Archaeology and Maritime Preservation Programs' on-going education and site protection program.

**BAYFIELD** • August 1 • State Archaeologist John Broihahn installed the Sevona Maritime Trails sign in Little Sand Bay.

**DARLINGTON** • August 2 • Field Services Rep. Rick Bernstein presented basic information on Cultural Resource Planning to 100 people from the Lafayette County Smart Growth Committee.

**GREEN LAKE** • August 3 • Field Services Reps. Rick Bernstein and Janet Dykema met with individuals interested in establishing a Wisconsin golf museum at Lawsonia Golf Course.

**ODANAH** • August 7 • Museum Archaeology Program Director Kelly Hamilton conducted a workshop on non-invasive techniques used to identify buried cultural resources to 12 members of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, including the tribal historic preservation officer, several members of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act committee, and cemetery maintenance staff.

**RHINELANDER** • August 7 • Archivist Linda Mittlestadt presented on the implementation of the New Century Archives Initiative and discussed how it coordinates with the Forest Services' "Record File Plan" at a regional meeting of the US Forest Service Records Managers from the Chequamegon-Nicolet District.

**REEDSBURG** • August 14 • Historian Joe DeRose spoke to the City Council on the benefits of becoming a Certified Local Government.

**WATERLOO** • August 15 • State Archaeologist John Broihahn discussed Burial Mound Conservation and Preserve Planning to eight people at the Garman Preserve.

**MADISON** • August 19 • Archaeologist Amy Rosebrough provided a tour of the Mendota State Hospital Mound site to 14 Ho-Chunk adults and children participating in the 2006 Sacred Run to Milwaukee.

**DELAFIELD** • August 19 • Field Services Rep. Rick Bernstein attended the Southeast Regional Local History Convention at Hawks Inn Historical Society.

**WEST BEND** • August 21 • Archaeologist Amy Rosebrough evaluated the condition of 1000 year old burial mounds in Lizard Mound County Park to come up with a management and recovery plan for the site.

**RIPON** • August 24 • Preservation Architect Brian McCormick met with the director of Ripon's Main Street Program to tour three potential tax credit projects.

**LA CROSSE** • August 26 • Microfilms Librarian and Outreach Coordinator Lori Bessler presented on genealogical research methods to members of the La Crosse Area Genealogical Society.

**MARKESAN** • August 26 • State Historic Preservation Officer Michael Stevens, Historian Joe DeRose, and Field Services Rep. Rick Bernstein attended and spoke at the East Central Regional Local History Convention to 75 attendees.

**PORTAGE** • August 29 • Preservation Architect Brian attended the Main Street Council meeting and toured the new developments downtown.

**MINERAL POINT** • August 31 • Curator of Costume & Textiles Leslie Bellais presented "Hoops & Bustles: A Victorian Fashion Show" to attendees of the spaghetti dinner at the Iowa County Fair.

**MADISON** • September 11 • Museum Education Specialist Beth Lemke spoke to 28 residents of Westminster Senior Apartments as part of the Senior Program Outreach.

**MADISON** • September 13 • Microfilms Librarian and Outreach Coordinator Lori Bessler presented on Genealogy and Microfilm to attendees of the Midwest States Micrographics Conference.

**ASHLAND** • September 16 • State Historic Preservation Officer Michael Stevens spoke to local history groups at the Northwestern Local History Regional Convention.

# Development

## Society Honor Roll

The Wisconsin Historical Society wishes to thank the following supporters who made gifts to the Wisconsin Historical Foundation totaling \$250 or more between July 1, 2006 and September 12, 2006. To see a complete acknowledgement of all fiscal year 2006 gifts, please peruse our online annual report at: [www.wisconsinhistory.org/about/annualreport](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/about/annualreport).

