



OCTOBER 1996

Local Happenings

The weekend of September 14 and 15 was a very busy time at Eplegaard Orchard on Fitchburg Road. The Forest's hosted the first Fitchburg Fall Farm Festival sponsored by the Rural Affairs Commission. Judging by the number of people who attended it was a huge success. Saturday was cloudy, dreary and threatened rain but the people came anyway. At the main farm buildings small animals were exhibited, cider presses were available for people to make their own cider. A film of the Blaney Farm operations of the seed corn business was shown. A hand made miniature baler was in operation with the resulting miniature bales for sale. A corn sheller was available along with a large supply of ear corn. This was a big attraction for many of the children who shelled the corn and then fed it to the animals. Farm wagons took people on a trip to the orchard to pick their own apples and on to a field where volunteers were demonstrating various farm jobs. A corn binder was used to make corn shocks, a tractor pulled a small plow to turn the earth, and a steam driven threshing machine was put to work. On Sunday, which was better weather-wise, a group of spinners plied their trade with exhibits of the various types and sizes of spinning gear. On both days the Fitchburg Historical Society had a table of information with a few documents and pictures from our archives. The big attraction for the FHS though was a set of hand drawn caricatures, one of a horse, one of a cow and one of "Fitchburg Gothic". The faces were cut out of each of the pictures and children (and some adults) had their pictures taken for one dollar. Those members of the Society who volunteered to help had an enjoyable time. I want to express my thanks to Jan Maves, Laurie Fleming, Bill and Carole Kinney, Mary and Cory Wendt. Cory acted as the "official" photographer.



The October meeting for FHS will be Sunday October 20 at 2 P.M. in the Community Center. Plans are underway for a Halloween party. This will be the final notice that will be sent. Be sure to come and bring children, grandchildren or neighbors children. What is a Halloween party without children. Costumes are optional.

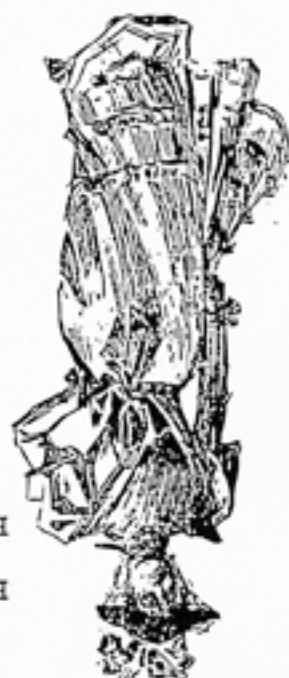
We hope to have a new display in our case by the time of the Halloween Party. It will be based on "Music in the Home". If you have anything you would like added to the display please call me at 845-7594.

A reminder: Next year will be the 10th anniversary for the Fitchburg Historical Society. We would like to make it a banner year. We will start the year with our annual meeting on February 2nd featuring Joan Severa. We will also be electing four members for the Board of Directors. If you are contacted to serve in this position please give it positive thought.

It is with sadness that I report the death of two of our members. Katherine Penn died on August 17. Katherine was born in the "village" of Fitchburg, on Wendt Road where her father was station master for the Illinois Central RR. Evelyn Blaney died on September 23. Evelyn and her husband Burt seldom if ever met. Both will be missed. We extend our sympathy to their families.



PITCHBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PITCHBURG, WI 53711



AREA HAPPENINGS

The Mount Horeb Area Museum opened on September 22nd. The Mount Horeb Historical Society has a large collection of artifacts from the area. At present turn of the century photos of the Mount Horeb area taken by bicycle store owner Alva Webber are featured. Complimenting the photos are some of the actual items which are pictured. The museum is open 12 PM-4 PM Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and is located at 100 South Second Street.



By the time you receive this newsletter Mount Vernon will have celebrated its 150th anniversary. In conjunction with its celebration they have published an updated history book titled: MOUNT VERNON WISCONSIN 1846-1996 150 YEARS DOWN BY THE OLD MILL STREAM. The FHS has a copy of this book in its library if you care to borrow it.

Olbrich Gardens will be celebrating their 5th anniversary with a week long series of events November 2 - 6. Admission to the Conservatory will be free to all during that week.

Carroll College in Waukesha has opened an Institute for Civil War Studies. They offer educational and enrichment programs about the Civil War with special emphasis on Wisconsin's participation. Information on their Certificate Program in Civil War Studies is on file at the FHS.

A barn preservation seminar will be held at Spring Green on November 2nd. Anyone contemplating restoring a barn is welcome to attend. Information can be obtained from Steve or Aimee Gauger at 427-8276.

WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Wisconsin Council for Local History Convention will be held Oct. 25 and 26. A Behind the Scenes Tour of the Library is featured on Friday afternoon. A full day of activities including a box lunch social is scheduled for Saturday. Registration is \$6.00. A registration form is available at the FHS.



The State Historical Society of Wisconsin is preparing for the sesquicentennial celebration of Wisconsin's statehood in 1998. One of the projects planned in conjunction with Wisconsin Public Television is a series of programs compiled from interviews with local historians. If any member would like an application blank to participate in this program please call me at 845-75494.

