

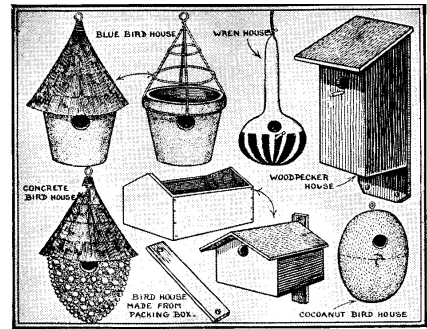
# Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the  
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 37, No. 2      October 2011

www.InterlakenHistory.org

*Bird  
houses  
as shown  
in a 1932  
Nature  
Magazine*



**Monday October 24, 2011  
7:30 p.m.**

## **THE DYNAMIC HISTORY OF COMMON BIRDS IN THE FINGER LAKES**

Kevin J. McGowan, Ph.D. and Extension Support Specialist at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology will discuss the historical record of birds occurring in the Finger Lakes Region of New York extending back more than a century. You might think that the common birds at your feeders are the same species that have always been here, but in fact, some of your most common visitors are relatively new arrivals to the state. This talk will discuss how landscape changes in New York since the early 1800s have affected local bird populations, and will examine in depth how a few well-known species have responded.

Kevin is the instructor for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Home Study Course in Bird Biology, and the new online short-course, Courtship and Rivalry in Birds. Kevin received a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of South Florida for work on the behavior of Florida Scrub-Jays.

Kevin was the co-editor and primary author for the recently-published book *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*, which focused on the changes in bird populations in the state. From that work, as well as 13 years as the curator of the bird

collection at Cornell, he has developed a deep appreciation of the history of New York birds and their study.

Kevin also helped create the Lab's *All About Birds* website [www.allaboutbirds.org/](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/), writing the original Bird Guide section. He has been studying the Ithaca population of crows since 1988, and has followed the life stories of over 2,000 banded individual birds. An avid birder as well as a professional ornithologist, Kevin enjoys all aspects of birds (especially crows).

The program is free and open to the public. The Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street is the former American Legion Building. We welcome visitors to this event, and refreshments will be served. For more information please contact the Society at 607-532-9227.

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## **President's Message Floods, Funds and Facebook**

September 2011, we can be thankful for our "dry lands" in light of what neighbors in Ithaca and points south and east have experienced this past week as Hurricane Irene, and then the remnants of Hurricane Lee paid visits to the area.

In January of this year Nancy Booth DeMarte sent the Historical Society the letter written by her Grandmother Nellie Bradley during the Flood of '35. It gives us all a new look at that event. We have added a number of photographs from the Society collection to the article.

Items such as this letter and other reflections are always welcome. We continue this month with the "Fall" segment from Esther Hunt MacLachlan's look back at the 1920s and 30s.

"Budgets" for the Society, for local governments and many others are a topic during this fall season. When asked by the Town Board for a "report" on what the Society does my first comment was, "We send you a quarterly report, it is our newsletter." Their reply was for more details on our funding and expenses.

We received three "large" donations during fiscal year 2010-2011, ending June 30, 2011. These came from the Village of Interlaken (\$2,000), the Town of Covert (\$1,400) and the Delavan Foundation (\$6,500). Other income included sale of books, stationary, and our two new books, Olive's Diary and the Images of Interlaken coloring book; donations (memorials, for research, for programs, and because they

appreciate what we do), and dues. In total we received \$9,466 in unrestricted funds, for a total income of \$15,966. The Delavan foundation gifts were restricted to four specific projects, our newsletters, Plowing Day 2010, Olive's Diary and the Indian Artifacts display.

Expenses for the same period included the four Foundation sponsored projects, plus the administration of the society, utilities, website, additional costs for the newsletter not covered by the foundation gift, insurance, and other programming expenses. These expenses total \$8,252, adding in the restricted projects for a total of \$14,752. We balanced the budgets with a bit left over.

The support from the Town of Covert, Village of Interlaken, our members, visitors and friends has allowed the society to develop exhibits, sponsor programs for the public, respond to research requests, and be a part of the community. On behalf of the Interlaken Historical Society, thank you to each of you for your continued support.

