

# Spirit Historical Society Newsletter

February 2019 Vol. 1 No. 1

## Previously Liberty School News



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Spirit Historical Society Newsletter is published by Spirit Historical Society, Inc. the successor of German Settlement History, Inc.

**ATTENTION.....NAME CHANGE**

German Settlement History, Inc.  
has changed its name to

**Spirit Historical Society, Inc.**

Same organization, same board members,  
same great history available,  
just under a different name.

Collecting and sharing histories of the Town of Spirit,  
Town of Hill and the Spirit Valley

### We Need Your Advice

Do you want to continue receiving our newsletter? Yes or No

If yes, we have it available both in hard copy (paper) or we can send it to you electronically (by email) in color.

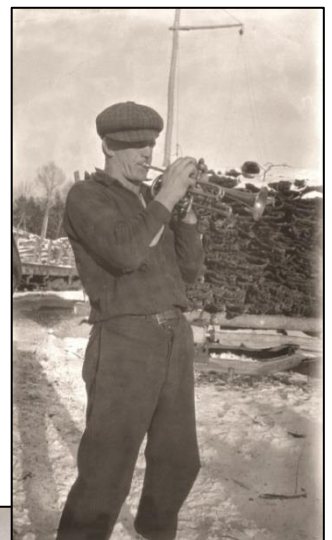
Please let us know your preference. If by email, we need to have your email address.

Do you know of anyone else that would like to receive our newsletter?

Call Luann at 715-564-3340 with your response.



Music was used in the logging camps to keep the spirits up. Men would walk several miles from home to the logging camps each week. They stayed all week at the camp and walked home for the weekend to get their clothes washed and see their families.





# 15th Annual S.H.S.I. Barn Dance/Fund Raiser



The Board Members of Spirit Historical Society, Inc.

Invite you to join family and friends on  
Memorial Day Weekend

For an evening of fun and socializing!

At the Darrel & Luann Lind Farm  
located 3/4 mile north of County YY  
or 2 1/4 miles south of Hwy. 86  
at N1169 German Settlement Road  
in the Town of Spirit, WI.

Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
7:00 p.m. - Midnight

Our next **SHSI meeting** is scheduled for Sunday April 7, 2019. We will begin at 12:30 p.m. with a potluck lunch. The meeting will follow. This meeting will be a meeting of the membership to vote on the bylaws that were presented at the annual meeting in January. Everyone is welcome.

**Legion Post 452** holds their monthly meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. of each month at the Spirit town Hall beginning at 7 pm. They will hold their annual pancake supper on Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Spirit Town Hall, serving from 5 pm to 7 pm.

**Memorial Day** Honors will take place at the Spirit Town Hall on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Lunch will be served starting at 11:30 am. Program will be upstairs at 1:00 pm followed by a march to the cemetery for the roll call of veterans from our community, buried there and elsewhere.



The 77<sup>th</sup> annual **Spirit-Hill-Ogema 4-H Fair** will be held Friday, Aug. 9 and Saturday, Aug. 10.

The spring planning meeting will be Thursday, April 18.  
Everyone is invited to attend.

Our museum buildings are currently located at: **N894 S. German Settlement Road** in the town of Spirit, Price County at the corner of County YY and German Settlement Road. We plan to move our buildings to a different location in 2019. An update will be posted when this happens.

Mailing address: Spirit Historical Society, Inc. P.O. Box 621 Ogema, WI 54459  
Email us at [spirithistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:spirithistoricalsociety@gmail.com) Our website is [www.spirithistoricalsociety.org](http://www.spirithistoricalsociety.org)

Our buildings are open for tours from the end of May through Labor Day Weekend and other times by appointment. Please call ahead 715-564-3299 to make sure someone is available to open the buildings and give you a tour. Tours are free.

Spirit Historical Society, Inc. is organized for educational purposes to protect, conserve and display buildings, artifacts and documents of historical value and interest in the Towns of Spirit and Hill in Price County and surrounding Spirit River Valley.  
S.H.S.I. is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit tax exempt organization.

# We Need Your Help

Spirit Historical Society, Inc. (Formerly German Settlement History, Inc.) was founded in 2003. We have been providing annual educational tours to area school students as well as private tours and open house events. In 2019 we will be relocating our buildings and artifacts to a permanent public location at the Town of Spirit property on State Highway 86 where we will enjoy higher visibility, easier access and more community engagement.

## This is where your help is needed

We are seeking donations (private and business) to help cover the expenses of the move. No donation is too small. With a minimum contribution of \$200.00 your name or your business name will be placed on a permanent word plaque honoring the Friends of the Spirit Historical Society who helped make the relocation possible.