**John Muir Partners (\$25,000+):** Halbert & Alice Kadish Foundation; Mr. and Mrs. Duard L. Walker

**Black Hawk Patrons (\$10,000-\$24,999):** Estate of Ethel K. Allen; Mr. and Mrs. Hartley B. Barker; Electronic Theatre Controls; FRIENDS of the Wisconsin Historical Society

**Belle Case La Follette Associates (\$5,000-\$9,999):** 3M Corporation; Robert A. and Dorothy H. Luening; Wisconsin Education Association Council

**Frederick Jackson Turner Society (\$2,500-\$4,999):** Alliant Energy Foundation; German Interest Group

**The Director's Circle (\$1,000-\$2,499):** The Heaney Family Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation; The Manitowoc Company; Overture Foundation; Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation; Kathryn A. Steckelberg; U.S. Bank, NA; Wisconsin State Journal Youth Services

**Lyman Copeland Draper Supporters (\$500-\$999):** Glenn R. and Dolores M. Coates; Mr. and Mrs. John D. Emory, Sr.; Thurman and Betty Fox; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Laskin; Roma E. Lenehan; Dr. and Mrs. H. Nicholas Muller III; WISC TV 3

**Reuben Gold Thwaites Benefactors (\$250-\$499):** Boeing; Melinda and Mark Heinritz; Peter M. Klein; Litchfield Advisors Incorporated; Dr. and Mrs. Barry Maxfield; Mr. and Mrs. John E. Mitchell; Drs. Mark and Sandra Perpich; Kay F. Porter; Walter and Amelia Rugland; Mr. and Mrs. John W. Sherman; Mr. and Mrs. John G. Vergeront; Dr. and Mrs. Maurice E. White; Wisconsin Energy Corporation; Linda York

### Wisconsin Historical Society Fund-Raising Report

The Wisconsin Historical Foundation is pleased to report the following year-to-date results for the period between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007:

Annual Fund .....\$59,420  
(up 62% from last year)

Annual Fund Donors .....376

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded the Wisconsin Historical Foundation a \$500,000 challenge grant in May 2004 for the Library-Archives Preservation Endowment. The Foundation must match the NEH grant on a four-to-one basis and, to date, including the NEH grant, has raised \$1,594,992 toward the long-range goal of \$2.5 million.



Society Director Ellsworth Brown talks with Board of Curators member Mary F. Buestrin and her husband, Thomas H. Buestrin, at the Director's Circle reception.

## Pension Protection Act

The Wisconsin Historical Foundation is pleased to share exciting news with Society members about a new giving opportunity. President Bush signed the Pension Protection Act of 2006 this fall. While this legislation focuses primarily on pensions, Congress also decided to use the bill to enact charitable giving incentives. Of particular interest is the section that provides for an exclusion from gross income for certain distributions (up to \$100,000) from a traditional individual retirement account (IRA) or a Roth IRA. To qualify, the distribution must be made to a tax-exempt organization. The provision is effective through December 31, 2007.

The distribution must be made directly from the Trustee of an IRA to the charitable recipient. Check with your IRA Trustee or your financial advisor for details on how to distribute the gifts as well as any fees that may be charged. You should not take the distribution yourself and subsequently write a check to a charitable organization.

If you are over 70, take a required withdrawal from your IRA, and make charitable contributions, consider taking advantage of tax-free gifts from your IRAs this year and next. As always, first check with your financial or tax advisor. For more information, contact Jeanne Engle, Director of Development at (608) 264-6580 or [jeanne.enge@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:jeanne.enge@wisconsinhistory.org).

For information about making a gift to the Society or benefiting the Society through your estate, please contact Melinda Heinritz, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Historical Foundation, at (608) 264-6585 or [mvheinritz@whs.wisc.edu](mailto:mvheinritz@whs.wisc.edu).

# Information

## Society Headquarters Building



Library Mall, UW-Madison  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706-1482  
(608) 264-6400  
Parking: Lake Street ramp  
[www.wisconsinhistory.org](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org)

### Library

Access to the library stacks and microforms reading room ends one half hour before closing times.

