

Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society

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www.InterlakenHistory.org



Join us April 23rd to learn more about the Museum

HISTORY OF THE SAMPSON MILITARY MUSEUM Monday April 23, 2012 7:30 p.m.

Have you visited the Sampson Military Museum? Join the Historical Society on Monday, April 23rd as Dolores Dinsmore, Director of the Museum since 2009 gives an overview of the activities there.

As one gentleman described it, "to help preserve the park's proud military history, Navy and Air Force veterans established a military museum in the original base brig (jail) facility...Visitors can look through an actual periscope from a nuclear submarine, sit at the controls of a WWII 5 inch gun or take a seat in the cockpit of a jet simulator."

In 2007 the WWII Naval Veterans started the transfer of the museum to the Natural Heritage Trust.

Doloris has worked for the New York Parks since 1986, and describes her current position as "helping the Veterans and the NHT meet the requirements of both parties on how the museum is operated."

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.

Historical Preservation Award

The Interlaken Historical Society wishes to recognize individuals who have restored or en-

hanced the architectural heritage of a structure within the confines of the Town of Covert, thereby preserving our local history.

Recognitions will be presented at the 2012 Country Fair with Country Fare and Plowing Day on September 22.

Nominations from the public may be for residential and commercial buildings including barns and outbuildings restored by the current owner.

Please send nominations to the Interlaken Historical Society, P.O. Box 270, Interlaken, NY 14847, email sarahhubbard@zoom-dsl.com or call 532-3423.

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President's Message Bits & Pieces

As anyone who regularly, or even occasionally, sits down to write an article knows, articles don't always come together when you need them. So it was with this message from the President. Instead here are Bits & Pieces for you to consider.

This year marks two special anniversaries. It is the 100th Anniversary of the Girl Scouts of America and our summer display will feature Girl Scouts, Brownies, and their activities over the years.

The second anniversary is the 70th anniversary of Sampson. The focus of the Base changed over the years. Our quarterly program features the Museum at Sampson.

A program honoring the 70th Anniversary of Sampson will be held in conjunction with the Saturday August 4th "Salute to the Troops." If you are in the area please plan to attend this memorable event.

Are you planning a visit to the area this summer? The museums will be open on Saturdays in July and August from 10 until 2. We are also open as needed with a simple phone call or email to ask about times. A very special thank you to those volunteers who respond to the "can you open the museums" for special visitors?

The Museums will also be open on June 9th for the annual Olde Home Day in Interlaken. Stop in and visit, look at the new displays, and especially enjoy the Chadwick prints which have been a yearly feature for several summers.

Did you enjoy the article in our last issue about the house moved from Main Street to Seneca Street? Since then the above photograph came to light which clearly shows the house facing Main Street,



and the adjacent wood frame building that was torn down to create the Case Block.

Looking at the back of the picture the notes tell us: Taken "ca 1900, west side of Main Street, left-post office, latter second story added, present Barber Shop. Gothic Revival house moved to Seneca Street in 1907 and built brick block." What they don't tell us is who the group of men are lining the street, or what the occasion was.

Plan now and mark your calendar for September 22nd the 2012 Plowing Day event. This year the theme is Country Fair with County Fare, Plowing Day 2012. Food, fun, fellowship and lots of plowing equipment are the plan for the day. More information will be included in our July issue.

On page 3, a photograph of an unknown house shows the men using a slip scrapper to prepare the ground. We have one of those in our Farmers' Museum, and plan to make a copy of the photograph to show museum visitors how that particular tool was used.

Thank you to Ann and Allan Buddle for explaining the use of the slip scrapper.

In our last issue we encouraged you to submit names for our "museum in the telephone company building." Suggestions include Interlaken Museum, Main Street Museum and Community Life Museum. Do you have an idea? Please share your

thoughts with an email to the board at museum@interlakenhistory.org.

We welcome your thoughts, comments and memories.

Diane Bassette Nelson

Slip Scrapper

A team of horses is ready for some hard work. They are hauling a slip scrapper which will be used to move dirt or small rocks. Slip scrapers were used to level land and excavate ditches, cellars and work on roads. The horses would not be the only ones working hard. The man in the picture would be very tired after the job was done! Visit



the Farmers' Museum to see a slip scrapper that may have been used to remove the dirt covering the bluestone in the quarries.

