

STONE LAKE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 35, STONE LAKE, WI 54876

2016 – 2017 OFFICERS:

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Stone Lake Area Historical Society Website:
www.stonelakeareahistoricalsociety.com

Stone Lake Area Historical Society Digitization
Project Website:
<http://recollectionwisconsin.org>



The Stone Lake Depot/Museum, 1913 Soo Line
Caboose, 1926 Town Hall, and Little Free
Library

NEWSLETTER
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OLD GLORY FLIES OVER MUSEUM

Tom and Carol McDonnell put the new American flag on the beautiful flagpole. It was originally at the elementary school in Stone Lake. The flag was donated to the museum by Wendell and Linda Hershey.





**TWO NEW AND HISTORIC SIGNS
 DONATED TO THE MUSEUM**

John Henk of Henk Machining and Fabricating found the original Snow Bowl sign from the race track of the early 1970s and donated it to the museum. Wendell Hershey, new owner of the Stone Lake Elementary School building, has given the museum the historic elementary school sign. A sincere THANK YOU to both of these gentlemen!



The two new signs displayed at the museum (the Snow Bowl sign...on the left...and the historic elementary school sign...on the right)

**STONE LAKE'S FAMILY REUNION
 ENJOYED BY OVER 200 PEOPLE!**

Stone Lake's first Family Reunion Picnic held on August 5, 2017, was a huge success. Visitors from everywhere were found returning to the home of their childhood where they enjoyed refreshments, music, and many shared memories. Past Boylan School students made this day even more special by holding their own Boylan Reunion at this event. If and when this special Family Reunion Picnic is held again, it is hoped that other historic schools will plan their reunions as part of the event. Watch the newsletters for news of future events.



The crowd of over 200 people at the August, 2017, Stone Lake Family Reunion Picnic

DOW FAMILY VISITS MUSEUM

The David Dow family, descendants of early owners of Dow Island in Little Sissabagama Lake, visited the museum with Ted and Judy Crandell as their guides. Ted’s father was the caretaker on Dow Island for many years, and the Dow family enjoyed looking at the extensive history of their family in this area.



The Dow family during the museum visit

from Oak Park, Illinois. Attended by about 60 Langham descendants and spouses, lots of history was shared, including photos from as far back as 1900. Some of the special historical elements included posters of each member of the “founding family” with their bio and photos from throughout their lives (now on display at the Stone Lake Area Historical Society Museum); a wonderful photo montage video set to music; a presentation on the history of the farm, a trivia contest, interesting “then and now” facts, a selection of historical photos, and creative displays of family photos. In preparation for the Centennial celebration, many relatives were interviewed regarding family and farm history and memories of the Hauer/Stone Lake area. Ancestry.com was used to create a Langham family tree.



Langham Centennial Family Reunion – August, 2017

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LANGHAM FAMILY CENTENNIAL REUNION

The Langham Centennial Reunion was held on August 12, 2017, at the original Langham family barn in Hauer. They celebrated 100 years since the Langham family moved to Hauer, Wisconsin

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WHERE WOULD OUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY BE WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS!

Three hard workers got together to scrape and paint the entire exterior of the historical society museum complex this past summer. A sincere thank you to all three of these great volunteers for a job well done!



Woody Glass, Tony Lyne, and Tom McDonnell busy scraping and painting the museum during the warm month of July, 2017

B52 BOMBER PRESENTATION TO BE REPEATED IN 2018!

The B52 bomber presentation held Thursday, July 13, 2017, was so well-attended, yet missed by so many interested people, it is going to be repeated on Thursday, July 12, 2018! Over 170 people turned out to hear Tom Sybert's in depth presentation on the events of November 18, 1966, when the B2 bomber crashed just east of Stone Lake. New material will be presented at the next event, including the printed recollections of those people who were here when it happened. Specific details as to time and location will be provided in the April, 2018, newsletter. Please place July 12, 2018 on your calendar!



SOMMERS RESORT CELEBRATES
80 YEARS IN BUSINESS

This past summer, Cathy Sommer Holz finished cleaning out and renovating the original main house at the Sommers RV Resort on the south side of Sand Lake. This was the home where she grew up with her parents, Elmer and Anne Sommers, and sister, Patty.

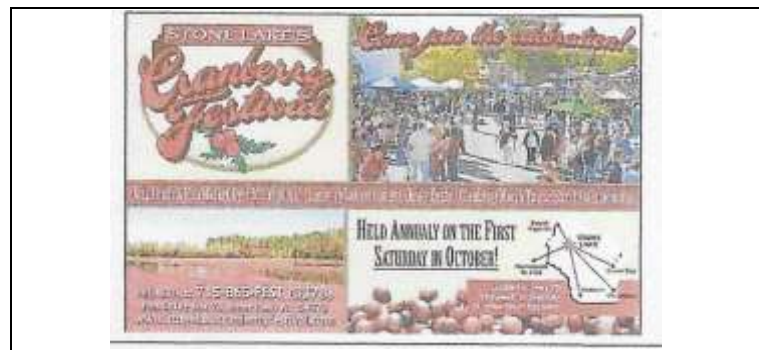
Elmer Sommer grew up in West Allis, Wisconsin, where his parents operated a grocery store and they had a cottage on Lake Beulah in Walworth County. Elmer wanted to go north and buy property rather than working in the grocery store or going to college. In 1937, he drove the gravel roads north and bought the Black Bass Resort which included a main house, duplex, and five cabins on Sand Lake. In July 1937, he rented his five primitive cabins which had kerosene lamps, stoves, outhouses, and a pump. When he was serving in WWII, he hired Bob Schmock, owner of the Town Tavern, to be the caretaker of the resort. Elmer bought him a donkey (Abner) for transportation.

