

THE REPORTER

Waupaca Historical Society, 321 South Main Street, Waupaca, WI 54981

Open Thursdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Fridays 12-3 p.m.

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Fall/Winter 2021

Cookie Exchange Returns for 3rd Annual Yuletide Trail

The holidays wouldn't be complete without holiday cookies. And, thanks to this year's return of the downtown cookie exchange, you can get your fill in just one day at the 3rd annual Yuletide Trail!

The downtown cookie walk, along with shopping and other activities at Waupaca's Yuletide Trail, will take place on Sat., December 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This year's Yuletide Trail will again feature both in-person and virtual events. The event is sponsored by the Waupaca Area Arts and Culture Network, which is made up of local organization's working together for the Waupaca community.

The Waupaca Historical Society is again selling commemorative holiday tins featuring a historic Waupaca photo! Tins will include a cookie walk map and coupon book. On December 4, participants can visit participating stops downtown for pre-packaged treats to add to their cookie tin. All proceeds from the tin sales support the Waupaca Historical Society, thanks to a generous sponsorship from Community First Credit Union. Quantities are limited.

Tins are \$20 and available for purchase starting Nov. 22 at the Holly History and Genealogy Center, Northern Home, Community First Credit Union and the Waupaca Chamber of Commerce/CVB. You can pre-order your tin starting November 12 at the Holly Center.

The outside of the Hutchinson House Museum in South Park will also be decorated for the holidays. People are encouraged to take a holiday photo



outside the Hutchinson House and share it with us for a chance to win prizes!

Santa will also make his annual visit to Waupaca, traveling on his sleigh through local neighborhoods in the city. A map will be available soon. Santa will end up at the bandstand downtown around 1 p.m. to wave to children.

Also downtown, carolers will be singing holiday songs. Visitors can warm up around a fire or grab a hot chocolate courtesy of the Waupaca Area Public Library's teen department at City Square. The Waupaca Community Arts Board will also have take-home craft kits available. The library's teen volunteers will also be collecting warm clothing for the Waupaca School District throughout December. Look for the box outside the library during Yuletide Trail. The Danes Hall will also have a holiday open house and will be collecting for Toys For Tots.

This year's Yuletide Trail also includes virtual storytimes. Families can pick up a free holiday book at several locations and watch a virtual storytime online through the Yuletide Trail Facebook event.

At the Depot: Railroad Menus

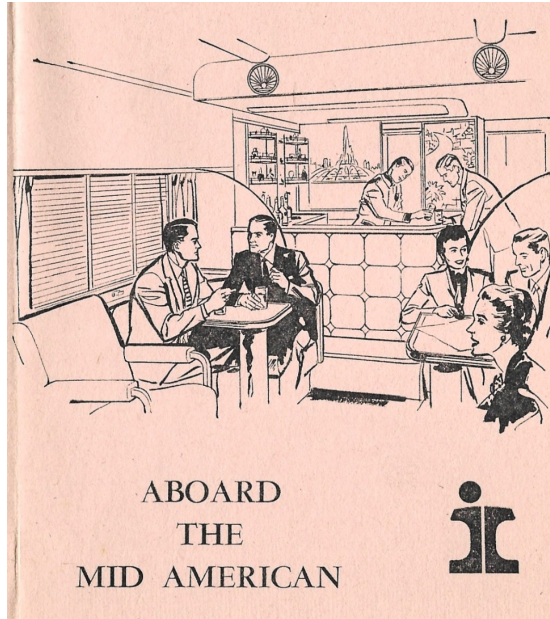
By Mike Kirk

In 2010, as we were preparing to re-roof the Depot, Waupaca resident Vance Linden came by. He had picked up a collection of railroad dining car menus from Don Smidt of the Red Mill. Don wanted to donate them to the Depot and Waupaca Historical Society. His parents had enjoyed traveling by rail so I presume they had collected them over the years.

Recently, Tracy Behrendt purchased a large archival binder and clear preservation sleeves to preserve and display the menus at the Depot. There are 46 menus in the binder. Most of them were able to be opened for viewing of both sides. The menus are from famous passenger trains from around the United States during the glory days of railroad passenger service. Railroads used to make every effort to give their riders a fine dining experience in order to promote their trains and increase ridership. Some railroads had signature dishes that they were known for. In the case of the Soo Line (the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie Railroad), it was their French Toast. Even though the Soo Line did not have the high-speed elegant passenger equipment of some lines, they were still known to have good service and food.

The menus at the Depot go nicely with our large collection of dining car china, other railroad menus, and several railroad recipe books. Be sure to check them out next time you stop at the Depot!