And lastly, Facebook. Last issue we noted that the board is looking for way to be a part of the current generations. As that issue was going to press a volunteer came forward to work on creating and maintaining the Interlaken Historical Society Facebook page. Stop in for a visit, write on the wall, tell us your thoughts, or thank our volunteers.

Several of you responded to receive your newsletter via email, and we are continuing to look at the options for that. We

will keep you posted.

History is what we leave for others to find, thank you for helping to preserve the history of our area.

*Diane Bassette Nelson*

### **A Special Thank You!**

A special *thank you* to the Delavan Foundation for our 2011-2012 Foundation gifts. We were able to purchase an historical mannequin for displaying women's clothing, purchase a flat screen TV with built-in DVD player for the Community Life Museum, and funding for our newsletter.

Additionally we were given funds to partner with another local organization to upgrade access to a building for public programming use. We are awaiting word on other grant funding to begin work on that project.

### **Red Dots**

The Historical Society fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30th. Therefore, dues are now due. If there is a Red Dot on your mailing label, we have not yet received your dues. 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

### **New Members**

Harold H. Dunwoody, Englewood, FL,  
gift of Marsha Brown  
Sarah Adams and Victoria Romanoff,  
Trumansburg, NY

### **New Life Member**

Grace Garey, Northport, NY,  
gift of Victoria Garey

### **Donations to the Society**

TV with DVD for the Farmers' Museum  
Jean Currie, Interlaken  
Cronk postcard, given by Wanda Ruh  
Sacred Song book from the Farmer Baptist  
Church, donated by Millie & Gerry  
Messmer  
Collection of fine baby clothes, circa 1930s,  
given by Corrinne Coe  
Lehigh Valley freight wagon and hydraulic  
lift from the Interlaken railroad depot,  
gift of Richard Bauer  
Large wooden bar clamp, donated by David  
Patrickson

### **Financial Donations:**

Marsha Brown, Pine City, NY  
Carol & Thomas Hilberg, Medina, Ohio  
Sarah Adams and Victoria Romanoff,  
Trumansburg, NY

### **From one of our members:**

Thank you for the Newsletter, I do enjoy reading the stories and the news about what's happening in Interlaken.

This month marks ten years that we moved to Spokane to be near our Family. I still keep in touch with many dear friends and miss all of you very much,

*Lorne Ingram*

## Library News

The Interlaken Public Library, and the other Seneca County libraries, have begun a “Sign Up for your Library Card” campaign this fall. The goal of this campaign is to increase the number of residents with library cards as well as library awareness. On September 10 the Interlaken, Lodi & Ovid libraries were at the Interlaken Quik Shoppe and Ovid Big M to sign up new patrons. On September 24, all the libraries were at Wal-Mart in Waterloo. If you don’t have a library card, please stop by the library to get yours. We hope to increase our patronage significantly by the end of the year.

Author Barbara Hacha visited the library on September 28 for a presentation and book signing of her new book *Line by Line* now available for sale. Following is a brief synopsis of the book

*The 1930s: Millions of Americans are riding the rails, crisscrossing the country looking for work and something to eat. They carry very few possessions and are driven both by desperation and hope.*

*As the Great Depression deepens and her family disintegrates, Maddy Skobel flees her central Ohio town—by freight train—determined to make her own way. Learning to survive as a hobo while facing hardship, danger, and violence, Maddy must discover her own resourcefulness and strengths.*

*Through Maddy’s eyes, Line by Line explores larger themes that especially resonate today: coming of age in times of economic devastation, trust in our government, and the life-shaping influence of family—both the family that we are born into and the family we create as we surround ourselves with those who matter most.*

Our Artist Showcase for September featured Quilling by Rachell Kopsa of Interlaken, NY. Quilling is an art form that

uses strips of paper that are rolled, shaped, and glued together to create decorative designs. On September 22 the public was invited to meet Rachell at a Meet The Artist Reception at the library. Rachell and her family live in Townsendville.

Shirley Weeks, of Trumansburg presented Card Making Mania on Sept. 20. This class was very successful in the spring. For a small fee for materials each participant makes 4 handmade, very detailed greeting cards. Shirley also presented a workshop “Crotoberfest” on October 1. In this all day workshop, each participant created a memory album. With funding from the Delavan Foundation, the library is busy scheduling other programs and classes. Please watch for more details.

