

THE REPORTER

Waupaca Historical Society, 321 South Main Street, Waupaca, WI 54981
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Fall 2019

December Christmas Event Returns to Waupaca

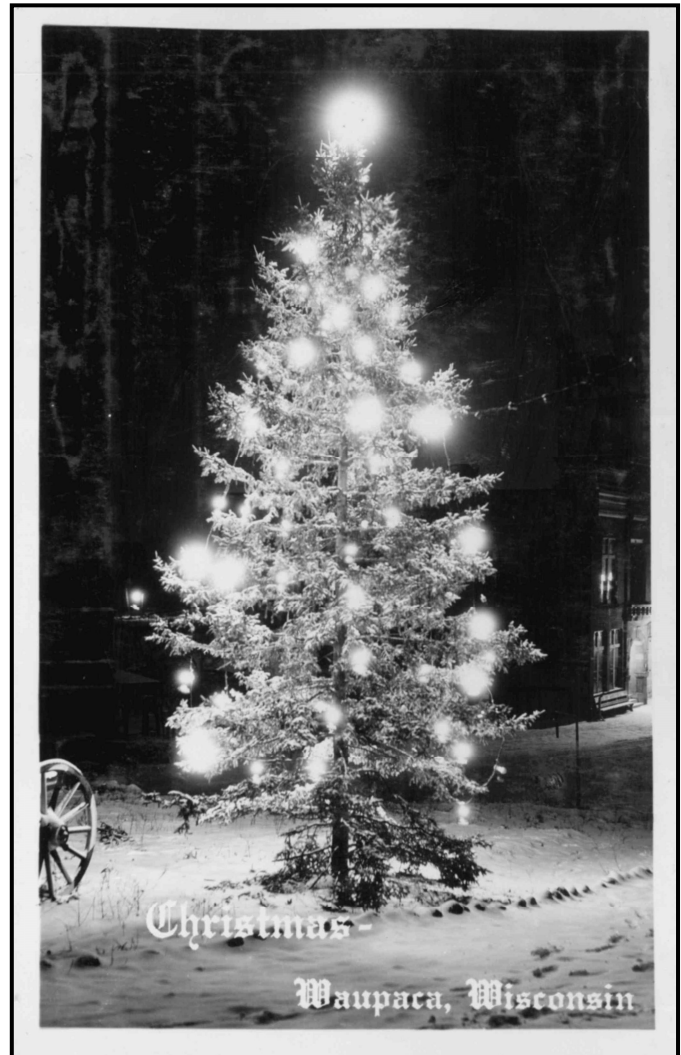
Many Waupaca residents fondly remember past Christmas events, including parades, visits from Santa and decorations along Main Street. And, thanks to several organizations and businesses in Waupaca, a holiday event will return in 2019.

The Yuletide Trail will take place on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in downtown Waupaca. The event is sponsored by the Waupaca Area Arts and Cultural Network, of which the Waupaca Historical Society is a part. Thanks to the help of numerous groups and individuals, residents and visitors alike are invited to come together to create a unique holiday experience that helps us celebrate, as a community, the upcoming holiday season!

The event will start with a holiday storytime and craft at the Holly History and Genealogy Center from 10 a.m. to noon. Librarians from the Waupaca Area Public Library will read seasonal stories on the half hour. Families are invited to the top floor of the Holly Center for this holiday fun!

People are also invited to purchase a collector's edition cookie tin for Waupaca's first-ever Community Cookie Walk! Tins will be available for purchase at the Holly Center before the event and on Dec. 14. On the day of the event, other downtown locations will also sell the tins. People can then fill their tins with cookies as they stop at participating downtown locations! All proceeds from the tin sales will go to Waupaca Historical Society's programs.

