

Newsletter of the Black Earth Historical Society

# THE DEPOT DISPATCH

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## 2014 Calendar of Events

May 16&17: Garage Sale at the Depot (Saturday & Sunday)

May 25: Sunday Depot opens 1-4 Through September 28

July 5 & August 30: Brat Fries at the Shoe Box Call 767-2281 to Help!

December Planned: 7<sup>th</sup> Open House & 9<sup>th</sup> Holiday Home Tour 6-8pm

THANK YOU!

To John Bird for donating printers and supplies—much appreciated.

## Presidents Message

Greetings members and supporters of the Black Earth Historical Society. The annual meeting was held on a very cold January 8, 2014 evening. The evening began with a warming chili supper and continued to the business of reelecting directors, Harold Miller, Lavonne Clason, Steve Webber and Jan Cowan to new three-year terms.

The Program continued with a DVD of a presentation on the construction of the Prairie du Sac Dam by Denman Kramer. Mr. Kramer started working at the dam in 1940 and was superintendent of the dam from 1962 to 1982. The DVD was an excellent, detailed pictorial of construction of the dam from 1911 to completion in 1914. Due to the extremely cold evening the attendance was very low. We plan to have another presentation for the public later this year.

The Black Earth Village wide garage sale will be held in May. As in the past the Society will be selling donated items at the

depot as a fundraiser. We are accepting donation of items. You may call David Cooper at 767-2281 for a time to drop off items. Please do not donate clothing, large appliances or electronics.

We also want to thank everyone who generously supports the work we do to collect, preserve and share our Black Earth area history for generations to come. As always, we need people to help the Society with events and to set up displays. If you are interested in helping in any capacity, please contact us.

Anyone interested in contributing an article of local interest to our newsletter please contact Ruth Haglund at 608-437-3083 or [rdhaglund@hotmail.com](mailto:rdhaglund@hotmail.com).

Many Thanks for your past support and remember to pay your dues!

Paul Skalet, President



## **BITS & PIECES**

Remember going to Grandma's house and always finding homemade cookies (oatmeal, chocolate chip, sugar, or ginger snaps) in a canister or cookie jar. I also remember Grandma making lefse on the wood stove in her garage.

Remember when white and chocolate milk came in glass bottles at school. They were kept in a cooler in the hall and we took turns getting the correct number for our class; iodine pills, paste in gallon jars and wet mittens, scarves, hats and snow pants drying on the radiators in the classroom and the aroma of wet wool.

Remember the door-to-door salesmen selling Watkins, McNess, or Raleigh products which included food items, drink mixes, pudding mixes, liniment, salve, vanilla, spices, cleaning supplies, brushes, brooms, and the list goes on.

Remember the Fuller Brush, Stanley Products, and Tupperware, (just to name a few) were companies that sold their wares at home parties.

Remember if you were lucky enough to go to a movie occasionally, you might see Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Ma & Pa Kettle, Abbott & Costello or Laurel & Hardy. The radio shows (usually lots of static) included Red Skelton, Jack Benny, Edgar Bergen & Charlie McCarthy, Stella Dallas, etc.

Remember when the laundry was always hung outside to dry,

even in the wintertime and the stiff board-like items were brought into the house and just sort of slowly "melted" over the clothes rack or furniture.

I know you have other memories to share. Send us a short story to print in the next newsletter. Thank you! Ruth Haglund



*2013 Open House Wagon Rides*

## **HOLIDAY HOME TOUR**

Sign up now to include your home on the 2014 Holiday Home Tour. The tour is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. You do not need to provide snacks, cookies or beverages. You determine how much of your home you wish to open up to guests—one room or several. It is such a fun way to share your holiday decorations, collections and customs with the community. We usually have between 50 and 70 people visiting the homes. We would like to have four homes on the tour. Please call Jan Cowan at 767-4616 to arrange to be a part of the 2014 Holiday Home Tour!!! Thank you.