As a final note, our new “Teen Corner” is becoming a reality. With funds from the Town of Covert, the library purchased new, colorful seating chosen by the teens participating in our Summer Reading program. On September 6, the library was presented with a check for \$1,527 from Mark Benjamin of Seneca Meadows in Waterloo to be used for a carpet for this area, Wii console and games, a Young Adult book collection and a Nook for teens.

The Library has 2 Color Nooks already, provided by a grant from Senator Dave Valesky. These Nooks may be taken out by patrons of all ages. Watch for the dedication of the Teen Corner as well as the Patricia Moore Storytime Area coming in October.

Joan

## CHILDHOOD IN THE COUNTRY

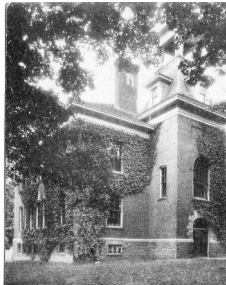
*Editor's note: Esther Hunt MacLachlan was born in Interlaken and lived here for many years with her parents. She later moved to other locations. These "memories" cover both her growing up years, and an occasional looking forward/looking back comment. There are four sections, one for each season, which 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*

### FALL

Summer vacation had been fun, but we were ready for school to resume the first Tuesday after Labor Day. For ten years we walked home for lunch. We only had one hour and must cover a half mile each way. Our big meal of the day was at noon and Mother had it on the table as we came through the door

Interlaken School was a large, red brick building with grades one through six on the lower level and high school on the second floor. Seventh and eighth grades met in another building. The room had a stage, and above was the basketball court. The boys' AG department, and the girls' Home Economic classes occupied a third smaller building. When I was beginning my Junior year, we moved into a spacious, modern Consolidated School with a fleet of buses to bring in students who had formerly attended rural schools.



I still remember my four grade school teachers. Each taught two grades: Miss



Dennison - 1st and 2nd , Miss Fowler - 3rd and 4th , Miss Bess Ditmars - 5th and 6th , Mrs. Pearl Van Deusen - 7th and 8<sup>th</sup>. Each had her specialty, going from class to class each week. There were: Health, Art, Nature Study and Music.

*Pearl VanDeusen*

My favorite pastime was riding Max, a wonderful black horse. For some reason, my father had eight horses instead of the customary four. This made me very popular with the Junior High boys. Many afternoons found us playing cowboys and Indians through the pastures and lower wood lot.



One time Max ran away with me throwing me over the saddle-horn onto his neck. Fortunately my dad was down by the gate – otherwise we would have been on the busy highway. Of course, I was badly frightened but my father wouldn't let me dismount and made me ride longer. Something like driving a car after an accident.

A big horse-chestnut tree yielded quantities of shiny nuts which we used to make rooms all over the dining room floor like the floor plans for a house.

We did the same with leaves from the numerous maples. Not only houses, but

floors of hotels covered the lawn.

I never attended school on my birthday since Columbus Day was a legal holiday in New York State. I remember one year when my 5-year older brother decided it would be fun to chase all these silly girls up the front stairs and through room after room of our big house. I'm not sure-my mother was too thrilled. Gifts were much simpler than these given today. A new coloring book and box of crayons were typical.

Halloween meant dressing up for a Sunday School party where we bobbed for apples and ate popcorn balls. Our tricks were confined to using a tic-tac on neighbor's windows. This was made by winding string around a wooden spool into which notches had been cut. One night Howard used home made stilts. All went well until a neighbor, Oscar Burdick started to chase him.

Every autumn found us gathering black walnuts which were run through a cornsheller to remove the green outer covering. Then the walnuts were spread out to dry, to later be cracked and used in fudge. Grandma Hunt added them to her wonderful sour cream cake filling.

Hickory nuts were small and hard shelled but well worth the effort to pick out the nut meats. Most delicate and delicious were the rare Butter Nuts.

Corn must be picked from the dry stalks and stored for husking some day when too stormy for the men to work out doors. My first paying job was picking up potatoes probably earning 5¢ per bushel; when a little older Lena and I would pick apples at Tom Freestone's fruit farm.

The last migrating birds to pass high overhead were the V-formation of Canadian geese. In recent years some choose to spend

the winter at Cayuga Lake.