Other events happening on Dec. 14 are a kids' ornament project with glass beads at A Touch of Glass Studio and holiday caroling. The Waupaca Community Arts Board will be leading caroling up and down Main Street during the event. At 3 p.m., the carolers will



The Waupaca Historical Society, as a part of the Waupaca Area Arts and Cultural Network, is participating in the first annual Yuletide Trail, a holiday event in downtown Waupaca on Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

gather at the Danes Hall on North Main Street for a Holiday Carol Sing-Along in the ballroom!

Continued on p. 2

Hutchinson House Finishes Up Season with School Tours

By Tracy Behrendt

2019 was a great year for the Hutchinson House! What started as a year of change with the loss of our Hutchinson House curator evolved into one of our busiest years yet!

We welcomed more visitors to the Hutchinson House than we have in recent years—people from all over Waupaca County, Wisconsin and even the country! And we are so thankful for our wonderful volunteers for staffing the building and offering tours this summer. Thank you to Betty Stewart, Marge Writt, Art Bolen, Janet Buetow, Pam Sannes, Jan Hanke, Nancy Weasner, Barb Laedtke, Deb Ostrander, Julie Hintz, Jan Gray, Gail James, and Dennis and Laurie Lear for giving your time and showcasing your love for Waupaca history! And thank you also to all of our members that visited the house this year!

Though the Hutchinson House closed after Labor Day, we still opened the building for several events this fall. On Sept. 21, we opened for Fall-o-Rama in South Park. We also hosted a brat fry in front of the Hutchinson House that day, which was a huge success.

During the first week of October, we welcomed the fourth-grade students from the Waupaca Learning Center for their annual tour through the Hutchinson House. Each class brought their calling card to the home—just as Waupaca residents would have in Victorian times! Students then toured the home and made a craft in the King Cottage. Thank you to our volunteers that taught the fourth-graders about Wisconsin and Waupaca history.

Though the Hutchinson House is now closed for the season, we have much work to do in the off-season. We hope to continue to clean the



Photos courtesy of Becky Liegl

WHS hosted the fourth-grade students from the Waupaca Learning Center at the Hutchinson House during the first week of October.

former Loom Room upstairs to open it up in the upcoming years. We have also begun transferring some of the clothing collection to the Holly Center for cleaning and storage. We look forward to making a few changes and opening up for Memorial Day next year!

Yuletide Trail (Continued from p. 1)

From 1-3 p.m., the Danes Hall invites visitors to decorate the restored building for Christmas! Families can create a Danish ornament, help decorate the Danes Hall tree, make holiday cards for the community and meet Santa!

More events will be added closer to the date. Information on the event will be on posters around town and featured online and in the *Waupaca County Post*. We hope to see you on December 14 for this fun community and family event!

Warm Up With WHS's Winter Programs

The weather outside might be getting cold, but the Holly Center is always warm for our monthly programs!

The winter months bring a variety of program topics on both local and state history. On Thursday, Nov. 14, Jerry Janiszewski will present, "The History of Beer Making in Wisconsin" at 6 p.m. The event is sponsored by Badgers Den Brewing Club and Stephen and Deborah Fenske

Janiszewski, the Vice President of the American Breweriana Association and a home brewer himself, will present the story of beer making in Wisconsin and the beer barons that made it into an industry. Janiszewski will also speak on Waupaca's brewing past.

