

Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 43 No. 3 January 2018

www.InterlakenHistory.org



Board members and volunteers from the many Bicentennial events enjoyed the Holiday Tea.

*A Snippet of Agricultural History:
Chicken Waterers from the
19th Century to the Present*

Monday, January 22, 2018 7:00 pm

Do you know what a “Chicken Waterer” is? Plan to join the Interlaken Historical Society as we welcome, Marty Schlabach as he shares from his collection.

From wooden units, to ceramic, metal and glass, learn how providing water to the chickens has changed over the years. See page 4 for more on how Marty stated collecting waterers, as well as other background information.

The meeting will be held in the meeting room of the Interlaken Masonic Hall, 8396 Main Street, Interlaken, located above Hubbard Heating and Plumbing.

The building is handicapped accessible. Refreshments will be served. In the event the school cancels after-school activities, check the Facebook page for updates, or call 607-280-2099.



A look back at the Barn Dance

Uncle Joe and Rosebud Ramblers



Below: Enjoying the music and fellowship.



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President's Report

What a busy summer and fall we've had. With family activities, work, and a Bicentennial Celebration, things weren't slow. I do thank all from the town board, interested community people, and our own society members who helped plan, prepare, set up and help for the three major events we put on. My thanks to you all.

The Summer Social went well with lots of displays, postal cancellations, Mason rededication of the corner stone of the first Interlaken High School building, Civil War reenactment, petting zoo, speeches, food, silent auction, lots of music, and free popcorn.

The Transportation Day at Brook Farm Barn was also well attended. Our thanks to Interlaken Community Action Group for food and all the exhibits in the barn. Also, Senator Helming and Assemblyman Palmesano were on hand to present proclamations for the township in honor of 200 years.

Our last event was a square dance with Uncle Joe and the Rosebud Ramblers and The Zydeco Trail Riders. It was a well-attended evening with a barn full of music and dancing.

Now for the coming year, we'll get back to our usual meetings with the wheels starting to turn to organize our bi-annual county fair – Plow Day.

Thanks again to all who helped, donated, and enjoyed our Bicentennial Celebration. Anyone who would like to help with the tri-centennial, drop us a note...

One more point; I would encourage all to visit the Town Hall on Route 96 to view the Commemorative Mural that was commissioned to Mike Stiles. The resulting 4' x 8' painting depicts the last 200 years of the Town of Covert - 200 years of commerce, transportation, agriculture, and renowned buildings. The Town Hall is open Tuesday through Friday from 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.

Thanks,

John Hunt, President

New Members

Larry Haller, Sierra Madre, CA

New Life Members

Jennifer Merkle, Interlaken

Donations received in 2017

Stain Glass ceiling light from the Lakes Theater

Movie poster from the the Lakes Theater, anonymous

Cast Iron stoves from the Goodman Hotel, Valerie Macaluso, Marion, NY and Kathy Ours Tapia, Houghton LA. Special thanks to Valerie for bringing the stoves to Interlaken.

Letter from Wm. F. Jenkins of Farmer May 1889 from Mark Stiles, Interlaken

Small Vase with color photo of the 1900 school house, Lawrence Miller, Harrison, MI

History Club of Interlaken scrapbook, by Steven Frost, Trumansburg

Photograph of Interlaken Fire Dept, circa 1950, from Bill Palmer, Ovid

Please Welcome our Newest Trustee!

Hi I am Gary Hunt, your newest trustee, which I am honored to be.

My name might be familiar as I am a life resident of the Interlaken area, having grown up on the family farm which is now Persoons dairy. Married 39 years to Kate Hunt, son George, daughter Mary.

After schooling, class of 1971, I was a parts manager for 25 years for International Harvester in Seneca Falls and Auburn.

During my mid-life crisis I became an over the road truck driver which I did for 17 years for Wadhams Enterprises, of which 11 was training new drivers. This is why I have no hair on my head.

Among my hobbies, I ran twice a year for 16 years the Finger Lakes Farm Toy Show and Auction and enjoy paintball with my son.