How we looked forward to Thanksgiving at the home of Uncle Kase and Aunt Minnie Hunt. The huge kitchen would be filled with the aroma of turkey and the family's favorite escalloped oyster. Earlier, a large Hubbard squash had been split by an ax and baked in the oven before mashing. Aunt Minnie was a wonderful cook, and the first I knew to use Swansdown cake flour that, along with real butter, made a dessert to melt in your mouth. Lena and I would be invited to stay for the week-end. As good as the holiday dinners were the leftovers stored in the cold shelf-lined pantry...

It was not unusual to have snow in November, a prelude to the next season's Winter Wonderland.

**To be continued January 2012**

*Burrall's Corn Sheller made by Gould Mfg Co. Seneca Falls, NY*



## When Walls Tell the Story

By Marie Roloson

My husband and I moved with our small son to Interlaken in 1972 just before the birth of our daughter. We purchased a home in Interlaken in the late fall of 1979 and moved our family, two boys and a girl, into the house on Mechanic Street. Within a year we had another daughter to complete our family. When describing where we lived after we first moved here, we learned quite quickly to refer to it as the Hanford house. Although we did not purchase the house from the Hanford's, they were the best known former residents. Mr. Hanford had run a hardware store in town.

In the summer of 1983 we had a surprise visit from a couple who changed the way we viewed our house. Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Illig stopped at our neighbor, Webb Rankin's house. He brought them over to meet us. They were very anxious to see our house because Mrs. Illig had grown up in it. The couple had actually been married on the front porch of our house. The reason for the trip to Interlaken was in celebration of their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Unfortunately the wraparound porch they described is no longer on the house. They also mentioned that the house had been larger. A whole section of upstairs and downstairs had been removed from the side of our house toward the driveway. So the house was not what they remembered. Mrs. Illig asked to see the inside of the house. She described the front parlor that was used for visitors and that the house had boarded people who worked in the apple packing plant across the road in those days. There was a pond located right where the trailer is across from our house and an ice house where ice was stored after it was cut from the pond and then sold

in the summer. Her husband had been a boarder at the house and that is how they had met and married. Both of them were school teachers.

The one object that thrilled Marian the most was the door in my kitchen. It is a Dutch door now as someone had done that before we purchased the house. Marian remembered it not as a Dutch door but as the front door of her house when she was a child. This door has a frosted scene of a ship on the window in the top half. She seemed quite happy to find one thing that remained from her childhood.

They lived in Rochester at the time of this visit. As in the spirit of showing her around and sharing different aspects of the house and its past, Mrs. Illig also shared her age which was 87. She told me this as if it were a secret. She had not shared it with her husband. I seem to remember hearing my parents and grandparents talk about the fact that woman did not share their ages at one time. I think Marian did not as she may have been older than her husband. After some investigating we learned that she was a year older than her husband.

*Mechanic Street, the Roloson's home is on the left*

We received a lovely thank you from the couple after they returned to Rochester and she let us know that "the latch would always be open" for us to visit them.



Marian Darrow Illig was born in 1896 in the Interlaken area and died in Rochester in 1987. Her father was A. Sayre Darrow (1858-1930) and her mother was Delpha Robards, from Michigan originally, (1861-1936). In the 1900 census he appears in Ovid as a blacksmith when Marian was four. Her name appears on the 1920 census as living as a boarder in Ithaca and teaching. After marrying on July 10, 1923, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Illig (1897-1983) were living in Rochester by 1930. When asking Mr. Rankin about her visit, he shared that he remembers her wedding when he was a kid. He said her father use to have a shed where he fixed small engines and especially the old push lawn mowers and sharpened their blades. He would not be surprised if the name Mechanic Street came from his shop being on the street.