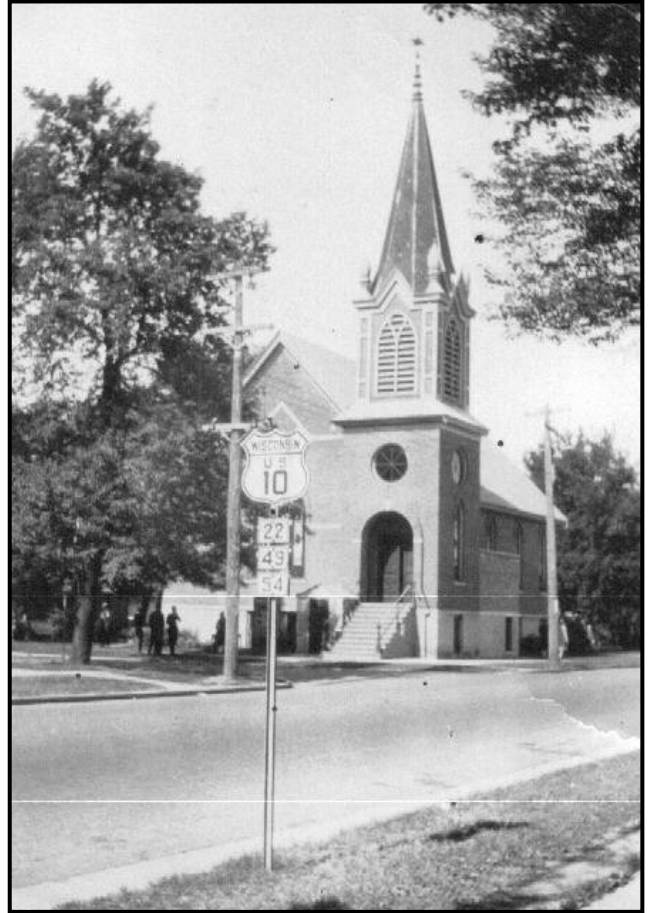
On Thursday, Dec. 5, Michael Koehler of the Danes Hall will speak on the history of Waupaca's Danish immigrants and the Lutheran church they founded in Waupaca. His program, titled, "Waupaca's Danes and the Building of the Lutheran Church," will be presented in the sanctuary at Trinity Lutheran Church, Waupaca, at 6 p.m. Bill and Peggy Riemer are sponsoring this event.

In 2020, the Waupaca Historical Society's first program will be, "Our 351 Sons: The Founding of Rawhide" with Rawhide founder John Gillespie. The program will be on Thursday, Jan. 16 at 6 p.m.

Rawhide was founded in 1965 by John and his wife Jan with the help of Green Bay Packer Bart Starr and his wife Cherry. It offers



Jerry Janiszewski (pictured) will speak on the history of beer making in Wisconsin on Thursday, Nov. 14 at 6 p.m. The program will be held at the Holly Center.



Our Savior's Lutheran Church (above) was located on Badger Street. When the church combined with Holy Ghost Lutheran, Our Savior's was torn down and replaced with Trinity Lutheran Church. The history of these churches, along with the Danish residents that founded them, will be highlighted at the December program.

programs for at-risk youth in Wisconsin.

All of our 2020 programs are in need of sponsors. Thanks to member and business donations, WHS is able to offer free monthly programs to our community. If you are interested in sponsoring the January program or any others, please contact us today!

All programs are held in the lower level of the Holly Center unless otherwise noted. Refreshments are also served.

If you have missed past programs, visit our website at www.waupacahistoricalsociety.org and click on "Videos and Programs" on the left. The City of Waupaca records most of our programs and then offers them both online and on the local cable access channel in Waupaca.

At the Depot: Projects, Events Keep Depot Busy in Off-Season

By Mike Kirk

The summer season is over, and we are taking a break from the Depot open hours until the holiday season. A big thank you to all who have helped out this summer, whether you were giving tours, helping on the various projects at the Depot or mowing the lawn! Without our volunteers, we wouldn't be able to open the Depot doors as much as we do!

We will open the Depot again after Thanksgiving. Come out and visit us Thanksgiving weekend (Nov. 29-Dec. 1) from 12-5 p.m. We will also be open every Saturday in December from 12-5 p.m. The Depot will be decorated for Christmas and you might even spot some holiday model trains in the lower level! The Depot is a great place to bring visiting family and friends.

And, if you can't wait for Thanksgiving weekend, be sure to visit Virtual Railfan and watch the trains through our Depot cameras. You can watch the current video at <https://youtu.be/V6sYUkyJYFU>. The video highlights both directions of the Canadian National line through Waupaca. About 25 to 30 trains pass by the Waupaca Depot each day.