Thru Nov. 21 and Nov. 24-Dec. 22  
8 A.M. to 9 P.M., Monday-Thursday  
8 A.M. to 5 P.M., Friday and Saturday

December 22-29  
8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Information: (608) 264-6534  
Reference: (608) 264-6535  
FAX: (608) 264-6520  
[www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives)

Note: The Society headquarters will be closed Nov. 23, Dec. 23-25, and Dec. 30-Jan. 1.

### Archives Research Room

The Archives Research Room provides access to manuscripts, government records, rare books, recorded sound, maps, photographs and entertainment industry related holdings of the Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research.

8 A.M. to 5 P.M., Monday-Friday  
9 A.M. to 4 P.M., Saturday

(Collection retrieval is limited to: 9 A.M. to noon and 1 to 4 P.M., Monday-Friday; and 9 to 11:30 A.M., 12:15 to 12:30, and 1:15 to 3:45 P.M., Saturday.)

Information: (608) 264-6460  
FAX: (608) 264-6472  
[www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/readroom](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/readroom)

## Wisconsin Historical Museum



Capitol Square  
30 North Carroll Street  
Madison, WI 53703-2707  
(608) 264-6555/FAX (608) 264-6575  
Parking: Capitol Centre or Dayton Street ramps  
[www.wisconsinhistory.org/museum](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/museum)

9 A.M. to 4 P.M.,  
Tuesday-Saturday  
Closed Sunday, Monday, and major holidays

Admission by donation. Suggested amounts: \$4 for adults, \$3 for children under 18, and \$10 for families. Society members receive free admission.

Persons attending Museum programs are asked to make a suggested \$2/person donation.

To schedule a group visit, telephone (608) 264-6557 between 11 A.M. and 4 P.M.

### Museum Store

(608) 264-6428  
Toll-free (for orders only): (888) 999-1669  
Online Store  
[www.wisconsinhistory.org/shop](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/shop)

## Society Statewide

### Archives Services

#### Area Research Center Network

For information about Area Research Centers around the state, see [www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/arcnet](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/arcnet) or telephone (608) 264-6460.



**Northern Great Lakes History Center and Archives**  
29270 County Highway G/Ashland, WI 54806-9339  
(715) 685-2647  
[www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/arcnet/northlan.asp](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/arcnet/northlan.asp)

### Historic Sites



**First Capitol**  
Thru September 4, 2006  
County Highway G/Belmont, WI 53510  
(608) 987-2122  
[www.wisconsinhistory.org/firstcapitol](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/firstcapitol)



**H. H. Bennett Studio and History Center**  
Open year round; hours vary  
215 Broadway/Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965  
(608) 253-3523  
[www.wisconsinhistory.org/hhbennett](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/hhbennett)



**Madeline Island Historical Museum**  
Thru October 7, 2006  
La Pointe, WI 54850  
(715) 747-2415  
[www.wisconsinhistory.org/madelineisland](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/madelineisland)



**Old World Wisconsin**  
Thru October 31, 2006, and special winter dates  
S103 W37890 Highway 67/Eagle, WI 53119  
(262) 594-6300  
[www.wisconsinhistory.org/oww](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/oww)



**Pendarvis**  
Thru October 31, 2006  
114 Shake Rag Street/Mineral Point, WI 53565  
(608) 987-2122  
[www.wisconsinhistory.org/pendarvis](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/pendarvis)



**Stonefield**  
Thru Sept. 4, 2006 then weekends only to Oct. 15  
P.O. Box 125/Cassville, WI 53806  
(608) 725-5210  
[www.wisconsinhistory.org/stonefield](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/stonefield)



**Villa Louis**  
Thru October 31, 2006, and special winter dates  
521 N. Villa Louis Rd./Prairie du Chien, WI 53821  
(608) 326-2721  
[www.wisconsinhistory.org/villalouis](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/villalouis)