*Girl Scouts singing Christmas Songs 2013*



*2013 A visit from Santa*

### EVENTS

May 25 – (Sunday) Depot Museum opens (each Sunday through September from 1:00 to 4:00 pm

May 26 – Memorial Day – visit the new memorial walls at the Veterans' Park on Mills Street

July 5 – (Saturday) Brat Fry at Shoe Box (Call Dave Cooper if you can help for a couple of hours, 767-2281)

August 30 – (Saturday) Brat Fry at Shoe Box (Call Dave Cooper if you can help -767-2281)

September 28 - (Sunday)- Last open day for Museum

December 7 (Sunday) – Open House with Visit from Santa at Blue Mound Street facility

December 9, (Tuesday) Holiday Home Tour, 6-8pm

### **GARAGE SALE AT DEPOT MUSEUM**

Friday May 16 & Saturday  
May 17, 2014

The Black Earth Historical Society will hold its annual garage sale at the Depot Museum. The village wide sale has been changed to May 16 and 17 this year. This is a fundraiser for the society so keep us in mind when doing your spring cleaning, sorting through the kids toys, basement or garage, sports equipment or if you are downsizing or disposing of household items from a family member's home or estate.

If you have household goods, glassware, pottery, ceramics, books, puzzles, games (complete), lamps, decorative and/or holiday items, small furniture, antiques, sports items and collectibles in good condition that you wish to donate to this worthy cause, please contact David Cooper at 767-2281 to arrange for a drop-off time or if you need items picked up.

The sale organizers ask that you **do not** donate computers, printers, electronics or clothing.

This is a wonderful way to feel good about donating to an organization that will give back to the community through the preservation and sharing of our local history. The money made through this sale is used to help pay the utility bills and other necessary expenses of the society. Donations are tax deductible. Watch the News Sickle for further details. Thank you for your continued support.

## **DAYS GONE BY: 1924**

(90 years ago)

Arthur and Alice Pickering published the Dane County News, weekly in Black Earth. The paper included local news/personal activities, etc. from Mt. Horeb, Marxville, Vermont, Mazo, Blue Mounds, Cross Plains, Pleasant Valley, and Fairview. Also included items regarding different community organizations, i.e., Royal Neighbors, Modern Woodmen, Eastern Star, Masonic Lodge, card clubs, legal notices, movie schedules for Mazo; church activities, serial stories, Sunday School lessons, sewing circles, national and international news items, the latest fashions, ads for the latest in "miracle" drugs, school notes, births, weddings, obituaries, sports results, "A Page for the Farmer" (includes farm markets, new implements and products for farmers), concerts, community dances at New Valley Hall, election results, as well as automobile ads. Also some Madison clothing stores advertised in local paper.

### **Local Businesses advertising 1924:**

G.H. Freeman Grocery, Peterson's Garage (selling Jewett automobile -(\$1065-\$1695), O. A. Meister, Buick dealer; Schanel & Son, Furniture Store and Undertaking business; Dr. M. J. Treichler, physician and surgeon; Dr. A. D. Shields, dentist; The Black Earth Telephone Co.; D.W. Heiney Meat Market; Gillette and Olson, Tonsorial Parlors; Black Earth Service Station (Red Crown Gasoline); George Cox, jeweler and optometrist; A. Rafel, Optometrist, Milwaukee, made regular visits to Black Earth; Dr. R. A. Ogilvie, Experienced Veterinarian; Patron's Mercantile; B. M. Zibolsky, D.C., Ph.C.; Otto Kerl, honey for sale; A. A. Mickelson & Son, Lumber, Building Material, Coal, Grain Feed; Drake's Pharmacy; R. L. Maltba & O.A. Meister, radios; Fesenfeld & Barber, hardware.

**January 1924** – Black Earth State Bank advertisement: "Put your Profits in a C-D"

**Jan. 11, 1924** – We had several days of zero weather the past week with each day getting colder until 30 below was reached, then the temperature gradually rose bringing a thaw and damp disagreeable weather and plenty of snow.

