



Menomonee Falls Historical Society Newsletter

March 2013

100 years ago

We have heard of the famous highway, Route 66. We have also heard of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC. Did you know that prior to both of these famous American icons; there was a coast highway which memorialized President Lincoln?

The Lincoln highway will celebrate 100 years in 2013. This was the first highway for the automobile to cross the US. The highway went from Times Square in New York City to Lincoln Park in San Francisco.

Lincoln highway was the dream of Carl Fisher. In a time when roads were primarily of local interest and railroads dominated interstate transportation of people and goods, he envisioned of a transcontinental highway. Fisher believed "The automobile won't get anywhere until it has good roads to run on." Many of us know of another huge success of his- The Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

The original route was mapped out with the Trailblazer Tour"; 17 cars and 2 trucks set out on July 1, 1913. This highly publicized trip took 34 days to complete.

Remembering Yesterday... Planning for Tomorrow

Over the past couple of months, the Board of Directors of our Historical Society has been busy developing a Strategic plan to be implemented over the next few years. The following are the priorities we are working on. 1. Determine where every item on our campus came from, cataloging and photographing each item for our files, and determine a process for de-acquisition if that becomes necessary. 2. Bring new members into our society. 3. Seek corporate sponsorships. 4. Develop a rental policy for renting our facilities. 5. Establish an annual working budget. 6. Develop a Facility use plan. 7. Expand our annual "In Touch with History" event. There will be many other things we will be working on, but these are our priorities for 2013. We invite you to assist in carrying out these priorities. Thank you for your participation and support in the past. We look forward to an eventful and busy 2013, and to the future of our museum.
Warren A. Granke-President

When the tour was finished, those travelers returned to Indianapolis by train! The route has been constantly realigned since its 1913 creation.



The highway has run through a total of 14 states, 128 counties, and over 700 cities, towns, and villages. Today, the Lincoln highway runs a length of approximately 3140 miles.

According to the 1916 Official Road Guide, the LHA estimated the trip would take 20-30 days assuming the motorist could average a driving time of 18 mph for 6 hours per day. The guide urged motorists to buy gasoline at every opportunity no matter how little had been used since the last purchase.

The Lincoln highway was dedicated on October 31, 1913 and became affectionately known as "The Main Street across America".

Old Falls Village Days- June 1-2

We are making great plans for this year's OFV Days. Stay tuned to the next newsletter for more details. Please consider volunteering to make this year's event as successful as the past. Spread the news to others about helping out and being a part of the activities. On May 4th, we will open the buildings for cleaning. Please come out and join us as we prepare for the 2013 event season.

Headlines from 1913

(January) The class in dancing instruction under the direction of Miss Ethel Estburg is increasing in numbers each week.
JW Cannon sends the first package by parcel post, in this village.
Local barber John Lobess was arrested for refusal to support his four little children. He was sentenced to 10 days on bread and water.
(March) A goodly number of residents have requested the wiring of their homes which enables them to enjoy electric lights.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2013

April 22
Quarterly Meeting
6:00pm

May 31
In Touch with History

June 1-2
Old Falls Village Days

July 20-21
Civil War Encampment

July
Quarterly Meeting TBA

September 20 - 22
Artist Ride Photoshoot

October
Quarterly Meeting TBA

October 25-26
Halloween Family Fun Night
6-9pm

December 8
Silver Tea

April Quarterly Mtg.

We hope to see you all at our next meeting as we talk on the history of Menomonee Falls with Jim Jeskewitz and Jill Schmidt. We are looking forward to a potluck dinner and listening to all of the knowledge they share. Please contact Katrina at 414-702-5572 if you will be attending. Guests are encouraged.



2013 Executive Board

Warren Granke- President
Katrina Ludin- Vice President
Jeff Steliga- Treasurer
Christine Schultz- Secretary
Vikki Schmidt- Past President

Board Members

Bob Cowan	Ken Pruess
Nancy Greifenhagen	Jack Tindall
Marilyn Schneider	Jill Schmidt
Gene Schneider	Jim Jeskewitz
Diane Harley	
Carol Friese- Member at Large	

Caretakers

John and Becca Kuester

Meet Our Board Member

Jill Schmidt

A lifelong member of Menomonee Falls, Jill is a descendant of families who settled here in the 1830's. The youngest child of John and Laraine Badke, she attended local schools Riverside, St. Mary's and Menomonee Falls High (North). During and after High school, Jill was very involved in various local bands. Singing and dancing on the weekends along with waitressing at the Peter Piper Pancake House during the week, finally gave way to a full time road show band "New York". Playing six nights a week around the country was a fun and profitable time. Organizing song lists and choreography, playing tenor sax, keyboard, and fronting the band made it even more fun. An avid genealogist for her family, Jill has been compiling her family tree for over 30 years, and still finds new and exciting info. For over 20 years, she has until recently organized and hosted family reunions for both her Mom and Dad's sides of the family. She has also worked on and organized her high school reunions. Still attending St. Mary's, she taught Christian Formation classes (religious instruction for public school children) for almost 20 years. Every Saturday night Jill sings for Mass, and is also a tenor in both the Funeral and Adult choirs. A member of the Menomonee Falls Historical Society since the 1980's, Jill most recently undertook the chair for the Silver Tea. Her theme for 2013 will be the 1930's and the house will be decorated with depression glass and all things Christmas. Aaron, her only son, has recently completed 20 years in the Navy. He and his wife Cathy continue to live in San Diego. Jill enjoys being a waitress at Agora Cafe here in the Falls. She finds working in the hospitality field and serving the people of this fantastic village in her work, historical and religious capacities very rewarding.