I also have been set director 20 years for the South Seneca Drama Club.

My community involvement consists of 8 years on the library board, 2 years on the town planning board, 26 years town councilman (retired this December). Currently a trustee of Lake View Cemetery, member of ICAG (Interlaken Community Action Group) and drive the tour bus at White Deer Haven on the old Seneca Army Depot.

I have written several articles for the historical newsletter, (and would like to do more) and I started the "Then and Now" photopage on the Historical Society Facebook page.

I am the 4th generation to live on the original family farm, where Kate and I have run Evergreen Acres Plantation tree farm for 25 years.

Two things I was told growing up and would like to share. 1- give back more than you receive, and 2- if you don't know what you're talking about, DON'T Talk.

Welcome to the Board Gary!

Right: Transportation Day, unveiling the Bicentennial Mural; Diane Bassette Nelson, John Hunt, artist Mike Stiles, Rep. Phil Palmasano, Senator Pam Helming Deb Nottke and Gary Hunt.

Kate and Gary Hunt at the Barn Dance



January 2018 3

A Snippet of Agricultural History: Chicken Waterers from the 19th Century to the Present

Marty Schlabach

My collection of chicken waterers started close to 15 years ago in the antique shop of Gloria Barrett at the corner of Main St and West Avenue in Interlaken. I was looking in the display window and saw a pottery item that I didn't recognize. When I realized what it was, I couldn't resist buying it. I had chickens, was interested in antiques and enjoyed digging into agricultural history. Why not have a piece of agricultural history in the form of stoneware chicken waterer?

Sometimes called poultry fountains, but commonly called chicken waterers, these devices of various designs and materials have been in use for a long time. The concept is to have a reservoir of water with a small outlet at the bottom which allows water from that container to flow into a tray or dish at the base. If the level of the water in the tray is above the hole in the container, air cannot enter the reservoir and no more water can flow out. As the chickens drink from the tray, the water level recedes which allows air to enter the container holding the water reserve, and permits water to flow out and fill the tray again until the water level covers the exit hole.

A device like this is needed for chickens and other poultry because just putting water in a trough or bowl would quickly be dirtied by the poultry walking in it. If the

water is for small chicks, they could easily fall into a trough or bowl, and drown or get sick from being wet and cold. The described design made it safer for chicks and kept the water cleaner for all poultry. The same design principles are employed in most of the chicken waterers available for purchase today in nearby farm stores.

Descriptions and illustrations of chicken waterers have been found as early as the mid-19th

century, and probably were published even before that. *American Poulterer's Companion* by C. N. Be-

FURNITURE AND ACCESSORIES.

Fig. 25.

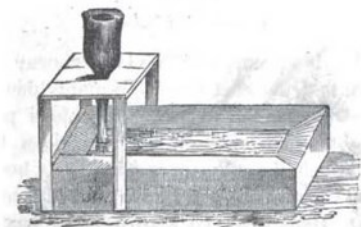


ment was published in 1845 and contains illustrations of several different chicken waterer designs.

Genesee Farmer, a farm magazine published in Rochester, NY starting in

1831, contained an illustration and story about a stoneware chicken waterer in the May 1851 issue.

The earliest ones were probably made by the farmer with whatever materials that were available. But, soon the local or regional potter began making them to sell.



The earliest pottery chicken waterers in this region were probably made of redware, the local clay that was used to make many utilitarian items needed around the home and farm. Not many examples exist today, since redware is relatively fragile and easily broken. The clay needed for stoneware, which was more durable than redware, was not available locally. It was brought in from New Jersey as soon as the existence of the Erie Canal in the 1820s made it economically feasible.

Potters came up with several stoneware designs based on the same principle. The earliest was probably a modified jug. A jug with a small opening right at the base of the jug could be filled with water and sealed with a tight stopper, and then placed in a shallow dish like a pie plate. The water would run out of the jug and into the dish until the water level in the dish rose above the hole in the jug. Until the chickens drank some of the water, no more water would be released from the jug.