New Members

Beatrice Terry-Greenwald, Ovid, NY

New Life Member

Roberta & Dave Beckhorn, Valois, NY

Donations to the Society

Photographs of Interlaken donated by Karen Allen, Mecklenburg, NY

Scrapbook of newspaper clippings circa 1930s given by Louis & Agnes Brinkerhoff, Indiana

Ribbon and Medallion from the Seneca Lodge No. 694 IOOF, Interlaken, NY, donor unknown

Financial Donations:

Tom and Betsy Salm, Interlaken, NY

Muriel Huttenbach, Marietta, GA in memory of her Dad, Maurice "Pat" Patterson

Beatrice Terry-Greenwald, Ovid, NY

Ari Van Tienhoven, Ithaca, NY in honor of Marty Schlabach

Barbara & Phil Butterer, Interlaken, NY

Thank you to all these special people.

In Memoriam

The Society extends its sympathies to the Delavan family on the passing of Nelson Delavan on January 27th of this year.

Library News
Interlaken Library Receives New Children's Books

The Interlaken Public Library is proud to announce it has been awarded a grant from the Libri Foundation. Established in 1989, the Libri Foundation helps rural libraries acquire children's books that they could not afford to purchase otherwise. The Foundation has donated over \$5 million worth of new children's books to over 3,000 libraries in all fifty states. It supports the concept that children who learn to enjoy reading at an early age will continue to read throughout their lives

As part of the grant requirements, the library was required to raise between \$50-\$350 through sponsor donations or fundraising activities which the Libri Foundation then matches on a 2 to 1 ratio. The Interlaken Public Library was able to raise \$350 thanks to the generosity of the following sponsors: Alarmtech, GunBlack, Hubbard Plumbing & Heating, Inc., Pine Tree Farms and the Quik Shoppe. With the Foundation's contribution the library received \$1050 worth of new, quality hardcover books for children of all ages. An additional bonus of math and science based books valued at \$350 were also received through the Libri Foundation thanks to a generous donation from Hal Berenson and Laura Ackerman. In all, 81 new books with a total retail value of \$1,416.40 were received!

The Interlaken Public Library is located at 8390 Main Street in the Village of Interlaken. Hours are Monday 9am-noon, 5:30-7pm; Tuesday and Thursday 1-5pm and 7-8:30pm; Wednesday and Saturday 9am-noon. Please stop in today and browse through our new books and see what else we have to offer. With books, magazines, audiobooks, DVD's, Nooks, Wii & Xbox games, as well as public computer access available, there is something for everyone at your local libraries.

Joan

Interlaken Public Library Libri Grant Sponsors: standing left to right: Rich Richardson, Alarmtech; Joelle Stillions, Pine Tree



Farms; Frank Kempf, Gunblack; John Hubbard, Hubbard Heating & Plumbing; Chris Kempf, Alarmtech. Kneeling front: Sam Patel and D Patel, Quik Shoppe.

A COUPLE of S.A.D. STORIES

By Duane Waid

When my wife Wanda and I purchased *The Interlaken Review* in 1955, from Adrian Dickerson, we realized that we had an up-hill job on our hands. Adrian was ready to retire and had sold the Review a couple years earlier, but had to take it back, and was keeping it going only until another buyer came along.

The circulation had diminished to the point where it was almost impossible to sell advertising in the area where a local *Penny-saver* had become well established and two daily newspapers were concentrating their efforts to increase their visibility here.

We conducted successful subscription drives thru the schools and by 1960 had purchased our neighboring weeklies, *The Trumansburg Free Press* and *The Ovid Gazette*. We could now offer advertisers a combined circulation of between 3500-4000, about the same as the *Pennysaver* circulation at that time and far more than either daily was sending into our circulation area. However, we needed to do better.

Here is where the Seneca Army Depot entered the picture. We arranged a meeting with those in charge at the depot and pointed out that their mimeograph newsletter to military and civilian employees, *The Depot Dispatch*, needed modernizing and that their public relations contact within the community could be improved.

They agreed.