One possibility for the future could be to have catered dinners at the Depot based on specific



This menu, along with others, are on display at the Depot.

railroad menus and recipes. It could be in conjunction with travel programs. It would fit well with a travel center like the Depot.

In the meantime, you can have a taste from the railroad at home with the Soo Line's famous French Toast recipe!

Soo Line French Toast

Ingredients:

2 slices of bread

1 egg (well beaten)

3 oz. light cream

2 oz. sugar

Pinch of salt

Oil for deep frying (Yes, this is deep fried French toast)

Directions:

Cut bread into ¾ inch slices, and then cut slices in half diagonally.

In a shallow dish, make a batter of the beaten egg, salt, cream, and sugar.

Dip bread in batter, and then fry to a golden brown in hot deep fat oil.

Remove and drain.

Sprinkle with fruit, maple syrup, or honey, and serve.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Depot will be open Sat., December 18
from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for a
Christmas Open House!

Behind the Scenes at WHS

By Tracy Behrendt, Director

In the last year and a half, the Waupaca Historical Society has worked to reach our community and continue our mission despite less open hours, less volunteers and limited resources.

In September, the WHS Board, members and Business Partners came together at South Park for our annual meeting—again a bit different with an abbreviated meeting and without a potluck. At the meeting, I presented my annual report, which I thought I would share below. It provides a look back at the last year, one that included new projects, collaborations and more virtual outreach. Thank you all for your part in these projects—whether through donations, volunteer time, following us on Facebook or through your annual membership. We are so thankful for each of you!

Here is the annual director’s report for September 2020 through August 2021:

Thank you to our members and volunteers for your support over the last year. Despite our hopes to be back in full swing, we continue to be cautious with COVID-19 still in our community.

Through most of the year, the Holly Center was open only by appointment. This did mean decreased traffic, less community events and programs, and less donations from our rentals, visits, and events. In June 2021, we opened our doors two days a week at the Holly Center. We also opened the Depot and Hutchinson House one weekend per month and for special events this summer.

Even with less open hours, the WHS remains busy and is growing. We received a grant from the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region to create an outdoor exhibit about the history of Main Street. This is up in front of the Holly Center.



The outdoor exhibit (above) and the “Safer at Home” cookbook (below) were both projects in the last year that came out of the pandemic. The cookbook is still available at the Holly Center for \$10, and all proceeds benefit WHS and the Waupaca Area Public Library

Safer at Home in Waupaca

RECIPES AND STORIES FROM OUR COMMUNITY
DURING THE PANDEMIC



Continued on pg. 4

Behind the Scenes at WHS

continued from p. 3

We published the “Safer at Home” cookbook with the library and sold holiday tins for the 2020 Yuletide Trail. With the help of our volunteers in 2021, we held eight brat fries and a refreshment stand at Strawberry Fest.

We received several grants to help with projects and the loss of revenue. From June through August, we also held six programs, with nearly 550 people attending, and have had a record number of research requests at the Holly Center. Our open hours at the Holly Center have been busy all summer.



The Hutchinson House Museum hosted several programs this year with the library and a Civil War reenactment group. This fall, the fence got its first coat of paint and school tours resumed. Fourth-grade students from the Waupaca Learning Center toured the historic house, including the dining room with volunteer Art Bolen (below, photo from Hope MacIntyre).



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The status of our upcoming programs continues to be unknown, but we are hopeful we will continue to be in-person in the coming months and year. We will again be a part of Waupaca’s Yuletide Trail in December. As of June, we have also begun to welcome back rentals to the Holly Center.

The exhibits at the Holly Center have also been updated, with new exhibits on the Waupaca Schools and Camp Waupaca. Donations to the WHS collection have continued to come in, with many objects to still catalog and collections volunteers needed.

The Hutchinson House Museum was open during the summer for events, on the second weekends of the month, and several scheduled tours outside of these times. Habitat for Humanity helped us replace the fence last year, and we finished the first coat of paint on it this fall.

Even with all the positives of this year, the last year has seen its challenges. We have struggled to find volunteers for open hours and events. Our increased presence online through our two websites, Facebook and Instagram requires more time and research. We have increased our events and outreach to the community, which will require more volunteers and assistance in the future.

Even with these challenges, the future looks very bright for the Waupaca Historical Society. The WHS Board worked to complete a Strategic Plan earlier this year, which will help guide the organization for the next five years. With our increased programming and outreach, our community is more aware of our organization and our mission, looking to us as a resource for local projects, research, and events. We continue to reach more people outside of Waupaca through our online resources and our summer events. Thank you again for your ongoing support!