*Bradley Home on West Avenue*



### 1935 Flood

*My grandmother, Nelle Symonds Bradley, was born in the village of Farmer in 1881 (which became Interlaken in 1904) and lived there all her life. Nelle was a prolific writer of diaries, poems, and letters, many of which I now care for. In the fall of 1935, during one the greatest floods the village had ever experienced, Nelle wrote a letter to her oldest daughter Margaret over a period of a few days. At that time Nelle was a widow living in her home (currently owned by the Hubbard family), which is located on the south side of West Avenue at the bottom of the hill which leads up to the water tower. Her youngest daughter Jean, age 19, was home from Cornell at that time; her middle daughter Eleanor was living and working in Rochester. These excerpts from this letter gives us a picture of what it was like when too much rain fell too fast on the little village and its neighbors.*

*Nancy Booth DeMarte*

Dear Margaret,

Monday, 5:00 AM -- Jean and I are on the front porch watching a raging torrent of water flow by. It has roared since -- well, the fire whistle woke me at three because DePond's house had washed off the foundation, so I don't know when it began. Yesterday and Saturday there was one heavy thunder shower after another, but this surely was a cloud burst. It looks three feet deep at least on the other side of the street. I was afraid our three cows would be drowned, but when it got light we saw them in the southwest corner eating grass.

Telephone service has been off and on. I heard it was rushing through Howard Peterson's store. Really, the roar is deafening. It



is still raining hard.

I heard they had to get Stinars out with ropes, but don't know if that was their house or cottage. Babcock's car washed into the lake (Kennebunk), and a team went down to help them. I wonder about our cottage and the farm crops. Surely it would take all the top soil where it flowed over. The pasture gate is washed open and the debris in this NE corner has broken down the fence. A waterfall rushes over the corner.

We had some men callers in high boots an hour ago (the water was over their high boots). They got our big oil tank and tied it to the railing so it wouldn't tip over. What a mess. Huge chunks of wood, cans, ashes. I had a fire in the little stove.

Across the street, Wheeler Bassett's front steps are gone. Clint Bassett's chicken house has moved.

I woke Jean. Lights went out, of course. Railroads must be damaged so I don't know when mail will go. We had some water in the refrigerator which we will treasure as wells will not be good. Jean is in her raincoat and oiled hat and longing to go downtown. It will take loads of gravel to fill in our drive. I wonder how much garden I'll have. Most of all, of course, I hope no one will be drowned or hurt. Jean says it cut Wilson's driveway down to the creek level. Jimmi Bassette tried to drive out when the whistle blew, and he got stopped at this end of Knight Street where his car now stands deep in the river. Guess they tied it to a post so it wouldn't wash away. He left the headlights on for a long time and yelled like mad to warn a car coming down the hill.

10:00 AM -- Cars do go through now, but I'd hate to try it. I read recently about a downpour in Penn Yan where the topsoil was carried to the lake. I wonder about the farm

crops again. There was never anything like this here before. Jean was asking yesterday if we could ever have a flood here. I'd think the new school ground would be washed out...and if they had cement in the cellar. My little flowers in the front yard!

Wheeler Bassett's big bush by the walk is flat and is catching debris. His pretty lawn is a lake. The house is surrounded. Jean says this is the most exciting spot now unless lower Main Street could be worse. Multiply anything you ever saw by a hundred or two. I thought I'd wash this morning -- guess not. I hope Conesus isn't getting the same. Betty Hewlett was up there for the weekend.

Central (telephone office) answers now. They said they had to carry Mrs. Wickes and Christine out. We can't get to the cottage, but they say Dr. Gould's new car is under water. Imagine what that lake road must be. It had been in real good shape.

3:00 PM -- It is raining so hard now; if only it would let up. Trumansburg is the same. Charley Holton's store is said to be washed from its foundation. This will be a great loss as no one would have flood insurance.

Tuesday, 7:00 AM: Still roaring by as fast, but Jean thinks it's lower. The flood of '35! It is still raining. Ditto at 8 AM. Jean is poking things away from the cellar drain through the window. All the woodpiles have fallen down. The east track in our driveway is two or three feet wide and about 10 inches deep. The west track is deep, too, as is the whole length of the drive and the great holes back behind the pump. The Ikes have just taken the cows to the farm.

*Trumansburg, where Holton's store washed away*

Mr. Grove just came by and said Charley Holton's store washed over into the creek. He heard some were drowned there. I see so many people go by with new cars, recently traded. Howard Miller got the sedan that the Buick people tried to sell me. I ought to be working, but there is no electricity to clean or pump water. Oil must be conserved.



