

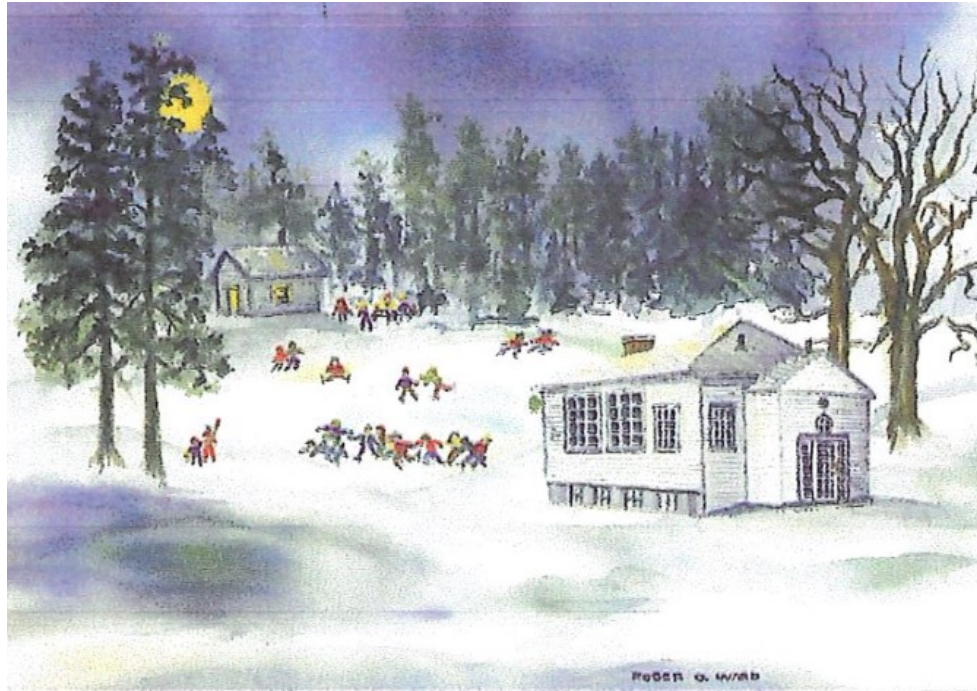


MANITOWISH WATERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March 2020

Bygone Winter Activities

*Remember back to those bygone days of the past and how simple fun could be?
Snow skiing, ice fishing and ice skating, to name a few. Venture back with us!*



This was painted by Roger A. Ward, Sr. after he visualized the skating rink as it was described in Ruth Gardner's book, **Lunch at Boney's Mound**. Roger's family bought Harry's Supermarket on US-51, the present-day home of Hogan's General Store.

Swooshing in MW!

By Jody Miller

Winter activities from my childhood in Manitowish Waters were varied and didn't involve motors. The Lake Lenore Ski Hill was created in the 1950's by the Ilg family at the corner of Highways 51 and W. Amenities included a rope tow and a small warming house. No fees were charged, but mothers contributed hot chocolate, cookies and doughnuts, while fathers volunteered to keep the tow running and help monitor the skiers. Ski equipment was basic: leather shoe boots, wooden skis with bear-trap bindings, and wood and leather ski poles.

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The Joy of Ice Skating

By Ruth Gardner

In the winter, our baseball field was turned into a field of slick ice by the gentlemen of the Manitowish Waters Fire Department, a task that was preformed by our parents before we had a fire department. Students studying the three R's waited anxiously for the recess bell to ring. A mad dash to the cloak room to put on our winter coats, hats and mittens, and then out the door to head for the warming shed to put on our skates. Just joyfully skating or a fast game of Pom Pom Pullaway or Crack the Whip, we relished our time on the ice.

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Inside: Photos from the January Jeopardy!

A Word From Our President



Jim Bokern

2020 looks to be another exciting year for the Manitowish Waters Historical Society. We are expanding our events and projects to further preserve and share our community's history. The MWHS is an affiliated member of the Wisconsin Historical Society and enjoys the support of

a large network of historical societies. Additionally, the MWHS has 501(c)(3) status from the IRS and offers members and supporters the same benefits as other nonprofit groups.

In collaboration with North Lakeland Discovery Center, the MWHS continues to offer a series of pontoon tours, trips and events. The popularity of these tours has led our two organizations to fund raise for a newer and slightly larger pontoon boat to allow more folks access to the great histories and natural resources throughout our area.