**Wade House and Wesley Jung Carriage Museum**  
Thru October 15, 2006  
P.O. Box 34/Greenbush, WI 53026  
(920) 526-3271  
[www.wisconsinhistory.org/wadehouse](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/wadehouse)




**Circus World Museum**  
Open year round; hours vary  
550 Water Street/Baraboo, WI 53913-2597  
(608) 356-8341  
[www.circusworldmuseum.com](http://www.circusworldmuseum.com)

PLEASE NOTE: The schedules provided here were updated before press time but are subject to change without notice. Please call to confirm operating hours before making final plans.

# Calendar of Events

## Society Events Statewide

 For further information about special events or to confirm dates and times (recommended), call the venue (phone numbers are on page 15) or visit [www.wisconsinhistory.org](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org).

**7 November, 12:15P.M., WHS Museum—**WPR Chief Announcer Randall Davidson discusses “The Early Development of Radio at the University of Wisconsin.”

**11 November, 9:15A.M., Headquarters—**WHS Press author Richard Haney discusses his memoir “*When is Daddy Coming Home?*”; *An American Family During World War II* at the Wisconsin Council for Local History Convention.

**14 November, 7P.M., Harry Schwartz Bookstore, Bay View—**WHS Press author Larry Widen discusses his book *Silver Screens: A Pictorial History of Milwaukee’s Movie Theaters*.

**24–26 November, 6P.M.–9P.M., Old World—**Follow Ebenezer Scrooge on this unique walk-along production of Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol.” Call for tickets.

**25 November, 11A.M.–3P.M., Bookworms! Bookstore, Wautoma—**WHS Press author Jerry Apps will read and sign copies of his kid’s book *Tents, Tigers, and the Ringling Brothers*.

**1–2 December, 6–9P.M., Old World—**Peer into immigrant houses and enjoy holiday food favorites during “Winter Lamplight: A Taste of Old World Wisconsin.” The event repeats on December 8 and 9th. Reservations required.

**2–3 December, noon–4P.M., Old World—**See how Finnish immigrants got their homes and shops ready for the holiday more than a century ago at “The Spirit of Christmas Past.”

**2–3 December, 2:30P.M.–7P.M., Old World—**Ring in the holidays with a sumptuous Finnish dinner, music and entertainment. The event repeats on December 9 and 10th. Reservations required.

**2–3 December, 11A.M.–4P.M., Villa Louis—**Experience three faces of an 1890 Christmas Holiday: preparing for St. Nicholas, Christmas morning, and a New Years open house. The event repeats on December 9 and 10.

**9 December, 10A.M.–3P.M., WHS Museum—**Join Pam Sherman of K&B Innovations, home of Shrinky Dinks, to make your very own holiday ornament.

**16 December, 9A.M.–1P.M., Old World—**Enjoy breakfast with Father Christmas. Reservations required.

**31 December, 6P.M.–10P.M., WHS Museum—**Make a crazy hat, see the *Toy Stories* exhibit, and enjoy the fireworks above the Capitol at 10PM.

---

## Wisconsin Historical Museum Exhibitions

### PERMANENT

*People of the Woodlands: Wisconsin Indian Ways*, second floor, stories of native peoples living in Wisconsin through the Fur Trade; introduces the science and art of archaeology.

*On Common Ground: Two Hundred Years of Wisconsin History*, third and fourth floors, exploration of themes unique to Wisconsin history from settlement days to the present.

### TEMPORARY

*“Toy Stories”*, 17 October through 26 May 2007. This historical look at popular toys and games from the 1940s to the present includes classics plus toys with intriguing Wisconsin connections.



Star Wars figures



## COLUMNS

Published Bimonthly by  
The Wisconsin Historical Society  
Headquarters Building  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706-1482

Ellsworth H. Brown, Director

PERIODICALS CLASS