



The Kienas Building is added to the Grand River Valley Museum Complex

The Markesan Historical Society has purchased the Landmark Building across the street from the Grand River Valley Museum on East John Street.

The building will be known as the Kienas Building, and will be used for storage at this point in time. However, as needs arise, other uses for the building may prevail.

Markesan residents may remember the site as a blacksmith shop, owned by Herman Butenhoff in 1899. The business consisted of shoeing horses, carriage building, and repairs to buggies and farm wagons. The business was later operated by William, Herman's son.

The building was purchased by Walter Kienas in 1957 who later razed the blacksmith building in 1967 and erected the current building. Mr. Kienas not only owned the building, but the property behind the building where he operated an apple orchard and greenhouse. The building was used to store apples from the orchard. In 1987, after Mr. Kienas' death, his wife, Mary, sold the building to the Grand River Co-op, until its purchase by Landmark Services in 2007. Landmark moved its headquarters from the building, selling it to the Markesan Historical Society in 2018.

As with the other museum buildings, the Kienas Building will be wheelchair accessible.

Other uses of the building through the years have been a farm implement dealership, lawn mower repair shop, floral and nursery stock supply, gas station, seed and chemical storage, energy division office, and high school students created floats in the building for homecoming parades.

Maintenance

New rain gutters have been installed on the Kienas Building and on the Main Museum Building.

Last fall, new steps were built on the south end of the ramp of the Main Building and a new ramp railing was erected. Both were given a new coat of paint. Painting was also done on the Markesan Depot trim.

The work of keeping everything in good order is ongoing to the excellence of the Museum.

Bits and Pieces

The Historical Society will help sponsor Chamber events by donating funds for the Chamber Meat Raffle and for the Bingo Games during June Dairy Days.

Everyone working together ensures success.

The Badger Antique Car Club will be sponsored by the Historical Society for the June Dairy Days Parade on June 8, 2019. The cars are an all-time favorite of parade goers.



75th Anniversary of D-Day

The 75th Anniversary of D-Day--June 6, 1944--will be observed throughout the year at the Grand River Valley Museum.

Military uniforms will be on display, as well as other exhibits. The Veterans' Corridor will also be a featured area in the Museum.

If anyone has seen the movie, "The Longest Day," one gets a good idea of the magnitude of this joint effort by the Allies in this military endeavor.

The British, Canadians, and the Americans assembled almost 3 million men, and stored 16 million short tons of supplies in Britain for the great invasion. The Allies had 5,000 large ships, 4,000 smaller landing craft, and more than 11,000 aircraft.

Months before the invasion, Allied bombers pounded the Normandy coast to prevent the Germans from building up their military strength. The invasion had been set for June 5, but storms over the English Channel forced General Eisenhower to postpone it one day. He told his forces: "You are about to embark upon a great crusade."

Paratroopers went ahead to cut railroad lines, blow up bridges, and seize landing fields. Gliders brought in men, jeeps, light artillery, and small tanks. Allied warships rained shells on the German coastal batteries.

The Allied forces waded ashore on a 50-mile front of the Normandy coast at 6:30 a.m. on D-Day, June 6, 1944. The names of five beachheads have become familiar to us all--Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword.

A naval task force took the Allied infantry across the Channel for this, the longest day.

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MEETINGS

The Historical Society meets the second Wednesday of the month during the summer at the museum at 7 p.m. October, November, December, April & May meetings are at the City Hall.

MEMBERSHIP

\$5/yr. individual
\$100/ lifetime individual
or husband & wife

MUSEUM HOURS

The Grand River Valley Museum is open on Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. May through September. The Museum is also open by appointment.