



Old Sauk Trails

November/December 2012

An Edwardian Christmas December 8 From Mansion to Movie Palace

WHEN King Edward VII assumed the English throne in January of 1901, the Edwardian Era began and the Victorian Era was officially over. While customs didn't change overnight, the Edwardian Era did usher in new attitudes during an era of great opulence, invention and change in Britain and America. Christmas during the Edwardian Era was an exuberant time with many changes that we still embrace today. While the Christmas tree was well accepted by the 20th century it became widespread during the Edwardian Era. Electric Christmas lights also began to be used, and new toys came on the scene, including the teddy bear, Lincoln logs, the erector set, tiddlywinks, tinker toys, Crayola crayons, Lionel trains and tin wind-up toys. Other cultural additions from the era include Peter Pan which first debuted in 1904 in London, and O'Henry's "The Gift of the Magi," first published in 1909.

The spirit and exuberance of an Edwardian Christmas will come to life on Saturday, December 8 from 12-7 p.m. at two Baraboo locations from the Edwardian Era, the Van Orden Mansion and the Al. Ringling Theatre. At the Van Orden Mansion, twelve fresh Christmas trees will be displayed in various rooms, each tree decorated by area designers, businesses and volunteers with "a few of my favorite things." From "raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens" to "silver white winters that melt into spring," each tree will display some element from the beloved song. Dave SaLoutos will once again create an entire Christmas room – this year showcasing Christmas in the 1960s and 1970s. The dining room in the mansion will also be filled with holiday goodies surrounding a gingerbread mansion. Live Christmas music by area musicians throughout the day will enhance the feeling of Christmas past. An exhibit of Edwardian Era toys and

Christmas cards will be on display to bring back the feeling of the era. Outside at the mansion, horse and carriage "jingle bell" rides will be offered from 1-4 p.m.

Down the street at the Al. Ringling Theatre the Christmas spirit will also be in full bloom. Over 25 Christmas trees will be on display throughout the theater and Santa Claus will be on hand for photos from 12-2 p.m. Christmas music will fill the theater including Christmas favorites on the mighty Barton organ. A Christmas Movie Trivia Contest will bring back Christmas memories and provide a chance to win fabulous prizes. Popcorn and other holiday treats will be available and Al. Ringling himself will also be on hand to extend holiday greetings at his theatre.

Tickets for adults are only \$5 for either location and a combo ticket for both the mansion and the theater is \$8. Children under 12 are admitted free and members of both organizations receive a discounted admission. Tickets will be available at the door at the Van Orden Mansion at 531 Fourth Avenue or at the Al. Ringling Theatre at 136 Fourth Avenue in Baraboo. We hope you will experience the grandeur of Christmas past at the mansion and the movie palace at An Edwardian Christmas. For more information contact the museum at 608-356-1001 or check out our website at www.saukcountyhistory.org



(608) 356-1001



Annual Banquet Commemorates Hospital

OVER 200 people attended the Annual SCHS Banquet and Business Meeting that was on Friday, November 2 at the Baraboo Elks' Club/ Al. Ringling Mansion in Baraboo. The event was held in conjunction with St. Clare Hospital to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the opening of St. Mary's Ringling Hospital and the start of modern health care in Sauk County. The event began with tours of the Al. Ringling Mansion during the afternoon along with recording sessions for anyone who wanted to share any oral history of the hospital that served the community from 1922 to 1963. A delicious meal was catered by Gefferts Catering of Reedsburg and served with help from staff from the Kalahari Resort in Lake Delton. A short annual business meeting was held for the society during which Paul Wolter, Ann Wolter, Natalie Bussan and Dave Saloutos were all re-elected to the Board of Directors. Dignitaries from St. Clare Hospital and SSM Health Care of St. Louis spoke of the opening of the hospital and its effects that can be felt to the present day. Society President, Paul Wolter, gave the keynote address entitled "A Lasting Legacy, An Enduring Gift" focusing on Della Ringling and the gift of her home for use as a hospital. The roles of Father O'Reilly, the Sisters of St. Mary and the Baraboo community in getting the hospital established were also recounted. The Society would like to thank St. Clare Hospital and staff for their support of the event and for making it a remarkable and memorable evening.