The variations were many. Some potters attached the dish to bottom of the jug, making it one piece. Often the opening at the top of the jug was filled so that a stopper was not necessary. Sometimes a smaller dish was attached to just one side of the jug, providing a smaller drinking area for the chicken, reducing the chances of chickens dirtying the water. That was followed with potters adding a hood over the dish, improving the sanitation even more. A similar effect could be accomplished without an add-

ed dish by pushing in the side of the jug, using the bottom of the jug itself as the watering dish. While most of these designs described were individually hand-thrown on the potter's wheel, chicken waterers were increasingly molded in a larger factory setting.

Chicken waterers were also made from metal. Some were made in the farmer's tin shop, but increasingly they were manufactured in factories that produced many different tin products. The result was an even greater variation in designs, but still based on the same principle. One piece, two-piece, free-standing, hanging, wall-mounted and a wide range of sizes, every maker thought they has the latest best idea for your chicken flock.

Glass chicken waterers started becoming more common in the early 20th century. While pottery and metal continued to be available, glass had the advantage of being more thoroughly sanitized, protecting and enhancing the health of the poultry flock. It was also less expensive than stoneware.

The emergence of inexpensive glass canning jars following Civil War put many potters out of business. As glass canning jars became ubiquitous in the farm house, manufacturers started making chicken waterer bases that utilized standard canning jars as the water reservoir. Yet again a less expensive option, when one only needed to purchase the base. The bases fitting standard canning jars were made from stone-

ware, metal, glass and by mid-20th century were made of plastic as well.

Many and perhaps most chicken waterers had no names or other marks on them. Sometimes makers added the name of the potter, pottery or factory. That was followed by an increased use of the chicken waterer as an advertising medium, and not just promoting the maker. Feed companies, hardware stores, seed companies and other firms had their names added to the waterers. In fact, some seed and nursery companies added a whole line of poultry-related products to their catalogs, including chicken waterers.

The bulk of the 200+ chicken waterers in my collection were produced in the United States, though I have examples that were made in Canada, England and Japan.

A few of the chicken waterers in my collection are viewable on the Latta Rox Farm web site <https://lattaroxfarm.com/chicken-waterers> Please visit the site and send me your feedback, memories and other stories about chicken waterers.



Local Memories of Days Gone By An Interview with Dick and Shirley Boyes

Interviewed by Frank Porter

Let's start today by looking back on how long you have been in the Interlaken area:

"My family first came here in 1928. I was born in 1931. I went to school here in Interlaken and graduated in 1951. Shirley and I were married in 1960 after which I worked a farm in Montour Falls, down by where the hospital was. Shirley was born on a farm in Standing Stone Pennsylvania and the Black Diamond Railroad went by her place. She would visit in the summers with her Aunt who lived on Main Street in Interlaken."

So, what brought you back to Interlaken?

"Well, what brought me back was I managed the pasture land for the Hector Grazing Association. I went to work there two years after I got out of the service. I was drafted for the Korean War but I had no business being in the service."

Why is that?

"I took papers with me from my doctor that specifically told them that I was not capable of being in the service."

Do you mind sharing what your issue was?

"Well, I didn't know what the problem was until they sent me to Valley Forge Hospital. I kept passing out during basic training when I was stressed physically. After I had been in the hospital for two or three days, and after they x-rayed me from head to toe, I learned that I had the bone structure

of a thirteen year old. That was a bit of a shock because I was twenty-one years old. I don't think I weighed 85 pounds. So, this condition is what got me out of the service."

You said that a little later after that you became a farmer. It must have been very difficult...

"No, it wasn't because I could go at my own pace. I worked on a farm for most of my younger years. When I was eight years old I spent a lot of time on the Hunt Farm up the road from me. When I was born, my parents lived just down from the cemetery and both my father and grandfather worked the Glidden Farm. That farm at that time included what is now the Lucas Vineyards. We eventually lived in the Lucas house, but when I was five years old my parents lost the farm and we had to move. The next house we lived in was just up the road next to Judy Boyes. When that house burned down, we moved down to the end of Cemetery Road. Every two years we were moving and although we moved many times, we always went to the Interlaken School."

