

Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 37, No. 1 July 2011

www.InterlakenHistory.org



Interlaken Historical Society Fifth Annual
OLD FASHIONED FAMILY SOCIAL
Sunday July 24, 2011
4:00 — 6:30 p.m.

The Community is Invited!

The trustees of the Interlaken Historical Society would like to invite you to join us on Sunday, July 24th, between 4:00 and 6:30 p.m. for our fifth Old Fashioned Social dish-to-pass get-together on the lawn of the Interlaken Public Library.

We, and other community organizations, will supply grilled hot dogs with rolls and fixings, lemonade and ice tea, as well as ice cream for dessert. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

If you haven't seen the Community Life Museum or visited the Farmers' Museum in awhile both will be open.

Please drop by to eat, relax, and visit. In case of rain we will move indoors nearby.

For more information please contact the Society at museum@interlakenhistory.org or at 607-532-8899 or 607-532-9227.

Our New Logo

For many years the letterhead for the Society showed the Hinman Library building, which was the home to the Society.

When we moved the Community Life Museum into the Telephone Company building we began discussing the need for a new logo.

Last year, the Historical Society board commissioned Chris Wolff to design a logo which could be used on a variety of printed and display materials. After a number of meetings and drawings the above logo was created for the Society.

Thank you Chris Wolff for your outstanding work on this item, and your patience with the board. To see other items designed by Chris visit his website at

<http://christopherwolff.com>

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President's Message

Do you *tweet*? Are you a *friend*? Or maybe you like to *Skype* with your grandchildren? If all of those words left you wondering *what?* you are in good company. At the recent Historical Society Board meeting Barb Stewart reported on a meeting she attended in which "social media" was the topic of discussion. A recent news article talked about how many people use Facebook and other social media to stay in touch with their grandchildren.

So what does all of this have to do with the Historical Society? A lot, if we are to stay current in this fast moving world.

We have had a webpage for a number of years, and even try to keep it current with news of upcoming events, and pictures of what has happened. Now we are looking at the need to have a Facebook page so you can "friend us," and also further enhance our webpage with more news, articles and virtual displays. We would also like to purchase two TV monitors with DVD players add another dimension to our displays.

Barb Stewart has organized a Long Range Planning Committee to examine where we are and where we need to go in the future.

Of course many of these improvements come with a cost, in time, funds or equipment.

The current budgeted amount for our newsletter is \$2,500.00. Would you rather read your *Between the Lakes* newsletter at

your computer and be able to save it for future review? If so please send an email to us at museum@interlakenhistory.org. If we have sufficient response we will move in that direction.

Summer is here and we hope that you will be in to visit the museums. Scheduled hours are Saturdays in July and August from 10 am to 2 pm. We are also happy to schedule a time when you are in town, or have company and want to show off our history. Please call the museum at 607-532-8899 or 607-532-9227 and we will set up a time. You can also email us at museum@interlakenhistory.org!

One item in our Mission Statement is to promote the dissemination of historical information through modern technology. This summer we will be looking at just how we can be rooted in the past, preserve what we have, and share it around the world.

On behalf of the Historical Society Board, and the membership, we extend our sympathies to the Delavan family on the passing of Edith Delavan.

Thank you for being a part of the Historical Society.

Diane Bassette Nelson

A Gentle Reminder

The Historical Society fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30th. Therefore, dues are now due. Is this the year you upgrade from a yearly membership (\$10) to a life membership (\$100). Please mail them to PO Box 270, Interlaken, NY 14847

A Landmark to be removed



The Lakes Theater was built around 1920, and first showed silent movies, then the talking shows. It was used as a theater until the early 1960s. The building has been scheduled for demolition sometime this summer.

Following the Mission of the Interlaken Historical Society we wish to “preserve the memories” of the building and events.

Please send your memories to PO Box 270, Interlaken or email them to museum@interlakenhistory.org



Citizens of the Year 2011

For over 55 years the Community has known and enjoyed knowing this year's Citizens of the Year. In those years as well as raising their family, they grew not one but three businesses.

They have been involved in the business community as well as the political and social structure of our lives. They are involved in our local government, help with election days, and help with their church and other local organizations.

They provided us with the news we needed, printed many of the books that tell the story of our community, lighted our days with candles and sweeten our lives with their locally produced honey.

The Interlaken Community Action Group is pleased to present the 2011 Citizens of the Year: Duane and Wanda Waid

New Members

Alexandra King, Trumansburg.