Even though we are now closed for tours, we have been busy with various events and rentals. In September, we hosted our annual meeting with a potluck and short meeting with our members—thank you to all that attended. In October, we welcomed the Waupaca Community Arts Board and their basket weaving class. The class was part of the 2019 Bach Festival. Also in October, the Badgers Den Brewing Club hosted their annual beer tasting event, which has been at the Depot the past several years.

Projects also still keep us busy at the Depot. Brian Godfrey helped trench in the wires for the street lights. They turned out very nice, and we have had many good comments about them. They really help light up the grounds and the trains for the Virtual Railfan cameras at night.

Brett Peterson got started on painting the outside of the Milwaukee Road caboose, so I have started doing the body work for it. Hopefully, if the weather cooperates, at least

the east end and south side will be painted by the end of October.

Work on a Depot documentary is underway, with three video sessions already done. The film is funded by outside sources, so the Waupaca Historical Society is not financially supporting it and will not have ownership of it. Once completed, though, we will certainly sell copies of it at the Holly Center and the Depot. Ron Scott is behind the whole project and is the producer, and Max Hauser is doing the cinematography and co-producing. Max grew up in the Iola area and now lives in Appleton. They hope to complete the half-hour film by next spring. We will have to have a premier showing event when it is completed, so look for that in 2020!



Photos courtesy of Marci Reynolds
The Waupaca Community Arts Board presented a basket weaving class at the Depot for its 2019 Bach Festival. The Waupaca Historical Society sponsored the event, which took place on Tuesday, Oct. 15.

A Look Back: The Opening of Indian Crossing Casino

For thousands of years, the Menominee Indians lived on the Chain O'Lakes and in the Waupaca area. Especially during the summer months, the Menominee would travel around the lakes, hunting, gathering and fishing. The pass between Columbia and Limekiln Lakes was one of the most frequented locations.

When the first white settlers came to Waupaca, a small bridge existed across the water between the two lakes. Through the years, this bridge has changed, but it has always been a busy spot for residents and visitors alike.

In July 1925, William R. Arnold of Chicago built Indian Crossing Casino, taking its name from the bridge to its east. With Francis Steele as manager, Arnold created the Casino with a vision of establishing a dance hall that would attract both locally and nationally renowned bands. John Martin bought the Casino in the 1930s and partnered with his son Al in 1937. Thanks to its location, Indian Crossing Casino was able to schedule big-name bands as they traveled between Minneapolis and Chicago. Bands that played the casino in the 1930s and 1940s included Glenn Miller, Louie Armstrong, Gypsy Rose Lee, Les Brown, Duke Ellington and Lionel Hampton.

In the 1950s the Casino hosted such bands as Woody Herman, Tommy Dorsey, and the Dukes of Dixieland. In the 1960s the Everly Brothers, Ricky Nelson, Bobby Vinton, Herman's Hermits and the Beach Boys performed at the Casino. Besides the large dance hall, the Casino had a large outdoor porch (built along Columbia Lake) that was popular during the warm summer months.

Today, Indian Crossing Casino again hosts concerts and serves food and drink.

The following article appeared in the *Waupaca County Post* on July 3, 1925 and was



Indian Crossing Casino opened in 1925 and served as a popular dance hall and concert venue for many years. Today Indian Crossing Casino once again holds concerts and now serves food and drinks.

titled, "4th at Indian Crossing: Day Will Also Mark Opening of the Casino."

"The grand opening of the Indian Crossing Casino will take place on Saturday, July 4th, with a grand Fourth of July celebration which will start at 1:30, the program printed below to take place:

- 1:30 -- Junior Boys Swimming race.
- 1:40 -- Senior Boys Swimming race.
- 1:50 -- Ladies' Canoe race.
- 2:05 -- Ladies' Swimming race.
- 2:15 -- Boys Tub race.
- 2:30 -- Men's Swimming race.
- 2:40 -- Ladies' Fancy Diving contest.