You didn't start that house fire, did you?

"No. Later we moved over onto the Boulevard. Well, they were pouring the original concrete for the boulevard then. We lived in the house where Carl Pell lived on Route 89. That's when they started building the school here in Interlaken, in 1935. They moved into it in September, 1936. My father helped build the school. I

don't remember whether he helped lay bricks, or put up the steel, or just helped them with whatever they needed. When they got the school built, that's when they got the first school busses."

Did you ever get to watch them build the school?

"No, I didn't get to. So, my father got a job driving one of the busses. All of the bus drivers back then kept their busses at home and started their routes from there."

How many buses would you say they started off with?

"Let's see, there was Dad, Clermont Covert, Bob Lincoln, Raymond Hurlbut, and Smith Travis. Earl Stevens was the mechanic. So, I started going to school in 1936. My sister and I would walk up to the corner of Cemetery Road and Route 96 and Dad would pick us up there with the bus. As I recall, Harriet VanNostrand was my first grade teacher, Phyllis Furbeck was my second grade teacher, Helen Burr was third, Helen Tobey taught fourth grade, Martha Goodwin was fifth grade and Bess Hewlett taught sixth grade."

How many kids were in your class?

"My graduating class had 24 kids in it. As far as I know, there is just myself and a woman left living from that class. From my class, the only other one to stay local was Donnie Pell."

How many guys from your class were involved with the Future Farmers of America, (FFA) or the girls in Future Homemakers of America, (FHA)?

“Let’s see, there was myself, Donnie Pell, Harold Covert from over in Lodi, he’s another one who stayed local. The three of us were all in the FFA. I participated in sports during my school years and was on the team, but never a star.”

Did you always want to be a farmer when you were growing up?

“Oh, yeah. When I was a sophomore I worked for Junior Morgan. I lived with him as well. The year before I graduated, I worked for Lou Bell. The Bells were milking around 80 cows and working around 200 acres of land. That farm is where I met my wife Shirley in 1958.” *As per Shirley:* “I worked there at that time in the house helping with the inside chores – chief bottle washer. I believe it was 1957 or 58 and Dick would frequently come in and ask me for a glass of ice. He kept asking me to go out with him and I think it was the third time that I said yes.” *Dick continued:* “Since I was a young boy, I always loved horses. Later, I was able to have my own pair of Belgian draft horses for pulling. I competed locally for many years. Their names were ‘Ned’ and ‘Tom.’ There used to be about 40 competitions a year.”

Did you ever use them on the farm?

“No, I used tractors, they were just for competition. Although, I did use them to go into the woods and get logs out.”

Did you know many other farmers in the area?

“Oh yes. My wife Shirley is a cousin to Lloyd Hayward and I knew the Thompsons,

Meryl and Curtis and Bob. Bob senior was in my class in school at one time. While I was still in school, at one point, I peddled milk for the ‘Cronks.’ I would ride around with a truck and deliver quarts of milk to everyone, door to door. We knew what they wanted. Most everybody got a quart of milk a day delivered fresh to their house every morning. I would travel anywhere from Romulus to Lodi to Interlaken.”

How did you keep the milk cold?

“Well, it would start off cold and we kept it under a big, thick blanket. We kept the blanket in the cooler overnight. It was so heavy it took two of us to move it. I would ride with a driver in a pickup truck and he would handle one side of the road and I would handle the other. It would take us ‘till three or four in the afternoon before we’d get done.”

Now tell me, what do you remember about the stores and such in town?

“Well, I remember a place called ‘The Market Basket’ which was right next to the bank where the diner is now. Then, there was ‘Case’s Grocery Store’. There was a ‘Red and White’ grocery store across the street next to where Charles Wickes ran his drug store for many years. There was a feed mill where Vance Crane was as well. There was a clothing store where Hubbards is now, run by a family of the name of Peterson. Back when I was a kid, where Interlaken Auto is now, there used to be greenhouses connected to the house next door owned by Francis Bartow. There was a lad-

der company run by Art Ferris. They sold extension ladders and step ladders. My father started working for Mr. Ferris in 1936. The Millspaugh brothers started up a saw mill in Interlaken and eventually bought the Ferris Ladder company and moved to Trumansburg. I also remember the Porter Lumber Company in Valois. Later it was the Porter Wright Lumber Company.”