Donations to the Society

1963 Photo of Easter Star members

Cast iron sausage grinder 1859 given by Gerry Messmer

Great-Great-Grandfather Duncan by C W Paige (2007) and *Hans the Swiss Boy*, presented to Arthur Rappleye by the Farmer Village Baptist Sunday School in 1882 donated by Mary Jean Welser and Marty Schlabach,

Sickle type tool given by Lee Braden

Library News

We have been quite busy at the Interlaken Library getting some new programs started. A June 28 card making class has (had) 8 people registered to participate. June also saw our first artist of the month, Ray Hamilton, display his paintings. He was joined by the South Seneca 3rd Grade Class with an exhibit in the Children's room. Upcoming artists include Richard "Nick" Ike in July and Dan Alsheimer in August.

Our Book Sale held during Old Home Day was a huge success. The library would also like to thank John Hunt for the use of his wagon for the library's parade float and also Richard Ross for providing an antique tractor to pull the wagon. Several children volunteered to ride on the float & pass out candy along the route.

We are also working with the Village and the Community Action Group to bring a Farmers Market to the library's lawn on Tuesday during the summer. We have a few vendor applications and hope to have all spots filled by July.

July also brings our summer reading program. This year we will feature not only a children's program but also a teen and adult program. Stop into the library for more details and to register for our summer reading program.

Joan

Children and young adults on the library float, Olde Home Day 2011.



July 2011 4

Historical Society Wish List

Listed below are a number of items that the board has identified as being needed by the Historical Society. Some of them are new items to support the mission of the society, others are ideas to stir up your thoughts on things you might have in a closet or a photo album that we could scan to create a copy for the collections. .

Photographs of homes and street scenes from the 1940s to the 1980s.

Stories, pictures or artifacts from the Halstead Canning Factory.

Scrapbooks

Financial Donations to be used for display upgrades, ie TVs with DVD players

Financial Donations to assist with the publication of the Historical Society Newsletter

CHILDHOOD IN THE COUNTRY

Editor's note: Ester Hunt MacLachlan was born in Interlaken and lived here for many years with her parents. She later moved to other locations. These "memories" cover both her growing up years, and an occasional looking forward/looking back comment. There are four sections, one for each season, which we will continue in the Fall and Winter issues. Mrs. MacLachlan died in 2010 and is buried at Lake View Cemetery with other members of the Hunt family. She begins the work with this comment: My early memories of growing up in Interlaken, New York, in the 1920s and 30s.

Esther Hunt MacLachlan

SUMMER

*"What is so rare as a day in June
Then, if over, come perfect days
When heaven tests earth if it be in tune
And over all, softly, a warm mist lays
Whether you look or whether you listen
You hear earth murmur, and see it glisten.*

This snatch of poetry traveled back and forth between my mother in New York and me in Michigan during the 50s and 60s. There would come that certain day, when one of us would sense that now was the time. Unlike California, June in New York did seem the most beautiful of months, scented with the fragrance of old fashioned roses.

Summer never seemed to officially begin until the end of school - often the third week of June. Regent exams, out of state offices in Albany, were both a challenge and a cause of dread. You had better be prepared! Most teachers drilled us in previous years' exams for at least a month.

In 7th grade I had missed a lot of school because of mastoid surgery. My teacher, Pearl Van Dusen, came to visit me. She mentioned that there was a strong likelihood of one question being asked - "Which is correct? Different from or different than?" It was, and I have never forgotten it. Monitors roamed the aisles and patrolled the halls. Regents were serious business!

When we were small children, the 4th of July was celebrated at the Hunt grandparents who lived on a dirt road. There Grandpa had specially-built shoots for setting off Roman candles and other dangerous fireworks.

We always looked forward to long visits from our youngest cousin, Betty Bray, who lived in Washington, DC Every summer included vacations at Aunt Julia's home in Cortland, NY, where she planned full days with swimming at the Water Works.

For years she drove a big Chandler touring car with side curtains to snap in place when it rained. Aunt Julia had red hair and the disposition associated with it. We always suspected that the reason Uncle Frank never got a driver's license was because of her bullying. What arguments arose after he sharpened her kitchen knives - just too sharp. Uncle Frank rode a bicycle year-round to work at the Wickwire Company where he operated machines to weaver screening

Later he became diabetic. He came home one day after visiting with a neighbor who accidentally stepped on his foot. When Uncle Frank removed his shoes and socks, a toe came with them.