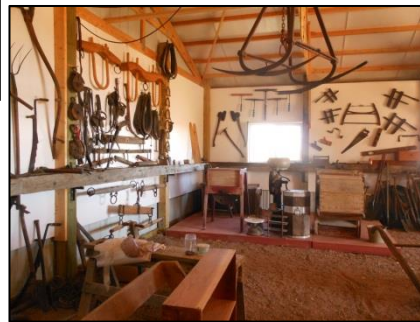


Our Yesterday House was built in the Swedish style with dovetail corners, using no chinking in 1885. It houses artifacts, collected locally, that were used in a home of the early 1900s. This important historical building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 under the historic name of Albin Johnson Log House.



The Machine Shed was erected in 2009.

Inside are displayed machinery and equipment of farming, logging, blacksmithing and carpentry in the Spirit area from the early 1900s to 1950.



- \* Our collection contains 1,900 scanned vintage photos of families with Spirit area connection. Our collection of documents, newspaper articles, military information and books record the past history of the Spirit area.
- \* We have an interesting collection of veteran artifacts from WWI Cavalry, WWII and Korea. These are artifacts of men and women who served our country from this area.
- \* We are currently mailing over 500 newsletters to friends and relatives of Spirit, Hill & Spirit Valley families.

Help us relocate and preserve this collection of Spirit Area history.

We thank you in advance for your kind donation.

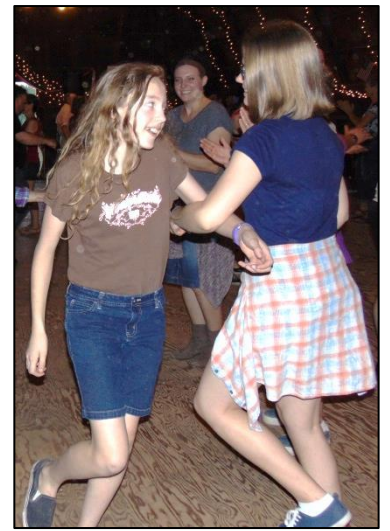
If you would like to help us complete this project, please send your donation to:  
Spirit Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 621

Ogema, WI 54459

S.H.S.I. is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit tax exempt organization.

# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Barn Dance/Fund Raiser Was held May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018



It was a  
VERY HOT  
night!  
Probably the  
warmest weather  
in the history of  
our barn dances.



But that didn't stop folks  
from having a great time  
learning how to square  
dance!

And the ice cream sure  
was a treat that night!



Bill and Tina Evans  
had the honor of  
raising the flag.



Outside, the kids were  
having fun on the  
playground equipment.



# German Settlement Picnic & Open House - July 28th



We had a beautiful summer day for our picnic and open house. Board members were available to give tours of our buildings. Many guests gathered for a delicious pot luck lunch and viewed our many antiques.

Mike & Toni's grandson Scott, preparing the brats for everyone.



The Meier relatives enjoying time together.

Board members Michael, Karen & Cheryl trying out all the delicious pot luck dishes.



We were happy to meet several of the Muska family descendants. Arnold, Loren and Richard Nelson are grandsons of Richard & Elizabeth Muska who lived in Our Yesterday House around 1941.

## News from the Past...

Spirit News  
From  
The  
Rib Lake  
Herald  
April 10,  
1942

### SPIRIT NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Koenen and daughter, Hazel Ellen, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Koenen and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rhody, all of Lake Geneva, spent the week end at the Henry Rhody home. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rhody also visited with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Blomberg. Mrs. H. Koenen, Hazel Ellen, and Mrs. Rhody are spending a week with their parents, the rest of the party returning to Lake Geneva Monday.

Misses Norma and Ardis Meier who are employed in Milwaukee spent Easter at the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Meier.

Miss Grace Rhody of Duluth, Minn., spent a few days at her home here, returning to the city Monday.

Miss Ruby Meier of Milwaukee came home to spend Easter Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Al Meier.

Mr. Paul Meier left for Rhineland Tuesday morning with sixty-three boys from Price county for his final examination for the army.

Mrs. Millie Andrea and Robert were Friday evening callers at the Albert Semrow home.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Siroin helped Mrs. Herman Ernst celebrate her birthday anniversary Wednesday, April 1.

Jerry Siroin was sick with the mumps last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Zeman and family of Phillips were visitors at the Aug. Zielke home Sunday. Gae, Lorraine, and Eddie Zeman are spending a week there.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Zielke spent Saturday evening and Sunday at the Aug. Swanson and Aug. Zielke homes.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Christianson and sons of Rib Lake called on Mr. Emil Hoffmann Sunday.

Miss Anits Von Seggern, teacher at Liberty School, was not able to teach for the past two weeks due to illness. Mrs. Ben Swanson is substituting for her.

Privates Arthur, Bill, and Ervin Brietzke who have served in the army for over a year, arrived home Saturday to spend their furloughs with relatives.

Jeanie Scheller entertained her classmates who are all first graders, at her home Thursday afternoon, April 2. It was her seventh birthday anniversary.