Sat. morning about nine o'clock fire was discovered on the roof of the depot but with prompt action on the part of the few men around there it was put out before much damage had been done. It is thought that a hot cinder from the engine of the morning passenger fanned by the strong northwest wind ignited the dry shingles.

Fresh vegetables arrived today at the City Restaurant.

**Oil Can 54 years old:** The Masonic Lodge probably owns the oldest oil can in this part of the state, a one gallon can which is in use every day and still does not leak. It was made by James Barber, a brother of D.A. Barber, before he left Black Earth in 1870, making it at least 54 years old. In that time if filled once a week, which is not unusual, it has been filled nearly 3000 times at the present market price the oil it has held would be worth about \$450.

**Ad: For Sale:** Two good cows, coming fresh soon. Also a two seated surrey, good as new. Burdette Heydon

### **March 7, 1924 - Helland School Notes:**

The following have been neither absent or tardy during the sixth month of school ending March 14: Winnefred Venden, Adeline Finke, Jorgen Skalet, Arthur Sale, Arnold Norslein, Stephen Skalet, Gilbert Skalet, Ewald Lorenz, Merrill Mickelson, Olaf Venden, Mertin Dauck, Wilbur Lorenz, Harold Bakken.

**April 1924** - Auction – Horse Sale, New Valley Barn, Black Earth, Wis. Saturday, April 5 at one o'clock PM. A carload of Heavy Draft Horses. A few matched Teams. Jim Trainer Proprietor.

**April 18, 1924** - The nine year old son of August Liebetrau (Reuben) was killed this morning (Friday) when his father, August, ran his car thru the garage wall and dropped nine feet. August Liebetrau is very badly cut and bruised.

Meister, Hacker and Gruber are proprietors of New Valley Hall, Black Earth

The Lakeside Mfg. Co. took on two extra men, Homer Elder and Wm. Meister, this week. This company has been very busy all winter getting out an attractive dishwasher to fill many orders.

**May 1, 1924** – August Liebetrau passed away from injuries received when his car went thru the garage wall on April 18, 1924. His son Reuben died in the accident.

**May 1924:** An aeroplane landed in Fred Bennett's field Monday noon and was busy taking up passengers all afternoon. A charge of \$2.50 for adults. Two passengers taken at a time for a ten minute ride. Twenty or more, including children enjoyed a ride.

**August 15, 1924** - Joe Barsness was the first to have his threshing done in this vicinity,

Gyte's machine doing the work Wednesday. He reports that his barley yield was 70 bushels to the acre.

The Midland School building is being remodeled.

**Sept 1924** - A fence is being built around Vermont Lutheran Church. Anton Anderson, Black Earth is supervising the work.

Wrestling and baseball were quite popular in 1924.

New barber shop opened by T. J. Paynter, proprietor, next door to Heiney's Market. Hair bobbing and shingling, a specialty. Hair cutting 40 cents; shaves 30 cents; massage 35 cents; plain shampoo 25 cents.

Ad: West Bend aluminum roaster for sale at G. H. Freeman Grocery for \$1.50.

Comic section began running in fall of 1924

**Nov 11, 1924** – Armistice Day - 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of glorious day, which brought to an end the mightiest conflict in the world's history.

**Nov. 1924** Ad: Radios – 1 tube set in cabinet with accessories \$19.50; 4 tube set in cabinet with accessories \$65.00 –Maltba and Meister.

Victrola with radio attachment available through Drake's Pharmacy

Pianos and player pianos available through C. W. Schanel & Son.

**Special!**

**Vermont History with biographical sketches  
Published 1977 as a bicentennial project  
and now out of print.  
236 pages on computer CD  
(Limited copies)  
\$10 to cover postage and handling**

Remember BEHS is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit so donations are tax deductible.

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# THE DEPOT DISPATCH

The Black Earth Historical Society  
P.O. Box 214  
Black Earth, WI 53515-0214



**The Depot Museum open 1-4 Sundays Memorial Day – September  
Admission is Free**

The Black Earth Historical Society is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) Corporation  
Annual Dues: Individuals \$10 Families \$20 Business/Patron \$35