For many years, Aunt Julia ran a Tourist Home for people traveling that area. When she died at the age of 94, she still had col-

lege boys living there. During the 80s and early 90s, I had my own Bed and Breakfast business. One day it dawned on me, "Well, I'm another Aunt Julia."

Summers always included visiting the Hunt grandparents who lived only three miles away. Grandma loved to work in her large garden surrounded by a picket fence Up and down the rows she would go, hitching her little 3-legged stool along with her. The victrola would be wound up to the strains of Sousa's *Washington Post March*, the grandchildren marched around waving small American flags. How we would beg Grandma to take out her false teeth, first purchased when she was only 18. Then she could touch her chin to her nose! Wasn't it strange how often Betty and I would have attacks of dishwater diarrhea when it was time to help clean up after a meal?

Because we had a big house located on a main highway, out-of-state relatives tended to congregate there. One of my earliest memories is riding in a big car with jump seats. This belonged to a Rev. Whalen whose first wife had been my mother's aunt. The doctor who attended her first childbirth came directly from a patient with scarlet fever. The young mother in turn, contacted the disease and died.

Other visitors came from Michigan. Years later in the 50s, Arthur and Nettle Pulling invited our family of five to stay with them while we were house-hunting.

Yearly vacations brought my Aunt Lena, Uncle Herbert, and children Grace and Allen up from Nyack on the Hudson, close to New York City.

Uncle Herbert commuted to the city where he taught manual arts at Roosevelt High School. He had had a full head of dark

hair, but by the time I knew him, something had caused him to lose every hair on his body – eyelashes and whiskers included. He wore a wig which changed to match his complexion - auburn red in the 30s.

After staying at our home for a time, they would move to my Grandfather Allen's place. Grandpa spent winter between Uncle John's and our house, but in the summer, opened up his big house, planted a garden and lived with good memories of the past. What a treat to stay there when I could listen to "big girl" talk from cousins Grace and Mary.

I really believe that having fresh produce available in our super-markets year-round, has taken away some of the joy of summer produce. Nothing tasted better than the first picking of green peas, corn on the cob, or those brilliant red juicy tomatoes. Tree-ripened peaches are nothing like the hard fruit found today in the stores.

Early in the summer came the treat of wild strawberries, so small but oh so sweet. Whenever Mother served fresh cherry pie we were reminded of the neighbor with a big family. Rather than pit the cherries she just gave each child a dose of castor oil at bed time.

For years my father grew peas and string-beans for the Halstead Canning Co. in Interlaken. When the field manager declared the crop ready for harvest the pea vines were cut with a horse-drawn mowing machine; then piled high on a hay wagon. Lena and I would ride on top of the load, shelling and eating raw peas on the mile trip to the factory. During one of the drought years during the early '30s my father's hard work didn't even pay for the seed which he was required to buy from Halstead. Sympathetic local



Halstead Canning Factory - Interlaken

bankers came to the rescue of many farmers during these desperate years.

Green beans were another story since they required hand-picking every few days. Whole families of Italians would come each summer from Syracuse to stay in small buildings on Halstead property. Little children were in charge of babies left in a safe place under a hedgerow while the older children and adults filled big burlap bags as they moved along the rows of beans. These Italians couldn't be called migrants because they all returned to their homes before the start of school.

My sister and I never learned to milk the cows. I think Mother considered that a man's job. We did help with the garden, feeding the chickens, and gathering eggs. When old enough I drove the horse which pulled a large amount of hay from the wagonload to a track in the hay-loft where the men would trip it. What a hot sweaty place to work on a blistering summer day. Mother would thoughtfully send out containers of lemonade.

Summers were busy but we made time for fun as well. Even though Cayuga Lake was only a couple of miles from home, we rarely had time to go there, so I didn't learn to swim until I was in college.

Sunday School picnics were usually held at Taughannock Falls State Park. The straight-drop falls are the highest east of the Rock-

ies. What a spread the women put in front of us. More than likely, my mother had taken one of her chocolate cakes with peppermint frosting.

After a busy day, the grown-ups might relax on the front porch while the children played hide and seek, or caught fire flies which were put in glass jars with nail holes in the lids. No matter the season, there was always the joy of reading. Weekly visits to the Hinman Library in town supplied us with all types of books. I'm happy to see that this love of reading has been passed on to my children.

To be continued October 2011

Workers' cabins at the Canning Factory.