Some of the farmers in this neighborhood rushed over to help Pete Nelson put out a fire in his barn Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Andrea were Medford callers Monday.

Mr. Louis Schmidt took Ervin Schliepp to Phillips Tuesday morning and from there he went to Rhineland for his final examination for the army.



Our Savior's Scandinavian Lutheran Church (located next to Hillcrest Cemetery) also called Norwegian Lutheran Church. Built in 1900.

Ladies Aid, photo taken October 14, 1950 on the south side of Sophia nee Goetzke Lind's house.

Back row: Rev. E. O. Baalson, Bunetta Meier Lind, Rhoda Oman Hendrickson, Jennie Danielson Ahl, Mabel Larson Johnson, Esther Koch, Sophia Goetzke Lind holding her grandson, Gene Lind.

Middle row: Elna Pierson, Mrs. Nyberg, Florence Peterson, Josie Jacobsen, Amanda Guse Ihrcke, Elsie Pack.


Front row: Mathilda Thorbus Sandquist, Grace Lind Swenson holding Bonnie, Mary nee Erickson Larson, Audrey Thorbus, Annie Johnson Swenson, Leslie Koch, Opal Swenson Thorbus, Darlene Swenson, Florence Sandquist Swenson, Lena Johnson, Lionel Thorbus in front.

*The following Pastors have served  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Spirit:*

1. Pastor J. C. Haugum from Sept. 23, 1900 to Sept. 15, 1901
2. Pastor Skundsen from Sept. 28, 1901 to Oct. 16, 1904.
3. " N. M. Minner <sup>March 28</sup> 1905 to 1910.
4. " Ivar Rasmeth from July 10, 1910 to Feb. 23, 1913
5. " Hjalmar Aadland from July 6, 1913 to June , 1914.
6. " G. O. Running" July 13, 1914 to Aug. 17, 1919
7. Pastor C. K. Willand 1920
8. " C. M. Horneland April 29, 1923 to June 31, 1931.
9. " Elmer A. Baalson - Aug. 9, 1931 to Dec. 31, 1952.
10. " Robert Crofton -



The church building was torn down about 1973. Today you will find all that is left; the bell mounted in cement just west of the Spirit Hillcrest Cemetery. A plaque tells a bit of history of this old community church.



**OUR SAVIORS SKANDINAVIAN  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
TOWN OF BRANNON  
BUILT IN 1900

1 <sup>ST</sup> PASTOR	J. C. HAUGUM	SEPT. 23, 1900 TO SEPT. 15, 1901
1 <sup>ST</sup> MEMBERS	M. & MRS. JOHN LARSON & FAMILY	SEPT. 1900
1 <sup>ST</sup> INFANT BAPTISM	ELEN ADELIE JORGENSEN	NOV. 16, 1900
1 <sup>ST</sup> FUNERAL	J. M. JOHNSON	OCT. 31, 1903
1 <sup>ST</sup> MARRIAGE	ADOLPH JOHNSON & LENA JORGENSEN	SEPT. 6, 1912
1 <sup>ST</sup> ADULT BAPTISM	ETHEL CROWELL MARHEINI	OCT. 30, 1932
LAST MARRIAGE	WM. SWENSON & PATRICIA MARHEINI	SEPT. 12, 1953
LAST FUNERAL	ALLEN SEVERI JORGENSEN	JULY 30, 1959
LAST TRUSTEES	CLARENCE NYBERG, LEAH SUNNALL AND ETHEL MARHEINI	

## Max O. Scheller, the Well Digger

Max Otto Scheller (1873 – 1946) purchased 80 acres in the northeast corner of section 27, in 1895. In 1901, he married Fredricka Hentrich. Without wasting any time they proceeded to create a farm on the property. After building a frame house in 1903, Scheller hand-dug a well to a depth of 80 feet during the summer. The well was filled in years later when the next generation of Schellers switched to Grade A dairy.

In addition to being a progressive farmer, Scheller was well known for hand-digging wells in the German Settlement area. The wells were as deep as 95 feet and approximately four feet in diameter. After lining the wells with stones without mortar, the inside diameter would be about three feet.

Digging a well involved the use of a windlass which is defined as a lifting machine consisting primarily of a drum or cylinder with rope and turned by a crank. Other tools used were a short-handled pick and a short-handled shovel.

Scheller stated that some of the wells he dug were so deep that when he was at the bottom and looked up it was so dark that it was like looking up at the stars.

It was while he was digging one well that Scheller stumbled over the adjacent dirt pile, fell towards the well, was able to grab onto the windlass rope and somehow slid down the rope incurring major burns to his hands. After that incident he was never able to straighten out his hands again.

The location of wells dug by Scheller have been lost to history. If anyone is aware of any of Scheller's hand-dug wells please contact this writer at 715-564-2253 or [cyrilla@centurytel.net](mailto:cyrilla@centurytel.net). The locations will never be revealed, publicized or otherwise made public.