10:00 AM -- Betty Gould just called and said Dr. saved our boat and their canoe at 3:00 AM, but Grant's place is ruined. The barn was smashed and contents are floating out. Doc's house floated down to the tree. Betty's car stood between the tree and the walk and was safe, but Arthur's new one was sideswiped. Headlights and fenders hurt and water deep on it. The road is washed out.

11:00 AM -- I see they have put up a bar across Knight Street. This end is washed out. They say the storm was from Syracuse to Elmira.

Mr. Ike just came and said the grain seemed OK on all the places, but wallpaper in the Flagg house was spotted. They were up about all night. His cellar was filled, but is now draining out. Dibble's cellar filled, too. It looks like more rain.

1:30 PM: Two girls from Ithaca were just in looking for Jean. They were out with boys last night and couldn't get home. They are at the Interlaken Inn. They told some awful tales about Montour Falls. Don't you ever teach where there is flood danger!

Mr. Switzer is looking for his wheelbarrow around our trees in the pasture. No doubt the New York papers will tell some-

thing. I've heard that 45 bridges are down.

I was at Hause's this afternoon. Their driveway looked as if it had been blasted out.

*Hause home on North Main Street during and following the Flood of 35*

We are not receiving any mail, so aren't sure if any is going out yet. It seems as if it wouldn't pay the railroad to get their road repaired. Since early this morning, the Ike boys and Jean and I cleaned the cellar. I washed hundreds of cans and dozens of crocks through four rinses. We stored the cans in the barn for now. The boys cleaned the mud from the cellar and stacked the wood again. This afternoon the creek went over again and flooded the street, but not the raging torrent of yesterday. Cars are going by continually as the north road closed because the Van Liew bridge is out. Men are



directing one way traffic in front of here because a deep ditch has opened up in front of Bassett's. It took all the dirt out over the new water pipes.

Bess Vorhees called to know how we were faring. She said I couldn't believe without seeing how bad it is on Seneca Lake. They can hang their feet into the water from the front porch. Any more rise of water might take their cottage. Others have

gone. The papers don't begin to report all the dreadful things we hear. Ithaca has suffered greatly. Some dams went out in that area.

Wednesday, 9:00 AM -- Our cottage is all right so far. The water started going down, but this rain will raise it again. I hope it clears tomorrow. Helena Huhn said this is nothing compared to the awful damage at Willard. Their expensive central heating plant was partly destroyed. Even the Superintendent and doctors were out shoveling mud. The Huhns can't come home in the evenings now.

The Wilson's yard is a mess. They got another dose today. Stones and mud are all over it.

I guess most everyone has been to Trumansburg now. I didn't think I wanted to see it, but may go tomorrow. I must write a note to Mabel Holton. Betty said Charles looked as if he had had a fit of sickness. Mabel wept when they went over. It's a great loss for them. The store, however, belonged to Biggs. Jean says the water is up to the second floor at the Glenwood Hotel.

Let's see. We were afraid of another drought this summer.

I heard that locals in Trumansburg want some help. There are 45 bridges down in the area. They are wondering if the CCC boys in the several camps around could help rebuild some of the many bridges out around here. They have been working on the Watkins Glen Park. I imagine they'll have plenty to do there. The park is ruined. I'll bet Taughannock Park looks sick, as well. We are boiling water. Our pumps aren't working yet.

I have said so much of our own concerns. I'll have to tell you more when we see you if you care to hear by then. The weather

doesn't look like clearing yet.

4:00 PM -- I just talked with Mr. Price. He said that it would cost \$100,000 to fix the plant at Willard. Two buildings were in danger and patients were moved to a new building today. Helena's was one in danger. There are so many ravines over there.

A Rochester teacher just told on the radio how he got to Rochester from Binghamton. He had to go 28 miles down into Pennsylvania, then up to Olean and on to Rochester -- 85 miles. He said that at Corning he saw them making every effort to save the electric equipment that controls the cooling of the glass mirror which isn't to be cool until November. He said it was worse than the Johnstown Flood, but loss of life was not as great because there was more efficient help.

I'm anxious to know if you are safe. I haven't heard that Philadelphia is in trouble.

The radio just said Arkport had been destroyed today. More trouble in Hornell. Maybe we won't go to Eleanor's in Rochester so soon. Will see what we hear about that road. With all the excitement and wet feet, we are fine. You should have seen dirty barefoot Jean washing cans that morning.