In 1947, Elmer met his wife, Anne, when she came to the resort with her family. He gave her a rose in August and they were married in October. The Sommers and their family operated the Black Bass Resort for many years.

Cathy and Patty enjoyed playing with the children of their guests. Shuffleboard, badminton, horse shoes, swimming, and fishing kept everyone busy! Elmer worried about fires and insisted on maintaining lawns around the cabins. In the winter he cut ice and kept it in the ice house for the summer.

The resort business suffered in the 1960s when interstate highway was constructed and air conditioning was in cars and motels. Rising property taxes and fewer guests made it difficult to operate a resort. Elmer sold his cabins (many moved to other lakes) and converted the sites to recreational vehicle rental sites and he also went into the real estate business.

Since the death of her parents, Cathy has continued to operate the Sommers RV Resort. This summer she celebrated the 80th anniversary of her family resort with long-time guests returning for a reunion. Her family home and another cabin are now used as rentals along with her RV rental sites.



FINDING FRIENDS AMONG THESE PAGES

Museum donors and visitors enjoy paging through photo display units, artifacts, photos, and more at the Stone Lake Area Historical Society Museum. Won't you make the museum your destination some, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday next summer?



Three museum donors enjoy paging through a photo display unit in the museum locating old photos of friends and family

“WINE BY THE GLASS” BOOTH A GREAT FUNDRAISER FOR THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cool, damp weather didn't keep folks from visiting the historical society's "Wine by the Glass" booth at this year's Cranberry Fest. Hot, mulled cranberry wine was the favorite drink of the day, and by 3:00 PM all 20 cases had been sold, one glass at a time. A huge thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser, and to the terrific volunteers who worked in shifts all day: Jeff Dejewski, Cathy Sommer Holz, Fran Gretz, David and Patty VanLandschoot, Tony

Lyne, Will Ferris, Dave and Barb Derring, Jeanine and Stacey Zeuschel, Bob and Judy Gillette, Betty Scott, Lou Dubois, Tom McDonnell, Jeri Jacoby, and Jeff Coddington. We couldn't have done this fundraiser without every one of you!



The 2017, Cranberry Fest "Wine by the Glass" Booth

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK!

If you use FACEBOOK, please visit the Stone Lake Area Historical Society FACEBOOK page. You will find information and pictures about our programs and events along with pictures from other historical sites.

CABOOSE FLOAT A BIG HIT

Decorated with bells, whistles, and sparkly black fringe, the caboose fit right into the 2017 Cranberry Fest Parade, with Alayna Wolfe, Ariana Slayton, Athena Trude, and Juliet Trude on board. The historical society especially wants to thank Dave and Barb Derring, who not only furnished the truck and trailer, but decorated the float AND stored it all winter!



2017 Cranberry Fest Caboose...Ariana Slayton waving out the window

HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS – 2018

Sunday, May 6, 2018: Spring Dinner to be held at the Stone Lake Fire Hall from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Friday, May 25, 2018: Stone Lake Museum Complex opens at 12:00 PM for the season. Hours are 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, through Saturday, October 6, 2018, when the museum complex closes for the season.

Thursday, June 7, 2018: “A Night at the Museum” greeters wine social will take place from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM at the museum complex.

Sunday, July 8, 2018: Pie and Ice Cream Social at the Stone Lake Lions Park from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Live music and a good time for all ages!

Thursday, July 12, 2018: B-52 Bomber crash presentation by Tom Sybert at the Stone Lake Town Hall. Free and open to the public. Time details to follow in spring newsletter.

Saturday, August 4, 2018: Stone Lake Area Historical Society Open House at the museum; 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Refreshments to be served and everyone is welcome.

Saturday, October 6, 2018: Visit the historical society’s “Wine by the Glass” booth during the exciting Stone Lake Cranberry Festival. The booth is located at the top of the hill on Main Street, near the Lions Hall.

Saturday, September 8, 2018: The Fifth Cemetery Walk will take place at the Stone Lake Evergreen Cemetery from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Music, refreshments, and activities for all ages.

The Stone Lake Area Historical Society is a 501 c (3) charitable organization; gifts are tax deductible.

WE GIVE OUR SINCERE THANKS TO THE LOCAL ADVERTISERS WHO HAVE PLACED ADS IN THIS NEWSLETTER TO COVER THE COST OF PRINTING AND MAILING. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR EVENTS. PROCEEDS PAY THE YEARLY OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Annual memberships in the Stone Lake Area Historical Society begin April 1, 2018. We need memberships to maintain the beautiful Depot Museum Complex. **Please consider becoming a member or renewing your membership now by completing the form below and returning it with payment to: Betty Helwig at PO Box 35, Stone Lake, WI 54876**

Clip & return

clip & return

Stone Lake Area Historical Society
Membership Form

- [] \$100.00 Lifetime membership for family
- [] \$ 10.00 Annual couple membership
- [] \$ 5.00 Single annual membership

Make checks payable to the Stone Lake Area Historical Society.

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

Are you purchasing items on Amazon this Christmas? If so, please do your shopping at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate to the Stone Lake Area Historical Society, Inc. Bookmark: <http://smile.amazon.com/31-1501095> and all of your Amazon shopping will benefit the historical society. A sincere THANK YOU in advance for supporting us in this way, and in so many other ways all year!

Stone Lake Area Historical Society
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Stone Lake, WI 54876