The photograph shows two men turning the crank on the windlass above the well by the Scheller house in 1903. At the end of the rope is a wooden bucket full of earth. Nearby are Max and Fredricka with their two daughters, Mabel and Anita. After the well was dug it was lined with stones from the bottom to the top.



Unfortunately, we have lots of Obituaries to catch up on.  
Remembering all these local folks for their contribution to our society...



**Vangel Delores "Birdie" Hartwig**, 91 from the Town of Spirit, passed to eternal salvation March 29, 2018 at Aspirus Care & Rehab, Medford. Vangel was born August 25, 1926 in the Town of Johnson, Marathon County. She attended Silverleaf Elementary School in the Town of Johnson. She was a hard-working woman, who traveled to Milwaukee to work in her earlier years. She was also a long term dedicated employee at the shoe factory in Rib Lake. Birdie, as she is known by her loved ones, married Earl Hartwig on November 4, 1944 at Zion Lutheran Church, Spirit. They built their home and family

on a farmstead they called the "Silver Spur Ranch". They, with their only child Karen, bred, raised and trained some of the finest of horses, acquiring many honors, awards and worldwide attention. Birdie had many passions and talents. She was trained in lapidary skills and was a member of the National Rockhound Society and Zion Lutheran Church, Spirit. She attended Lawrence University in Appleton and acquired a certificate in China mending. Birdie painted, traveled, created professional costumes and stained glass. She loved to ride her horses in parades, at shows, and at fairs. She was a past member of the Taylor County Rough Riders Club. She found great joy in entertaining/cooking for relatives and had a heart filled with love for her family and friends. She is survived by her beloved husband, Earl Hartwig of Spirit and in-laws: Betty Komarek of Shawano, LaVon Komarek of Spirit and Harry Blasel of Spirit. Birdie had endured the pain and loss of her beautiful daughter, Karen, and precious grandson, Jody Campbell. She was the last survivor of the 8 children of Frank and Lucia (Veitenhans) Komarek. Her siblings and deceased in-laws were Arleen (Alfred) Weinke, Orval (Ann) Komarek, Laurel Komarek, Almira (George) Olwell, Franklin (Freda) Komarek, Eugene Komarek and Mirella Blasel.



**Earl Robert Hartwig**, 96, from the Town of Spirit, was called home to Heaven on June 30, 2018, at Aspirus Care & Rehab, Medford. Earl was a lifelong resident of Spirit, WI. He was born to a WW I hero and Purple Heart recipient, Ferdinand Hartwig, and his wife, Gloria (Andreae) Hartwig on November 23, 1921. He attended Stone Lake School, Town of Spirit. On November 4, 1944, Earl married the love of his life, Vangel "Birdie" Komarek. They were virtually inseparable until her passing on March 29, 2018. They built their home, and had many adventures, on a farm in the Town of Spirit, and called it "The Silver Spur Ranch". They raised cattle, farm animals and horses. They had one child, Karen Hartwig

and one grandchild, Jody Lee Campbell. Both were tragically lost many years ago. Earl adored them both. Earl Hartwig was a hard working man. He worked at home breeding and masterfully training his award-winning show horses, as well as farming, restoring antiques and handcrafting items. He also worked full time for Owens Illinois from 1969 until his retirement in 1986. He was a very talented man.

Earl was a member of the National Rockhound Society, Zion Lutheran Church of Spirit, Taylor County Rough Riders, Spirit Lake Snowmobile Club and the Arabian Horse Association. His zest for life included many passions. Hunting, boating fishing, traveling, snowmobiling, gardening, repairing clocks, his dogs, and water skiing were among his favorite activities.

Earl is survived by his brother-in-law, Harry Blasel, two sisters-in-law, Betty Komarek and LaVon Komarek, and many nieces/nephews. He was preceded in death by his much-loved wife, Vangel (Komarek) Hartwig, parents Ferdinand & Gloria Hartwig, beloved daughter, Karen Hartwig Campbell, grandson, Jody Lee Campbell, brothers/sisters-in-law, Arleen and Alfred Weinke, Orval and Ann Komarek, Laurel Komarek, Frank and Freda Komarek, George and Almire Olwell, Eugene Komarek and Mirella Blasel.





**Gladys Mae Jensen**, 86, Town of Hill, Ogema, died at her home while under the care of her family and Hope Hospice on Thursday, June 7, 2018. She was born in Ogema on September 23, 1931, the daughter of George and Angela (Risberg) Swanson. She was married to Darrell Jensen. She was a member of the First Lutheran Church of Ogema, the Ogema Lions Club, of the Homemakers Club, and of the Ogema Our Town organization.

