Markesan Historical Society Newsletter

End of Season Wrap-Up

Just a bit about us that could be newsworthy to the public. Our Grand River Valley Museum is open from May through September from 1pm to 4pm on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays or by appointment as well. Please call 920-398-3359 or 920-398-3344. We boast of four buildings all of which represent Markesan during her early years hearkening back to the late 1800’s.

Our newest addition, the Kienas Building, houses genealogy, the archives and newspapers, etc., all of which are well-organized and ready to serve the public. Our museum has also served as a venue for reunions and such. Give that some thought.

During this past year we were privileged to listen to numerous people share some very interesting topics. A brief run-down follows:

Amy Corson and Diane Duschek shared the history of the various monuments in the area.

Karl Stewart, another member and also a renowned author shared his latest published title *The Green Light*, a novel set in 1968 and telling the story of a Green Beret serving in Viet Nam.

Then we listened to Mary Mlodzik, a long-time resident (96 years) of Princeton, tell us of life in days gone by. Very interesting.

Law enforcement in the bleak inner city of Chicago was presented to us by Lenny and Mel Jagla, officer and detective respectively. How very grateful we are to live where we do.

Next, we thanked Alex Dallman, Markesan’s very own Wisconsin state assemblyman.

A well-informed speaker from the Markesan Resident Home gave us pertinent information for future references.

And finally, we were entertained by Johnny Omundson, a newcomer to Markesan who not only resides here but owns his own liquid fuel business housed in the former auto/Artic Cat dealership on the corner of John and Margaret Streets. He is also an award-winning race car driver. Such fun!

Our end-of-the-season dinner was hosted by Kathy and Larry Holl, who always serve a wonderfully delicious and well-prepared meal. We are so lucky. Thank-you!

In October our museum was visited by the fellowship group from Terrace Shores Church. They enjoyed the visit. October is also the designated month for the annual Local History and Historic Preservation Conference presented by the State Historical Society. In 2024 it was held in Appleton at the Hilton Appleton Paper Valley Conference Center and was attended by Gayle Schultz, Amy Corson and Susan Gorr.

We have received the wedding dress that Annie and Kate Olson’s mother wore for her wedding in the late 1800’s. It’s a very striking black dress and is on display along with the wedding candlesticks.

We are also continuing maintenance on the grounds. The ramp on the west side of the main building has been replaced with steps and the supplies for the new roof have arrived.

We lost the following members in 2024:

March 3 Bill Zamzow

March 22 Mary Ondrejka

May 3 Jean Werth

Oct 21 Donny Dallman

Oct 24 Virginia Ness

Oct 28 Betty Ruenger

Rest In Peace and Thank-You for all you’ve done over the years.

The next members meeting will be held on April 8 at city hall. Opening Day for the museum is May 10.

Membership runs from January 1 through December 31. Dues are $10/year individual or $100/lifetime individual or husband and wife.

Thank you to all those who made 2024 a success! We couldn’t do it without your help.