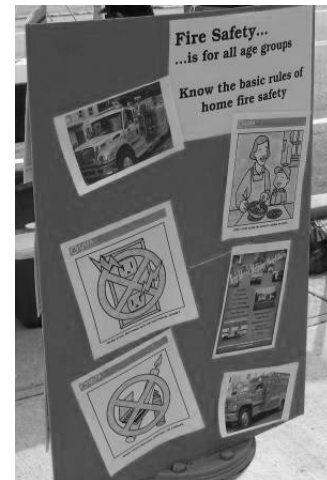


Olde Home Day 2011 & A Museum Preview

Citizens of the Year Duane and Wanda Waid in the Olde Home Day parade



Karen King preparing the sales table. A special thank you to the Trumansburg and Ontario Telephone people who were working on the Saturday to restore phone service to local customers. They graciously parked away from Main Street so visitors and vendors could roam freely



Above: New on the children's local landmark game was this display on child fire safety reminders. Once they found village landmarks they received a toy as well as Fire Safety coloring book and fire truck cutout.

Floats from the Baptist Church. (left) and the Interlaken Reformed Church (right)



Left: 1903 Wedding Dress worn by Lillian Heloise Baldrige, daughter of Addison Baldrige and Mary Jane Sackett. One of the four quilts on display this summer along with wedding pictures and certificates.



Above: Wall of pictures, additional pictures from the Glass plate negative collection, with a rural area theme.



Below: Tea set, wedding invitations and announcements as part of the wedding and quilts display.



**INTERLAKEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
GIFT SHOP ORDER FORM**

_____	<i>So Good A Time: Life in the 1870s as Documented in the Diary of Olive Williams 1873 to 1878</i> , 2010 Nancy Saultz Radloff Softcover	\$12.95
_____	<i>Historical Images of Interlaken</i> a coloring book based on historical photographs 12 full page drawings of historical buildings with descriptive text.	\$3.50
_____	Index to the Interlaken and Ovid Newspapers 1822-1994	\$55.00*
_____	<i>The Covert Family</i> , 1989 Carl W. Fischer, Wm. V Covert M. L. Patterson	\$35.00*
_____	<i>Between the Lakes</i> , 1976 Maurice L. Patterson	Hardcover \$25.00 Softcover \$15.00
_____	<i>Town of Covert History</i> , Compiled by Wayne Morrison 1983 Softcover	\$25.00
_____	<i>And Let My Memory Cherished Be</i> , Remembering the Families of the Old Covert Cemetery, Diane Bassette Nelson	\$18.00
_____	<i>Hamlet of Covert Historic Tour</i> Special Edition Newsletter	\$3.00
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_____	<i>Descendants of Thomas Horton of Springfield & Descendants of Phineus Pratt</i> , Carl W. Fischer	\$35.00
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_____	<i>The Diary of Herman T. Smith, 1884-1893</i>	\$10.00
_____	<i>The Geology of Seneca County</i> , John W. Wells	\$10.00
_____	<i>Landmarks of Seneca County</i> , Edith Delavan 2004	\$27.00

Order total _____

Postage and Handling: Please add \$10.00 if your order total is over \$50
 Please add \$5.00 if your order total is \$25 to \$49
 Please add \$4.00 if your order total is \$10 to \$24
 Please add \$2.50 if your order total is less than \$10
 * \$2.00 additional postage

Total enclosed _____

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Please Mail Order Form or DUES to: INTERLAKEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 270, Interlaken NY 14847

DUES are due beginning July 1, 2011 Still only \$10 a year!

Editor's Note: The following article was sent to us by Lodi Historical Society President Jim Covert with this cover note:

I have been transcribing several of C. S. Farr's letters to the *Interlaken Review* that were pasted into a scrapbook by his sister. Some of the articles pertain to Interlaken more than Lodi and I thought you might like to have some of them. I am nearly finished copying them and I hope to have them in some kind of reproducible form soon.

I am enclosing an article by W. A. Bassett that came from the same scrapbook--I thought you might be interested.

OLDEN TIMES

The first waiting room in Farmer Village, on the Geneva and Ithaca R. R., was the McCarthy House, just east of the old tracks on Cayuga street. Pete Arcangeli owns the place now. The time August 28, 1873.

The occasion was the first train to carry passengers on the road. An excursion train was gotten up to Ithaca and return. I have my ticket yet—the first one to be stamped, G. & I. R. R.