S Donna (Brian) Jensen, Donald (Jamie), and Tutti (Tom) Wiatr; by 24 grandchildren, she is survived by eight children, Kathy (Jeo) Teson, Mark (Robin), Paul, Jerry, Daniel (Connie), 17 great grandchildren; by one brother, Kenneth (Margaret) Swanson; and by one sister, Marie (Marvin) Arneson. She is preceded in death by Darrell, her husband of 53 years; by her father, George Swanson; by her mother, Angela; her step-mother, Nina; by one brother, George “Bud” Swanson; by one sister, Joyce Sjostrom; and by one grandson, Michael “Phen” Jensen.



**Norman Harold Vanderhoof**, 91, of Ogema, passed away on June 20, 2018 at his home, surrounded by his family and under the care of Hope Hospice and Palliative Care.

Norman was born February 28, 1927 in Chili, Wisconsin to Harold and Gertrude (Stoneberg) Vanderhoof. He married Elaine Lundberg on December 28, 1949. Elaine preceded him in death in 2007. He is survived by his children; John Vanderhoof of Ogema, Joyce (Richard) Hildebrand of Iowa, Louise Lukes of Ogema, Larry (Roni) Vanderhoof of Prentice, Susan (Dennis)

Ochodnicky of Ogema, Nancy (Frank) Lukes of Ogema, fourteen Grandchildren, twenty eight Great Grandchildren and one Great Great Grandchild, and siblings: Grace Payne of Florida, Myrtle Payne of Sheboygan, Ruby Berkholz of Ogema, Delores Eisner of Rib Lake, Yvonne Presswood of Illinois. He is preceded in death by his parents, wife Elaine, daughter Lynn Moriarty, and two Grandsons. Norman served in World War II, from April 1945 to November 1946 and attended the Honor Flight in 2017. Norman was a very talented carpenter, building many houses in the surrounding counties. He enjoyed outdoor activities, travel, and visiting with his family. He also loved working in his workshop after retirement.



**Carl Theodore Johnson**, 85, Phillips died on Wednesday, October 24, 2018, at the Aspirus Pleasant View Nursing Home, Phillips. He was born on November 14, 1932, in the Town of Spirit, the son of Gust and Mabel (Larson) Johnson. He attended and graduated from Tripoli High School in Tripoli. He was married to Eileen Nelson on September 20, 1952, in Ogema. She preceded him in death on Aug. 11, 2001. He was employed as the owner/operator of the Standard Gas Station in Phillips, then went on to be employed by the Smeester Trucking Co.,

as a mechanic- dispatcher-then an over the road driver until the time of his retirement. He was a member of St. John Lutheran Church, Phillips, and a Scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts in Phillips for many years. In his free time he enjoyed outdoor activities including deer hunting and cutting and splitting firewood. His favorite pastime was spending time with his family and friends. He is survived by his 5 children: Carleen (Dave) Duquette, Lee, Massachusetts, Rhonda Henson, Ft. Collins, Colo., Kevin (Dori) and Ken (Barb) all of Phillips, and Jill (Steve)Rhyner, Goodrich, Wi., 8 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, 2 sisters: Donna Norman, Milwaukee, and Nancy Baltz, Town of Spirit, and 2 brothers: Ronald, Ogema, and Jim (Lynn) Town of Spirit. He was preceded in death by his parents, by his wife Eileen, by 2 brothers: Curt and Jack, by 1 sister Marilyn, and by 1 daughter-in-law Carol.



**William “Bob” Johnson** died on Dec. 19, 2018 at the home of his son in Florida at

the age of 87. He was born on March 31, 1931, in Prentice to William and Marie Peters. His mother died when he was two years old and his father was absent from the family. He was taken in as a foster child at the age of six by Arthur and Olga Johnson in the Town of Spirit and was later adopted by them. He spent many years in New Orleans where he met and married his wife before moving to Wisconsin and lived many years in Prentice and Waupaca before moving to Florida. He is survived by his wife, Delores; children: William Jr. of Niceville, Florida, Jennifer (Scott Stevens) Johnson of Ogdensburg, and Kim (Rodney Black) Liviggs of Arabi, Louisiana; sister, Elsie of DePere; nine grandchildren: Heather, Melissa, Nicholas, and Elizabeth, Andrew, Matthew, and Joshua, Calla and Casey; 12 great-grandchildren; and other family members. He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters, four brothers, and his adoptive sister.