The MWHS is also going to continue a recognition program of Manitowish Waters' historians. For many decades, several Manitowish Waters' residents have chronicled our history and have made enormous contributions, preserving critical resources and stories. We now celebrate these historians by formally recognizing their contributions and legacy annually as "**Leaders of Historic Preservation.**" This event and a presentation on the history of the Statehouse Youth Conservation Corp camp will take place at the North Lakeland Discovery Center on May 18th.

Over the past year, the MWHS has employed two

people on a part-time basis to archive our documents, using PastPerfect archival software. PastPerfect has an online component that allows community members easy access to historic resources, and can be linked to our webpage. Importantly, as a result of our newly employed digital archiving approach, the rate of archiving and document preservation has grown exponentially. The effort of the MWHS to create a digital archive of a 130+-year backlog of community documents is among our highest priorities and will be a long-term challenge.

We are also continuing the tradition of gathering important historic information from our long-time residents, and we have sponsored historic gatherings with select Manitowish Waters' residents. These events focus on capturing oral histories from community members to further preserve our heritage.

Community outreach activities have become an exciting tradition for the MWHS. Collaborating with the Chamber of Commerce, the MWHS continues the "**Historic Mysteries of Manitowish Waters**" series, using the popular **Chamber After 5** venue on September 16th at Ye Olde Shillelagh. This year, the presentation will review Stone, Fawn, Dog, Dead Pike and Circle Lily lakes and mysteries. Our **MWHS Fun Night** used a team Jeopardy format to allow up to eight people to answer Manitowish Waters' history questions. Attendees had a great time, and our Fun Night will become an annual tradition. Many more presentations will be conducted at the Koller Library as well.

Please go to <https://www.mwhistory.org/events/> to discover times and dates for our special events. We look forward to seeing you in 2020!



MWHS Board Expanded!

Board of Directors

We are pleased to have **Nancy LaPorte** and **Judi Schmidt-Arnold** join the Board!

Jim Bokern President - jimkb@aol.com

John Hanson Vice President

Nancy LaPorte Secretary

Barbara Bartling Treasurer

Ruth Gardner Board Member

Janelle Kohl Board Member

John McFarland Board Member

JoAnn Miller Board Member

Judi Schmidt-Arnold Board Member

Swooshing in MW!

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It's where most children in town learned to ski, and weekends were not complete without at least one day spent flying down the hill and then trying to stay upright while being pulled uphill by the noisy tow. Sometimes metal flying saucers and wooden toboggans were included in the mix, which made for some harrowing near collisions!

Ice fishing was another family sport, and as children, we thought it great fun to be driven onto a frozen lake, scoop ice out of the holes, watch for a red flag, yell "tip up" and run like crazy to pull up a fish. The wooden ice shacks were often quite cozy with wood stoves to keep warm. Having a bonfire on the ice to roast hot dogs and marshmallows was not unusual and especially welcome when the fish weren't biting!



The Joy of Ice Skating

Continued from page 1

"Skating party tonight!" rang out on the weekends, and whole families would turn up at the little schoolhouse. Someone would flip the switch on the floodlight, and one of us would grab an ice scoop, set at the perfect angle, and zoom across the ice removing any fallen snow. Someone would build a fire in the little pot-belly stove inside the warming shed. People appeared with large brown paper bags filled with buttery popcorn, and atop the stove sat huge kettles of hot cocoa. Skating is thirsty business, though...at the corner of the school building, there was a pipe that when turned on sent out the coldest, iciest water you ever tasted!

My first pair of skates had double runners on them. My parents carefully pushed me along the side of the rink until I could maneuver on my own. After many falls, I finally graduated to single-bladed figure skates. I was now a grown-up and could whirl around the ice with the big kids!