1874 Farmer Village map detail showing Cayuga Street, the railroad station and Mr. McCarthy's home. Geneva Street now runs North where Lakeview was and Lakeview is



now further East.

People gathered along the tracks on Cayuga street waiting for the train, when someone thought to go over to the McCarthy house and sit on the porch. The porch soon became full of people and some went inside. It was the only house anywhere near the railroad.

The train was made up of flat cars with planks laid across for seats. I think it stopped at the crossing near Abram Peterson's house (now Earl Wilson's), to take on passengers also. It was a gala day for everybody. Ed. Knight and wife, I remember in particular, cut up like school children. On arrival at Ithaca, we all had to walk up town, as that was before streetcars were running. Where did we get our dinner? I don't remember, but I think it was a sort of picnic basket affair. At least, I spent only 21 cents all day besides my ticket, which was 25 cents. People did not spend money as they do now. If any took their dinner at a hotel that day, it was a very small percentage of the party. As for restaurants, I doubt if there were any in Ithaca at that time, although I may be mistaken.

We stayed until 6 o'clock, and on the return trip, they took us down to the end of the road, in the town of Romulus. Some ride for 25 cents, but think of accommodations! Imagine scrambling up the end of a flat car and then taking several acrobatic leaps or steps over the tops of the seats to gain the middle. This, however had its compensa-

tions, as it afforded them a fine chance to show their gallantry to the ladies. The sides of the cars were protected with boards to keep the passengers from being strewn off along the way when the train made a sudden jolt.

The road was newly built and consequently rough, the cars had no springs, and you, probably by this time, have formed the conclusion that that must have been a terrible ride. Not at all. For many of us, it was the finest and most unique ride we had ever had, for it was our first ride on a railroad train.

All that first winter the only waiting room we had was Ira hall's coal office and practically the same building is now the office of Mr. A. O. Emmons.

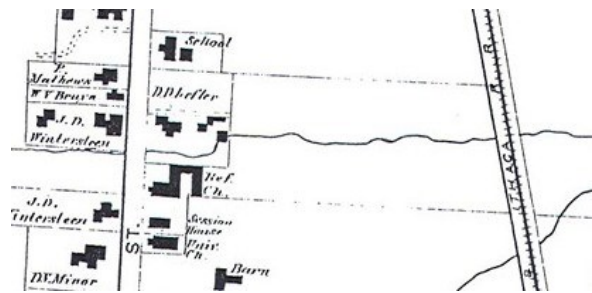
Mr. Hall was the first ticket agent. He and his father, John C. Hall, began a partnership in the grain and coal business right from the start. Mr. Hall continued to be ticket agent as late as 1877, and perhaps later. I remember that Fremont Cole attended school here, the winter of '76-7, and he helped Mr. Hall in the freight office nights and mornings. I remember how he used to show us his hands, cut and bruised from handling freight. The next year he went to Wat-

kins and entered a law office.

Two trains each way were put on the road November 19, 1873, or two months after the last spike was driven at Romulus.

The road was bought by Lehigh Valley in February 1875. I remember it, because one morning, at school, Fred Troutman said: "Boy, this is now the Lehigh Valley."

The railroad meant more to us boys than anything that ever happened before or since. We would watch the trains go by, sitting in school, and thought it a wonderful sight.



Above: 1874 Farmer Village map detail showing the school just north of the Reformed Church and the railroad line on the right edge.



The first Railroad station in Farmer, removed to become a lake cottage after the new station was built in 1910.

The school house on North Main Street circa 1890.



W. A. Bassett

Working at Seneca Army Depot

By Ann Buddle

Many of the historical societies and the County Historian of Seneca County are participating in the Observance of the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Seneca Army Depot. Programs have been presented on site selection, construction, dispossession of farm families as well as the Depot years of activity. The last program in the series is planned for **Sunday September 18th 2pm at Hadley Hall on the Willard Campus**. The current uses and future plans and possibilities for the lands of the Depot will be discussed.

As the historians researched the various topics, one of the richest sources of information was the memories of the people who spent a portion of their lives at the Depot. In this article we'd like to share the stories of Interlaken community members who make this history come alive! As Bob Hope frequently said ...“Thanks for the memories!”

Interview with Elizabeth Quinn Crane

March 28, 2011

After working a number of years at Sampson Naval Base, Sampson College and Sampson Air Force Base, Betty was transferred to the North Depot of the Ordnance in 1957. This part of the Depot was in process of being build. Betty was the third woman hired. They worked in a warehouse while their offices were being constructed. The warehouse eventually became the commissary.