**Eugene J. Glenzer**, 84, Town of Greenwood, passed away at his residence on December 27, 2017. He was born on October 5, 1933 to the late Albert and Theresa (Lindner) Glenzer. He married Jeanne Scheller on October 1, 1955 at St. John the Baptist Church in Rib Lake. Eugene attended Green Grove Grade School for grades 1 through 8. He then attended Rib Lake High School where he graduated in 1953. Eugene worked for Taylor County Highway Department for one year before working for Harvey Company for 16 years (1954-1970). He was employed for Foremost Foods from 1970 to 1976 then started working for Weather Shield from 1976 to 1986. He then worked for SNE Enterprises from 1986 until his

retirement in 1999. He also worked on his dairy farm from 1957 to 1982. In his free time he enjoyed woodworking, fishing, hunting, camping, snowmobiling, playing cards, gardening, cooking maple syrup, making fire wood, watching his beloved Packers and Brewers and especially spending time with his family. Eugene was a member of Good Shepherd Catholic Church, mixed couples and men’s bowling leagues and was founder and president of Interwald Wanderers snowmobile club. Eugene is survived by his wife Jeanne P. Glenzer of Greenwood; Sons: Dean (Janet) Glenzer of Tomahawk, Gary (Gayle) Glenzer of Rib Lake; Daughters: Wendy (Dan) Sackmann of Rib Lake, Debra (Chuck) Parks of Merrill; 15 Grandchildren; 10 Great Grandchildren and 3 on the way; Sister: Marcella Lord of Marshfield and many other family and friends. In addition to his parents Eugene is preceded in death by Brothers: Alfred and Charlie Glenzer; Sisters: Elnora Erdman, Caroline Steen and Delores Eggert.



**Alfred L. “Al” Unick**, 71, of Rib Lake, passed away Friday March 30, 2018 at his home, surrounded by his loving family and under the care of Hope Hospice & Palliative Care. Al was born June 6, 1946 in Medford, WI to Elmer and Mary (Heindl) Unick. He is a graduate of Rib Lake High School. He married Darlene Larsen on April 23, 1966 at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Rib Lake. Darlene survives. He is further survived by his Daughters: Sue (Randy) Nehls of Dorchester, Mary Scott of Rib Lake, Grandchildren: Nick, Emily and Donnie Nehls, Tarek Scott, Siblings: Norman Kutzke, Mary “Lena” Kutzke, Laurie (Bill) Schreiner, Randy Kutzke, Carol Nefstead, Frank Kutzke all of Rib Lake, Sister in Law Kathy (John) Stelling of Port Washington, and many nieces

and nephews. Al is preceded in death by his Parents, Step Father Norman Kutzke, Sister Rhonda Unick, Brother Gary Kutzke, and Nephew Kent Kutzke. Al served in the US Army and was stationed in Ft. Hood, Texas. He worked in maintenance on tanks and vehicles, and also trained mechanics. He attended tech school and earned his Journeyman for tool and die. He worked for Northwest Tool and then Conseco in Rib Lake. He then went on to work for Ernie and Sylvia Strickert, and then Weather Shield Window Company, where he retired from in 2008. Al taught night school at NTC in Wausau in the tool and die program. Al proudly built his own log cabin in the town of Corning, Lincoln County in 1981, and was very proud of it. He collected antique fishing lures, hunting traps, and fishing reels and poles. Al enjoyed going to garage sales and flea markets to find items to add to his collection. He loved to travel, visiting every state in the continental US, and taking his kids to Canada fishing every year. Al also enjoyed reading. He was of the Lutheran faith and was baptized and confirmed at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Rib Lake.



**Arlen Edward Andreae**, age 90, of Richland Center died January 11, 2019 at the Richland Hospital. He was born in Price County, in Spirit, WI on October 12, 1928, son of Edward and Grace (Helvey) Andreae. Arlen Married Elaine Brietzke on September 1, 1951, in Menasha, WI. Arlen worked for the Department of Agriculture as a livestock inspector. He served in the Korean War in the Army in 1953. He loved the outdoors, hunting, fishing and his land up north where they spent their summers. Survivors include his wife Elaine of 67 years; son, Rodney (Ann) Andreae; daughter-in-law, Pam Andreae all of Richland Center; grandchildren, Ryan (Jenni)

Andreae of Delano, MN; Beth Andreae of McFarland; Ty (Mark) Benson of Cazenovia; 11 great grandchildren, Alec, Joshua, Cameron, Isabella, Liam, Mila Andreae all of Delano, MN, Tyler, Lauren, and Ethan all of McFarland, Gina and Maya Benson of Cazenovia; sister, Dolores Tischendorf of Eau Claire; a brother, Larry (Vicki) of Marshfield; a sister-in-law, Gloria Brietzke of Ladysmith; other relatives and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents; a son, Terry Andreae; sister, Joyce Pulvermacher; brothers, Kendall and Robert Andreae; parents-in-law, Gustav and Ann Brietzke; 8 brothers-in-law; and 3 sisters-in-law.