We made the proposal that if they would give us the advertising rights to the *Dis-*

patch, we would include it as a supplement to our publications, once a month, and deliver to Seneca Army Depot as many copies as they needed for their employees . . . at no cost to the government. Photos could be used and color would be available at little cost. The depots' responsibility would be to provide a military editor and a civilian editor to work with us as needed and to circulate the *Dispatch* to all employees.

They agreed that this was a win-win situation, a contract was drawn up and a most pleasant and beneficial relationship continued right up until we sold the newspaper business in 1976.

With this arrangement, Wanda was able to sell the idea to potential larger advertisers at the north end of Seneca County and the Geneva area, such as car dealerships, furniture stores, restaurants etc., who were anxious to put their advertising messages into the hands of Seneca Army Depot employees. It made us more than competitors.

The Army was pleased, as well and at one point we were honored at a luncheon at the officers club, attended by all the brass, where we were presented the Civilian Service Award by the U. S. Army for our efforts on the *Depot Dispatch*.

It was so successful that we presented a similar proposal to Willard State Hospital, and for years *The Willard Window* was a regular monthly supplement to our newspapers as well.



ARMY BEEHIVES

Another chapter about how the Seneca Army Depot had a positive impact on our business lives, began in 1976 when we got the inspiration to jump into the bee-keeping business.



We had printed several books on bee-keeping by two noted authorities on the subject, Dr. Richard Taylor, of Trumansburg and Dr. Roger Morse of Cornell. We soon became close friends and, apparently during one of my weaker moments, one or both of these men convinced me that I should get a colony of bees just to play with. We started out with four colonies, purchased from the Gable family in Romulus, and before we knew enough to quit, we had acquired over 200.

The cost of coming up with enough equipment, to handle this many colonies, would have been way beyond my means had it not been for the Seneca Army Depot. I learned that one could purchase a pick-up truck load of ammunition boxes from the depot for \$5.00 a load. I have no idea how many boxes I could pile on my pickup at one time but I'm sure I set a record of some kind. We made trip after trip.

I had recently purchased the garage adjacent to our print shop on Railroad Ave in Interlaken and this soon became a beehive

manufacturing shop. Every spare moment was spent breaking down the ammunition boxes, sorting the lumber, cutting it to size and assembling hive bodies, supers, bottom boards and covers. The completed parts were stacked on pallets behind the garage and the whole family pitched in to paint them.

Many of these hives are still in use today, as we continue to produce that delicious Finger Lakes Wildflower honey. On many occasions we provided equipment for friends who had the urge to dabble in the beekeeping business.

I have no idea how many thousands of dollars were saved, thanks to our good neighbor, the Seneca Army Depot.

* * * * *

Last year we featured a number of interviews and articles in celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Seneca Army Depot. Duane's two article and the interview beginning on page 7 continue sharing the stories of how the Depot shaped the lives of area residents.

Interview with Phil Stannard June 13, 2011

Interview by Allan Buddle

Phil's parents both worked at the Seneca Army Depot, his father for thirty-two years beginning in 1947 after being discharged from the service and his mother for six or seven years, "until they had too many kids and she had to stay home". They worked at the Depot and operated their farm in Ovid Center and Phil's grandfather's farm in Covert after work, on weekends and during vacation time during planting and haying season. Phil and his brothers had to have all the chores done by the time their father got home from work so that he could milk the cows. They had fourteen cows and when the milk company required all dairies to switch to bulk tanks, his father said no, sold the farm and moved his family to Interlaken in 1966.

Phil began work at the Depot in July, 1968, being paid \$2.20 per hour. Shortly afterward, during the Vietnam War, he enlisted in the Air Force and was sent to San Antonio, Texas for basic training. While there he sunburned his eyes and eventually received a medical discharge. Returning to Interlaken he asked for his job at the Depot back but was told they had no openings. He contacted Assemblyman Lee and Congressman Horton and very soon afterward he got a call from the Depot asking him to come back to work.