Betty had top secret clearance. She mentioned that it was necessary to show your badge at the first gate, turn it in and get another badge to enter the area. Her position

was senior stock control clerk. There were perhaps ten or twelve women working, all civilian as well as some military personnel. It was a busy office with typing and handling all the paperwork for the components that were necessary for the mission. Betty thought that these components were probably stored in Q area. In addition to these duties, Betty trained both civilian and military personnel in stock control procedures.

Betty was next transferred to the Chief Administrative Branch of the Administrative and Planning Office for North Depot activities. Her responsible position here was to supervise the group maintaining the classified documents related to the North Depot activities. She recalls a line of file cabinets, perhaps eight in number, all securely locked. Each morning Betty would unlock each file cabinet, supervise the staff of four to eight people doing clerical work, sign out needed documents to personnel, sign the documents back in at the end of the day and once again lock the file cabinets. It was stressed regularly – once you leave the North Depot area, the work day activities were not to be discussed.

Betty left the Depot in 1963 to marry Merwyn Crane, a widower with five children.

The Quinn family was involved in the 1941 resettlement of families from the Depot lands. Peter and Loretta Rooney, Betty's aunt and uncle, were paid a government price for their farm. They continued to work at Willard but were able to take

their sheep to their new home on Route 96A north of Willard.

Merwyn's parents, Vance and Nellie Crane, had little notice to vacate their farm located near what is called Bull's Head, the intersection of Routes 96 and 414. They had a grain and cattle business as well as working at Willard. The Cranes were able to harvest their grain before the government took possession of the land. They moved to the Village of Interlaken, keeping only their chickens. Eventually they started the business that became the Crane TV/ Appliance business.



In-

interview with Ernie Walden

Interlaken, NY February 21, 2011

Ernie recalls that his dad Carl worked at the Seneca Army Depot in the 1940s, possibly 1942. He had been driving truck for the Swift Meat Co. of Ithaca, even making deliveries to some of the CCC camps. The company decided to move operations to Elmira and Carl choose to work at the Depot instead of moving. Carl drove semi trucks and later dump trucks until he retired from the Depot.

Ernie began at the Seneca Army Depot in 1953. During the course of his employment there, he held a number of different positions. He finally left in 1970 to take a job at Willard.

Initially Ernie worked in the small arms group, sealing cans of 50 caliber machine gun bullets. The women packed the cans, sent them down the line and Ernie sealed them.

He described his work on the demolition grounds as hard work but fun. Sounded dangerous too! This involved blowing up ammunition that was not up to standards. The boxes of "bad ammo" arrived in trucks, cushioned inside the trucks with sand bags. The demolition grounds had a series of large holes, about the size of small rooms. The men would go down into the hole holding the boxes of ammunition. Ernie mentioned rifle grenades. It was not advisable to tip the boxes. They should be held upright! The boxes were carefully placed and dirt was shoveled over the hole by hand. All the

holes were wired to a dugout, an underground concrete shelter. When all the ammunition was placed in the holes and covered with dirt, the men retreated to the dugout. When all were safely in place, one hole at a time was ignited.

As the work force was reduced, Ernie became a grounds person, mowing grass. He then spent ten years in insect/rodent control. He sprayed for cockroaches in the houses and offices as well as for mosquitoes along the lake. Woodchucks were a problem in that they could eat through the water proofing seal on the igloos under the grass. Ernie trapped or shot the woodchucks. In addition, he applied herbicides around the perimeter fence.

For a period of time, he worked in the warehouse. The next position was in salvage. Ernie spent a good bit of time helping to facilitate sales of old machinery, not exactly his job but appreciated by his supervisor.

His last position was in the commissary. When his hours of employment were to be changed, Ernie finally decided – enough! He left the Seneca Army Depot for good in 1970.

Photographs of Tom Boyes and others who worked at the Seneca Army Depot. A special thank you to Ginny Boyes for sharing these photographs with the Historical Society.



Mark your calendar

July 1st, Dues are due, please renew your membership today, or consider becoming a life member of the Interlaken Historical Society

July 24th Fifth Annual community social on the library lawn

September 18th 70th Anniversary program on the Seneca Army Depot

The Historical Society

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Interlaken Historical Society
PO Box 270
Interlaken, NY 14847-0270

www.InterlakenHistory.org

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