**Kathleen Stelling**, 66, of Whitefish Road in Port Washington died Sunday, November 18, 2018 at Aurora Medical Center in Grafton, Wisconsin. She was born November 21, 1951 in Tomahawk, Wisconsin to Roy V. and Hattie M. Stump Larsen. She attended Rib Lake, Wisconsin area Schools and the Medical Institute of Minnesota. She Married John Stelling of Rib Lake, Wisconsin on June 27, 1970 in Millbank, South Dakota. Kathy worked in the medical field and raised a family. She was a caring and giving woman who liked to help and take care of others. She enjoyed being with her family and friends, reading, travel and wintering in Arizona. She is survived by her husband John Stelling, daughters Angela Stelling, Ann Stelling, Arin (Charles) Isaacs and Amy Becker; grandchildren Devon Stelling, Dylan Stelling Kordash and Carley Isaacs; 3 great grandchildren Hunter, Hattie and Aiden and a sister Darlene Unick. She is preceded in death by her granddaughter Cheyanne Isaacs.

**Kathy’s start in life – written by her sister Darlene Unick**

Kathy was born a couple months early on Nov 21, she weighed 3 lbs and 5ozs. Her name at the hospital in Tomahawk hospital was Inky, both for her color and the incubator. At Christmas time the hospital called stating they needed Kathy to come home. They were short of help and other reasons that she should come home still under 5lbs. My Dad quickly found a fuel oil stove somewhere so they could keep an even temperature in the house. We all know how using wood cooled down at night, I was sorry when that fuel stove dissappered. Anyway they went to get her, and cars weren’t that warm either. So along went a shoe box and hot water bottles to get her home in. Once again the neighbors came through when they discovered she could not use a regular bottle. Calls were made and someone came over with doll bottles that worked just fine.



1952 Hattie holding Kathy  
Roy holding Darlene



**Paul D. Nelson**, 78, Town of Spirit/Brantwood, died on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, at St. Claire’s Hospital, Weston, Wi. He was born on October 16, 1939, in Marshfield, Wi., the son of Dan and Mathilda (Ahlstrom) Nelson He spent his entire life in the Spirit/Brantwood area. He attended grade school at Spirit Center School and graduated from Prentice High School, Class of 1957. He was married to Ilmi Ranta on June 5, 1965 in the Town of Spirit. He began his working career with the Ogema Telephone Co., then owned and operated West

View Dairy, drove school bus for the Prentice School District for over 43 years, as well as maintaining his forested land until the time of his retirement. He served his community by being an active member of Spirit Baptist Church, the ASCS Representative for the Town of Spirit, Chairman and Supervisor for the Town of Spirit, a director of Wisconsin Heights Credit Union, and the Secretary-Treasurer for the Hillcrest Cemetery, Town of Spirit. In his free time he enjoyed deer hunting, watching the Prentice Buccaneers Basketball Team, supporting Town of Spirit Community events, and especially spending time with his family and friends. He is survived by his wife Ilmi, Town of Spirit, by his 3 children: Linda Nelson, Waterford, Wi., Donna Nelson, LaCrosse, Wi., and Dan (Adrienne) Nelson, Town of Spirit, by 9 grandchildren, by 1 brother: Loren (Lois)Nelson, Town of Spirit, and 1 sister Marvene (James) Bruner, Prentice. He was preceded in death by his parents, and by 1 grandson Dennis.

## Memories of My Little Brother, Paul - by Loren Nelson

We had a lot of fun times together, growing up and I can't share all of them because it would take quite a while. But I can share something that I thought about so many times over the years and that was our farming in the lilac bushes. Between the house and the road there were two rows of lilac bushes with a path down the middle. I don't know if there were 4 or 5 bushes, but there were 3 or 4 little fields in between those bushes. That was our farming. We had quite a setup there. We had this road down the middle. We even had electricity in there. We had sticks set in the ground with strings wrapped around the top of the sticks. That was our power source. In the road, of course, I don't think we really had to have a culvert, but we made a ditch across, so we put a culvert in there.

And it was fun. We really spent a lot of time playing farming in those lilac bushes. We hauled dirt from the 40 kitty corner from there. My Dad had the pasture over there. It was undeveloped yet. The trees were gone but there were cradle knolls and these cradle knolls had very, very nice farming dirt in them. We hauled farming dirt home from the cradle knolls and we farmed. We planted crops. I can't remember just what all we planted. I suppose probably some oats and grass seed because always when Dad would seed the fields we'd always have access to a few grains or kernels of seed. But I do remember planting corn. You know, it wasn't ideal corn ground! It was just too much shade. We had corn that grew probably 15 or 18 inches tall and it got all the size of probably a pencil. But we grew corn.

And we had buildings in there. Some kind of boxes that we made, that was our barn. And then we had silos. And that was juice cans that were cut out on the end and we stuffed grass and this spindly corn into these juice cans, so we had silage. But you know, after a while it really stunk. So that was our farming experience in the lilac bushes. And you know, Dad always knew where to find us when we had to do some real work. So he would come to the lilac bushes..."boys it's time to pick stones", or "boys, we didn't finish all the chores yet". Anyway he knew where to find us.