Maybe the sun will shine tomorrow and we can begin to forget how scared we were.

Lots of love,

*Mother*

*On Days when it did not rain*

*...the 2011 Summer Social*

*Volunteers and guests enjoyed a meal and fellowship on the lawn of the library*



Anne Knight signing new book on Townsendville.  
To purchase a copy please contact Anne at  
Anne Knight, 9064 Townsendville Rd, Interlaken,  
NY 14847

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*...the recent Library program*

Sixty area residents listen to Doris from the Living



Collection Exotic Animals as she presented  
7 animals, one from each continent as part of our  
Summer Reading Program



Lauren McGuire, Lodi, NY taking her turn  
to "pet" the alligator's tail during the program



## **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 70<sup>th</sup> 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. 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 Jayne Thompson June 10, 2011**

Jayne began work at the Depot in 1951 when she was just out of high school. Initially she worked in the warehouse replacing bullets in gun belts. The belt held 30-50 caliber bullets and stretched out three or four feet. Every fourth or fifth bullet had to be removed and a different one inserted. Jayne thought the bullets inserted might have been tracer bullets to illuminate the target. Jayne then hand rolled the belts and packed them into cans.

After taking a typing test, Jayne was re-assigned to Stock Control, housed in a building in the main complex. Also in the building were groups handling GSA (General Services Administration), Transportation and Surveillance. When she worked in stock control, Jayne dealt with ammunition coming in and out. While work-

ing with Transportation, Jayne had to order the correct number of trucks to facilitate the movement of small arms.

Jayne of course had security clearance even though her positions were in the South end of the Depot where the fences were not electrified.

At one point there was an initiative aimed at increasing awareness of accuracy, attention to detail and elimination of errors. The promotion stressed “Zero Defects”. Jayne and five or six other young women were part of the campaign. They wore perky little yellow beret type hats and sashes akin to beauty pageant contestants. The sashes proclaimed “Zero Defects”. Unfortunately, Jayne can't remember what they did while wearing their perky little hats and sashes!

All in all, Jayne's sixteen years at the Seneca Army Depot are remembered fondly.



The last program in the series was Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup> 2pm at Hadley Hall on the Willard Campus. The current uses and future plans and possibilities for the lands of the Depot were discussed.

### Historical Society Wish List

Listed 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. .

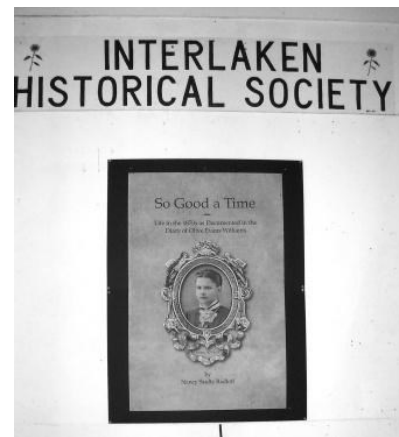
Photographs of homes and street scenes from the 1940s to the 1980s.

Stories, pictures or artifacts from the Halstead Canning Factory.

Scrapbooks from all eras

Artifacts that tell the story of our agricultural history

These photographs were taken at the Trumansburg Fair of the Historical Society's display about the life and times when Olive Williams was writing her diary.



A special thank you to the volunteers who planned and set-up this 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
_____	<i>Interlaken Oral History: Life &amp; Times of the Area 1900-1950</i> including the History of the Halstead Canning Co	\$10.00
_____	<i>Descendants of Thomas Horton of Springfield &amp; Descendants of Phineus Pratt</i> , Carl W. Fischer	\$35.00
_____	<i>Silas Halsey, Pioneer Settler of Lodi, N.Y., A Chronology of His Life and Times 1743 – 1832</i> , Alta E. Boyer	\$15.00
_____	<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!



**Mark your calendar**

Saturday October 22nd, Fall Festival and  
Open House at the Library 9 am to 1 pm

Monday, October 24th, Quarterly Program  
at the Covert Municipal Building 7:30  
pm.

January 23, 2012 Quarterly Program, to be  
announced.

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

[www.InterlakenHistory.org](http://www.InterlakenHistory.org)

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*Mailing label here*