Other Activities from Days Gone By

By Ruth Gardner

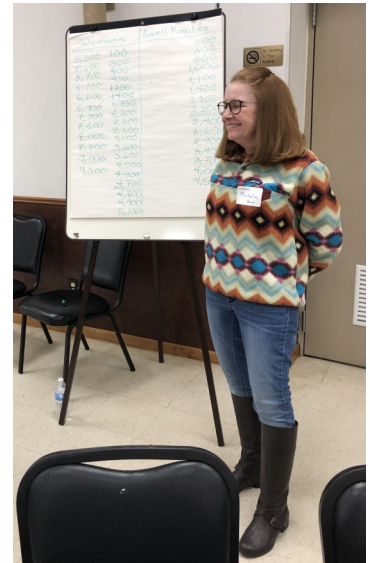
Cake walks, dances, strawberry socials and come-as-you-are parties. School events brought out the whole town, even if you didn't have children in school. Christmas pageants, pancake suppers, smelt fries. These were the social events of our little town. At one point, our PTA was told by the state that we had too much money in our account and that it must be spent!

Jeopardy!

And Fun Was Had By All

We held our second Fun Night and Jeopardy game at the MW Community Center on Tuesday, January 28th. If you couldn't make it and want to play our home version, you can click here: <https://www.mwhistory.org/about-us/jeopardy/>.

And, here's a hint...future Jeopardy games will use some of the same MW historical information as our first two games. But don't think of it as studying. Think of it as FUN!



New Research!

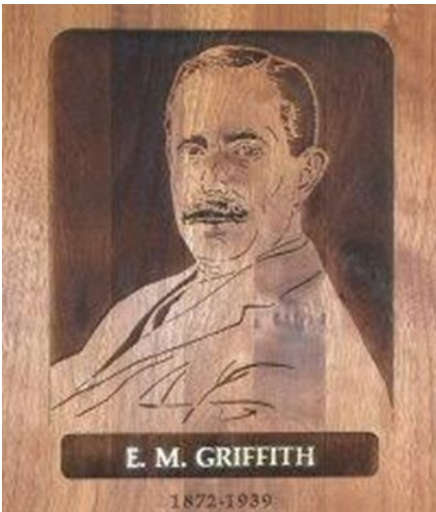
Forest Rangers and the Northwoods

Most everyone knows about the infamous fire tower at the site of what is now The Anglers. But, what about the history of those that manned the Tower? Our Jim Bokern recently completed a very insightful look into Wisconsin's first Forest Rangers. Here's a brief excerpt:

In 1911, (E.M.) Griffith understood that a new corps of Wisconsin forest rangers was pivotal to the success of Wisconsin's fledgling forest reserves.

"It is the intention to appoint forest rangers who will live in the reserves, act as fire patrols to prevent the setting or spread of forest fires, build fire lines, roads' and trails, plant areas that have been denuded, and scale the mature timber that is cut from reserve lands by the purchasers."

i. Report of the State Forester of Wisconsin. For 1909 to 1910. Madison Wisconsin: Democratic Printing Company, State Printer, 1910. p. 27.



You can read the complete story on our website:

<https://www.mwhistory.org/2016/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Wisconsin-First-Rangers.docx.pdf>

MWHS, NLDC Hike Featured on Channel 12

A return trip to Toy Lake for a snowshoe hike caught the attention of Channel 12. If you missed it, check it out:

https://www.wjfw.com/storydetails/20200125231955/northwoods_history_revealed_through_nature_hike



Make Your Treasures Our Treasures



**Do you have a picture of Joe the
Myna Bird
at Rudy's Rest Haven?**

Do you have a family scrapbook or photo album? If you do, please contact us so that we can scan and archive your treasures.