Della Ringling and her brother-in-law Al. Ringling were portrayed at the Al. Ringling Mansion by Kathy Huebing and Bryant Hazard

Sauk County Historical Society Receives Vintage Auto

THROUGH the generosity of the late Gordon Cafilisch Jr. the Sauk County Historical Society recently received a gift of his 1903 Michigan automobile. In a recent ceremony, his wife, Janice, son Gordon III, and daughter Jodie Ramsey presented the Society with the fully restored auto in his memory.

With serial number 52, the auto was originally purchased by Henry Roick, operator of the Baraboo Feed Mill. It was one of the first automobiles in Sauk County.

The 1903 Michigan sported a 3.5 horsepower, one cylinder air-cooled engine, and was chain driven. It was steered by a tiller—a long handled lever—and had two forward speeds, but no reverse. Since it weighs about 475 pounds, the driver needed only to exit the vehicle, lift the front end and turn it around.

In the early 20th century, there were numerous manufacturers of autos who attempted to meet the need of an ever-expanding mobile society. The Michigan sold for \$450 (\$12,000 today). The average yearly income in 1903 was \$702, so it was not a form of transportation for the average man. That need would be fulfilled several years later by Henry Ford.

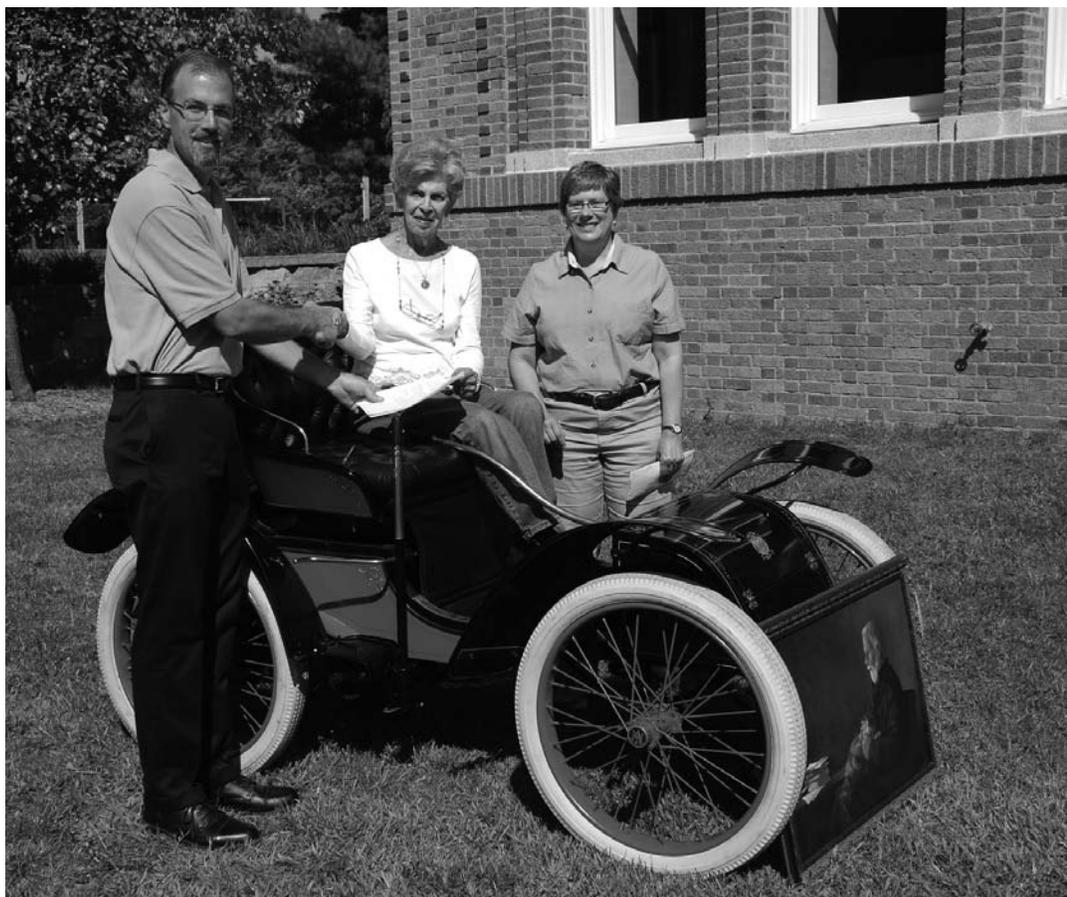
The auto had been sitting abandoned and in poor condition in a barn, when Roick sold his house to Lawrence Herfort in about 1932. Gordon Cafilisch purchased the vehicle at auction in 1987 from the Herfort estate and it was sent to California where its