Tell Your Story and Help WHS Preserve Local History

The Waupaca Historical Society is collecting memories and stories from the COVID-19 pandemic. And we would love to have yours!

These collections will be preserved at the Holly Center to help future generations understand this time in Waupaca, our state and our country. You can find the survey at www.waupacahistoricalsociety.org on the main page. You can also request one via email at director@waupacahistoricalsociety.org or by mail by calling (715) 256-9980.



WHS's Annual Giving Drive In Full Swing

With Thanksgiving around the corner, the Waupaca Historical Society is reminded of how thankful we are for all of our members, visitors and volunteers. 2021 was again an interesting year, but we continue to do fantastic things thanks to you!



We just mailed our annual giving letter to our members and business partners. Each year, the Waupaca Historical Society asks you to consider the Society in your year-end charitable contributions. Every amount makes a difference as we work to preserve Waupaca's history and educate the public.

This year in particular, your contribution will help us continue to reach our members, visitors and community wherever they are—at home or in our buildings—and to focus on in-person programming in 2022. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to a great 2022!

WHS Board Seeks Treasurer

The Waupaca Historical Society Board is currently looking for someone to fill the Treasurer position. This person would also be a member of the Society's Board of Directors. The Treasurer works about 10-15 hours per month. Tasks of the Treasurer include but are not limited to:

- Process bills and deposits and write and mail checks on a weekly or bi-weekly basis
- Assist accountant with quarterly payroll, taxes

and other needs

- Reconcile monthly bank statements and code accordingly for accountant
- Monitor all accounts/Endowment Fund and report information to accountant
- Provide monthly updates to the WHS Board
- Keep files organized and up-to-date

Please contact us today if you are interested!

Why Does The Water Look So Different (and Beautiful) on the Chain?

Excerpted from Page 67 of Ron Arthur's book
The Concise Guide to Historic Sites on Waupaca's Chain O'Lakes

It seems preposterous today, but there was a time when early entrepreneurs prized these lakes more for their mineral deposits rather than their clear water. Wisconsin never had a gold rush, but there was a Lead Boom in southwestern Wisconsin and Marl Mania in these parts.



Marl is a 50-50 mix of calcium carbonate (or lime) and mud. Chemically, it's basically the same as limestone, but manifests as a slurry. It formed thousands of years ago when an aquatic plant, chara, extracted calcium carbonate during photosynthesis and stored the chemical in its branches. Dead chara sank and decayed over centuries to form a chalky soil compound.

Generations ago, farmers valued marl as a fertilizer for lime-deficient soils, and as a conditioner for the sort of sandy soils prevalent in central Wisconsin. The lime in marl binds sand grains together, so the soil can better retain heat and water. Scandinavian immigrants, familiar with the agricultural benefits of marl from their homeland, actively sought out marl deposits in Wisconsin. They also knew that marl could be incinerated in kilns to form caustic lime, and important component of mortar and Portland cement.

In deeper water, like McCrossen Lake [pictured above], it is marl that gives the Chain its rich blue-green hue. But shallow marl flats like those in Limekiln Lake and eastern Taylor Lake show a light yellow-green, and are relatively easy to access through dredging. The marl slurry needed to be dried out and separated from the ordinary soils, and then the lime powder had to be bagged and shipped.



Thus a lime kiln was constructed near the road [across the street from today's entrance into Indian Crossing Casino]. No trace of this kiln remains, but some old limekilns have been preserved for historical purposes in High Cliff State Park on the shores of Lake Winnebago. By the turn of the century, the costs of drying and shipping large quantities of processed marl proved impractical and less expensive alternatives brought an end to Marl Mania.

Ron Arthur

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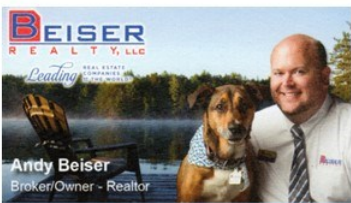


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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(all programs are at the Holly History & Genealogy Center unless otherwise noted)

Mon., November 22: Yuletide Trail cookie tins go on sale! Look for them at the Holly History and Genealogy Center, Northern Home, Community First Credit Union and the Waupaca Chamber of Commerce/CVB

***Sat., December 4, 10 am-4 pm: Waupaca's 3rd Annual Yuletide Trail (downtown Waupaca)
Hutchinson House decorated for the holidays—take a photo and send it to us to win a prize!***

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