"Prizes that are above the ordinary will be given for all events. A complete list of all the prizes can be found in the full page advertisement of the Casino, which is in this issue of the paper.

"The large and new dance hall and amusement park which was completed this week, has been erected at a cost of about \$30,000. The property is owned by Wm. R. Arnold of Chicago, and is under the direct management of Francis Steele, also a Chicago gentleman.

"The dance hall is 85 x 135 feet in size, and the contractors who had the job were Rasmus and Jenson of this city.

Continued on p. 6

Indian Crossing Casino Opens on July 4, 1925

(Continued from p. 5)

“Work was started on May 1st and on July 1st the construction work was entirely completed. The building is painted in white and tangerine orange.

“The pavilion is on the north shore of Indian Crossing and a dock and boat landing takes up the entire north side of the building. There are two 10 foot diving platforms, spring boards, water toboggan slides, etc. There are twenty-five row boats for renting purposes. Special electrical lighting effects have been arranged in the dance pavilion.

“In the hall there is also a completely equipped stage with special scenery. Parking

space has been prepared to take care of four hundred cars, and there will be bus service between the Casino and the city at all times. There will be dancing on all holidays and every evening except Sunday.

“The orchestra that will furnish the music is the Arabian Knight Orchestra of Chicago. This is one of the orchestras that has been furnishing some of the radio concerts broadcasted by the large Chicago Hotels during the past winter.

“It is expected that a crowd of from 5,000 to 10,000 will attend the opening celebration on July 4th.”

Collections Corner: Whispering Pines Park Postcard

The Waupaca Historical Society receives hundreds of artifact donations each year. These collections tell the story of the city of Waupaca, the Chain O'Lakes and the surrounding townships. This postcard (right) was donated by Mary Hlabon of Ogdensburg. The postcard is from Whispering Pines Park, previously situated on Marl Lake. Today, the State of Wisconsin owns the property, and it is a part of Hartman Creek State Park. The fountain shown was called “The Fountain of Youth” and showcased a statue of two children.

The Waupaca Historical Society presented a program on July 18, 2019 on Whispering Pines Park to a large crowd at the Holly Center. As a result of the program, numerous local residents have donated items related to Whispering Pines Park. The Jenswold family, which presented the program in July, have also donated several items from the park and have written a spiral-



Whispering Pines Park was the vision and work of Christ and Emma Hyldgaard. The couple purchased the property in 1929, planning to spend their summers along the lake. Before long, their retirement home turned into a park for visitors to enjoy for nearly 40 years.

bound book about the park. This book is available for purchase at the Holly Center.

Waupaca Historical Society Wish List

The Waupaca Historical Society is thankful for in-kind donations of new or gently used items. If you can donate or sponsor a Wish List item, contact WHS today. Thank you!

Slate chalkboards for children (\$30)
Legos (\$50-\$100)
White Christmas lights (working/new)
Women's nylons (tan—new or used)

Steel shelving with powder finish for storage (\$140)
Plastic needles and yarn (\$25)
Mesh plastic canvas (\$40)
Polyester batting

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All programs are held at the Holly History and Genealogy Center, 321 S. Main St., unless otherwise noted.

- Thursday, November 14, 6 p.m.** “The History of Beer Making in Wisconsin” with Jerry Janiszewski
- Thursday, December 5, 6 p.m.** “Waupaca’s Danes and the Building of the Lutheran Church” with Michael Koehler
AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAUPACA
- Saturday, December 14, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.** Yuletide Trail: Holiday Storytime and Craft
- Thursday, January 16, 6 p.m.** “Our 351 Sons: The Founding of Rawhide” with Rawhide founder John Gillespie
- Thursday, February 27, 6 p.m.** “Growing Turner’s Fresh Market” with Ross Turner
- Thursday, March 26, 6 p.m.** “The Making of Pioneer Wisconsin: Voices of Early Settlers” with author Michael Stevens

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