restoration was completed 5 years later.

Since then, the engine has been further restored by Jerome Thiessen, and it did run several years ago. He noted that the auto could run for 15 miles without a problem. After 4 miles, the driver had to go around in back and oil the cylinder. These early autos were quite temperamental, and were usually only run in daylight.

Paul Wolter, Historical Society President who accepted the car, noted that, “It’s just great that this car is staying in Baraboo where it was originally used.” It is believed that this auto is one of only three Michigans left in existence.

Janice Cafilisch noted that the presentation was an emotional experience for her and her family. “Gordon always insisted that the only appropriate place for the car was right here in Baraboo, where it’s always been,” Cafilisch noted.



This 1903 Michigan automobile was recently donated to the Sauk County Historical Society, by Janice Cafilisch, center. Society President, Paul Wolter on left, and Society Curator, Rebecca DuBey, on right, accept the gift.

Sauk County, Above and Beyond.

WHEN Charles Lindbergh took off for Paris in 1927 to attempt a solo trans-Atlantic crossing by airplane, twenty-three year old George Schlieckau remarked, "If Lindy makes it, I'm buying a plane." Lindy did make it and Schlieckau bought a plane. Schlieckau, a rural Loganville farmer, owned the first airplane in Sauk County and was an accomplished aviator for over 70 years.

The 2013 theme at the Sauk County Historical Society will be "Sauk County, Above and Beyond" and programming throughout the year will take a look at Sauk County's rich aviation history. A history which includes people like Cecil Hess, a Reedsburg stunt flyer, who bought his first plane in 1928, and thrilled spectators with his daredevil exploits in the air. His plane was named Miss Fortune, because of all the accidents he had. "I cracked up at different times, never had anything but a bloody nose,"

he said. "One time I was barnstorming a church picnic at Bear Valley. I did a power dive and it shook the gas line loose from the carburetor. I had to make a forced landing. The plane turned over on its back and I got just a scratch."

Other stories will be explored, such as that of Baraboo native, Garvin Kowalke, who piloted a B29, named the City of Baraboo, during WWII, and flew in over Hiroshima after the atomic bomb exploded, to sample the air for radiation.

And there is also Josh Sanford, of Reedsburg, who was the only Native American to fly as a pilot and flight commander with the famous Flying Tigers of WWII. The theme will also focus on topics related to looking down at Sauk County through aerial views, maps and bird's eye drawings. Watch your newsletter for upcoming stories and event details.



Cecil Hess stands beside "Miss Fortune".

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Join the SCHS Collections Management Team!

BECCA Dubey, the Curator of the SCHS museum, would like to invite you to help work directly, or indirectly, with our artifact collection. If you like to write descriptions, photograph, sew, or have a steady hand and would like to apply ID numbers, we could use your help cataloging museum artifacts. Or, if you prefer assembling and moving metal shelving, moving boxes, and helping our move to the History Center, we could also use your help! Over the next year we would like to build a strong Collections Management Team of volunteers to help manage the many dozens of donations that are received each month. We have many cataloging projects that will improve our ability to make our objects accessible to visitors.