One of Phil's first jobs was packing guns for shipment to Viet Nam. They painted the corners of the boxes yellow to indicate that their destination was Viet Nam. He also still remembers how cold he got loading trailers containing compressors and generators onto railroad cars for shipment. He said they were required to wear steel toed

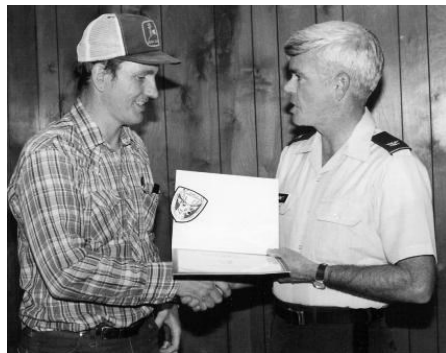
shoes and his feet were just frozen all the time. The only place to warm up was in a bathroom in one of the warehouses and you needed permission to go there. Phil's job was to crawl under the trailers on the decks of the railroad cars and using No. 9 wire, fasten the trailers to the cars. After the wires were fastened then sticks had to be used to twist the wires tight and then the sticks had to be wired down so they wouldn't loosen during shipment. Phil said the safety inspector would come by once in-awhile and stomp on your toe. If you weren't wearing your steel toed shoes you were sent home without pay.

In the early years of his employment at the Depot, Phil and many others reported in the morning to a central place and were given an assignment for the day. He said you never knew whether you would be inside or out so didn't know how to dress. One day you might be on the Loading Platform and the next day working inside on ammunition or in a warehouse. Phil's accuracy in shipping was soon recognized and much of his time was then in the warehouses.

In 1975 Phil became a Motor Vehicle Operator in the Mail Room. He and one other person went to the Romulus Post Office each day and picked up the mail for the entire Depot. For this job he had a high level

security clearance.

The mail was separated into deliveries for the Military



Police and for the Headquarters Companies (Special Weapons). Each military unit had their own mail clerk. Phil took the mail to the Companies and to the Q Area. Confidential messages came in by teletype. Phil signed for them and delivered them to the classified documents office. A clerk would determine who they were for and Phil would deliver them and get a signature that they had been delivered to the right person.

Phil said when you went to the Q Area, they took your badge, gave you another and did a complete inspection of your vehicle. The reverse happened on the way out of the Q Area. If you didn't have the appropriate security clearance, an MP rode with you with his gun trained on you.

Phil recalls a couple of instances where volunteers were asked to come in on a Saturday, go to the Q Area, form a line and drive the deer out of the area through a gate that was opened just for that purpose. Snow fence was set up to keep the deer from getting in between the three rows of fences at the open gate.

After the Mail Room, Phil went to work in the Roads and Grounds Division. He worked there for two years, mowing all summer, fixing security fences, repairing railroad tracks and ties and plowing snow. He recalls one very snowy night, a plane was due in to the airstrip and two of them were plowing, Jack Lincoln driving and Phil on the wing. They were following airstrip lights but discovered that they were plowing the grass area next to the paved strip. While mowing the roads in the Igloo area, they would move their pickup ahead one road at a time so they had transportation if they needed to go for a part or something. They would leave the keys in the pickup. One time a local chap who was on a

security detail impounded their pickup truck because the keys were in it. Phil said a little power went to his head.

An assignment in housing came next. Phil said that the military people seemed to wreck their furniture regularly and he spent a lot of time replacing it. Several times he and another person went to look for off-site housing since there were inadequate housing accommodations on the Depot. Phil was asked to go along because he knew the area. Seeing some of the living conditions was an eye-opener. He also worked on maintenance in the housing area during this assignment.

Next was an assignment in Receiving with responsibility for all shipments to the Depot except for ammunition. When fuels were delivered a purchase order indicated the amount of the delivery. A measurement was made to confirm that the whole order was received and then another measurement made after the delivery to be sure the entire order had actually been delivered.

Phil was awarded many certificates for working a whole year without using any sick leave, however all employees were urged to use their vacation time because it would be lost at the end of the year. After a four week vacation in December, on January 4th, 1984 Phil returned to work, slipped on the ice on a loading dock and broke his ankle. He was off until the end of March but was not required to use sick leave because it was an on-the-job injury.