And then, it was in the late 40s, we had some neighbors that moved up from Chicago, the Carl Larson family. And there were three children there, some younger than Paul and I, Lynn, Dale and Joanie. And you know we had fun with those kids. We were back and forth all the time, across the field, through the school yard and we played a lot with those kids. Also with our other friends, riding bicycle out to Pierson's Lake. If I remember right we got to go swimming a certain amount of times regarding the loads of stones we had hauled off the fields. There was a relation there. Anyway, we had some good times. My little brother had me beat in a few areas. One of those areas was tractor driving. Backing up a 4 wheel wagon. You know, he very seldom had to pull ahead and adjust to get it back there the first time.

And then also, catching bales behind a baler. I didn't see a lot of people do this, but how he organized things. The bales were hoisted with slings for unloading. And there was a rope sling laid crossways on the wagon and there were 4 of them, 18 bales on each sling. And how he would catch those bales and lay the rope without saying.."hold it, let me catch up". He was caught up all the time. And balance on the wagon..I would be wobbling all over. He stood rock solid and walked straight. He had me beat there too.

And then, after Lois and I married, we lived of course right next door and he was always so good to us. I've often thought and said that our farming operation, which was small, it was just beef, was possible because I had our little brother next door. He had the machinery and the help to do various things. And I thank God for a lifelong good relationship with my brother.



**Gene Alan Meier**, 76, Spirit, Wisconsin, died “on the Job” at his farm in the Town of Spirit on Sunday, November 18, 2018. He was born in Spirit on November 9, 1942, the son of Roy and Helen (Risberg) Meier. He attended Primary School at the Liberty School in Spirit and was a 1960 graduate of the Rib Lake High School. Upon graduation, he attended Farm Short Course in Madison and served for two years in India with the Peace Corps. He was married to Marie Morey in Phillips on June 7, 1969. He milked dairy cows with his brother, Ron Meier, until the late '70's. Gene raised beef cattle, was a cattle trucker, logged and was his son's right hand man.

He was a member of Spirit Lutheran Church and after marriage, Assembly of God Church in Tomahawk and later was a member of the Spirit Baptist Church where he served as a Trustee and Deacon. He served as a 4-H Leader and was a member and Past President of the Wisconsin Cattleman's Association who honored him as Cattleman of the Year in 1995 and in 1996 was recognized by the Price County 4-H as the Outstanding Leader. He was also active with the Northern Wisconsin Beef Producers Assoc., Badger Breeders, Morning Glory, Central Wisconsin DHIA, Delegate for AMPI, Equity Livestock Coop, President of Price County Farmers Marketing Assoc. (+30), and the German Settlement Historical Society. He was very active with the Price County 4H Market Animal Sale. In his free time, he enjoyed helping others, taking trips out west to visit rancher friends, being a cowboy, riding his horse, Sonny, reading, eating maple nut ice cream and playing with his grandchildren, who called him “Papa Gene.”

He is survived by one daughter Johanna (Troy) Holliday, Minneapolis, MN; by one son, Lance (Jenna), Spirit; by 12 grandchildren; and by two sisters, Marie (Marvin) Arneson, Ogema, and Marilyn Erickson, Prentice. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marie, on August 28, 2011; and is also preceded in death by three brothers, Ronald, Arne, and Wesley.

Gene was a charter member of the German Settlement History board which was organized in 2003. He has been an active board member ever since making use of his talents and machinery when projects needed to be done. His wisdom, smile and friendship will be missed by all of us as we move forward.



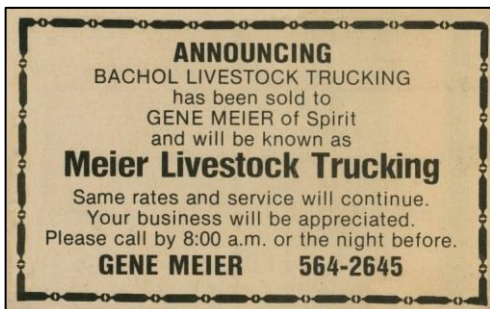
One of our first GSHI meetings as an organization.



1965 Gene Meier, Prakash Chandras & Phil Vroman



May 1965 Gene Meier with women & kids, Maharashtra State, India



Advertisement from The Bee March 17, 1988



Gene's family: Ronald, Arne, Gene, Marilyn, Wes, Marie, Helen, Roy

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Spirit Historical Society, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization whose mission is to protect, conserve and display buildings, artifacts and documents of historical value for educational purposes. Members are persons who contribute \$25.00 or more at any time during the year. Membership continues through the month of January the following year. As a member of S.H.S.I. you will be contributing to our mission, receive our newsletters and will be eligible to vote in person or by absentee ballot at the S.H.S.I. January annual meeting.

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