What do you remember about the theater in town?

“Well, everyone remembers that. There was a big marquee over the top saying what movies would be showing. I used to put the letters up there as well as be an usher for the people. It was called ‘Lakes Theater.’ Shirley says that she remembers that Bob Elliot also worked there at one time. I believe Bob owned it with another fella’ by the name of Spike Wilkins. Spike was ahead of me in school. His folks owned where the goat farm is now.”

How many people would watch a movie?

“I would say that most generally the theater was full. I think that the capacity of the place was between 200 to 250 people.”

How much would a movie cost?

“Oh, just a quarter, maybe fifty cents.”

How often would they show a movie there?

“Back when the original owners had it, it was every night.”

It sounds like a lot of people went to it...

“Oh, yeah. There wasn’t much going on around here, although they did have a lot of barn dances. They were well attended too. We remember the one held at the ‘Rocky

Dock.’ Unfortunately, the barn burned down, but the Hayward’s, who owned it, rebuilt it as theirs was a working farm at the time. Also, right after the war, there was a town baseball team. Many towns had one. Lodi had one, Watkins Salt had one. One team was all Colored Veterans. Harold Wright played for Interlaken. Vince Campbell was on the team as well. He built boats locally. The team played on the diamond behind the garage at the school and the games were very well attended. The league only lasted for three years, but Lodi was loaded with good players and they played in a State League.”

So, tell me what you remember about the weather over the years.

“Oh boy, the winter of 1945 was the worst. It started snowing in November and just never stopped. Eventually the banks got so high that there was no place for the plows to put the snow. You could walk from Interlaken to Ovid to Lodi and back and be above all of the telephone poles. I remember one night when the Black Diamond train was coming through around 7:00 at night traveling at around 65 mph. It came to a quick halt. They had to back up quite a ways to a side track so that the snow blower could come and dig its way through. I was one of the men who helped with that. We went down there and we each had a shovel. The blower would dig in a ways but the snow was higher than the blower. Us men had to move the snow so that it would

collapse the top and let the blower go at it again. A lot of people would have to climb out of their second story windows to get out of their houses before the shoveling could begin. It was also bad in 1958, but to me the winter of 1945 was the worst. I'll never forget it. I ran the wing on the plow for the town of Covert in 1958. One of the drivers was a fella' by the name of Cliff Hickok." "Well, that's all I know!"

Pictures from Transportation Day

A chance to sit in the saddle



Try running a train



See a boat built in the town of Covert.



Interlaken Public Library

Chelsea Stirlen

We are pleased to announce that Mr. Marty Schlabach has been welcomed as a Trustee of the Interlaken Public Library. Mr. Schlabach brings his expertise and experience from his tenure as a Librarian at the Albert R. Mann Library at Cornell University. We are very excited to welcome him. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Trustees for the Interlaken Public Library please stop in and speak with our Director.

Programming continues at the library, including a weekly Preschool Storytime, Lego Literacy, and a Chair Yoga class. Special programs, such as December's Wreath Creation Class, are added each month. Details for all programs are available in the library or on the website – www.interlakenpubliclibrary.org. Suggestions for programs are welcomed!

Moving into 2018 we are excited to provide more programs and services to the community. Our little library is as much a community center as it is a library. Want a particular service or program? Let us know! Need help with your smartphone or computer? Please stop by! We have new titles arriving regularly, books on CD, as well as DVD's to help carry you thru the cold winter months.

Library Hours

Monday & Wednesday 9 am to 1 pm
 Tuesday & Thursday 1 pm to 7 pm
 Saturday 9 am to noon

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www.InterlakenHistory.org

The End of An Era

As we go to press, the demolition and clean-up of the Lakes Theater building continues. The front façade was torn down late afternoon, December 21st.



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