During the Peace Encampment days Jim McLaughlin was Supervisor and Phil was Leader. Phil didn't like it when Jim was off because he was responsible for the twenty eight people in the unit in three different locations. The Army brought in reinforcements during the Peace Encampment. There

would be huge plane loads of Jeeps delivered to the air-strip. The planes had three decks with ramps that could be lowered for the Jeeps to drive down. Phil could not believe the number of Jeeps that were on each one of the planes. He worked a lot of overtime during the Peace Encampment period as well as during Desert Storm. When on overtime while working for Roads and Grounds you were allowed to eat in the Mess Hall. One Saturday he and seven others sat all day in a van on the air-strip waiting for a plane that was coming for a load of cots being sent to the Philippines following a hurricane there. The plane finally landed and it barely cleared the roof of the van, rocking it and practically tipping it over. The cots were all loaded on trailers ready to be loaded onto the plane.

One day when at the Airfield, a chopper pilot took Phil up for a ride over the lake and the Depot. "What a trip, I loved it."

While Supervisor in Jim McLaughlin's absence, Phil would sometimes spend all day on paperwork. Each person was required to keep a time sheet with codes for each activity performed during the day and the amount of time spent on each activity. All of that data had to be entered into a computer the next day. To get to his office, Phil had to go through three padlocked doors and had to be last out at night and be sure that all the lights were turned off and all the doors locked.

A siren would blow at the end of the day and Phil said that would trigger a stampede of workers getting to their cars so they could get out of the gate. However the warehouses were at the south end of the Depot and the Administrative Area was at the north end so all of those employees' cars were in line first. Randomly the MP's

would check cars on the way out and when that was observed some cars would pull out of line, turn around and go back, probably to dump whatever they had that was not supposed to be taken from the Depot.

When the RIF was announced Phil had worked at the Depot for twenty four years and eight months. He needed twenty five years to retire. Fortunately for him, enough people took the retirement incentive that Phil was transferred to Shipping and able to continue working until March, 1995 when he had twenty seven years and ten months with accumulated sick leave.

At the conclusion of the interview Phil had a couple random memories to share. He recalls some long-time employees sitting on top of black powder boxes smoking cigarettes. When warned by others they said "nothing to worry about, we've been doing it for years."

One employee who lived in Romulus could never make it to work at the Depot when it snowed. Those from much farther away who always did make it regardless of the weather would have to go bring him in.

Phil commented on how much he enjoyed working with Joe Arcangeli and Tom Boyes. He also showed me a thick ring binder of awards, certificates, pins, arm patches and photos from his work and for the many schools that he attended. These demonstrated his initiative and outstanding performance for all those years at the Seneca Army Depot.

Do You Remember When...

June 1955 Nationwide Alert Drill
The Interlaken Volunteer Fire Department
was ready to participate in this national
event.

1940 Census Available On-line

Have you gone looking at the 1940 census? It is online, at a number of websites. The images are free for viewing and downloading to your computer .

You do need to know the state, county and enumeration district to find the images. The general site to get started is: <http://1940census.archives.gov>

The Village of Interlaken is ED 50-1, and the Town of Covert is ED 50-2. At this time there is no general searchable index for the overall census.

The good news is that we have volunteers who are working to index the local pages. The first indexes should be on our website by the end of April.

www.interlakenhistory.org

New Items for sale from the Historical Society Book Shop

Families of Townsendville Yesterday and Today by Anne Knight \$20.00

A History of Lodi Point and Its Vicinity by Alta E. Boyer-Blohm \$15.00

Silas Halsey Pioneer Settler of Lodi, NY by Alta E. Boyer \$15.00

A Farm Girl in the Great Depression by Ruth Myer \$ 19.95

Behind the Organ Pipes, Scenes from an Organist's Life by Ruth Myer \$12.00

A Brief History of the Spear Ellis Grace Cannon Medlock Bruggs Fritts Gould Gallagher Caldwell Families of the Finger Lakes Region by Peter Caldwell \$5.00

See page 11 for shipping costs.



**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 & Times of the Area 1900-1950</i> including the History of the Halstead Canning Co	\$10.00
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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
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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!

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www.InterlakenHistory.org

Mailing label here



Mark your calendar

April 23 Annual Meeting and Quarterly Program, Town of Covert Municipal Building..

June 9th Olde Home Day and the opening of the 2012 displays at the museums.

Sunday, July 22nd The Summer Social.

The Historical Society

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