Also, the Society will be applying for a grant from the Institute of Museum Library Services for processing, re-housing and digitizing the Al. Ringling Theatre papers. If you are interested in helping to prepare grant applications, Board Member Ann Wolter is looking for volunteers who have strong skills in writing narrative, preparing budgets or coordinating partners to come together to design a quality grant proposal. If you would like to help in any of these roles, please contact Linda or Becca at the museum at 608-356-1001 or at history@saukcountyhistory.org. No experience is necessary and hours can be flexible.

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President's Report

By Paul Wolter

CHRISTMAS came early this year at the Sauk County Historical Society. While the Society receives many wonderful and fascinating things throughout the year, a very special donation was made in September by Jan Cafilisch and her two children, Jody Cafilisch Ramsey and Gordon Cafilisch Jr. The gift was a restored 1903 Michigan automobile given in memory of Gordon Cafilisch, Jan's husband. This rare automobile is a real treasure of Sauk County history as it literally was one of the first automobiles purchased in the county. Now almost 110 years later it is still here as a reminder of a period of rapid change in the transportation industry. The Michigan will be a cornerstone of the display space on the ground floor of the history center after that space is renovated. I would like to thank the Cafilisch family for their generous donation and for honoring Gordon's wish that the Michigan remain in Sauk County.

And speaking of Christmas... I have a confession to make. For the past 12 years we've been calling our Christmas festivities at the Van Orden Mansion, a Victorian Christmas. Well, this wasn't actually historically correct, since the mansion was built in 1903 after the Victorian period ended. This period was actually the Edwardian Era named for King Edward VII of England. The name is less well known but has gained more recognition due to TV shows such as Downton Abbey. It was an era of great change and opulence but also an era bookended by World War I. This year we will be renaming our Christmas festivities to more accurately describe the time period of the Van Orden Mansion. We will also be partnering with the Al. Ringling Theatre Friends to promote An Edwardian Christmas – from Mansion to Movie Palace. Members, guests and the public are invited to experience the magic of Christmas past at both locations on Saturday, December 8th from 12-7 p.m. Live music, dozens of Christmas trees, holiday goodies and old fashioned "jingle bell" rides are just some of the elements of this event that will be sure to bring holiday cheer to the whole family. I hope you will join in at both locations and help celebrate Christmas during the Edwardian Era!



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Year End Giving

As the year 2012 comes to a close in just a few short weeks, please consider giving a year-end gift to the Sauk County Historical Society. While our fiscal year ends on August 31, donations are welcomed year-round and can be designated for special projects like the History Center renovations, maintenance of the Van Orden mansion or given towards general operations. Without the generous support of our members the SCHS would not be able to fulfill its mission to collect, preserve and share Sauk County history. The Society is supported by general memberships, bequests, donations, memorials and even gifts of stock.

Old Sauk Trails • November/December 2012

The Sauk County Historical Society publishes *Old Sauk Trails* six times each year.

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Recent Acquisitions Received by SCHS