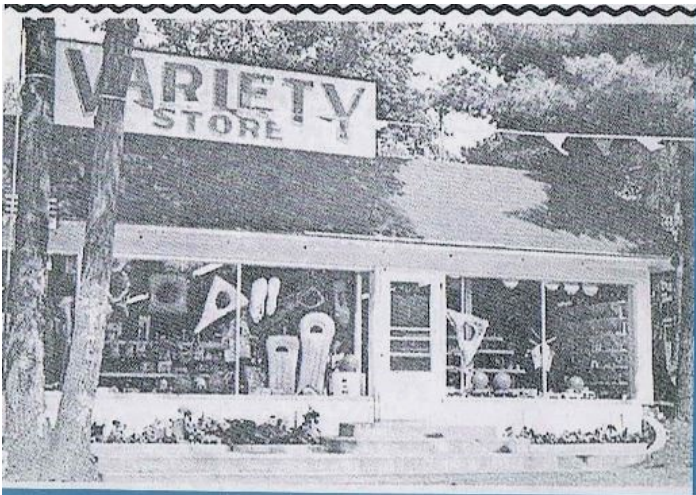
Then and Now



The Oasis Cottage, Tavern and Store



Smokey's Fine Dining Restaurant



The Variety Store



Coldwell Banker



Art Elz's Standard Station



Dietz's Service Station

MWHS 2020 Calendar

MAY

Leaders of Historic Preservation and History of the YCC

May 18th 5:00 to 7:00 pm
Discovery Center
Drinks and Appetizers

JUNE

Railroads and Early Commerce

June 13th 9:30 to 11:00 am
Koller Library

Dillinger Pontoon Tour

June 19th 9:30 am to 12:00 pm
or 1:15 to 3:45 pm
Little Bohemia
Lunch Included

Jeopardy Fun Night

June 25th 5:00 to 7:30 pm
White Oak of Chippewa Retreat
Drinks and Appetizers

Histories of Spider and Island Lakes by Pontoon

June 30th 9:00 to 11:00 am
or 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
or 2:00 to 4:00 pm
Discovery Center

JULY

Fourth of July Parade Float

Parade 1:00 to 3:00 pm
Downtown MW

Cemetery Walk

July 5th 5:00 to 7:00 pm
Pine Lawn Cemetery

Rest Lake's Amazing History by Pontoon

July 10th 9:00 to 11:00 am
or 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
or 2:00 to 4:00 pm
Rest Lake Park

Dillinger Pontoon Tour

July 11th 9:30 am to 12:00 pm
or 1:15 to 3:45 pm
Little Bohemia
Lunch Included

Earliest Pioneers

July 11th 9:30 to 11:00 am
Koller Library

Turtle Flambeau Flowage Pontoon Tour

July 18th 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Springstead Landing

JULY

Mysteries of Alder and Wild Rice by Water

July 24th 9:00 to 11:00 am
or 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
or 2:00 to 4:00 pm
Discovery Center

AUGUST

Northwoods Canals Between MW and Lac Du Flambeau

August 1st 9:30 to 11:00 am
Koller Library

Early Forest Rangers

August 8 9:30 to 11:30 am
Koller Library

Dillinger Pontoon Tour

August 22nd 9:30 am to 12:00 pm
or 1:15 to 3:45 pm
Little Bohemia
Lunch Included

Big Lake by Canoe

August 29th 9:00 am to 1:30 pm
Discovery Center

SEPTEMBER

MW Mysteries Chamber After 5

September 16th 5:00 to 7:00 pm
Ye Olde Shillelagh

YCC Driving Tour

September 19th 1:00 to 4:30 pm
Discovery Center

OCTOBER

Plum Lake

October 3rd 10:30 am to 5:00 pm
Discovery Center

Nibbles 'n Knowledge

October 8th 5:00 to 7:00 pm
Discovery Center

Forest Legacy:

October 24th 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Discovery Center

NOVEMBER

Van Tour and Hikes of Logging Camps and local CCC Camp

November 7th 12:30 to 4:30 pm
Discovery Center

Who, What, Where and When?

Do any of these people look familiar?



Did you know that this was Bob Loveless at his store on old Highway 10 (Twin Pine Road today)? With Bob are his daughters, Dolly Loveless Tirpe (left) and Ella Loveless Kassien. The building was later relocated on Highway 51 to the area around The Howling Dog Saloon.



Who can determine the location of this famous site in our community? What do you think they were doing and when?

Please submit your thoughts to: jmcbett@gmail.com. We will follow up in our next newsletter with feedback from MWHS newsletter readers.

Membership & Donations



Painting by Molly Davis

Those interested in joining the MWHS should complete the form below and send in your form with \$20 to:

Manitowish Waters Historical Society
P.O. Box 100
Manitowish Waters WI 54545

*Those considering joining the Manitowish Waters Historical Society are encouraged to explore our web page, attend MWHS events and reach out to board members. **Student Memberships are available for \$2.00, renewing each May.***

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Thank you for supporting the Manitowish Waters Historical Society.

Donations

Donations can be sent to:

Manitowish Waters Historical Society
P.O. Box 100
Manitowish Waters WI 54545

MW Historical Society is an approved 501c3 charitable organization, and contributions may be tax deductible. Please contact us for additional information.



MANITOWISH WATERS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 100

Manitowish Waters WI 54545

Email: mwhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Website: mwhistory.org