- Janice Cafilisch: 1903 Michigan automobile, fully restored
- Pearl Douglas Estate Trust: double bed with headboard and footboard, desk, bookcase, dresser with mirror, hall stand with mirror, 2 chairs, settee with pull-out bed, Pembroke table with 5 leaves, 2 tables, phonograph, washstand, games and toys, picture frame, stool
- Iowa County Historical Society: land grant signed by Millard Fillmore, 1850
- David Burmester: Pharmacy Rural Permit, Bermester Grocery, Photograph of farmhouse and barn
- Betty Thomas: tile from the Al Ringling bathroom
- Mike and Karen French: portraits of Jacob Van Orden c. 1890, Mr. and Mrs. Van Orden c. 1856 and of Mrs. French as a young woman, silver butter cooler and service monogrammed "VO"
- Edria Hallbach, The National Farm Journal magazine, 1932
- Tom and Evelyn Weier, dog tag, Baraboo, 1898
- Nick Kelly, 9 panel display of political events between 2011 and 2012, Baraboo and Sauk County
- Christina Hammer, script of the play "The Golden Violin," by Marcus Bach, 1924 who was quite famous as a Religious scholar and playwright
- April Wilson, Baraboo High School yearbook from 1899 which includes a photograph of Lucas Schyler Van Orden
- Pawlish family, slides of North Freedom, Westfield Methodist Church and family
- Steve Jopp, large photograph of a farm including the farm house
- Arleen Hambach, diaries, letters, and postcards, a narrative and vital papers written by her mother between 1938 and 1950 of her life in Baraboo while working for the WPA

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History Center donations since our last newsletter

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Total contributions since the last newsletter:
\$12,650.00

Sauk County Historical Society Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 2012 Financial Report

Income		Events	4,034
Investments	9,445	Office	5,513
Events	6,565	Postage, Printing	1,838
Donations	7,650	Exhibit, Archival	97
Grants	1,931	Newsletter	5,766
Government	15,250	Museum	8,740
Memberships	21,200	Insurance	4,990
Businesses	1,061	Other	1,010
Merchandise	2,723	Total Expenses:	63,505
Newsletter	2,113	Net Income:	4,433
Total Income:	67,938		
		Balance Sheet	
Expenses		Checking	14,129
Wages	29,883	Investments	373,887
Dues & Fees	234	Total Assets	388,016
Professional Fees	1,400		

November/December 2012

The Sauk County Historical Society

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Bednarek, Michael – Wautoma
Bingler, Susan – Jeffersonton, VA
Boxhorn, Dorothy – Mukwonago
Burton, Michelle – Beloit
Dallmann, Virginia – North Freedom
Dewall, Janet – Appleton
Dewall, Patrick – Appleton
Donohue, Cheryl Zimmerman –
Janesville
Dwars, Vera – Baraboo
Guenther, Carolyn Waffle –
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Kaul, Joan – Baraboo
Kimpfbeck, Kenlyn – Wisconsin Dells
Knutson, Joyce – Rock Springs
Kriegl, Sylvia M – Baraboo
Maniaci, Patricia – Madison
Meyer, Marlene Kindschi –
Prairie du Sac
Miller, Phyllis – Reedsburg
Nimmow, Barb – Baraboo
Nurre, Rob – Baraboo
O'Neil, John – Prairie du Sac
Oppliger, Kay Davis – Oshtemo, MI
Orlowski, Mary – Lake Delton
Prosser, Kay – Baraboo

Roberts, William – Lake Delton
Scoles, Vera – Baraboo
Setwyn, Eugene – Reedsburg
Stubblefield, Elaine – Reedsburg
Twigg, Deb – Waverly, NY
Zimmerman, Karen – Baraboo

FAMILY

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Davis, James & Marsha – Reedsburg
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Harrison, Richard & Monica –
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Hilmer, Ben & Joan – Roscoe, IL
Kindschi, Jerry & Alice –
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Long, Bernard & Diana – Waunakee
Lumsden, Bill & Joy – Baraboo
Meyer, John & Sue – Oshkosh
Peterson, Waldo & Ann – Madison
Quale, Glenn & Marilyn – Baraboo
Robkin, Gene & Rochelle – Baraboo
Schmid, Allan & Nancy – Baraboo
Schroder, Don & Nancy –
Rhineland

Steinhorst, Harland & Pat –
Citrus Springs, FL
Stephen, Ron & Lyn – Poynette
Stoikes, Carl & Rita – Prairie du Sac
Sturgis, Peter & June – Baraboo
Teelin, Tim & Amy – Baraboo
Topham, Brett & Susan – Baraboo
Young, John A & Tonia – Baraboo

FRIEND

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